



# The Looking Tree

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

**APRIL 2023**

*Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,*



Pastor Hilary Livingston

## It's Sabbatical Time!

Dear HoC Family and Friends,

Well, it's finally time...after more than a year of planning, my fourteen-week sabbatical starts this month. **Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday I will be with you before my sabbatical begins.**



You all will be in very good hands under the leadership of your bridge pastor, Mark Douyard. Mark is excited to be with you all this spring/summer, and I hope you all enjoy your time together. I look forward to seeing you all when I **return from my sabbatical on July 24<sup>th</sup>.**

I know that some of you may be feeling anxious about my being away for this period, and that is a perfectly natural thing to feel. To ease some of the anxiety, I've provided information about all the details of this sabbatical so that you can stay informed about everything that is happening with it. If you have questions about any aspect of the sabbatical, there are several places where you can go to find answers. First, we have published detailed information about the sabbatical planning process, financing, logistical details, and FAQs in the **annual report** and the **March and April newsletters**. I've also created **two bulletin boards: one in the Narthex, and one across from my office** (the Pastor's Study) in the Christian Education building. These bulletin boards contain all kinds of information about my sabbatical, including dates, timeline, FAQs, and even maps to show where I'll be traveling. If you have a question, the answer is likely on the bulletin boards, which can be accessed at any time.

You can also **follow me on social media** to see pictures and posts of my travels. My **Facebook** and **Instagram** handles are in this newsletter. Please also read over my **social media policy** to be aware of the boundaries I've created for this aspect of my sabbatical.

*Continued on next page...*

If you haven't done so already, **please carefully read over all the information about my sabbatical in this newsletter, as well as recent past editions.** To make it fun, I've devised a **quiz** where you can test your knowledge about the upcoming sabbatical. See this month's newsletter for the **quiz and instructions.** Complete the quiz correctly and **enter for a chance to win a special prize!**

In closing, I want to thank you all again for giving me the wonderful gift of this sabbatical. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, and I'm grateful for all of you and your commitment to our church!

A few weeks ago, I preached on Psalm 121, which historically is one used as a prayer and affirmation of God's protection and care on all of our journeys through life. My prayer and affirmation for you comes from this psalm:

*"The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore. (Psalm 121:5-8)*

Blessings,

*Hilary*



Bryce Canyon



Grand Canyon



Yellowstone Nat'l Park



## 2023 Holy Week and Easter Worship Opportunities

### **Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Worship with Communion & Foot/Hand Washing**

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at  
First Presbyterian Church of Newark

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### **Good Friday Community Service of Worship**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at  
Newark United Methodist Church

*HoC sanctuary will also be open from  
12:00 – 1:00 PM for self-directed prayer and reflection on  
Good Friday.*

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### **Easter Sunrise Worship Service**

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM in the HoC Cemetery  
*(weather permitting – if not, in the sanctuary)*

Potluck Continental Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall  
(bring a breakfast item to share)

### **Traditional Easter Worship Service**

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary  
*(in-person & livestream)*

# HoC HAPPENINGS



Please join us for coffee hour on  
**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** as we  
**WELCOME** our new  
Bridge Pastor, Mark Douyard,  
to Head of Christiana  
Presbyterian Church.  
*We hope you can all come!!*



Mark Douyard

**Bridge Pastor  
Mark Douyard's contact  
information:**



**Email: [Mdouyard@gmail.com](mailto:Mdouyard@gmail.com)**

**Cell #: 203-260-4486**





## Head of Christiana's Elkton Community Kitchen Luncheon February 2023

It was great to be inside the dining room once again serving hot lunches after a two year inside absence due to Covid. As always HOC provided a great group of volunteers and delicious food to make this effort a resounding success!



The "Dream Team"

Pastor Hilary Livingston, Jeanne Walters-Hastings, Debbie Reeves, Donna Reed, Lillian Crispin, Claire Herrington, Kay Wood, Linda Huffman, Brian Huffman.  
(not shown) Bill Witt, Rebecca Witt, Leroy Harris, MaryLou Oakes.

*Hats off to you all!*

## GOOD NEWS!



Hope  
Dining Room

March 10<sup>th</sup> was another successful day for us at Hope. We fed 21 clients and 7 workers. We gave out 40 sloppy joes. It was a blessing to minister with you all.

James was back, his first time since December. He said that many who come to Hope are experiencing “food insecurity.” The temporary boost to SNAP benefits put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, ended after the February checks. He also said that the Newark Food Bank is making changes and getting food is becoming harder. They are all grateful that Hope is there to help. Volunteers like you make it possible.

Thank you for your kindness and continued support.



## Vital Congregations

At our March meeting, the session approved becoming part of the presbytery and denomination’s Vital Congregations initiative. This is a two-year process guided by a trained facilitator to help our church discern where God is leading our congregation in the coming years, as well as help us better cultivate the seven vital marks of congregational vitality.



