



# The Looking Tree

*Love lives here, Love flows from here...*

**April 2017**

*Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,*



Pastor Hilary Livingston

This month, we will be observing Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday. **What is Holy Week, and why do Christians observe it?** On the liturgical calendar, Holy Week occurs during the final week of Lent. It commemorates the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth prior to his crucifixion. It is sometimes called "Passion Week," coming from the Latin term *passio*, meaning "suffering." During this week, Christians remember Christ's suffering for the salvation of humanity. Most Christian churches observe Holy Week in some form, though the specific elements of their observance vary by tradition.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, a day where Christians commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem upon a donkey, while crowds waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mark 11:9-10). Christians often observe this holiday by waving palm branches and singing hymns commemorating this event.

Maundy Thursday is observed on the Thursday following Palm Sunday. The English term "Maundy" comes from the Latin term *mandatum novum* which means "new commandment." On Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, we remember the new command Jesus gave his disciples, as recorded in John 13:34-35, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." On this night, Jesus washed the disciples' feet before celebrating the Passover meal with them before his arrest. Christians often partake in the sacrament of communion during worship, and some traditions have foot-washing ceremonies.

Good Friday is observed on Friday of Holy Week. It is the day Christians commemorate the events of Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Since this day recalls a time of ultimate suffering and death for Jesus, why is it this Friday called "good"? The Oxford English Dictionary states that "good" refers to "a day or season observed as holy by the church." Thus, Good Friday could also be known as Holy Friday. An early Catholic text also teaches that Good Friday is called "good" because on this day, Christ showed his love for humanity by dying on the cross for our salvation. Christians often observe this day by reading the crucifixion accounts in the gospels, or sometimes through a Tenebrae, also called a "service of shadows," where candles are extinguished as portions of the passion narratives are read.

*Continued on pg 2...*

Some Christians observe "The Great Easter Vigil" on the Saturday following Good Friday. Its purpose is similar to Christmas Eve worship prior to Christmas. In some traditions, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Great Easter Vigil are collectively called **The Triduum**.

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week, celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead. Christians often celebrate this holiday with sunrise services, commemorating the disciples' discovering the empty tomb and the proclamation, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen!" (Luke 24:5) Christians celebrate the promise that because Jesus lives, we too will have eternal life in him!

Here at Head of Christiana, we have many opportunities for you to observe Holy Week with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Please check the newsletter and weekly bulletins for all the opportunities for worship during this holy season. And, of course, invite a friend to join us! May you have a most blessed Holy Week this year!

*Blessings,  
Hilary*

## CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

Jeanne Walter-Hastings



### April Coffee Hours

April 2 — Hosted by HOC Youth/Christian Ed

April 9 (Palm Sunday) — Pot Luck

April 16 (Easter) — Breakfast following the 7am Easter Sunrise service. Pot Luck Coffee Hour with leftovers from Sunrise service breakfast following the 11am Festive Easter Service.

April 23 — pot luck

April 30 — pot luck



Have you visited our library yet?

Please take a few moments to look over our selection of books. Check one out and take it home to read at your leisure.

# HOC's TRIPLE CROWN TRAIL FESTIVAL

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Triple Crown Trail Festival and Nature Walk** is being Held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at White Clay Creek State Park in Newark. Head of Christiana, in conjunction with the Trail Dawgs, sponsor this event as a fund-raising event with proceeds benefitting several local homeless shelters. We are seeking your support.

The Triple Crown Trail Festival kicks off with a full Marathon option that Begins at 7:30am, or half-marathon, 10k and 5k events (triple crown), where participants can run the beautiful trails of White Clay Creek State Park. This will also be our third installment of a Nature Walk, which is a one mile walk through the woods, encouraging spectators to also become participants and join in being active!

Founded in 1706, Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church is a strong community with a rich history. We pride ourselves on being a warm and welcoming community, generous with our time and money in support of local mission and social service efforts.

