



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

October 2023



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Dear HoC members and friends,

It's stewardship season! It is also a season of gratitude! I'm grateful for all of you, and for all of your support of our church through sharing your gifts, your time, and your resources. Because of your generous support, we have continued to be a faithful Christian presence, worshipping together, and sharing God's love with those in our community. Here are some personal reflections of gratitude for you all:

- I am personally grateful that you gave me the gift of a sabbatical this year. It was truly a life-changing experience of travel, rest, and renewal that will fuel my ministry calling for years to come.
- I am grateful for the pastoral leadership of Mark Douyard and his wife Barb who provided leadership and shared in fellowship with you all during my absence. Their presence was a blessing, and they express their gratitude to you all for welcoming them.
- I am grateful for our dedicated staff, Nancy, Leroy and Linnea, as well as all of our lay leaders who serve on session, deacons, committees, commissions, and in so many other ways. Your generous time and service make our church a nurturing and hospitable place to gather and worship together.
- I am grateful for our beautiful historic sanctuary, grounds, and Education Building that provide us with sacred spaces to worship, gather, and fellowship together. I am also grateful for all those who work so hard to keep our building and grounds safe and in good repair for everyone to enjoy.
- I am grateful for all the many ways you have continued to care for our members, as well as minister to those in need in our community through your service at Hope Dining Room, Elkton Community Kitchen, Warriors Helping Warriors, our blessing boxes, and by providing donations of food, clothing and school supplies throughout the year.

Continued...

- I am grateful for our organist, choir members, and students from the University of Delaware who glorify God through their musical gifts and enhance our worship with glorious song.
- I am grateful for our teachers who share their time, knowledge, and dedication to nurture our children and youth in their faith. You are making a tangible impact in the lives of our young people that will stay with them into adulthood.
- I am grateful for our endowment which provides us with long-term financial stability. I am grateful for those saints in the past who left a financial legacy for this church to continue in ministry. I am also grateful for your regular continued financial giving that empower us to do all that we're called to do presently in our community to glorify God and serve our neighbors.
- I am grateful for YOU! Each and every one of you make our church a special place to be. Thanks for all the ways you show up, pitch in, and support one another. We couldn't do all that we do without you!

In light of all the blessings God has given us, we have the opportunity to make a commitment to God through this church as an act of gratitude for all the blessings we have received throughout the year.

During this stewardship season, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge or estimate of financial giving for the coming year as an act of gratitude.

Please return your pledge/estimate card to the church by October 29th.

Your gifts make all we do possible! Thank you for your generous gifts

Blessings,

Hilary





GRATITUDE CHALLENGE



Join with us in the **month of October** for our **30-day “Gratitude Challenge”!** **Beginning October 1st**, follow the prompts below to build your sense of gratitude and generosity. Adapt these prompts as needed for you. Follow along on social media on the Head of Christiana Facebook page, or simply place this page in a handy place where you can see it and follow along each day.

Day 1: Start a gratitude jar or journal. Write down one thing each day that you are grateful for in your journal or a slip of paper to put in the jar. If you are doing a gratitude jar with your family or household, give each person a different color paper for their entries.

Day 2: Go out of your way to help someone today.

Day 3: Send a loved one a handwritten note.

Day 4: Offer someone a heartfelt compliment.

Day 5: Bake a treat for your neighbors.

Day 6: Thank your pastor(s) for their hard work.

Day 7: Recall a tough situation in your life that helped you grow. Add it to your gratitude jar or journal.

Day 8: Find as many excuses as you can to smile today.

Day 9: Be intentional to spend time with someone you care about today.

Day 10: Leave a note of encouragement in a public place.

Day 11: Say "I get to..." instead of "I have to..." today.

Day 12: Spend 10 minutes doing some gentle stretches. Be grateful for your body.

Day 13: Write Colossians 2:6-7 on a notecard and put it somewhere where you will see it regularly. *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”* (Colossians 2:6-7 NRSV)

Day 14: Make time to stop and breathe in your favorite scent.

Day 15: Replace every complaint with a blessing.

Day 16: Give someone a small gift, just because.

Day 17: Lend a hand to someone needing help.

Day 18: Go on a walk and find something beautiful.

Continued...

