



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here... JAN / FEB 2024

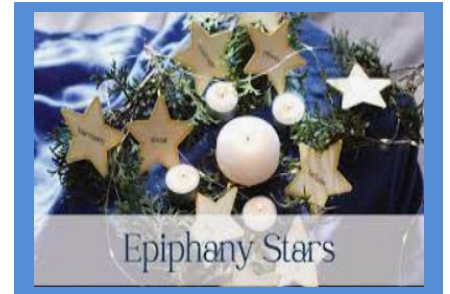
Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Hilary Livingston

Epiphany Stars

We're in a new year, full of new beginnings and new possibilities. The New Year is an opportunity to set intentions, goals, and resolutions for the New Year outlining things we would like to accomplish or experience in the New Year. The New Year corresponds with the liturgical holiday of Epiphany – the celebration recalling the Magi's visit to the Holy family in Bethlehem where they brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



The word epiphany means an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being, or an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. The star that led the Magi to the Christ Child was such an epiphany. We also experience epiphanies, both great and small, in our lives. Sometime these come out of the blue, like the proverbial “light bulb” going off in our heads. There's a new tradition of churches of giving and receiving star words during Epiphany. Star words are words that provide guidance and direction for us in the New Year, just as the star guided the Magi to Bethlehem. I attended a presbytery gathering recently where I received “peace” as my star word. This word can be a way God can speak to me this year, as well as be a guiding principle for my life. To reflect upon my star word, I can look up its meaning in the dictionary, I can look up scripture passages that talk about peace, or I can pray for God to make me an agent of his peace. Star words are not intended to replace other spiritual practices—rather they can enhance our existing practices to help us grow deeper. A word can be gentler than a resolution where we may experience guilt if we break it. A word can be a gentle guide through the year.

If you would like to receive a star word, you can visit: <https://perchance.org/dun3dyu0qo>

Or, see Pastor Hilary, and she will give you a star word for the year. Consider experimenting with a star word and see how God speaks to you through it this year!

Blessings,

Hilary



Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Meal and Liturgy

Wednesday, February 14
Calvary Baptist Church
(215 E. Delaware Ave., Newark)

6:00 p.m. – dinner (soup, salad, and bread)

7:00 p.m. - simple liturgy and imposition of ashes

Sign up to contribute food here: bit.ly/2024NewarkAsh

Countdown to Easter

February 14—Ash Wednesday
February 18—First Sunday in Lent
February 25—Second Sunday in Lent
March 3—Third Sunday in Lent
March 10—Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 17—Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 24—Palm Sunday—Holy Week Begins
March 28—Maundy Thursday
March 29—Good Friday
March 31—Easter

HoC HAPPENINGS

Administrative Calendar January / February 2024

January 7, 2024 — Ordination and Installation of Officers

January 8, 2024 — (7:00pm)—Session Meeting (in person)

January 21, 2024—Annual reports due to Nancy
(like last year's format – brief, w/bullet points & pictures)

February 04, 2024 — Annual reports distributed
(electronically and by mail to those without email)

February 11, 2024 — (12:00pm)—Annual Congregational Meeting

- Review annual report
- Elect 2024 Nominating Committee





KUDOS TO NICOLE GILL!

Nicole received the third place award in the student poster competition in the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Division at the 2023 National Meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, held in Orlando, FL, November 5-10. Nicole's research study, carried out at the University of Delaware in the laboratory of Prof. Catherine Fromen, was titled "Designing Nanoparticle-loaded Aerosols for Controlled Interactions with Pulmonary Immune Cells for Treatment of Respiratory Diseases". Pictured with Nicole is her UD classmate, Saurav Padhye, who received a first place award for his poster presentation.

As a portent of things to come, the earlier picture on the left shows Nicole, in the second grade at the John R. Downes Elementary School, after she received her first place award in the science fair competition.

Congratulations and best wishes to Nicole from all of us!!

-Submitted by Sonja Combs and John Burmeister

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



Soup Luncheon and Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting

February 11th, 2024

Please join us for a hearty soup luncheon hosted by Care and Fellowship following the morning service on February 11th.