The Trail Dawgs Athletic Club sponsors several informal recreational runs each week, plus occasional races on trails in and around northern Delaware. Members organize runs vial email, Facebook, or [trildawgs.org](http://trildawgs.org). Everyone is welcome to join our explorations of White Clay Creek State Park, Fair Hill NRMA, White Clay Preserve, Middle Run and other trails in the area.

We would like your help in supporting our commitment to serving our community! Your participation in our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Triple Crown Trail Festival and Nature Walk will help provide needed resources for several local area homeless shelters. Last year, our combined efforts resulted in \$14,400 in dispersed funds.

In addition to the running festival and nature walk, we also provide a free barbeque and entertainment. To view some of the happenings at last year's event, please visit our website at [www.tcfestival.org](http://www.tcfestival.org) or join us on our Facebook page: Triple Crown Trail Festival.

Please contact Brian Huffman, Bill Witt or Ed Crispin if you would like to volunteer to help out at this event. You can also support this event with a monetary contribution which is tax deductible; make your check payable to Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church and note "Triple Crown Trail Festival" on the memo line.

Mark your calendar now so you can plan on joining us on April 29<sup>th</sup> for this great opportunity to commune with family, friends and Mother Nature.

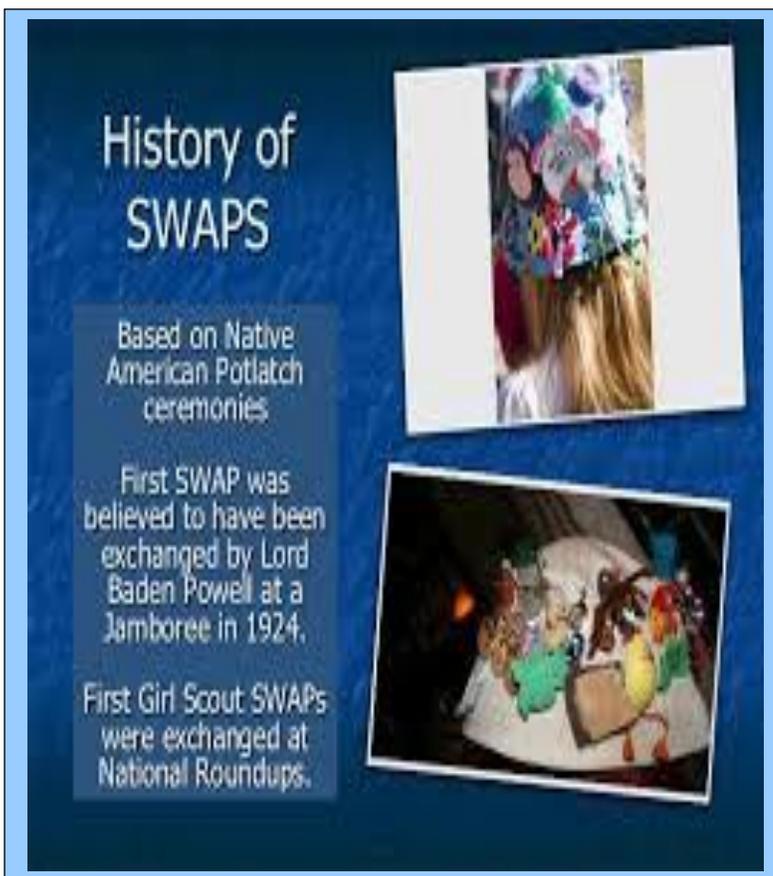


Head of Christiana hosted its fourth annual Girl Scout Sunday celebration on Sunday, March 12th, with at least a half dozen troops attending and participating in the service.

Girl Scouts served as Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists while Malcolm lead a Girl Scout Choir that sang an anthem after passing the peace. Highlighting our worship service was impassioned testimony from the pulpit from a Girl Scout and a Girl Scout leader describing their Girl Scout experiences and how those experiences have positively affected their lives.

During our coffee hour, Girl Scouts sold cookies and there were displays of Girl Scout memorabilia celebrating the 100th year of the Girl Scouts selling them as a fund-raiser.

