News From the Pews

December 2026

Dear friends,

As I drove to work one day, it occurred to me how similar driving is to life's journey. Sometimes a car follows us all the way- this is just like friends and family who are with us through thick and thin. Some cars follow a while and then turn off to their destinations – like friends who are with us for a while in our lives and have to leave to pursue their own paths in life. Some days are foggy, like how our lives' directions are at times blurred with us not knowing what to do. And then there are the sunny days, where the path is clear, we know what to do, all is right with the world! And yet, what strikes me is that God is with us all the way, whether the day is clear or foggy, whether we know where to turn or not. This a great gift that we can celebrate not only at Christmas but every day.

The great message of Christmas is *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." - Luke 2:11 (NIV).* We are thankful for this gift, rejoicing in this wondrous event and we proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ is here. Christ has also promised to be with us until the end of times - *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:20 (NIV).* How wonderful it would be if every day we felt as energized for the Lord as we do at Christmas!

Pastor Starzer once preached a sermon along the lines of "You may not remember every meal you ate, but you did eat them and they made you grow up". The lesson being that we may not remember every sermon we hear, but each one had a part in building our faith. May that encourage us to attend church to listen to His Word. Pastor Colton once preached about our relationship with God - "You may have a relationship with God, but what sort of relationship is it?" We are reminded to have a daily walk with God, praying and reading the Bible at some point in the day. That will cultivate a solid and loving relationship with our Savior, not a fractured, broken one that is based on uncertainty and lies.

So, as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year, to God be the glory and may all things happen to advance His kingdom. As we go about our daily tasks and duties, may we remember to listen to His word, pray daily, have a grateful heart, be thankful for small blessings and be kind to others. Let's start the new year with good resolutions. And we take comfort in knowing that God has promised to be with us every step of the way.



Have a very blessed Christmas and New Year!

In Christ's love,

JP Tschang

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

Phone: 607.775-0365 ▪ Fax: 607.775-4318

December Birthdays

December 1 .....Dana Wolfe
December 2 .....Jayden Rowse
December 3 ..... Margaret Knapp
December 6.....Marian Vergason
December 8..... Fred Dolaway
Gloria Galazyn
December 10 .....Gloria Decker
December 12 .....Nancy Justesen
December 13 .....Magen Kackmeister
December 15 .....Rene Button
December 16 .....Carol Scherer
December 18 .....Chien Tschang

Donnelly Food Pantry

Glenda Rowse

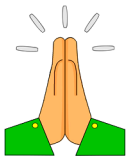


December food donations for the Saber's Food Pantry are bread & cereal.



Healing Prayer

Kathy Schuster



Young Adam
Nolan Ames
Anderson Family
Betty and Bill Bado
Doug Beck
Family of Jerry Bowen
Family of Kathyleen Cavallucci
Christopher
John Colley
Rev. Charlie Colton
Reenie Dedrick
Bruce DeVoe
Sara Whitney—Dorman
Paula Epply
Jean Fairbairn
Mary Griswold
Bob Heinle
Nick Killmeier
Tom Layton
Beth Lewis
June Lewis
Gary Marsh
Maureen
Jill Miclon
Jan Moore
Sandy Mowry
Pam Winseman Mumbulo
Patti Naman
Betty Nocciolino
Pastor Nominating Committee
Deedee Paino
Rev. Denny Rafferty
Family of Gene Rivenburg
Nancy Rychlewski
Kathy & George Schuster
B Snopek
June & Mick Stasukevich
Family of Jan Sternquist
Ray Wells
Jeff Weyant
Doug Wheeler and Family
All the men and women who have served our country.

Prayer Shawl Knitting

Glenda Rowse

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



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

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

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

Christgiving 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 $2.00 so that 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, or Karla Toman.

You may also buy them in the church office.

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.



October Session Meeting

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, October 15, 2026. The meeting was opened at 7:00PM with devotions and prayer led by Bob Weyant.

CLERK'S REPORT: A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the stated Session meeting minutes of September 17, 2026.

STEWARDSHIP: Motions: Motion to approve the September financial reports. Motion carried. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Closing prayer by Rev. Martin.

