



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here... September 2020

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Dear HoC members and friends,

The session has been discerning how best to conduct our life together as a church over this challenging period of the Coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate everyone's responses to the congregational surveys we sent out recently. We greatly value hearing your input on your ministry needs, as well as your thoughts and feelings regarding various worship scenarios (indoor in the sanctuary, outdoor, virtual).

At our August meeting, session reviewed your feedback and discerned how best to move forward with plans for the fall. The majority of survey respondents did not feel safe resuming indoor in-person activities due to the virus. We had hoped that the spread of the virus would be contained and controlled enough to resume in-person activities in our sanctuary in the fall. However, after reflecting upon congregational feedback, general virus trends, and the safety risk to our members and friends, session determined that it was not prudent to resume indoor in-person activities.

In light of these considerations, the session has decided the following:

- To suspend indoor in-person worship and activities for the remainder of the calendar year.
- To continue to offer virtual worship and fellowship opportunities.
- To offer some outdoor worship and fellowship activities with proper social distancing and safety protocols.
- To revisit this decision at our January session meeting in 2021.

We understand that this is a difficult decision, and it is not one we came to lightly. We genuinely wrestled with the safety risk of the virus vs. the human need for in-person relational connection. We believe this decision honors the safety and wellbeing of our congregation's members and friends, while offering some safer options for gathering in-person for those who may wish to do so.

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To support our members and friends during this period, we will be:

- Reviewing our current virtual worship & fellowship opportunities and looking for ways to improve their quality and accessibility.
- Adding new virtual opportunities, as well as some outdoor gatherings with appropriate social distancing/safety protocols.
- Expanding ways to keep congregation members and friends connected through email, cards, phone calls, and other means.
- Expanding and enhancing our online presence and interaction with members and friends.
- Improving connectivity by providing technology devices & support to members and friends who currently lack these.
- Exploring worship live-streaming capability.

We recognize that this is going to be a challenging fall season in the life of our church. However, this church has weathered many storms and endured many periods of hardship in that past. I have no doubt that God will be with us through this difficult period. I'm so thankful to all of you for rising to this challenge, stretching beyond your comfort zone, and finding innovative ways to be the body of Christ together during this unprecedented time. Please reach out to us with any questions, concerns or needs you may have during this difficult season. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we navigate this uncharted territory, trusting that God will guide and support us until we can be safely together in person in our sanctuary again.

I close this letter with words from Hebrews 10:23-25, *"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* Whether virtual or in-person, we are still the church! May God give us the grace and strength to persevere, whatever the circumstances. I believe that God is faithful, and he will do this!

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary



VIRTUAL CHURCH

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

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

or on our **YouTube channel** at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjuPGVIASRtLTGrDabSTpJA>

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 10:00am prior to our virtual worship service.

Click this link to access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86588101110?pwd=UlU4dGNxS1UvSnJSK1VjNy9lL1Vidz09>

Meeting ID: 865 8810 1110

Passcode: 291560

If you don't have internet access, you can call 1-929-205-6099
or 1-301-715-8592.

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



THOUGHTS ON



Out of Sight, Out of Mind...

by Alex Oakes

As our church begins the sixth month of virtual worship it has been gratifying to see so many of our members honoring the ongoing financial needs of our church. There is a concern, however, that giving will trail off as people lose the unique connection to the church that is usually provided by the in-person experience. Clearly this must be avoided and I encourage everyone to open their hearts and pocketbooks to keep our church healthy. Even though the doors are closed the bills and salaries must be paid. There are also certain to be unexpected reopening costs as well.

September is typically the month that your A&F commission begins planning for the annual Stewardship campaign by requesting commission chairs to submit budget requests for the coming year. This promises to be a challenging task for 2021 as we face the unexpected financial challenges of the post Covid-19 world. The opportunities for mission works alone will be greater than ever. Let us pray that we are up to the challenge.

BTW...Many thanks to Bill & Melissa Witt for the generous donation of two Facebook Portal communication devices that should help us in further transitioning to the digital world. We're already seeing during this Pandemic just how important it is to be able to communicate electronically.

GIVING DOES MATTER





The Unglued Church Initiative

by Alex Oakes

Your Unglued team continues to meet, the last time being on July 30 via Zoom, to share ideas and experiences with Rock, Elsmere and Christiana Presbyterian Churches.

Naturally, there was continued discussion about when and how to reopen, as well as “How the pandemic has changed us,” and “How have needs changed during the pandemic?” Some thought-provoking discussion and some interesting ideas were presented. My favorite was an outdoor “Blessing Box” that Elsmere PC stocks with food that anyone is free to take. Interesting is the fact that it has become self-sustaining as neighbors are happy to restock it as well. Truly God is at work!

As we grow close to the completion of our “Unglued” exercise, we now move on to drawing upon what we have learned to come up with our own plans to enhance the Christian experience and visibility to our neighbors. We hope you will pray with us for wisdom and success in the ongoing endeavor.



