



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

JAN / FEB 2023



Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

The beginning of the new year is an appropriate time to reflect upon the past year and set intentions for the year to come. A good practice for this kind of reflection is one from the Catholic tradition called, "Examen". This practice was devolved by Catholic Theologian, St. Ignatius of Loyola in the 1500s. Originally designed to be a daily practice, it is adapted here for reflecting upon the past year – reviewing the past year's events, confessing one's sins, and seeing God's presence and action throughout the course of the year. At the beginning of this new year, you are invited to participate in this practice of Examen. The format of this exercise is from the *Soundings* blog by Douglas B. Skinner:

1. Gratitude – Begin by recalling God's promises, presence and provision for you over the past year. Tell God "thank-you" for his blessings and presence in your life.

2. Petition – Ask God to open your eyes to be able to see more clearly who you really are.

Where are you actively cooperating with God? Where are you resisting God? What it is that God is doing in you and through you and with you? Ask God to become increasingly receptive to the hard and sometimes painful work of transformation into the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior.

3. Review your life over the past year, being guided by the Holy Spirit – This is a simple process of going back through the past year. What are the important events that happened? Where did you see God in those moments, events, and activities?

4. Forgiveness – Where have you not kept faith with God, yourself and others? Repent, confess, and receive the forgiveness that the Gospel offers. This is not about shame and guilt, but about grace and growth.

5. Renewal – Ask God to be your companion and guide in the coming year. Ask God to help you remain aware of God's presence with you. Ask to be responsive to where God is taking you – what God is doing in, through and with you in the new year.

Take some time to prayerfully go through this Examen practice at the start of this year. Use the accompanying worksheet on the next page to complete your Examen practice.

For more on this practice, visit: [A New Year's Examen | *SOUNDINGS \(wordpress.com\)](#).

May God richly bless you in the New Year!

Hilary

Yearly Examen Practice Worksheet

Use the prompts on the Pastor's page to complete each section of the Examen:

Gratitude: _____

Petition: _____

Review: _____

Forgiveness: _____

Renewal: _____

Keep this review someplace where you can review it throughout the coming year. Use this format for daily reflection, or for reflection at different points throughout the year.



HoC HAPPENINGS

Administrative Calendar January / February 2022

January 8, 2023 — **Ordination and Installation of Officers**

January 9, 2023 — (7:00pm)—**Session Meeting** (in person)

January 22, 2023—**Annual reports due to Nancy**
(like last year's format – brief, w/bullet points & pictures)

February 12, 2023 — **Annual reports distributed**
(electronically and by mail to those without email)

February 26, 2023 — (12:00pm)—**Annual Congregational Meeting**

- Review annual report
- Elect 2023 Nominating Committee



******Mark Your Calendars!!!!******



**Soup Luncheon and Annual
Congregational/Corporation Meeting**

February 26th, 2023

Please join us for a hearty soup luncheon hosted by Care and Fellowship following the morning service on February 26th.

C/F will supply the soups, breads, desserts and beverages. Stay, eat, and join in the discussion of the Church's business.



HoC SERVES at HOPE DINING ROOM

Head of Christiana served at Hope Dining Room today with the help of Santa Claus. We hosted 31 clients, and 1 pup, to Sloppy Joes and Pulled Pork Sandwiches at an early Christmas party. It was a great day of giving thanks to Sonia and Merle who donated clothing, blankets and shoes. It was also a great day of service thanks to Debbie, Lillian, Kay B., Rosi and Santa. We saw lots of smiles and shared God's love with all of our guests.

Thank you all for your service to Christ this Christmas!

**"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done." ~Proverbs 19:17**



HOPE DINING ROOM CHRISTMAS PARTY



Crafting To-Gather



Mission and Outreach will be hosting a new monthly event beginning in January called "*Crafting To-Gather*".

It will be a recurring event on the 4th Saturday of each month, starting January 28th, from 10am -12pm.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a couple of hours to work on any current craft projects you have and to share your love of the arts with others!

The first month will be a "Work in Progress" where we would like to see what you're currently working on. We plan to have some fun discussions around what crafting talents we all have, and if there are types of crafts you would like to learn!