Carol Andrews, Clerk of Session

December Congregational Meeting

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

January Newsletter Deadline

Karla Toman

The January 2027 Newsletter deadline will be one week early due to our Christmas holiday. Please have your articles in to the office no later than Sunday, December 6th and we mail/ email them on December 13th. Thank you for your help on this.

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Carol Andrews

November 1 , 2026

Meeting began at 12:02PM. Meeting opened in prayer by Rev Jim Martin. A quorum has been met.

Meeting was opened to vote on the revised contract for the sale of the Broad Avenue North church building that we previously approved for $270,000 and has been revised to now include the manse.

After a few questions, a motion was presented by Jack Bell to:

Approve the sale of the Broad Ave North Presbyterian church property at 170 Robinson Street and the manse property of 38 Broad Ave, Binghamton, NY to AJ Enterprise of New York, LLC for $345,000. Motion was seconded and carried.

This revised contract will be considered at the Presbytery meeting on November 14, 2026 for approval to move forward.

A motion was made to adjourn at 12:08 PM, seconded and carried. Rev. Jim Martin closed in prayer.

Carol Andrews, Clerk of Session

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that you presented to me during our November 8th Worship Service and all of the kind words.

It has been and honor and privilege to serve Conklin Presbyterian Church for past, almost 30 years!

Thank you!

In Christ's love,

Karla Toman

Chrismons

Carol Bell

Chrismons: What Are They?

A tradition that we celebrate at Conklin Presbyterian Church is the hanging of Chrismons on the sanctuary Christmas tree. "Chrismon" comes from CHRISt's MON ogram." All Chrismons are combinations of white and gold; white – the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's Purity and Perfection; gold- refers to his Majesty and Glory. Red is sometimes used also, for emphasis, reminding us of the blood of Christ by which we are saved. Chrismons are placed on the evergreen tree, symbolic of the eternal life which our Savior has won for us.

Theses Symbols, which are interdenominational and the heritage of all Christians, are the elements of the Chrismons. Although a few ornaments on our tree utilize only one or two elements to present their message, most Chrismons combine several signs, symbols pictures and/or types. Chrismons are placed in certain locations on the tree, helping to signify their importance and meaning.

All of the Chrismons on our tree were made by members of our congregation, hoping to enrich our understanding of the gifts our Lord has given us. During this Advent season, we will explain a few of the Chrismons found on the tree at Conklin Presbyterian Church.

May these symbols continually remind you of God's greatest gift to us all:

Jesus Christ

ADVENT Candles and the meaning of THE ADVENT Wreath

Carol Bell

The First candle (Purple) – The prophecy candle or Candle of HOPE. We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God.

The second candle Purple) – The Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, to GOD!

The third candle (Pink) – The shepherd Candle or The Candle of JOY. The angels sang a message of JOY! " An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you great joy. Today in the city of Bethlehem a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."



The fourth candle (Purple) – The Angel Candle or the Candle of LOVE. The angels announced the good news of the Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us.

The fifth candle (White) – The Christ Candle. The Christ candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins!

Building & Grounds Committee

Jack Bell

We have finally "buttoned" up the rummage sale, thanks to Bill Miller and the scouts and most of our team (except me) moving some leftover furniture to the annex room/fellowship area. Luanne Parkhurst took pictures of some of the leftover items and put them on "marketplace", as we may be able to sell them in part or in whole before we take them to the salvation army or another worthy home.

For the upcoming likelihood of snow, we have already or will this week have our plowing contract renewed (same price as last year), marked with orange markers area where snow will be plowed, ice melt and shovels at both ends as usual and perhaps heat tapes installed on the S.W. side of the church roof. We will be checking the roof over the fellowship room to be sure drains are open and not covered with leaves.

Over the course of the next month, the scouts will be re-organizing their equipment room (our old church office). Further, they will be utilizing the room directly across from their room at the south entrance to stage some stuff temporarily. Soon, we expect, the clothing donation shed will be moved (at no cost) closer to Conklin Road, but not closer than the road side of the fellowship room. We should see less damage to that building, as it will be and away from the "pond" that sometimes accumulates near the back of the parking lot.

