



# The Looking Tree

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

MAY 2026

*Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,*



## FAMILY TALK



Pastor Myles Thompson

On March 31, the Session and I met with the Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl to discuss contracting with him to work with our congregation. Len is a retired Presbyterian minister, who also practiced as a clinical psychologist. In his “retirement,” Len has worked with churches in the Presbytery, custom tailoring programs to foster authentic conversation and begin a dialogue to identify and address any potential issues keeping them from flourishing. These programs have variously been described as fostering effective conflict resolution, fearless communication, or, as he has described in our case, “Health and Reconciliation.”

Our conversation was thought-provoking and fruitful, and we have judged that we would do well to work with Pastor Len. In an extended conversation after our initial consultation, Len identified our chief task as remembering our identity as a church, and our individual callings as members of that congregation. His work with us will include preaching twice, and conducting a series of approximately two-hour, small-group (5-7 people) discussions, after which he will prepare a report for us highlighting his observations and recommendations for us to flourish as a congregation. The key is YOUR contributions—this simply will not work without buy-in from you, the members, of Head of Christiana. While this may sound scary or uncomfortable, I promise that, if we go in with open minds and prepared to have frank and honest conversations, we will see positive results.

I know from which I speak. Pastor Len worked with First Presbyterian, Newark, when I was a member there, and helped the congregation work past lingering and unaddressed tensions, fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation in shared vision that has led to that congregation’s flourishing. If we’re willing to do the hard work of really listening to each other, I believe we can experience similar flourishing.

Our goal is not to become First Pres. On the contrary, Len helps churches discover what they’re really about, what they really need, and grow together into the finest version of themselves as the local body of Christ.

I am currently working out scheduling with Pastor Len, and I will communicate the relevant dates for this workshop as soon as I have them. In the meantime, I humbly ask as many members as possible (preferably, all members!) to attend one of these discussion sessions. Every voice matters, and we cannot fully appraise who we are if we’re not all present and contributing.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Myles

# A Mother's Love Is True Love

BY LEOTHA BROWN II

A mother's love is a wonderful love  
packaged from heaven with special care.

A mother's love is like no other love that you can compare.

A mother's love is purified by angels and flows directly from her soul.

A mother's love is justified by God,  
and by his hands he created the mold.

This mold that was shaped and fashioned by God  
has endured the test of time.

This mold that was taped and recorded by women  
rang out like a heavenly chime.

A mother's love is unconditional,  
and from her heart this can be told.

A mother's love is nutritional; it is the fruit that feeds our soul.

A mother's love 'IS' true love, and from her heart she cannot lie.

A mother's love is eternal, the kind that won't ever die.

A mother's love is the tie that binds, and her bond can never be broken.

A mother's love is branded in our hearts,  
even when her words aren't spoken.



To all the wonderful moms  
out there. The world is  
beautiful because of you.

# HoC HAPPENINGS



## News from Care & Fellowship



### Upcoming Events hosted by Care & Fellowship

May 10<sup>th</sup>—Mother's Day Coffee Hour

May 10<sup>th</sup>—Celebrating UD Choir Members Coffee Hour  
(those who are graduating and those who will be back)

Co-hosted by our Worship Commission

Please join us for all of these special events and enjoy  
good food and good fellowship.

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# HoC HAPPENINGS

## HoC DIRECTORY

Starting on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending on May 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a copy of the current HoC Directory on the table in the Narthex.

Please check your address, phone number and email information, and change it if it needs updating.

The new HoC Directory will be published in June.

*Thank you!*



HoC

DIRECTORY

*"Love Lives Here, . . .*

*Love Flows from Here"*



# HoC HAPPENINGS

*submitted by Jeanne Hastings*

## Hope Dining Room in April

We had a very successful day, serving lunch at Hope Dining Room this month. We served our current standard menu—pulled chicken BBQ on rolls, green bean casserole, applesauce, and chips. Dessert was provided by the UD group—Baking Wishes—as well as providing 3 delightful volunteers—Maya, Audrey and Sophia. They had helped out a couple of the other serving groups so once given their assignments, they were off and running. They stayed and ate lunch with us and it was fun to get to know them a bit better. Hopefully they will be able to help out again in May.



# HoC HAPPENINGS



Our June issue of The Looking Tree always features a page that recognizes our recent graduates.

If you have any graduates in your family, please send me their name, their relationship to you, the name of the school they're graduating from, any awards, honors, or special recognition they received, the name of the school they're moving on to, or the company they'll be employed at.

Please have your information to me no later than **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** so it can be included in our June issue. Email me at [nancy.hoc@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.hoc@outlook.com)



# HoC HAPPENINGS

**Save  
the  
Date**

## CONCERT UNDER THE TREES

Mark your calendars now...

**Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00pm is the date of our summer concert featuring Newark Community Band. Make sure you bring a chair so you can sit comfortably, and bring a friend or two to join in the fun.**

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**MAY 3 – MAY 24**

**Watch for the special offering envelopes that will be placed in the pews.**

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

**Pentecost is May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

1. Tree fluid
4. Metal containers
8. Any item used onstage
12. In the style of: 2 wds.
13. On
14. Molten rock
15. Humorous person
16. \_\_\_\_\_ on, adore
17. High cards
18. List article

20. Prepares food (for a party)
22. Bed linens
24. Frozen water
25. Musical sounds
26. Baseball club
27. "What person?"
30. Insects that live in hills
31. Buddy
32. Region
33. "Affirmative!"
34. Hot drink
35. Kilt fold
36. Pod veggie
37. Explodes
38. 42-Across nuts

41. Opposite of west
42. Egg-shaped
43. Actor Alda
45. Near the ground
48. Become weary
49. Number after eight
50. Ram's mate
51. Winter toy
52. Exam
53. Color of a stop sign

5. Small particles
6. "Believe it or \_\_\_\_\_"
7. Extraordinary
8. Dinner dish
9. Run fast
10. Above
11. Overtake (a car on the highway)
19. Golf pegs
21. Play a role
22. Remain
23. Sharpen
26. 50-Across's call
27. Hulk Hogan or The Rock
28. Great warmth
29. Feedbag morsels
31. Laborer
32. "Woe is me!"
34. Number after 49-Across
35. Venus, for one
36. Faded
37. Mexican-food staple
38. Kitchen vessels
39. Sinful
40. Feel deeply (for)
44. Tell a fib
46. Have debts
47. Marry

## DOWN

1. Carpenter's cutting tool
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Baba
3. Hospital "customers"
4. West Point students

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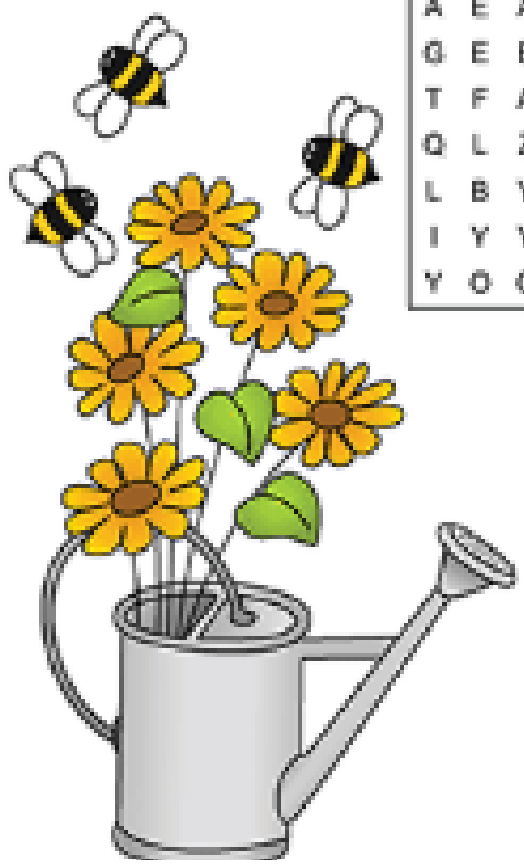
# Word Search Puzzle

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

## MERRY MONTH OF MAY

### Word Search

- BASEBALL
- BLOSSOM
- BUMBLEBEE
- BUTTERFLY
- CINCO DE MAYO
- FLOWERS



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|--------------|--------------|
| GARDEN       | MOTHER'S DAY |
| GEMINI       | PIÑATA       |
| GREEN        | PLANT        |
| LADYBUG      | SEEDS        |
| LAWNMOWER    | SPRING       |
| MAYPOLE      | SUNSHINE     |
| MEMORIAL DAY | TAURUS       |
| MOM          | TEACHER      |

# HOC CALENDAR — May Happenings



|      |        |                              |  |
|------|--------|------------------------------|--|
| Weds | May 06 | 1:00pm                       | Hygge  |
| Fri  | May 08 | 12:00pm                      | Hope Dining Room   |
| Mon  | May 11 | 7:00pm                       | Session  |
| Sun  | May 10 | 12:1:00pm                    | Happy Mother's Day Coffee Hour<br>and Choir Recognition Sunday |
| Tue  | May 12 | 11:30am                      | Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's  |
| Tue  | May 12 | <b>LOOKING TREE DEADLINE</b> |  |
| Wed  | May 13 | 1:00pm                       | Hygge  |
| Sat  | May 16 | 12-4pm                       | Houses of Hope Tour  |
| Wed  | May 20 | 1:00pm                       | Hygge  |
| Sun  | May 24 | 11:00am                      | Pentecost Sunday (Wear red)                                    |
| Wed  | May 27 | 1:00pm                       | Hygge  |



## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- May 1 Christine Sutton
- May 9 Jeanne Hastings
- May 27 Bill Witt

