

WHAT'S NEW AT HANOVER?

The Mission Study Team

This team will work with Rev. Randall Clayton, the Presbytery liaison from the Commission on Ministers and Congregations (COMC), to gather information that reflects any major changes that have occurred in the congregation's parish community. This team will recommend the type of pastoral leadership that will help Hanover live and thrive into the future. The results of their work will be presented to the Session for approval and adoption. The work of this team should be completed on or before May 2026. **Team members are: Judy Van Rooyen, Afam Madu, Michael Corbin, Martha McFarland, Beth Undercuffler and Dave Harris.**

The Vision Action Team

This team will focus on forming broader partnerships and discuss ways to rebrand or reinvent the image of the congregation. This will include new signage, a possible name change, and discovering ways to increase membership. The work of this team will be presented to the Session on or before February 2026. **Team members are: Karen Wilson, Amanda August, Nancy Long, Becky Arnold, Karen Hudson, Katie Leep, Ellen Casson, Pastor Silas, and Pastor Stephany.**

1001 New Worshipping Community Exploration Team

The Session has approved the exploration of Hanover birthing a 1001 New Interfaith Worshipping community. Tom Davis and Pastor Stephany will begin the research. After the Session has approved the proposed ministry, other members and officers will be invited into the planning process. The proposal will be presented to the Session at the January Session meeting.

The Event Set Up Team

The event set up team will provide additional support as the request for building usage increases. The members will be trained to operate technical equipment and on the procedures for special event set up. **Team members are: Peter Anto, James Jobes, Afam Madu, Bea Wilson, Jude Harlan, Fred McFarland, Martha McFarland, and Pastor Stephany.**

The Health and Safety Team

This team will be trained in First Aid and work to recommend and implement security procedures for the Hanover church. **Team members are: Martha McFarland, Amanda August, Ellen Casson, Herman Pullium, Bill Tudor, Romain Alexander, Karen Hudson, Stephanie Hinson, and Pastor Stephany.**

Session needs to sanction these teams, and I will commission all of the teams during a worship service.

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany



Hark! We're Going on a Journey

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

"Faith is a journey..." This advent we are embarking on a journey of faith--one that sees us embracing our advent words of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, as well as new words for our Hanover journey—discernment, creativity, courage, change, resilience.

The Bible is full of journeys – Abraham, the Exodus, the Exile and the return to Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, the magi's journey of following a star, Jesus's journey to Jerusalem, and Paul's missionary journeys.

"Journey" is such an effective metaphor as "journey" focuses on the process of getting there, not the arrival. When we talk about faith as a journey, we are emphasizing progress, not perfection, our travels, travails and triumphs, not the destination.

Another metaphor used throughout Advent is light—Be the light! Light for the journey! Shine brightly! The Light of Christ! Embark on an "Advent-ure" with our discipleship team this season. The adult class will reflect on the journey-filled scriptures, while the Wonderers discover that the Way is illuminated with wonder and light. Let us travel this Advent-ure together as we journey towards Bethlehem.

Our next Community Sunday, a monthly intergenerational event, will take place on December 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Church School Hall. The morning includes a journey-themed story, engaging discussions and activities designed to help us connect, and a festive advent craft session to close the gathering.

~ Nancy Long



We trust in the hope of the Christ Child, the perfect gift, for whom we prepare a way so he can prepare a way for us to know the fullness of God's love.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is the fourth of the special offerings that we collect throughout the year. This special offering supports racial and ethnic Presbyterian-sponsored high schools and colleges as well as providing financial assistance to church leaders and their families. We will collect the Christmas Joy Offering in church on **Sunday, December 21.**

You may also donate online at <https://www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/> and designating Hanover as your congregation.

We thank you in advance for your generosity!



Sunday, December 7	Advent 2—Congregational Meeting Community Sunday – 9:30AM Worship – 11AM followed by Annual Congregational Meeting and Christmas Cookie Swap
Wednesday, December 10	Poinsettia orders are due
Saturday, December 13	JSC Clothing Drive—9AM—12PM
Sunday, December 14	Advent 3—Installation of New Officers Christmas Brunch Session—7PM
Tuesday, December 16	Staff Christmas Meeting
Wednesday, December 17	Advent Time for Prayer —Zoom, 7PM
Thursday, December 18	Advent 4—Youth Sunday Christmas Joy Offering collected
Sunday, December 21	Christmas Eve Service Prelude music – 4:45PM Special Music by Gus Mercante and Shannon Booth Johnson Service begins 5PM
Wednesday, December 24	January newsletter article deadline Alzheimer's Support Group—11AM Kwanzaa Celebration Service with Guest Speaker - Dr. Peter Paris
Friday, December 26	
Saturday, December 27	
Sunday, December 28	



Please note that the Church Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24 and will reopen on Monday, January 5. Pastor Stephany, Twyla, and Herman will be coming into church throughout this time, so please feel free to reach out to them if you need anything.

Your Faith in Action Hanover UnGifts 2025

UnGifts are available
after worship on
Nov. 30 and Dec.
7, 14, 21 and 24

National Alliance on Mental Illness is a national mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness through advocacy, education, and working for change. It works with health care professionals, as well as the media, and elected and appointed officials to encourage understanding. Delaware NAMI offers free referrals, information and support.



