

*We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end,  
so that what you hope for may be fully realized. Heb. 6:11*

### **Finish the Year Strong**

Christmas is a special time for many because it is the festival of hope that is anchored in the past. In a profound way, Christmas looks in two directions. It is the fulfillment of prophecies as well as the announcement of a new future. Living in the present requires an awareness of the tension between the two times.

As we prepare for the future, let's look back. We are often encouraged to think about what we want to accomplish at the beginning of a new year cycle. I want to encourage us to think about what we need to finish this year.

We have unfinished tasks lying around - like a book half-read, a project half-done, or a letter half-written. What incomplete promises have you made to God? Let's get rid of the clutter in our living spaces, in our hearts, in our minds and in our spirits. As we grow in our faith and trust in God, we begin to experience firsthand God's unwavering faithfulness, grace, and love. This gives us the strength we need to remain steadfast in our beliefs and ultimately complete challenging tasks.

Finish the year strong! Say what needs to be said, go where you need to go, forgive who needs to be forgiven, do what needs to be done while you still have time. Don't enter into a new year with baggage from a previous year. Finishing strong this year will increase the possibilities of entering the new year with renewed energy, new vision, and abundant joy.

We all know it is one thing to start something; it is quite another to complete it. The New Year can be a time for remarkable rebirth, an opportunity to review the past year, and invite more of the good into our lives.

End of the year Blessings to all of you!

By Faith,  
Pastor Stephany



### **Christmas Eve Service**

We'll have our candlelight service on **Sunday, December 24, at 5pm (pre-service music begins at 4:45pm)**. Special musical guests are Gus Mercante, countertenor, and Shannon Booth-Johnson, soprano. We'll also have a special message from Rev. Dr. Stephany Graham Walker and Rev. Brooke Scott.

Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.  
 "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,  
 "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord,  
 have called forth your praise?" Matthew 21:16

## Holiday Smiles for Children

We are almost there! On December 16<sup>th</sup>, The Gathering Place and the Church School Hall will be resounding with the laughter of children. A very special thank you to all who are able to sponsor children for this event. There are still names available if you wish to buy gifts or donate a \$50 gift card. Michael and I are sponsoring 4 children. The goal for this holiday party, is to build relationships with the families of this community.

We are so blessed and thankful to have the children that we currently have, but there is a generation of children in our parish community who do not know about the unconditional love of God. Prayerfully, some of the children who attend the party will return and challenge us to think about ways to provide relevant ministry for them.

A congregation without a vibrant youth ministry is a congregation whose future is limited. I hope you will be able to attend the party and help us extend the spirit of hospitality to our young neighbors.

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany



## A Hope-filled Hanover Advent



The lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday in Advent is a Hanover tradition. The first candle is the candle of Hope. Have you ever wondered why Christians light the Hope candle at the beginning of Advent. What is it about Hope that it's the candle that is lit all four Sundays in Advent? Putting our hope in Jesus informs the other 3 pillars of our advent ~ Peace, Joy, and Love. Abiding in hope, we can work towards peace, be filled with joy, and share God's love.

This Advent, Sunday Discipleship classes will be focusing on hope: Hearing Hope, Seeing Hope, Sharing Hope, Proclaiming Hope. Our study guide describes hope as "the spiritual practice of waiting in faith for the promises we know God will keep through Jesus Christ. Hope is not a fleeting feeling or a flimsy wish. Hope is grounded in God's faithfulness to God's people. Hope is threefold: a personal spiritual practice, a practice we share in community, and an evangelistic effort that we proclaim into the world. As Christians, we live lives full of abundant hope." We will HEAR that our HOPE comes from God, SEE HOPE through the birth and life of Jesus Christ, SHARE HOPE by loving others, and PROCLAIM HOPE to everyone, everywhere. Watch our weekly *The Scoop* for ways to engage in our weekly lessons at home or to prepare for our in-person sessions on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Wondering Friends will watch the Holy Moly Advent videos and discuss and explore where they see hope in the story leading up to Jesus's birth.

