



**Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Delaware**

February 2021

Dear Hanover Saints,

Special greetings, with deep prayers and great hope that you and yours are well. Please continue to be safe by taking all the recommended covid-19 precautions. Even as we receive the hope that comes in each new vaccination, we must remain vigilant if we are to make our remaining time in seclusion as short as possible.

As we prepare for the annual forty-day retreat into the wilderness that we call Lent, I want to let you know more about the journey before us. More importantly, I offer this as an invitation to join me. Well, I should say, join us.

I will be on a journey because I am on the run. I'm running away from some things in my past that I really don't want to talk about. I am also running toward something – but I don't know what. I just know I need something if I am to keep going, much less stay alive. I'm experiencing this passionate drive to pursue something – anything - that will give my life meaning and purpose...

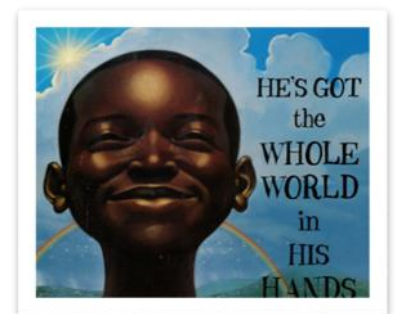
One very special day I met someone who is feeling much like I am. As we parted at the end of that day, we promised we would keep in touch so we could hear about each other's journeys. We dreamed that we might learn from each other. So, we planned to connect each week.

The invitation this Lent is two-fold. First, you will be able to walk with us by checking in each week to be a fly on the wall and hear the stories of what we have encountered – and what we have learned. Second, we invite you to do the same. Whether you are running away from or toward something, in sharing our journeys may we learn with and from one another. And at the end of our journey, may we end up in the place God calls us to be – and perhaps even together....

Peace,
Andy

Community Sunday

This Sunday, February 7, as we celebrate communion and Black History month, we will hold our intergenerational Community Sunday gathering via Zoom at **9:30am**. This month we will be reading He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson. The spiritual is one of the best known songs of all time—sung at churches, schools and camps. There are many versions of the lyrics and the ones in our book may not include the ones you remember singing. How do you remember singing or hearing the song? One of the exercises will be to improvise as we add new verses to this timeless song.



To join us on Sunday morning, [CLICK HERE](#).

Or you may dial in on your phone:

Dial in: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 810 8834 1093

Passcode: 974491



The Inquisitive Intern

by
Sara Snowden

Joy. Simple, pure, unexpected joy. When was the last time you experienced it?

I have been working on a project for a class that involves spending a lot of time looking at and gathering images taken during this pandemic. These photographs, taken by professionals and amateurs, capture the ins and outs of life in this pandemic, including closed signs on stores and movie theaters, discarded masks on the sidewalk, empty streets, and bare grocery store shelves. There are also images of health care professionals in their protective gear, teachers instructing through Zoom, and remote worshippers preparing to take communion.

One photograph caused me to pause and reflect on joy. It was an image of a bride and groom celebrating after their wedding. They were holding hands and you can tell they were smiling even though their face masks covered their mouths. A small group of people gathered to celebrate with them. Everyone in masks. It brought tears to my eyes as I thought about the moments of joy that happened this past year despite the hardships and tragedy brought on by this pandemic. We often recall those important moments in our lives—the graduations, weddings, births, birthdays, and holidays—and find joy in remembering them.

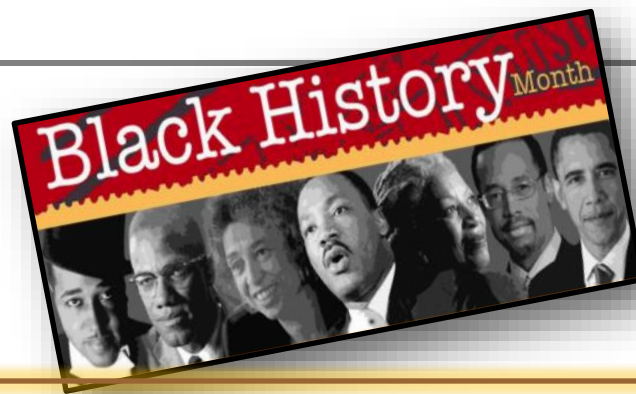
Several months ago, I attended a small and socially-distanced ordination of a new Episcopal priest. She was dressed in white with a matching facemask for the beginning of the service. Following her ordination vows, several people helped her put on her red clerical garb. After they finished, the newly ordained priest took off her white facemask and replaced it with a beautiful red one. It was, truly, a sign of the times. And, yet, it was a joy-filled day as she began her ministry in this very strange time.

