

## Compassionate Grief Support

Another one of the hats I wear is that of being a certified coach for end-of-life care and relationship loss. I walk beside people who are dying, and their loved ones; I also walk beside people who are having a difficult time ending any type of relationship.

I have come to terms with the inevitability of death for all living things and beings. Actually, I was forced to. Either I had to shift my perspective about death or lose my mind. I have cared for my dying grandparents, parents, siblings, best friends, and so many church members and their families over this 35-year journey. For me, death is the pathway to new beginnings.

One of the things that death has taught me is to treasure every single moment of my life and the people I care about. Grief can be debilitating and as Americans, we are not very good at helping people grieve and mourn. We tend to avoid conversations about death and the grieving process. We have been conditioned to pretend that death will bypass us.

Of course, death can be painful, tragic, and untimely, but avoidable it is not. When my 18-month-old niece died suddenly, I wasn't sure whether I would be able to officiate her funeral service without breaking down in tears, and while I still mourn her death, God's grace continues to see our family through.

I have become acutely aware of how grief is impacting congregations. So much continues to change rapidly around us and among us. Members are aging and losing the ability to do the things they once enjoyed, members pass away, pastors are retiring, and the effort to get younger families in the church is not moving along as quickly as we'd like.

What we continue to hear is how things must change for the church to survive, and while that is true, change is another form of loss, and loss is what we resist more than the thought of changing.

We must allow ourselves space to grieve the losses that are happening in our lives. It is not healthy to add more tasks to our daily routines to distract us from what might be demanding attention inside of us. The church must be the place where we can be our most human selves.

When relationships end, that is also a type of loss. I am still grieving the loss of some of the relationships that I had with former parishioners for over 11 years. True love never ends suddenly.

We all respond to and experience grief differently; and grief has no set time limits. The anger, fear, depression, frustration, or sadness does not end in the sanctuary or at the cemetery. Expressing grief is not a sign of weakness, but a way to learn to live with loss.

I just want you to know that I am here to talk with you and to listen as you address past or future loss. My services are available to church members without cost as a part of my pastoral opportunities. Coaching is my business; pastoring is my calling.

My office hours for pastoral conversations at Hanover are: Tuesday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call me directly to make an appointment: 410 493-6748.

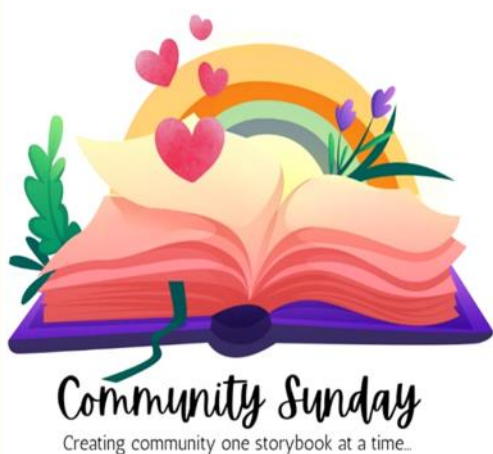
By Faith,

*Pastor Stephany*



Summer  
Worship

Begins on Sunday, May 26  
Worship begins at 10AM



We have a delightful story of friendship across generations, the power of small actions and the need for environmental preservation for our **May 5 Community Sunday**. It's a story of hope and love. Certainly a book with all the elements of a Hanover Community Sunday! We will be meeting in the Church School Hall at **9:30am**. Join us for this intergenerational time as we grow in our relationship with God and with each other.

The Wonderers are finishing up this year's Holy Moly series on Jesus in May. On May 12, we will be viewing and reflecting on the Road to Emmaus story. For some in the class, it will be the first time they've heard this story. Oh, the wonderings! Why are the 2 followers sad? What are they remembering? Why don't they know who Jesus is? When do they figure it out? Why does eating a meal together help them recognize Jesus?

The last Wonderers' class will be May 19 – Pentecost Sunday. What a fun way to wrap up a great year of learning and fun--a birthday celebration for the church!