GRATITUDE CHALLENGE

- Day 19:** Make yourself your favorite hot drink today. Sip and savor with gratitude!
- Day 20:** Be watchful and thankful in your prayers today (Colossians 4:2).
- Day 21:** Show yourself grace. Do your best & let that be good enough.
- Day 22:** Cheer on somebody else's achievements (out loud).
- Day 23:** Close your eyes and picture 10 things you are thankful for.
- Day 24:** Tell your loved ones why you love them. Be specific.
- Day 25:** Call a family member or a friend and be an active listener.
- Day 26:** Volunteer to do an unpleasant task.
- Day 27:** Hug someone.
- Day 28:** Think of someone who made a difference in your life. Tell them.
- Day 29:** Do a random act of kindness.
- Day 30:** Read over your gratitude journal or jar entries for the month. Which was most meaningful to you?
- Day 31:** BONUS: Keep the gratitude going! List three things for which you are grateful in your journal or jar each day for the next 30 days.

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1 NRSV)*





Stewardship 2023

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

Materials and pledge cards will be sent out to HoC members and friends in early October.

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 29th.

This will assist the session in planning the church budget for the coming year. 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!





HOPE DINING ROOM

~ Donna Reed

Dear HoC Family,

Our service at Hope went very well on Friday, September 8th. We offered clean men’s shirts and a suitcase. All were taken. We also brought new books though not so many were taken. The meal was delicious and appreciated by almost all.

We served pulled pork sliders, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon, a cherry tomato, and ice cream sandwiches. The colors were popping and the servers were hopping. We fed 24 clients—many asking for seconds.

Thank you Lillian, Hillary, Ruth, and Chris for your willing hands and hearts. It was a small, but efficient team.

Head of Christiana also donated an airway assist device.



The Sabbatical bulletin board across from the Pastor’s Study has been transformed into a general Pastor’s Information Board.

Here you can find Pastor Hilary’s contact information, office hours, and other information relevant to her activities here at HoC.

Pastor Hilary will aim to keep this board updated regularly. Check it out!



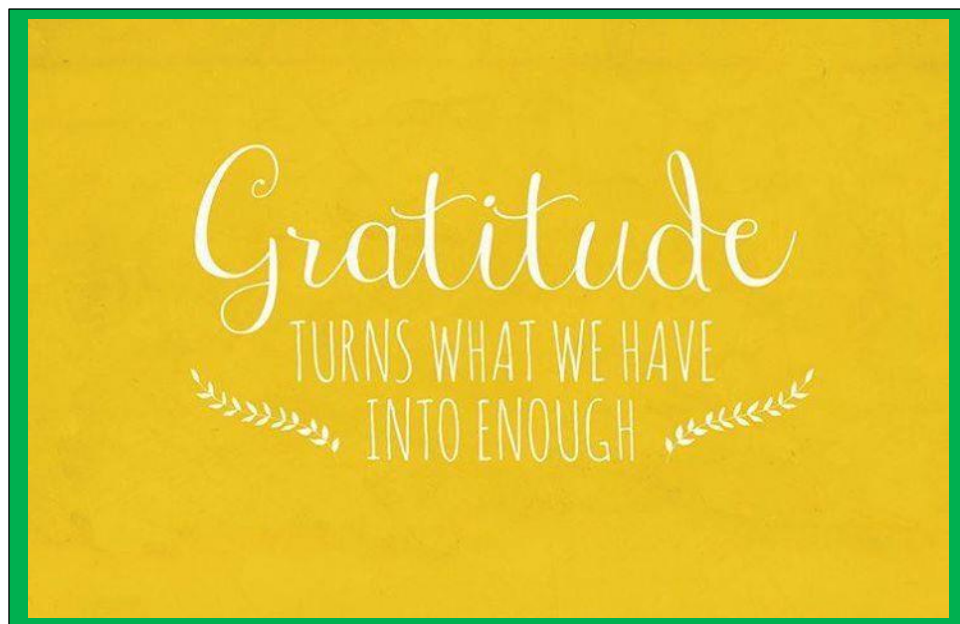
Adult Sunday School Video Study

“Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity” by Adam Hamilton

Sundays mornings at 9:30am in the parlor

October 1st – 22nd

All are welcome to join us!



Pastor Hilary's Office Hours:

Cell #: 814.577.4269

Email: heliving@gmail.com

Mondays & Weekends – By appointment

Tuesdays & Wednesdays – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Thursdays – Community Office Hours

(see details below)

Friday – Day Off

Community Office Hours

Come chat with Pastor Hilary out in the community!
(Starting October 5, 2023)

Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Bings Bake & Brew

at Amstel Square

57 S. Main St. #101

(Free parking available at Amstel Square)

Stop by and say “hi”!