The Kniskern family would like to thank everyone who stopped by to wish Jim a happy 95th birthday. Jim really enjoyed seeing everyone, and the family was overjoyed to see the outpouring of love and support. Thanks for making Jim’s 95th birthday extra special!



OUT OF ABUNDANCE

Submitted by Jeanne Walter-Hastings

Out of an abundance of caution, I'm staying home.
Out of an abundance of caution, I'm washing my hands for at least 20 seconds,
sometimes singing the ABCs, sometimes singing the itsy-bitsy spider,
and sometimes saying a prayer.
Out of an abundance of caution, I am telling people how much I love them every
day, sometimes multiple times a day. I can get annoying.
Out of an abundance of caution, I am waving frantically to the stranger across the
street while I am out for my walk, making eye-contact, smiling and saying hello.
Out of an abundance of caution, I am not using the expression "social distancing."
Physical distancing, yes; social distancing, no way.
Out of an abundance of caution, I have subscribed to a joke a day.
Out of abundance of caution, I am looking out for people who might be stressed and
hungry for food and love and giving more than I have before.
Out of an abundance of caution I am paying attention more than ever to the words of
my prayers.
Out of an abundance of caution, I have faith that love and kindness are contagious, too.
Out of an abundance of caution, I am telling you I am here for you, I care about us,
I need you, and I want everyone to know we are all in this together.

Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler
Temple Sinai, Sharon, MA



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

VOTER INFORMATION

If you plan to vote in the upcoming **general election** on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**, **make your plan now** for how you are going to vote.

Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania all allow voters to **request absentee ballots to vote by mail** this election season due to COVID-19.

Please visit the following sites or contact your local election office for more information.

Delaware voter information:

<https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml>

Department of Elections: New Castle County, DE

Office Address:

Carvel State Office Building
820 North French St Suite 400
Wilmington DE 19801

Phone: (302) 577-3464 Fax: (302) 577-6545

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 7079
Wilmington DE 19803-0079

Maryland voter information: <https://elections.maryland.gov/>

Local Board of Elections – Cecil County Office

200 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite 1900
Elkton, MD 21921-6395
410-996-5310 888-979-8183 (Fax)

Pennsylvania voter information:

<https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Chester County Voter Services

Government Services Ctr.
601 Westtown Road, Ste. 150
PO Box 2747
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
(610) 344-6410

Continued...

Check to make sure you are **registered to vote**.

Also, be aware of **important deadlines** for requesting and returning absentee ballots.

Deadlines to register to vote prior to general election on November 3, 2020

Delaware:	Saturday, October 10, 2020
Maryland:	Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Pennsylvania:	Monday, October 19, 2020

Deadlines to request absentee ballot/vote by mail:

Delaware:	To be mailed an absentee ballot: October 30, 2020 At the Department of Elections' Offices: Nov 2, 2020 at 12:00pm
Maryland:	Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Pennsylvania:	5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

General election absentee ballots must be received by:

Delaware:	8:00pm on November 3, 2020
Maryland:	Postmarked on or before November 3, 2020
Pennsylvania:	8:00 PM on November 3, 2020

If you plan to vote by absentee ballot, **REQUEST YOUR BALLOT EARLY AND RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UPON COMPLETION.**

Absentee ballots can be returned by **mail** or **in-person to your local election office**.

As Christians, we're to be good stewards of all the resources we've been given, including our civic responsibility to vote. Regardless of which party or candidates you are supporting this election season, **make sure your vote counts!**

WORD SEARCH 1: HARVEST



Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| ACRE | MULCH |
| ARID | PACKER |
| BARN | PESTS |
| CORNUCOPIA | PICKING |
| CROPS | PLOW |
| DISK | REAP |
| GATHER | SHOCK |
| GLEAN | TILL |
| GRANARY | TRACT |
| HYBRID | WINNOW |
| LAND | |

Solution on page 19.

SUDOKU 1 & 2

Use deductive logic to complete the grid so that each row, each column and each 3 X 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 in some order. There is only one solution.

		1	3	9		8		
2								9
3					5			
		4	6			5	1	2
			7		9			
		3		2	1			
1	3		8			6		
9	5					2		
	2			1				

4					9	8		7	
			2			5		1	
7		2	5		4				
	7		8			6			
3				7	1				
	1			6				9	
	2							5	3
					4	5		7	6

