



Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Delaware

April 2021

...but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 4:3-5

Dear Hanover Saints,

On more than one occasion over the last year I have said and written that the Covid-19 experience need not be a total loss. To be clear, this is not my venture into Pollyannaism, it is not my attempt to transform lemons into lemonade, and it is certainly not to deny the horror of the pandemic. It comes from the deep belief that we receive our greatest lessons and learnings in times of crisis and conflict – precisely when things are *not* unfolding as we would choose. Well, it's been working so far, so why stop now?

At the beginning of Lent, I suggested that this year's forty-day wanderings through the wilderness might feel more real than ever. The impacts of the pandemic provide a most fertile field for the seeds of temptation. Just as Jesus was tempted by Satan to distance himself from God, so are we challenged to abide by and honor our core faith values in this time of dis-ease. Just as Jesus experienced deprivation of mind, body, soul, and spirit, so have we been confronted with challenges to our most basic needs.

Now, by the grace of God, Lent is springing into Easter. Easter is nothing if it is not about new beginnings, new hope, and new life. How appropriate, if not perfect, that just as we rejoice in the stone that sealed Jesus's tomb has been rolled away – freeing him - that we also rejoice in vaccines that will, in due time, roll away the Covid-19 stone that has sealed us each in our own places – and will free us.

My hope and prayer for us all is that the very essence of Easter is enhanced this year because we can appreciate more than ever what it means to be liberated and freed. May our Alleluias erupt from a deeper place. May our gratitude spring forth like an ever-flowing stream. May our renewed hope shine for the world to see. And may our new life take root and thrive.

This year, when we sing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today", may we understand all the more deeply what it means to be liberated and set free. And may our understanding bring us closer to one another, and to Jesus.

Peace,

Andy



Palm Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m., Sunday, March 28
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1
Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m., Friday, April 2
Easter Sunrise service, 7:00 a.m., Sunday, April 4

(live at The Sugar Bowl—all COVID precautions in place)

Easter Day service w/Communion, 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 4
(All services will be recorded and available on YouTube with the exception of the Easter Sunrise Service.)



The Inquisitive Intern

by
Sara Snowden

As I sit down to write this, I am sporting a brand-new bandage on the upper part of my left arm. I have not been this excited to show off a bandage since I was about four years old. This bandage, along with a small card bearing the CDC symbol are proof of my initial Covid vaccination. That I am joining the ranks of many vaccinated Hanover Saints fills me with hope.

The folks at Dover Downs put me in the 30-minute-waiting lot after the vaccine because of some allergies I have. All went well, but the person who gave me my shot made it clear I should be certain I feel absolutely fine before driving. While I waited, I found myself asking "Do I feel fine?" every few minutes: "Do I feel fine now... What about now... Do I feel less fine or more fine than I did five minutes ago... How do I know if I feel fine... What does 'fine' feel like?"

How *do* we know if we feel fine? How do we know when something is just not right? It is not always easy to find time to check in on ourselves and yet, we often pay the price when we do not prioritize our own health and wellbeing. Back in January I wrote about reserving time each week to rest with God. Taking time to rest with God is not only a good idea, it is vital for our wellbeing.

As we enter the fourth month of the year, I wanted to share a way I rest with God while also checking in on myself. Centering prayer helps me tune out the outside noise and focus on what my mind and heart are telling me. It also allows me to connect with God. Once a day, I set a timer for ten minutes, turn out the lights, sit in a chair, and breathe. There are many different ways to quiet your mind and stay centered. I found repeating the word 'stillness' silently helps me. On the inhale, I silently say 'still' and complete the word on the exhale. Doing this helps calm down my monkey brain as it wants to swing from topic to topic, trying to resist the quiet. Try as I might to stay centered and keep my mind open, thoughts still pull me away. When they do, I gently come back to center by focusing on my breath and repeating 'stillness.' Sometimes that ten minutes feels unending while other times it flies by. I emerge refreshed, reconnected with God and with myself. A quick Google search will turn up many references to centering prayer. The Contemplative Society's page on centering prayer is a nice starting point.

- Sara



Call for Volunteers! Hanover, as part of the Ninth Ward rotational network, will host families of Family Promise during the week of May 2-9, 2021. Volunteers may provide household supplies, groceries, or prepared meals.

If you are interested in helping families experiencing homelessness, consider volunteering in May. For more information, contact your coordinators Karin Wilson at kfmadison583@msn.com or Marti Yates at martiyates@gmail.com. Thank you!



