



The Looking Tree

Love lives here, Love flows from here...

August 2026

Hello Members and Friends of Head of Christiana,



Pastor Myles Thompson

As you may know, we were blessed to spend a week in Rehoboth Beach for our vacation this summer, arriving the evening of Sunday, July 5th, just in time for the fireworks on the beach marking the city's 4th of July celebrations. We eagerly set up our blanket in the sand some fifteen minutes before the display expecting a spectacle, which is precisely what we got, though not in the way you might expect. Something must have gone wrong in the set-up, because as the fireworks started, the beach immediately filled with



smoke. The display itself was truly something to behold, at least from our vantage point facing south. About half of the fireworks, on the ocean-side, were visible, but the shore-side half of the display was completely obscured by a thick and ever-thickening column of smoke. My understanding is that, viewed from town of further inland, all you could see was the smoke. It was undoubtedly the most bizarre and comically amusing fireworks shows I've ever seen. Jokes abounded from the crowd. *"I love the smell of napalm in the morning!"* one spectator cried, quoting the film *Apocalypse Now*. *"More Smoke! More Smoke! More Smoke!"* cheered another onlooker. The general atmosphere was not one of disappointment so much as the sense of watching someone fall on their face (albeit harmlessly) in real-time.

Then my brother, who was able to visit a couple of days with us, turned to me and said, "well, Reverend, is that your pillar of fire and pillar of smoke?," referencing God's leading Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt. It was meant as a joke, and I took it as such, but reflecting back on it led me to consider something rather profound. Namely, the phenomenon wherein God's revelation is paradoxically wrapped up in God's mystery. The pillar of fire found within—but not contained by—the pillar of cloud, the smoke of thick darkness.

Cont'd...

We as Christians are of course grateful for God's self-revelation in scripture, and we affirm and meditate on the historic creeds of our tradition, and rightly so. Yet when we rest too secure in the familiar, in the scripted, in the doctrinal, we run the risk of letting our certainty drive out mystery, and in so doing, we strip God of his transcendent majesty in an awkward attempt to tame him. As I've often said, a God that I could put in a box and fully understand wouldn't be much of a God worth believing in. Perhaps those smoked-over fireworks provide a perfect metaphor for how we should approach our knowledge of God, at least on this side of eternity: wholly other, obscured by clouds, as it were, yet somehow breaking through the mystery and across the transcendent divide to be made known to the world, most sublimely through putting on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. In leaving a little space in our systems of thought and practices for the mystery of God, we honor God's total freedom to be truly sovereign. In doing so, we just might also be freeing up space in our worldviews to be surprised by the unending goodness of our uncontainable, untamable God.

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:
Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

1 Corinthians 13:12

Pastor Myles



HoC HAPPENINGS

Care and Fellowship hosted our annual indoor picnic on Sunday, July 19th following worship. They provided a hot dog and baked beans casserole, beverages and dessert, and attendees brought in their favorite sides to complete the feast. Looks like everyone had a good time!



HoC HAPPENINGS



On Saturday, July 18, Lucy Marianiello emailed the following message to HoC members:

“We have some exciting news: My niece, Grace Biermann, will be competing on *Jeopardy!* on Tuesday, July 21! Her Mom, Lois, is my younger sister.

The show airs at different times in different markets, so you can check [here](#) to figure out the broadcast time and channel for your area. Episodes then appear on Disney+ and Hulu (and possibly Peacock) the next day. They remain on streaming services for a week.”

Those of us who watched were blown away that first night when Grace came in first winning over \$30,000! But the next night, she lost out to a guy who managed to find three Daily Doubles making very large wagers on his correct answers finishing ahead of the other two contestants.

But Grace was impressive throughout and we were thrilled to watch her two-night competition on this very popular...and very difficult...game show.

HoC HAPPENINGS



Cecil County Men's Shelter
Wayfarer House for Families & Women
Mary Randall Drop-in Day Center
Street Outreach
Winter Shelter
Rapid Rehousing Program

Dear Friends,

"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." This quote from C.S. Lewis is one of my favorites because it reminds us that on the other side of the struggles we face there is something better; something to make us stronger- something extraordinary. This feeling is particularly needed in the unsheltered community that we at Meeting Ground are called to serve- as we have done since 1981 and as we will continue to do.

