



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here... **MARCH 2026**

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Myles Thompson

In 2026, an unusual and beautiful convergence is unfolding on the calendar. The Christian season of Lent, the Muslim observance of Ramadan, and the celebrations of Chinese New Year are overlapping in ways that invite reflection, curiosity, and deeper neighborly love. Though rooted in different histories and beliefs, each of these sacred times carries themes of renewal, discipline, family, generosity, and hope.

Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday and leads us toward Easter, is a 40-day journey of prayer, fasting, and repentance. Christians remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness and are invited to examine our own hearts, turn away from what distracts us from God, and prepare to celebrate the resurrection with renewed joy. It is a season marked by simplicity, self-denial, and acts of mercy.

At nearly the same time, Muslims around the world are observing Ramadan, the holiest month in Islam. During Ramadan, believers fast from dawn to sunset, devote themselves to prayer, read the Qur'an, and practice generosity toward those in need. The fast is broken each evening with iftar, often shared with family and neighbors. Like Lent, Ramadan is a time of spiritual focus, self-discipline, and compassion.

Meanwhile, many families across the globe are celebrating Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. Marking the beginning of the lunar new year in places such as China and throughout the Chinese diaspora, this festival centers on reunion dinners, honoring ancestors, giving red envelopes, and welcoming good fortune for the year ahead. Each year is associated with one of the animals of the Chinese zodiac (we are in the year of the horse!), and the season emphasizes renewal, gratitude, and hope.

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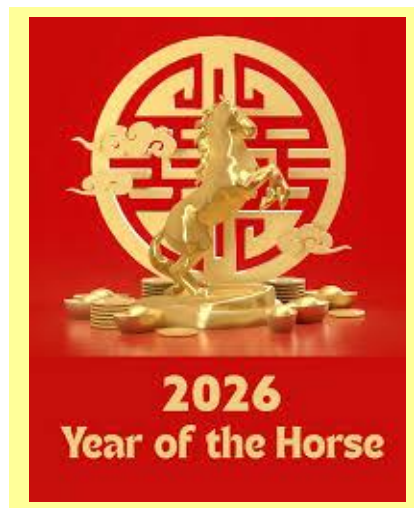
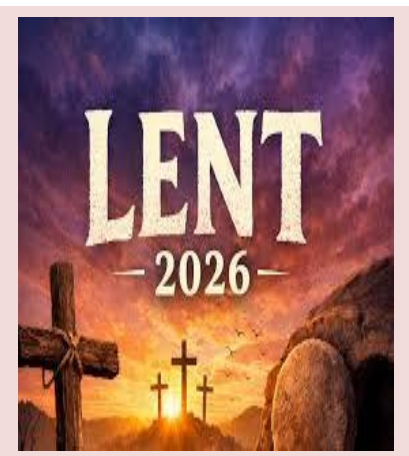
At first glance, these observances may seem quite different. Lent is penitential and quiet; Ramadan balances fasting with nightly celebration; Chinese New Year bursts with color, lanterns, and fireworks. Yet, beneath the surface, we find shared human longings. All three invite people to step out of ordinary routines. All three call for intentional practices—whether fasting, praying, reconciling, giving, or gathering at the table. And, all three remind us that time itself can be a sacred space.

For Christians, this overlap is an opportunity. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and we cannot love well if we do not notice and honor what is meaningful to them. When we see Muslim neighbors fasting during Ramadan, we might respond with respect and kindness, or even good-natured curiosity. When friends celebrate the Lunar New Year, we can offer greetings and learn about their traditions. An intentional curiosity can foster quite the opportunity for dialogue, and the establishment or deepening of existing relationships.

There is also something profoundly hopeful in this convergence. In a world often marked by division, the calendar this year weaves together seasons of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing across cultures. It's as if the rhythms of humanity are briefly harmonizing: prayer rising in churches and mosques, families gathering around tables, candles and lanterns glowing against late-winter skies.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we give thanks for the rich tapestry of faith and culture that weaves together the beauty of God's creation. May our fasting lead to generosity, our repentance to reconciliation, and our worship to wider love for God and neighbor. And may this rare overlap of sacred seasons remind us that God is always at work—across traditions, across neighborhoods, and across the turning of the year—calling all people toward renewal and peace.

Pastor Myles



HoC EASTER SERVICES

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 5, 2026

HoC will once again be hosting our **Community Sunrise Service**.
(weather permitting) in the cemetery at 7:00am.

