



# The Looking Tree

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

September 2023

*Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,*



Pastor Hilary Livingston

## **Reset, Recharge, Renew!**

Dear HoC Members and Friends,  
I'm back from my sabbatical, and I'm ready for another fall season here at HoC! Fall is a great time of year for a fresh start. As I return to the regular rhythms of work and worship post-sabbatical, I am sensing it is a good time for us as a church to practice the **three Rs – Reset, Recharge, and Renew.**

First, the beginning of a new season provides an opportunity to **reset** some of our practices and routines. Over the next few weeks, the sabbatical bulletin boards will be coming down and replaced with new content, photos and information from the pastor. In addition to notices of upcoming events and activities, I'll be posting a refresher about my contact information, office hours, day off, social media engagement, and other pertinent information. I'll also occasionally share resources that I'm finding interesting and beneficial that you might enjoy. So, keep checking the boards for fresh content! These bulletin boards are located in the narthex and across from the Pastor's Study in the Christian Education wing near the church office.

We'll also be resetting our Sunday morning worship liturgy to be more in line with our Presbyterian Book of Common Worship, including changing up the order of worship, adding a regular third hymn, and reintroducing a weekly "Affirmation of Faith". These changes will not be major, but they will update the service rhythm a bit. We'll also be reintroducing monthly liturgists to participate in worship, as well as continue our monthly congregational flowers in the sanctuary. Thanks for your patience and flexibility with this reset, which I hope will enhance our worship experience!

*Continued...*

This new season also invites us to **recharge** our faith and commitment to Christ and one another as a church. One way to recharge our faith is through education. Sunday school classes for all ages begin on Rally Day – Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. See the information article in this month’s newsletter for details on class offerings this fall. We can also recharge our faith through worship and fellowship. Our choir returns this month, providing regular musical offerings in the Sunday service to enhance our worship. Our choral students from the University of Delaware will join with our church choir members to glorify God with the gift of music. Of course, we’ll continue to gather after worship for a time of fellowship during coffee hour. We look forward to seeing you in worship, either online or in person!

The fall season further offers us an opportunity for **renewal**. Fall is a great time to begin a new spiritual practice – a new daily Bible reading practice, prayer practice, or journaling practice. It is also a time to reflect upon our blessings, opening our hearts and hands to share our gifts with others. We’re gearing up for our fall stewardship campaign, which will give everyone an opportunity to practice greater generosity toward one another and our broader community. I’m so grateful for everyone’s gifts of time, talent and treasure that make this church a special place. I look forward to seeing how God will work in and through us as a congregation – through our living, through our giving, and through our loving!

So friends, let’s **reset, recharge, and renew** our faith this fall at HoC!

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*



# HOPE DINING ROOM

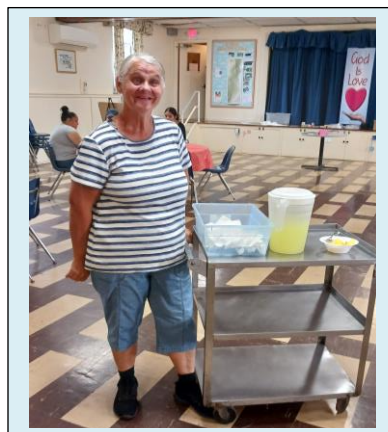
*Submitted by Donna Reed*

Thank you all so much for your service to God today (August 11), at Hope. Brookside, Todd Estates, and Sherwood Park are three communities that are close to Hope Dining Room that were heavily impacted by the storm last Monday. Many homes in this area were without electricity for two days. Several of the clients at Hope talked to us about damage, no power for cooking and no air conditioning. People were coming to Hope for food, fellowship, and air conditioning. We served 48 people with firsts. We ran out of coleslaw, baked beans, and watermelon. We even had one regular who came in after we had closed and cleaned up. We were able to give him a 3-cup container of Beef Stew as a meal-to-go.

Please keep James in your prayers. He is starting to talk about the limited time he has left as the cancer treatments are wearing him down.

Ryan was rushing to get to us before we closed. He seemed worried where his next meal was coming from. Shaun loved the pulled pork and was grateful for fresh fruit and vegetables he could chew in spite dental issues. One grandmother with her four grandkids was happy to be able to feed her family and thankful that the kids were welcomed and safe.

Thank you to Lillian, Rosi, Kay W, Kay B. Jeannie, plus two friends of mine, Brenda and Michael Mennella who served the children of God today.





## **RALLY DAY/KICK-OFF SUNDAY**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30am.**

Donna Reed and Aileen Burmeister will be leading the children/youth class in the youth room downstairs.

Pastor Hilary will be leading the adult class (held in the parlor, unless otherwise noted).

### **Adult Sunday School Schedule & Topics:**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Sabbatical sharing (held in Fellowship Hall)

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** – *“Awe and Wonder”*

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Missional Presbyterian Tracy Keenan facilitating the class (Topic: TBD)

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 29<sup>th</sup>** *“Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity”* by Adam Hamilton (five sessions)

***All are invited to participate!***



This year's HoC stewardship campaign will run from **October 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**Materials and pledge cards will be sent out to HoC members and friends in late September.** We ask everyone to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to our church for the coming year. **Please fill out and return your pledge cards or giving estimate by Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.** This will assist the session in planning the church budget for the coming year.

Each Sunday during worship in October, a different HoC member will be sharing their personal reflections on stewardship, as well as how our church's ministry benefits our members and broader community.