These seven vital marks are:

1. Lifelong Spiritual Growth
2. Intentional Loving (evangelism)
3. Active, Outward Focus
4. Shared Gifts and Power
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Healthy Accountability

We will update the congregation on this process as we move through it. If you have questions about this initiative, please contact Katie Gillespie, clerk of session.

## Questions about Pastor Hilary's Sabbatical? Visit the Sabbatical Bulletin Boards!

If you have a question about the sabbatical, check out one of the **sabbatical bulletin boards** around the church to find the answer!

There are **two** sabbatical bulletin boards - a smaller one in the **Narthex**, and a larger one **across from the Pastor's Study in the Christian Education building**.

Everything you need to know about Pastor Hilary's sabbatical is likely on one of these bulletin boards. These boards are available for you to look over at any time.

The bigger board across from the Pastor's study also contains maps and pictures so you can see where her main travels will be.



# QUIZ

## Sabbatical Quiz Instructions – Enter to Win a Special Prize!

See how well you know the details about Pastor Hilary's upcoming sabbatical! Take the quiz, answer the questions correctly, and you could win a special prize!

### How to play:

See the "Sabbatical Quiz" on the next page of this newsletter.

Read over the **sabbatical information** in the **annual report**, **bulletin boards**, and **March/April newsletters** to answer the quiz questions (quiz is open book!)

Answer the questions **correctly** and **submit them to Pastor Hilary via email or written form by no later than 12:00 PM on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**.

All **correct entries submitted on time** will be entered in a **drawing to win a special prize during coffee hour on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Good Luck!  
😊



# Sabbatical Quiz

1. What are the dates of Pastor Hilary's sabbatical?
2. What is **the theme** of Pastor Hilary's sabbatical?
3. Who is our **bridge pastor** during the sabbatical period?
4. Name **one** place or publication where you can find information about Pastor Hilary's sabbatical.
5. **To follow** Pastor Hilary on Facebook or Instagram, do you need to initiate the friend/follow request? (Yes or No)
6. **Will Pastor Hilary be responding to** HoC members and friends (by phone, text, email, social media, etc.) during her sabbatical? (Yes or No)
7. Name **one** place where Pastor Hilary will be visiting on her sabbatical.
8. Name **one** of the locations in the church building where you can find a sabbatical information bulletin board.
9. List **one** of these - The bridge pastor's **correct cell phone #** or **email address**:
10. List **one benefit** of the sabbatical for Pastor Hilary and/or the congregation.

## 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/>

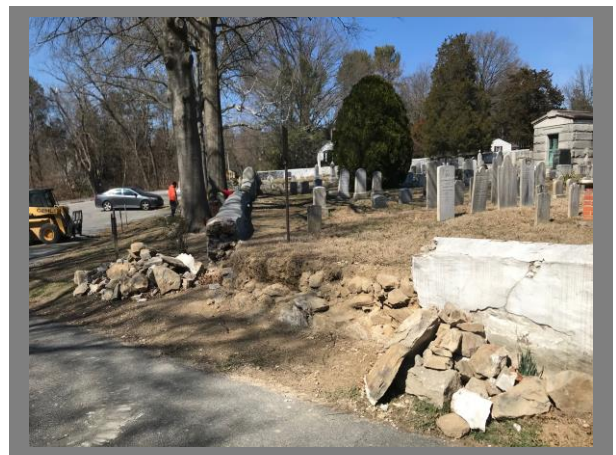


Instagram: hilary.livingston

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



Hard at work rebuilding the cemetery wall.



Hope to be finished in a week or two.



Care and Fellowship's new baby!



## 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.



# Word Search Puzzle

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

Ash Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love



# HOC CALENDAR — April Happenings



Tuesday	April	04	11:30am	Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's
Wednesday	April	05	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Meeting
Thursday	April	06	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Worship First Presbyterian Church of Newark
Friday	April	07	7:00pm	Good Friday — Community Service of Worship Newark United Methodist Church
Sunday	April	09	7:00am	Easter Sunrise Service with Newark United Church of Christ Continental Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall afterwards
			11:00am	Festive Easter Service in our sanctuary
Tuesday	April	11		Looking Tree Deadline
Wednesday	April	12	7:00pm	Session Meeting (ZOOM)
Monday	April	25	7:00pm	Admin & Finance Meeting (ZOOM)
Sunday	April	23	12:15pm	Welcome Coffee Hour for Pastor Mark Douyard

Choir Practice—Thursdays—7:00pm



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



April 3	Linda Huffman	April 19	Branch Murray
April 6	Vince Marianiello	April 20	Allen Gallaher
April 9	Aileen Burmeister	April 23	Leo Marianiello
April 15	Ed Cairns	April 28	Abigail Condliffe
		April 29	Susan Brook

