



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

March 2017



Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Called as Partners in Christ's Service

This is a hymn in our Presbyterian hymnbook, #343, "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" – a hymn that speaks of our calling in Christ to be partners with other Christians in the service of the gospel.

*"Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our calling to fulfill God's chosen end."*

Pastor Hilary Livingston

We are not "Lone Ranger" Christians! We are called as a body to work together, using our common gifts and talents to serve God's kingdom.

One thing I value in ministry is forming partnerships with other Christians and other congregations, to work together, to worship together, and to serve our neighbors together as we spread the good news of Christ in our community. We have several wonderful opportunities coming up to build Christian unity with our brothers and sisters in the Newark area.

- We will be partnering with the **New Ark United Church of Christ** for **Ash Wednesday worship, March 1st at 12:00pm** here **in our sanctuary**. Everyone is invited to join us for a light lunch in Fellowship Hall following worship.
- We are continuing to strengthen our partnership with the **Girl Scouts** by hosting another **Girl Scout Sunday worship service on Sunday, March 12, 2017**.
- We will be partnering with **First Presbyterian Church of Newark** and **NewArk United Church of Christ** for a community **Maundy Thursday service of worship**. We will share a simple meal and table fellowship together before joining in worship with communion together. The service will be held at **First Presbyterian Church of Newark at 6:30pm**. Watch for more details on the service time and specifics.
- We will be partnering with New Ark United Church of Christ for our annual **Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 16, 2017**. Watch for more details!
- We will be partnering with **First Presbyterian Church of Newark** to do a **combined Vacation Bible School program for all ages** during the week of **August 6th-10th**. Watch for more details on how you can participate in this joint educational endeavor.

Continued on next page...

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

...Continued from front page

We hope these initiatives will be a wonderful beginning to some future creative ministry partnerships between our churches. Of course, we are also continuing serving our community together through many local ministries, including Hope Dining Room, Elkton Community Kitchen, St. Andrews Place, and the many other ministries we support.

In John 17:21, Jesus prayed that all his followers "may all be one...as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Ephesians 4:4-6 affirms, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

In our world that is so often filled with conflict and division, let us practice our unity in Christ through our partnerships with others in the body of Christ!

*Blessings,
Hilary*

UPDATE ON JEFF

All I can say is, **Praise the Lord**...our prayers have been answered. It is with a very happy heart I can report to you that Jeff is making a wonderful recovery!!! He is going to rehab twice a week to help strengthen his body and his memory which was a little short-circuited by the stroke, but nonetheless, is miraculously still very much intact. He is almost good as new, and if he keeps making the terrific progress he's been achieving so far, he should be back with us sooner than any of us could have predicted. Keep the prayers, cards, get-well wishes coming. Jeff is staying with a friend across the street from the church at 1017 West Church Road. His cell phone number is 302.753.9309. Please call first before visiting.



CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Walter-Hastings



March Coffee Hours

- Mar. 05 Pot Luck
- Mar. 12 Girl Scout Sunday
hosted by Worship & Girl Scouts
- Mar. 19 Library Grand Opening
hosted by Cindy Taber & Donna Reed
- Mar. 26 Pot Luck

Movie Night

Featuring:

"Florence Foster Jenkins"
Saturday, March 18th @
5:30pm

Bring an appetizer to share.
Beverages will be provided.
Contact a member of C/F if
transportation is needed.



**You're
Invited**



PILOXING

HoC has been home to a Piloxing class for several years every Tuesday night at 7:30pm. You are all welcome to attend this great workout. Modifications are made to meet all fitness levels.

Piloxing is an exciting fitness program that blends the best of Pilates, Boxing, and Dance into a high-energy interval workout. Piloxing uniquely blends the power, speed and agility of boxing with the targeted sculpting and flexibility of Pilates, which combines to provide a muscle-toning workout!