Helping Hands will be needed to assist with taking our Christmas decorations down after our worship service on Sunday, January 8th. Please let Pastor Hilary know if you are able to help out.

HoC DELIVERS



Santa 🎅 stopped off to visit Warriors helping Warriors on the evening of December 12th. Santa gave gifts to ten soldiers, however we couldn't get a picture of them all together.

There were gifts of flannel shirts, a hand-knitted hat, a pocket tool, a candy cane and also a donation of dress slacks.

Visit With Santa

We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day. Perfect day for a visit with Santa. We were visited by adults and children from all over. All were answering the call to come say hello. There were pictures taken, lots of hot chocolate with marshmallows, cookies, candy canes, stockings and a variety of books. We had Linda, Donna and Hilary helping Santa. It was a wonderful event. Fun time was had by all. If you missed it, we'll see you next year.







ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN UPDATE FOR 2022

For the twenty-second consecutive year, the members of Head of Christiana P.C. were able to deliver a special "MERRY CHRISTMAS!" to the annual Christmas luncheon at the Elkton Community Kitchen in the form of delicious homemade Christmas Cookies. This year we were able to supply over thirty-three dozen cookies to this heart-warming event.

Special thanks to cookie bakers Linda Huffman, Kathy Graham, Debbie Reeves, Jeanne Hastings, Lillian Crispin, Donna Reed, Rosie White, Kay Wood and MaryLou Oakes for your generous contributions.

On Friday, February 24, 2023, Head of Christiana will again be hosting the luncheon at Elkton Community Kitchen and hope we can once again count on your support. Please let Debbie Reeves or Alex Oakes know if you can help us continue the tradition.

God Bless you all,

Alex Oakes



Crossword Puzzle

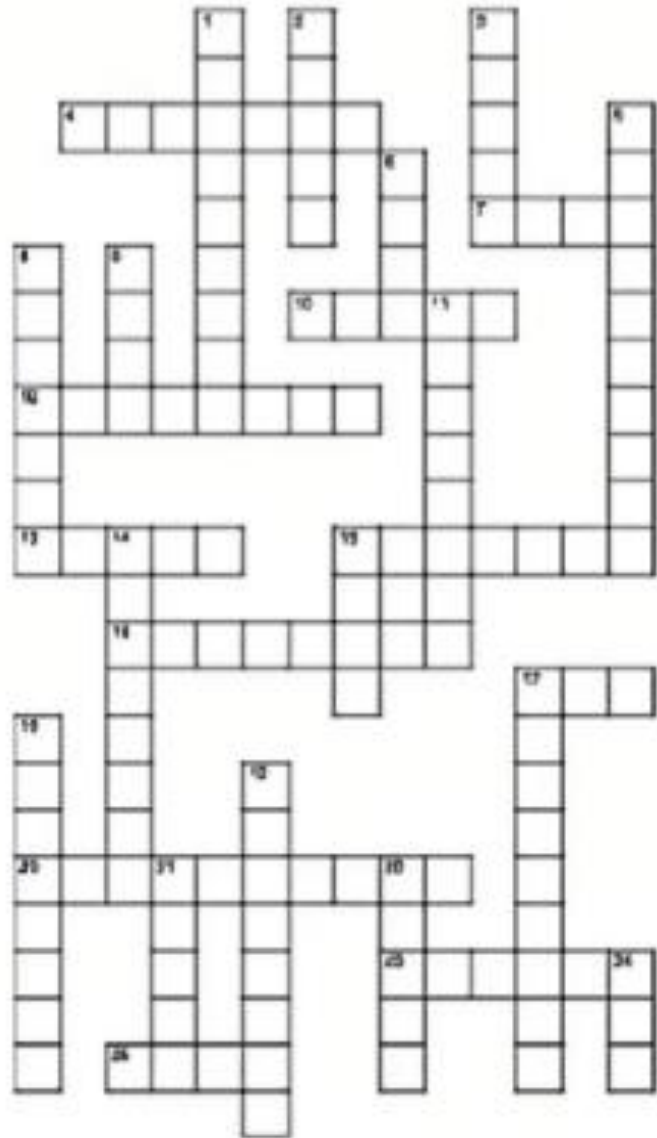


Across

4. The first month of the year.
7. This might happen at midnight.
10. Start of the New Year.
12. You might draw circles on it.
13. What you might play at a New Year's Eve party.
15. You blow it up and it floats.
16. Last month of the year.
17. Party going head topper.
20. New Year's Eve character carrying an hourglass.
23. New York City location where people gather on New Year's Eve: Times ____.
25. Traditional New Year's song; Auld Lang ____.