Service will be led by various Christian ecumenical partners.

Following the sunrise service, everyone is invited to our
Fellowship Hall for a Continental Pot-Luck Breakfast
(sponsored by the Worship Commission).
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!



HoC will also have a **Traditional Easter worship service** in the
sanctuary at 11:00am. This service will be **live-streamed** for those
who cannot attend in person.



Ushers & Greeters Ministry



Helping Hands are needed for this easy way to offer your service to our Lord. Handing out bulletins, assisting worshippers if needed, and greeting fellow worshippers is a joyful way to serve for about an hour before service begins. Your cheerful smile and welcoming handshake can make all the difference in creating a welcoming church and a true “sanctuary.”

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex so you can add your name to help us fill vacant Sundays. Don't hesitate to sign up more than once—we need help all year! We are truly grateful for those who donate their time, energy, and cheerful smiles! What better way to start the day?!

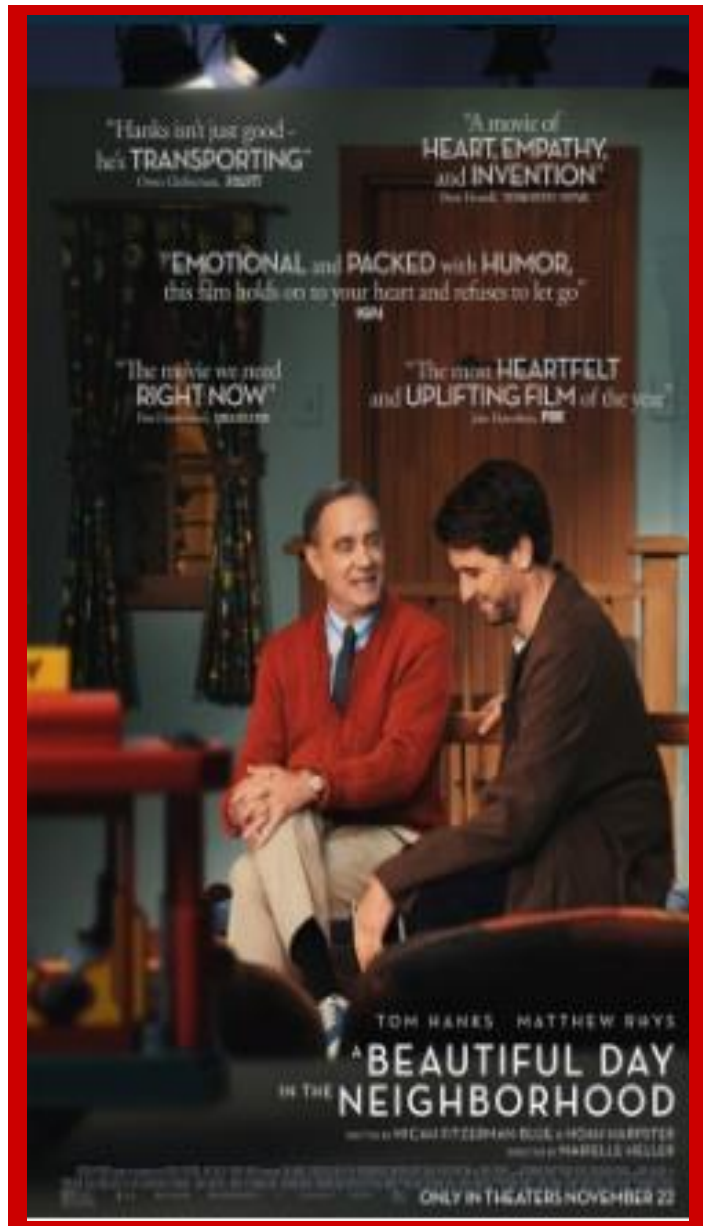


SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

photos by Jeanne Hastings



Faith and Film Series



Faith and Film Series

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

March 28, 2026

Screening: 1:00 PM

Join us for our 3rd 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 an opportunity for fun, fellowship, discussion, and a great movie experience!

