

Meeting the Moment

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

By now we all see that a well-organized plan is underway to return this nation to a time of White supremacist domination. The 100 days of executive orders to shut down and reverse diversity, equity and inclusion have been intentionally designed to overwhelm us and cause us to live in fear. The 100 days of Elon Musk's reign to threaten the livelihoods of tens of thousands who depend on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security is meant to debilitate the vulnerable and reward those who will bow a knee to the current movement led by the Heritage Foundation.

As difficult as it may be, it is imperative to guard our hearts throughout these 100 days. We must reject the temptation to hate even while we protest and act against the Foundations' and this administration's efforts.

We must remember that the movement is much bigger than Donald Trump. He is merely a figure head whose insecurities and thirst for power make him the perfect candidate to lead this movement.

Each of us must decide how we will care for ourselves and for each other. My recent vacation was an effort to engage in a time of self-care. While visiting my 90-year-old mentor, Rev. Rita Dixon, Ph.D., in Atlanta, we decided to drive to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the museum of Peace and Justice. The number of people lynched in this country simply for being Black is beyond staggering. I hesitated to visit the museum as I knew it would fill me with sorrow.

As I talked with others who had visited the museum, I was informed that at the end of the tour we would enter the reflection room; a room filled with the photographs of African Americans who have made outstanding contributions to American and African American history.

As I sat in that room, I was so inspired and challenged to face this moment in history with a renewed sense of moral courage and faith. What we are facing today pales in comparison to the horrors that my ancestors had to endure. Yet they persevered with a spirit of excellence to help shape this country with their contributions to science, education, civil rights, theater, music, politics, religion, social justice and so much more. On the way back to my mentor's home, we discussed how significant the museum is to remind all Americans of the part of our story that would be censored and whitewashed under this current administration. We talked about the need to support such museums as they were not funded by any government agencies.

The very next day, the breaking news was related to budget cuts for the Smithsonian museums in Washington DC. In this period of history, we can take nothing for granted.

Still, in this season and in all seasons, we must remember that seasons change, but God does not. As we move closer to Palm and Resurrection Sundays, let us remember that there is a "cost to discipleship."

What spiritual or relational practices are you engaging in to cultivate hope, faith and moral courage?

We can either emerge from these 100 days filled with darkness or filled with light.

Resurrection Blessings!

Pastor Stephany



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 13, 11AM

Palm procession, guest trumpeter Glenn Davis

Service of Healing and Wholeness—Wednesday, April 16, 7PM

Music, hand blessing, prayers and intercessions

A Lenten Call For Prayer—Thursday, April 17, 7PM—Zoom

Good Friday Service—Friday, April 18, 7PM

Traditional Tenebrae service with music and drama

Resurrection Day—Sunday, April 20

Discipleship Classes, 9:30AM

Worship w/Communion, 11AM

Coffee Hour & Easter Egg Hunt following Worship



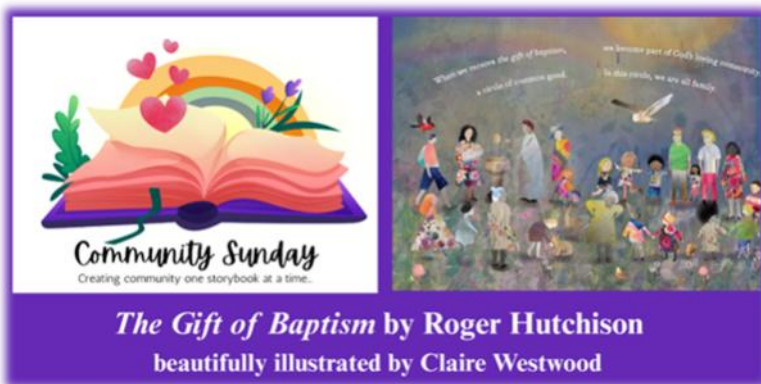
Hanover Lenten Prayer Gathering on Zoom



In preparation for Holy Week Pastor Stephany will lead us in a brief time of quiet prayer and reflection through Zoom on the three Thursdays in April, beginning at 7PM. The Zoom call will be on **Thursdays, April 3, 10, and 17.**

Days and Times: Thursdays, April 3, 10, & 17– prayer begins at 7PM
Dial in Phone number: 1-646-558-8656—Meeting ID 846 695 5981

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8466955981?>



This month's Community Sunday features the newly published book, *The Gift of Baptism*, by Roger Hutchison. This beautiful little book is packed with messages of God's love, community, and justice.

