



# The Looking Tree

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

**October 2022**



Pastor Hilary Livingston

## Dear HoC members and friends,

Happy Fall, y'all! It's time for cooler weather, cozy sweaters, pumpkin spice everything, and...stewardship season! It's a great time to remember all the blessings God has given each of us, as well as our church over the past year. We're continuing to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and move into the "new normal" of post-pandemic life. God has been faithful to us, providing for us financially and spiritually. Through your generous support, we have been able to upgrade our technology to expand our outreach and connect to others in a digital age. We have expanded our

choral student ministry, welcoming four students and one apprentice choir director this fall. We have continued to care for our members, as well as minister to those in need in our community through ongoing participation in Hope Dining Room, Elkton Community Kitchen, and other mission projects. We have also been able to maintain our building and grounds, as well as pay our staff generously, all of which makes our church a safe, hospitable place to gather and worship. You have also graciously supported granting me a sabbatical in the spring/early summer of 2023, which the session formally approved earlier this year. We've been blessed in so many ways over the past year, and I look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless us and use us as instruments of his love in our community in the coming year.

In reflecting upon God's many blessings to us, I hope you will be moved to make a generous commitment to support our church financially over the next year. We're blessed to have our endowment providing us long-term financial stability. We're also blessed by your regular financial gifts that help us do all the ministry God is calling us to do. I'm so thankful for all of you, for your love and support for our congregation!

During this stewardship season, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or estimate of financial giving for the coming year. **Please return your pledge card to the church by October 31st. Your gifts make all we do possible! Thank you for your generous gifts!**

Blessings,

*Hilary*



# NIFTY-WIFTYS REUNITED at LAST!



A good time was had by all on September 6<sup>th</sup> when the Nifty-Wiftys reconvened at Wesley's. Feel free to join the fun next time! Dates will be announced.





# HOPE DINING ROOM

~ Donna Reed

Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> was another successful service by Head of Christiana at Hope Dining Room. Rosi White, Kay Wood, Kay Brook, Holly Williams and myself volunteered to serve. We fed 17 clients, served up six second-helpings and fed six workers.

We served pulled pork sandwiches which were a super hit with our clients. Of course, the green bean casserole got rave reviews. One client lives in Wilmington and took two buses to come eat with us because he loves our green beans. A "sleeper hit" was vine ripe tomato sandwiches. One of the women told us that we offered many delicious foods that she could never make for her family at home.

We had a chance to talk to a woman who told us two months ago she was home-less. This month she came in and is doing much better. She has a place to live and feels better about herself and her situation.

We also had a man named James who told us he has been fighting stage 4 cancer for about a year and half. He came for the food and really just wanted to talk to us. We made him feel loved and cared for.

In addition to the food, HoC offered 15 ladies' blouses, 3 pairs of winter gloves, a winter coat, bibles, and children's bible story books.

If you are someone who is not normally involved in our church's ministry at HOPE, there is a way you can help even if you can't serve lunches. Our ministry here at Head of Christiana tries to offer clothing, books, shoes, and household items to the clients at HOPE. Last month we had four clients tell us they had been called to come down because there were donated items that they knew these folks needed. What a blessing our church is in our community!

Thank you and blessings to all who have given in the past. Thank you and blessings to all who try to give this month and in the future. Just bring any items you want to donate to church on Sunday or give them to someone you know who will be volunteering. Contact Donna Reed if you want to volunteer to serve or if you have any questions.

**Hope Dining Room**  
**Volunteers Needed**



# Remember when...



# REMINDER



Production of the November issue of The Looking Tree will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. Especially important are any upcoming special holiday events:

Thanksgiving Table, Hats/Mittens/Scarves, Men's Flannel Shirts, Christmas Baskets, Angel Tree, Poinsettias, etc. These are all former holiday giving opportunities, so please provide details if we will be doing them again this year so the information can be included in The Looking Tree, Fliers, Inserts, etc. If you will be overseeing other giving opportunities, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank You!