It is also Souper Bowl Sunday so we will be collecting donations which will be given to Hope Dining Room.

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



Crafting To-Gather



Our "*Crafting To-Gather*" sessions have been enjoying good turnouts, good fun and good fellowship so we will continue our gatherings into the New Year.

It will continue to be a recurring event on the 4th Saturday of each month, starting January 27th, from 10am -12pm. The next three sessions will be February 24, March 23 and April 27th.

We'd love to have you 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! We'll let you know if we're going to focus on a special project like we did this past year when we made earrings for Halloween and learned the art of cookie decorating for Christmas.

A graphic with the text "Please Join US" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is set against a background of colorful, 3D rectangular blocks in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red, arranged in a somewhat chaotic but festive pattern.



Thank you to everyone who remembered me this Christmas with your cards and gifts. Your kindness and thoughtfulness means the world to me and I am very appreciative. Happy New Year!

BETHLEHEM

Submitted by Rosi White

The stable stands empty,
With straw on the ground,
Shepherds tending their flock
Watching for danger all around.

Donkeys braying,
Old men swaying,
Children playing,
While watching the stars.

Church bells ringing,
Congregations singing,
Earth is waiting
For the Savior's birth.

The stable stands empty
With straw on the ground.
No people around
To make joyful sounds.

Joseph searching for a room at the Inn
Ending up sleeping in the stable by his kin.
The night is silent while the baby is born,
Mary, at this time, looks forlorn.

Then Angels are heard proclaiming Christ's birth
To the shepherds in the field
While they are guarding their herd
Praising God for this promised event.

The star shines bright in the eastern sky
Guiding three kings to the Christ child for a while.
Gold and Spices they present to the mother,
Thanking God their heavenly Father.

In a dream the Magi are told
To take another route traveling home.
Then Joseph, Mary and child
Fled to Egypt for a while.

Now the stable stands empty again.
Only clean hay covers the ground
Waiting for the cows to come home,
Since now they are all alone.

The stable was a beautiful place for his birth.
The donkey brayed,
The cow mooed,
Shepherds bowed,
Angels sang praises.
Let all the people voices be raising.

Praising our father in heaven above,
Singing a Christmas song out of love.
Peace to the earth, good will to the child,
And peace on earth to all mankind.



HOC & SANTA VISIT HOPE DINING ROOM



Thanks go out to all of you who volunteered to serve at Hope in December. You served with love and gave willingly to all the folks who came to us. We served 31 client meals, 22 bowls of soup, and 15 second helpings. It was a hearty meal and a true celebration of Christmas.

Big thanks to the members of our church who knitted hats and donated yarn.

Visit With Santa

Once again this year, we enjoyed a beautiful sunny day which proved to be perfect for a visit with Santa. Children and adults came from all over to stop by to say "Hi" to Santa. Pictures were taken, lots of hot chocolate with marshmallows warmed young tummies, and cookies, candy canes, stockings, crocheted snowflakes, and a variety of children's books were doled out. Lillian, Debbie, Merle, Donna and Hilary were on hand to help Santa. It was a wonderful, fun-filled event. If you missed it, hopefully we'll see you next year.





ELKTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN UPDATE FOR 2023

Once again the baking talent of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church came through to provide a delicious feast of Christmas cookies for the annual Christmas luncheon at the Elkton Community Kitchen.

We were able to provide 33 dozen cookies of all kinds, but best of all, they were each made with generous amounts of love and caring for others in true Christmas spirit.

Warmest appreciation goes to Kathy Graham, Jeanne Hastings, Debbie Reeves, Donna Reed, Kay Wood, Linda Huffman and Marylou Oakes for keeping this longstanding tradition alive.

