



The Looking Tree

October 2019

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

Happy Fall
y'all



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Dear HoC members and friends,

When Jesus' disciples began to see the work he was doing – his teachings, his miracles, his healings (basically signs of God's kingdom breaking out on earth), they said, "Lord, teach us to pray!" In response, Jesus gave them a framework for prayer that would teach them to pray according to God's kingdom vision for the world. This prayer became known as The Lord's Prayer—perhaps the most famous prayer in the Christian faith. Millions of Christians across many traditions recite this prayer in worship as well as in their personal prayer lives.

It is a powerful prayer that teaches us how to pray according to God's purposes, while drawing us closer to God in an intimate, personal way. This prayer is not only useful for reciting in worship, but also serves as a pattern for our prayer lives. Over the next few weeks, we will be learning more about the meaning behind each line of The Lord's Prayer, both through worship as a sermon series and in our adult Sunday school class. All are welcome to participate!

However, more than simply learning about this prayer, I want to encourage us to actually pray this prayer more effectively for our lives and the life of our church. I am asking for folks who would be interested in delving deeper into the practice of prayer to join me in developing a prayer ministry here at HoC. No experience necessary! Often, we feel intimidated by prayer—we don't know what to pray for, and we're not always sure our prayers will be answered. Yet, part of growing as followers of Jesus is learning to pray. God understands our hesitation and doubts, yet he draws us to draw closer to him in prayer. We'll likely begin with lots of questions and doubts, yet I think these are best resolved in the practice of praying. We can learn all about prayer, including The Lord's Prayer, but transformation will happen when we actually begin to pray. The Lord's Prayer is a simple model to begin learning to pray.

One New England winter when I was in seminary, I remember renting snowshoes for the first time. I asked the outfitter if there was any special technique I needed to learn to snowshoe properly. He said, "Put 'em on and walk!" Apparently, the best way to learn how to snowshoe is...to snowshoe. Likewise, the best way to learn to pray is to pray. Friends, join me in learning how to pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray. I trust that God has many blessings in store for us as we seek him in prayer.

Blessings,

Hilary



Beginning a Prayer Ministry at HoC



I'm interested in beginning some new prayer activities here HoC! These could include (but are not limited to) an intercessory prayer group, prayer walks, prayer services, mobilizing people to pray at home, small groups about learning to pray, and more!

If anyone is interested in getting together to talk about (and pray about) what this would look like, please contact Pastor Hilary.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION'S FALL NATURE WALK



Sunday, October 27 @ 1:30pm

White Clay Creek State Park

We will park at the Possum Hill

location off Paper Mill Rd.

Following the walk, we will go to

Woodside Creamery for ice cream.

Rain Date: Nov. 3



THOUGHTS ON



Best Laid Plans

by John Brook

We have evidence that they do. Just this year, expensive unplanned repairs were required for our septic system at a cost in excess of \$10,000. Our budget planning had not included that expense in the current year church budget. Fortunately for us, the additional funds to pay for this were available from our savings, that is, our endowment.

With aging buildings and an aging congregation, perhaps our planning could best be done with the assumption that our plans will go awry. Maybe, the best way to plan for these things “that go bump in the night” is to support and maintain a healthy endowment.

Our endowment is important to us in other ways. Board of Pensions data reveals that congregations with 150 or fewer are most likely not to have an installed pastor. Almost one half of the congregations of our size are unable to engage the services of a full-time pastor. Why are we among those congregation who can? First and foremost, it is the generous giving by our members, but as anyone who examines our budget knows, this is not enough. Annually, our balanced bottom line requires an infusion of financial support from the endowment, not only for capital and emergency projects, but also to make operational ends meet.

We are indebted to deceased members who loved the church enough and all it provides to bless it with a portion of their earthly treasure. If we also love and value this church, each of us should reflect on the various ways that we can support it with regular giving to pay the costs associated with our operating budget and to additionally consider planned giving opportunities to enhance the endowment.

GIVING DOES MATTER





2019 Stewardship Campaign

October

- 6th Introduce Stewardship Campaign at church
- 7th Stewardship Campaign letters get mailed
- 13th Minute for Stewardship presentation
- 14th Session meeting / Present budget – First reading

November

- 3rd Announce pledge results
- 11th Session meeting / Second reading of budget



In all things, give with an attitude of gratitude!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES DELIVERED TO JOHN E. DOWNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks!



Cindy Taber's car filled to the gills with school supplies for Downes Elementary School generously donated by the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.



**YOU'RE
THE
BEST**

Cindy Taber (l), Rosemarie White (r), present the school supplies to Anne Park, principal at Downes Elementary School. Anne thanks Head of Christiana PC and its members for the supplies and support we give the school.





October Coffee Hours

Oct 6 – World Wide Communion—Breads 'n Spreads
hosted by Worship Commission

Oct 13 – Pot Luck

Oct 20 – Pot Luck

Oct 27 – Pot Luck

Nov 3 – Pot Luck



REMEMBER - **YOU** can host any "Pot Luck" Coffee Hour.
Simply contact Jeanne Hastings at 302-368-9416 if you are interested.

