



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

MARCH 2022

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Sabbatical Plans

Our denomination values the long-term health and well-being of congregations and the pastors who serve them. To this end, the denomination recommends that pastors take a sabbatical after a certain number of years of full-time service. A sabbatical is simply an extended time of rest and renewal for a pastor. An extended time of rest and renewal can be rejuvenating for both the pastor and the congregation, particularly after the pandemic we've endured for the past two years. The hope with granting a pastor a sabbatical is that the pastor will return to the congregation rested and with a renewed sense of ministry.

As you heard me announce at the annual congregational/corporation meeting in February, I am considering taking a 3-month sabbatical in 2023. I am working with the presbytery, the session, and other HoC members to develop a proposal with a detailed plan and budget for the sabbatical. We're currently in the exploratory phase of the process – nothing has been decided yet. A proposal submitted to the session for consideration will meet the stipulations of the presbytery's sabbatical policy. Both the session and the presbytery will ultimately be the ones to approve any proposal that is presented.

I would like to get input from the congregation, so if you have any ideas or wisdom to share, please do so! I also know that the thought of having the pastor away for an extended period of time can be stressful and anxiety-producing. Please reach out to me with questions or concerns you may have about the process. We will, of course, keep the congregation informed of the process, including formal decisions that session makes regarding the sabbatical. The presbytery's policy for sabbaticals is included in this edition of the newsletter for more information.

My hope is that a sabbatical can be a time of refreshment and renewal for both myself and the congregation – that it will be a mutually beneficial experience for everyone. I also trust that the Spirit will be active in revealing new vision and energy for our ministry calling as a local church. I would appreciate your prayers as I work with the leadership of the church and presbytery in planning and discerning. Thanks for all your support while we dream, discern, and plan together!

Blessings,

Hilary

APPENDIX O GUIDELINES FOR SABBATICAL LEAVES

PRESBYTERY MANUAL - Revised November 2021 (ncpresbytery.org)

0.1000 - DEFINITIONS “Sabbatical Leave” for Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving as pastors and for church educators is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. Sabbatical Leave follows precedents in the academic community and among a growing number of private sector groups. This “extended time” is qualitatively different from “vacation” or “days off.” It is an opportunity for the individual to disengage strategically from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective as a result of a planned time focus. Sabbatical Leave is an extension of the Biblical concept of a Sabbath day and a Sabbath year for renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for recovery and renewal of vital energies. Sabbatical Leave is recommended for all full-time pastors and educators who serve churches in New Castle Presbytery (THE PRESBYTERY or the Presbytery) and have been in their current positions for six (6) continuous years. The recommended length of the Sabbatical Leave is three (3) months. Accrued vacation time and study leave may be attached to the Sabbatical Leave. It is further recommended that this Sabbatical Leave be built into the Presbytery’s call process. Upon completion of the Sabbatical Leave, the incumbent pastor/educator normally is expected to continue serving the same congregation for a period of at least four times the length of the Sabbatical Leave. In addition, in multiple staff situations, congregations may limit Sabbatical Leave to one staff person per year.

0.2000 — FUNDING For those on Sabbatical Leave, the employing church will continue the salary, the pension and major medical benefits, the book allowance and, at the discretion of the session, the travel and continuing education allowances at the same level as those in effect at the beginning of the Leave. The employing church will also contract for substitute pastor or educator services during the period of the Sabbatical Leave.

0.3000 — ELIGIBLE PROGRAM FUNDING AND REVIEW To be eligible for a Sabbatical Leave, the pastor or educator shall present, in writing, to the session for its approval, a program (“The Plan”) of activity for the Sabbatical Leave at least six (6) months prior to the proposed beginning of the Sabbatical Leave. This program of activity and meditation shall include a detailed description of “The Plan,” the goals to be achieved and the expected end-product(s), together with a personal statement as to why this Sabbatical Leave would be valuable for both the pastor or educator and the church. Upon approval by the session, “The Plan” shall be forwarded to the Committee on Ministers and Congregations for its review and recommendation. Included in “The Plan” will be the church’s plan to provide for pastoral or educator services during the period of the Sabbatical Leave. At the completion of the Sabbatical Leave, the pastor or educator should present to the next regular meeting of the session a written report of their activities and findings. This report is to be forwarded to the COMC immediately following the session meeting at which it is presented.



UPDATE

We're pleased to say that the Elkton Community Kitchen has continued good work throughout the Pandemic and remains viable due to the generous support of many religious and community groups. Last year Head of Christiana continued our tradition of support by providing a bag lunch in February and Christmas Cookies this past December. We continue to be delighted to see that so many of you helped out so generously and offer our sincere "Thanks" to all who contributed in these efforts.