In this season of Advent let us reflect on:

What does hope mean to you?

What gives you hope?

PRAYER: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of hope you give us when we see it in the actions of others, hear the good news of your love, have the opportunity to share it ourselves, and proclaim it with confidence in Jesus Christ. (Follow Me - Hope | Growing Hope Resources)

~ Nancy Long

# December Events

## Hanover's Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 3

is in the sanctuary immediately following worship. Agenda items are: Election of Elders, Deacons & Nominating Committee member; 2024 Budget Review; and the 2024 Pastor's Terms of Call.



~ **Holiday Children's Party Gifts:** If you signed up to purchase gifts for the children coming to our holiday party, please remember to wrap them and return them to church by **Sunday, December 3.** Thank you so much!



The Deacons are hosting our annual Christmas Pot Luck this year. It is on **Sunday, December 17**, immediately following worship. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring either your favorite side dish or dessert and join us for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church School Hall.

## Christmas Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating poinsettias for display on Christmas Eve, please:

1. Fill out this order form. Donations may be made either in memory of someone who has died or in honor of someone who is living.
2. Enclose a check, payable to Hanover Church (\$14 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to Hanover, or to :

Sue Baker  
110 Southwick Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19810

**After Christmas Eve Worship:**

- I will pick up a plant.
- I will not pick up a plant. Please give plant to a shut-in.



Donor's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

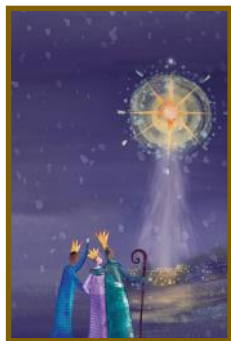
In memory of (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In honor of (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders Must Be Received by Sunday, Dec. 3**

## Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Special Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 18**. The offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and by Presbyterian-related schools and colleges serving racial and ethnic minority students. The Assistance Program serves current and retired pastors and other church-employed persons who are in financial need.

For nearly 140 years, Presbyterian racial and ethnic colleges have been developing leadership for the denomination and for our racial/ethnic congregations.



Please consider giving to this offering for servants of the church: past, present, and future.

Faith in Action is offering **UnGifts** again this year. **UnGifts** began in 2006 and enables you to give someone the gift of a donation to an organization that is making a difference in our community or the wider world. We provide a gift card and an insert that describes the project, which you can give to the person in whose honor you made the donation. We will be offering UnGifts after church in December. You can pay by cash or check in person. Here are this year's choices:



**Supporting Kidds'** mission is "to provide a compassionate pathway to healing for grieving children and their families, and to empower the community to support them in the grieving process." Targeted and comprehensive support is given to grieving children and their families in New Castle County. This includes individual and group counseling for children and teens to help them adjust to the loss of a parent or sibling, both at the Center and in schools.

**The Delaware Nature Society** connects people with the natural world to improve our environment through education, conservation, and advocacy, by safeguarding clean water, modeling sustainable and regenerative farming, preserving land, encouraging the planting of native plants, planting trees, and providing education through classes, field trips and camps.

**Friendship House** unites people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities they can call home. They do this through Empowerment Centers, a Winter Program, a Transitional Housing Program, a Clothing Bank and a Financial Assistance Program. It has served the community for more than 35 years. With the support of volunteers, donors, community partners, and faith partners, it helps more than 12,000 people each year.

**Guatamala Stove Project** funds the construction of masonry cook stoves for hundreds of thousands of people in Guatemala who continue to cook indoors over an open fire or rudimentary stove producing smoke that pours into the room and contributes to a wide range of chronic illnesses and health impacts such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease and low birth weight. The stove vent the smoke outdoors, and conserve wood. The stoves help relieve poverty, improve the well-being of disadvantaged people in Guatemala, and save trees. This is a NCC Presbytery Program.

