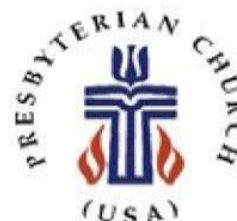


THE LAMP

Newsletter of The Juniata Valley
Shared Ministry



September 2026

www.jvsm.org.com and
www.facebook.org/jvsm2016

HIGHLAND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

11 Church Road Newport, PA 17074

E-mail: hupcsecretary@embarqmail.com

Phone #: (717) 567-9577

Clerk of Session

Patricia Shutt

Church Secretary

Linda Bitting

Church Treasurer

Kathy Smith

Financial Secretary

Geri Hall

ELDERS ON SESSION

Jessica Bryson

Michael Byers

Cecile Willet

Robert Rolston

Pat Shutt

Kathy Smith

Patrick McIntyre

Jeff Mathias

Kim Drum

DEACONS

Lori Little

Melissa Neidigh

Carol Kauffman

Wendy Brunner

Sally Tangeres

Cathy Mathias

Tripp Bryson

Sharon Delancey

Geri Hall

Serving Carlisle Presby-

Bill McHenry

Commission on Ministry

Coordinating Council

Dennis Tressler

Com. On Prep for Ministry

James Turner, Permanent Judicial Com.

Standing in the Gap: When the Shadows Fall – With his permission, and with a few modifications, a Devotional from Pastor Lon Kuehn, Centre Presbyterian Church of Loysville, Moderator of the JVSM's Session Meetings.

Scripture Reading

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are at my side; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

— Psalm 23:4

Friends, we all know how carefully we map out our days. We fill our calendars with Session meetings, committee reviews, pastoral visitations, and community functions. We move at a brisk pace, operating under the comfortable assumption that tomorrow will look exactly like today.

But life can change in a single, literal misstep.

One moment, I was managing a jam-packed schedule of ministry; the next, a bad fall left me with a severely fractured upper left arm. What followed was a sudden plunge into surgery, a metal plate, fifteen screws, and a jarring halt to my routine. In the blink of an eye, I went from the one rushing out to minister to others, to the one confined to a hospital bed, forced to rely on the care of those around me.

It is a stark, humbling reminder of how quickly the shadows can fall over any member of our congregation. A clean scan turns into a frightening diagnosis. A routine drive ends in an accident. A sudden phone call alters a family's reality forever. A pastor's retirement puts the congregation in a "what do we do now" mode.

When these moments hit, the church cannot simply pause. This is precisely when the church must *deploy*.

Article continues on next page

As a Session, we are not just administrators of a budget or caretakers of a building; we are the shepherds of a flock. When the pastor is sidelined or retired as in the case of the JVSM, or when any brother or sister in Christ is plunged into a season of weakness, the body of Christ doesn't shut down—it activates. Members step up to cook meals, elders extend the reach of pastoral care, and the community wraps itself around the hurting. We become the hands that hold, the feet that visit, and the voices that pray.

And in those quiet, shadowed valley moments, we discover the deepest truth of our faith: **God is always with us.** He is present in the skill of the surgeons, the patience of the recovery, the unexpected knocked-on doors of church members checking in, and with a congregation's search for a new pastor. He doesn't promise we won't walk through dark valleys, but He promises we will never walk through them alone. As the Session, we strive to be a Session that leads a church fully deployed—ready at a moment's notice to carry one another's burdens and reflect the unyielding presence of God to a hurting world.

As a congregation, the Shepherd's flock, we must continue to work together with the Session and with each other. We must trust in what God's plans are for our future.

Closing Prayer-

Gracious and Almighty God, You are our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. We confess that we often rely on our own strength and our own busy schedules, forgetting how fragile this life can be. We thank You for Your sustaining grace in the midst of sudden trials, accidents, and brokenness.

QUOTE

Faith grows when it is planted in the soul of God's word.

A HUGE THANK YOU

A huge **THANK YOU** to the members of Highland and friends that helped with the corn at the church on August 4th. It was a WOW! The group husked 150 ears of corn in an hour! Overall, we finished with 47 buckets of corn in 4 hours. That's amazing! Thanks so much for your support. Kathy

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Lee Kraft for doing all the trim work at the Prayer Garden. It was greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION GREETERS/USHERS AND ACOLYTES: SIGN UP PLEASE!

