

On May 22, I attended my great niece's graduation in York, PA. As we checked into the hotel, I noticed a magazine on a rack with a cover that read, "Discover Hanover 2025." It immediately caught my attention, and my mind returned to our May Session meeting where the Elders decided which of the three groups recommended by the Presbyterian Foundation they wanted to be a part of.

The group for which this cover was most befitting is the group charged with exploring what it would mean for Hanover to reinvent itself. Reinventing according to the Presbyterian Foundation is for congregations that are open to a wide variety of new ministries.

At Hanover church, we are in a season of discovery! What will it take for the people who have walked by this building hundreds of times to experience Hanover as a vibrant worshipping community committed to partnering with our neighbors.

Maybe passersby have attended a meeting at Hanover or found a treasure at one of the sales, or maybe they even stopped by for breakfast or lunch at JB's café; but they have never experienced Hanover as a place for faith formation.

The magazine article offered the following sections about the city of Hanover. It inspired me to think about the Hanover church in a similar way. As we invite our neighbors and friends to discover or rediscover Hanover, here are a few brief things we can share:

The Heart of Hanover . . .

At the heart of Hanover is our commitment to live into our Mission Statement: Hospitality, Diversity, & Justice. We serve God with our hearts, hands, and heels. Worship takes place throughout the week as we share food, clothing, meeting space, and rental assistance with a smile.

What's New . . .

The Kitchen Collective, YD Youth Worship, Wednesday with Water Ice & Ice Cream, and HPC Talks.

What Matters . . .

No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

Main Attractions . . .

Sunday morning Worship, our music program, Bagels and Bible Study, Youth and Adult Discipleship classes, JB's Café, the Clothing Closet, the Food Pantry, Yoga, Zumba and Pickleball.

Our Partners . . .

Jefferson Street Center, Pacem in Terris, Let's Play, New Castle Presbytery, The Presbyterian Foundation

Our Ministries . . .

Faith In Action, The Female Harmony Society, The Ties That Bind.

Our Venue . . .

Our sanctuary is a perfect venue for a wedding. Small receptions can also be held in our Church School Hall or The Gathering Place.

Highlights . . .

Christmas at Hanover—Holy Week—The Annual Church Picnic—Open Streets

There is so much more to discover or rediscover about Hanover. Let us invite our friends and neighbors to plan their visit and explore with us as we plan and dream for the future!

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany



Bagels & Bible Study – We have begun a 5-week study that will span over the next two months. The dates are: June 3, June 24, July 1, and July 8. Pastor Stephany will meet with everyone in The Gathering Place at 10AM with bagels. Please join them as they study about the Gospels.

The theme for this study is: “Understanding The Gospels”.

Who wrote the Gospels?

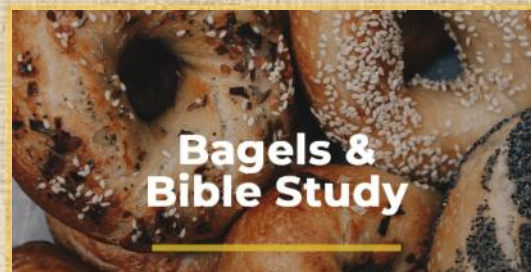
Did the writers have an agenda?

What societal context inspired each writer?

How did each writer describe their relationship with Jesus?

Bring your Bibles—bagels will be provided!

~ Pastor Stephany



Dear Pastor Stephany,

Thank you for attending our training for Breaking the Silence: We Demand a Moral Budget! National Call-In Program. There are over 135 million people in the United States who are poor or one emergency away from being in poverty— Congress must hear directly from about why we demand a moral budget, not a death-dealing scheme! We proclaim loudly: **we are not an insurrection, we are a resurrection!**

Now is the time to call our congresspersons and register our moral dissent! We must tell the truth about the impacts of federal budget cuts on the lives of us and our communities! We demand an expanded social safety net, not a devastated one!

Click on:

[We Demand a Moral Budget](#)
to call your congresspersons
and demand a Moral Budget.

NOW is the time to Break the Silence.

Forward Together, Not One Step Back!

