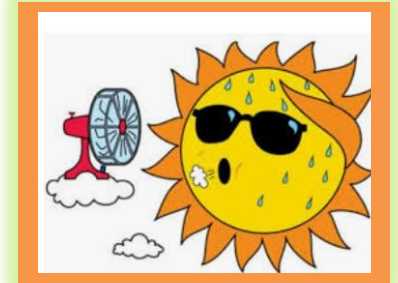




# The Looking Tree

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

August 2020



Pastor Hilary Livingston

**Dear HoC members and friends,**

**Wearing a mask—Political Statement or Spiritual Practice?**

Who knew a little piece of fabric could cause so much controversy? Mask-wearing has become a huge controversy, with everyone weighing in with their views on the subject. Mask-wearing has become a political symbol—a “taking sides” in a bitter culture war. I hesitate to even wade into the mask-wearing controversy, knowing it’s become such a hot-button issue. Upon reflection, however, I want to help us reframe the whole mask-wearing controversy. I want to encourage us to think about it in a different way.

*What if wearing a mask became a spiritual practice, rather than a political statement?*

In a recent sermon, I referenced Brother Lawrence, a 17<sup>th</sup> century monk who lived a life of service to God while working in the monastery kitchen. Brother Lawrence performed the most menial tasks (scrubbing floors, washing pots and pans, and chopping vegetables), as acts of worship to God and service to his fellow monks. What if we took a page out of Brother Lawrence’s playbook? What if we viewed the mundane task of wearing a mask, not as a political statement, but rather as an act of worship to God and service toward one another? If we have to wear masks anyway, why not transform this mundane act into spiritual practice that honors God and our fellow human beings who are created in God’s image?

Galatians 5:13 says, “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love.” Our freedom in Christ is not license to do whatever we want while disregarding the wellbeing of others. Rather we are to steward our freedom to serve others sacrificially, just as Christ has served us. This mindset puts mask wearing in a different light. Instead of being a political statement, it becomes an act of worship and service. It becomes a means by which, like Brother Lawrence, we practice the presence of God.

The next time you wear your mask, be mindful of doing so as a spiritual practice—an act of worship to God’s image,

Blessings,

*Hilary*



## VIRTUAL CHURCH

Please join us for virtual worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM

on our website at: <https://hocpc.org/online-worship/>

or on our Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/HeadOfChristiana/posts/>

You don't need a Facebook account to access the page.

We will also be having a Zoom Fellowship Hour on

Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM prior to our virtual worship service.

Click this link to access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87809131177?pwd=V1h5VnowWXRCZ2ZMS0UyWkFXSVBrUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 0913 1177

Password: 411266

If you don't have internet access, you can call [1-929-205-6099](tel:1-929-205-6099)

or [1-301-715-8592](tel:1-301-715-8592).

You can call in just like you would call someone on a regular phone.



# HoC HAPPENINGS

## Online Giving at Head of Christiana

Head of Christiana now has the option of online giving through our website using a computer or mobile device (phone or tablet). In order to provide this service, we have partnered with Tithe.ly, a faith-based organization that creates products to enable online communities for churches.

This service allows you to give using a debit or credit card or via electronic funds transfer. You can make a one-time donation or set up weekly or monthly recurring donations. To access online giving, navigate to our website's giving page via <https://hocpc.org/give/>.

After navigating to this page, you will have the option to give or get answers to questions you may have. You may also email Brian Huffman ([bhuffman@graze.net](mailto:bhuffman@graze.net)) if you have additional questions. It's safe and secure. And in this time of social distancing it provides a way to easily continue to support our Church!



## The Unglued Church Initiative

*Submitted by Debbie Reeves*

After months of no activity on July 2nd the Unglued Project group met on Zoom. We will be partnering with Elsmere, Christiana and Rock Churches for the remainder of the program. Our first meeting was spent discussing how and where each group is spending the Pandemic. We are discussing how we are doing financially and how mission activity is being used in our communities.

Investigating how and when it makes sense to reopen. During this time of confusion and conflict, there are two things that are constant. That our faith will deliver us to a time when we can worship together. It will be different and we will need to work a little harder to make it happen. But, in God's loving grace it WILL happen. Stay tuned for more updates.

## The Presbyterian Foundation: *A Brief Overview*

by Ed Crispin

Never can we say that we do not have the ability as members of the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church to spiritually touch those who live outside of our community. We, as members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), are members of a large organization that has, through its Presbyterian Foundation, a world-wide reach.