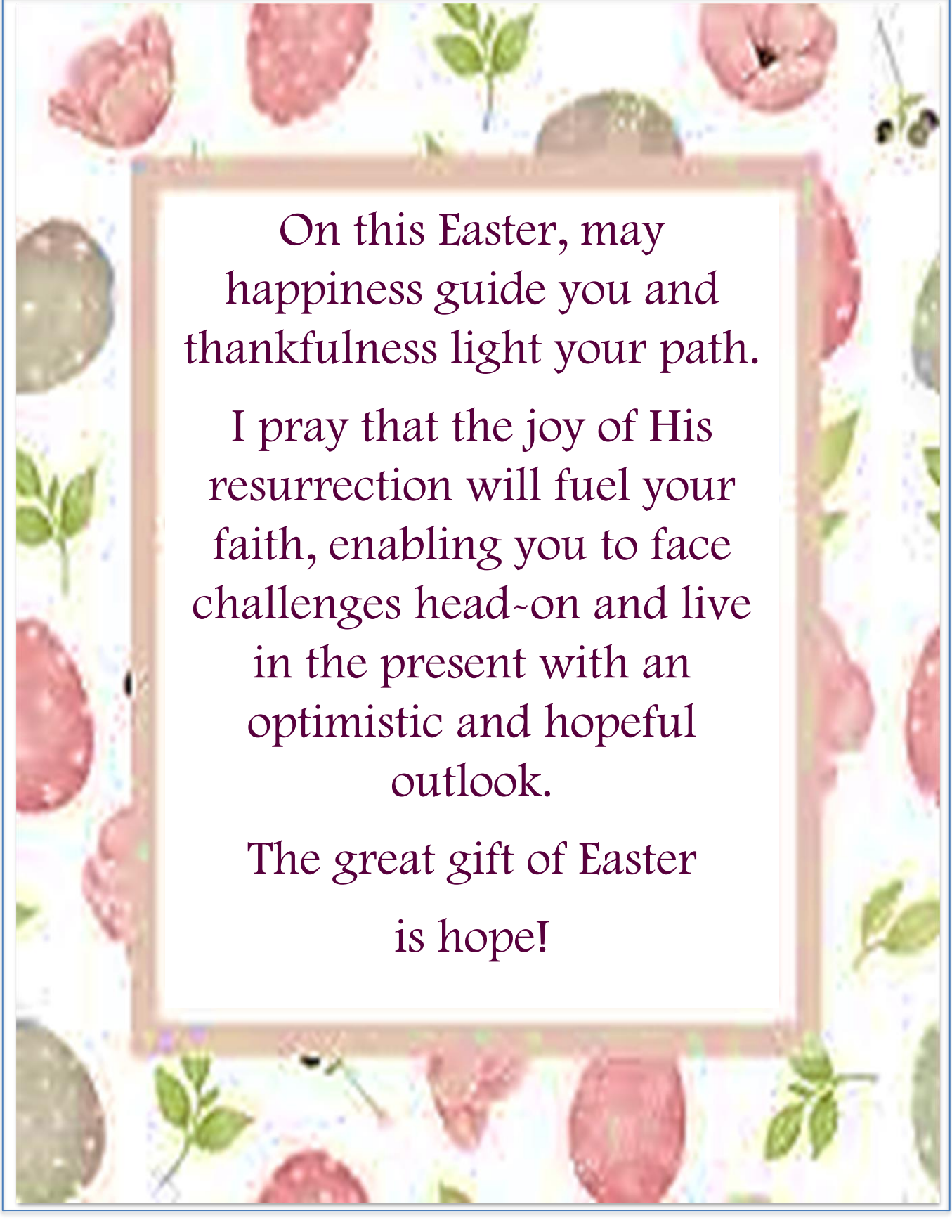
For more information, email myles.thompson328@gmail.com

About the Film

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019)

Marielle Heller, director

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood is a heartfelt drama inspired by the real-life friendship between journalist Tom Junod and beloved children's television host Fred Rogers. Directed by Marielle Heller and starring Tom Hanks as Mister Rogers, the film follows a skeptical reporter assigned to profile Rogers, only to find his own wounds and questions gently brought into the light through Rogers' patient, compassionate presence. With warmth and emotional depth, the movie explores themes of forgiveness, vulnerability, reconciliation, and the transformative power of kindness. Both tender and thought-provoking, it invites viewers to reflect on what it means to love our neighbors—and how small acts of grace can become channels of healing.

A decorative border featuring various flowers and greenery, including tulips, daisies, and leaves, surrounding a central white text box with a light brown border.

On this Easter, may
happiness guide you and
thankfulness light your path.

I pray that the joy of His
resurrection will fuel your
faith, enabling you to face
challenges head-on and live
in the present with an
optimistic and hopeful
outlook.

