



SIGNPOSTS

It was the day after Halloween, and the Marshalls were taking a trip. Dad, Mother, Mark and Sue were going across the state to visit their favorite uncle. After driving all morning, they were all anxious to get there.

Suddenly, they saw a crossroad with a sign which read, 5 miles to Littleton. Mark bounced up and down on the seat. "Yippee" he shouted. "We're almost there!"

They turned in the direction the sign pointed - North.

The road wasn't very good, and took them through the woods, over some hills and across a bumpy railroad track. They drove and drove, but there was no town. After a long time, they knew that they had driven much farther than 5 miles. Finally, Dad stopped at a farmhouse to ask directions. "Oh," said the farmer, "you are going in the wrong direction. You must turn around. Littleton is thirteen miles south of here."

Dad told the farmer of the signpost that pointed north. The farmer looked surprised and scratched his head. Then he smiled, "You know, Mister, last night was Halloween. I reckon some boys must have been playing tricks, and turned the sign around."

So the Marshalls turned around and went back to take the right road. But no one changed the sign, and for days, many people traveling along that road turned the wrong way.

You know, if we claim to be Christians, we are signposts. Many people look to us for direction. If we live for Jesus, our lives point the right way, but if we do wrong things, we point the wrong way, and people will be led astray.

Which way does the signpost of your life point others to go?

Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.

Psalm 25:4

Beverly Emmett

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Sunday School

Karla Toman

The last day of Sunday school was Sunday, June 21st. We will resume in the fall. Look for information about this in our September newsletter.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Jack Bell

As always, God has given us, among all other human traits, abilities in various things and expects us to utilize them. Our buildings and grounds team has been quite busy lately, assisted by various committees on:

Our alarm system has had it yearly "checkup" from Johnson Controls and we are in need of about \$2,000 worth of repairs which has been authorized by us to begin in late June or July. To save \$\$\$, Les Berry has replaced the back-up batteries himself, (as was done 5 years ago). Further, circuit@4 shows open and needs to be investigated. 21 of our smoke detectors need to be replaced.

The Canon copier in Karla's office needs to be serviced by CMS and we are investigating leasing vs buying a new one or having this one serviced. We decided to purchase a service contract on it as well as have it fixed, both elements will come to about \$3,000 and GOD has gifted us again with someone in the congregation paying for that expense!!!

Our grass mowing team has been keeping up the with the growth....Paul Schofield even brings up his zero turn mower. On the rare occasion, we wrestle him to the ground, incapacitate him long enough to fill up his gas tank with gas that the church has for our mowers. Usually, he wins and refuses to allow us to fill the tanks. BOY, DOES THAT MACHINE CUT GRASS! Bob Scherer & Jack changed both belts on our newest mower, sharpened blades on two others and greased all three. The

next task is to work on the currently inoperable "WHITE" tractor...our oldest and get it "in shape"

We had a very successful CLEAN UP DAY on 6/6/26! Many windows cleaned, grass mowed, front ditches cleaned. About a dozen members showed up at about 9am and stayed till nearly 2pm to do the things that we judged needed to be completed.....some still remain and you can volunteer to address them if you wish.....we can provide the opening/closing of the church.

Our insurance policy terminates 8/30/26 and Les and I will be investigating going forward with our current provider (Church Mutual) or at least investigating other companies. We currently pay about \$8,200/yr for our coverage for our 3 buildings. If we sell the two in Binghamton, we will save about \$1,500.

The sale of the two BAN properties is progressing. A contract has been made with EXIT realty for them to sell both propertiesasking price is \$400,000 for both. We are marketing them as a great commercial corner for a business as that will hopefully result in the maximum price that we can pay down our Tioga mortgage with and save \$62,000/yr in mortgage payments. We currently owe about \$700,000.....pd down from an original \$1,460,000.

Finally, HARVESTFEST preparation is underway. Various areas of our church are "warehousing" the donations....principally in the annex, fellowship room, nursery, and two of the vacant rooms at the south entrance (on the river side) of our church. Please join in the help....even 30 minutes of your time is appreciated.....see any member of our team and ask how you can pitch in!!!

In Christ's Service,

Your Buildings and Grounds Team



September Newsletter

Karla Toman

Your September Newsletter articles will be due on Sunday, August 16th and will be emailed/mailed on Wednesday, August 26th. Thank you for submitting your articles in a timely manner.



Mission Committee

Glenda Rowse

The Mission Committee would like to thank all who donated funds to make baskets for the soldiers. As always God's people are warm hearted and generous, the total collected was \$500.00!!!. To recap what we are doing, BAE Systems is having a picnic for members and families of the 204th Engineering Battalion, US Army Reserve who are being deployed in October. The goal is to give each soldier/family a basket filled with things to do as they spend time together before they deploy. We are grateful and proud to be a part of this project.

Also if anyone has baskets they would to get rid of, please bring them to church, we can use them.

Prayer Shawl Knitting

Glenda Rowse

We won't be meeting this summer. Prayer shawl knitting will resume on Tuesday, September 8th in the library.