God Bless you all,

Alex Oakes



Crossword Puzzle

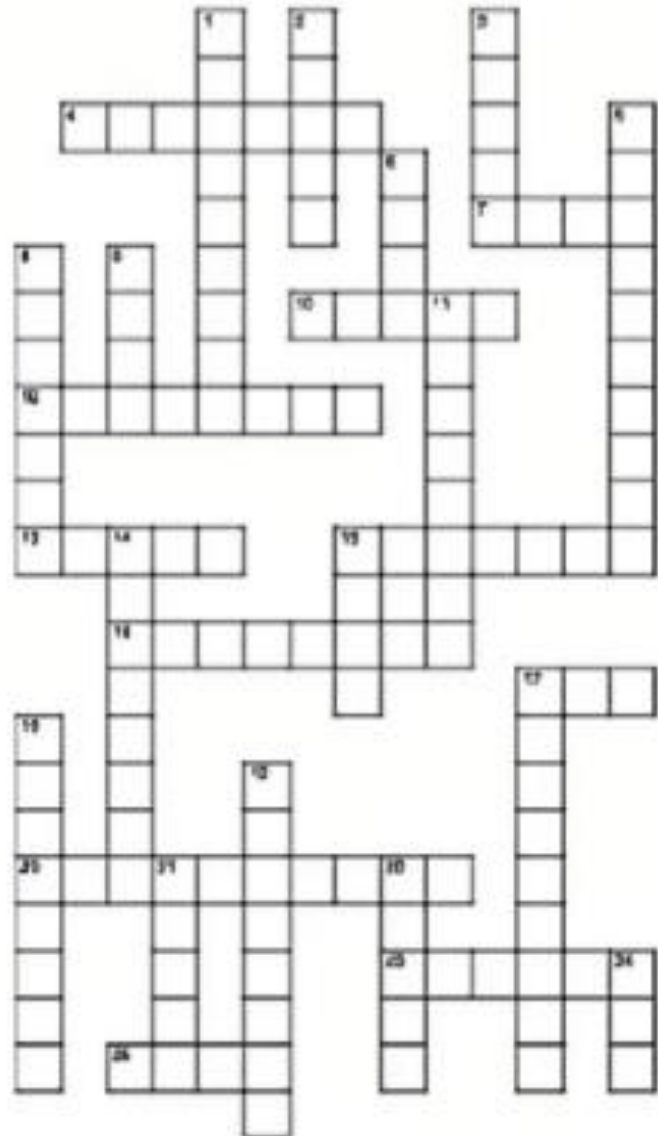


Across

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,
Countdown, Dancing, December, Eve, Father Time,
First, Games, Happy, Hat, Hourglass, January,
Kiss, Midnight, Music, Party, Resolutions, Sparkler,
Square, Straws, Syde, 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

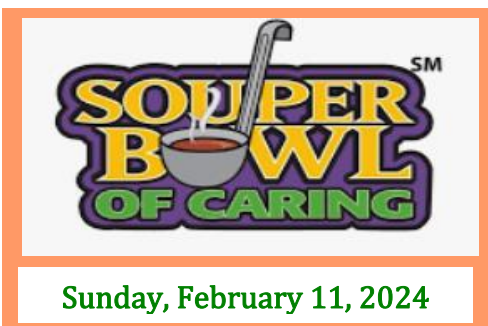
HATS
 HOLIDAY
 HORNS
 KISS
 MIDNIGHT
 MUSIC
 NEW YEARS DAY
 NEW YEARS EVE
 NOISEMAKERS
 OCCASION

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOC CALENDAR — Jan. and Feb. Happenings

Monday	Jan	22	7:30pm	Worship (via Zoom)
Saturday	Jan	27	10-12pm	Crafting To-Gather
Monday	Jan	29	7:00pm	Vital Congregations Meeting
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Sunday	Feb	04		Annual Reports to be distributed
Sunday	Feb	11	12:00pm	Annual Cong/Corp Meeting
				Souper Bowl / C&F Soup Luncheon
Tuesday	Feb	13	11:30am	Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's
Wednesday	Feb	14	6:00pm	Ash Wednesday Soup/Supper Service at Calvary Baptist Church
Sunday	Feb	18		First Sunday of Lent
Saturday	Feb	24	10-12pm	Crafting To-Gather
Monday	Feb	26	7:30pm	Worship Commission (via Zoom)



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