In a month that has us contemplate on Holy Week, celebrate Easter, and advocate for God's creation on Earth Day (and everyday), *The Gift of Baptism* is a picture-perfect book for this April's Community Sunday.

Join us for our intergenerational Discipleship gathering on **Sunday, April 6, at 9:30am** in the Sunday School Hall where we will gather around tables and share our sacred stories and "give thanks to Jesus and follow his path of justice, helping those who are hungry, sick, and in need. Together we can create a world that reflects heaven here on earth." ~*The Gift of Baptism*

Handmade Easter Eggs

~Butter Cream~

~Coconut~

~Peanut Butter~

Boxed and decorated

Small eggs—\$2.50 each

Large eggs—\$5 each



Ordering begins Friday, March 21

For pickup/delivery on

Sunday, April 13 from 12PM-2PM

Order at:

Hanover Church, 1801 N. Jefferson St., Wilmington, DE 19802

(302) 658-5114 and at: office@hanoverchurch.org

Orders are due by Monday, April 7, 2025

Calling all confectioners!

If you'd like to help make candy Easter eggs this year, we'll be down in The Gathering Place kitchen during the week of April 7-11.

Please contact Becky at (302) 584-0356 for more details.

 Scholarships

Female Harmony Society Grants

The Female Harmony Society awards grants of up to \$1000 to small non-profits who serve those in need of food, housing, therapy, etc., as well as grants for small educational programs. If you know of a group who might want to receive an application, please contact Maggie Alexander at Maggiea10@verizon.net.

Hanover & the University of Delaware present a

Community Pasta Dinner

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 30 2025 | AT 5PM

HANOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1801 N. Jefferson St., Wilmington, DE 19802

Goodwill offering accepted.
Join us for a delicious dinner with friends.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
office@hanoverchurch.org
Phone: (302) 658-5114

Welcome Spring

Easter Flowers to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating Easter flowers for the sanctuary, 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 Presbyterian Church (\$10 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:
Hanover Presbyterian Church
Easter flowers
1801 N. Jefferson St., Wilmington, DE 19802

In order to be sensitive to those who are affected by allergies, the choices are spring flowers that do not produce pollen.

Please select the flowers that you would like to order:

- Tulips Daffodils

After Easter 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, April 6



One Great Hour of Sharing—Special Offering

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve people and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Our donations go a long way to help. We will have envelopes on the back tables for you and will collect during worship on **Resurrection Day, April 20**. Please write your check to Hanover Presbyterian Church, and put "OGHS" down in the memo line. Or if you like, you can pay online at our website: www.hanoverchurch.org. Please make sure that you state that your gift is for "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the instruction line.

What's Happening



Jeremiah's Coffee House

Hanover Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 12, 2025

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Open Mic Night — Free Admission — Join us for
Food, Conversation, Music, and Readings**



Hanover Presbyterian Church

1801 North Jefferson Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19802
(302) 658-5114

Would you like to sing?
Read? Act? Share a
talent? Let us know,
and we'll get you on
the program.

Everyone is welcome!

Please talk to George
Turner or Twyla in the
office.

Food Pantry - Busy as usual and expect to get busier. Forty is the new "normal" for us. Please think of us when you do your grocery shopping. Just one or two items help a lot!

JB'S Cafe - we will be moving outdoors soon. Hopefully by mid April. We'll be adding a few new items to our menu. Come and join us on the corner of 18th and Jefferson!

Community Pasta Dinner on Wednesday, April 30, 5-7pm. Harking back to pre-Covid days, we will be hosting a spaghetti dinner along with members of the University of Delaware CRESA center. Please join us. This will be a great opportunity to meet and greet neighbors in our community.

