

# THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people  
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,  
Wilmington, Delaware  
December 2019

## 2019 UnGifts Adds Tree-Planting Project

This year, Hanover's Christmas UnGifts project will include a new option: the Earth Day Network's Canopy Project, which is working to strengthen communities around the world by planting trees. It has planted tens of millions of trees since 2010. Some of the world's poorest communities are being targeted, as well as land that has been degraded by logging, fires, drought, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, and environmentally critical areas such as the Amazon rainforest and the Boreal Forest.

Trees provide food, energy and income and help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability. They also filter the air and help reverse the impacts of climate change. In just one year, a mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen as 10 people inhale! Planting trees also strengthens local economies—every dollar spent on reforestation generates \$2.50 in local downstream income.  
*Continued on Page 3*



## Hey Mary! Hey Hanover!

December's Community Sunday is also the first Sunday of Advent. Through story and song, we will put ourselves into the sandals of Mary as her story becomes ours—how the news brought to her by an angel forever changed her life and ours.

Hey Mary! Hey Hanover! Join us on Dec. 1 at 9:30 a.m. as we kick off Advent with our Community Sunday intergenerational gathering.

## The World Still Knows . . .

For our Advent Soup and Supper Study (on Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 5:30-7 p.m.), we will explore the mystery of the Christmas season through the poetry of Presbyterian poet and author Ann Weems. Through her poetry and musings we will "think about the season's events in a creative and powerful way" as well

how we can live out the good news of the Christmas story in our families, communities, and the world. "If Christmas is not now, if Christ is not born into the everyday present, then what is all the noise about?" (Quotes from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*)

Our Advent suppers begin at 5:30 p.m., but please come when you are able—there is always plenty of hot soup and warm fellowship. For more information contact Nancy Long at [j2nlong@comcast.net](mailto:j2nlong@comcast.net) or 893-3682.



Discipleship classes took a break on Nov. 24 to set up the Gathering Place for the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets the next day. One hundred turkeys and baskets were distributed to provide a happy Thanksgiving to nearly 550 people. This was made possible by your support of the Hanover Sidewalk Café this summer, and in partnership with the BTL Foundation.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

### *pil·grim·age* ('pil grə midʒ) noun

1. a journey, esp. a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion

2. any long journey, esp. one undertaken as a quest or act of devotion

By the time you read this I will be on a pilgrimage to, what is for me, a sacred place. It will be a long journey, a quest, and act of devotion.

In my family of origin there were four holidays: Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and the 4th Saturday of November. I cannot remember a time when I was not in front of a television with my family at noon on that day. Growing up, it was the only time we were allowed to eat a meal in the den—and what a feast it was!

My father was born and raised in Detroit. He was the first person in his family to attend college and went to the University of Michigan where he received two degrees in political science.

Each Saturday when there was a home football game, his parents, my grandparents, would drive from Detroit to Ann Arbor and go to the game with my dad. The stories are family legends (or perhaps myths . . . or fables). They would go to the noon game, cheer until they lost their voices, and leave either elated or distraught. After every game the three of them would adjourn to the The Pretzel Bell, a renowned college hangout. I've heard tell that more than once they closed the joint.

In our family, The Big House (the football stadium) is a shrine. The current record for attendance is 114,027. When there is a home game The Big House is the third largest city in Michigan. My lifelong dream since childhood has been to attend a University of Michigan football game.

For years my dad and I talked about making the pilgrimage. My grandmother and I also dreamed of attending together. It is one of my greatest regrets that we were never able to share an afternoon in The Big House.

The 4th Saturday in November is a holiday in our house because that is the day Michigan and Ohio State square off. It is without question one of the greatest, if not the greatest, rivalries in all of sports. For calendar reasons, it ended up on the 5th Saturday this year. And I will be there.

One day I randomly met a man at a cross country meet who was decked out in the classic Michigan blue and maize. After reveling in our shared passion for the Wolverines he told me he holds season tickets. Then he asked if I would be interested in using them if there was a time when he couldn't. Several months later we saw each other again, and he opened the door to a dream I had all but given up on. He was not able to use his tickets for a game; would I like to have them? Then he said it: the Ohio State game.