Many of you likely felt joy, relief, and hope last month as President Biden and Vice President Harris began their terms in office. Many of us will experience a sense of joy, relief, and hope as we finally roll up our sleeve for our first dose of the vaccine. Perhaps joy can be found in the smaller, more routine aspects of the day. A particularly good meal, a package delivered on time, the warm glow of a candle at the end of the day, a friend calling out of the blue—these moments can all be opportunities to experience joy in the unremarkable.

As we experience the cold, gray days of February may you find joy in this strange time, and may you be a source of joy to those around you.

~Sara





Black History Celebration Events at Hanover

Sunday services: January 24—January 31—February 7—February 14

Guest speakers Lisa Blunt Rochester, Rev. Charles Gilmore, Rev. J.B. Redding

Wednesday Zoom forums at 6:30PM: January 27—February 3—February 10

Guest presenters Darryl Parson, Richard Raw, Syl Woolford

Soul Food Luncheon: Sunday, February 21—pick-up time 11:30-12:30PM

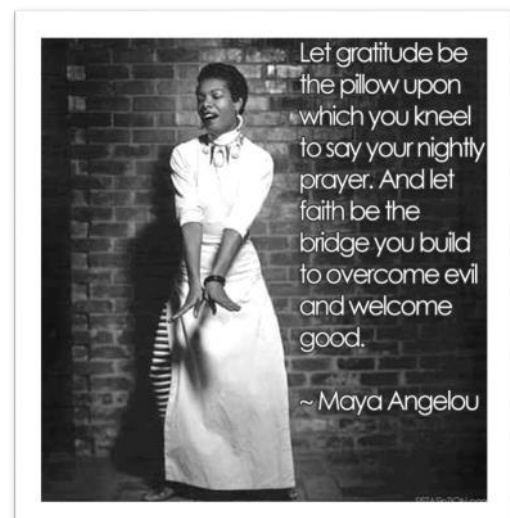
This year is pre-ordering and picking up food at the Church from 11:30—12:30 p.m. We emailed the registration form. If you need more copies, please call the church office. Registration and payment must be made by Friday, February 12.

Gospel Vespers: Sunday, February 21, 2:00 p.m.

Musical guests: Tina Betz, Martin Hargrove, Gus Mercante, Brian Gray

Brian Gray (having sung at our Gospel Vespers for 15 years now) will open the program. Then a dramatic collaboration of music, reading, and reflection from three local artists: Tina Betz, Martin Hargrove, and Gus Mercante.

All of our services and programs will be on Zoom or premiere events on YouTube. We send these out through our email list, so if you do not receive the links and would like to get on our notifications email, please contact the Church Office: (302) 658-5114 or office@hanoverchurch.org.



Lent at Hanover

Ash Wednesday service—Wednesday, February 17—7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday is the first step of our Lenten journey. We meet God, seeking forgiveness, reconciliation, and guidance. This year we will be mailing a small pouch of ashes in preparation for the service. The service will be pre-recorded, and then a Zoom link will be emailed out.



Lenten Supper & Story beginning Wednesday, February 24 at 6:00 PM



Yes, you read that correctly. This season of Lent, we are stepping away from a time of *study* and moving into a time of *story*. You are invited to gather via Zoom each Wednesday evening from the comfort of your own homes as we share a simple supper and enjoy a time of storytelling. We will be sending out the link weekly via email.

In preparation, choose one meaningful photograph from your past, preferably one with people you know in it. Have that photograph with you when you join us via Zoom each Wednesday evening. Together, we will explore what makes a meaningful story: the characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. Worried this sounds too much like high school English? Do not be afraid! There are no assigned readings, no papers to write, and no grades. Instead, we will laugh and learn as we use a photograph to tell our story.

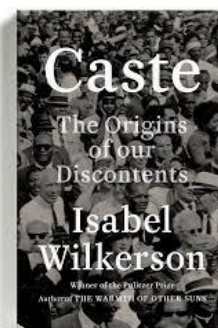
2021 Zoom Book Discussions

Hanover will be sponsoring four book discussions this year, currently on Zoom.