Ice Cream anyone? Beginning on Wednesday, May 7 and every Wednesday during the summer. we hope to be serving ice cream and water ice from 5-7. We will be at the 18th St. door. Look for the sign that says "The Scoop at JB's." Anyone interested in helping to scoop on a Wednesday, please let Becky know - no one is too old or too young to be a scooper!



First Friday Walks for Justice and Peace

Since the murder of George Floyd, church members and civic groups have been gathering on the first Friday of each month for a silent walk for justice and peace through downtown Wilmington. Leadership of the walks comes from Saints Andrew and Matthew and Westminster Presbyterian Church. We gather at 5:30pm at Saints Andrew and Matthew (719 North Shipley Street) and end at Rodney Square.

Any questions, please contact Bill Getman at wfgetman55@gmail.com.

The Female Harmony Society Annual Tea

The tea was a great success! There were around 75 people there, with delicious foods and delicacies - they enjoyed a wonderful musical program from Shannon Booth-Johnson and her husband, Donte, and had a few raffles and quilt auctions. Female Harmony Society raised over \$2,300, which will be used for the many educational grants and program awards that the group gives through the year.

Thank you to everyone who made this event so lovely!



The Hanover Prayer Corner



Lord, O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!

Your name is Elohim because you are the one and only Supreme and Sovereign God!

Your name is Jehovah Rapha, because you are the God who heals!

Your name is Jehovah Tsidkenu because you are the God of justice and righteousness!

Your name is El Olam because you are the everlasting God!

Your name is Jehovah Shalom because you are the God of Peace!

Your name is Jehovah Jireh because you are the God who provides!

Holy, healing, everlasting, providing God of peace, justice and righteousness, we long to experience you in all of your fulness. Grant us wisdom, joy and courage, that we might face the days ahead knowing that we are sheltered in your love. In Christ's name. Amen.

SESSION UPDATE

On Wednesday, April 2nd the Hanover Session will complete 40 days of prayer and reflection as recommended by the Presbyterian Foundation. On that evening, the Session will meet again with Rev. Ellie Johns Kelley, our Ministry Relations Officer to discuss the seven options regarding our future here at Hanover Presbyterian Church.

The seven options are:

- Age in place, using the resources available to us to stay in our location as long as our fiscal health allows.
- Share our building with another congregation or group to help sustain our ministry.
- Merge with another church to create a new, healthy congregation.
- Sell our church building and find a new location that is better suited to our current needs.
- Reinvent our church with new ministries; this can vary widely, depending on our church's situation.
- Close our current congregation and re-start as another church.
- Close our church and create an endowment to fund ministries our church supports – forever.

Let us continue to pray as the Session discerns God's call. The Session will host a Congregational Conversation during coffee hour as soon as a final decision is made.

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany



April

“April is a month of melody. In April, you can hear the warbling of mockingbirds and the chattering of squirrels.” – *Ellen Jackson*

Weekly Happenings

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

April Meetings & Deadlines

- ◇ Special Session meeting—Wednesday, April 2, 5pm
- ◇ Special Faith in Action—Thursday, April 3, 4:30pm
- ◇ The Ties That Bind—Sunday, April 13, 12:15pm
- ◇ Monthly Session—Tuesday, April 15, 7pm
- ◇ Newsletter article deadline for May—Friday, March 28



April Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Tom Baker |
| 3 | Judy Werner |
| 5 | Romain Alexander |
| 5 | Heather Brown |
| 6 | Rick Bayard |
| 8 | Alexandra Evitts |
| 10 | Carolyn Klawitter |
| 19 | Karen Ingram |
| 20 | Evan Moses |
| 23 | Clinton Hamilton |
| 26 | Beth Undercuffler |

Looking ahead to May . . .

- Sunday, May 4**—Congregational Conversations following Worship
- Wednesday, May 7**—ice cream at JB’s Café from 5pm-7pm
- Sunday, May 11**—Mother’s Day
- Sunday, May 18**—FIA movie following Worship
- Sunday, May 25**—Rev. Brooke’s farewell Worship and reception



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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HanoverPresbyterian/>

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Your support makes our work possible.



MORE LIGHT
 PRESBYTERIANS

