



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

May 2018

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Celebrating Pentecost

During the month of May, we will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday, May 20th. Pentecost is a celebration on the liturgical calendar commemorating the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem, as Jesus had promised them during his post-resurrection appearances. It is a day that is also known as “the birthday of the church” because on this day, Jesus’ followers became a unique community empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out God’s kingdom in the world.

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Book of Acts describes how the community of Jesus’ followers lived among themselves and society around them:

“Those who welcomed [Peter’s] message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” [Acts 2:41-47]

These qualities of love, forgiveness, fellowship, generosity, and devotion to God in worship marked the early church. Through their witness, others around them saw a picture of what it looked like to live in God’s kingdom – a different kind of kingdom than that which is offered by the world. As 21st century Christians, we too have the power of the Holy Spirit available to us and our congregation so that we can live out this kind of life with one another in our community. Let us seek the Holy Spirit’s power and guidance as we live out God’s kingdom in our church and in our broader community this Pentecost and always!

Blessings,

Hilary

Dear Hyggiers,

Here is a proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of the spring.
Hope you can make these times of discussion and fellowship.

Tea & Hygge meetings for April and May

April 18th – Travel theme: Share about a place to which you've traveled that has made an impact on you. Or share about a place you have always wanted to travel, but haven't done so yet. Bring an optional photo or memento from your trip to share.

April 25th – Correspondence: Share about a note or a letter you've received that made an impact on you in some way. Optional: Bring in the correspondence to show the group.

May 2nd – Books: Share about a book you are reading that you have found interesting or inspiring. Optional: Bring in the book to show the group.

May 9th – Healthy Living: Share a healthy living habit you have found to make a difference in your life. Think of wellness and healthy living in the broadest sense of the term. Optional: Bring in a wellness tip to share.

May 16th – Hygge Field Trip to Ikea: For our final meeting for the spring, our Wednesday Hygge group will be taking a field trip to Ikea in Baltimore, MD on Wednesday, May 16th. We will have time to look around the store, shop, and then eat lunch together. We will meet at the church at 9:00 AM, then return sometime mid-afternoon. If you would like to join us for the trip, please let Pastor Hilary know by May 14th so we can arrange transportation. If you are willing to drive, please let us know also. Hope you can join us for a fun trip!

This group will take a break for the summer. Think of some new ideas for the group in the fall!



PENTECOST — SUNDAY, MAY 20

The biblical narrative of Pentecost is given in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. About 120 followers of Christ were present (Acts 1:15), including his core group of twelve disciples (Acts 1:13, 26), his mother Mary, and various other women disciples (Acts 1:14). (NSRV)

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.”

While those on whom the Spirit had descended were speaking in many languages, the apostle Peter stood up with the eleven and proclaimed to the crowd that this event was the fulfillment of the prophecy (“I will pour out my spirit”. In Acts 2:17, it says: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” He also mentions (2:15) that it was the third hour of the day (about 9:00am). Acts 2:41 then reports: “So those who welcomed his message received the Holy Spirit, and that day about three thousand persons were added.” Peter stated that this event was the beginning of a continual outpouring that would be available to all believers from that point on, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Christian Pentecost became not only a commemoration of the Holy Spirit’s visit but also marks the birth of the Christian Church. Although it is not certain when Pentecost began to be observed by Christians, it may have been as early as the first century. The day of Pentecost is 50 days after Easter. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, and a dove. The color is red.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today and pointing us to the church of the future.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$14 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family. We believe we are called to do even more – to inspire, support, and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth and young adults. Thank you for your support and generosity!





May Coffee Hours



May 6 – Easter – Pot Luck

**May 13 – Mother's Day celebration hosted
By Care & Fellowship**

May 20 – Pentecost Sunday hosted by Worship

May 27 – Pot Luck

June 3 – 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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its April meeting, Session considered a proposal for a music ministry that would include the hiring of a student choral conductor and 4 student singers. After considerable discussion, it was decided **not** to pass the proposal, but to continue with the current arrangement of a choral conductor and 2 student singers through May 2019. However, the discussion brought to light the need to have a larger conversation about the general stewardship of the endowment and resources of the church. Session will be discussing this during the next few months. If you have any question regarding this matter, please contact Hilary Livingston or Katie Gillespie.





SPRING CLEANING DAY at HoC



SATURDAY, MAY 5

8:00am to ????

HELPING HANDS



ARE NEEDED

8:00am
Breakfast
will be
Served.