ABOUT LENT

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston

How Lent Can Make a Difference in Your Relationship with God

An excerpt of an article written by the Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts

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Introduction to Lent

Lent is recognized by millions of Protestant Christians, in addition to Catholic and Orthodox believers.

Lent is a six-week season in the Christian year prior to Easter.

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Part of this preparation involved the Lenten "fast," giving up something special during the six weeks of Lent. Historically, many Protestants rejected the practice of Lent, pointing out that it was nowhere required in Scripture. They wanted to avoid some of the excessive aspects of Catholic penitence that tended to obscure the gospel of grace. Some segments of Protestantism did continue to recognize a season of preparation for Easter, however. Their emphasis was not so much on penitence and fasting as on intentional devotion to God. Protestant churches sometimes added special Lenten Bible studies or prayer meetings so that their members would be primed for a deeper experience of Good Friday and Easter.

I can't claim to have had any mystical experiences during Lent, but I have found that it has helped me to look ahead to Good Friday and Easter, thus appreciating more deeply the meaning of the cross and the victory of the resurrection. Before I began honoring Lent, Good Friday and Easter always seemed to rush by before I could give them the attention they deserved. Now I find myself much more ready to meditate upon the depth of Christ's sacrifice and to celebrate his victory over sin and death on Easter.

Adding a Lenten Discipline

Instead of or in addition to fasting during Lent, you might add a spiritual exercise or discipline to your life. Some years I've read one chapter of a gospel each day of Lent, taking it in slowly and meditating upon it. Other years I've used a Lenten devotional to focus my thought. If you have no idea what to do during Lent...set aside some time of quiet to ask the Lord what he wants you to do. See if the Spirit of God guides you to something. If nothing comes to mind, I'd recommend that you read a chapter of a gospel each day. No matter what you do during this Lenten season, I pray that God will draw us closer to him, and prepare us for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter. May God's peace be with You!

To read the entire article, please visit: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/how-lent-can-make-a-difference-in-your-relationship-with-god/>

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

Mary Jo Mankin

Celebrate the birthday of Girl Scouting on Sunday, March 12, 2017, with area Girl Scouts, their parents, leaders, and council members at HoC's 11 a.m. worship service.

This year marks the **100th anniversary** of Girl Scout cookie sales. In addition to having scouts participate in the service and perform a song, informative scouting displays will be showcased in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Once again scouts will have an opportunity to exchange SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) and HoC will have its own SWAP to exchange with the scouts. The HoC SWAP will be constructed during the Sunday, February 26 coffee hour; all hands are invited to help.

To guide the local Girl Scouts in ways they can work together with HoC in providing community service, Mark Mankin is compiling a list of HoC activities in which their assistance would be helpful. Events such as the Trail Race and Clean-Up Day have utilized scout volunteers in the past, but missions such as donating clothes or baking cookies for the homeless, could also benefit from their participation.

After the worship service, ice cream sundaes and root beer floats will be served in Fellowship Hall. **Girl Scout cookies will also be available for purchase at \$3.50 per box.**



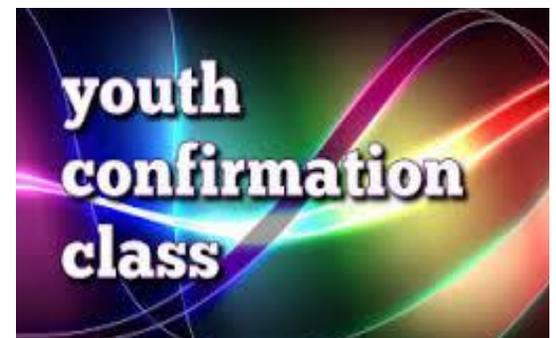
SWAPS



HoC CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Hilary will be leading a confirmation class for HoC youth ages middle school through early college. **The class will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:30 – 10:30 AM) from Sunday, March 5th through May 21st.**

Those youth who wish to join the church will be received as members during worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. Please see Hilary for more details if interested.