Down

1. Five, four, three, two, one ...
2. Social celebration.
3. Everyone's eyes are on this as midnight approaches.
3. New Year's promise.
6. It usually has 365 days.
8. Kicking up your heels.
9. It drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve.
11. Firework you hold in your hand.
14. Time the new year begins.
15. Personification of the New Year.



17. Father Time carries this around.
18. New Year's paper shower.
19. Long, flowing party ribbon.
21. ____ New Year!
22. What you need to dance.
24. The day before a holiday.

Word Bank

Baby, Bell, Balloons, Calendar, Clock, Confetti, Countdowns, Dancing, December, Eve, Father Time, Fire, Games, Happy, Hat, Hourglass, January, Kiss, Midnight, Music, Party, Resolutions, Sparkler, Square, Straws, Sune, Year

WORD SEARCH

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E V E Y
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R
S Q I N F E T O O D M U A Y O E I A
E F C G F I N A S L S U E R F K R P
D H E F N F R R R R I A S E D A T S
A I U S E I A S E B R D N I E M Y K
R B B T T E S M T I E S A F C E F R
A M T A Y I A N N O R L A Y E S I O
P I S W L E V R O E F T E E M I R W
N D E A R L E I N I H J V C B O S E
D N E T R V O N T E T E A S E N T R
A I S W I A A O R I N A S N R O H I
Y G Y E O B I T N T E I R R U K C F
O H W I N E I T S S K S I O H A T S
N T Y L I M A F N O I S A C C O R T
E T S A E F S N O I T U L O S E R Y
S R E Z I T E P P A Y F R I E N D S

APPETIZERS
BABIES
BALLOONS
BANNERS
BUFFET
CELEBRATE
CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
DANCE
DAY ONE

DECORATIONS
END OF DECEMBER
EVENTS
FAMILY
FATHER TIME
FEAST
FESTIVITIES
FIREWORKS
FIRST OF JANUARY
FRIENDS

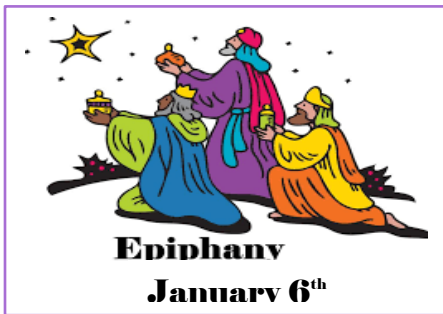
HATS
HOLIDAY
HORNS
KISS
MIDNIGHT
MUSIC
NEW YEARS DAY
NEW YEARS EVE
NOISEMAKERS
OCCASION

PARADES
PARTY
PUNCH
RESOLUTIONS
SINGING
STREAMERS
THIRTY FIRST
TIARAS
WINE
YEAR IN REVIEW

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOC CALENDAR — Jan. and Feb. Happenings

Friday	Jan	01		HAPPY NEW YEAR
Friday	Jan	06		Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday	Jan	08		Ordination & Installation of Officers
				Baptism of our Lord — Take decorations down
Monday	Jan	09	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Monday	Jan	16	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	Jan	22		Annual Reports due to Nancy
Monday	Jan	23	6:00pm	Mission / Outreach (Zoom)
Monday	Jan	30	7:30pm	Worship (via Zoom)
Sunday	Feb	12		Annual Reports to be distributed
Monday	Feb	20	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday	Feb	26		Annual Congregational Meeting



JAN / FEB BIRTHDAYS



- | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Jan 8 | Lucy Marianiello | Feb 1 | Kathy Graham |
| Jan 12 | Rosi White | Feb 13 | Kay Wood |
| Jan 21 | Simon Condliffe | Feb 19 | Rebecca DiGiovanni |
| | | Feb 20 | John Burmeister |
| | | Feb 27 | Linnea Raffaele |

