



## Pray, Praise, & Protest! Therein lies our power!

I am encouraged to see so many Americans across this nation taking a stand for what is just and right. As Americans, our freedom was bought with the price of precious lives. As Christians our freedom was bought with the perfect life of Christ, and it is not up for sale. We must maintain at all costs our freedom to vote, to have free speech, to have freedom of religion, to have due process, and to love who we choose to love.



It is imperative that each of us do all that we can to make our voices heard. Perhaps we cannot all protest, but we can all pray and praise. We can also flood our political representatives with emails and phone calls. They need to hear why we are so concerned about the greed, the cruelty and the harm being done to government employees, to millions of vulnerable people and to our democracy. Let us join and support organizations that share and promote our moral convictions.

This is not the time to be paralyzed by fear and frustration. Together we have the power!

By Faith,  
*Pastor Stephany*



Photos from marches in Wilmington, DE and in Washington, D.C. this spring, 2025



As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

~ Isaiah 66:13

Join us for a special **Mother's Day Community Sunday** on **May 11** as we spend our Discipleship hour together in a time of story-telling, conversation, and creative play. No Matter What, by Debi Gliori, is a short and sweet story of love between a parent and child. While the story is being read on Mother's Day, the characters are "Big" and "Small" making this story fit for any kind of parent/child or grandparent/child or grown-up/child pairing—and since we are reading it in church—God/us. Think Psalm 139! Community Sunday is an intergenerational event that meets at 9:30am in the Sunday School Hall.

A reminder: The Wonderers class takes a break for the summer. Our last class will be on Sunday, May 18. Watch for summer wonderings in The Scoop and on the Wondering Table in the sanctuary! The Adult Discipleship class will continue through the summer; discussions will be based on the Sunday sermon passages.

Nancy Long



Have you been considering becoming a member of Hanover, but you still have a few questions? Please join me for an inquirer's conversation on **Sunday, June 22**, directly following the worship service. We will meet in the Lounge to discuss:



- How are Presbyterian congregations different from other Christian congregations?
- What are Hanover's expectations of members?
- How is the Presbyterian denomination structured?
- What is the Book of Order?
- And any other questions you might have.

I am looking forward to meeting with you.

Pastor Stephany

# Congregational Conversations

Sunday, May 4 at 12PM

Guest speaker Rabbi Sonya Starr will be talking with us at Coffee Hour about the homelessness and housing issues in Wilmington.



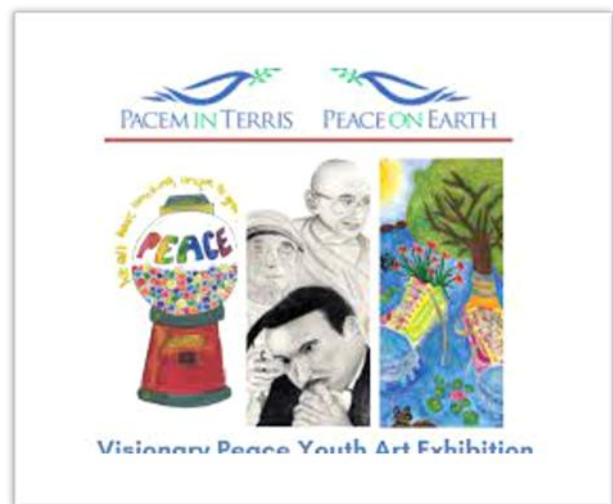
Ice cream and water ice will be available every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm outside the church at the corner.

Come and support our ministries while you enjoy a sweet treat!

**Pacem in Terris' 2025-2026 Traveling Peace Youth Art Exhibitions**

**Showing at Hanover from**

**Thursday, May 15 through Sunday, June 15**



A jury of local artists chose 68 works from January's spectacular exhibit of 560 pieces at the Wilmington Library. The art will be exhibited at 25 locations, including Nemours Children's Hospital, The Grand, Legislative Hall, State Service Centers, and State Courthouses. Based on estimates of foot traffic in these locations, up to 100,000 people could view Pacem's Traveling Peace Art shows during 2025-2026. Collectively, they bring an energetic and hopeful vision of what peace looks like in youth's imagination—in their families, their schools, their communities, and everyone's world.