The Presbyterian Foundation, which had its beginning in 1795, has now become a \$1 billion extension of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and an organization whose presence is felt throughout the world (*the Foundation's offices are located in Jeffersonville, IN*). Among the many activities the Presbyterian Foundation sponsors are four extremely significant Offering programs that are always well-received: "One Great Hour of Sharing," "Pentecost," "Peace & Global Witness," and "Christmas Joy." Each of these programs are administered by the leadership of the Foundation during a unique period of the year. They are funded by contributions from over 1.3 million active members of over nine thousand Presbyterian (U.S.A.) congregations and ministries. This results in a normal annual collection of approximately \$82 million in gifts and investments with the benefit of these gifts and investments felt in more than 50 countries around the world. (To view information that addresses the extent of the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), see the website <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/>.)

In addition to its international reach, the Presbyterian Foundation also provides resources to assist individual United States' member churches. For example, Mr. Olanda Carr, one of eight Presbyterian Ministry Relations Officers who serves Presbyterian (U.S.A.) churches located within the United States, a short time ago met with a number of our Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church members for the purpose of presenting and discussing how Presbyterian Foundation resources can be accessed and used by the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church.

So while we may be a small church with a small congregation, if we look at what we are a part of, we are massive and our reach for helping others is worldwide. Each of us has our avenue where we can personally extend our reach around the world.

## Here is How You Can Help Asylum Seekers

JUST TO LET EVERYONE KNOW....MAC (Matthew 25 Action Committee) has been doggedly looking for ways to help asylum seekers who have come to the US fleeing violence in fear for their lives, and consequently they have been confined in detention centers while awaiting immigration hearings.

We are excited now to have partnered with Parish Resource Center in Lancaster PA. PRC has been a tireless advocate for those detainees, arranging bail money for their release and then providing resettlement resources, helping them get to their host families once released from York County Detention Center.

Because asylum seekers leave the prison with no possessions and sometimes have lengthy bus travel to get to their destination, MAC is asking for everyone's **help to provide asylum seekers with travel necessities in backpacks.**

A wish list is available on Amazon (<https://amzn.to/3ii5Dak>). We've linked to Amazon Smile and have designated PRC as the beneficiary. A charitable donation portion of the purchase price goes to PRC along with the items.

**Please send your items to:  
Parish Resource Center, 2160 Lincoln Hwy East, Suite 18, Lancaster, PA 17602.**

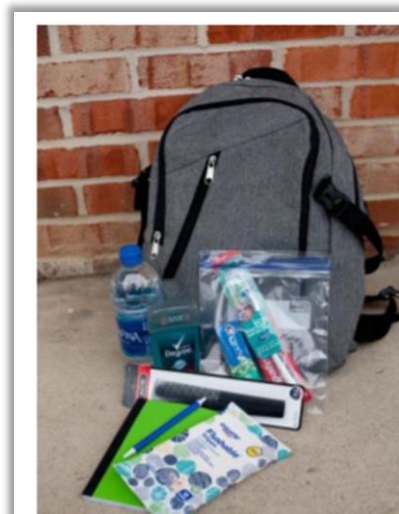
Here's an example of the work done by PRC: (pre-Covid) R. was granted asylum and had a church lined up to help resettle him! But his bus didn't leave until the next day and he had nowhere to stay overnight. His lawyer contacted PRC for help. Within two hours, PRC found a host for the night and a driver to provide transportation, as well as providing a Travel Kit. ( R. had been released with no money, no phone, no food, and only the warm-weather clothing he was wearing. Now it was winter!) The Travel Kit included a coat for the cold weather, a clean change of clothes, new socks and underwear, and basic hygiene items. It also included a water bottle, snacks, a notebook with emergency phone numbers, and cash to buy meals on his multi-day bus trip.

### Travel Kit (all new items):

- 1 backpack (no kids' backpacks)
- 1 toothbrush (in original, single packaging)
- 1 small or travel size toothpaste
- 1 ziplock bag for toothbrush and toothpaste
- 1 small notebook and 1 pen
- 1 small package of pre-moistened wipes (for sink baths)
- Face masks
- Hand sanitizer
- 1 small or travel size deodorant
- 1 comb
- 1 water bottle (new, unopened)
- 1 pair of socks (men's crew socks, medium or large)
- Suggested donation of \$40 per kit to cover additional items

Marti Yates, MAC committee member and writer of this article.

Terry Dykstra - 302-731-1999 ([terrydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:terrydykstra@gmail.com)).  
Mark Olson 302-897-7166 ([molson6982@gmail.com](mailto:molson6982@gmail.com))





## **HoC Pandemic Time Capsule**

We're a historic church...and we're living through a historic event with the COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020. I thought it would be interesting to preserve accounts and objects of this event for a time capsule!