First of all, for those of you who have been faithfully volunteering to be our greeters/ushers and acolytes, we extend a huge **THANK YOU!!** We so appreciate you!! We are going to try to recruit some more helpers by providing a sign-up sheet which will be located on the bulletin board in the foyer for the remaining months of this year. Please consider volunteering for some dates that will work for you! It will be wonderful to see more members involved!! **THANK YOU!!**

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: A new member's class will be held on September 10th, beginning at 5:00p.m. at Highland United. This is open to both Highland United, and Westminster United. Please contact Bill McHenry for further information.

"The Distance Ministry offers technology to those in hospitals, nursing facilities, rehabs and the like with which to connect to all of our services - Tablet computers with the Zoom Links to HUPC and WUPC's Worship Services, HUPC's Adult Sunday School, and The Shared Ministry's Bible Study are all pre-loaded on the main screen. Simple instructions on turning the tables on and off, charging them, and using headphones or ear buds are all that is required for use. Please reach out to Session or Board of Deacon Members, or the Distance Ministry directly, to obtain one for use while needed. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, reach out!"



ZOOM LINKS: (HIGHLAND)

Distance Ministry

The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry offers the opportunities for worship and study via zoom each week. If there's a week you are ill, you are not physically able to leave your home this ministry is for you! See all the links below.

BIBLE STUDY LINK: Joint Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040191828?pwd=PuaJnFxxPpcGBeq6cAXs6rjhWua4b7>

1 Meeting ID: 810 4019 1828 Passcode: 958689

One tap mobile +13017158592,,81040191828# +13052241968,,81040191828#

Dial by location 1 (301) 715-8592

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (8:30am) (HIGHLAND)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/619915621?pwd=NFN3ZzRPSWRGM2ZpVmhhqWFRWWkdKUT09>

One tap mobile +19292056099,,619915621#,,, *129308# US (New York)

+13017158592,,619915621#,,, *129308# US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 619 915 621 Passcode: 129308

Dial by Location: 1 (929) 205-6099

WORSHIP LINK 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - (HIGHLAND)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/912154723?pwd=cHI2eVJBVWM0azV4U0MzZ1NtdHEzUT09>

IF YOU ARE USING A CELL OR LAND LINE: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 912 154 723 Passcode: 664159

WORSHIP LINK (WESTMINSTER)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86533397349?pwd=MUE3M1BHVXQyRVhRUWRGZINRNGtiQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3339 7349

Passcode: 920593

Dial by location: 1 646 558 8656

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will be having a meeting, September 2nd at 6:30pm in the Church Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Learn what Mission is working on in the future. Hope all can attend.

Mission Update From Yard Sale

First our mission committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for our yard sale and the baked goods. I personally would also like to thank all the volunteers we had making soups (over 140 quarts), sandwiches, pricing, setting things up, tearing things down, hauling items to designated areas, advertising, and so much more. The Newport basketball players/coaches hauled everything down from the Sunday school rooms and set tables up for us on Sunday evening (great help). Before the yard sale started we gathered new stuff animals and gave them to Little Buffalo for Santa to hand out at Christmas plus we gave a lot of men's dress pants to the Assembly of God for prom perfect. Most of the items were under \$1.00 or fill a bag for \$5.00. We raised over \$3500. Plus we took items to community aid which will give Join hands credit to be used for those in need and a box of children's books were given to another lending library for children. Thank you again everyone.

Monthly Mission for September-Join Hands

Join Hands is a contact and support center of residents of Perry County, who are seeking help with daily living concerns. Join Hands has been providing help and hope for more than 24 years services provided: Direct Financial Assistance (help with basic living, essential utilities, critical medical needs), Toiletry Program that can be assessed once every 30 days, Back to School Program for Children, Back to School Program for Teachers, Christmas Program, Financial Management Workshops, Youth Assistance Programs.

Newport Boys Basketball

The Newport Boys Basketball team is having a fund raiser at Harshbargers on Tuesday, September 1. Coupons are in the narthex please help yourself and share. Thank you.

Thank You Highland Presbyterian Church

Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Newport Boys Basketball program. We do several Fundraisers throughout year, and all money raised goes to support our players AND team. We purchase all the senior banners for our players. Players making 50% of the Sumner workouts will get a personalized sweatshirt. We help offset the cost of team camp. We purchase Subs for long away games. We have an end of season team banquet. We also purchase training equipment and recovery equipment that our players use. This donation will be put to good use.

Thank you, Jeff Zaring, HEAD COACH

Monday Evening Meals

Because we Care Monday Meals will resume September 14 till December 14. This will be the **FIRST** and **SECOND MONDAY** of each month **ONLY** at Highland United Presbyterian Church. Meals are ready from 4:30pm till 6:00pm or while supply lasts. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**. Please join us for Good Food and Fellowship.