But friends, I must share with you that this work is getting more challenging every day, some days- every moment. As we are all experiencing, there is a massive increase in cost of goods, services, and utilities. This year alone we have spent more than \$40,000 on utilities, quite an increase from previous years. We all see and hear of the struggle of the average American, increases in poverty, food scarcity, and homelessness. These battles come to Meeting Ground's doors every day. And now, to make matters more challenging, we have had our funding cut by over \$85,000; including our Veteran's Programs.

Meeting Ground has always been able to count on our caring community of supporters, like you; and we thank you for that. We are asking each member of community to help us by spreading the word that we are in need- share with friends and family so that they may make donations as well, check out our Amazon Needs list to help us offset the costs of operations. Speak out to local elected officials about the importance of caring for our unsheltered community. Be an advocate for those whose voices cannot or will not be heard.

For 45 years we have done this work, and we will continue to offer the care, compassion, and services that we are known for. With a community built on love and caring for all humans, we can keep fighting to create an extraordinary destiny.

With a grateful heart,


Dane Hutchinson
Executive Director



Scan
Here to
Support
Our
Mission

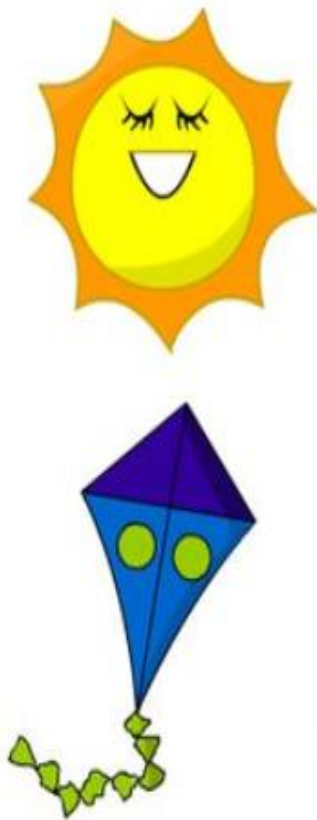
P.O. Box 808 Elkton MD 21922 Administrative Phone: (410) 620-3128 Email: info@meetingground.org

We received this letter from Meeting Ground on July 28th and it sounded like it was worth sharing with everyone here since they are one of our biggest missions.

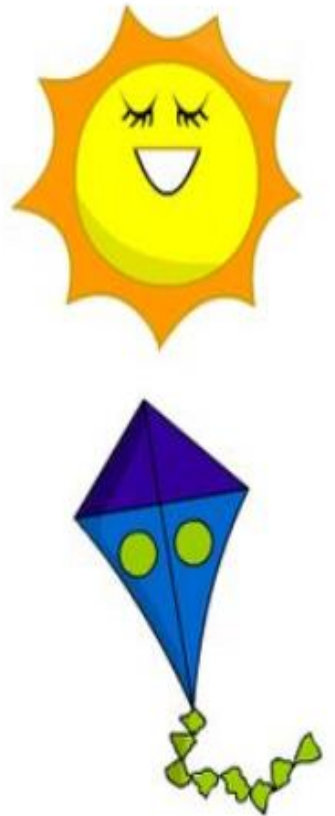
You can scan the QR code below or send in a check if you can help.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Summer Word Search Puzzle



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



1.BACKPACKING

2.BASEBALL

3.BOATING

4.BIKINI

5.CAMPING

6.FLOWERS

7.ICE CREAM

8.OCEAN

9.PICNIC

10.RELAX

11.SUN

12.HEAT

13.HOT

14.SANDALS

15.SWIM

16.TRAVEL

17.VACATION

18.WATERMELON

HOC CALENDAR — August Happenings

Wednesday	Aug 05	1:00pm	Hygge
Tuesday	Aug 11	11:30am	Nifty Wiftys @ Wesley's
Tuesday	Aug 11		LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Wednesday	Aug 12	1:00pm	Hygge
Saturday	Aug 15	5:30pm	C & F Bingo Night
Monday	Aug 17	7:00pm	Session (in Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	Aug 19	1:00pm	Hygge
Wednesday	Aug 26	1:00pm	Hygge



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Aug 7	Ed Crispin	Aug 15	Vanessa Marianiello
Aug 7	Becky Taber	Aug 17	Jeff Gillespie
Aug 9	Nancy Crawford	Aug 17	Audrey Harper
Aug 11	Christopher Sutton	Aug 23	Brian Huffman
		Aug 31	Mims Hildabrant