Please see the "Thank You" from Elkton Community Kitchen below.

Sincerely,

Alex



HoC HAPPENINGS

Email Tip

As most of you with computers know, we often send out group email blasts in order to communicate church happenings with you.

Sometimes recipients have a question pertaining to the email so they immediately write up their response and hit “reply all” in order to contact the sender. When the “reply all” option is selected, that email meant for the sender of the original message, gets sent out to everyone else on the list. You know how that goes, you end up getting email that you don’t really need. And, if a dialogue ensues between two or more people on the mailing list, their back and forth conversation gets sent to everyone else on the list because the “reply all” option keeps being selected.

To avoid this problem, please be mindful when replying to a group email. If you are simply responding to the sender, just select “reply” and not “reply all.” That way only the person you’re talking to receives your message and not the entire mailing list.

We can help eliminate excess email by making sure we only hit “reply” when we’re responding to the sender of a group email message. You can also either copy and paste the email addresses of those you want to email, or type in the addresses of the individuals you mean to include in your response.

This simple step will go a long way in cutting the amount of email we get that really doesn’t concern us. It’s a good habit to get into...hit “reply,” not “reply all.”



HoC HAPPENINGS



ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERINGS

HoC will be participating with our ecumenical partners for Lenten and Holy Week services.

Newark United Methodist Church is hosting **Community Ash Wednesday** activities on **March 2, 2022**:

- “Ashes to go” on Main Street from **11:30am – 1:00pm**
- **Parking lot service** via radio with self-imposed ashes at **2:00pm**
- **Worship service (in-person and livestream)** at **7:00pm**

All are welcome to participate!

HoC will also be **participating with our ecumenical partners** for Holy Week services in April.

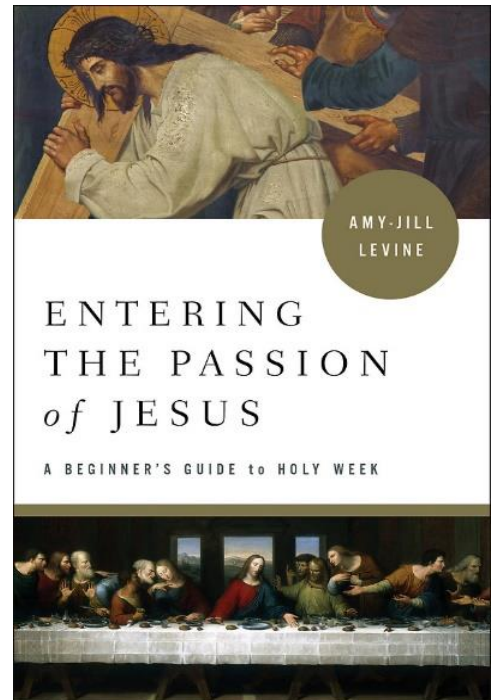
Watch for more details in April.



Adult Sunday School Class for Lent:

Join us for a six-week Lenten study
beginning **Sunday, March 13, 2022**
at **9:30am** in the parlor.

We'll be going through the video series by
New Testament scholar **Dr. Amy Jill-Levine**,
*“Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s
Guide to Holy Week.”*



HoC EASTER SERVICES

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 17, 2022

HoC will once again be hosting our **Community Sunrise Service** (weather permitting) in the cemetery at 7:00am.

Service will be led by various Christian ecumenical partners.



Following the sunrise service, everyone is invited to our fellowship hall for a **Continental Pot-Luck Breakfast** (sponsored by the Worship Commission). Bring a continental breakfast item to share. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

HoC will also have a **traditional Easter Sunday worship service** in the sanctuary at 11:00am. This service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.





Join us after church on March 13th for a
St. Patrick's Day coffee hour hosted by
Care and Fellowship
You have heard of "wearing o' the green"—well we'll
be "eating o' the green".
Come and enjoy!!!

*"Bless us with good food, the gift of gab and hearty laughter.
May the love and joy we share, be with us ever after!"*

~ Irish Kitchen Prayer



Thank you all so much for your generous contributions this year. Our youth collected \$550.00 which will be donated to the Newark Empowerment Center.



Daylight Saving Time Begins



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 12th before you go to sleep.

And go to bed an hour earlier so you can wake up fresh as a daisy!

