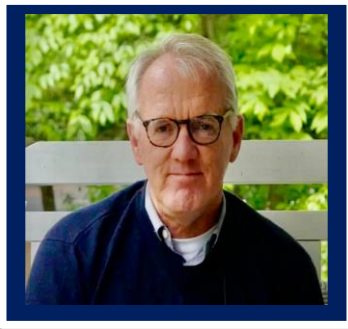




The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

October 2024



Pastor Jim Dunkin

Dear HoC members and friends,

Leslie and I are honored to become part of the HOC community of faith! Leslie has been warmly welcomed into the HOC Choir. I am honored to be welcomed into the pulpit of HOC as well! This Sunday, October 6 will be my first official day as part of your faith family in worship.

The Session and COMC have now established a new pastoral relationship with me. As of October 1, I have been selected/called to be your 'Bridge' Pastor. In a time of transition, the church has created the concept of a 'Bridge' Pastor and in the case of HOC, the purpose is to provide a consistent pastoral presence just after the end of a permanent pastor and the start of a Transitional or Interim pastor. Dr. Hilary Livingston served this church for eight years before discerning a new call. A 'Bridge' Pastor means that the Session will not have to try to 'fill the pulpit' with a variety of pastors.

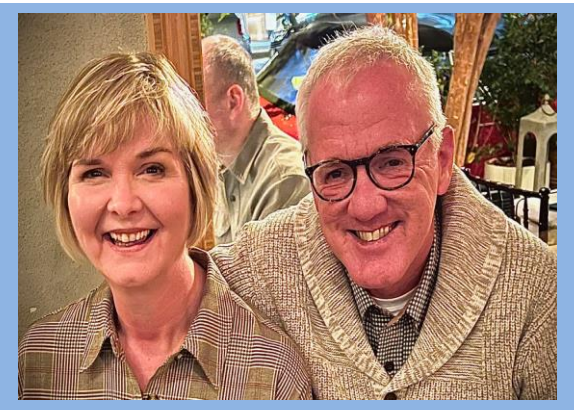
After retiring from the PCUSA in April, I am honored to be asked to serve as that consistent pastoral presence. My contract will be through the end of this year. The Session will then discern if they wish to pursue me as the Interim or look for someone else. We are so grateful for the hospitality we have received each time we have visited on Sunday mornings.

Our daughter and her family live in Port Deposit. They have three precious young boys and we are grateful to be part of their lives, living only 4 miles away from them in Rising Sun.

May God's grace surround all of us as we enter this relationship as a Community of Faith. I will be honored to serve as your pastor walking alongside this wonderful congregation. May God's kingdom grow as we all seek to faithfully follow Jesus Christ at HOC!

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Jim C. Dunkin



Introducing the Rev. Dr. Jim C. and Leslie Dunkin

Beginning October 1, Pastor Jim began serving as our Bridge Pastor by invitation of the HoC Session and the New Castle Presbytery. Jim obtained his M. Div. – Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and his D. Min. – Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. After serving PCUSA churches in Oklahoma, Kansas, North Carolina and Virginia, Jim officially retired after 40 years of service to the church.

One of the greatest congregations Jim served was the First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence. Jim met the greatest gift from God in his life, Leslie, while he and Leslie attended the University of Kansas. Serving the church in Lawrence 20 years later enabled Jim and Leslie to celebrate the journey God had called Jim and Leslie to travel together. Leslie has a deep love for music and began singing with the HoC choir September 22.

Jim and Leslie have two children: Matt (a producer for NASCAR Media), wife Allison, 8 year old son Ben; daughter Christina (a pediatric dentist in Wilmington), husband Steve, sons Steven (4), Owen (2), and Ethan born September 4. In May, Jim and Leslie moved to Rising Sun, MD four miles from Christina and Steve to help care for their three sons. Leslie's mother, Dee Williams, moved to Rising Sun with them. Jim and Leslie are grateful for their two furry companions, Moses and Pace'.

Leslie and Jim are greatly appreciative for the hospitality they've experienced at HoC the first time they visited, and each time since.

HoC Blessing Boxes

Some of you might be wondering about the Blessing Boxes that Mission and Outreach posted near the parking lot at church. The goal was to support both the body and souls of our neighbors. Food and books. Both boxes are being used by our neighbors and being supported by our parishioners. Non-church members who live close to our church, will let church members know when more food is needed. No one tries to see who is using the boxes, but some have reported just driving by and happening to see a few of the people we are helping: a Hispanic man who appears to make a living doing yard work, a young Asian family with a school age child, and an older Caucasian woman. We don't know name or stories, but God does. Thank you for ministering to our community and for being the Blessing someone needs.





Meghan Walsh, Director

Emily Bachl, Soprano

WELCOME UD CHOIR MEMBERS



Alondra Gonzalez, Alto

Scott Andrews, Tenor

John Murphy, Bass





Stewardship 2025

This year's HoC stewardship campaign will run from **October 1st – 27th**.

Materials and pledge cards will be sent out in early October.

We ask everyone to consider making a year 2025 financial commitment to our church.