The great gift of Easter
is hope!

Mark Your Calendar

Care & Fellowship



Friday, March 20

5:30pm

In Fellowship Hall

Bring snacks. Beverages will be provided.

Bring a friend or two.



REMINDER: LOOKING TREE DEADLINE IS
TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Object of worship
5. Get a glimpse of
8. Go for a dip
12. Fork prong
13. Opposing vote
14. Jack rabbit
15. December 24th and December 31st
16. Previously, to poets
17. Shaped like an egg
18. Untidy condition
19. Everyone
20. Penny
21. Acorn tree
23. Bible boat
25. Prayer responses
28. Blaze residue
29. Waiter's bonus
32. Boy
33. Like the skin of a person with chicken pox
35. Boxing's Muhammad
36. Magazine fillers
37. Small, round speck
38. Syrup-producing tree
40. That woman
41. Do a tailor's job
42. Father
45. Negative word

47. Highest point
51. Puts to work
52. Big fuss
53. Highway
54. Shopper's memory aid
55. Dress in
56. Rounded roof
57. Behind schedule
58. Mine extraction
59. Reach across

DOWN

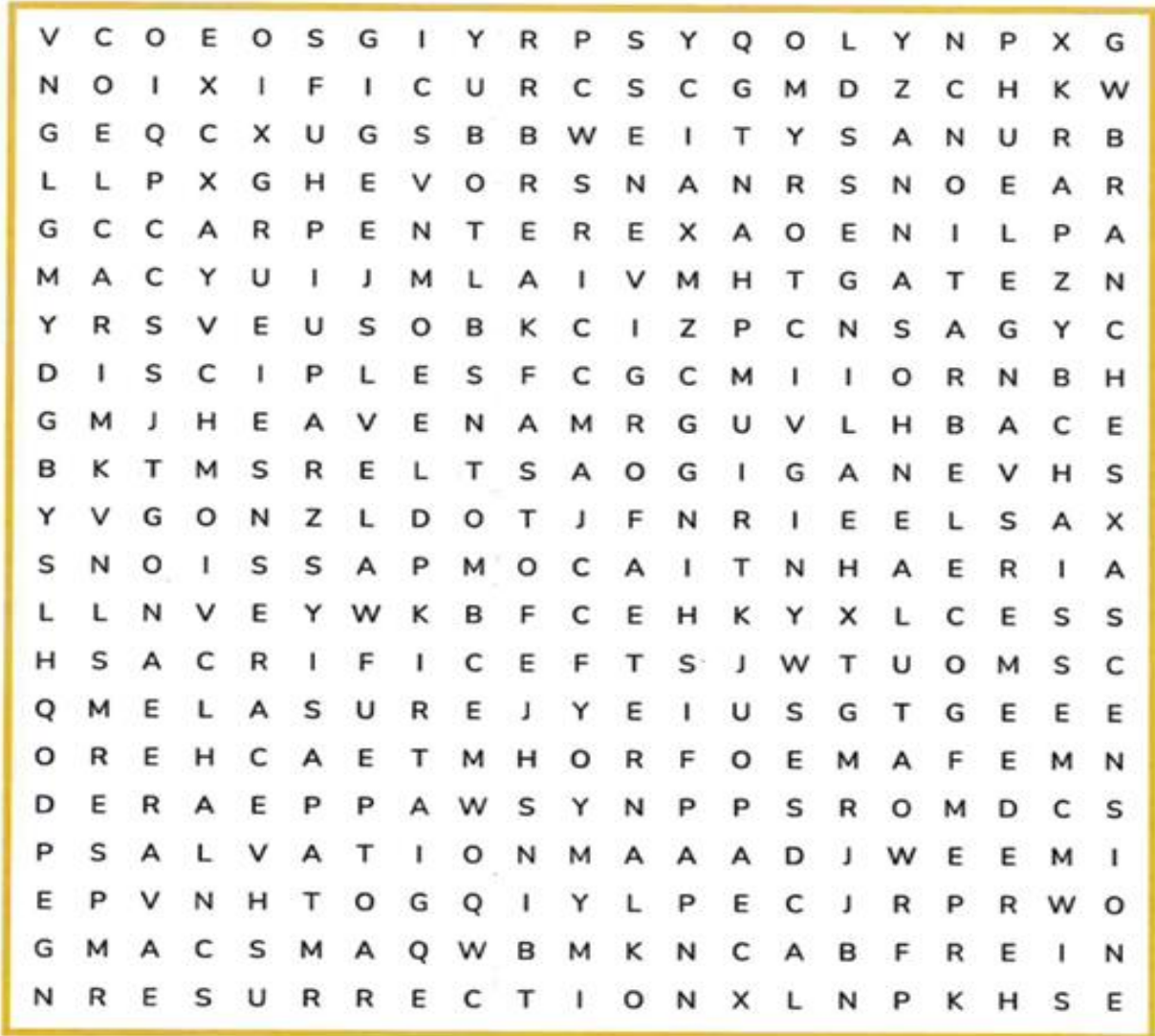
1. Article on a 54-Across
2. Do a jackknife
3. Small bills
4. Something to be learned

