



# The Looking Tree

*Love lives here, Love flows from here...* **MARCH 2023**  
*Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,*



Pastor Hilary Livingston

## **Sabbatical Plans**

As I write this, I am less than two months away from the start of my sabbatical. All the details are falling into place, and the time is quickly approaching! I want to make sure everyone has all the information available to them about the sabbatical so that everyone is in the loop. Preliminary details were shared in the annual report and at the annual meeting. There is also some updated information in this March edition of the newsletter.

**PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY!!!** – If you have a question about the sabbatical, the answer is probably in this newsletter (or if it isn't, there is information on who to contact with further questions).

I've also put together two bulletin boards – a smaller one in the narthex, and a larger one across from the Pastor's Study in the Christian Education building. Everything that is in this newsletter is on one of those bulletin boards, and it is available for you to look over at any time. The bigger board across from my office also contains maps and pictures so you can see where my main travels will be.



Please make sure that you read the bio of our bridge pastor, Mark Douyard, who will be handling pastoral responsibilities in my absence. We're thrilled to have Mark with us! You will all be in very good hands while I'm away. Thank you to the session for their hard work in this selection process!

Also, please note the "Social Media Policy" with information about how to follow my sabbatical travels on Facebook and Instagram.

*Continued...*

A final note – I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement in my taking this sabbatical. It is truly a gift, and I am very grateful for this opportunity for rest and renewal. I know this is a sacrifice for the church, and I appreciate your willingness to provide me with this amazing opportunity. I hope this sabbatical period will be a time of refreshment for you all. It's been a tough few years with the pandemic, but you've inspired and encouraged me with your resilience!

As I am making plans and preparations for this sabbatical, I am reminded of the words in Isaiah 40:28-31:

*“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.”*

Blessings,

*Hilary*



## Change of Address

**Please note the following change of addresses in your HoC Directory:**

**Gerry Cole**

Ware Presbyterian Village  
7 East Locust St., Room 180  
Oxford, PA 19363  
610-998-2519

**Carol Cole**

Ware Pres. Village Health Center  
Room 160



## HoC Bridge Pastor Mark Douyard

Mark R. Douyard, MBA, CRE...

Mark is thrilled to be invited to serve as Bridge Pastor at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Since 2017 Mark has served as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the New Castle Presbytery,

providing pulpit and pastoral supply at numerous churches in the Presbytery. Mark serves on the Committee for the Preparation of Ministry and Mission and also serves on the Stewardship Committee at The Presbyterian Church of Dover. In January 2015 he received a Certificate in Theology and Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. In 2016 he concluded his pastoral studies at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Mark has served as an Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach FL, Union Presbyterian Church in Newburgh, NY and most recently at The Presbyterian Church of Dover. Mark and his wife Barbara Bayers (substitute church organist) relocated to the Dover area in March of 2016 where Mark took a position running Physician Recruitment for Bayhealth Medical Center. In spite of retiring from Bayhealth in October 2022 Mark continues to serve on the Boards of regional and national professional organizations. In his down time Mark enjoys bicycling, hiking, camping, reading and needlepoint as well as time with family – Jon (son), Sarah and grandkids Tyler and Nora; and Chris (son), Christa and grandson Elliott.

## BRIDGE PASTOR POSITION

Part-time: (20-25 hours per week)

Responsibilities:

- Worship leadership/preaching
- Administering sacraments
- Facilitate adult Sunday school (through the end of May)
- Write monthly article for newsletter front page
- Pastoral visitation/home communion (as needed)
- Officiate weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.
- Coordinate with church staff (as needed)

Moderate session/congregational meetings (as needed)





# HoC HAPPENINGS

## Hope Dining Room in February



## Sabbatical Information FAQs: *(Revised: February, 2023)*

### Q. When is Pastor Hilary's sabbatical?

A: Monday, April 17 – Sunday, July 23, 2023 (fourteen weeks)

### Q: What will Pastor Hilary be doing on her sabbatical?

A. The theme of Pastor Hilary's sabbatical is "*Wellness and Wonder*" – she will be enjoying God's presence through the wonder of creation while engaging in hiking and other wellness activities. She will be traveling out west to tour and hike through several national parks. For the remainder of her time, she will be taking shorter day trips/overnights to local parks/gardens/outdoor spaces and engage in prayer, contemplation, and physical activity to restore her physical and spiritual wellbeing.

### Q: Who will be handling pastoral responsibilities during Pastor Hilary's absence?

A: The session is pleased to announce that Mark Douyard, a Commissioned Ruling Elder (Lay Pastor) of New Castle Presbytery will be our bridge pastor during the sabbatical period. (A bridge pastor serves in a temporary capacity as a "bridge" between the time the sabbatical begins to when it ends.) Please see Mark's bio and the bridge pastor job description in this newsletter for more details. We're blessed to have Mark with us, and we look forward to his ministry!