Yes, pilgrimages are about making a long journey to a sacred place. More importantly, they are a quest and act of devotion. When we arrive at the destination of our pilgrimages, we connect with all of those who have made the pilgrimage before us. When we get there, we are in communion with the ones who created us, shaped and formed us, and left us the legacy of what is sacred.

At noon on Saturday, Nov. 30, Nona and I will be with my father and his mother and father. I will breathe the air they breathed. I will cheer the cheers they cheered. I will sing the fight song they sang. I will lose my voice like they did. With Nona, I hope to find The Pretzel Bell, and raise a toast to the ones who created a sacred place in my heart.

Praise God for the traditions that are passed down through the generations. Praise God for the pilgrimages that re-unite us with them. May God bless the pilgrimages we make this season, especially the one that leads us to Bethlehem. — Peace, *Andy*

P.S. I extend special gratitude to the ruling elders who, on short notice, agreed to let me go on this pilgrimage and miss our first Advent worship service and congregational meeting.

## MUSIC MATTERS

*People, look east – the time is near of the crowning of the year.*

*Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.*

*People, look east and sing today: Love, the Light, is on the way.*

And while we look and sing, we have these musical opportunities:

**Holiday Brass Concert:** Saturday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. Join us for a festive holiday program from the Newark Community Band. They have been in existence for 35 years. It is made for 60 musicians from Delaware and Maryland. Our own David Harris has been the musical director for the past 15 years. The band performs a holiday program every year and performs for nursing homes, The Little Sisters of the Poor, and various outdoor locations in New Castle County during the summer months. The concert is free to everyone. Come and enjoy the sounds of the season!

**Jeremiah's Coffee House:** Saturday, Dec. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is an evening of good food, friends, and relaxed artistic fun – it's "open mic," so if you want to sing, dance a Christmas jig, play an instrument, read a poem, tell a story, show a craft – anything goes! Please talk to George Turner or me to get on the roster, or you can just show up and share!

**Candlelight Christmas Eve service,** Monday, Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m. musical prelude, and 7 p.m. service, with guest musician Augustine Mercante, countertenor, and The Hanover Choir

It is truly "the most wonderful time of the year", and it is . . .

*Soli deo Gloria*, (only for the glory of God) — *Twyla*

### Microwave anyone?

The Food Pantry is in need of a microwave (used is fine.) The one in the Gathering Place kitchen gave up on us Wednesday night, fortunately after we had prepared most of our Thanksgiving potluck meal. If anyone knows of a microwave that is looking for a home, we would be glad to adopt it!

The Finance Committee prepared a draft budget for 2020, along with a recommendation for the Pastor's Terms of Call. Session approved the budget at its Nov. 19 meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that we continue to combine the pledged and non-pledged contributions for budget purposes, as we have done for the past four years. The pledged and non-pledged categories will still be tracked separately by the financial secretaries, and will be reflected in our bookkeeping. There is no increase over 2019 in our budget for pledged and non-pledged contributions.

Personnel received a 3 percent increase in pay for 2020. We continue to offer the retirement savings plan match of up to 4 percent for staff working 25 hours or more.

The budget summary:

**Income:**

Contributions (pledged and non-pledged).....	\$205,000
Per Capita giving.....	3,800
Loose offering.....	3,500
Fundraising.....	6,000
Jefferson Street Center contributions.....	9,000
Open Arms rent and utilities.....	49,364
Memorial/misc. ....	1,200
Building use.....	3,800
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$281,664</b>

**Expenses:**

Pastor.....	\$107,145
Other personnel.....	105,554
Building/Operating.....	74,950
Per capita assessment.....	5,453
Programs.....	13,245
Presbytery, General Assembly, and Pastor Discretionary Fund...	4,600
<b>Total Expense .....</b>	<b>\$310,947</b>
<b>Deficit.....</b>	<b>(\$29,283)</b>

## 2020 Communion Dates

Session has approved the following 2020 communion dates: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 1, April 9 (Maundy Thursday), April 12 (Easter), May 3, May 31 (Pentecost), July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, (World Communion), Oct. 25 (Reformation Sunday), Nov. 29 (1 Advent)

## Christmas Luncheon

All invited to a Christmas pot luck lunch after worship on Dec. 8. We will gather in the Gathering Place to kick off the many events that will be happening in and around Hanover (although, the greening will already be done.)

