



Not long ago, I busied myself with a small mathematical exercise. If the good Lord would give me another year, in 2026 I will reach the age of 65. That year is significant—it marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation. Here comes the math: Dividing my age in 2026 by 250 yields 0.26. That means I will have been alive for a little more than one-quarter of our nation's history.

It took a minute to process that. It means a couple things. For one, our nation is young. Paintings of American officers in swanky, button-down coats and tricorne hats may seem something out of ancient history, but it wasn't so long ago. Corollary: If our *nation* is young, then *my life* is short. Really short. We all are truly but a "vapor" upon this earth (Jas 4:14).

Back in January, I shared a verse which ends up an important prayer and becomes more poignant as we age: "Teach us to number our days" (Psa 90:12). More than ever, I hold lightly the things I possess, although I still treasure the mementos. As much as I take pleasure in those things, I know I must leave them behind, and soon. Nothing new here to report—just better reception.

I have often thought it would be neat to own a pickup. I shopped for trucks as I drove down the road. Over the years I have led memorial services for friends with pickups. I couldn't help but notice that, upon departing this world, my friends had to leave their truck on the driveway. I mean no disrespect. But I decided that I didn't "need" a pickup truck, though I own one now.

In my January article I reflected on my animals. Their lives are short, so I treat each one as if her days were numbered, for indeed they are. But since my cancer diagnosis, I have come to the realization that my furry friends could, in fact, outlast me. Oh, no! Who will feed my cats? Who will feed the squirrels? I'm kidding, of course. LB will feed the cats; God will feed the squirrels.

Anyway, are you numbering your days? Are you making plans today that will "count for eternity"? Have you that assurance which comes by knowing (believing) that when the time comes to draw your last breath, you will wake up in heaven? Have you truly repented of your sins and entrusted your soul (and body) to the One who died for you? Shameless evangelism, I know.

It is easy to make excuses for the way we live and the decisions we make that don't serve anyone but ourselves, and don't include God at all. Because time and space are short, I'll be blunt: If you haven't already, turn from your selfish ways. Turn to Christ. Trust him as only Lord and Savior. Find your satisfaction and joy in him, and not in things this world may offer, which are fleeting.

The future is bright for those who "count their days." There is joy in *letting go* of things that don't matter. There is hope in *grabbing on* to God's promises, the things that matter and that are *stored up* for those who wait for Christ's coming, and believe his promises (John 14:1-3). For these, the future does not intimidate. Instead, it invites. In fact, it *beckons*. It is best we embrace the future. That begins by embracing Christ, the Hope of the World. The hope of us.

Peace to you,

Pastor C

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## 2025 Harvest Fest Theme Basket Raffle

Reenie Dedrick

Nancy Justesen is coordinating any and all theme baskets donated.

Please call or text her this information - name, phone #, and type of basket to receive a theme basket #. Do not leave a basket unless you have contacted her with your info and have received a number for your basket.

It is important that you tape or include your list of items and your number on the basket before bringing it to the church narthex by Sunday October 5, 2025.

Nancy can answer any questions you may have by calling 607-644-0084.

## Thank You

Thank you to those who helped plan, research, cook, etc. for our 200th Anniversary Celebration! Many people helped make it a wonderful day! So much history this church has! It was really great seeing old friends, perusing photos, reading about our history that Kathy & George Schuster painstakingly collected, and catching up with old friends. Thank you so much!

## 100th Birthday Celebration!

Happy 100th Birthday to Barbara Carr!

Turning 100 is a milestone that few people reach! Barbara's century of life and daily cocktail hour, is proof that a kind heart and strong spirit can make the world a better place.

Come celebrate with Barbara and her family after church service on Sunday October 26th.



## September Session Meeting

After determining we had a quorum of 1/3 (9 total members), the stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Conklin was held on Thursday September 18, 2025.

A motion was made have Carol Andrews moderate this meeting in Pastor Colton's absence. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

### CLERK'S REPORT:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the stated Session meeting minutes of August 2025.

### STEWARDSHIP:

Motions: Motion to approve the August financial reports. Motion carried.

Motion To transfer \$3,000 from Hine/Muir/ BAN PC Endowment Fund at New Covenant Funds to make good this shortfall from WOC-BAN. Motion carried.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the formation of a committee to move forward with the process of selling the BAN properties. Motion was seconded and carried.

MOTION: The preschool budget for 2025-2026 was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the budget, Motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Carol Andrews, Clerk of Session

## Donnelly Food Pantry

Glenda Rowse

Food donations that have been requested for the Saber's Food Pantry during the month of October are bread and cereal.



## Thank You

Thank you Carol Andrews for “minding the store” while I was away. You did a great job!

Sincerely,

Karla Toman

## Sunday School

Carol Bell

Sunday school has resumed. It begins at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings.



## Harvest Festival Café

Carol Bell

We need volunteers to help out in the kitchen and to wait on the tables in the café from 11—2 on Saturday, October 11th for the Harvest Fest Café. Also, we're looking to borrow card tables to use in the café. Contact Carol Bell if you can help out.

## Senior Choir Rehearsals

Carol Andrews

Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join the choir. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.



## Harvest Festival Rummage Sale

Jack Bell

Please see Reenie Dedrick, Mary Harris, or Jack Bell to sign—up to volunteer at the rummage sale to be held on:

Thursday, October 9th	Friday, October 10th	Saturday, October 11th	Sunday, October 12th
10 AM —3 PM	10 AM—3 PM 3 pm—7 pm	10 AM—4 PM	1 pm—3 pm

In the four days before the event, we could use some “hands” to help and arrange the merchandise in the Narthex!

