



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

April 2018

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

A Grateful Lent

Spring is here, and we are in the liturgical season of Easter. Both Easter and springtime are seasons of new life and new growth. A few weeks ago, I attended the Next Church Conference, a grassroots gathering of Presbyterians from around the country who are seeking to envision new ways of being the Church in today's culture. We listened to interesting speakers, attended educational workshops, and heard inspiring stories from church leaders who are doing the work of God's kingdom in new and innovative ways.

The theme of the conference was *"Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying, and Rising in a Wilderness Church."* The theme verse came from the Prophet Isaiah, who wrote, *"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God."* (Isaiah 35:1-2) This is a prophecy given to God's people when they were in exile. In this desert experience, they learned that God had not abandoned them, but that God would redeem them and make the dry, desolate places bloom in bounty and splendor once again. So often, we may think the church in our time is in a place of scarcity and decline. Yet, God is making all things new, sprouting up green stems and bright flowers of new life in the dusty earth. On Easter, Jesus rose from the dead, triumphing over death itself. Jesus promises that those who trust in him will also experience this kind of new life in their lives. God's kingdom is advancing, and not even death itself can stop it! I believe that God is not finished doing great and powerful things through our church. In this Easter season, let us pray, trust, hope, and watch for signs of new life and new things God wants to do in and through us.

Blessings,

Hilary

Please note:

Pastor Hilary will be on vacation from Monday, April 2nd through Friday, April 6th. If you require pastoral care during this time, please contact one of our deacons: Cindy Taber, Kay Brook, or Mary Lou Oakes.

Girl Scout Sunday, 2018

HoC was pleased to host another Girl Scout Sunday worship service on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Several area troops joined us for worship, and scouts assisted in greeting, ushering and leading worship. We were honored to have the Flessner family join us as we celebrated the legacy of Mrs. Edith "Edie" Flessner and her many years of devoted service to the Girl Scouts throughout her life. In addition to uplifting, meaningful worship, we enjoyed fellowship and ice cream sundaes with the scouts, leaders, and parents who attended. And, of course, we bought lots and lots of delicious cookies! We are especially grateful to the Worship Commission, the Mankins, Sonia Combs, and local troop leader, Michelle Metcalf, who worked together to plan and carry out the festivities. Thanks also to all our regular HoC members and friends who participated and supported the Girl Scouts. It was a wonderful day!



HoC Mission Discernment Task Force



As you recall, at our annual congregational meeting in January, we said goodbye to the Trail Race after 20 years of hard work and dedication to the project which did so much to help the needy in our community. At the meeting, we also engaged in some Spirit-led brainstorming about some possible new avenues for mission and some great ideas were generated in this process. Several individuals also volunteered to participate in a task force to consider these and other ideas, and discern a new path for mission engagement in our church and community. That group will be beginning its work in April, and we ask for your prayers in this process. If you have questions, concerns or feedback for this group, please contact Pastor Hilary.

[Want to be friends with Pastor Hilary on Facebook?](#)

Pastor Hilary is on Facebook and would like to connect with you! I don't initiate friend requests with church members and friends, but I will respond to your friend request. I don't post a lot, and I'm not political with my posts, though I may share general articles on the church and culture that I think might be beneficial to others. I also occasionally post and share events, activities, and announcements from our church's Facebook page. When interacting, please be courteous and respectful with posts and comments. Please also be aware that I reserve the right to remove **any post/comment at any time for any reason.**

You can also like and follow Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church on Facebook.

Thanks, and looking forward to connecting with you!





Each year there is a “per capita” amount that each congregation pays to the New Castle Presbytery; we have already met this obligation early this year. According to the Presbytery website, *“per capita contributions are the way we share the expenses of the PC(USA) system of government, the annual amount is a combined request from the presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly – of which each congregation is a part.”* One of the ways the money is used, is to support the core structure that keeps us together as a church, and through the General Assembly, allows for full participation in decision-making. This year, the amount per member is \$29.00. In past years, and this year, the Administration and Finance Commission encourages those who are able, to “donate back” this corresponding amount to Head of Christiana in their name, as a way of helping to offset this amount in our budget. If a number of folks were to generously give, it would offset this line in our budget and thereby stretch our funds even further.

DISCOUNT and COUPON SITES

These sites provide discount coupons...rebates...and/or discount codes—codes that you can use at shopping websites to obtain special deals. RetailMeNot.com: one of the best-known sites for discounts is worth checking before you buy almost anything online, ranging from electronics, to clothes, to pizza. It lists tens of thousands of discount codes at any given time, plus rebates, printable coupons and other savings opportunities. Just enter the name of the business you want to buy from and/or product you want to buy in the search box to see if any relevant offers are available. Recent examples: Save up to 20% at Barnes & Noble.com; 25% at PapaJohns.com.



