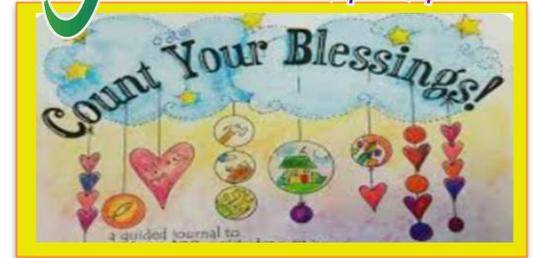




# The Looking Tree

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

November 2025



Pastor Myles Thompson

**Dear HoC members and friends,**

It feels safe to say that Fall is here; the mornings meet us with a crisp chill in the air, the foliage has taken on its vibrant hues, and everywhere palates seem bombarded with the inescapable taste of all things pumpkin spice (though you will *never* catch me taking anything like that in my black coffee!). For my part, I have “Fall”-en back into the routine of life as your pastor after a blessed twelve weeks of paternity leave, helping baby Jude get acquainted with our little corner of the universe. It was a blessing to take that time, and it is a blessing to be back at church. Our sincerest thanks go out to the entire congregation, and to Rev. Sally Willis-Watkins who covered my absence, for making that time possible.

November is an interesting month as far as the church calendar goes. Though we are still in “Ordinary Time,” it feels anything *but* ordinary, as we mark three special days this month. All Saints’ Day (11/2) and the first Sunday of Advent (11/30) provide the bookends to a month that also includes Christ the King Sunday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, what you might call Liturgical New Year’s Eve. On All Saints’ Day we remember those in the faith who have gone to the Lord before us. It is fitting and right that we should do so, remembering in gratitude the countless ways they’ve touched and even helped to shape our lives. It is likewise an occasion to reflect on and give thanks for the “Great Cloud of Witnesses,” as the author of Hebrews put it, that surround us. When we recite the creeds and profess our believe in the “One holy, catholic, and apostolic church,” and when we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we acknowledge that we belong to the communion of the saints that transcends time and space, the body of Christ united to one another and to God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

By month’s end we will be in Advent, and our thoughts will go from those who have gone before to the One who was, and is, and is to come. Although we now associate Advent with Christmas, it is worth pointing out that, originally, Advent was a season of reflective penitence looking forward to Christ’s return at the consummation of history. While our Advent will no doubt be a lead-up to our Christmas celebration, I want to invite us to think as well about just what we mean when we say “Christ will come again.” About what we mean when we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” Even as we believe Christ did not leave his disciples (including all of us!) as orphans, but sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and our advocate, we believe Christ has not abandoned this world, but *will* come again to right all wrongs and usher in the union of the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21). At a time when all seems broken, we cling to the blessed hope that God has not given up on this world, so neither should we. Rather, we are to live, inspired, as if the coming of Christ’s kingdom *matters—because it does! And because we are invited to participate in its realization!*

That’s really what Christ the King means, after all. When we speak of the “kingdom of God,” what we’re really talking about is a world, a reality, in which God’s reign, God’s *will*, is done. In this work of “kingdom building”—works of mercy, service, love, and forgiveness—we are called in faith to be the very hands and feet of Jesus in this world. I thank God for the countless ways this church, as individuals and as a congregation as a whole, joyfully participates in this mission. So this month is far from “ordinary!” We look back to the lives of those who have gone before and are inspired and driven on by the faithfulness of their witness. We look forward in hope to Christ’s return, and are bolstered in our conviction that God really is making all things new. And, as we do, we joyously proclaim that Christ is King, as we faithfully follow our calling to be his hands and feet in bringing the Kingdom of God a little more at hand, here, and now.

## Friendsgiving

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual **Friendsgiving Coffee Hour** following worship service on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Care and Fellowship will be providing the turkey and gravy. Attendees are asked to bring in their favorite side dish and/or dessert to add to the table.

### VETERAN'S DAY 2025



# HOPE DINING ROOM

*Submitted by Jeanne Hastings*

We had another great Friday at Hope Dining Room, and it was wonderful having Pastor Myles back with us. We served pulled barbeque chicken, green bean casserole, diced pears, chips, and cookies/brownies provided by Susan Brook, and a chocolate cake made by Kay Wood. We served 40+ guests. We look forward to serving again in November.

Much appreciation to our team: Susan Brook, Lillian Crispin, Pastor Myles, Rosi White, Jeanne Hastings, Kay Wood, Ruth Crump and Kay Brook.



## Welcome Back Potluck for Pastor Myles and Family

Thanks to everyone who brought a dish for our Welcome Back Potluck. Everything was delicious and no one left hungry—that's for sure!

