



The Looking Tree

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

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Myles Thompson

After an unusually harsh winter, springtime is finally upon us! For as long as I can remember, spring has always been my favorite time of year. Even as a child, I preferred it to summer (even summers off from school!). Maybe part of that was because my birthday lands just one week after the start of spring. But even as a young boy, I sensed there was something magical about a time when the dead land seemed to burst with explosions of new life in vibrant colors.

Witnessing this blossoming of new life has been especially meaningful for me this year, as we settle into our new home and enjoy our surroundings. There is a kind of magic in beholding the wonder of your young children as they delight in a tree in bloom, a rabbit that hops by and scurries under the shed, all to the soundtrack of the chirping of the birds.



The church recently gifted me some potted tulips to celebrate my birthday, and I'm embarrassed to say I've only just now realized how they work, and how utterly symbolic and meaningful they are this time of year. The flower dies, the bulb dries out and is buried deep, waiting out months in the ground and cold, cold winter, only to blossom forth once again. They are a visible (and beautiful) reminder of the faith we proclaim: death is but a passing moment, a necessary step on the way to new life. On Good Friday the crucified Jesus is buried in the tomb; on Easter Sunday he leaves the tomb empty. We will celebrate his triumph over sin and death this coming Sunday, and we proclaim him to be the first fruits of the new creation, with his resurrection providing the assurance of our own ultimate resurrection and fellowship with God.

But this pattern of new life is not restricted to some future, eschatological fulfilment at the end of time. Rather, it provides a template for the kind of life Jesus invites us to in the present: resurrection *now*; new life *now*. Easter gives us the hope that new life is possible. That we can put the *old* of enmity, strife, anxiety, and self-centeredness to death, and take up the *new* of unity, peace, assurance, and community. We can choose love free from fear. As Jesus himself might put it, life "more abundant." And in so doing, we partner with Christ, participating in the ongoing work of resurrection in the world today, that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven, bringing the Kingdom of God ever closer by *being* the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Pastor Myles



HoC EASTER SERVICES

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2 at 6:30pm

Rock Presbyterian Church, 30 Rock Church Rd., Elkton, MD
(off Route 273 in Fair Hill)—in the Church House

Good Friday Hour of Reflection

Friday, April 3 from 12:00-1:00pm

Sanctuary, Head of Christiana Church
Sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection.



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5, 2026



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

Following the sunrise service, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a **Continental 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. It will be followed with a Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall.

HOPE DINING ROOM

Submitted by Jeanne Hastings

On March 13th—not an auspicious date—we served at Hope Dining Room. There are no photos because we were too busy serving meals. We had arranged to have 3 volunteers from a UD group come to help, but they all called in sick that morning so we were scrambling. Luckily Steve Hastings was available to help out. We served our current menu of BBQ chicken on a bun plus leftover sloppy joes from Elkton Community Kitchen. We had chips/cheese curls (also left over from ECK), applesauce, green bean casserole and cupcakes (supplied by the UD group). We served 69 meals and everything was delicious. We are planning that the University group will be able to help in April. Fingers crossed!



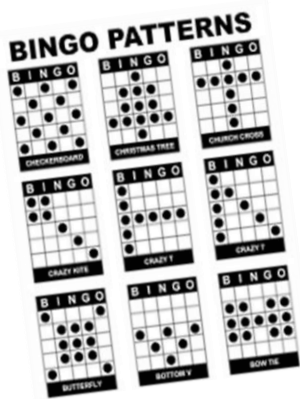
On Sunday, March 22nd, our choir presented "*Ave Verum Corpus*," a piece composed by W. A. Mozart.

Pastor Myles joined the choir contributing his bass vocals to the beautiful performance.

HoC BINGO NIGHT

A fun evening of Bingo was had by all who attended. Pastor Myles was looking particularly fancy in his “coat of many colors”.

We played many different variations of bingo and had lots of winners. The prizes were a fine collection of the congregation’s cast-offs. Stay tuned for our next bingo event and you might be a big winner, too.



Annual Bay Retreat

Kinship, Collaboration & Celebration!