A Note from David Catalano, HoC Choir Director

Greetings friends, a few of us over in the music room thought it was time that you got to know myself, and our choir section leaders a bit better. I am currently finishing my first of two years in the Master of Music program at UD with a concentration in Choral Conducting. Being here at HoC with you has helped me tremendously on my personal, professional, musical, and spiritual journey. I grew up in central NJ as a preacher's son; my dad was a non-denominational minister, and in the church is where my love of music began. It is truly a blessing that my career in music allows me to work and worship simultaneously. I can't thank you all enough for this opportunity and for sharing your sanctuary with me every Sunday, it is truly the highlight of my week.

From Zachary Doimi, Bass:

I am a Junior Choral Music Education major at UD from Flemington, New Jersey. Singing at HoC has taught me a lot about how sacred music is used at a contemporary church. We discuss a lot in my music history and choral literature classes about the liturgy and the church calendar. Because of HoC, I have first-hand experience of how and why certain music is chosen for certain dates, furthering my understanding of this important genre in western music. My experience at HoC is also the first singing experience I have had where I am performing every week, and consistently reading new music. I am truly glad to sing at such a wonderful church with such kind and appreciative people.

From Jared Badalamenti, Tenor:

I am from a small, suburban town in North Jersey named Denville. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Delaware as a Vocal Music Education major, and currently study Applied Piano and Conducting there as well. I aspire to be an orchestral conductor in the greater Philadelphia area after I complete my undergraduate degree, and hopefully one day New York City as well. Head of Christiana has provided me with both sight-reading skills and the opportunity to be a professional musician as an undergraduate.

Recognition Sunday

*Please join us on Sunday, June 10th
when we will be honoring our teachers and
youth for their achievements and
contributions to HoC.*



The "HOP" Event

by Alex Oakes

A March 28 trip to see the musical spectacular...



For the third time in the last five years, our scheduled HOP trip had to be postponed due to snow. We were scheduled to go to the Fulton Theater in Lancaster on March 21st to see "Guys and Dolls," but Mother Nature had other ideas. The tickets to the show had been paid for in advance and it was feared that we would lose all we had paid since the theater's policy is to not issue refunds or replacement tickets due to weather. But, they must have been especially anxious to have the Happy Older Presbyterians, for they did indeed give us tickets to the following Wednesday's show at no additional cost! A very special thanks to Kay Brook for making that happen!

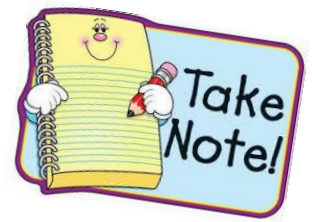
That being taken care of, the following Wednesday (March 28) saw us on our way again, this time a bit early just in case we might hit other roadblocks...and guess what? We hit a roadblock on Rt 272 that set us back once again, but this time just for a little while, and we even managed to get to the Pressroom Restaurant in plenty of time....well...perhaps a mite early since they weren't open yet...but they let us in and it was all good.

The show? Well, it was a packed theater and the performance was terrific, with many favorite old songs like "Luck Be a Lady" and "A Bushel and a Peck." What a great way to spend a day as a "Happy Older Presbyterian!"



Our next H.O.P. adventure will be to the Wheaton Arts Center (formerly known as Wheaton Village) in southern N.J. on Tuesday, May 15. Join us!!!

HOC CALENDAR — May Happenings



Wednesday	May	02	11:00am	Outreach Commission
Wednesday	May	02	2:00am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Saturday	May	05	8:00am	Spring Clean-up Day
Wednesday	May	09	LOOKING TREE DEADLINE	
Thursday	May	10	7p-9pm	Covered Bridge Farms using facilities
Friday	May	11	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Sunday	May	13	MOTHER'S DAY	
Sunday	May	13	12:30pm	Worship Commission
Monday	May	14	6:00pm	Session
Tuesday	May	15	9:15am	HOP Trip to Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center
Wednesday	May	16	9:00am	Tea & Hygge Field Trip to Ikea
Thursday	May	17	10:00am	Newark Interfaith Group meeting in parlor
Sunday	May	20	11:00am	Pentecost Sunday (Wear red; bring a geranium, PCUSA offering)
Monday	May	21	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission
Tuesday	May	22	6:00pm	Mission Commission
Wednesday	May	23	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty at Wesley's



CHOIR PRACTICE MONDAYS @ 7:30PM

PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM

MAY 2, 9, and 16 — TEA & HYGGE @ 1:00PM



MAY BIRTHDAYS



May	1	Christine Sutton	May	21	Amy Uffelman
May	9	Jeanne Hastings	May	26	John Tipton
May	13	Betsy VanCulin	May	27	Bill Witt