Mission Continued

Homeland Hospice

Thank you to the members of the Homeland Hospice Casserole Soup Program. Our family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who provided food to our family during our Mom's hospice care. She enjoyed the meals so much, as did we. We do so thank you. Kindness was so appreciated. Our mom passed away, June 7th surrounded by her family. Many thanks, the family of Diane Arbogast

Prayer Requests

David & Marjory Miller, Delroy & Avon Wagner, Paul Richard, Elizabeth Harren, Charles Ebling, Nancy Altimore, Rob Sweger, Bob Baker, Shawn Steckley, Marti Snyder, Jen Hockenberry, Taylor McIntyre, Max Mohler, Cole Billheimer, Charlie Dillman, Robert Rolston

HIGHLAND UNITED FINANCES—JULY 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>G. Fund</u>	<u>B. Fund</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>K. Ministry</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>	<u>Totals</u>
07/05/26	\$ 2,753.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,098.00
07/12/26	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,625.00
07/19/26	\$ 1,513.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,363.00
07/26/26	<u>\$ 1,325.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,425.00</u>
TOTALS	\$ 7,851.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,511.00

Per Capita Assessment for 2026 is for 113 members @ \$34.66/member - \$3,916.58.

Total given to date for 2026 is \$907.30

July Mission Deacons—\$305.00

June Mission Central PA Youth Ministries—\$195.00

HIGHLAND'S SECRETARY'S HOURS:

Tuesday 8:00-12:00 Thursday 8:00-2:00 Friday 8:00-12:00

WESTMINSTER'S SECRETARY'S HOURS:

Wednesday 8:00-5:00 Friday 7:30-12:30

WESTMINSTER

3rd and Lemon Streets.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

E-mail:

Westministerupc@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Kit Parks

Church Secretary

Judy Armstrong

Church Treasurer

Mary Ann Willis

Sunday School

Superintendent

John Shirk

Sunday School Secretary

Shelly Horning

Sunday School Treasurer

Diane Marshall

Elders on Session

Aaron Geedey

Kit Parks

Jody Satzler

Jackie Wilt

Chrissy Campagne

Michelle Parks

Chris Fisher

Pat Brown

Trustees.

Judd Parks

Roger Parks

Shelly Horning

Peter Crater

Mike Stoner

Rachel Dowling

Brett Satzler

WESTMINSTER UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Barbara Koppenhaver,
Curtis Beatty, Derek & Kerri Lentz, Jody Satzler, Jacob Smith,
Lawrence Beale, Donald "Butch" Quigley, Drew Geedey, Dakota
Ritter.



JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Canned Carrots, Canned Potatoes, Canned Pineapple, Spam,
Shampoo, Over-the-Counter Cold and Pain Medicines, Dishwashing
Soaps, Laundry Soap, School Supplies and Backpacks while they
are on sale. We also gladly accept donations of Cash/Checks and
Gift Cards.

September Lector: Dave Doray

September Ushers and Greeters: Marie McNight and Deb Heisey

September Counter/Closer: Chris Fisher

September Children's Ministry: 6 Geedey Family 13 Parks

Family 20 Digon Family 27 Shelly Horning and Jody Satzler

September Birthdays: 9 Aaron Geedey 11 Deb Heisey 12 Crissy
Campagna, Lillian Parks 13 Kit Parks 15 Toby Horning 18 Kerri
Lentz 20 Diane Marshall 23 Jaric Trout 30 Kasi Palopoli

September Anniversaries: 12 Toby and Shelly Horning 15 Judd
and Michelle Parks 16 Roger and Kit Parks 25 Curtis and Petey
Crater



9/3/26 Trustee Mtg. 4:45 in church office

9/24/26 Session Mtg. 6:00 in SS Room

WESTMINSTER'S SEPTEMBER MISSION IS "LOADS OF LOVE FROM WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH." The purpose is to provide laundry detergent for the Juniata County Food Pantry to be distributed to local families in need. We will be collecting ALL sizes of detergent. Small (5 loads) detergents can be purchased at Dollar General for one dollar and at Family Dollar for \$1.25. Detergent can be brought to the sanctuary throughout the month and will be delivered to the Food Pantry after September 27. If members prefer to make a financial contribution to the Mission-of-the-Month, those funds will be used to purchase laundry detergent after September 27. Thank you for your consideration in supporting this mission as we ARE His hands and feet! "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do." (John 14:12) Mission Committee

BIBLE



STUDY A short course Bible Study in Comparative Religions (specifically Judaism, Islam and Christianity) will be offered between now and Advent.