Our Gymnasium Gets a Sprinkler System

The installation of the sprinkler system started in June of 2020, with the sidewalk excavation and the installation of a very large water pipe to bring more water pressure into the gym. Now in March 2021, we have a Certificate of Installation certifying that we met all the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations with this installation. It was signed by representatives from



Comprehensive Fire Technologies, Bear Industries, the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office, and Herman Pulliam for Hanover Presbyterian Church, the best signature of all. It is all wired into a modern fire safety panel in the church office monitored by Comprehensive Fire Technologies and we now have the important "FDC" pipe on Baynard Boulevard for the Fire Department connection, should we ever need it. Let's hope we never will.

Lots of coordination, work and money went into this project. Jefferson Street Center, Inc., through the support of one of its prior board members, Diane Bohner, was able to obtain \$100,000 in funding from Christiana Care. We also received funding from Ignite Funds through the Presbytery of New Castle County. The balance of funds has come from Healthy Communities Delaware for a total of \$187,000. In addition to the sprinkler system, we received funding from the Laffey McHugh Foundation for air conditioning and we received funding from the Delaware Community Foundation for new basketball backboards, rims, nets, and padding. We do have another hurdle to contend with to have the gym licensed for the Open Arms Academy child care center to use. The City of Wilmington Fire Marshal's Office is still asking for us to address egress issues for the young children, so that is our next focus. In the meantime, as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to being able to open the doors of the gym to the community, for families, adults and youth to enjoy healthy recreation, in a safe environment.

Easter Eggs were a **SUCCESS!!** Hanover's first fund raiser of the year, making chocolate Easter eggs (carrying on the Port Penn tradition) was successful in many ways. Not only did we learn how to do something new (always a winning outcome) we had fun doing it. For one week, about eight women of Hanover got the chance to finally see and be with each other at the church. That in itself was a blessing—the fact that we made 264 eggs and made \$1320 for the church was another. Perhaps we have a new "tradition" as well. We definitely have been bitten by the chocolate bug so look for more sweet treats to come!



Thanks to all who supported this project by buying eggs and especially to those who came together to make them. *Becky*

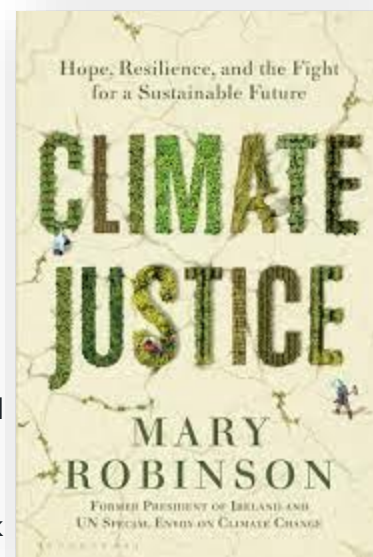


Speaking of traditions – **Tuesday, April 6** will mark the opening of JB's Café at Hanover. Doggone Good Hot Dogs and More... We will be at our old spot on 18th St. - tables will be set up on the Boulevard, and we're looking forward to another great season. Come on over from 10am -1pm and join old friends and new for a bite to eat and good conversation! See you there!

Hanover Book Discussion

Join us Sunday, May 16th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom for Hanover's next book discussion: **Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future.**

Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland, has as her mission bringing together the fight against climate change and the global struggle for human rights. Her mission has taken her all over the world, where she found the battle for climate justice being fought at the grassroots level, mainly among women. She met with many of these people and saw how their ingenuity had already resulted in change. In *Climate Justice*, she shares their stories, and many more. This uplifting book is a stirring statement on one of the most pressing issues of our time as well as a case for hope. Former President Barak Obama stated, "As an advocate for the forgotten and the ignored, Mary Robinson has not only shone a light on human suffering, but illuminated a better future for our world."



One copy is available to borrow from the church. The book is also available from the library, local bookstores, and Amazon.

As a Certified Earth Care Congregation we need to keep educating ourselves on climate change—reading and discussing this short, very readable book is a good way to start.

HELP US REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic is everywhere and it has become a threat, choking our planet. Microplastics (shards of plastic, smaller than a grain of rice), have been found everywhere, from the deep depths of the ocean to the peaks of the highest mountains. Among other places, they've been found in bottled water, beer, tea bags, and tap water.

When the church reopens, the Faith in Action Committee will begin a project to help reduce plastic pollution. They will be collecting clean #1, #2, and #4 plastic as well as plastic bags and bubble wrap. The plastic will be taken to Eco Plastics on Germay Drive. Eco Plastic Products of Delaware is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that collects discarded plastic and converts it into useful and sustainable products such as picnic tables, park benches, sandboxes, raised beds, etc. These are sold to the public or given to non-profit groups. ECOP also provides work to those who fit the full spectrum of human abilities. For more information, go to www.ecoplastics.org.