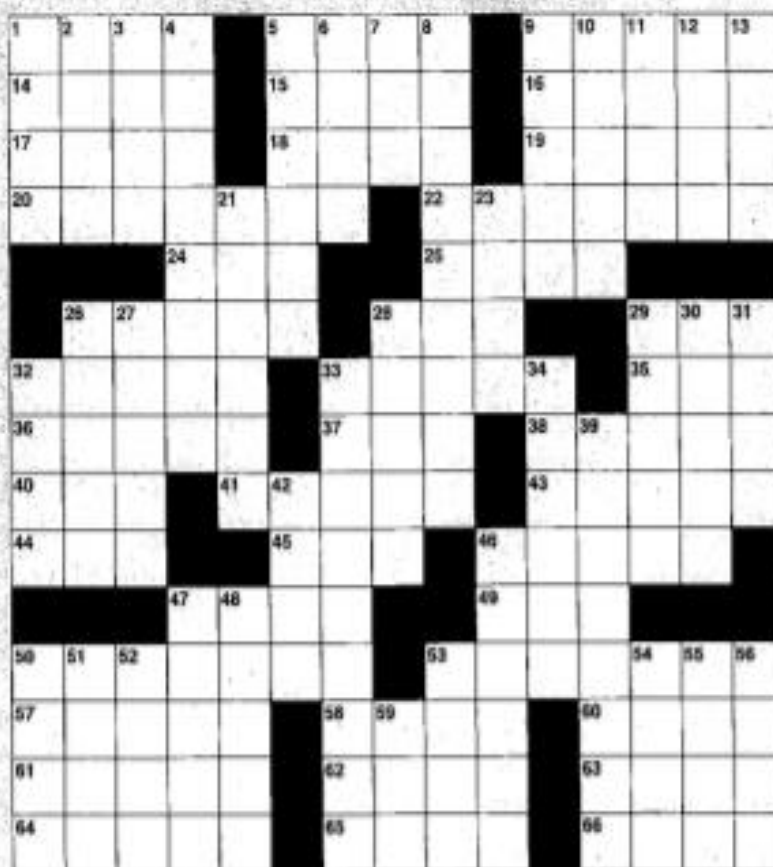
SUDOKU 1 Solution on page 19.

SUDOKU 2

BEADING Solution on page 22

ACROSS

- 1 Chances of winning
- 5 Secondhand
- 9 Notify
- 14 Batter
- 15 Cook in the microwave
- 16 Metric capacity unit
- 17 Austen novel
- 18 Capital of the Ukraine
- 19 Botches, with up
- 20 Yogurt brand
- 22 Hard rubber
- 24 Licensed practical nurse
- 25 Spreads out over a surface
- 26 Threesome
- 28 Watch chain
- 29 Short-term memory
- 32 French money
- 33 Jump about
- 35 Professional
- 36 "Gone With the Wind" actress
- 37 Expert
- 38 Lightweight wire on which beads or other items can be attached
- 40 Ship initials
- 41 Fire remains
- 43 Trainee
- 44 Compass point
- 45 Alternative (abbr.)
- 46 Drilled a hole
- 47 Hutch
- 49 Used
- 50 Man-made resin used to make plastic beads
- 53 Swaziland capital
- 57 Hen sound
- 58 Middle East dweller
- 60 At sea
- 61 Add up
- 62 Small brook
- 63 Tall tales
- 64 Fastness
- 65 Single
- 66 Pink _____



DOWN

- 1 Do what you're told
- 2 Demonstration
- 3 Moist
- 4 Bringing to a standstill
- 5 Unsympathetic
- 6 Accommodate
- 7 Stretch to make do
- 8 Builder
- 9 Metal mixture made by combining two or more elements
- 10 Big cats
- 11 Decorative needle case
- 12 Take a break
- 13 Oak
- 21 North American Indian
- 23 Infant
- 26 Braid
- 27 Construct
- 28 Flat face or surface of a cut bead
- 29 Shovel
- 30 Tested
- 31 Montana (abbr.)
- 32 Chimney
- 33 Trams (2 wds.)
- 34 Cola brand
- 39 Baseball
- 42 Wise Man
- 46 Goof up
- 47 Phase
- 48 Synthetic resin
- 50 Deeds
- 51 Applaud
- 52 Norm
- 53 Shopping center
- 54 Land mass
- 55 Require
- 56 Not difficult
- 59 River (Spanish)

HOC CALENDAR — September Happenings

<p>Mon Sept 07 Fri Sept 11 Mon Sept 14 7:00pm Mon Sept 21 7:00pm</p>	<p>HAPPY LABOR DAY LOOKING TREE DEADLINE Session Admin & Finance Virtual Meeting</p>
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If you can't fly, then run.
 If you can't run, then walk.
 If you can't walk, then crawl.
 But by all means, keep moving!
 ~Rev. Martin Luther King



Pastor Hilary will be on vacation from Friday, August 28th – Saturday, September 12th.
 If you have a pastoral care emergency during this time, please contact one of our deacons:
 Kay Brook: (302)-737-7050 Lillian Crispin: (410)-398-7036 Mary Lou Oakes: (302)-366-8016

Prerecorded worship services will be available on our church
 Facebook page and YouTube channel.

**NO ZOOM FELLOWSHIP OR FACEBOOK LIVE ON
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH & SEPTEMBER 6TH.**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sep 3	Cindy Taber	Sep 27	Merle Slack
Sep 9	Barbara Johnston	Sep 28	Rebecca Condliffe
Sep 11	Claire Herrington	Sep 28	Katie Gillespie
Sep 12	Janice Harper	Sep 29	Steve Graham