This is our only fundraiser of 2025 and the \$6,500 that we raised in 2024 was a new record!

In Christ's service,

Your Harvest Fest/Rummage Sale Team

## Newsletter Update

Glenda Rowse

The monthly newsletter for November will be the last printed and mailed newsletter. Starting with the November newsletter, you will receive an email with a PDF attachment.

If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, email the secretary at [conklinpres@gmail.com](mailto:conklinpres@gmail.com) and give her your email address. If you do not use the computer/internet, please call the church at 607-775-0365 and request one to continue being mailed to you.

Printed copies will be available on the welcome table in the Narthex.



# Stewardship Committee

JP Tschang

## 2025 August Financial Synopsis

Offering giving for August 2024 was \$12.9k compared to budgeted of \$17.6k. The amount is similar to Aug 2024's giving of \$12.9k but represents a shortfall of \$4.7k from budgeted offerings. Total income for August was \$13.1k with expenses of \$20.8k resulting in a net deficit of \$7.7k for August.

YTD income was \$191.6k with expenses at \$199.6k bringing a YTD deficit of \$8k. This is with the assistance of transfer from Endowments of \$50,000.

Bank balance is comfortable at \$34.3 k which will finance 1.5 months of expenses.

The Presbytery has approved the sale of BAN properties, a broker will be appointed and all sale terms will need to be reviewed and approved by Session, the Congregation, Presbytery and the Attorney General of NY.

Women of the Church (WOC-BAN) accounts have been closed and are being transferred to the New Covenant Fund to the Hine/Muir/ BAN PC Endowment Fund. In Dec 2018 Session had approved transfers from Funds Held For balances to reduce the church deficit at that time and \$3,000 was transferred in the books from the WOC BAN balance but no actual cash amount was transferred. This amount will have to be transferred back from the Hine/Muir/ BAN PC Endowment Fund to CPC. This will help the bank balance.

Comparison of prior years' results are as follows (dollars rounded to nearest \$100):

### Endowments

	2023	2024	2025
LPL and NCF	\$555,200	\$497,400	\$508,200

Endowment balances are doing excellently at \$508.2k in spite of the \$50k transfer during the year. We continue to thank God for these fiscal blessings that have been left to the Church. What a legacy this is!

### Balance Sheet

	2023	2024	2025
Tioga Checking balance	\$48,800	\$37,600	\$34,300
Unrestricted funds	(\$14,200)	(\$22,500)	(\$30,800)

The negative unrestricted funds will continue to grow if we have more deficits in the coming months. We have a remainder of \$11k budgeted to transfer from Endowments for the rest of the year.

### Revenue and expenses

	August			YTD			BUDGET	
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	YTD	Annual
Revenue	\$16,500	\$13,700	\$13,100	\$226,100	\$275,300	\$191,600	\$215,600	\$299,439
Expense	\$26,300	\$25,000	\$20,800	\$246,500	\$295,900	\$199,600	\$204,700	\$299,439
Net	(\$ 9,800)	(\$11,300)	(\$7,700)	(\$20,400)	(\$20,600)	(\$8,000)	\$10,900	\$0

Monthly expenses at \$20.8k showed a slight decrease as there were fewer payroll expenses due to a book entry to offset Pastor's return of disability payment made earlier in the year and reduced utilities cost. The YTD deficit does not look too bad at -\$8,000 but this is with the assistance of \$50,000 from Endowments.

With Harvestfest just around the corner may we enjoy a time of thankfulness and fellowship. Please consider faithfully pledging for next year.

Cathy has updated the Payment Card Industry standards (PCI Compliance) and we are certified for a year until August 2026, thereby avoiding a non-compliance fine of \$20 per month.

E-giving for Aug 2025 YTD was \$4,576.63; Aug 2024 YTD was \$8,268.20.

In Christ's service,  
Bev, Jack, JP, Magen, Suzie

# October 2025 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Svc	29 Ofc Closed	30 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 6pm Scouts	Oct 1 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise 7pm Cmte Mtgs	3 Ofc Closed	4
5 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Svc	6 Ofc Closed	7 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 6pm Scouts	8 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9am Ofc Open 10am Rummage Sale 10am Exercise	10 Ofc Closed 10am Rummage Sale	11 10am Rummage & Harvest Fe
12 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Svc 1pm Rummage Sale	13 Ofc Closed	14 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 6pm Scouts	15 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise 7pm Session	17 Ofc Closed	18
19 Newsletter Deadline 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Svc	20 Ofc Closed	21 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 6pm Scouts	22 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	24 Ofc Closed	25
26 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Svc 12:30pm Bday Celebration <b>100th!</b>	27 Ofc Closed	28 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 4pm Deacons @ CPC 6pm Scouts	29 Newsletter Mailed 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	31 Ofc Closed	

We're on the Web!

Sunday School has resumed at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings!

Address Service Requested

Conklin Presbyterian Church  
1175 Conklin Road  
PO Box 151  
Conklin, New York 13748

Non-Profit Organiza-  
tion

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Conklin, NY

Permit #4

October 2025

**Annual Harvest Festival**  
is on Saturday, October 11th 10 AM — 3 PM  
&  
**Rummage Sale**  
Thursday, October 9th 10 AM — 3 PM  
Friday, October 10th 10 AM — 7 PM  
Saturday, October 11th 10 AM — 3 PM  
Sunday, October 12th 1 PM — 3 PM