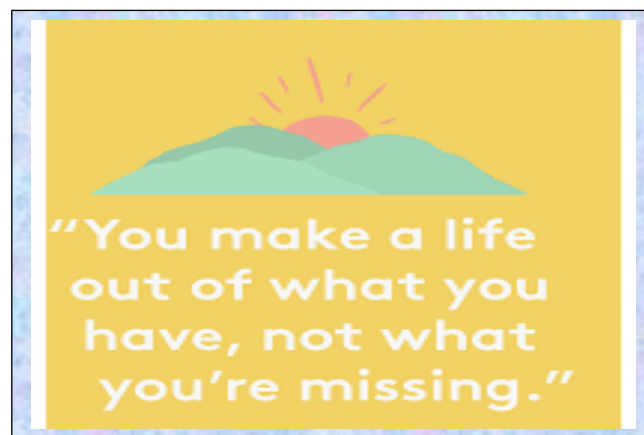
I thought we could preserve written accounts of people's experiences with the pandemic, as well as some "artifacts"— small items that represent your experience with the pandemic that we could keep for future generations. Also, since we're in a digital age, I thought about perhaps making some sort of digital record of this time period.

We could collect these items and have them available for future generations to explore. We could perhaps even send some things (written records and/or digital items) to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

If you would like to contribute writings, photos, videos or other items, please send them to me at [heliving@gmail.com](mailto:heliving@gmail.com).

Also, if you would like to help put together the "time capsule" or whatever we will be utilizing to preserve these historical items, please let me know.

*Pastor Hilary*



# SUMMER HAPPENINGS

*by Debbie Reeves*

The first couple of photos are my new baby ducklings. They are adorable and very needy. They have imprinted me as the "Mama Duck". What a joy. And, duck watching is good for the soul. In the first picture, they are 3 weeks old and getting some feathers. Starting to learn how to swim. They are getting the oil into their feathers. Until then, they are not very buoyant. In the second picture, you can see how quickly they've grown.

The third photo is a honeybee swarm that my husband found. I called the Beekeeper Association and they sent two beekeepers to confiscate the bees into a couple boxes. And, yes they did find the Queen.

The last picture shows the 50 containers we made up with our famous Sloppy Joes and Green Bean Casserole for the NEC to distribute to the clients in Red Roof Inn. To date we have made five different drop offs to Newark Empowerment Center. We supplied 50 hot meals and a total of 280 bag lunches at four different locations.



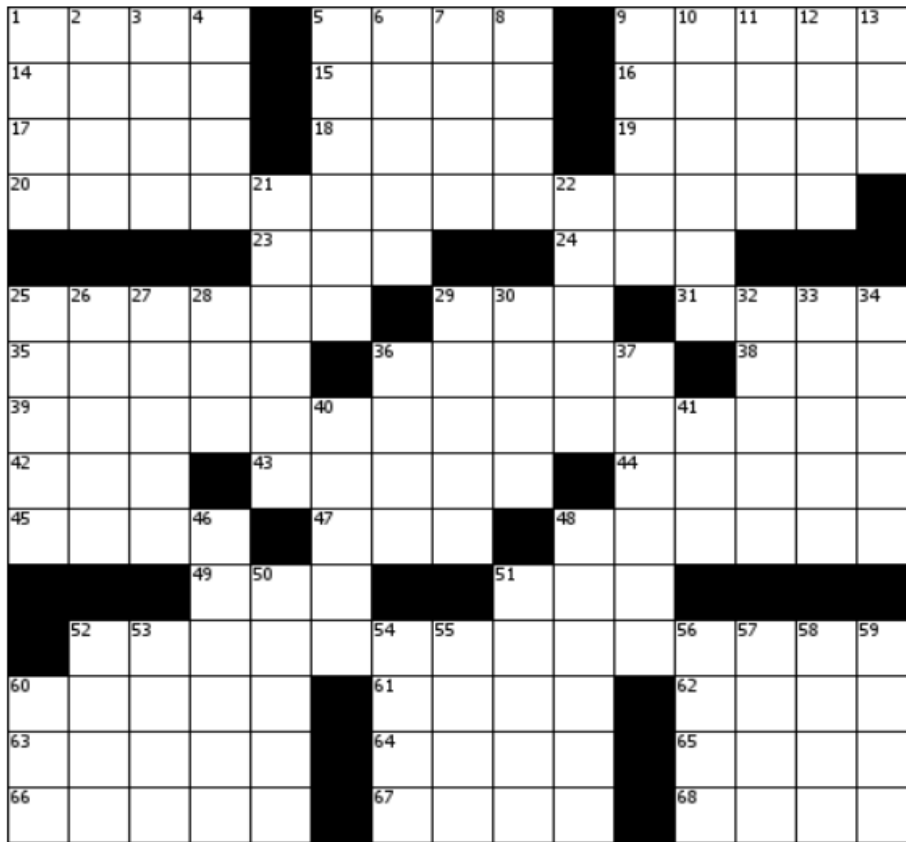


Color Me

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- AUGUST
- BARBECUE
- BASEBALL
- BEACH
- CAMPING
- GRASS
- HEAT
- ICE CREAM
- JULY
- JUNE
- OUTDOORS
- PARK
- PICNIC
- POOL
- POPSICLE
- RELAX
- ROAD TRIP
- SAILING
- SANDALS
- SAND CASTLE
- SHORTS
- SUMMER
- SUNGLASSES
- SUNSCREEN
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMMING
- SWIMSUIT
- THUNDERSTORM
- VACATION
- WATERMELON





