News From the Pews

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

A Grateful Heart in Every Season

Thankfulness is more than saying "thank you" when something good happens. It is a way of living that recognizes God's goodness, even when life doesn't go the way we planned.

It is easy to thank God when prayers are answered, when our families are doing well, when our health is good, and when everything seems to be falling into place. But what happens when we face disappointment, uncertainty, loss, or struggles that we don't understand? Can we still find a reason to be thankful?

The Bible reminds us to give thanks *in all circumstances*. Notice that it does not say we must be thankful *for* every difficult situation. Instead, we can be thankful *in the midst* of those situations because God is still with us.

Even on our hardest days, we can thank Him for His presence, His promises, His mercy, and His unfailing love. Our circumstances may change, but God's character never changes.

Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Sometimes, we become so focused on what we lack that we forget to appreciate what we already have. We pray for the next blessing while overlooking the blessings God has placed right in front of us. We long for tomorrow and forget to thank Him for carrying us through today.

A grateful heart helps us see life differently. Instead of focusing only on what is wrong, we begin to recognize what God is doing right. We notice the gift of another day, the comfort of a friend, the provision of our needs, the lessons learned through difficult seasons, and the grace that sustains us when we feel weak.

Thankfulness does not mean pretending everything is perfect. It means trusting that God is good even when life is imperfect.

When we practice gratitude, our hearts become more aware of God's faithfulness. We begin to remember how He has brought us through past difficulties, answered prayers in unexpected ways, and given us strength when we thought we had none left.

Today, take a moment to reflect: What has God done for you that you may have taken for granted? What prayer has He answered? What hardship has He helped you endure? What simple blessing can you thank Him for right now?

You may not have everything you desire, but you can still thank God for everything He has already done. And when you cannot see what He is doing in your present circumstances, you can trust the One who holds your future.

Let thankfulness become your daily response, not just your occasional reaction. Begin each morning with gratitude. Look for God's goodness throughout the day. And end each evening by remembering His faithfulness.

A thankful heart doesn't always change our circumstances, but it can change the way we walk through them. It turns our attention from our worries toward our Provider, from our fears toward our Faithful God, and from what we cannot control toward the One we can always trust.

Blessings,

Sherry Brown

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November Birthdays

November 2 ..... Sherry Brown
November 5 ..... Don Colpitts
November 12 ..... Dottie Baer
November 15 ..... Rev. Jim Martin
November 23..... Elva Martin
November 24 ..... Shane Evans

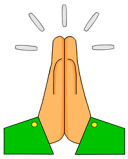
Donnelly Food Pantry

Glenda Rowse

November food donations for the Saber's Food Pantry are bread & cereal.







Prayer Shawl Knitting

Glenda Rowse

Our prayer shawl knitting, crocheting, etc. group meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 AM.

Healing Prayer

Kathy Schuster

Young Adam
Nolan Ames
Anderson Family
Betty & Bill Bado
Doug Beck
Family of Kathyleen Cavallucci
Christopher
John Colley
Rev. Charles Colton
Reenie Dedrick
Bruce DeVoe
Sara Whitney—Dorman
Paula Epply
Jean Fairbairn
Mary Griswold
Mary Harris
Bob Heinle
Nick Killmeier
Tom Layton
Beth Lewis
June Lewis
Gary Marsh
Jill Miclon
Miriam
Jan Moore
Sandy Mowry
Pam Winseman Mumbulo
Patti Naman
Nikita
Betty Nocciolino
Pastor Nominating Committee
Deedee Paino
Rev. Denny Rafferty
Nancy Rychlewski
Family of Wayne Schneider
B Snopek
June & Mick Stasukevich
Family of Jan Sternquist
Family of Wayne
Jeff Weyant
Doug Wheeler and Family
Those that are impacted by

Kathy Schuster may be contacted for prayer requests by cell phone: 607.624-4035

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will again this year be collecting children's hats and mittens to give to Donnelly school and Calvin Coolidge School on the East side of Binghamton. The tree will be in the North hall when we do the hanging of the greens.



Loved ones in Nursing Homes:
Carolyn Groupe Nancy Little
Doris McWenie

Homebound

Dot Brown Barbara Carr Betty Decker
June Lewis Phillis Martin Marge Updyke
Mardelle Vest

Christmas Poinsettias

Carol Fuller

Deacons are sponsoring the Christmas Poinsettias again this year. To order poinsettias this year, the cost will be ***$14.00*** per plant and checks need to be made payable to ***Conklin Kiwanis***. *Please* place order form and check in a sealed envelope and hand to Carol Fuller. The poinsettia orders need to be submitted no later than Sunday, November 29th and will be in the Sanctuary on December 6th. The plants will be watered while in the Sanctuary. Please contact Carol Fuller (607.240-8222) or Karla Toman (607.775-0365) for more information.

In Memory/Honor of: _____

(Circle One) *(Please write exactly what you want printed in the bulletin, i.e. Mr. & Mrs., Family, etc.)*

Given by: _____

Plant may go to a shut-in: _____ **I will take the plant:** _____

I'm taking my plant to: _____

Paid by check: _____ **Paid by cash:** _____



Please write clearly, so that the spelling of your loved one is correct.

Fellowship Committee

The fellowship committee will be hosting our church family

Christ-Giving Feast

on Sunday, December 6th right after our 11 AM Worship Service!

Please come and enjoy a celebration meal with your Church family! Bring a dish to share and we'll provide the meat and beverages! Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex soon!

Tickets will be for $2 so we'll know how many folks to set up for. It should also help defray some of the costs. You may purchase your tickets from Carol Bell, Jacky DeVoe, Paula Epply, Carol Fuller, Luann Parkhurst, and/or Karla Toman.