Community Sundays and the Wonderers will be taking a break during the summer months, but George and Bea will be in the lounge on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for Adult Discipleship. You may prepare for the discussions by reading the Sunday sermon passages listed in The Scoop. Please join us for this time of conversation, connection, and learning.



Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these years continue to bear fruit throughout our lives. Through the Pentecost Offering, we nurture the faith of those who are the church to come.

Our donations go a long way to help. We will have special envelopes available for the next two weeks and will collect during worship on **May 19, Pentecost Day**. Please write your check to Hanover Presbyterian Church, and put "Pentecost Offering" down in the memo line. Or if you like, you can pay online at our website: [www.hanoverchurch.org](http://www.hanoverchurch.org). Please make sure that you state that your gift is for "Pentecost Offering" in the instruction line.

Thank you for giving generously.

# What's Happening...?



**At JB's Café:** Spring has sprung (we think) and it is time for our thoughts to turn to JB'S Sidewalk Cafe. We decided to jump the gun and instead of opening up in May, we went outside today and had a busy and beautiful day on the corner of 18th & Baynard! We were all so happy to be back outside! Please come and join us next week. Hot dogs, sausages, burgers, steak sandwiches, fresh fruit cups, fresh baked cookies and water ice abound! Can't wait to see you!

**In the Food Pantry:** The Hanover Food Pantry provides food donated by local grocery stores, churches and individuals. Our volunteers especially enjoy serving in this pantry because we feed anyone who comes seeking food. We do not give according to income, need, or other such questions. We ask how many they are feeding, how they are doing and try to brighten their day with loving smiles and words of encouragement along with the food.

(Paraphrase of article in *The Upper Room*.)



**With Eco Plastic Recycling:** Please bring your plastic to Hanover to be recycled at Eco Plastic Products. Why? Our collection of clean and dry number 2, number 4, and number 5 plastic and plastic bags seems to have slowed down. It is more important than ever that we continue to bring our plastic to Hanover to be recycled at Eco Plastic Products where it will be made into useful items. Today, the US manufactures more than 438 million tons of new plastic every year. Plastic seriously harms ecosystems when it leaks into the environment. This includes physical impacts such as animals getting entangled in or ingesting plastic, chemical harm caused by hazardous additives in plastic products, and biological damage through plastic particles that are found everywhere, even inside human organs.

Of all the plastic waste we generate globally, scientists estimate that less than 10 percent is recycled. The OECD found that **only about 60% of the plastic put in recycle bins was actually able to be recycled.** Please make the extra effort to save your number 2, number 4, and number 5 plastic and plastic bags. Every little bit helps to keep plastic out of our environment and to protect God's creation.

## In the Office . . .

**Church Photo Directories** - We have new directories available, with photos (courtesy of Bill Tudor), and the Deacons' Care Groups. Deacons and Elders already have a copy in their folders in the office. Please see the office if you'd like one!

**2023 Annual Reports** - We sent out our Annual Reports via email this year. Please see the office if you'd like a paper copy.



## Female Harmony Society Receives Award

Darius Brown, CEO of the Hope Commission, invited the Female Harmony Society's grant chair, Maggie Alexander, to attend The Hope Commission's Women's Reentry Program Luncheon. At the luncheon two organizations were recognized, The Female Harmony Society and the Fund for Women. The Female Harmony Society received a plaque reading:

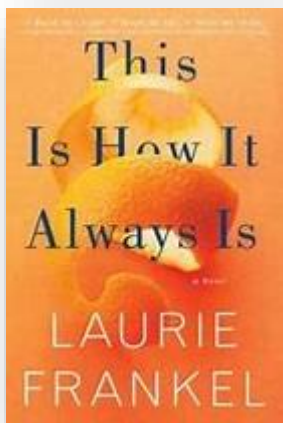
*In recognition of your support of reentry support services to assist justice-involved women.*



2024 Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester spoke at the luncheon. She shared some of her personal struggles as a woman and a widow. She emphasized how much harder it is for a woman who has been in prison. She is working to get a "Clean Slate" bill passed in Congress so that a criminal record doesn't have to be noted when applying for a job, health care, etc. We can be proud that Delaware already has such a law.