HOC LIBRARY DEDICATION

Be transformed by the renewing of your minds! Rom. 12:2

Resources... to assist each of us in living the life Christ wants us to live.

***On March 19th, we will be dedicating our renewed church library.
Please join us for this event and pray that God will use these resources to touch
His world through this ministry of HOC.***

Last August, under the leadership of Rev. Bob Undercuffler, HOC began a renewal of its church library ministry. He enlisted the help of professional librarians, Cindy Taber and Donna Reed. Church leadership dedicated funds to have specially designed book cases made for the lobby of Fellowship Hall so books would be easily accessible to members. Donna and Cindy gathered donated books and prepared them to be checked out. The only books purchased so far have been large print editions for visually impaired readers.

The Collection & Mission

Our mission is to offer inspirational materials to members of our congregation and their friends, to encourage growth in Christian faith and knowledge, and to provide quality Christ-centered media for individuals and families.

Library Hours and Policies

Where is the HOC Library?

In the hallway outside the fellowship hall in front of the restrooms.

Who may use the HOC Library?

All members and friends of the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church are invited to use the church library.

Do I need a library card?

There are no library cards. Items are signed out by your name and phone number.

How long may I borrow material?

The borrowing period is limited to 4 weeks.

How many items may I borrow?

There are no set limits on the number of items that may be borrowed at any one time, but please be considerate of others.

What if my books are overdue?

There are no fines. Please return materials promptly since others may be waiting to use them. If your book is overdue, you may receive a postcard reminder or a phone call from a friendly volunteer.

Checkout Procedures

- Take the book card out of the pocket that is located in the back of the book.
- Write your **name** and **telephone number** on the book card.
- Place the card in the bin.
- Stamp the Due Date card in the back of the book.
- Return materials by placing them in the box marked "RETURN HERE."

Do you accept donations for the purchase of new materials?

We will gladly accept donations for the purchase of an item in honor or memory of a loved one. You may request a particular title, or ask us to select a title based on the interests of the person being honored. We will place a bookplate inside the front cover of the book with your dedication. Checks should be made out to the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church with a notation about the library.

Do you accept donations of used materials?

Gifts are accepted, but should be in good condition and current. We ask that donated materials have a copyright date within the last five years. Items may be left in the office or on the library desk. Be sure to leave your name and address so we can acknowledge your gift.

Announcing the Springtime HOP Events



TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 A REALLY SPECIAL TRIP TO WINTERTHUR

This exciting trip to Winterthur begins with a one-hour garden tram tour to remind us it's really spring. After that, we'll enjoy a docent-led tour of an exhibition called *"Treasures on Trial,"* The Art and Science of Detecting Fakes.

Following the tour, we'll have lunch at the visitor center café, after which our own Debbie Harper will open some locked doors to show us the spectacular Nancy McDaniel miniature doll-mansion that is no longer on public display. Inspired by one owned by Britain's Queen Mary, it is a treasure worth seeing.

Wednesday May 3rd, 2017

**the Delaware Theater Co.
production of**

*****Hetty Feather*****

After lunch at Harry's Seafood Restaurant, we'll have plenty of time to see the 2pm performance of *"Hetty Feather."*

Jacqueline Wilson's best-selling novel comes to life on stage as Hetty, a feisty young orphan with an intrepid imagination, embarks on an adventure to find her true home. Infused with live music and daring aerial feats, this new musical is perfect for the whole family.