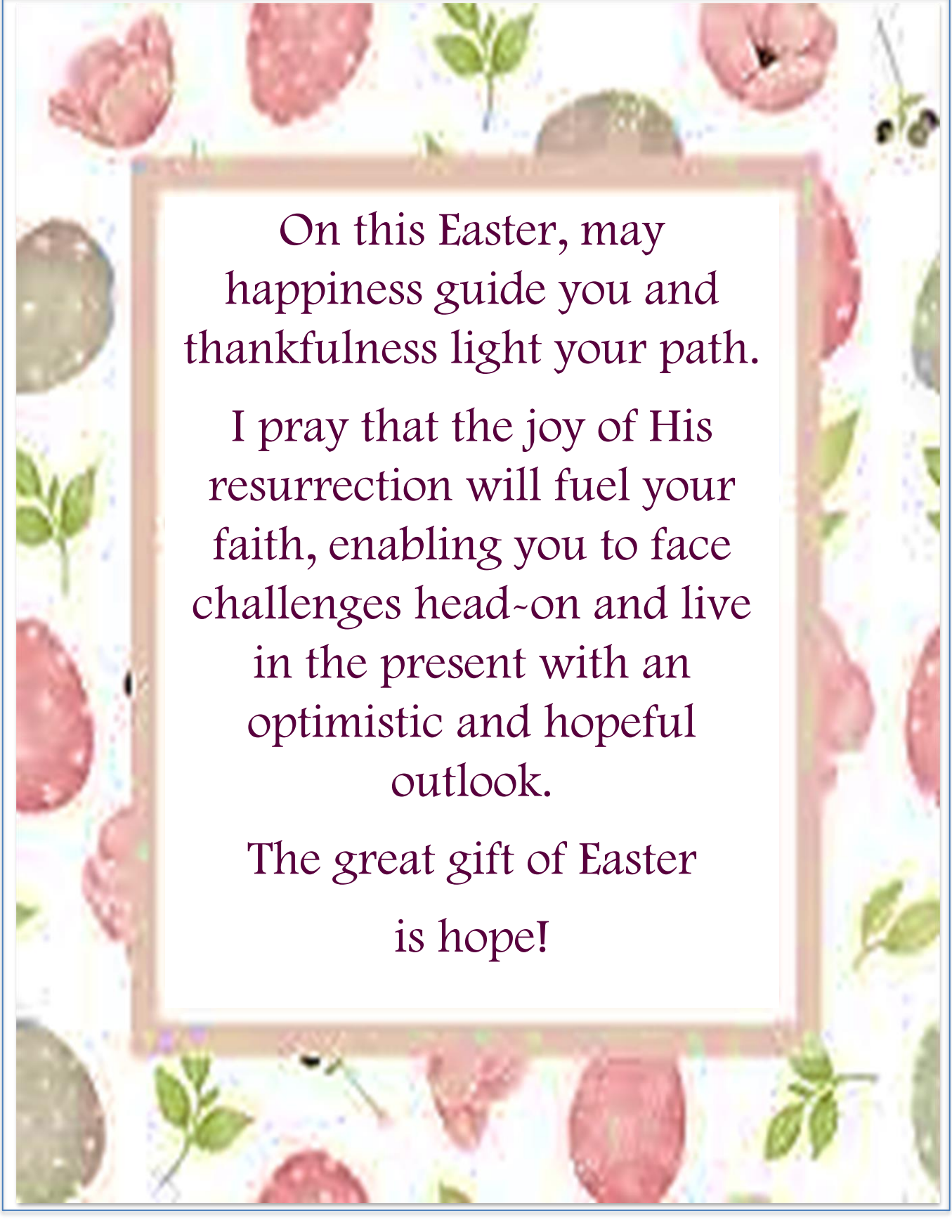
On March 5th to March 7th, Pastor Myles, Katie Gillespie and Debbie Reeves traveled to Dewey Beach for the New Castle Presbytery 2026 Bay Retreat. The theme this year was *Kinship, Collaboration and Celebration*. There were 80 participants representing 30 churches.

This year's retreat included worship within every plenary with renewal of baptism, renewal of covenant and communion. Worship Leader, Rev. Dr. Mark Parsons (Pres. Church of Dover) and the "Presbytery Pickups" worship team shepherded us with passion and praise .

The picture below is HoC's model of our church. We were to use the medium that was supplied. Our vision was building a strong foundation using sticks, pipe cleaners, sticky dots and fuzzy balls of different shapes and colors. Even though we do not have a steeple, Myles did erect one. Our statement being: *A strong Church, open and welcoming. Consisting of a varied congregation.* Not bad for 30 minutes work.