## Movie Discussion - *The Hate U Give* – Sunday, May 18—12:15PM, following Worship

Join us after worship on Sunday, May 18, for a special screening of the critically acclaimed film *The Hate U Give*. We'll gather in the lounge at about 12:15 to view and discuss the movie.

*The Hate U Give* is a powerful and thought-provoking film based on the bestselling young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It tells the story of Starr Carter, a teenager who moves between two worlds: the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school she attends. Her world is upended when she witnesses the fatal police shooting of her childhood friend, Khalil. As public outrage grows, Starr finds herself at the center of a national conversation, facing pressure from all sides to find her voice and speak out for justice.



This movie addresses urgent themes of racism, police violence, identity, and the courage it takes to stand up for what's right. It is rated PG-13 for mature themes and language and is recommended for teens and adults.

We hope you'll join us for this meaningful event as we explore how faith calls us to respond to injustice and love our neighbors boldly and bravely.



### A Farewell Service for Rev. Brooke Scott

Sunday, May 25 - 11AM

Rev. Brooke will be preaching that day, and we'll have a lovely reception as we send her off to her new ministries in Philadelphia. Please plan on being here on this special day to honor her and send her off in style!

**Bagels and Bible Study** will resume on **Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **10am** in the Gathering Place. The theme for this six-week study will be: "Understanding The Gospels"

Who wrote the Gospels?

Did the writers have an agenda?

What societal context inspired each writer?

How did each writer describe their relationship with Jesus?

Bring your Bibles—bagels will be provided!

*Pastor Stephany*



## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RECYCLING PLASTICS?

Eco Plastic Products turns waste plastic into usable items. To date, they have recycled 158,100 pounds of plastic – about the weight of a blue whale. Since June 2020, Hanover has donated 482.62 pounds of plastic. We'd like to donate a lot more. Take the short quiz below and find out how much you know about this project—the answer key is on the back page! Then start saving plastic. If you don't have a space to do this, you can always save all kinds of plastic bags and bottle caps, which don't take up much space.



**1. Why do we take plastic to Eco Plastic Products?**

- a. In Delaware only about 26% of plastic placed in recycling bins actually gets recycled
- b. Eco Plastic Products recycles plastic into usable objects
- c. Both of the above

**2. What types of plastic does Eco Plastic Products recycle?**

- a. Numbers 2, 4, 5, and plastic bags
- b. Numbers 3, 6, 7, and plastic bags
- c. Both of the above

**3. To find out what number plastic something is made of, look on the container for a number inside a:**

- a. Circle
- b. Triangle
- c. Square

**4. Plastic dropped off at Hanover:**

- a. Will be washed by volunteers at Eco Plastic Products
- b. Should be completely clean and dry
- c. Can have a tiny bit of food left in the container

**5. Which of the following items does Eco Plastic Products make?**

- a. Park benches, picnic tables, and raised garden beds
- b. Sandboxes, railings, and bike racks
- c. Both of the above



## 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](mailto:wfgetman55@gmail.com).



How powerful prayer is!

May we never lose the courage to say:

Lord, give us Your peace.

~ Pope Francis

## The Hanover Prayer Corner

Let's Continue to PRAY!

In uncertain times, prayer reminds us that God is only a breath away. We are gathering on Zoom every last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. beginning May 29th to encourage one another with words of hope. Please join us as we pray for our families, our friends and our nation. We will send a reminder the day before each gathering.

Pastor Stephany

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HPC Zoom Prayer Gathering—Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 7PM Join Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8466955981?omn=86274126535>

Dial in: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID 846 695 5981

# What's happening at . . .

**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** - The nice weather is here, and we're outside now (unless it's raining!). We've also added a few new items to the menu Come and join us on the corner of 18th and Jefferson!

## SESSION UPDATE

During the April Session meeting, elected Elders narrowed down the seven options presented by the Presbyterian Foundation to three. I am happy to report that aging in place nor closing the church are among the options. Over the next three- five months, members of the Session will form three teams to research the feasibility of each of the final three options. Other members of the congregation may be asked to participate on a team. The findings of the research will be presented to the congregation during a congregational conversation. Thank you for your continued prayers throughout this discernment process.