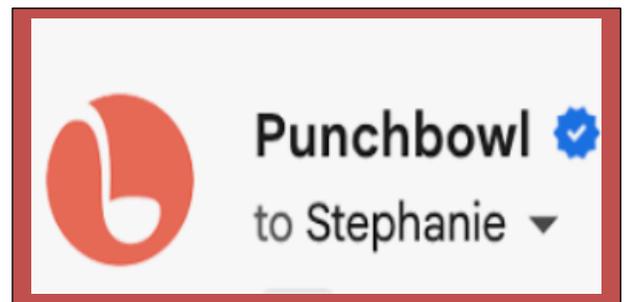
You will all have to take my word about how much fun we had because I forgot—once again—to take pictures.

If anyone would like to take on the job of “event photographer,” it would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you're interested.



Rev. David Jones has shared an alert to all NCP members regarding an ongoing scam. The "**Punchbowl email scam**" is a phishing attempt that uses fake event invitations to steal your personal information, often by redirecting you to a fake login page. These emails can be convincing because they come from a compromised email address of a friend or family member and may not have obvious signs of a scam, such as bad grammar., etc. Punchbowl is a legitimate corporation and has been phished for this scam. If you do not recognize the email address (assess the full address in parentheses beyond the name):

1. Do not click on any links
  2. **MARK** the email as Spam in your inbox
  3. Change your email password immediately
- Stay alert, friends!**





## *Faith and Film Series* **Holiday Edition!**

**Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church**  
1100 W Church Rd., Newark, DE

**December 6, 2025**

**Pre-film Talk: 1:45 PM**

**Screening: 2:00 PM**

Join us for the Holiday installment of the Faith and Film Series at Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. This event is free of charge, and we will be providing popcorn and soft drinks. Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy a timeless classic in good company!

The screening will be preceded by an introduction from Pastor Myles Thompson.

For more information, email  
[myles.thompson328@gmail.com](mailto:myles.thompson328@gmail.com)

### *About the Film*

*It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)

Frank Capra, director

Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) is a heartfelt tale of redemption, hope, and the power of community. On Christmas Eve, overwhelmed by despair, George Bailey believes the world would be better off without him—until an angel named Clarence reveals how deeply his life has blessed others.

Through this moving journey, George discovers that even in our darkest moments, grace can break through, reminding us that every life is precious and that no one is beyond the reach of hope.



# THANKSGIVING TABLE

*This year our Thanksgiving Table food collection in November will support the Delaware Food Bank. Place your donations in the cart in the sanctuary.*

*To provide the most balanced Thanksgiving meals, the following items are requested for donation by Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Canned Fruit/Veggies, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy  
Bags/boxes of Stuffing, Canned Meals (soups, stews, chili, etc.)  
(for days beyond Thanksgiving)*

*Bags/boxes of Starchy Sides  
(potatoes, rice, pasta, etc.)*

**Bring fresh items in on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

***Fresh** potatoes (sweet, white), squash,  
or other **fresh** veggies.*

*Thank you for your  
support and generosity!*

## SESSION MEMBERS

There are three copies of the 2025-26 Presbyterian Planning Calendars left if anyone on Session needs one. Let me know. Please contact Nancy in the church office via email at: [nancy.hoc@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.hoc@outlook.com)



**Our food collection results for September...  
Great job everyone!!! Thanks for your generosity and support!**

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

Gobble Gobble!

DRESSING  
 FAMILY  
 FOOTBALL  
 FRIENDS  
 GATHERING  
 GOBBLE  
 GRAVY  
 MASHED  
 MEMORIES  
 POTATOES  
 SHARE  
 SUPPER  
 THANKSGIVING  
 TURKEY





# Thanksgiving Word Scramble

ntnkavshgiig \_\_\_\_\_

utraiedtg \_\_\_\_\_

sevhtra \_\_\_\_\_

lssesgbni \_\_\_\_\_

orcoucniap \_\_\_\_\_

ndiinsa \_\_\_\_\_

rlipsimg \_\_\_\_\_

oembenrv \_\_\_\_\_

pkpmnui \_\_\_\_\_

snftgfui \_\_\_\_\_

hftnkual \_\_\_\_\_

tratdiino \_\_\_\_\_

rkteuy \_\_\_\_\_

fstea \_\_\_\_\_

ahgetr \_\_\_\_\_

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# HOC CALENDAR — November Happenings



Sun	Nov 02	11:00am	All Saints Day
Wed	Nov 05	1:00pm	Hygge
Tues	Nov 11	11:30am	Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's
Wed	Nov 12	1:00pm	Hygge
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Nov 12</b>		<b>LOOKING TREE DEADLINE</b>
Thu	Nov 13	7p-9pm	Christine Manor Civic Assoc. using F H
Sun	Nov 16	12:15pm	Friendsgiving Coffee Hour
Sat	Nov 22	10-12:00pm	Crafting To-Gather
Thur	Nov 27		<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>
Sun	Dec 01		1st Sunday of Advent



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**

Turn clocks back one hour Nov. 2nd



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- Nov 2 Andre Marianiello
- Nov 13 Melissa Witt
- Nov 26 Linda Dunn
- Nov 28 Landon Gill
- Nov 29 Lillian Crispin

