



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

April 2020



Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Dear HoC members and friends,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of Christ! I know that everyone is very concerned about the virus and its impact on our church and community. We are working hard to make sure we maintain our calling and connection as a congregation during this challenging time. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate a dynamic and challenging situation. The session held an emergency virtual meeting on March 17 to discuss the current situation. Session approved changes to our bylaws to permit virtual meetings and electronic (email) voting so decisions regarding the church can be made in an efficient manner. **All session, committee and commission meetings will be held virtually for the remainder of March, and possibly longer.** All relevant actions will be communicated to the congregation in a timely manner.

In the interest of public health, as well as to ensure the safety and well-being of our congregation during this time, **we are suspending all in-person worship services, events and meetings for the remainder of March. The church office will also be closed during this time,** and staff will be working remotely. Pastor Hilary and Nancy will be available by phone and email (see page 10 for contact information.) We will continue to produce bulletins and newsletters, as well as other communications that will be transmitted electronically. Communications will also be physically mailed out to those who do not have internet access. Our sexton, Jeff Greenfield, will continue to care for the facilities as needed. Regular staff will be paid as usual during this period. Arrangements have also been made to check phone messages, collect mail, and handle financial accounting during our physical closure.

Worship services will be held virtually via Facebook Live livestreaming on the church's Facebook page. The page is set to public, so anyone with internet access can view and participate in the service (no separate Facebook account is required). A recording of the livestream is available on the HoC Facebook page to view at any time. Sermons will also be recorded and made available on the church website at <https://hocpc.org/>. Printed copies can also be mailed to those without internet access – please contact Nancy if you wish to receive these. **Virtual worship may be extended beyond March** should the public health situation require this. The congregation will be notified of any changes to the worship schedule in a timely manner.

Pastor Hilary will not be making any in-person pastoral visits at this time. I will be available by cellphone, email, text, Facebook messenger, and other electronic means of communication. **Please contact Pastor Hilary directly on her cellphone at 814-577-4269 if you require pastoral assistance.** Session members, deacons, and care & fellowship members will be calling to check in with members and friends regularly. Pastor Hilary will be in touch virtually and via phone calls with members and friends during this period.

Blessings,

Hilary

HoC HAPPENINGS

The session is scheduled to meet on Monday, March 30, 2020 to assess the situation, and make any updates to our current procedures at that time. Both the pastor and session members will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions for your safety and well-being, as well as the safety and well-being of our surrounding community. **If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Hilary or a member of session.**

- **First, the best thing you can do to serve the broader community's health and well-being is to stay at home as much as possible,** particularly if you are sick or considered part of a high-risk population (which is most of you). Your actions not only protect you from getting sick, but also prevent you from unknowingly spreading the virus to the more vulnerable members of our community. Your social distancing efforts will keep this health crisis from overwhelming our healthcare system, ensuring that critical medical care will be available to those who need it most.
- **The second thing you can do is to keep your fellow members and friends in prayer.** Consider using the directory to pray for members, as well as your pastor and session. We are navigating uncharted waters with this situation, and we appreciate all your prayers and support! We would also greatly appreciate it if you would continue to send in your pledge/financial contribution to the church, as this keeps us financially stable. If you are healthy, perhaps you can help those who may need practical assistance with meals, shopping, errands, etc. Make sure to take appropriate hygiene and safety precautions when doing so.
- **The third thing you can do is stay connected with one another.** Consider giving members and friends a phone call, a text, or an email, just to check in. Participate in our virtual worship livestreams. Keep in touch via Facebook. If you are more proficient with Facebook or other platforms, offer to be "tech support" to those who may be less familiar with them. Even though we must be physically apart, let's keep in touch with one another through other means. Stay connected!
- **Lastly, remember that we are all in this together, and that God is faithful.** God is with us through this situation. We need not give into fear or panic. God has preserved the church through much worse. By God's grace, we will prevail. By God's grace, let's step up and be the church we're called to be. Jesus calls us to serve one another and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is an opportunity to be a powerful witness of Christ's love to our community.

When you feel afraid, anxious, or uncertain, remember the promise of scripture from Romans 8:38-39: *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Stay safe. Stay well. STAY HOME. Remember that Jesus loves you, and we will get through this!

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

During Lent, we will be collecting our denomination's **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering. A gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. It supports the work of several denominational entities, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected through Easter Sunday, April 12th. You can mail your donations to the office. Make sure you put "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line on your check. Thank you for your generous giving.