**Doctors without Borders** provides independent, impartial medical and humanitarian assistance to the people who need it most. It cares for people affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural and human-made disasters, and exclusion from health care. They are active in more than 70 countries including Gaza, Sudan, Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine.



## NEW CLERK OF SESSION

At the Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Session meeting, the Elders elected Jude Harlan as the Clerk of Session. Jude grew up at Hanover and is active in many ministries: Clothing Closet coordinator, Personnel, Membership & Stewardship committees, and Sunday worship video recorder. Jude's email address for Session-related items is clerk@hanoverchurch.org. Thank you, Jude, for serving Hanover as Clerk!



### Elders—Class of 2026

Russ Buckley

Stephanie Hinson

Rochelle Ransom

### Deacons—Class of 2026

Ingrid Dark

Hillary Mohaupt

Walter Scott

### Deacon—Class of 2025

Susan Woodbury

### Nominating Committee Member—Class of 2025

## NOMINEES' BIOS

### **3 Elders** - Class of 2026

Russ Buckley joined Hanover in 1975. He has served as a Deacon and an Elder. He's a Finance Committee member, Financial Secretary and choir member.

Stephanie Hinson joined Hanover in 2019 and is being nominated for a second term as an Elder. She served on the Transitional Pastor Search Committee and is a member of the Nominating and Church Life Committees. Stephanie volunteers weekly at the Clothing Closet and serves as an usher.

Rochelle Ransom joined Hanover in 2009. She has served as a Deacon and is a liturgist and a Worship Committee member.

### **3 Deacons** - Class of 2026

Ingrid Dark joined Hanover in 2017. She has served her first term as a deacon and has agreed to be a nominee for a second term. She is a Food Pantry volunteer.

Hillary Mohaupt joined Hanover in 2011 and has served as an Elder and a Female Harmony Society member.

Walter Scott joined Hanover in 2004 and has previously served as an Elder and a Deacon. He serves as a liturgist, usher, and weekly church office volunteer.

### **1 Deacon** - Class of 2025 (filling an unexpired term)

Susan Woodbury joined Hanover in 2013. She is an Elder, a member of the Faith in Action Committee and the Female Harmony Society. Susan also volunteers at the Super Sale.

### **1 Nominating Committee Member** - Class of 2025

Ray Kirkpatrick joined Hanover in 2010. He serves on the Finance, Worship & Stewardship Committees, has served as an Elder and a Deacon, and is an usher and liturgist.



Hello Friends,

Here is the Family Promise sign-up sheet for our December 17-23 hosting week. There are shopping, cooking, serving/ visiting and delivering slots available, so hopefully you can find something that works for you.

[VolunteerSignup - Online volunteer signup sheets - December 17 - 23, 2023 Family Promise Hosting signup sheet](#)

AT THE TOP OF THE SHEET IS THE LINK FOR "TAKE THEM A MEAL" where you can enter your menu once you sign up to cook.

Questions? Call Stacey Friedland at 302-545-9531.

### HANOVER MOVIE & DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

Please join us after church for a viewing and discussion of "Philomena." The movie is based on the true story of an elderly Irish woman searching for the son who was put up for adoption against her will. In 1952, Irish teenager Philomena (Judi Dench) became pregnant out of wedlock and was sent to a convent where she worked unpaid.



When her baby, Anthony, was a toddler, the nuns took him away from her and put him up for adoption in the United States. For the next 50 years, she searched tirelessly for her son. When former BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan) learns of the story, he becomes her ally and they travel together to America to try to find Anthony. The movie also touches on spiritual matters and makes a distinction between faith and institutionalized piety. The movie was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won a BAFTA Award.