An excerpt of an article by the Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts

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To read the entire article, please visit: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/ash-wednesday-practice-and-meaning/>

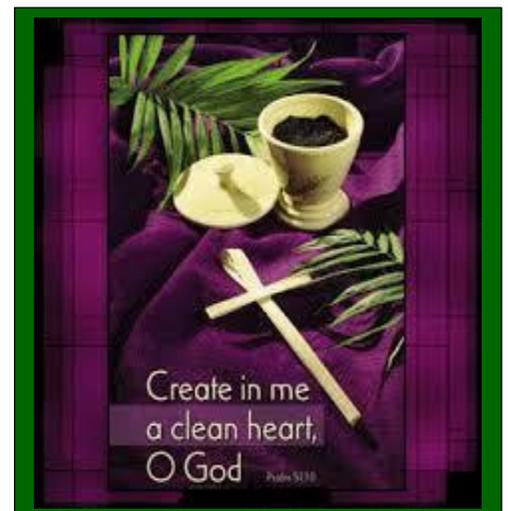
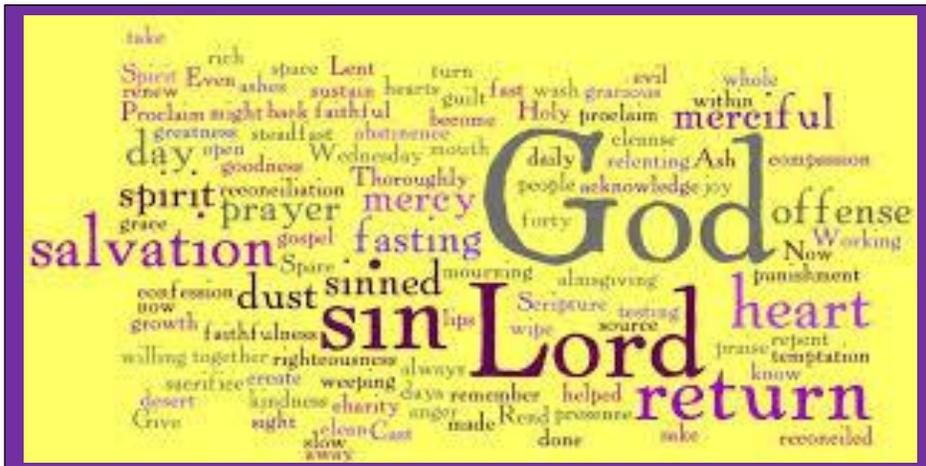
What is Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday is a Christian holiday (holy day) that is not a biblical requirement. Nevertheless, it has been honored by Christians for well over ten centuries, falling at the beginning of Lent, a six-week season of preparation for Easter. In the earliest centuries, Christians who had been stuck in persistent sin had ashes sprinkled on their bodies as a sign of repentance. Around the tenth century, all believers began to signify their need for repentance by having ashes placed on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. Ash Wednesday is not some dour, depressing holy day because it symbolically anticipates Good Friday and Easter.

How Do We Observe Ash Wednesday?

Today, celebrations of Ash Wednesday vary among churches that recognize this holiday. More and more Protestant and even evangelical churches hold some sort of Ash Wednesday services. The distinctive activity of Ash Wednesday services is the “imposition of ashes.” Ashes are placed on the foreheads of worshipers as a reminder of our mortality and sinfulness. The person who imposes the ashes quotes something like what God once said to Adam after he had sinned: “*You are dust, and to dust you shall return*” (Gen 3:19). This is the bad news of our sinfulness that prepares us to receive the good news of forgiveness in Christ.

Why Should We Observe Ash Wednesday?

There is no biblical commandment that requires us to observe Ash Wednesday. The theological core of Ash Wednesday is, however, shaped by a biblical theology of creation, sin, mortality, death, grace, and salvation. We all stand guilty before a holy God. We all are mortal and will someday experience bodily death. Thus, we all need a Savior. Rarely do we seriously think about our own death. What allows us to stare death in the face is the assurance of life, real life, eternal life. We can face death without fear or pretending, because we know the One who defeated death. We know that through Christ we have entered into life eternal, the fullness of life that will not end when our bodies give out. How grateful I am for the grace of God that allows us to stare death in the face so we can live with greater passion and delight!