### Q. What will the sabbatical cost, and who pays for it?

A. According to the presbytery's sabbatical policy, the church continues to pay Pastor Hilary's full salary and benefits through this period. The church also pays for the bridge pastor's salary/expenses. The bridge pastor compensation is based off the current pastor's salary and the number of hours worked. Based upon these calculations, the bridge pastor's salary/expenses were set at \$10,000.00. This figure was approved by both session and the presbytery, and was received as part of the annual budget at the December 2022 congregational meeting.

Pastor Hilary pays for her activities during the sabbatical. Her proposed plan was approved by both the session and presbytery in 2022. Per the presbytery sabbatical policy, she may use both current and accumulated study leave/professional expense funds (carry over from 2022, as well as 2023 budgeted funds). She is also applying for several grants through the presbytery and denomination to cover expenses.

Q. Will Pastor Hilary be in contact with the congregation during her sabbatical?

A. Generally, no. The idea of the sabbatical is to give Pastor Hilary time away from pastoral responsibilities for this period for physical and spiritual renewal. She will not be interacting with congregation members during this time by phone, text, email, social media or other communication means (though she plans to send an occasional post card from her travels). She will set up an emergency contact with one or two session members in case of a true emergency. Otherwise, she will not be engaging with congregation members during this period. Pastoral care needs and other congregational issues that arise during this period will be handled by the deacons and the bridge pastor, with presbytery assistance if necessary. We ask congregation members and friends to respect this sabbatical period and not contact Pastor Hilary during this time.

Q. Will we be able to follow Pastor Hilary and her travels on social media?

A: Yes! You can follow Pastor Hilary on Facebook and Instagram. Please see her “social media policy” in this newsletter edition for more details. Hilary also looks forward to sharing a detailed presentation of her sabbatical travels and activities (including pictures) with the congregation when she returns.

Q. What is a sabbatical, and why is it important for pastors to take one?

A. A sabbatical is an extended period of rest and renewal for a pastor after a determined period of ministry service. It comes from the biblical concept of Sabbath – God created the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day, God rested (Gen. 2:2). Our denomination’s Office of the General Assembly defines a sabbatical as an “extended time” of rest and renewal that is “qualitatively different from ‘vacation’ or ‘days off.’ It is an opportunity for the individual to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective because of a planned

time of focus.” According to presbytery policy, “A sabbatical is meant to be a time of renewal and recommitment.” Presbytery policy states that pastors who have served full-time in the same call for at least six years are eligible for a sabbatical.

Q. How will both the pastor and the congregation benefit from this sabbatical?

A. Pastor Hilary will benefit from having an extended time of spiritual renewal and self-care so that she can return to her pastoral ministry responsibilities refreshed and restored for the next season of ministry here at HoC. The congregation will benefit from the bridge pastor’s different gifts and experience, offering us a fresh perspective on our mission and ministry. The mutual refreshment both the pastor and congregation will receive during this sabbatical period will give us new energy and vision for whatever God is calling us to do in this post-pandemic period.

Q. Will Pastor Hilary come back after her sabbatical? What if she uses the time to look for another call?

A. Pastor Hilary will return after her sabbatical. It is expected that pastors remain in their present call at the church they are currently serving for at least one year following the end of their sabbatical. Pastor Hilary agrees to this provision, and she looks forward to returning from her sabbatical refreshed and ready to share her experiences with the congregation!

Q. You keep mentioning a presbytery sabbatical policy. What is this policy, and where can I find a copy of it?

A. A copy of this policy is included in the annual report. It will also be posted on bulletin boards in the narthex and across from the Pastor’s Study in the Christian Education wing.

Q. I still have more questions. Who can I talk to?

A. For additional questions related to the sabbatical, please contact Pastor Hilary, Clerk of Session Katie Gillespie, or Connectional Presbyter Cindy Kohlmann at (302)-366-0595 or ckohlmann@ncpresbytery.org.





## Pastor Hilary's Sabbatical Theme and Timeline

Theme: “*Wellness and Wonder*” – Experiencing God in the wonder of nature and engaging in rhythms of rest, prayer, and physical activity.

Timeframe: Monday, April 17 – Sunday, July 23, 2023 (14 weeks)

### First Portion of Sabbatical: Tour of Western National Parks:

Travel out to the Western US to experience the wonder of God's creation in several national parks while engaging in hiking and other wellness activities.

- Utah “Mighty Five” National Parks hiking tour (Canyonland, Arches, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks): April 23 – May 2, 2023
- Grand Canyon tour + Sedona, AZ: May 3 – 7, 2023
- Retreat at Franciscan Renewal Center (Scottsdale, AZ): May 8 – 13, 2023
- Grand Teton/Yellowstone/Badlands National Parks Tour: May 14 – 22, 2023

### Remainder of sabbatical (May 24 – July 23, 2023)

- Day trips and overnights to local parks, gardens, and other outdoor spaces to enjoy God's presence in nature while hiking and other wellness activities.
- Visit family and friends and other places of worship.

## Pastor Hilary's Social Media Policy During Sabbatical:

- Pastor Hilary welcomes you to follow her on Facebook and Instagram where she will be posting pictures and short written posts about her sabbatical travels.

Pastor Hilary does not initiate friend requests or follows with church friends, but she will accept your friend/follow requests.

