

“Ordinary Time”

Our liturgical calendar highlights special and holy days acknowledged and celebrated in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and in many other denominations. We can tell what season we are in based on the colors of the paraments, stoles and cloths that are placed on the altar and on the communion table.

You will notice that for each communion Sunday, the altar and the communion table are arrayed in white. During Advent and Lent the colors are purple, and for Pentecost they are red. When there is no special day or season being highlighted in the church, the colors are green. The color green represents ordinary time. According to the liturgical calendar we will be “in the green” until November 30th which will be the first Sunday of Advent.

While this is ordinary time in the Protestant Christian church, there is nothing ordinary about the time we are living in. We are watching our system of government being systematically refashioned by the pen of a power-driven narcissist and the sadistic mind of his White House chief of staff.

We are bearing witness to:

- A blatant disregard for law and order.

- The militarization of Democratic city streets.

- A coopting of prison systems in poor countries.

- Redistricting in order to steal elections.

- The firing of health care experts and scientists.

- The deportation of people without legal recourse.

I hope that we will not be sidetracked by the colors in our sanctuary; instead, we should be praying, praising and protesting more than ever. This extraordinary time in our nation and world demands more. According to Rev. Cameron Trimble, humans will bear more wounds than ever in the future—burned forests, rising seas, displaced peoples and grieving species. She suggests that what we need are *healers*—those who see creation and people not as resources to be exploited, but as sacred kin to be honored and protected.

She also suggests that we will need *bridge-builders and peacemakers*—those who know how to stay present across difference, who choose communion over control, who embody humility in a culture obsessed with being right; *companions of the poor and marginalized*—not as rescuers or heroes, but as fellow travelers; and people who understand that dignity doesn’t come from status or wealth but from our shared humanity and sacred worth. Rev. Trimble believes that what we need most of all are *teachers of joy and beauty*—those who laugh freely, grieve deeply, and see God in the ordinary. They will know that delight is a form of resilience.

The good news is, the horrors we are currently experiencing are the last-ditch efforts to maintain control, domination, and separation. In their place, we are being invited to remember a deeper truth: that we belong to one another, that the Earth is alive, and that love is still the most powerful force we’ve ever known.

These extraordinary times will either cause us to turn a blind eye, become numb to terror, or become more fully human. I pray that we will take up the fully human call—not in robes or rules, but in reverence and relationship. The future doesn’t just need new systems. It needs new souls.

By Faith, *Pastor Stephany*

{Excerpts taken From: *Piloting Faith: Daily Meditations* by Rev. Cameron Trimble}



A New Season of Sunday School!

Our Youth Discipleship Team has been hard at work preparing a fresh season of learning for our Wonderers! As part of our efforts to expand and enrich our Sunday offerings, we're sprucing up our spaces—and we'd love your help. We'll be setting up a clean-up date soon, so keep a eye out for it!



For our Wonderers (the young and the young-at-heart), mark your calendars!

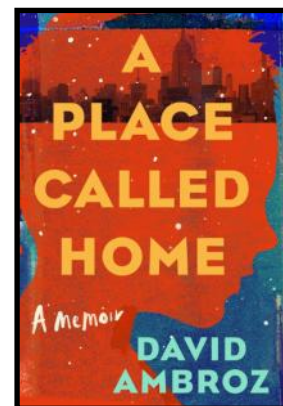
- **September 7:** *Community Sunday*—our intergenerational learning time starts at 9:30am.
- **September 14:** *Hanover Picnic*—we hope you will join us for worship and picnic "down by the riverside" at Fox Point Park, starting at 11am. (There are no discipleship classes this week.) Contact the church office if you need a park pass for the day.
- **September 21:** *The big kickoff of our new format!* Wonderers meet at 9:30am for discipleship. In addition to our usual lesson and craft time, we'll be adding age-specific activities and some "Sunday Funday" time in the gym leading up to our Youth Discipleship service! Join us for worship in the Gathering Place at 11am.

We're so excited to begin this new season of Sunday School together and can't wait to see you there!

~ Martha McFarland

Faith in Action Book Discussion, Sunday October 12

Please join FIA members and others in a discussion of the book [A Place Called Home: A Memoir](#) by child welfare advocate David Ambroz, on Sunday October 12 at 12:15pm. The book is the author's personal story of growing up homeless in New York for eleven years and his subsequent years in foster care, offering a window into what so many kids living in poverty experience every day.



David and his siblings should have been in elementary school, but instead they walked the streets seeking shelter with their mother who was battling mental illness. They rested in train stations, twenty-four-hour diners – anywhere that was warm and dry. They bathed in public restrooms and stole food to quell their hunger. When David was placed in foster care, it felt at first like salvation but soon proved to be just as unsafe. He was moved from home to home and, in all but one placement, abused. His burgeoning homosexuality made him an easy target for cruelty.

Told with lyricism and warmth, [A Place Called Home](#) depicts childhood poverty and homelessness as it is experienced by so many young people who have been systematically overlooked and unprotected. It is both a gripping personal account of deprivation – how one boy survived and ultimately thrived – and a call for readers to move from empathy to action.

Please join us in the lounge at 12:15pm on Sunday, October 12. You do not need to have read the book to take part in the discussion or you may just listen to what others have to say about the book and its subject. Two copies of the book are available for loan through the church office.