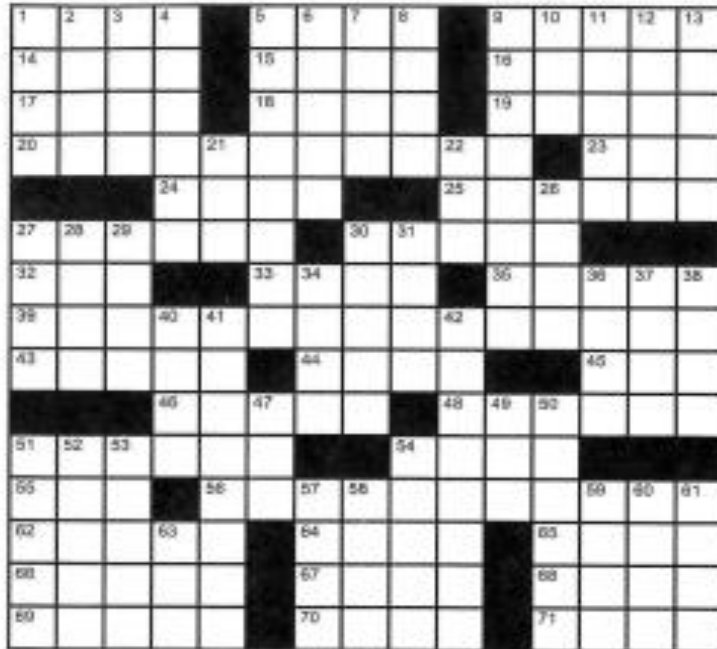


Crossword Puzzle

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Shakespeare was one
- 5 Eastern music
- 9 Denoted in musical scores by the symbol V
- 14 Assortment
- 15 Black, in poetry
- 16 African antelope
- 17 All excited
- 18 Cut, as a log
- 19 A member of the sect founded by Baal Shem-Tov
- 20 A New World pit viper
- 23 "_____ fallen..."
- 24 A nurse, in India
- 25 Pressed
- 27 An encampment, in South Africa
- 30 Hitter of 755 home runs
- 32 Frozen water
- 33 Bud
- 35 Less cordial
- 39 Emits light with little or no heat
- 43 Brings into harmony
- 44 French door part
- 45 When doubled, a dance
- 46 Desert sight
- 48 Spine line
- 51 What you might do to autumn leaves
- 54 Jerk
- 55 Aardvark's tidbit
- 56 Home to several suburbs
- 62 Craters of the Moon locale
- 64 Water pitcher
- 65 Airport pickup
- 66 Sensational
- 67 Acceptances
- 68 "-zoic" things
- 69 Down at the heels
- 70 "...or ___!"
- 71 Audition tape



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DOWN

- 1 Big pig
- 2 Aquatic plant
- 3 Brawl
- 4 Name holder
- 5 Investigate extensively
- 6 Discompose
- 7 Ball attire
- 8 Visitor to Siam
- 9 Cowardly
- 10 Burmese coinage
- 11 It holds water
- 12 Antipasto morsel
- 13 Crossed the kiddie pool
- 21 Alkaline liquid
- 22 White wine aperitif
- 26 "_____ bitten, twice shy"
- 27 Romeo's "two blushing pilgrims"
- 28 Hurting
- 29 Long, long time
- 30 Atmospheres
- 31 "Absolutely!"
- 34 Arizona Indian
- 36 Creep
- 37 Bounce back, in a way
- 38 Back
- 40 Highlander
- 41 Singing psalms
- 42 Once thought to be an aquatic equine
- 47 "Comprende?"
- 49 Person in a mask
- 50 Drove (around)
- 51 Tracks
- 52 Excessive
- 53 Gawk
- 54 Mushers' vehicles
- 57 Characteristic carrier
- 58 Missing from the Marines, say
- 59 Euros replaced them
- 60 Religious leader
- 61 "Eh"
- 63 Holed up



Word Search Puzzle



ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA

HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB
 MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION

ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB

HOC CALENDAR — March Happenings

Sunday	Mar	01		First Sunday in Lent
Sunday	Mar	02		Ash Wednesday
Tuesday	Mar	08		Looking Tree Deadline
Sunday	Mar	13		Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday	Mar	13	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks ahead 1 hr)	
Monday	Mar	14	7:00pm	Session Hybrid Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday	Mar	20		Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday	Mar	20		First Day of Spring!
Monday	Mar	21	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	Mar	27		Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday	Mar	27		Fifth Sunday of Lent



“Act as if what you do makes a difference, IT DOES!”
William James



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Mar 4 Sonia Combs
- Mar 5 Mark Mankin
- Mar 5 Jane Murray
- Mar 16 Erica Sutton
- Mar 26 Sophia Marianiello