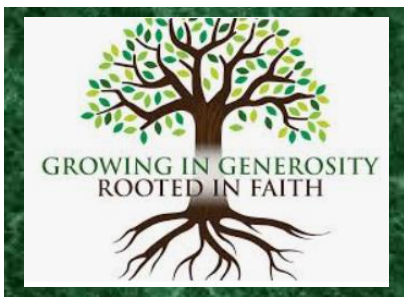
THE UNGLUED CHURCH PROJECT

by Linda Huffman

The Church Unglued group met at the church on February 27th, where we discussed how easy or difficult it is to rely on God's spirit instead of our own skills/ideas/desires. How easy is it for you to "Let Go and Let God," or are you more, "If it's meant to be, it's up to me?"

We progressed from this discussion to revisiting our strengths, barriers, and resources. We are bringing these into a more focused understanding to help paint a clearer picture of what we have and who we are. We also brought the Unglued info to the congregation on March 8, and presented Mission-In-site statistics about our community to the congregation to discuss who our community is we are called to serve.

We received some really positive feedback as to how enlightening the conversation was. We are looking forward to deepening our understanding of our community in the coming months and using this information as we carve a path forward!



Thoughts on Stewardship

by Alex Oakes

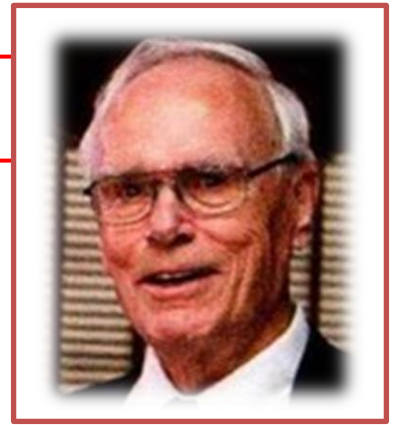
Stock Can be a Tax-wise Way to Give

(from the Presbyterian Foundation)

Many people include stock in their portfolio and they find these assets convenient to use to make gifts to their church or other ministry. Stocks that have appreciated in value allow you to be able to potentially make gifts much larger than what you originally planned, AND you will benefit from the tax savings as well!

In making a gift, if you were to sell the stock and use the proceeds as your donation, you would likely be forfeiting a hefty amount in capital gains tax. Instead, by donating the stock to the charity instead of the proceeds from the sale of the stock, you will avoid capital gains tax altogether, amounting to a substantial cash savings for you. And the full value of the stock will be available to use as a gift and consequently the value of the charitable deduction you claim will be higher.

ALAN SOUTHMAYD OBITUARY



Glen Mills - Alan Southmayd passed away March 7, 2020 in Glen Mills, two days after his 90th birthday, following a long illness. He was born in White Plains, New York, to the late Henry and Elizabeth (Weltner) Southmayd. His brother, Henry, sister, Dorothy Urek and her husband, Paul, and brother-in-law, Fred Hickling, predeceased him.

Alan attended [Princeton University](#) and served in the United States [Army](#). In 1951, Alan married his high school sweetheart Shirley Ann Kerlake, always to him, "Sugar." Alan worked as a television editor. Alan then moved into banking and finance and achieved the highest distinction in the investment management profession, the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Alan and Ann started their family in New York City, later moving to Old Bridge, New Jersey. In 1974, Alan was hired by the University of Delaware to manage the university's investment portfolio. There he computerized the university's portfolio, which outperformed the markets throughout his tenure. He retired in 1996 and Alan and Ann eventually relocated to Maris Grove in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania from Newark.

Alan was a lifelong lover of music especially jazz, Big Bands and Frank Sinatra. He was an accomplished duplicate bridge player, achieving the status of Bronze Life Master. He was also active in the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Alan will be remembered for his kindness, intellect and sense of humor.

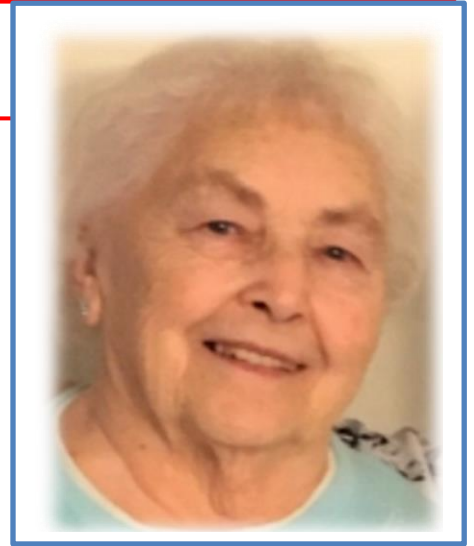
In addition to Shirley Ann, his wife of over 68 years, Alan is survived by his three children, Amy (Barry) Huffman, Tom (Kim), and Andy (Lynne), 7 grandchildren, TJ, Geoff (Kristen), Rachel (David) Campbell, Ellen Huffman, Jenni, Emily (Andrew Ricker), and Becca (Chase Milligan), 2 great-grandchildren, Lillie and Georgia, sisters-in-law, Margery Robertiello and Barbara Hickling, nephews, Jimmy Urek, Alan (Joe Salerno) Urek, Dr. William (Mary) Hickling, and Jeff (Kathy) Hickling, and niece Nancy (John) Winstead.