**WANTED:  
CANDIDATES  
for \$1000  
ENSLÉN SCHOLARSHIP**

Marybell Enslén was a devoted member of the Female Harmony Society who believed in the power of education, particularly continuing above high school and college. Her family created The Marybell Enslén Memorial Scholarship in her honor. One \$1000 scholarship is offered each year for a post-graduate program leading to a degree or professional certification that will help the recipient improve the lives of others. Applications are now available with a closing date of December 30th. The award decision will be made by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The short application is posted on the Female Harmony Society Website or available by contacting Maggie Alexander, ([MaggieA10@verizon.net](mailto:MaggieA10@verizon.net), or 302-521-6611.) Last year no one applied for the scholarship. Please let any relatives or friends who might be eligible know about this opportunity.

# What's Happening



**JB's Café**—Our base of operation has moved to the Gathering Place now that cooler weather has begun. Look for our new signs on Jefferson and Baynard! It's time for soup and grilled cheese and apple crisp! See you soon!

**Food Pantry** - Our number of clients continues to rise. Our new "normal" is 40+ each week. Happily, we were able to distribute 101 turkeys at Thanksgiving. Thank you to the BTL Foundation for its support in this endeavor. Also, thanks to Hanover members who donated items for the bags that went with the turkeys! Now as we move into the Christmas season, if you are looking for something to donate to the FP, we like to give laundry detergent out as a "present." So, that is an item that would be much appreciated!



In case you haven't heard, the Fling has come and gone and our fundraising is over for another year. We can report that we have surpassed our budgeted goal for this year thanks to all of you who made this a "church-wide" event! You know what this means though - for those of us who love a challenge, it means we will be back in the spring to do it all again!



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5	Lynn Gregory
5	Alison Moore
7	Marjorie McNeill
12	Pat Hall
12	Della Williams
12	Taylor Zistl
14	Judy Van Rooyen
15	Michael Carty
20	Diane Dunham
29	Grant Evitts
29	Bea Wilson



## Our Little Library Needs Books for Adults

Our Little Library is getting lots of use. We recently received many boxes of books for children. However, we are running low on books for adults. We are looking for books which would be of interest to the general public. If you have a book you've enjoyed and are ready to part with, please leave it in the church office with a note saying "for the Little Library." Thanks for your help.



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day. Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will  
to men!" – *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### Weekly Happenings

- ◇ Prayer Circle—Mondays, 9am
- ◇ JB's Café—Tuesdays, 8am - 1pm
- ◇ Zumba—Tuesdays, 6pm
- ◇ Pickleball—Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm
- ◇ Clothing Closet—Wednesdays, 10am -12:30pm
- ◇ Prayer Calls—Wednesdays, 2pm—5pm
- ◇ Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8-10am
- ◇ Zumba—Thursdays, 6pm
- ◇ Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm - 7:30pm

### December Meetings Schedule

- ◇ Deacons via Zoom: Tuesday, December 5, 6pm
- ◇ Faith in Action: Tuesday, December 12, 5pm
- ◇ Session: Tuesday, December 19, 7pm
- ◇ Staff Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 12pm
- ◇ Church Office is closed the week after Christmas.
- ◇ January "Herald" article deadline—Friday, December 29

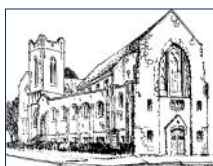
### Looking ahead to January . . .

- \* **Jeremiah's Coffee House—Saturday, January 6, 5:30-7:30pm**
- \* **Leaders' Retreat—Saturday, January 20, 9:30am—12:30pm**
- \* **FIA Movie & Discussion—Sunday, January 21, immediately following Worship**
- \* **Black History Month celebrations begin with Gospel Vespers on Sunday, January 28—3pm!**



#### Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: <http://www.hanoverchurch.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HanoverPresbyterian/>



#### Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephany D. Graham Walker  
Commissioned Ruling Elder: Tim Arnold  
Organizing Pastor: Rev. Brooke Scott  
Church Administrator/Minister of Music: Twyla Evitts  
Sexton: Herman Pulliam  
Bookkeeper: Anthony Condoluci-Smith  
Child care: Jerri Harmon-Matthews  
Office Volunteers: Alice Cornelius, Katie Leep,  
Walter Scott, George Turner