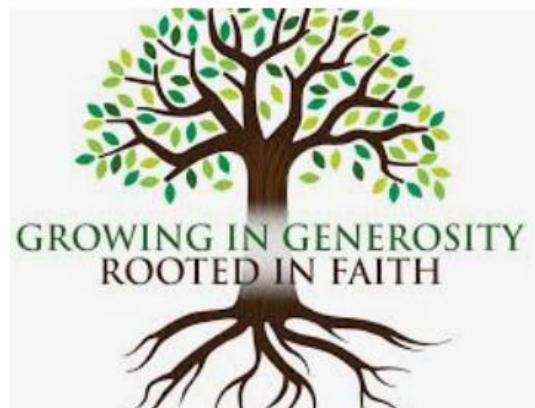
Please fill out and return your pledge cards or give a financial estimate by Sunday, October 27th.

Your input will assist the Session in planning the church budget for the coming year.

Questions: Contact Ed Crispin.

Thank you for all you do to support our church!

Your gifts make all our good work possible!





HOPE DINING ROOM

~ Donna Reed

Dear HoC Family,

Thank you to everyone who made our service to God through Hope happen today; Rosi, Kay, Ruth, and Jeanne. We fed a large crew, between 35 and 40, depending on who you talk to. No one left hungry. We served pulled pork sliders, green bean casserole (Thanks Hilary), pasta salad, pickles, bean soup with crackers, fresh pears, popsicles and trail mix, along with Blue Hi-C, milk, and fruit juice.

Thanks to Sonia and Barbara, we offered warm blankets, shoes, glasses, shirts, and dishes. Plus, we provided a table with new books to read, Christian crafts for kids, and a few school supplies.

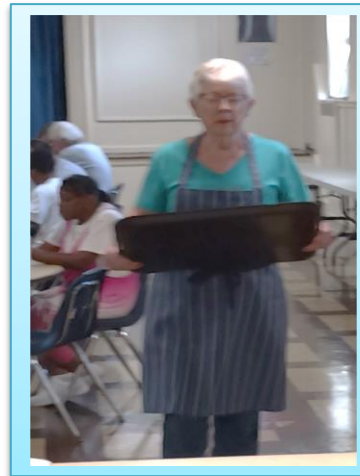
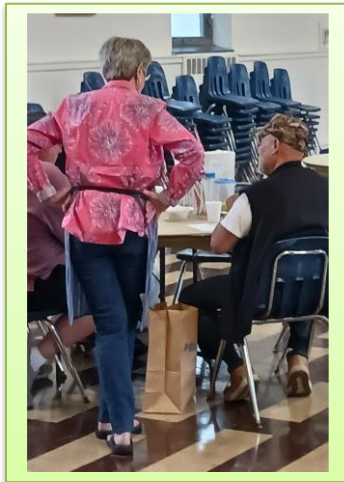
Kingswood Methodist Church also offers a food pantry that allows the Hope clients to have two bags of groceries per month. Apparently, the need has outpaced the food supplied, and the pantry had to close this week. Making sure the clients are well fed on Fridays is the best we can do to carry them over until Monday.

Ruth defended our group with a fly swatter, and Rosi entertained us with a German fairytale, summarized below. Thank you all for your love and service.

Donna

A mother goat leaves her seven children at home while she ventures into the forest to find food. Before she leaves, she warns her young about the wolf who will try to sneak into the house and gobble them up. Later that day, the mother goat returns home from the forest. She is distraught to find the door wide open and all but one of her children missing. She looks around and sees the wolf, fast asleep under a tree. He has eaten so much, he cannot move. The mother goat calls to her youngest child to quickly get her a pair of scissors, a needle and some thread. She cuts open the wolf's belly and the six children spring out miraculously unharmed. They fill the wolf's belly with rocks, and the mother sews it back up again. When the wolf wakes up, he is very thirsty. He goes to the well to drink but being so heavy he falls in and drowns under the weight of the rocks. All the children feel great to find themselves safe. The family lives happily ever after.

HOPE DINING ROOM



REMINDER



Production of the November issue of The Looking Tree will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 15th. 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

When using the Secretary's office please be mindful to put things back in place, clean up and make sure you turn off the air conditioning (or heater) before closing up.

Thank You!





October

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

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
S	L	I	A	R	T	W	A	G	O	N	S	A	F

ACORN
 APPLES
 AUTUMN
 CANDY
 CIDER
 COBWEB
 CORNSTALKS

COSTUME
 FIELDS
 FULL MOON
 GOURDS
 HALLOWEEN
 HARVEST

HAYRIDE
 JACKET
 LEAVES
 PECKING
 PUMPKIN
 RAKE

SCARECROW
 SCENIC
 TRAILS
 WAGON
 WOODS
 YARDWORK

HOC CALENDAR — October Happenings



Sun	Oct 06		World Communion Sunday and Apple Cider Donuts after worship
Tues	Oct 08		Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's
Tues	Oct 08	7-9:00pm	Covered Bridge Farms using Fellowship Hall
Sat	Oct 12		Hymn Sing @ Rock Pres. Church
Tues	Oct 15		LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Wed	Oct 16	7:00pm	Mission and Outreach Meeting
Mon	Oct 21	7:00pm	Admin & Finance (via Zoom)
Fri	Oct 25		Session Budgets due to A & F
Sat	Oct 26	10-12pm	Crafting To-Gather (Fall Sun-catchers)

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

