



Hanover Presbyterian Church Wilmington, Delaware

June 2021

Dear Hanover Saints,

It is only a matter of days until we will be together again in person and receive the proverbial cup of water at the end of our journey across the desert. As I anticipate our first several gatherings, I am aware of so many and different emotions and thoughts.

At the top of the list is joy. It has been so long, and it will feel so good to once again be present with one another as we engage in ministry and in worship in person. As we have all learned, there is no substitute for, and there is nothing more powerful than, a community of believers when we come together as one.

Just behind joy, I am so hopeful that we will not just return to the ways things were pre-covid 19, but that the lessons, hardships, and experiences during the pandemic will have delivered us to new ways of being a community, some of which we cannot even imagine.

I will also come with apprehension. We have not been together for 15 months. So much has happened in all our lives; some of it good and some of it not so good. It has been so difficult to be in touch in a regular, ongoing way. As much as I look forward to hearing about all that has happened with each of you, I am equally aware that some of that news will be difficult. I pray God's blessings on the moments when we share the pains of the pandemic with one another.

I also feel frustration. One of the lessons for me has been the difference between shutting down and slowing down: the former in no way leads to the latter. From the day a state of emergency was declared, virtually everything we were doing as individuals and as a community suddenly had to be done differently. The amount of time and energy it has taken to figure out how to operate - in a community that cannot meet together - has been extraordinary. This has been so frustrating because I have not been able to be as present in your lives as I had hoped and planned in the beginning.

My commitment as we come back together is to come with an open heart to receive and honor all that you will bring; with open ears to hear of your experiences while we've been separated and secluded; with an open mind, in anticipation of hearing of your dreams, hopes, fears, and visions for the coming days; and with a wide-open spirit to receive all that God will be offering as we come back together.

May God bless you with strength, comfort, joy, hope, and light in the days to come, and may they lead you to...

Peace,

Andy

See you soon!!



Dear Hanover Saints,

It is with great joy that we prepare to resume worshipping in-person:
 --at the church picnic, Sun., June 13, 10AM at Fox Point Park, and
 --in our sanctuary, Sun., June 20, 10AM



Even as we make these plans, we reiterate that the decision about whether or not to attend worship is an absolutely personal one. If, for any reason, you are not comfortable gathering with others in worship, know that you have complete support for your decision. Plans are underway to make the worship services accessible via live-streaming through YouTube. Information about this will be sent out closer to June 20th.

To make the sanctuary as safe & comfortable as possible, the Worship Committee and Session have reviewed the May 21st Delaware COVID updates and prepared the following guidelines for the Congregation's presence in the sanctuary. Indeed, some things will be different, but these adaptations are for everyone's safety. One change that's a big plus is that the sanctuary is now air-conditioned!

Before Worship

- Use either the Baynard Blvd. or the Jefferson St. "Elevator" entrances (these doors will be marked). Ushers will be at these two entrances.

- At this time our Sunday activities will be limited to worship and fellowship time; we will not host a continental breakfast or discipleship groups.

-All are required to wear masks (unless you have a medical issue that prohibits it); we are encouraging you to bring your own, but will also have masks available.

-Maintain a three-foot distance (unless you're with someone from your household).

-Pews have been taped off accordingly.

-You are welcome to bring bottled water/drink with you.

-The sanctuary, chancel & restrooms will be sanitized before and after the service.

-And as hard as it will be, we will refrain from expressing our joy with handshakes or hugs; creative, virtual, distanced expressions of joy are welcome!

As You Enter the Sanctuary

A large table will be in the back of the sanctuary with the following supplies:

-masks

-hand-sanitizing wipes

-hearing device

-trash can for wipes wrappers, etc.

-container for receiving offerings on the way out of worship

-printed copies of "The Flash" for those who don't have email

-a page of prayer requests and calendar items to take home

-flyers/brochures as appropriate

At this time we will refrain from using: offering bags, bulletins, name tags, the water cooler, hymn boards, handheld microphones, bibles, and hymnals.