REMINDER



Production of the November issue of The Looking Tree will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 10th. 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!

nancy.hoc@outlook.com



Ten Resources for Reading and Learning about the Bible:

Bible Reading Plans:

1. *American Bible Society* has a number of resources to help you read and understand the Bible better. Their website has a number of study tools and reading plans. Sign up for an email to get a daily Bible reading sent directly to your mailbox: <https://bibleresources.americanbible.org/resource/daily-bible-reading>
2. The Presbyterian Mission Agency makes available the *Revised Common Lectionary* texts. The RCL is an ecumenical collection of daily and weekly texts that cover large portions of the Bible and are used in a variety of Christian traditions <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/>
3. *The Navigators* have a Bible reading plan to help you read the whole Bible in one year. To get this resource, visit: [Navigators Bible Reading Plan: Sign-Up | The Navigators](#)

Books:

4. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart – This is a classic text that goes through the major themes and different genres of the Bible to help you read and understand it better. A bit on the scholarly side, but still accessible.
5. *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Learning to Love the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans – a memoir by the late author who shares her personal journey seeking to understand and love God's word.
6. The *Normal People* series by *The Bible for Normal People* – books written by Bible scholars but designed for “normal people”. Current series includes Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Jonah and Romans.
7. *The Bible Tells Me So* and *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns – two books written on a lay reader level that provide an overall framework for reading and understanding the Bible. Might challenge some conventional ways of understanding the Bible.

Podcasts/Webcasts:

8. *The Bible for Normal People* podcast: <https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/podcast/> Their mission is to “bring the best in biblical scholarship to everyday people.” Weekly podcast featuring Bible scholars and teachers who help “normal people” understand and apply the Bible to their lives.
9. *The Bible Project*: <https://bibleproject.com/> - Organization that produces short, engaging animated videos that explain the Bible and biblical concepts in accessible ways. They have videos and a podcast.
10. *The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz*: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-bible-in-a-year-with-fr-mike-schmitz/id1539568321> - Apple top-rated podcast that leads people through the Bible in a year with commentary from a Catholic perspective.



Church Picnic





October



Find all 25 HIDDEN WORDS in the word search puzzle below. Good luck!

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | D | W | A | R | F | P | R | K | F | C | B | Y | J |
| N | G | W | E | Y | I | Z | R | J | O | E | R | D | A |
| I | R | D | W | C | E | O | N | R | W | G | A | N | C |
| H | I | O | K | O | W | R | N | B | P | H | K | A | K |
| C | A | I | C | D | R | S | O | E | L | S | E | C | E |
| W | N | R | R | A | T | C | O | S | T | U | M | E | T |
| G | O | A | V | A | N | E | E | W | O | L | L | A | H |
| H | Y | O | L | E | S | G | U | R | M | I | Z | P | N |
| A | G | K | D | O | S | E | O | V | A | S | J | E | O |
| Y | S | O | C | S | R | T | L | U | Z | C | Y | N | O |
| R | N | I | K | P | M | U | P | P | R | O | S | M | M |
| I | R | F | F | I | E | L | D | S | P | D | V | U | L |
| D | E | S | E | V | A | E | L | Z | W | A | S | T | L |
| E | N | S | C | E | N | I | C | H | O | W | P | U | U |
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ACORN
 APPLES
 AUTUMN
 CANDY
 CIDER
 COBWEB
 CORNSTALKS

COSTUME
 FIELDS
 FULL MOON
 GOURDS
 HALLOWEEN
 HARVEST

HAYRIDE
 JACKET
 LEAVES
 PICKING
 PUMPKIN
 RAKE

SCARECROW
 SCENIC
 TRAILS
 WAGON
 WOODS
 YARDWORK



HOC CALENDAR — October Happenings



| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------|--|
| Sun | Oct 01 | | World Communion Sunday / Stewardship Campaign starts |
| Mon | Oct 02 | 7:30pm | Worship Committee (via Zoom) |
| Tue | Oct 03 | 11:30am | Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's |
| Tues | Oct 10 | | LOOKING TREE DEADLINE |
| Fri | Oct 13 | 7:00pm | Vital Congregations Meeting |
| Sat | Oct 14 | 5:30pm | Hymn Sing @ Rock Pres. Church |
| Mon | Oct 17 | 7:00pm | Admin & Finance Commission via Zoom |
| Thu | Oct 19 | 6:30pm | Cemetery Association meeting in Fellowship Hall |
| Wed | Oct 25 | 7:00pm | Covered Bridge Farms meeting in Fellowship Hall |
| Sat | Oct 28 | 10-12pm | Crafting To-Gather in Fellowship Hall |



Earrings & Keychains—supplies provided

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