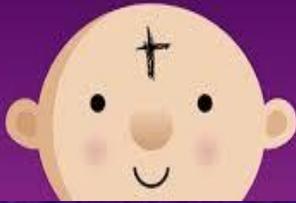


Ash
Wednesday

Wishing everyone a blessed
Lenten Season ahead!

'Tis the season to be praying,
fasting and almsgiving...

... and remember to spend
more time with Jesus!



www.happysaints.com

Ash Wednesday Prayer & Ashes Service

Wednesday, March 1st at 12:00 PM

Join us Ash Wednesday in the sanctuary
at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church
1100 West Church Road, Newark, DE 19711
for a service of prayer and receiving ashes.

We are partnering with our sisters and brothers from the
New Ark United Church of Christ,
who will be joining us
for worship and sharing in the liturgy with us.
Everyone is invited to stay for a simple lunch
in Fellowship Hall following worship.

*Begin your Lenten season
with this special time
of prayer and reflection.*

EASTER @ HoC

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 9 | Palm Sunday 11:00am Worship |
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday 6:30pm @ 1 st Presbyterian Church of Newark |
| April 14 | Good Friday Day of Personal Reflection |
| April 16 | Easter 7:00am Sunrise Service Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 11:00am Glad Easter Worship |

Christ
The
Lord is
RISEN
Today

Many Thanks to the ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS!!!

**Eighteen HOC volunteers served 130 meals on February 17, 2017.
Thanks go to ALL the HOC contributors who supported us with your time,
funds and food to make this mission such a success.**



Did you know???

Our Youth raised \$159 on Souper Bowl Sunday which went to support the ongoing work of this wonderful mission!



Many, Many thanks to Margaret Holland, Lillian Crispin, Kay Wood, MaryLou Oakes, Merle and John Slack, Steve Graham, Rosi White, Linda, Brian and Annabelle Huffman, Mark Mankin, Staci Truitt, Bill Witt, Julia Busick, Sonia Combs, Hilary Livingston, and Sofia Marianiello for giving your time and talents that day—plus all those who helped by making cookies and giving financially to make all this happen! —Alex Oakes

HOC CALENDAR — March Happenings



| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--|---|
| Wednesday | March 1 | 12:00pm | Ash Wednesday Prayer & Ashes Service |
| Wednesday | March 1 | 2:00pm | Care & Fellowship Commission |
| Wednesday | March 8 | 11:00am | Outreach Commission |
| Friday | March 10 | 12:00pm | Hope Dining Room |
| Sunday | March 12 | 11:00am | Girl Scout Sunday |
| Sunday | March 12 | DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (set clocks ahead) | |
| Monday | March 13 | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | |
| Monday | March 13 | 6:30pm | Session |
| Saturday | March 18 | 5:30pm | C&F Movie Night ("Florence Foster Jenkins") |
| Sunday | March 19 | 12:30pm | Worship Commission (Calvin Room) |
| Monday | March 20 | 7:00pm | Admin & Finance Commission |
| Tuesday | March 21 | 6:00pm | Mission Commission |
| Wednesday | March 22 | 11:30am | Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's |



PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00pm

CHOIR PRACTICE — THURSDAYS — 7:30PM



A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Heavenly Father,
 During this Lenten season,
 give me a new and expanded vision for my life.
 Help me to live full of faith.
 Teach me to find hope
 in the face of adversity.
 Help me to see this holy season of Lent
 as a time of spiritual renewal,
 rather than a time of deprivation.
 Motivate me to look deep within myself
 and to let go of the old
 and embrace the new life
 that comes from you.
 Enlarge my heart so I give to those in need
 and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of
 gratitude and generosity.
 Let this season be a grace-filled time to
 rekindle my love for, and faith in you.
 Amen.

March Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Mar 04 | Sonia Combs | Mar 05 | Jane Murray | Mar 30 | Phyllis Gardner |
| Mar 05 | Bill Thomson | Mar 05 | Alan Southmayd | | |
| Mar 05 | Mark Mankin | Mar 26 | Sophia Marianiello | | |