And, as always, we will rejoice in sacred music, even though at this time singing will be offered by soloists and duets only; we will not sing corporate hymns.

As You Leave the Sanctuary

Stop at the back table and place these items in their designated containers:

-your offering

-hearing devices

-trash, wrappers, etc.

Pick up:

-sheet of prayer requests & calendar items

-printed copy of "The Flash" if you don't receive this by email.

After Worship – Coffee Hour/Fellowship

For anyone wishing to stay after worship, a socially distant coffee hour is planned for outside on the Baynard Blvd. sidewalk. In case of bad weather, we'll meet in the Gathering Place where social distancing can easily be observed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Twyla at the church office (658-5114), or Eloise (worship committee chairperson) at 304-0579.

Peace,
 Andy

Sunday, June 13

at 10AM

**Fox Point Park Worship
& Bring Your Own Picnic**



We're so happy to be able to say that we are having our annual worship and picnic out at Fox Point Park this year! We are thrilled to be back out in the park for our annual gathering!

Here's how it will be different:

- * Please bring your own prepared food and drink - there is no potluck or grilled food this year.
- * Please bring lawn chairs to help with social distancing.

Here's how it will be the same:

- * The Dixie Ramblers will be there, serenading us "down by the riverside."
- * If you need a park pass, either in-state or out-of-state, please contact Twyla in the Church Office.
- * We'll have lots of good fellowship together!

And lastly, as we celebrate being able to come together safely again, we also bring with us thoughts and feelings since our lives have been consumed with the worries and pains of the virus. We will be having a "burning ceremony" - a way to help release us from the past, from negativity, from old resentments and hurts - it paves the way to focus on what is ahead and what is important. Please think on this, and be ready to write a few words so we can send them off in style!

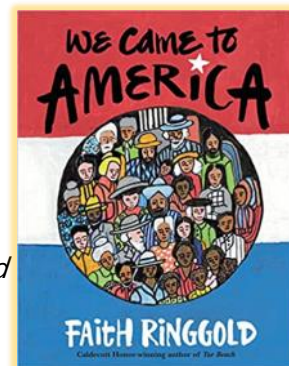
Community Sunday—Sunday, June 7

9:30 AM on Zoom

We Came to America by Faith Ringgold (author and illustrator of an earlier Community Sunday book choice, Tea Beach) is the children's book for our Community Sunday gathering on June 6. After just celebrating Memorial Day, a day to honor those who died in wars, and looking toward July 4 and celebrating Independence Day, We Came to America feels like the right book to reflect on our history as a nation. As with all Community Sunday book selections, we will be reading and listening to the story as followers of Jesus. Join us on **June 6 at 9:30am on Zoom** as we echo the refrain "We are ALL Americans" and strive to live out Jesus's message of welcome and inclusion.

"Vividly expressed in Faith Ringgold's sumptuous colors and patterns, We Came to America is an ode to every American who came before us, and a tribute to each child who will carry its message of diversity into our nation's future." ~ book jacket

*Dear God, you welcome me with open arms, for you love me day after day.
Help me share your love with others.*





Creation Care Matters



Update on Eco Plastics Collection

As part of being an Earth Care Congregation, Hanover will start collecting plastics for Eco Plastics on July 11th. As you probably remember, Eco Plastics recycles plastic into benches, picnic tables and other plastic items.

Some changes have recently been made in what is being collected. Because of receiving an overwhelming amount of number 1 plastic, Eco Plastics is currently accepting only **number 2 bags and containers and number 4 bags**. They hope to resume collecting number one plastic later in the year. All plastics must be **clean**.

You may be wondering how to tell what kind of plastic you have. You can determine the type of plastic by looking for a triangle with a number in it. These are usually found on the bottom of the container. Many bags have either the number 2 or the number 4 on them. Other bags indicate they should be dropped off at a store, or have no markings on them. All plastic bags (except number 2), can be included with the number 4 plastics. Number 2 bags will be collected separately.