HoC 2019 – 2020 UD Choral Students



Dan Enoch
Singer



Abigail Kramer
Singer



Andrea Nestman
Apprentice Choir Director



The Unglued Project Update

by Linda Huffman

The Church Unglued group met on August 22, where we dug further into our church's DNA, discussing who we are as a church.

We shared some of these questions in our Café Church worship service on Sunday, August 25th! The congregation members in attendance were great participants and shared their broader perspective of who we are as a church.

I found the exercise to be enlightening and heartwarming to see and hear the perspectives of so many people! We will continue our journey this next month, discovering more of who we are, as well as the community we serve, as we start to look more in depth at who our community is. This will include walking through some of the neighborhoods in the immediate area, as well as reviewing survey data that also asks about the community faith beliefs. We are looking forward to learning and sharing more!



Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

**Remove the "have-nots," the "can-nots,"
and the "do-nots" that I have in mind.**

**Erase the "will-nots," the "may-nots,"
and the "might-nots" that may find a home in my heart.**

**Release me from the "could-nots," the "would-nots,"
and the "should-nots" that obstruct my life.**

And most of all, dear God,

**I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life
all of the "am-nots" that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.**



Nursery Update:

Thanks for your patience and understanding over the summer months while the nursery was not operating at full capacity. Thanks also to those who helped out in the nursery providing childcare when needed. We're also very grateful to our nursery attendant, Janice Harper for her hard work and dedication to the children of our church. We wish her all the best on moving to Portland to begin a new chapter in her life!

Over the summer, the Worship and Christian Education commissions met to evaluate our current nursery program and child safety policy. A working group was established to update our current policy and nursery position description. With Janice's departure, we are searching for a new nursery attendant. The job description will include a greater emphasis on early childhood expertise to reflect the needs of our current population of children. We hope to have this person in place by mid-fall, and **we will keep the nursery officially closed until this person is in place.**

In order to adhere to best practices in maintaining a safe space for children, we want to make sure that another responsible adult is present with the paid nursery attendant to provide support and accountability. We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to serve as both **nursery volunteers** and **hall monitors**.

- Nursery volunteers work directly in the nursery with children and the paid attendant. They would require proper background checks, which the church will assist in providing.
- Hall monitors are not in direct contact with children, but would monitor the hallway areas outside the nursery area to provide security and support. They would not require background checks, **but must not be in direct contact with children.**

If you are willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact Mary Jo Mankin.

Finally, we would like to thank members of both the Worship and Christian Education commissions for their input and hard work on this very important ministry of our church. Particularly, we thank Mary Jo Mankin, Katie Gillespie, Aileen Burmeister and Linda Huffman for their leadership in working out the details for the nursery staffing and programming going forward. If you have any questions or concerns about the nursery, please contact Pastor Hilary or one of the planning team members listed above.

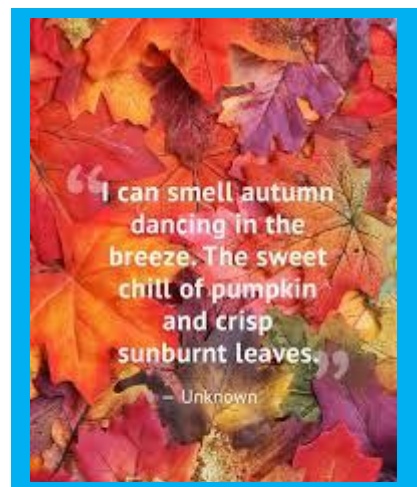
HOC CALENDAR — October Happenings



Tue	Oct 01	Pastor Hilary on Study Leave today
Weds	Oct 02	10:45am HOP trip to Sinking Springs Farm
Thur	Oct 03	2:00pm Care & Fellowship
Sat	Oct 05	3:00pm Witt Memorial Service & Reception
Sun	Oct 06	11:00am World Communion Sunday and Peace & Global Witness Offering
Mon	Oct 07 through 13	Pastor Hilary on Vacation
Tues	Oct 08	LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Fri	Oct 11	12:00pm Hope Dining Room
Sun	Oct 13	11:00am Neutral Pulpit (TBA)
Mon	Oct 14	6:00pm Session
Sun	Oct 20	12:30pm Outreach Commission
Sun	Oct 20	12:30pm Worship Commission
Tue	Oct 22	6:00pm Mission Commission
Tue	Oct 22	7:00pm Admin & Finance Commission
Weds	Oct 23	11:30am Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Sun	Oct 27	1:30pm Christian Ed's Fall Nature Walk
Weds	Oct 30	T B A HOP Trip to Delaware Theatre Company

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world..." -Anne Frank

CHOIR PRACTICE — MONDAYS — 7:30PM
PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM
TEA & HYGGE — WEDNESDAYS — 1:00PM



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- Oct 5 Trevor Christian
- Oct 17 Jeff Greenfield
- Oct 18 Charlotte Condliffe
- Oct 25 Kayleigh Davis
- Oct 26 John Murray

A birthday in October can be a special treat, the harvest has begun of pumpkins, gourds and wheat. So on your happy day here's a birthday wish for you - May you gather joy & laughter, love and friendships too.