Pastor Hilary will also be focusing on the theme of stewardship in worship, preaching and teaching. She will be facilitating a **five-week study** for the adult Sunday school class by **Adam Hamilton** called *"Enough: Finding Joy through Simplicity and Generosity"*. All are welcome to participate in this thought-provoking study on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM**. If there is interest, Pastor Hilary is also willing to facilitate a mid-week version of this study via Zoom (please contact her if you are interested). Pastor Hilary will also be preaching a sermon series based upon themes of the book.

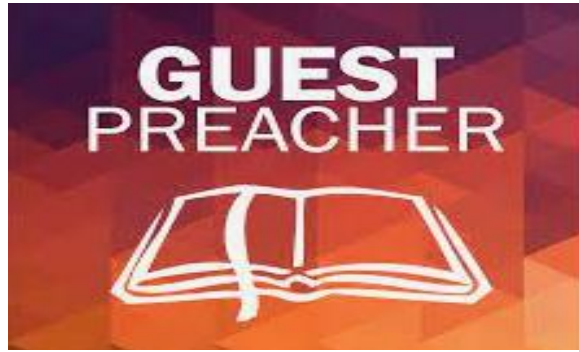
Pastor Hilary will also be launching a **"gratitude challenge" in October** – Each day, congregation members and friends will be challenged to practice gratitude in their everyday lives through simple, hands-on, fun activities. This is the perfect challenge to give you an attitude of gratitude!

We hope all of these offerings will inspire everyone to rediscover the joy of stewardship, not just during the campaign, but all through the year.

Watch for more details, and please contact Ed Crispin, Linda Huffman, or Pastor Hilary with questions.

Thank you for all you do to support our church! Your gifts make all we do possible!



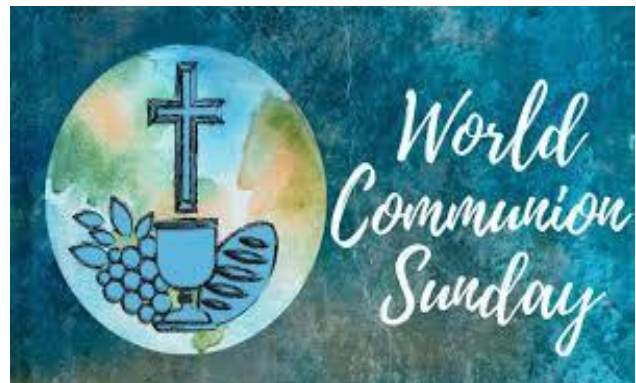


## Guest Preacher

**Sunday, September 24, 2023**

**Missional Presbyter Tracy Keenan** will be preaching and leading worship on **Sunday, September 24, 2023** while Pastor Hilary is away at her cousin's wedding in Pennsylvania.

Tracy will also be leading the adult Sunday School class that day (Lesson topic – TBD).



***Sunday, October 1, 2023***



The choir will be returning this month and will once again be joined by Shaun Gibbons, Garrett Thomas, Alena Carhart, Sarah Hughes, and John Murphy.

Choir will begin rehearsal on **Thursday, September 14 at 7:30pm.**



## GRATITUDE CHALLENGE

Coming in October.

Stay tuned for details!



The **Christian Education Commission** will be sponsoring a church picnic on **Sunday, September 17th** following the worship service at **Donna Reed's house - 1001 Lakeside Drive, Christine Manor.**

The Commission will provide pulled pork sliders, drinks and other picnic necessities. We are asking the congregation to please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

There will be **NO Coffee Hour following worship** this day.

Hope everyone can come. Any questions contact Katie Gillespie.



Special Offering will be collected from Sunday, September 3 through Sunday, October 1.





# Rockin' The Oldies!

**Rock Presbyterian Church**

Hymn Sing  
And

Covered Dish Dinner

(Bring a side dish or dessert to share!  
(Drinks and Main Dish Provided)

Saturday, October 14th

5:30 p.m.

Childcare Provided



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 road trip

sandals  
 sand castle  
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 shorts  
 sunscreen  
 swimming  
 tan  
 trunks  
 travel  
 vacation  
 watermelon  
 wave runner  
 waterpark

# HOC CALENDAR — September Happenings



Mon	Sept 04		<b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>
Tue	Sept 05	11:30am	Nifty-Wiftys @ Wesley's
Sun	Sept 10	9:30am	Sunday School for all ages— <b>RALLY DAY!</b>
Sun	Sept 10	9:30am	Sabbatical Sharing Time presentation
Mon	Sept 11	7:00pm	Session (in-person)
Tue	Sept 12		<b>LOOKING TREE DEADLINE</b>
Wed	Sept 13	2:00pm	Care & Fellowship Meeting
Sun	Sept 17	12:30pm	Church Picnic @ Donna Reed's house
Mon	Sept 18	7:00pm	Vital Congregations Meeting
Sat	Sept 23	10-12pm	Crafting To-Gather
Mon	Sept 25	7:00pm	Admin & Finance ZOOM Meeting

\*\*\*CHOIR PRACTICE – Thursday, Sept. 14 @ 7:30-pm\*\*\*



HYMN SING at ROCK CHURCH  
SATURDAY, OCT. 14  
TIME (TBD)  
ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO  
BRING A SIDE DISH OR  
DESSERT. MAIN DISH AND  
BEVERAGES WILL BE  
PROVIDED. STAY TUNED...



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sep 3	Cindy Taber	Sep 27	Merle Slack
Sep 9	Barbara Johnston	Sep 28	Rebecca Condliffe
Sep 11	Claire Herrington	Sep 28	Katie Gillespie
Sep 12	Janice Harper	Sep 29	Steve Graham