PRINTABLE COUPONS

At Coupons.com you'll find discount codes and rebates for online shopping and it's the best site for obtaining hundreds of coupons to print out and use in physical stores just like coupons you clip from the newspaper. You have to provide your phone number to use the site, but it's only used for verification and not for telemarketing calls. Other coupon websites worth using are RedPlum.com and SmartSource.com. Recent examples: Save \$2 on a 24-can case of Pepsi...save \$1 on Hefty trash bags.





Coffee Fellowship

April Coffee Hours



April 1 – Easter – Continental pot luck breakfast hosted by Worship after the Sunrise Service. Coffee Hour will be leftovers from breakfast and pot luck

April 8 – Pot Luck

April 15 – Hosted by Jane Murray to celebrate Ed Cairns' birthday

April 22 – Pot Luck

April 29 – Pot Luck

Would you like to host a coffee hour??

Just speak to Jeanne Hastings (302-368-9416). For the most current information regarding coffee hours, please check the notice posted on both doors to Fellowship Hall. Often people will ask to host a coffee hour after The Looking Tree has published, so changes will be updated on the notices.

C & F SPRING MOVIE NIGHT

Come join us – and bring a friend...or two – for our Spring Movie Night featuring the movie, *“Victoria and Abdul.”*

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 5:30pm.

Please bring an appetizer to share.

Beverages will be provided.



Lets all give a big hand to the 2018

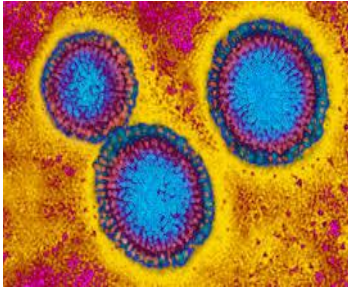
ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS!!!

Sixteen HOC volunteers served 109 meals on February 23rd, 2018. Thanks go to ALL the HOC contributors who supported us with your time, funds, and food to make this mission such a success!



BUG THAT MIMICS FLU

Adenoviruses flourish all year-round



Flu Virus

A virus that mimics the symptoms of the flu and may be just as dangerous, especially to older people, is being misdiagnosed and underreported.

The bugs are adenoviruses, and an outbreak can cause symptoms similar to influenza: fever, headache, body aches and breathing problems. Unlike the flu, adenoviruses aren't seasonal. They thrive in places where people are close together, such as long-term care facilities, says a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Many respiratory infections transmit easily in this kind of environment and can take a toll, said the report's lead author. In 1006, three people at a long-term care facility in Boston died from an adenovirus. But the CDC says that for people with healthy immune systems, the viruses aren't usually dangerous. A vaccine has been licensed for military use, but it isn't available to civilians. It should be more widely available, "This is a vaccine-preventable disease."

Be mindful of this virus and if you develop flu-like symptoms, see your doctor and get tested...it can't hurt.



DID YOU KNOW...

In a recent survey of 1,678 people, those who drank hot tea at least once daily were 74% less likely to develop glaucoma—a potentially blinding condition due to a build-up of pressure in the eyeball—than those who drank no hot tea. The theory behind the findings is that black and green teas contain polyphenols, antioxidants with anti-inflammatory properties that help fight glaucoma. Drink that tea!



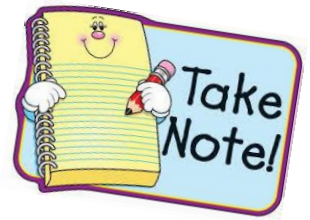
Another discovery recently found that people who ate the most leafy greens (just over one serving, such as one cup of raw spinach or one-half cup cooked), over a 10-year period had brains that were roughly 11 years "younger" in terms of memory and cognition than people who rarely or never ate greens, according to a study of 960 adults ages 58 to 99 without dementia. Whether cooked or raw, spinach, kale and other leafy greens are rich in vitamins E and K, lutein, and other substances that may slow cognitive decline. So, like Popeye says, "You gotta eat your spinach!"



Girl scout Sunday AT HOC



HOC CALENDAR — March Happenings



Sunday	Apr	01	Easter Sunday	
Wednesday	Apr	04	2:00am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Sunday	Apr	08	12:30pm	Worship Commission
Monday	Apr	09	6:00pm	Session
Tuesday	Apr	10	LOOKING TREE DEADLINE	
Friday	Apr	13	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Monday	Apr	16	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Sunday	Apr	22	12:30pm	Christian Education Commission
Wednesday	Apr	25	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's



CHOIR PRACTICE MONDAYS @ 7:30PM
PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM
APRIL 4, 11, 18 & 25 — TEA & HYGGE @ 1:00PM



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