Worship Committee—Summer Hours

Carol Bell

A reminder from the Worship Committee:

We will begin our 10:00 summer worship hours on July 5th. We will continue with the 10:00 time until September 13th, the Sunday after Labor Day! Enjoy the extra time for family and fun summer activities!

May Session Minutes

Carol Andrews

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, May 21, 2026.

Clerk's Report

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the stated Session meeting minutes of April 16, 2026.

Stewardship:

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

New Business:

A request was made to hold a job fair in June during a weekday. Specific date will be forthcoming. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:37pm. Closing prayer by Rev Martin adjourned the meeting.

Clerk of Session



Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Survey Results

The PNC thanks all of you that took your time to respond to the recent survey about our church now, where we want to be, and what we are looking for in a new pastor. Below is a summary of the 32 responses received:

Listed below are several tasks that a local church is likely to perform. Please respond to each item by indicating whether you feel the congregation needs to give it more emphasis

2 people didn't answer number 2

3 people didn't answer number 3

1 person didn't answer number 5

4 people didn't answer number 6

Answer Options	Needs More Emphasis	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Receives too much Emphasis
1. Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition	4	20	8	
2. Providing worship that translate the Greek & Hebrew Gospel in contemporary language and how it is applied in everyday life	5	13	11	1
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth	13	8	8	
4. Providing Christian education for adults	2	18	3	
5. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relation with God	7	13	12	
6. Providing Pastoral Counseling to help members deal with personal problems	15	8	5	

For you, personally, how important are each of the following in the mix of qualities that make a good worship service?

Answer Options	Very High Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority
1. Musical program to you including contemporary music	5	15	9	3
2. Bible Study other than Sundays		9	14	9



In your judgment how high or low a priority would you like each of the following to be for the pastor of this church? It is worth remembering that not every task can be highest priority.

1 person didn't answer number 4

Answer Options	Very High Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority
1. Planning and leading a program of new member recruitment	12	11	9	
2. Participating in local community activities, issues and problems	5	11	13	3
3. Emphasizing the spiritual development of members	10	15	6	1
4. Participating in denominational activities beyond the local church, that is, at the regional or national level	2	8	9	12
5. Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons you can remember and can hold onto during the week	24	5	3	

This section is OPTIONAL. If you feel comfortable, please indicate your age group

4 people chose not to answer this question

Age?	
18 – 25	
26 – 35	1
36 – 45	1
46 - 60	1
61 - 75	11
75 or older	13

The PNC will continue to review the responses to the survey, with intention to create an accurate narrative which clearly reflects where you feel we are now and where we want to be in the future. This is a lengthy process involving careful analysis of the data and intense conversations. We want to assure you that your responses are being taken very seriously.

As the search process continues, it is important to understand that the hiring of a pastor goes beyond the actual call to service. A new pastor will need time to "settle in"; they need time to get to know the congregation, the session/deacons (with whom they will closely work), and the community. It is these relationships that are forged which will help our congregation not only survive but thrive! In order for our church to find growth, it is imperative that the congregation work together to support the pastor and all efforts undertaken to advance our growth.

Fortunately, the tasks necessary to help us grow do not need to wait until a new pastor arrives. We as a congregation need to come together now and become active in the growth of our church now. We need to be active participants by sharing our gifts, talents, abilities, and willingness to not only help our church grow, but to also demonstrate to potential pastors that we are an active church family. It takes a team and we are all teammates in this game of Christian life. Let's go team!

Moderator's Muddling

by Rev. Jim Martin

When I served as a Pastor, I usually wrote a "Pastor's Pen" (or some equivalent name) article for the church newsletter. Later, as an Interim Pastor, I decided to coin my own term and was accustomed to write a column called "Interim Inkling".

Now, here at Conklin, six months into the role as Moderator, I thought I might try an occasional "Moderator's Muddling".

That is what I feel like sometimes as our elders gather and we muddle through this in-between time and the added tasks that always come up. Hopefully it doesn't feel too much like a muddle, and I'm trying to make it less so -- but I did discover that I'm a bit out of practice and glad to be mostly retired.

I've been glad to only preach about once every 6 weeks and enjoy the variety that Sherry, Jake and Tina, Jean and an occasional Hymn Festival give to us who sit in the pews, along with neat flute playing by Pam V. and Anthems by Carol A. and the choir.

I also have enjoyed our past years' summer worship when we got informal in the Fellowship Hall, with the earlier worship hour, and several times I gave a short series of messages while Pastor Colton was on vacation. Now that the sanctuary has adequate air conditioning, I guess that changes things this year, but I asked and plan to do a short series again for our earlier hour. This will happen on four Sundays this year at the end of July and into August. Here are the Titles of the four sermons I'm working on:

1. "Sometimes We Don't Know Those Around Us"

2. "In the Fish" (hint - its from the Book of Jonah)
3. "Surprised by Obedience"
4. "Grumpy Compassion"

I told Carol Bell, Worship Chair, she can move dates around, depending on who else is available to preach - so I'm not putting dates above - but most of it will be in August. I hope these will spark a few inspirational thoughts as we follow the story of Jonah - which Jesus called 'The Only Sign that will be given to this generation.'