~ The Poor People's Campaign National Field Team



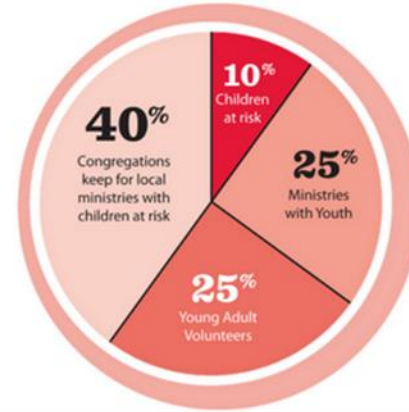


PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

you're supporting ministries
that unite young people and
inspire them to share their
faith in Christ.



June 8 is Pentecost Sunday. In these extraordinary times, please call remember the purpose of this offering, to support our youth and their spiritual development. You may send your donation directly to Hanover or donate online at PresbyterianMission.org and select Hanover as your congregation. We also have envelopes in the back of the church for you to use. Thanks again for your generosity!

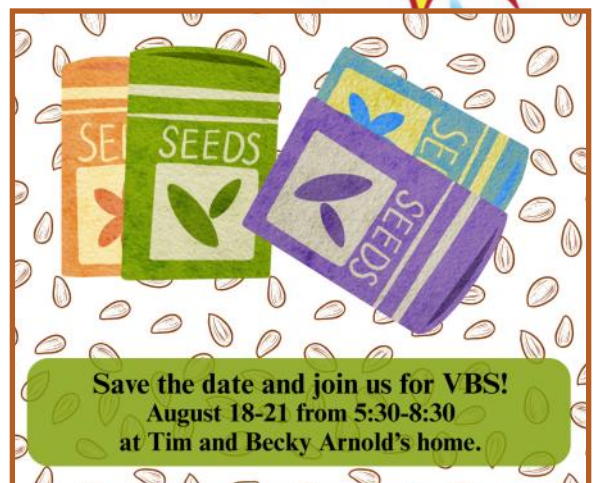
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



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.

~ Bill Getman



good luck!
we will miss you



We had a lovely reception for Rev. Brooke on her last Sunday with us—she has moved to the Philadelphia area and is beginning her counseling ministries there. We celebrated her with good food, gifts from the congregation and the children of the church, good music from the choir, and good friends.

All the best for you, Rev. Brooke!



Photos courtesy of Bill Tudor

Finance Report

The Hanover finance committee will be meeting soon and will focus on where we are financially, as we approach six months into 2025. As we close out the month of May, we have received \$81,604 in pledged and non-pledged giving, including loose offering and memorial contributions. This is 40% of our budgeted amount for pledged and non-pledged giving at 42% of the year. In addition, we have received \$580 in per capita giving. Hanover will pay a per capita assessment of \$4,830 for 2025, which is \$30 per member. Each member of Hanover can help with that cost by donating \$30.



Hanover's total regular operating income at the close of May is \$107,619. The total regular expenses have come to \$129,147. We have an operating budget deficit of \$21,528 for the first five months. On the balance sheet, as of May 28, 2025, our assets are \$202,859. In March 2025, the Session approved a request from the finance committee to transfer \$50,000 from the Fidelity investment account to the Hanover checking account to provide a cushion to cover expenses. The Hanover finance committee and the Session know that we have the ability to overcome this deficit, but we need everyone to contribute.

It takes personal **and** financial support for Hanover to offer a place of worship and sanctuary, with mission and service, for its members and its community. As Reverend Brooke said in her message *Dream God's Dream*, we are called by God to rise above the struggles and be a "rainbow over fear". Hanover's future is to welcome the stranger and *Draw the Circle Wide*, as described in the anthem sung by our choir.

We are grateful to all of you who have and will support Hanover financially, and use your resources to serve with love and compassion. We need all gifts, because every gift – every donation can make a difference. If you prefer to donate online, please use this link <https://hanoverchurch.org/joinus/support-the-church/>.

~ Ellen Casson

Property Updates



If you have not checked out the "lovely pink" bathroom in the stairwell on the Baynard side of the building in the last couple of months, you definitely should. It is no longer "pink," but it definitely is "lovely!" New toilets and sinks with water saving features were installed. New stall doors are in and the marble walls of the stalls have been saved. A new countertop, new cabinet and new floor are in and the walls have been parged. Property committee member, Karen Hudson, painted the entire bathroom and it looks amazing. One of the best changes was taking the wood covering off the windows. It is wonderful having natural light in the bathroom.