**Across**

- 1. Law of current flow
- 5. British baby buggy
- 9. Wharf catches
- 14. Jack and Jill's implement
- 15. Jeweler Lalique
- 16. Former enemy capital
- 17. Hemingway's "The Sun --- Rises"
- 18. Dogfight participants
- 19. Stage presence?
- 20. Almost make it
- 23. Agent, shortly
- 24. Named at birth
- 25. Crosby-Hope co-star
- 29. The i's have it!
- 31. Rumors
- 35. Sure way to fatherhood
- 36. Country doings
- 38. Grassland
- 39. Almost made it
- 42. Musical gift
- 43. Like otter fur
- 44. Honshu seaport
- 45. Yucatán "You bet!"
- 47. Antediluvian
- 48. Flatfoot's collar
- 49. Classical preceder
- 51. Parenthesis shape
- 52. Almost make it
- 60. Guy in a whale of a tale
- 61. Hand out
- 62. Family history
- 63. Like lamb chops
- 64. Equal
- 65. "Picnic" playwright
- 66. Type of nut or palm
- 67. Ballerina-like
- 68. Appear

**Down**

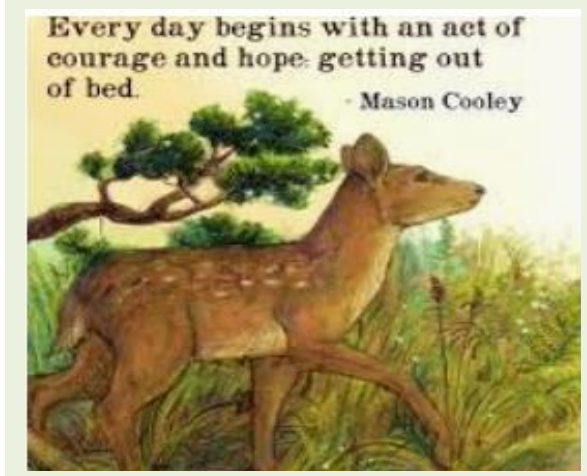
- 1. Milky gem
- 2. Ring above the collar?
- 3. Fail to attend
- 4. Base of a gin fizz
- 5. Partner of wing
- 6. News summary
- 7. Again, in different form
- 8. Fit well together
- 9. Oater feature
- 10. Serving need
- 11. Pony up
- 12. Party pooper
- 13. "Dear" one
- 21. Uncouth chaps
- 22. Emcee's forte
- 25. Pigskin feature
- 26. Vice president Stevenson
- 27. Ties up
- 28. Photo --- (camera sessions)
- 29. Obsolete
- 30. Sound for Old MacDonald
- 32. Pond accumulations
- 33. Security problems
- 34. Gold unit
- 36. Gasohol, e.g.
- 37. Parch with heat
- 40. Bialystock's partner in "The Producers"
- 41. Nation founded in 1948 (Abbr.)
- 46. Ready for commitment
- 48. Main conduit
- 50. Waters of jazz
- 51. Fall flower
- 52. "By ---!"
- 53. Rental space
- 54. Little troublemakers
- 55. Slow flow
- 56. "--- Coming" (Three Dog Night tune)
- 57. Eye receptor cell
- 58. Compulsion
- 59. Pour down
- 60. Slacker's bane



# HOC CALENDAR — August Happenings



Monday Aug 10 7:00pm Session Zoom Meeting  
 Tuesday Aug 11 **LOOKING TREE DEADLINE**  
 Monday Aug 17 7:00pm Admin & Finance Zoom Meeting



*Sometimes we are tested...  
 Not to show our weaknesses,  
 but to discover our  
 strengths!*

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS:**  
 Rebecca DiGiovanni  
 5701 Virginia Parkway, Apt. 4214  
 McKinney, TX 75071



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- |        |                     |        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Aug 5  | Charlotte Dudkewitz | Aug 13 | Jim Kniskern        |
| Aug 7  | Ed Crispin          | Aug 15 | Vanessa Marianiello |
| Aug 7  | Becky Taber         | Aug 17 | Jeff Gillespie      |
| Aug 8  | Alex Oakes          | Aug 17 | Audrey Harper       |
| Aug 9  | Nancy Crawford      | Aug 23 | Brian Huffman       |
| Aug 11 | Christopher Sutton  | Aug 27 | Ruth Stafford       |
|        |                     | Aug 31 | Mims Hildabrant     |