Special thanks go to Mary Jo Mankin for bringing those displays from Girl Scout headquarters, designing and putting together HoC-themed "Swaps" for trading with the girls, and once again coordinating refreshments that included ice cream sundaes and root beer floats.



# Girl Scout Sunday at HoC



# Girl Scout Sunday at HoC



# An Easter Prayer



Let us live today  
in Christ's resurrection light.  
Let us live  
by God's law of love,  
Extending mercy,  
compassion and joy.  
Let us share the gifts  
God has given,  
Practicing generosity,  
hospitality and love.  
Let us live  
as Christ would have us live,  
Bringing freedom,  
justice and hope.

© Christiana Sims <http://godspainart.com>

## Resurrection Day



I am the Resurrection and the Life.  
Whoever believes in me, though he  
dies, yet shall he live.

John 11:25

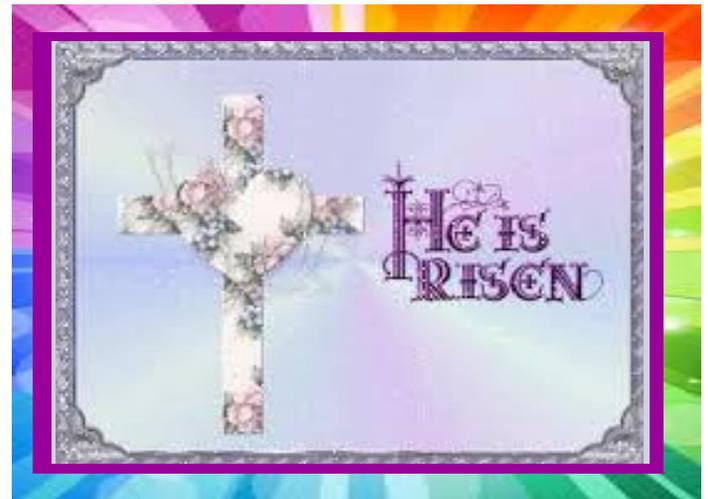
# HOC CALENDAR — April Happenings



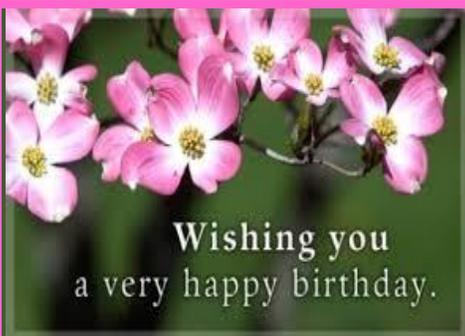
Sunday	April	2	12:00pm	Christian Ed Coffee Hour
Tuesday	April	4	6:00pm	Trail Race Meeting
Wednesday	April	5	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship
Sunday	April	9	11:00am	Palm Sunday
Sunday	April	9	12:30pm	Worship Commission (Calvin Room)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (for May)</b>
Monday	April	10	6:30pm	Session
Thursday	April	13	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service partnering with First Presbyterian Church of Newark
Friday	April	14		Good Friday — Day of Personal Reflection
Sunday	April	16	7:00am	Easter Sunrise Service with Newark United Church of Christ
				Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall afterwards
			11:00am	Festive Easter Service
Monday	April	17	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Tuesday	April	18	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Sunday	April	23	12:30pm	Christian Education Commission
Wednesday	April	26	11:30pm	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's
Saturday	April	29	7:00am	Triple Crown Trail Festival & Nature Walk (Rain or Shine)
				White Clay Creek State Park in Newark
Sunday	April	30	12:30pm	Mission Commission

**PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM**

**CHOIR PRACTICE — THURSDAYS — 7:30PM**



## April Birthdays



April 3	Linda Huffman	April 19	Branch Murray
April 4	Ruth Cox	April 20	Allen Gallaher
April 6	Vince Marianiello	April 23	Leo Marianiello
April 9	Aileen Burmeister	April 28	Abigail Condliffe
April 15	Ed Cairns	April 29	Susan Brook