~ Susan Woodbury



Would you like to sing with the choir? Please talk to any choir member or me if you're interested in singing with us—we'll take you full time, part time, or even for a season! All you need is a joyful heart to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

"Dinner and a Show" - On **Sunday, September 24, 5pm**, Church Life will provide a delicious dinner, and the Hanover Choir will provide "the show" with an evening of Broadway selections. Reservations are required by September 14—tickets are \$10 per adult, and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please contact the Church Office to make your reservations.

HANOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

**DINNER
AND A SHOW**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
5 PM

1801 N. JEFFERSON STREET
WILMINGTON, DE 19802

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY SEPT 14

\$10 FOR ADULTS
\$5 FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER
RESERVE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR CALL 302- 658- 5114

JOIN US FOR A EVENING OF PASTA
DINNER, DESSERT, AND BROADWAY
TUNES!

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time – waking and sleeping. It does not change God - It changes me." – C.S. Lewis

The world is changing, but God's love and protection remains the same. Let us gather for prayer, reflection and spiritual support on Thursday, September 25, at 7PM on Zoom.

We'll send out the Zoom link the last week in September.

By Faith, *Pastor Stephany*

The Hanover Prayer Corner

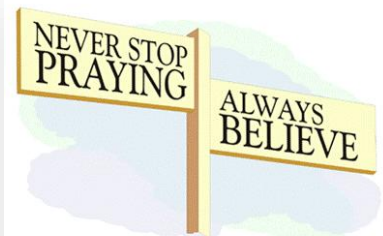


Almighty God, we honor and adore you. We thank you for your endless grace and mercy. We speak blessings upon our friends and families; we pray for our community; we pray for our country.

We appeal to you, O God, to calm the storm of our lives.
We ask for the strength and courage to run the race before us.
Call to our hearts. Beckon to our better angels.
Hold healthy alternatives before us.
Send your spirit of love, justice and peace to us.
We pray for those who are sick.
We pray for those who are worried and tired.

We pray that your strength would fill people's wounded spirits.
Stand alongside those who grieve the loss of a loved one.
Surround them with friendship and deep compassion.

Do not let our rage get the better of us.
This is an imperfect time, God.
It is a messy time. It is a chaotic time.
Help us to see beyond our long list of frustrations to...
YOU.
Give us comfort in the beauty of nature.
Give us perspective in the grace of the arts.
Give us joy as we see glimpses of YOU in the eyes of our children and all around us...
And in spotting you...
Help us to find clear wisdom and hope for the living of these days.
All this we pray, mingling our voices with the voice of Jesus,
who prayed with steady trust, saying,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.





We welcome the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association here at Hanover. The official support group will begin on **Saturday, September 27 at 11AM**. If you are a caregiver or in a family that cares for a loved one dealing with memory issues, we invite you to come.



First Friday Walks for Justice and Peace Friday, September 5—5:30PM—6PM

Join us for this peaceful, prayerful walk through the center of Wilmington to promote an end to racial and social injustice. We gather in the SsAM parking lot (719 Shipley St) with people from various faith communities to share in this active, visible commitment to justice and peace in our community. We walk in silence, carrying battery-powered candles, ending at Rodney Square. Wilmington staff support this walk by holding traffic at cross streets. It is a very moving experience. Please join us on the First Friday of each month! Any questions, please contact Bill Getman at wfgetman55@gmail.com.

~ Bill Getman

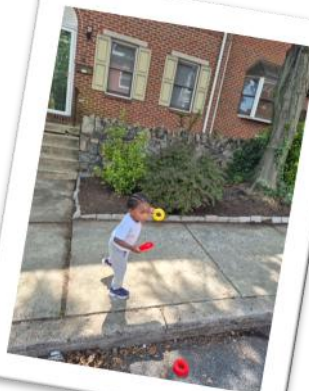




Food Pantry - The Food Pantry has been in full swing this summer. We have been busy every week. Our new regular number for each week is now 35-40. Our shelves go from full to empty in no time. Thanks to Hanover members, Giant, Wawa, Westminster and other donations we manage to fill them up again. Our ability to provide fresh produce is greatly appreciated. All you gardeners, farmers, out there, if your gardens overproduce, please remember us!

JB's Cafe - August was pretty mild, and we have loved the good weather outside. Business is brisk on the corner of 18th and Jefferson. Come on over and have a seat at the table!

~ Becky Arnold



Fun at the August 2 Block Party!





"September! I never tire of turning it over and over again in my mind. It has warmth, depth, and color. It glows like old amber." ~ *Patience Strong*

Weekly Happenings

- ◇ Prayer Circle—Mondays, 9:30am
- ◇ Tai Chi Chih—Mondays, 12pm, 1:45pm
- ◇ JB's Café—Tuesdays, 8am - 1pm
- ◇ Zumba—Tuesdays, 6pm—7pm
- ◇ Pickleball—Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm
- ◇ Clothes Closet—Wednesdays, 10am—12pm
- ◇ Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8-10am
- ◇ Zumba—Thursdays, 6pm—7pm
- ◇ Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm - 7:30pm
- ◇ October newsletter article deadline—Friday, September 26

September Birthdays

- 10 Monisha Smith
- 22 Cherise Alexander
- 22 Kourtney Bibbs
- 22 Julie Davis
- 22 Doris Loper
- 22 Ava Zistl
- 23 Ruth McFarland
- 25 Hillary Mohaupt
- 26 Silas Sheffer-O'Neill
- 29 Django Rosario



Looking at October . . .

Delaware Shakespeare—

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

Saturday, October 18, time tbd

Hanover Presbyterian Church

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MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