Please start saving number two bags and containers as well as plastic bags. Bring them to church on Sunday, July 11. If you have room, start saving number one plastic as well, as they will be collected later. Instructions on where in the church to leave your plastic will be provided by July 11th.

If you have questions, contact Maggie Alexander at MaggieA10@verizon.net

**What to do with
your treasures . . .
coming and going**



The next convenient waste collection event is Saturday, June 19, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mt Pleasant Elementary at 500 Duncan Rd. The entrance for the event is actually around the corner on Brandywine Blvd. For more information, go to: <https://dswa.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Collection-Event-Schedule.pdf>.

Also, if you have treasures you would like to share for free or to see what you can find for free, you can join a group called Freecycle.org—to join is free, and everything is done on line. Go to freecycle.org for all the details.

What's Happening



Food Pantry Update – Business is picking up at the Food Pantry. Our number of clients is increasing. Our surplus of food is going down and we will have to do some more shopping soon. Clients are very appreciative of the laundry detergent and personal products that have been donated. One of the main items we are short of at the moment is tuna fish. This seems to be a really popular item, so if you're wondering what we could use, that would be it. Thanks for all donations and for being so supportive!

JB'S Café has gotten off to a wonderful start! Thankfully we have had great weather and customers. We now have a new cart which is a little bigger than our old one and has a few newer features. This has allowed us to expand the menu a bit. We've added hamburgers, veggie burgers, turkey burgers, turkey clubs, turkey reuben sandwiches, a veggie wrap and ice cream to name a few. As always, we are out on 18th St. every Tuesday from 10am-1pm. Tables are set out on the boulevard, and there is always plenty of good conversation and room for one more at our tables!



Our second fund raiser of the year was a success!

On Saturday, May 8th, we held a **“pop up” Sidewalk Sale**. There were loads of plants and baked goods for sale as well as the opening of the new hot dog cart. As luck would have it, the weather was a bit on the cool and windy side, but that didn't deter many people from coming out and making purchases. At the end of the sale, we had taken in around \$1300 which when combined with the Easter Egg sale made up half of our annual Super Sale. Now, if anyone has an idea for another couple of fundraisers that equal these two, we will have reached our usual goal for fundraising for the year! The most important feature of both of these events however, was that it got us together again and we had a good time doing it!



to all of our volunteers who give of their time, talent, and energy to making our programs so successful!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Karen Palermo
3	Natalie Jobes
3	Susan Woodbury
6	Susan Balascio
7	Stephen Willis
8	Cindy Kirylik
14	Tricia Harvey
17	Holly Alexander
17	Cindy Tomevi
19	Amy Harris
20	Cheryl Heiks
22	Brian Gray
27	David Harris
27	Walter Scott

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Sam Arnold
2	Peter Arnold
3	Theo Gregory
3	Stephanie Hinson
5	Jerri Harmon-Matthews
5	Darren Undercuffler
6	Ruth Howell
7	Becky Arnold
7	Nia Evans
13	Emma Psomas
14	Marybeth Auld
15	Mary Jo Penna
15	Ayinde Flores
15	Tracey Turner
18	Diane Murphy
18	Bill Tudor
20	Leandra Moore
22	Cheyenne Rosa
22	Maricela Rosario
26	Rick Melvin
27	Robert Poirier
28	Bill Balascio
28	Jude Harlan
29	Jacqueline Hamilton
31	Barbara Coleman
31	Sophia Moore



Member Profile: Andy Moore



Andy running for The Hanover Harriers!

Andy Moore came to Hanover when West Presbyterian closed because his Mom knew several members here. She didn't drive, and Andy joined the choir with her.

Andy is an architect and continues to practice part time. He and his wife Marybeth will celebrate their 40th Anniversary on June 20th. They have two sons, Jeremy and Michael, who both live in Philadelphia.