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany



# A Note From The



Dear Beloved Community,

I fell in love with New Castle Presbytery sight unseen in the fall of 2018. Your courage, imagination, and commitment to aligning your budget with your missional focus continue to inspire me. When you called me here in early 2019 with a five-year contract, I was honored. Later, when Committee on Leadership asked about renewal, after consulting with my family, I decided on a two-year extension. Those two years will conclude with my retirement on December 31, 2025, about eight months from now.

While my plans haven't been a secret, I've realized many aren't aware of them. I want to ensure NCP is fully prepared for this transition.

My husband and I are celebrating our 30th anniversary this week. Throughout our marriage, he has been the "trailing spouse," relocating whenever my call led us somewhere new and then seeking his own call. I'm deeply grateful for his unwavering support through three moves, always offering encouragement. Our next chapter will take us back to our Columbus community, a decision that makes sense for our family.

Meanwhile, a dedicated group within New Castle Presbytery has been engaged in thoughtful discernment and vision work to determine God's call for this next season. We've shared these ideas at various committee meetings and have scheduled two hearings: Wednesday, April 30th and Thursday, May 15th before our presentation at the May 17th presbytery meeting. Throughout this process, I've encouraged the Vision Team to develop their ideas independent of my role as a staff person. The vision, not personalities, must drive our process.

If we maintain our anticipated schedule, we'll spend the summer creating a staff and committee structure that supports NCP's evolving vision and mission, approve the structure in September, and implement it in the following months.

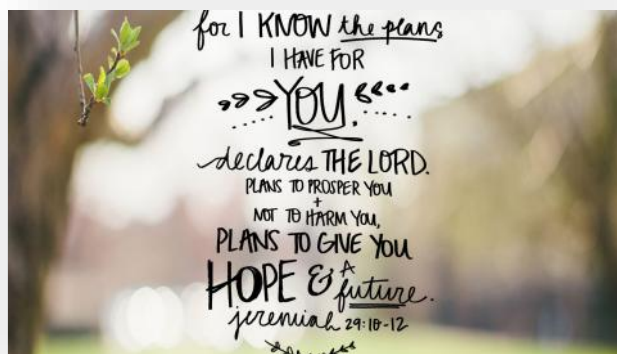
I believe it makes perfect sense for me to dedicate my remaining months in 2025 to preparing the way for this new season and tidying up loose ends before stepping away at year's end. Looking back, I can see God's hand in this timing. It allows NCP to begin 2026 with a fresh start.

In the coming months, I'll have ample opportunity to express what being part of NCP has meant to me and to ensure a smooth transition. There's much to accomplish alongside the wonderful colleagues I've been blessed to work with. For now, I simply want you to know about my retirement date so we can all plan accordingly.

I continue to love NCP deeply and remain enthusiastic about the possibilities as you grow further into God's call in the coming season.

Grace and peace,  
Tracy

Tracy Keenan, Missional Presbyter  
New Castle Presbytery  
302.757.5621





“At last came the golden month of the wild folk — honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year.” — Samuel Scoville Jr.

### Weekly Happenings

- ◇ Prayer Circle—Mondays, 9:30am
- ◇ 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

### May Meetings & Deadlines

- ◇ The Ties That Bind—Sunday, May 11, 12:15pm
- ◇ Worship Committee—Tuesday, May 13, 1:15pm
- ◇ Faith in Action—Tuesday, May 13, 5pm Zoom
- ◇ Monthly Session—Tuesday, May 20, 7pm
- ◇ Newsletter article deadline for June—Friday, May 30

### 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
- 31 Lorie Tudor

### A notice about our annual picnic:

The date and place is now:

**Sunday, July 6, 11AM at**

**Fox Point Park Pavilion**

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this wonderful service in community.

- Answer Key**
- 1. c. Both of the above
  - 2. a. Numbers 2, 4, 5, and plastic bags
  - 3. b. Triangle
  - 4. b. Should be completely clean and dry
  - 5. c. Both of the above

### Hanover Presbyterian Church

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