Should any member see a minor thing that needs to be cleaned up, we humbly ask you, if you are physically able to handle the job, to assist. We strive to keep all things in order and clean, but sometimes we miss things.

In Christ's service,

Your building and grounds team—
Beth, Bev, Bob, Bruce, Bill, Dave, Fred, Jack, Les, Ron and those of you who do stuff without being asked!

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.





Stewardship Committee

JP Tschang

October 2026 Financial Synopsis

The results for October were boosted by the Harvestfest income of $9,279. Total Harvestfest income was more than $10k as items had been sold from August onwards. The income of $9.3k resulted in a net surplus of $4,818 for October. The net deficit position of the church improved from negative $18.58k in Sept to negative $13.76k in Oct.

Total offering income for Oct dipped to $10.6k compared to budgeted of $13.4k. This has been a trend for past years as well. Last October saw an income of $11k compared to budgeted monthly offering income of $17.6k for 2025. However, the joy is that total offerings to date at $132.5k is very close to budgeted envelopes offering of $132.7k. Please note that this level of budgeted income included assistance from the Endowment funds of $45.5k and we have not used this approved transfer yet in 2026 for cashflow purposes.

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

Endowments

	2024	2025	2026
LPL and NCF	$500,000	$512,400	$534,700

September's Endowments were at $538.9k, so we saw a little dip in the market for October with the balances at $534.7k. This is still a good result for the Endowment Funds as they have increased in value over the years in spite of amounts being withdrawn for operational purposes.

Balance Sheet

	2024	2025	2026
Tioga Checking balance	$51,800	$45,700	$39,200
Unrestricted Funds	($8,600)	($23,000)	($41,500)

Bank balance is good at $39.2k. Total expenditure this year was $186.5k YTD for October. This works out to be an average of $18.65k per month. It can be seen that a bank balance of $39k will sustain 2 months' operations at the current rate of expenses. Hopefully more offerings come in over the Thanksgiving and Christmas season to decrease the negative unrestricted funds and improve the bank balance further.

Revenue and Expenses

	October			YTD			Budget	
	2024	**2025**	**2026**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**YTD**	**Annual**
Revenue	$32,700	$36,800	$21,600	$331,200	$245,600	$172,800	$191,100	$232,781
Expense	$21,500	$21,400	$16,800	$337,900	$245,600	$186,600	$189,100	$232,781
Net	$11,200	$15,400	$4,800	($6,700)	$0	($13,800)	$1,900	$0

E-giving as at Oct 31, 2026 3,426.41. In 2025 it was $5,561.03.

Last year's YTD results had a $66.4k transfer from Endowments to assist in operational expenses and $2.4k for Missions. Without this transfer, the results for 2025 would have been ($66,400) compared to 2026's results of ($13,800) without assistance. Expenses have been kept at a bare minimum with no excessive spending by any Committees. We give thanks for faithful givers and look forward to continued support for In Christ's service,

Bev, Jack, JP, Magen and Suzie

December 2026 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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
6 NL Deadline • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc • 12:15pm Christgiving Dnr	7 Ofc Closed	8 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 10am Prayer Shawl Group • 6pm Scouts	9 • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise	11 Ofc Closed	12
13 Cong Mtg to Elect Officers • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc	14 Ofc Closed	15 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 11am Deacons' Mtg • 6pm Scouts	16 NL Mailed/Emailed • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise • 7pm Session	18 Ofc Closed	19
20 • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc	21 Ofc Closed	22 • 9am Ofc Open • 9am Exercise • 6pm Scouts	23 • 9am Ofc Open • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 • 9am Ofc Open • 10am Exercise • 7pm Christmas Eve Svc	25 Merry Christmas Ofc Closed	26
27 • 9:45am Sunday School • 11am Worship Svc	28 Ofc Closed	29 Ofc Closed • 9am Exercise • 6pm Scouts	30 Ofc Closed • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	31 Ofc Closed • 10am Exercise	Jan 1 Ofc Closed	2

Christgiving Feast

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

(See inside for more details.)

Sunday, November 22nd
right after the 11 AM worship service is
Conklin Presbyterian's



Hanging of the Greens

December 2026

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

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13