It was wonderful sharing "*Kinship, Collaborating, and Celebrating*" with other churches. When returning home, I felt a sense of wanting to share new and exciting things I have heard being successful with our Congregation. Next year's date is March 4th to March 6th. Hope you can go!!





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!

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

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 as 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

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Word Search Puzzle



Easter
WORD SEARCH

FIND THE HIDDEN EASTER RELATED WORDS.
THE WORDS CAN BE HORIZONTAL, VERTICAL AND
DIAGONAL. THE LETTERS THAT ARE LEFT OVER,
FORM A HIDDEN MESSAGE!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BASKET BLOOM BONNET BUMBLEBEES BUNNY CELEBRATIONS CROCUS DAFFODILS DECORATE DUCKLING EASTER EGG HUNT FAMILY HAPPY EASTER HOT CROSS BUNS JELLY BEANS LAMB LILY MARSHMALLOWS PALM SUNDAY RABBIT TRADITIONS 	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>S</td><td>Y</td><td>T</td><td>B</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>C</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td>O</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>L</td><td>R</td><td>N</td><td>T</td><td>Y</td><td>S</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>W</td><td>O</td><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>S</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>H</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>B</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>U</td><td>I</td><td>C</td><td>E</td><td>U</td><td>C</td><td>W</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>I</td><td>D</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>B</td><td>I</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>B</td><td>U</td><td>B</td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td>O</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>B</td><td>S</td><td>A</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>Y</td><td>G</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>F</td></tr> <tr><td>I</td><td>C</td><td>M</td><td>U</td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>O</td><td>S</td><td>P</td><td>L</td><td>G</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>U</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>Y</td><td>O</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>L</td><td>E</td><td>B</td><td>A</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>R</td><td>O</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>B</td><td>R</td><td>P</td><td>E</td><td>Y</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>R</td><td>M</td><td>F</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>Y</td><td>C</td><td>L</td><td>K</td><td>P</td><td>U</td><td>J</td><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>H</td><td>F</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>T</td><td>B</td><td>L</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>G</td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>T</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>O</td><td>I</td><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>B</td><td>N</td><td>H</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>R</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>H</td><td>B</td><td>B</td><td>B</td><td>M</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>E</td><td>A</td><td>A</td><td>O</td><td>A</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>G</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td>L</td><td>K</td><td>C</td><td>U</td><td>D</td><td>S</td><td>K</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>N</td><td>M</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>P</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>M</td><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>N</td><td>D</td><td>A</td><td>Y</td><td>S</td><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	T	E	A	S	Y	T	B	E	R	C	S	I	S	T	Y	R	H	E	O	T	N	O	N	L	R	N	T	Y	S	L	A	E	T	I	I	M	N	E	W	O	A	N	N	S	I	D	H	T	E	B	N	N	U	I	C	E	U	C	W	M	I	D	T	S	B	I	E	S	B	U	B	H	E	O	A	T	E	B	S	A	A	T	F	E	S	Y	G	L	L	F	I	C	M	U	R	E	T	O	S	P	L	G	E	L	D	O	O	O	U	M	T	Y	O	A	T	L	E	B	A	A	N	R	O	L	L	B	R	P	E	Y	E	R	R	M	F	S	A	L	O	Y	C	L	K	P	U	J	E	A	H	F	R	T	B	L	T	E	S	E	G	A	G	T	T	S	O	S	E	I	O	I	A	N	O	B	N	H	S	I	R	D	E	L	H	B	B	B	M	A	L	E	A	A	O	A	I	G	N	I	L	K	C	U	D	S	K	E	E	N	M	L	E	P	A	L	M	S	U	N	D	A	Y	S	S	T	S
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HOC CALENDAR — April Happenings

Friday	Apr	03	12-1pm	Sanctuary open for prayers and reflection
Friday	Apr	03	6:30pm	Good Friday Service, 1 st Presbyterian Newark
Sunday	Apr	05	7:00am	Easter Sunrise Service, HoC Cemetery Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Apr	05	11:00am	Traditional Easter Service
Tuesday	Apr	14	11:30am	Nifty Wifty's @ Wesley's
Tuesday	Apr	14		LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Monday	Apr	20	6:30pm	Session



*** Choir Practice—Thursdays 7:30pm***



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