On **Sunday, February 28th** we will discuss *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent* by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Isabel Wilkerson. She gives a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores through personal stories how our country has been shaped by a hidden caste system of human rankings.

The book can be purchased on Amazon in hardcover and on Kindle. If you need help with getting the book, please contact Maggie Alexander: maggieA10@verizon.net

Please contact Karin Wilson at (302) 984-0275 or by email at: kfmadison583@msn.com to get on the list to receive the link.



For your calendars, our other 2021 book studies will include:

May 16—*Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future*

September 19—*Dancing in God's Earthquake*

November 14—*Nickel Boys*



**Handmade
Chocolate
Easter Eggs**

Order Now

**For pickup/
delivery on
March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday**

Choose filling:

- ~ Butter Cream
- ~ Peanut Butter
- ~ Coconut

Boxed and decorated
1/4 lb. egg—only

\$5

Hanover Presbyterian Church is continuing the tradition of
Easter Eggs from Port Penn Presbyterian.

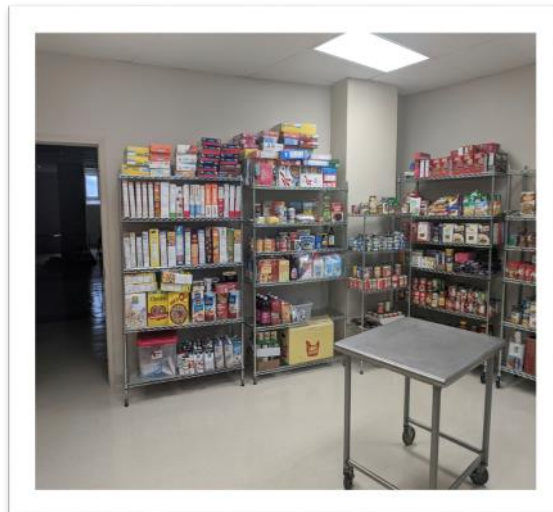
Orders due by March 22

Call Becky Arnold (584) 0356 or Church Office (658-5114)

What's Happening

Food Pantry update:

The Food Pantry is up and running in our new space. Our clients love it and so do our volunteers. There is much more space to move around in and it almost feels like a corner store. If you would like to donate any items, things to get would be toiletries, toilet paper, Kleenex, dish detergent and laundry detergent. We have also been working to get the kitchen in order. The counters have been cleaned, all the utensils and pots put through the dishwasher, and all equipment put away. It is ready for use whenever that time comes! Also, If you are a Hanover member and are having trouble getting food during this pandemic, the Food Pantry is open for you on Wednesdays from 10-11am. If you need to set up a different time, please contact Becky at (302) 584-0356.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lee Buckley
- 1 Sean Simpson
- 3 Nancy Long
- 3 Jurgens Van Rooyen
- 4 Hope Alexander
- 4 Twyla Evitts
- 6 Nathaniel Arnold
- 6 Andy Moore
- 7 Tracey Lewis
- 8 Doris Murphy
- 9 Andrew Long
- 15 Gabrielle Murphy
- 16 Jean Gross
- 16 Sean Howard
- 17 Maggie Alexander
- 17 Jacob Arnold
- 21 Tom Davis
- 21 Mike Kirylik
- 22 Nancy Palmer
- 24 Melvin Matthews, Jr.
- 24 Irene Turner
- 25 Stuart Bailey
- 26 Chris Simmons
- 26 Larry Smith
- 26 Brian Zankowsky



2021 Per Capita

Every Presbyterian shares in the benefits of our PC(USA) system of government

The breakout includes:

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic	\$1.15
General Assembly	8.98
New Castle Presbytery	19.67
Total 2021 Per Capita	\$29.80

The Hanover budget includes this expense. If you are able to pay this one-time \$29.80 apart from your regular giving then that much more money is directed to our mission and ministry at Hanover.

Thank You

I want to thank all the Hanover Saints who took the time to call and send me "Oh So many, many get well wishes and cards. It was a great Joy that during my time of confinement and recuperation to walk to the mailbox and receive an expression of prayer and healing. It was GREATLY appreciated!! I am so glad and PROUD that I belong to such a Caring and Loving Church. May Our heavenly Father continue to Bless you All!!