Hanover has become a certified **Earth Care Congregation** by the Presbyterian Church (USA) through February 2022. We are committed to including environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Leading the way is our Creation Care Youth Group: **Jacob Arnold, Chris Jacob, Jonathan Jacob, Bernice Van Rooyen, Judy Van Rooyen**, and their advisors: **Nancy & Jeff Long, Lorie Tudor, and Andy Jacob**. Thank you for your hard work in getting our certification, and we are looking forward to more ongoing and new projects that will continue the work of caring for our planet.

New Executive Director for JSC



Good news is shared from the Board of Directors for Jefferson Street Center, Inc. The Board has approved the hiring of Amanda August as a part-time Executive Director. She will begin her new position on April 5th. The JSC Board is really enthused about this organizational development of JSC and particularly enthused about finding someone with the experience and background of Amanda August.

Amanda's most recent work experience has been with West End Neighborhood House as an independent living coordinator. She specialized in working with youth "aging out" of foster care. This is very challenging, but also rewarding work. Amanda's networking and partnership skills and connections will serve JSC well. She will be focusing on learning more about the neighborhoods surrounding Hanover and

supporting programs using Hanover space. She will begin with a special focus on support for the surrounding community, as we gradually open and begin to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Amanda lives in the Cool Springs section of Wilmington and is looking forward to biking and walking to Hanover. Welcome, Amanda!

Finance Report

The finance committee met the evening of January 25th to review the full year of Hanover's 2020 finances. We also reviewed the planned budget for 2021 and discussed everything with the knowledge that the coronavirus epidemic continues to have a stressful impact on all of us, personally and financially.

In the category of good news to share about 2020, we received 97% of the 47 pledges made to Hanover, or \$142,397 in pledged giving. This is a wonderful tribute of support from the members and friends of Hanover. For 2021, we have received pledges from 48 individuals and/or families for a total of \$151,676. Hanover is grateful for your generosity.

When all the numbers were in for 2020, Hanover ended the year with a budget deficit of approximately \$15,294, after including the Payroll Protection Plan loan which was forgiven. We budgeted for \$205,000 in pledged and non-pledged contributions, which are those contributions which are consistent, but come without a pledge card. We received \$175,751, which was 86% of the goal. We continue to be grateful for the partnership with Open Arms Academy, contributing over \$49,000 in rent. We also received support from Jefferson Street Center, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000. Our balance sheet at the end of December showed \$242,790 in total equity and liabilities.

In January, the Hanover Session authorized the finance committee to apply for the Payroll Protection Plan in 2021, if Hanover met the qualifications. To qualify for a 2nd application for PPP, we had to show a 25% or greater decrease in gross receipts in any calendar quarter in 2020 compared to 2019. Hanover showed losses exceeding 25% in both the 3rd and 4th quarters. We applied for the PPP funds. M&T Bank and the Small Business Administration approved a forgivable loan of \$25,500, which was deposited in the bank on March 11th.

The Pacem in Terris Traveling Peace Youth Art Show will be on exhibit here at Hanover in The Gathering Place starting next Thursday, April 1 - Thursday, April 15. You can come during the days of Monday - Thursday from 9am to 5pm to see the artwork in person, and we will be taking pictures of it in place and putting them in the weekly Flash. All COVID regulations are in place, so masks and social distancing are required.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Levi Moore
2	Tom Baker
3	Christina Howard
3	Judy Werner
4	April Lewis Simpson
5	Romain Alexander
5	Heather Brown
6	Richard Bayard
8	Alexandra Evitts
10	Alice Davis
10	Nona Holy
12	Carolyn Klawitter
14	Norris Cramer
19	Karen Ingram
22	Dawn Silicki
23	James Rosa
26	Kevin Davenport
26	Beth Undercuffler
30	Karen Melvin

Member Profile: Tracey Lewis

Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Tracey Lewis along with her sister Stephanie Hinson, is responsible for some of the best, after-church, social hour feasts enjoyed by the Hanover congregation.



No stranger to fame, Tracey graduated from Padua All-girls High School where she was a track and field star. As a State Champion, Tracey excelled in shot-put and the discus throw. For many years Tracey held the state record in Discus. FYI, the ball used in shot-put is just a hair under 9 pounds!

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Tracey has taught school for 31 years here in Wilmington for the Christina School District. She currently teaches 4th grade at Bayard School on South DuPont Street. Tracey also works for YMCA Delaware, in Children's Programming at the Brandywine branch. She coaches both basketball and soccer to many of Delaware's youth; both boys and girls on co-ed teams.

Along with cooking, teaching, and sports, Tracey enjoys painting. Her medium is acrylic paints on terra cotta flower pots and glass bottles. Her artwork can be found in many homes other than her own.