On the Jefferson side, the men's room in the stairwell has finally seen improvements. New stall doors are in place with new toilets with water saving features. There is one sink now and a new faucet. We need to parge the walls and paint. The plumber is preparing an area for a washer and dryer, which will be very helpful for washing towels and linens.

The funds for the bathroom improvements have come from grants obtained by Jefferson Street Center from the Welfare and Chichester Foundations. JSC also obtained ARPA funds through the City of Wilmington to renovate the stage in the Community Hub Gathering Place. The renovation includes a new movie screen and projector and a new sound system. The contractor is putting the finishing touches on the sound system and we look forward to new opportunities for Hanover and our partners and neighbors to enjoy movies and a variety of performances in the near future.

~ Ellen Casson

What's happening at . . .

The Food Pantry - It was a rainy, kind of cold Thursday one morning this month. I thought for sure not many people would be waiting at the Food Pantry door at 7am. I was wrong! There were about 20 people lined up waiting for me. Before the day was over at 10am, we had served 50 families, which translates into at least 75-100 individuals in 2 hours. We don't think our lines will be getting any shorter in the near future. If these numbers continue, we will have to be making some hard decisions about what we will be able to offer. More than ever, we will be relying on Hanover members and friends to help with any donations they can make. Your support is greatly appreciated!

What does the Food Pantry need right now?

~ **tuna**, **spaghetti sauce**, **canned pasta**, **boxed milk**,
money to buy **eggs**, **meat**, **laundry detergent**, and **produce** ~

JB'S Cafe - We have moved outside and morphed into the Sidewalk Cafe once again. Business is brisk out on the street. Sometimes it's hard to find a seat, but never fear, there is always room for one more. The grill is fired up, and our Jolly Griller loves to keep busy! Come on down and join us for breakfast, inside the Gathering Place from 7-10am and then outside from 10am—1pm. And since we needed something "new" to do, we are now dipping up ice cream and water ice Wednesdays from 6-8. How's this for serendipity - by supporting JB'S you are helping to further Hanover ministries! See you soon!

~ Becky Arnold



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 and talk with friends!

Judy Van Rooyen received a B.S. degree in Engineering from University of Delaware this week. Congratulations, Judy!



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 **7pm**—our June prayer time is on **Thursday, June 26**. **It is a brief moment** 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 and Zoom link the day before each gathering.

~ Pastor Stephany

Words from Pope Leo XIV.

“Brothers, sisters . . . I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left.

To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home.

I, too, was angry with God. I, too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine. And yes . . . There were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something:

God doesn't shout. God whispers.

And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I don't come to offer you perfect faith.

I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs.

I'm not asking you to believe in everything.

I'm asking you not to close the door.

Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son . . . and yet she cooked for others.

That changed me.

So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies . . .

come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack. No one here will ask you for a VIP card.

Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary.

God doesn't need soldiers. He needs brothers and sisters.

And you, yes, you . . . are one of them.”

Robert Prevost (Leo XIV)



*"Far up in the deep blue sky, Great white clouds are floating by;
All the world is dressed in green; Many happy birds are seen,
Roses bright and sunshine clear show that lovely June is here."
— F. G. Sanders*

Weekly Happenings

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

June Meetings & Deadlines

- ◇ The Ties That Bind—Sunday, June 8, 12:15pm
- ◇ Worship Committee—Tuesday, June 10, 1:15pm
- ◇ Faith in Action—Tuesday, June 10, 5pm Zoom
- ◇ Staff luncheon—Wednesday, June 11, 12pm
- ◇ Monthly Session—tbd
- ◇ Newsletter article deadline for July—Friday, June 27



June Birthdays

3	Natalie Jobes
3	Susan Woodbury
6	Susan Balascio
7	Stephen Willis
17	Holly Alexander
17	Cindy Tomevi
19	Amy Harris
20	Cheryl Heiks
22	Brian Gray
27	David Harris
27	Walter Scott

Looking at July . . .

Annual Worship & Picnic

Sunday, July 6, 11AM at

Fox Point Park

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



Hanover Presbyterian Church

Address: 1801 N. Jefferson Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

Phone: (302) 658-5114

Email: office@hanoverchurch.org

Website: <http://www.hanoverchurch.org>

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

HOW TO DONATE TO HANOVER:
Now more than ever, thank you for your membership and donations.

Your support makes our work possible.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