Hanging of the Greens

Carol Bell

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 22nd, after the 11 AM worship service. Spend some great Christian time with your church family as we prepare for the birth of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Many hands make light work.



September 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, September 17, 2026.

CLERK'S REPORT:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the stated Session meeting minutes of August 20, 2026.

A motion was made to approve the CLP training of Sherry Brown and paying 1/3 ($425.00) of her fee. Motion was carried.

STEWARDSHIP:

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

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:21pm. Closing prayer by Rev Martin.

Carol, Andrews Clerk of Session

Banner Service

Our Banner Service during our worship service on October 25th, was led by Carol Bell and we are grateful for her efforts to put together such an interesting and informative service about the Banners that tell the story about the history of the Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to other members that contributed to the service:

Senior Choir, Carol Andrews, and Pam VanVorce for the music. Bob Weyant, Les Berry, Ron Jackson, and Dave Hutchings for carrying in each banner.



December Newsletter Deadline

Karla Toman



Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the December Newsletter deadline will be Sunday, November 8th and mailed/emailed on November 18th.

Ladies' Theme Bunco Brunch

Thank you for the Fellowship Committee and those who helped with the Bunco Brunch! It was great fun!



Incredible leadership!



Countless fun!



Wonderful food!



Abundant conversation!

November Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting right after Worship Service on Sunday, November 1st to approve the revised sale agreement of Broad Avenue—North, now to include the Manse.

December Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting right after Worship Service on Sunday, December 13th to h ear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers.

Stewardship Committee

JP Tschang

September 2026 Financial Synopsis

Offerings for September totaled $13.2k, quite close to the budgeted of $13.4k. Total income of $14.9k compared with total expenses of $15.3k resulted in an almost breakeven result of $400!

Harvestfest income was budgeted to be $8500 for the year, but at the conclusion of the rummage sale and other activities on Oct 4, it is estimated to be around $9,000 for this year! Many thanks to Harvestfest Chair, Jack Bell and team, all those who helped set up the tables, collect, price and arrange the toys, books, knick knacks, contributed to the baskets, helped with collecting cash, cooked and helped with the Café, baked and sold for the bake sale, and countless more tasks. Their labor was not in vain, it brought much needed income, support and publicity for the church.

Bank balance on Sept 30 was $33k, an improvement from Sept 2025's of $28.9k.

As we look towards 2027, there are many things to pray for, among them a successful search for a new Pastor and that the sale of the BAN properties goes through smoothly. Presbytery and the Congregation have already approved the sale of the BAN church building for $270,000 to a buyer. This income (net of 6% agency fees) will help reduce the monthly mortgage payment from the current $9,834 per month to about $6,046 per month.

Please prayerfully consider filling out the 2027 pledge cards and returning them to Cathy Hutchings through the Offering box.

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

Endowments	2024	2025	2026
LPL and NCF	$506,100	$522,350	$538,900

We still have not needed to transfer any of the approved budgeted amount of $45,530 from Endowments this year, praise God! The Endowments are doing very well in spite of declining from Aug 2026's balance of $545,500. This follows the general market trend which also declined 4.2% from August.

Balance Sheet	2024	2025	2026
Tioga Checking balance	$40,700	$28,900	$33,100
Unrestricted Funds	($19,500)	($38,400)	($46,300)

2026's YTD deficit of $18.6k added to the deficit brought forward from 2025 of $27.7k resulting in a total deficit of $46.3k so far.

Revenue and	September			YTD			Budget	
Expenses	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	YTD	Annual
Revenue	$23,200	$14,400	$14,900	$298,800	$208,800	$151,200	$167,200	$232,781
Expense	$20,500	$24,900	$15,300	$316,500	$224,200	$169,800	$168,200	$232,781
Net	$2,700	($10,500)	($400)	($17,700)	($15,400)	($18,600)	($1,000)	$0

Don't you wish every month's result was like September's or better?! We almost broke even at $400 deficit.

2025's YTD results were assisted by a $52.4k transfer from Endowment Funds, which means unassisted 2025 Revenue was $156,400, very comparable to 2026's $151,200. Expenses have been kept at bare minimums with Committees spending only on necessities like utilities, staff and guest preachers.

E-giving for YTD Sept 2026 was $3,355.71, 2025 was $5,097.33.

We continue to rely on God's goodness and spreading His love to those we encounter daily.

In Christ's service,

Bev, Jack, JP, Magen and Suzie

November 2026 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Nov 1 • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc • 12pm Congregational Mtg	2 Ofc Closed	3 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 6pm Scouts	4 • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise • 7pm Cmte Mtgs	6 Ofc Closed	7
8 NL Deadline • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc	9 Ofc Closed	10 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 10am Prayer Shawl Group • 6pm Scouts	11 • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise	13 Ofc Closed	14
15 • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc	16 Ofc Closed	17 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 11am Deacons' Mtg • 6pm Scouts	18 NL Mailed/Emailed • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise • 7pm Session	20 Ofc Closed	21 • 12pm Eagle Crt of Honor
22 • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc • 12:15pm Hanging of the Grns	23 Ofc Closed	24 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 6pm Scouts	25 • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Ofc Closed Thanksgiving	27 Ofc Closed	28
29 • 11am Worship Svc	30 Ofc Closed	Dec 1 • 9am Exercise • 6pm Scouts	2 • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 • 10am Exercise • 7pm Cmte Mtgs	4 Ofc Closed	5

Christ-Giving Feast

on Sunday, December 6th right after our 11 AM Worship Service!

See inside for more details.



Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 22nd

November 2026

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

Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20