Hanover's Food Pantry is run by volunteers from Hanover and the community and serves nearly 4,000 people each year. Food donations can be given on Sundays and left in the back of the church sanctuary. We also accept food and monetary donations from other organizations, and extra food is purchased from the Food Bank of Delaware.



Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety

Goal: Make safer communities locally, statewide and nationally by practicing gun safety and gun sense. **Strategy:** Engage the community in grassroots efforts to educate and create policy changes. **Tactics:** Work for gun safety legislation and elect candidates with gun safety agendas. Create a movement of safety by providing information and resources. **Local group:** Northern New Castle County. Parent Organization — Everytown for Gun Safety.



SOAR Survivors of Abuse in Recovery provides mental health services to victims of sexual trauma and their families, regardless of ability to pay. SOAR's services include individual, family, and group psychotherapy services to help victims of all ages recover from the sex crimes that have been committed against them.



Hanover Youth Ministry



Once a month, the Sunday service focuses on our youth. The service is held in the Gathering Place. One of our young people serves as the lay leader and reads scripture, and prayers, and gives guidance to the congregation. After the service a DJ plays music and we play games together, then we gather around tables for lunch. Donations support the cost of activities and the DJ.

Christmas Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating poinsettias for display on Christmas Eve, 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 Church (\$15 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:

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

After Christmas Eve 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 Wednesday, Dec. 10

The world is changing, but God's love and protection remains the same. Let us gather for Advent prayers and reflection on **Thursday, December 18, at 7PM on Zoom.**

We'll send out the Zoom link in The Scoop and by email on that Thursday.

By Faith,

Pastor Stephany

* * * * *

Pastor Silas has office hours on Mondays from 10AM - 1PM or by appointment.

Please feel free to stop in and talk with him!

*The
Hanover
Prayer Corner*



Christmas Eve Service

We'll have our candlelight service on **Wednesday, December 24, at 5pm (pre-service music begins at 4:45pm).**

Special musical guests are Gus Mercante, countertenor, Shannon Booth-Johnson, soprano, and the Hanover Choir.

Please join us for a glorious celebration of the birth of Christ!

Movie Discussion - *The Hate U Give* – Sunday, January 11, 2026

Join us after worship on Sunday, January 11 for a special screening of the critically acclaimed film *The Hate U Give*. We'll gather in the front of the sanctuary at about 12:15PM 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 to love our neighbors boldly and bravely.

~ Maggie Alexander



First Friday Walks for Justice and Peace

Friday, December 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

WANTED: CANDIDATES for \$1000 ENSLEN SCHOLARSHIP

Marybell Enslin was a devoted member of the Female Harmony Society who believed in the power of education, particularly continuing above high school and college. Her family created The Marybell Enslin Memorial Scholarship in her honor. One \$1000 scholarship is offered each year for a post-graduate program leading to a degree or professional certification that will **help the recipient improve the lives of others**. **Applications are now available with a closing date of December 30th**. The award decision will be made by January 15th. The short application is posted on the Female Harmony Society Website or available by contacting Maggie Alexander, (MaggieA10@verizon.net, or 302-521-6611.) Last year the Enslin Scholarship was awarded to Natalie Jobes. Please let any relatives or friends who might be eligible know about this opportunity.



What's Happening

Thanksgiving - When all was said and done, thanks to a few unexpected turkey donations, we were able to give out 105 turkeys and bags of dinner staples. Thank you to all who donated their time, energy, food and money to this project. A big thankyou to the BTL Foundation for their generosity and partnership over the years.

Food Pantry - We have had a busy month. Thanks to all the many generous donations of Hanover members and others in our community, our shelves have been full. We served 157 families or 391 individuals. We expect December to be equally as busy and as always appreciate any and all donations!

Church Life - A couple of dates you might want to mark on your calendars:

Sunday, December 7 - Get a head start on cookie baking and share your favorite with your Hanover family at our COOKIE SWAP after church. Not only will there be cake for Birthday Sunday, but cookies to take home! Don't forget to bring something to put your goodies in.

Sunday, December 14 - Looking forward to seeing you all at our "annual" Christmas meal. Instead of a dinner, we will be having a brunch. This will be a chance to try out those recipes you've always wanted to make, but never had any place to take them. Don't forget, "brunch" is a combination of breakfast and lunch, so the possibilities are endless!

~ Becky Arnold



Thanksgiving bags volunteers



Twinning!



Hanover's construction crew hard at work on a new project.



"There is no better time than now, this very Christmas season, for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the principles taught by Jesus the Christ. It is the time to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart—and our neighbors as ourselves."
~ Thomas S. Monson

Weekly Happenings

- ◇ Prayer Circle—Mondays, 9:30am
- ◇ Tai Chi Chih—Mondays, 12pm, 4:30pm
- ◇ 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
- ◇ January newsletter article deadline—Monday, December 22

December Birthdays

5	Lynn Gregory
5	Alison Moore
12	Della Williams
12	Taylor Zistl
14	Judy Van Rooyen
15	Michael Carty
20	Diane Dunham
29	Grant Evitts
29	Bea Wilson



*A blessed Advent
and glorious Christmas
season to
you and yours!*



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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.