5. Move so a not to be seen
6. British nobleman
7. Mascara target
8. Extreme surprise
9. Surfer's quest
10. Persia, today
11. Dissolve
22. Out of the way
24. Verse feature, sometimes
25. Like: 2 wds.
26. Angry
27. Sullivan and Asner
28. Play a role
29. Knock softly
30. Not in good health

31. Dessert pastry
34. Twister
39. Prizes
40. "_____ makes waste!"
41. Small rock
42. Word on a door handle
43. China's locale
44. Tiny trouble-maker
46. Smell
48. Chicken house
49. Mate for 42-Across
50. Adam and Eve's home

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | |
| | | | 21 | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | 28 | | | | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 | | | | 33 | 34 | | | | | 35 | | |
| 36 | | | | 37 | | | | 38 | 39 | | | |
| | | | 40 | | | | 41 | | | | | |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | | | 45 | 46 | | | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 51 | | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | |
| 54 | | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | | |
| 57 | | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | | |

Word Search Puzzle



RESURRECTION
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
CELEBRATION
FORGIVENESS
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
TRIUMPHANT
HOSANNA
PALM

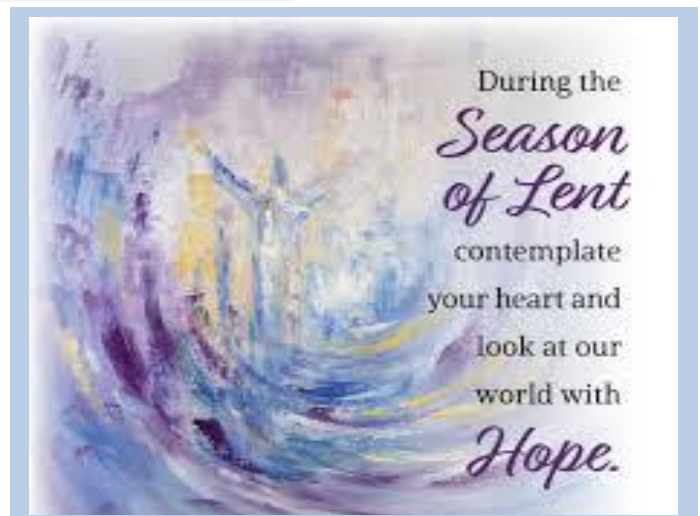
BRANCHES
JERUSALEM
GARDEN
TOMB
ANGEL
MIRACLE
APPEARED
APOSTLES
FISHING
BREAKFAST

ASCENSION
HEAVEN
VICTORY
ETERNAL
REDEEMER
MESSIAH
CARPENTER
TEACHER
HEALING
COMPASSION



HOC CALENDAR — March Happenings

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|----|---------|---|
| Wednesday | Mar | 04 | 1:00pm | Hygge (also meeting on Mar. 11, 18, 25) |
| Monday | Mar | 09 | 7:00pm | Session |
| Tuesday | Mar | 10 | 11:30am | Nifty Wifty's @ Wesley's |
| Friday | Mar | 13 | 12:00pm | Hope Dining Room |
| Friday | Mar | 20 | 5:30pm | C & F Bingo Night |
| Wednesday | Mar | 26 | 1:00pm | Care & Fellowship Meeting |
| Saturday | Mar | 28 | 1:00pm | Faith in Film Series |
| Sunday | Mar | 29 | 11:00am | Palm Sunday Worship Service |



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| April 3 | Linda Huffman | April 19 | Branch Murray |
| April 6 | Vince Marianiello | April 23 | Leo Marianiello |
| April 9 | Aileen Burmeister | April 28 | Abigail Condliffe |
| April 15 | Ed Cairns | April 29 | Susan Brook |