The schedule below will change Zoom to Wednesday evening:

- 10/21 Zoom (I will join you from Ocean City)
- 10/24 In Person at Newport (place to be determined)
- 10/28 Zoom
- 10/31 In Person at Harling's
- 11/4 Zoom
- 11/7 In Person at Newport (place to be determined)
- 11/11 Zoom
- 11/14 In Person at Harling's

Next study will be for Advent – beginning to look at material now!

Meeting ID: 810 4019 1828 Passcode: 958689 One tap mobile +13017158592,,81040191828#
+13052241968,,81040191828#



THE JUNIATA VALLEY SHARED MINISTRY STEERING COMMITTEE met on Monday, July 13, and discussed the benefits of corporate prayer. We are asking that everyone at Westminster and at Highland join each morning at 8:00 a.m. to pray concerning the path to our new pastor. As we pray together for our PNC and for the person God has chosen to lead us, may we enrich our relationships with God and with each other. Thank you! JVSM

THANK YOU: Thank you so much to our Westminster Church Family for the Weis gift cards. It was so thoughtful of you to think of us during Drew's recovery from his injury. He is doing well with his healing, and we really appreciate all the thoughts and prayers.

The Geedey Family

THANK YOU: to Westminster Presbyterian Church for your generous donation to Kirkland Village - Team Member Assistance Fund to be used in memory of Louise Frankenbach. Your thoughtfulness is an inspiration to all of us who work daily on behalf of the older adults who live in our communities. As a result of your generosity, we are able to fulfill our mission. Thank you for your generosity, your investment, and your trust.

In gratitude, Dan Davis, President & CEO

CARAMEL ORDERS: Westminster will again be doing their caramel project this year. Prices are \$14 per 1 lb. box and \$8 per ½ lb. box. Orders can be given to Kit Parks at 717-503-1371 or kitparks@embarqmail.com. Please order early as the cutoff will be when 830 lbs. is reached.



WESTMINSTER'S AUGUST MISSION of school supplies for the Paul DeLauter Youth Center

garnered an amazing amount of donations for the students who attend the center. Our selections and (2) checks were delivered to Sylvia Middaugh, Activity Director, on Monday, August 10. Church members who have additional donations may put them in the labeled box in the sanctuary, and those will be delivered to the center. Checks written to the center are also appreciated.

Our donations included:

(14) 2-pocket folders	3 packs of Post-it notes
10 backpacks	97 mechanical pencils
8 pens	(54) #2 pencils
25 composition notebooks	12 sets of colored pencils
19 hi-liters	33 glue sticks
12 packs of notebook paper	16 large pink erasers
1 pack of crayons	1 pencil sharpener
1 shampoo	1 toothpaste
1 body wash	2 toothbrushes
1 hand sanitizer	2 boxes of snacks
4 cereal cups	

AND

2 filled backpacks, each containing a 2-pocket folder, a spiral notebook, a composition book, a binder pouch, Goldfish, a toothbrush and toothpaste, 6 large pink erasers, a box of crayons, 24 colored pencils, (10) #2 pencils, (5) 3-D erasers, 8 packs of pocket tissues, and hand sanitizer

THANK YOU, WESTMINSTER!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." (Psalm 107:1)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 SAIL 10-11 Session (H) 5:00 Deacons (H) 6:00	2 Mission Meeting 6:30	3 SAIL 10-11 Trustees (W) 4:45	4	5
6 HUPC Coffee Hour following Worship Worship 9:30 and Zoom Rev. Rebecca Myers WUPC Worship 10:30	7 Grief Support Group 9:30-11	8	9	10 New Member's Class 5:00 @ Highland	11	12
13 HUPC Worship 9:30 and Zoom Adult SS 8:30 Rev. James McKibben WUPC Worship 10:30	14 Grief Support Group 9:30-11 Monday Night Meals 4:30-6	15	16	17	18	19
20 HUPC Worship 9:30 and Zoom Adult SS 8:30 Rev. TBD WUPC Worship 10:30	21 Grief Support Group 9:30-11	22	23	24 Session (W) 6:00	25	26
27 HUPC Worship 9:30 and Zoom Adult SS 8:30 Rev. Jeanette Mater WUPC Worship 10:30	28 Grief Support Group 9:30-11	29 Worship and Music 10:00	30			

Highland United Presbyterian Church

11 Church Road

Newport, PA 17074