Services are not yet scheduled. Final internment will be at Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware. In lieu of flowers, the family recommends contributions to the University of Delaware, the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church and the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center Research Fund.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delawareonline/obituary.aspx?n=alan-southmayd&pid=195731472&fhid=41761>

RUTH COX OBITUARY

Ruth Webb Cox, age 85, of Pike Creek, DE, passed away on March 18, 2020 at Christiana Hospital. Born in Suscon, PA, she was the daughter of the late Edgar and Keitha Webb. Ruth was a graduate of Conrad high school. She was a secretary for The DuPont Company for 34 years. She spent her free time crocheting and crafting and enjoyed being involved in a local stitching club. She loved to give away her crocheted Christmas stockings and other crafts to everybody, especially to children. Ruth was a long-time member of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.



Ruth is survived by her husband of 33 years, Clarence E. Cox. She is also survived by her sons, Stephen Dudkewitz (Jill) and Ray Dudkewitz (Patty), both of Newark, DE; daughter, Dianne Roque (Tomas) of Elkton, MD; grandchildren, Mathieu, Kristi, Aaron, Morgan, and Dalton; 7 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Joyce Miller of Townsend and Edna Ritter of Newark; stepson, Stephenson T Cox, Sr (Angela) of Camden-Wyoming, DE; stepdaughter Tammy Maggitti (Mike) of Elkton, MD; step grandchildren Jocelyn, Stephenson II, Shannon, Mikayla, and Rebekah; and 2 great-step grandchildren.

A celebration of Ruth's life will be announced at a future date. Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Head of Christina Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Church Road, Newark, Delaware 19711. Online condolences may be made at mealeyfuneralhomes.com.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delawareonline/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-webb-cox&pid=195753334&fhid=13154>



**SEALED
BY THE SIGN
OF THE CROSS**

Sealed by The Sign of the Cross, I am ready to start the day.
Sealed by The Sign of the Cross, I am ready to walk the way.

The Way was marked by Jesus, so that man could see
the way home to the Father
and there with Him to be.

Sealed with The Sign
of the Cross,

I will move
through
the day
without
care.

Sealed
with
The
Sign
of the
Cross,

I will carry God's Love everywhere,
and see the world touched by Jesus, so that man could feel,
the mighty Love of the Father...and in His arms...be healed.



ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN LUNCHEON 2020

Who do you call when you have 126 meals to serve?

The Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church!!!

That's what HoC members did on February 28th.

Thanks to all who gave their time and efforts to help with this worthwhile Mission Project!



The 2020 Elkton Community Kitchen Team: Pastor Hilary Livingston, Julia Busick, Kay Brook, Lillian Crispin, Kathy Graham, Steve Graham, Claire Herrington, Margaret Holland, Brian Huffman, Linda Huffman, Merle Slack, Alex Oakes, MaryLou Oakes, Debbie Reeves, Kay Wood and Jose.

HOC CALENDAR — April Happenings

All Commission Meetings will be held virtually and all events are subject to change until further notice...

Monday	Mar	30	6:00pm	Session
Wednesday	Apr	01	All Day	April Fool's Day!
Tuesday	Apr	14	LOOKING TREE DEADLINE	
Wednesday	Apr	22	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Friday	May	01	5:30pm	C & F Movie Night ("Just Mercy")



ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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



"Life is not what it's supposed to be. It is what it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference." ~ Virginia Satir



HoC Staff Contact Information

Pastor Hilary -- 814-577-4269
 Hilary's Email – heliving@gmail.com
 Nancy Crawford – 302-456-0720
 Nancy's Email – nancy.hoc@outlook.com
 Jeff Greenfield – 302-753-9309
 Jgreenfield50@outlook.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



April	3	Linda Huffman	April	15	Ed Cairns
April	6	Hilary Livingston	April	19	Branch Murray
April	6	Vince Marianiello	April	23	Leo Marianiello
April	9	Aileen Burmeister	April	28	Abigail Condliffe
			April	29	Susan Brook