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## World Communion Sunday Celebration with Apple Cider and Apple Cider Donuts Sunday, October 2, 2022 after worship



World Communion Sunday is a day when Christians of many denominations will be celebrating the sacrament of communion together as an act of Christian unity - the “joyful feast of the people of God.” During the fall of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic made joy in short supply, and so we celebrated World Communion Sunday with a creative outdoor communion service using apple cider and donuts as elements.

In celebration of the joy of our faith in Christ and the pandemic subsiding, we are commemorating this occasion by enjoying apple cider and apple cider donuts after worship on World Communion Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Come join us in joy!*



## Meet Our Neighbors!

Come join us as we hang out and meet our neighbors on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM in the HoC parking lot.

We'll be handing out bottled water and dog treats to our neighbors who walk by our church.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, as well as your smiling faces to greet and meet our neighbors. Come join us!



Pastor Hilary will be on vacation & study leave from Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>– Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. She'll be visiting family and friends in the Pittsburgh area after which she'll be attending the Presbytery Pastors' Retreat in Ocean City, as well as doing some reading and ministry planning.

Preaching and leading worship in Hilary's absence are:

Rev. Deb Trevino on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Dave Lovelace on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please contact one of our deacons for pastoral care emergencies during this time.

## Update on Congregational Renewal Grant (Lilly Grant) Application

Dear HoC members and friends,

As you recall, HoC submitted an application for a Congregational Renewal Grant through the Lilly Foundation to cover costs associated with my sabbatical in 2023. Unfortunately, we were informed that we were not selected to be grant recipients. As I stated at the time we applied, these grants are very competitive, and we were not guaranteed to receive this funding. I'm glad we applied for the grant, as the application process providing direction in planning the sabbatical. This process gave us the opportunity to include a lot of congregational input and feedback. Sometimes we take risks that don't work out the way we hoped, but the process helps us learn and grow.

So what does this mean for the sabbatical plans? Well, the sabbatical will still take place next spring/early summer (2023), but will be a simplified version with a lower overall cost. For my sabbatical activities, I have some alternative funding sources from which I can draw. Per the presbytery sabbatical policy, I will be utilizing professional expense/continuing education funds budgeted as part of my terms of call from 2022 and 2023 (unused funds from this year will be rolled over into next year). I will also apply for additional funding through the denomination's Board of Pensions, as well as look into other possible grant sources. Expenses related to pastoral coverage during the sabbatical will be part of our general 2023 budget, which is funded through congregational giving and our endowment. As we move forward with sabbatical planning, we will keep you all informed along the way. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you all for being part of the planning and application process! I really appreciate everyone's input, questions, feedback, and encouragement. I particularly want to thank the group that worked on the actual application with me – Kay Brook, Steve Graham, Katie Gillespie, and Betsy VanCulin. It was a lengthy process with many components, and I appreciate this group's time and dedication in working with me to complete the application and submit it on time. Thank you for supporting me in taking this planned sabbatical. I'm very blessed to be able to take this time of refreshment and renewal. I look forward to seeing how God will work in our lives and our church through this period.

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*



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- Labor Day      School      Acorns      September
- Homework      Leaves      Teacher      Morning Glory
- Patriot Day      Autumn      Sunflower      Equinox
- Harvest      Orchard      Christianity
- Migrate      Apple Pie      Aster
- Gourd      Fall





OCTOBER

COLORING PAGE



# HOC CALENDAR — October Happenings



Sun	Oct 02	World Communion Sunday and Peace & Global Witness Offering
Sat	Oct 08 10am-1pm	Meet Our Neighbors & Pets Event
Mon	Oct 10 7:00pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
Tues	Oct 11	<b>LOOKING TREE DEADLINE</b>
	Oct 14 – Oct 29	Pastor Hilary on Vacation & Pastor's Retreat
Mon	Oct 17 7:00pm	Admin & Finance Commission via Zoom

**CHOIR PRACTICE – THURSDAYS 7:30pm**



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- Oct 5 Trevor Christian
- Oct 18 Charlotte Condliffe
- Oct 21 Staci Truitt
- Oct 25 Kayleigh Davis
- Oct 26 John Murray