Most importantly we will be sharing a meal of all your favorites! We'll supply turkey, ham, potatoes and gravy. Please bring one of your favorite holiday side dishes to share. There will be Christmas cards sign for our friends who cannot be with us, a table for UnGifts and many holiday items for our first "Mini Super Sale." Come one, come all—we look forward to seeing you!

## Souper Tuesday: Great

Tuesday, Nov. 11 was the start of the Hanover Sidewalk Café's morph into Souper Tuesday in the Gathering Place. It has not taken long for our loyal customers to make the

## UnGifts for 2019

*Continued from Page 1*

come and benefits. As this year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the goal is to plant 7.8 billion trees, one for every person on earth.

Faith In Action (which sponsors this initiative) provides a gift card and an insert that describes the project, which you can give to the person in whose honor you made the donation. The other options are: the Hanover Food Pantry which offers food for people in need every week, the national Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program which helps communities dealing with crises and catastrophic events, Read In/Read Out which helps incarcerated parents maintain connections with their children by giving books to the children along with recordings of their parent reading the book to them, and Hanover's twice weekly Zumba classes, which enable people to exercise as well as to form friendships across cultural and age boundaries.

UnGifts will be available after worship on Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, and at Jeremiah Coffee House Dec. 14.

transition from outside to in. We are happy to report that Chef James is just as busy as ever and looks forward to continued success as more friends and neighbors learn where we are and that our soups are "pretty good!" Stop on in and join us!

## Food Pantry Holding On!

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, we at the Food Pantry remain thankful to all who have supported us this year and clearly think that we still should be a part of Hanover's presence in the neighborhood. We continue to meet people who have heard of Hanover's Food Pantry and who choose to send support our way. While we appreciate your donations of food items, we also are grateful for monetary gifts that enable us to purchase the healthy fresh produce that our clients have come to look forward to each week. Thank you so much!

## Christmas Eve Cookies

When you are baking your holiday cookies, please squeeze out an extra dozen for our after Christmas Eve gathering. You can drop them off in the Pullman kitchen prior to the candlelight service.

## Come Green the Church

Come join us on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m. to decorate the sanctuary and Church School Hall for the Christmas season!

## December Birthdays

- 4 Sarah Davenport
- 5 Lynn Gregory  
Alison Moore
- 7 Marjorie McNeill
- 8 Cory Melvin
- 12 Pat Hall  
Della Williams  
Taylor Zisl
- 13 Lois Ford
- 14 Andy Jacob  
Judy Van Rooyen
- 15 Michael Carty
- 20 Diane Dunham
- 22 Peg Showalter
- 29 Grant Evitts  
Bea Wilson



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church  
 1801 N. Jefferson Street  
 Wilmington, DE 19802  
 (302) 658-5114  
 Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Wilmington, DE  
 Permit #45

## CALENDAR

### Weekly

- Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays
- K'nittee, 5:30 p.m., Mondays
- Coffee Café, 8 a.m., Tuesdays
- Souper Tuesday, 11 a.m., Tuesdays
- Zumba, 6 p.m. Tuesdays; 6:30 p.m., Thursdays
- Clothing Closet, 9 a.m., Wednesdays
- Bible Study, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays
- Choir rehearsal, 7 p.m., Wednesdays
- Food Pantry, 8 a.m., Thursdays
- Yoga, 6:15 p.m., Fridays

### Events and Meetings

- Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Dec. 2
- Preparedness Training, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 2
- Advent Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18
- From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5
- Greening of the Church, 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 7
- Holiday Brass Concert, 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7
- Advent Luncheon, following worship, Sunday, Dec. 8
- Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12
- Jeremiah's Coffee House, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14
- Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17
- Staff meeting, 12 p.m., Wednesday,

## Poinsettias for 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 (\$11 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:

Sue Baker  
 110 Southwick Drive  
 Wilmington, DE 19810

### 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 Sunday, Dec. 8**

day., Dec. 18  
**Women's Bible Study**, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 19  
**Christmas Eve Service**, Tuesday, Dec. 24  
 6:30 p.m. Prelude - Augustine Mercante, countertenor and The

Hanover Choir  
 7 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service  
**Church Office closed:** Tuesday, Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas!  
**Church Office closed:** Monday, Dec. 31