He grew up in the Midwest and came to Delaware at 17, when his Presbyterian minister father accepted a job here. He has three sisters and two brothers. His sister Allison is also a member here at Hanover.

Any chance he can get, he practices yoga at the Brandywine YMCA. Andy loves to sing and loves Twyla. He wants to know exactly WHEN we can sing—he's hoping it's soon!

Deacon Alice Cornelius

Frederick Douglass wrote his autobiography three times, but to protect the people who helped him run away from enslavement, he did not explain how he had managed to get away until the last version.

Douglass escaped from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1838. In his twenty years of life, he had had a series of masters—some kind, some harsh, and one who almost killed him. But by 1838, he was a skilled worker in the local shipyards, earning good money for his master and enjoying a measure of freedom, as well as protection. He had good friends in the area and had fallen in love with the woman who would become his wife.

It was enslavement, but within that existence, it was a pretty good position. His peers in the cotton fields of the Deep South were beaten like animals, their deaths by violence unremarkable. Douglass himself had come close to being “sold down the river” - a term that referred to the slave convoys that traveled down the Mississippi River from older, worn-out lands in the East to fresh, raw lands in Mississippi and Louisiana. He also knew that being forced to labor on a plantation in the Deep South would kill him.

His relatively safe position would have been enough for a lot of people—they would have thanked God for their blessings and stayed put. But he refused. His scheme for escaping to freedom was ridiculously easy. In those days, free black sailors carried documents with them to prove their freedom so they could move between ports without being detained. There were days before photos, so officials described the person’s features: his color, distinguishing marks, scars. Douglass worked in shipyards, and he met a sailor whose free papers could be his own description—if they weren’t looking too closely. Risking his own freedom, the sailor lent Douglass his papers.

To escape from slavery, all Douglass had to do was board a train. That’s it—just step on a train. If he were lucky—and the conductor didn’t catch him—and no one recognized him—he could be free. But if he were caught, he would be sold down river, and almost certainly to his death.

To me, Douglass’s decision to step aboard that train is everything. How many of us would have taken that risk, especially knowing that even in the best case, success would mean trying to build a new life, far away from everyone we had ever known? One step isn’t much, but it made the difference between life and death, the difference between a forgotten, enslaved shipyard worker and the great Frederick Douglass, who went on to become a powerful voice for American liberty.

Tomorrow, my students will graduate, and every year, students ask me if I have any advice for them as they leave college or university—advice I wish I had had at their age. The answer is yes, and after all these years of living and of studying history, I have one piece of advice:

When the day comes that you have to choose between
what is just good enough and what is right . . .
find the courage to step on the train.

~Heather Cox Richardson, American historian and professor of history at Boston College

Congratulations to Judy Van Rooyen, graduating class of 2021 from
Mount Pleasant High School. Judy is attending University of Delaware
this fall and majoring in engineering. All our best wishes, Judy!

May we all have the courage to step on the train!



June & July Weekly Happenings

Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30am
 JB's Café—Tuesdays, 10am-1pm
 High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12pm
 Coping with COVID—Wednesdays, 5:30pm
 Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8am
 Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm

June Zoom Groups & Meetings

Deacons: Tuesday, June 1, 6pm
 JSC Board: Tuesday, June 1, 7pm
 Worship Committee: Tuesday, June 8, 1:15pm
 Faith in Action: Thursday, June 10, 5pm
 Invitational Team: Monday, June 14, 4:30pm
 Session: Tuesday, June 15, 7pm

July News

Pastor Andy vacation Sundays are July 11, 18, 25—if you are in need of pastoral assistance, please contact the Church Office, and we will connect you with either Tim Arnold or another pastor.

Our regular Zoom groups and meetings are on their summer vacation in July. See you in August!



*We wish a wonderful
 Father's Day to all of
 those who have loved and
 love us with the love of a
 father's heart.*



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