Susie Watson





“Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Discussion of Why We All Should Sing African-American Spirituals”

Written by Ryan Pryslak, Director of Music at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

As we gear up to celebrate Black History Month 2021, I had been thinking about what I would write about for my article in The Courier. I had just read a post from a college colleague who is now a professional voice teacher. She was expressing her opinion that as a white educator today she does not feel that it is appropriate for a white person to sing African American Spirituals. Furthermore, her opinion was that choirs that are predominantly white should not be singing these spirituals, neither should voice teachers be assigning solos to their white students from this genre. Her thesis was that as Caucasians we put a burden on our black brethren by singing music so deeply rooted in pain and suffering that wasn't part of our own experience.

Naturally, being Facebook, everyone had an opinion. Another colleague, who is African-American and a prominent choral director in Delaware chimed in (he started his sentence with “No one asked for my opinion. BUT...”.) He made three really great points:

- 1—Anyone can sing spirituals and gospel music re: I'm not Italian, but I'm gonna' sing Puccini!
- 2—The nuance of this comes in the scholarship of the performance practice and acknowledging the struggle from whence these genres were born.
- 3—“If you can't say “Black Lives Matter” then don't sing our music.”

Another friend and colleague who is a white, male countertenor shared that in 2002 he sang in a competition where he put HT Burleigh's arrangement of “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” on his list as his English Art song selection. One of the white male judges told him that white singers shouldn't sing spiritual. When he returned home he got out his collection of CD's of spirituals and started writing to the artists on those collections asking for their opinion on the matter. Every single one of them, all African American, said they were not bothered by white singers singing spirituals.

Why do I share this? I think it's important in the context of our current culture and struggle with racism to have this conversation. I respect my colleague's opinion and see where she is coming from and that many people may feel this way. While I don't completely agree, I appreciate her and her opinion. I feel that by embracing diversity in music and taking the time to understand the history and story behind these spirituals, we can love each other better. Will I ever know the pain that these songs express? No. When I sing the lyrics “Soon 'ah will be done with the troubles of de world”, I cannot possibly know what it felt like to be enslaved, beaten, and have everything taken away, hoping to finally find rest in the next life. But, I can learn and grow as a person when I sing these songs, study the background of the music and how they came into being. I also think it is hugely important that we add focus on music by BIPOC composers outside of the spiritual. Many know the names Harry Burleigh, William L. Dawson and Moses Hogan as they are some of the best loved composers of Spirituals. But do you know Adolphus Hallstork, Noel Da Costa, Florence Price, Rollo Dillworth or David Hurd? All of these men and women, and so many more are talented beyond belief composing music for choir, organ, piano, symphonies and beyond.

I challenge you all this Black History Month to explore the genre of the spiritual, find a new favorite recording, and listen to music by black composers that might be outside of your comfort zone. This is how we grow as people and become more accepting of all.

Ryan Pryslak

Director of Music, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



From the Church Office

- ~ Deadline for Soul Food Luncheon
Friday, February 12
- ~ Deadline for ordering Easter Eggs
Monday, March 22

Weekly Happenings

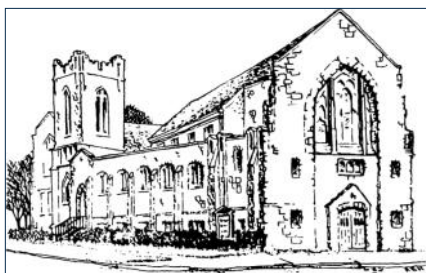
- Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30 a.m.
- High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12 p.m.
- Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8 a.m.
- Yoga—Fridays, 6:15 p.m.
- Virtual Worship Service—Sundays, 10 a.m.
(available on Saturday evenings)
- Zoom Fellowship Hour—Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Group & Committee Meetings

- Deacons: Tuesday, February 2, 5:30pm
- JSC Board: Tuesday, February 2, 7:00pm
- From Surviving to Thriving: Thursday, February 4, 7:00pm
- Invitational Team: Monday, February 8, 4:30pm
- Worship Committee: Tuesday, February 9, 2:00pm
- Internship Lay Committee: Wednesday, February 10, 1pm
- Faith in Action: Thursday, February 11, 5:30 p.m.
- Session: Tuesday, February 16, 7:00pm
- March *Herald* article deadline: Thursday, February 25

Comfort in the Scriptures {found in Matthew 6:25-34}

Do not worry about your life—look at the birds of the air; they do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet God feeds them. Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they do not toil nor spin, yet God clothes them in beauty. Therefore do not worry, but work first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

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