Tracey is also a cat person, sharing her home with rescue kitties. She is "staff" for the current resident Tillie, who was orphaned as a kitten. Tracey takes good care of her feline friends. Two former occupants were Apollo, who lived to be 22 years old, and Perseus, 18 years.

Aside from impacting the lives of hundreds of schoolchildren, young athletes, and cats, Tracey is the proud mother of one son, Justin, and an even prouder grandmother of 5-month-old Karter. He's a real cutie on Facebook. A member since 2015, we are so glad Tracey chose Hanover for her Church family.

Deacon Carolyn Klawitter



Latest volunteers at Food Pantry.
Neighbors helping neighbors.



Delaware Racial Equity Challenge

Last year several Hanover saints participated in the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge sponsored by the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative. We found it educational, inspiring, thought provoking, and challenging. This year the Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is slightly different. For five consecutive days each month, between February and December 2021, participants will be prompted with a daily email challenge — such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, or watching a video – and are then encouraged to reflect on that content thinking about how racial inequity and social injustice impact our community and how we can help dismantle systemic racism in Delaware. On the last day of every challenge, participants will be invited to a virtual town hall discussion about that week’s Challenge.

There will be a different topic each month—April’s offering is:

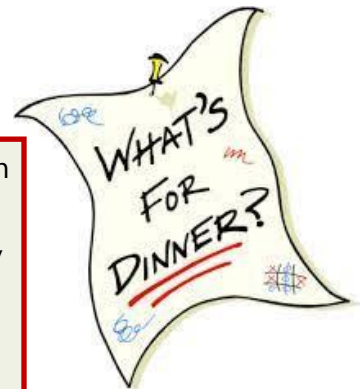
* April 19-23: Fair Housing Month

Click on the link to register: (<https://uwde.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=d5639cf7576d3cc043f078614&id=657e8c44c5>)
[deraciaequitychallenge.org](https://www.deraciaequitychallenge.org/) (<https://www.deraciaequitychallenge.org/>)

In last week’s Sunday morning Fellowship Hour we were talking about how we can support local restaurants, especially during these COVID times. Here is a list of some of our favorite places that are open for business with takeout, delivery, and/or COVID-safe seating:

Takumi—Chinese and sushi—Independence Mall—(302) 658-8887
El Camino Mexican Kitchen—Silverside Road—(302) 543-4245
La Fia Bistro —North Market St.—(302) 543-5574
Bardea—Elevated Italian—7th & Market—(302) 426-2069
V & M Italian Bistro—Marsh Road—(302) 479-7999
Honeybee Kitchen & Market– Speciality Foods—Trolley Square—(302) 407-5579
Bangkok House—Thai food—Union & 2nd—(302) 654-8555
Leshio—Asian fare—Concord Pike—(302) 888-0145
Southeast Kitchen—Vietnamese & Thai—Delaware Avenue—(302) 691-7728
Oriental Pearl—Pan-Asian fare—north of Produce Junction—(610) 692-5888

And remember, Door Dash is a great way to have deliveries come to you—enjoy!





Weekly Happenings

Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30am
 High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12pm
 Coping with COVID—Wednesdays, 5:30pm
 Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8am
 Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm
 Virtual Worship Service—Sundays, 10am
(available on Saturday evenings)
 Zoom Fellowship Hour—Sundays, 10:30am
 Creation Care Youth Group—Sundays, 12pm

Zoom Groups, Meetings, and Special Events

Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 1, 7pm *(YouTube)*

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 2, 7pm *(YouTube)*

Easter Day Services: Sunday, April 4 *(YouTube)*

Sunrise Service, 7am—live at The Sugarbowl
(all COVID precautions in place)

Festival Morning Worship, 10:00am *(YouTube)*

JB's Café: Tuesday, April 6, 10am—1pm

Deacons: Tuesday, April 6, 6pm

JSC Board: Tuesday, April 6, 7pm

Internship Lay Committee: Wednesday, April 7, 1pm

Faith in Action: Thursday, April 8, 5pm

Invitational Team: Monday, April 12, 4:30pm

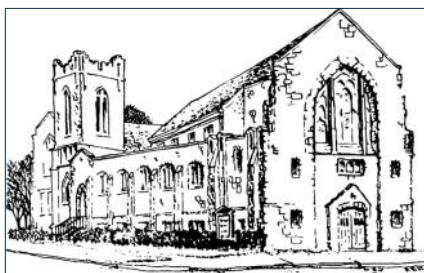
Worship Committee: Tuesday, April 13, 1:15pm

Internship Lay Committee: Wednesday, April 14, 1pm

Creation Care Sunday: Sunday, April 18, 10am

Session: Tuesday, April 20, 7pm

May *Herald* article deadline: Thursday, April 29



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