- Pastor Hilary reserves the right to limit comments and viewing of posts. She will not be responding to individual comments on pictures or posts from church friends during her sabbatical.
- Pastor Hilary will not respond to direct messages sent through Facebook Messenger or Instagram.

Pastor Hilary will engage with church friends only on Facebook and Instagram (no other social media platforms).

- Pastor Hilary has a diverse group of friends and colleagues on these platforms. Please be respectful when engaging with others, particularly those who have a different point of view from yours.
- Pastor Hilary reserves the right to remove any post/comment/tag, at any time, for any reason. Pastor Hilary also reserves the right to unfriend/unfollow/block anyone who repeatedly violates this policy.

*Thanks for your cooperation with these guidelines!  
Pastor Hilary looks forward to connecting with you!*

## Follow Pastor Hilary on Facebook and Instagram!



Facebook: Hilary Livingston

<https://www.facebook.com/hilary.livingston.18/>



Instagram: hilary.livingston

<https://www.instagram.com/hilary.livingston/>

# HoC EASTER SERVICES

## Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 9, 2023

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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*

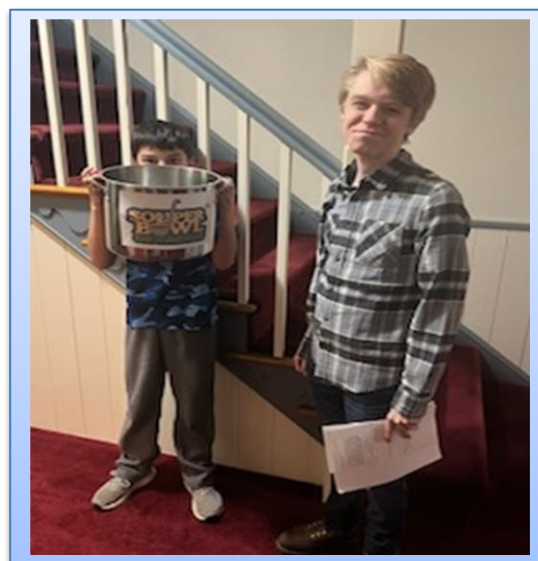


Thank you all so much for your  
generous contributions this year.  
Our youth collected \$788.62 which  
will be donated to  
Elkton Community Kitchen.

THANK  
YOU!



# SOUPER BOWL OF CARING<sup>SM</sup>





# Daylight Saving Time Begins



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 11<sup>th</sup> before you go to sleep. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>!

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



# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. Object of worship
5. Get a glimpse of
8. Go for a dip
12. Fork prong
13. Opposing vote
14. Jack rabbit
15. December 24th and December 31st
16. Previously, to poets
17. Shaped like an egg
18. Untidy condition
19. Everyone
20. Penny
21. Acorn tree
23. Bible boat
25. Prayer responses
28. Blaze residue
29. Waiter's bonus
32. Boy
33. Like the skin of a person with chicken pox
35. Boxing's Muhammad
36. Magazine fillers
37. Small, round speck
38. Syrup-producing tree
40. That woman
41. Do a tailor's job
42. Father
45. Negative word

47. Highest point
51. Puts to work
52. Big fuss
53. Highway
54. Shopper's memory aid
55. Dress in
56. Rounded roof
57. Behind schedule
58. Mine extraction
59. Reach across

## DOWN

1. Article on a 54-Across
2. Do a jackknife
3. Small bills
4. Something to be learned

5. Move so as not to be seen
6. British nobleman
7. Mascara target
8. Extreme surprise
9. Surfer's quest
10. Persia, today
11. Dissolve
22. Out of the way
24. Verse feature, sometimes
25. Like: 2 wds.
26. Angry
27. Sullivan and Asner
28. Play a role
29. Knock softly
30. Not in good health

31. Dessert pastry
34. Twister
39. Prizes
40. "\_\_\_\_\_ makes waste!"
41. Small rock
42. Word on a door handle
43. China's locale
44. Tiny trouble-maker
46. Smell
48. Chicken house
49. Mate for 42-Across
50. Adam and Eve's home

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27				28				29	30	31
32				33	34					35		
36				37				38	39			
			40				41					
42	43	44			45	46			47	48	49	50
51					52				53			
54					55				56			
57					58				59			



## 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	05		Second Sunday in Lent
Tuesday	Mar	07	11:30am	Nifty Wifty's @ Wesley's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks ahead 1 hr)</b>	
Sunday	Mar	12		Third Sunday in Lent
Monday	Mar	13	7:00pm	Session (in person)
Tuesday	Mar	14		Looking Tree Deadline
Tuesday	Mar	14	6:30pm	Mission & Outreach (Zoom)
Sunday	Mar	19	3:00pm	Newark Community Band 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert
Sunday	Mar	19		Fourth Sunday of Lent
Monday	Mar	20	7:00pm	Admin & Finance (Zoom)
Sunday	Mar	26		Fifth Sunday of Lent
Monday	Mar	27	7:30pm	Worship (Zoom)



\*\*\* Choir Practice—Thursdays 7:30pm\*\*\*



*"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin."  
Tony Robbins*



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