The Female Harmony Society is currently accepting grant applications for 2024-2025. For more information, contact Maggie Alexander.

## Faith In Action's Spring Event



Mark your calendar for our May 19<sup>th</sup> discussion of Laurie Frankel's "This Is How It Always Is." This book deals with being transgender, a term we've heard a lot about lately. It's a story about the challenges of parenting, love, family and acceptance. It is also the story of young Claude, the youngest of Rosie & Penn's five children, who has gender dysphoria and wants to be a girl. It's a novel about reservations, transformations, and secrets.

While Frankel is the mother of a transgender child, the story is fictional. She feels, "This is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever."



**Family Promise week in May:** The dates are May 5-11. The system has changed, and we are starting to work with other congregations. The 9<sup>th</sup> Ward (our group) will be working with St Marks Friends, and will be serving two cottages. *Sign up Genius* is being used to coordinate the food that is offered, for people to sign up to volunteer to bring drinks, veggies & salad, and to work there in person to serve or clean up, etc. Karin will forward us the link for that. We will be providing for up to 35 people. Karen has signed up to work on May 6 (but there are other days available). At our next week in July we will be co-hosting with someone else.

[St Mark's and 9th Ward: Family Promise Hosting May 5-11 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)



## It's our Spring Fling!

**When** – Saturday, May 18, 2024

**Time** – 10am-2pm

**Where** – Hanover Presbyterian Church

**What** – We'll have lots of plants, delicious baked goods, and outdoor treasures. JB'S Café will be open, with ice cream and water ice on hand!

Come and enjoy a beautiful spring day with us on the Boulevard!



Hanover Presbyterian Church

1801 N. Jefferson St., Wilmington, DE 19802

(302) 658-5114



The show will be on display here at Hanover in the sanctuary from **Sunday, May 19 – Sunday, June 2**. Check out the wonderful artwork of youth from Wilmington as they express their thoughts on peace.



“The month of May is a pleasant time. Its face is beautiful. The blackbird sings his full song. The living wood is his holding. The cuckoos are singing and ever singing. There is a welcome before the brightness of the summer.”

~ Lady Gregory

### 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

### May Meetings Schedule

- ◇ Deacons (Zoom): Tuesday, May 7, 6PM
- ◇ Worship Committee: Tuesday, May 14, 1:30PM
- ◇ Faith in Action (Zoom): Tuesday, May 14, 5PM
- ◇ Session: Tuesday, May 21, 7PM
- ◇ Visioning Team Zoom: Wednesday, May 22, 5:30PM
- ◇ June “Herald” article deadline—Friday, May 31

### May Birthdays

- 1 Herman Pulliam
- 3 BJ Kennedy
- 4 Karen Hudson
- 4 Jane Putscher
- 5 Del Boulden
- 6 Sanet Van Rooyen
- 8 Ingrid Dark
- 9 Bill Klawitter
- 10 Ralph Headley
- 13 Kathryn Thompson
- 16 Marc Pulliam
- 19 Russ Buckley
- 21 Nancy Bayard
- 22 Tommy Tucker
- 26 Dessa Hattenfield
- 26 Katie Leep
- 27 Miranda Garrett
- 28 Dev Vaghela
- 30 Ali Anderson
- 30 Betty Bayard
- 31 Lorie Tudor

## Looking ahead to June . . .

### Fox Point Park Worship & Picnic

Sunday, June 9 - 10AM



#### Hanover Presbyterian Church

Address: 1801 N. Jefferson Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802

Phone: (302) 658-5114

Email: [office@hanoverchurch.org](mailto:office@hanoverchurch.org)

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, Walter Scott,  
George Turner