-- your normally pew-sitting Moderator, Jim Martin

Fellowship Committee — Church Picnic!

Jacky DeVoe

We are planning a church picnic following worship on Sunday August 30th. The fellowship committee will provide meat, drinks, and table service. It will be a covered dish meal. There will be a sign-up sheets in the north hall. Come enjoy time together with your Church family!



Stewardship Committee

JP Tschang

2026 May Financial Synopsis

May 2026 offerings totaled \$19k, compared to monthly budgeted of \$13.4k! YTD offerings were \$78.8k, \$11.6k more than budgeted of \$67.2k. This is reason to rejoice indeed! Compared to May 2025's giving, this is only a 3% reduction. Thank you to all who are able to give.

We enjoyed a net surplus of \$7.2k in May. However, due to \$27.8k of losses carried forward from prior years, we are still facing a "shortage" position in our unrestricted funds.

Please remember our mortgage principal paydown account, which is standing at \$3,800 as of May 31st. We are trying to reach \$10k before making a paydown request to the bank so that the monthly repayment is reduced in a meaningful way.

Income from the rummage sale in May brought in at least \$920 to the building fundraising account! Much effort had been put into sorting, arranging, pricing and collection of clothes and shoes to be sold – thank you to those who contributed their time and energy to this activity.

Bank balance as of May 31, 2026 was \$44.9k. Not counting the money set aside for principal paydown, it would be \$41.1k, a comfortable two months' of expenses.

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

Endowments

	2024	2025	2026
LPL and NCF	\$484,000	\$467,600	\$546,000

By May last year, we had to withdraw \$52,400 from Endowment balances. But this year, we have not withdrawn anything to date. The Endowment balances are indeed going strong with the stock market gaining 3% overall in May. Our own Endowment balances were \$525,000 in April 2026, thus increasing 4% in value in May. We continue to praise God for this blessing!

Balance Sheet

	2024	2025	2026
Tioga Checking balance	\$32,700	\$53,600	\$44,900
Unrestricted Funds	\$(32,100)	\$(9,300)	\$(33,100)

Unrestricted funds improved from a negative \$40.3k in April 2026 to negative \$33.1k in May 2026 due to the surplus of \$7.2k. Last year's results were helped by the transfer of \$52.4k from Endowments.

Revenue and Expenses	March			YTD			Budget	
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	YTD	Annual
Revenue	\$18,800	\$49,000	\$21,600	\$201,700	\$145,100	\$94,500	86000	\$232,781
Expense	\$22,400	\$20,200	\$14,400	\$230,000	\$131,400	\$99,800	89100	\$232,781
Net	\$(3,600)	\$28,800	\$7,200	\$(28,300)	\$13,700	\$(5,300)	\$(3,100)	\$0

Envelope offerings were \$18.1k compared to \$16.8k in May 2025! May we continue to enjoy steadfast giving over the summer months.

E-giving totaled \$2,171.21 YTD in May 2026 vs \$2,744.30 YTD for May 2025.

In Christ's service,

Bev, Jack, JP, Magen and Suzie



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July 2026 Calendar

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Jul 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
11am Worship Svc	Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	9am Ofc Open	9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	Ofc Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Worship Svc	Ofc Closed	9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	9am Ofc Open	9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	Ofc Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Worship Svc	Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	9am Ofc Open	9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	Ofc Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Worship Svc	Ofc Closed	9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	9am Ofc Open	9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	Ofc Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
10am Worship Svc	Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	9am Ofc Open	9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	Ofc Closed	



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August 2026 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 10am Worship Svc	27 Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	28 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	29 9am Ofc Open	30 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	31 Ofc Closed	Aug 1
2 10am Worship Svc	3 Ofc Closed	4 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	5 9am Ofc Open	6 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise 7pm Cmte Mtgs	7 Ofc Closed	8
9 10am Worship Svc	10 Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	11 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	12 9am Ofc Open	13 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	14 Ofc Closed	15
16 NL Deadline 10am Worship Svc	17 Ofc Closed	18 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise	19 9am Ofc Open	20 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise 7pm Session	21 Ofc Closed	22
23 10am Worship Svc	24 Ofc Closed 7pm PNC Mtg	25 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 4pm Deacons	26 NL Mailed/Emailed 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise	28 FR Rsvd Ofc Closed	29 FR Rsvd
30 10am Worship Svc 11am Church Picnic	31 Ofc Closed	Sep 1 9am Ofc Open 9am Exercise 6pm Scouts	2 9am Ofc Open 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9am Ofc Open 10am Exercise 7pm Cmte Mtgs	4 Ofc Closed	5



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Summer Worship Hours 10 AM Begins on July 5th - thru September 6th.

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July/August 2026

(see inside for more details)



Church Picnic
Sunday, August 30th

