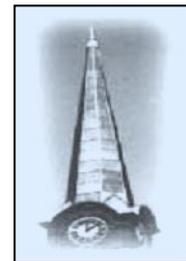


Clock Tower Tidings



Huntingdon Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

April-May 2021

- **Holy Week Services – p. 3**
- **Changes in Worship – p. 3**

PASTOR'S CORNER

Only A Hearty Faith Will Give Us Hope

Walter Brueggemann, a well-known Old Testament scholar, once described the life of faith as progressing through three stages. First is the security stage where we look to God for emotional, spiritual, and physical blessings and protection. Our faith in God is essentially based on how well God provides for us and meets our needs. Then our faith is deeply challenged when something unexpected happens which threatens our comfort. Maybe we get sick or lose a loved one or lose our job. Those things we think our faith guaranteed from God are threatened and we start doubting if we can really trust God.

At this point, some people will drop their faith entirely. But some will persistently search for God in their suffering. These few will enter the third stage of faith: reorientation. This is where real transformation happens. We stop loving God for the things He gives us, and we start loving God just for who He is.

I thought about this pattern of faith the other day when I was reflecting on the Easter Story. It certainly does describe what the disciples were going through. They thought Jesus was going to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven and

(Continued on Page 4)



Facebook Image

Lenten Cross

The large wooden sanctuary cross was draped in purple for Lent.



2021 OGHS Drive Needs Your Support

The birds are singing, the sun is shining brighter, the crocuses are blooming. All signs that spring is here.

OGHS Auction Will Be May 8

- Page 4

This also means that the Lenten season is ending, and this is the time of year that we open our hearts and wallets and give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Last year was difficult, in more ways than one. Since we didn't have the OGHS auction and no campaign, our giving to this worthy mission

(Continued on Page 2)

2 – Clock Tower Tidings



Sunday Schedule

Worship is at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The worship service is streamed live on Facebook and is then archived for viewing on demand.

Dates to Remember

April 1 – Maundy Thursday – Communion
April 2 – Good Friday – office closed
April 4 – Easter
April 5 – Office closed
May 2 – Session – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
May 16 – Mother’s Day
May 23 – Pentecost – Communion

Sunday Worship Attendance

The average Sunday in-person worship attendance in February was 21. Archived Sunday services received an average of 131 Facebook views in February.

Weekly Giving

Tithes and offerings through February totaled \$25,733, or an average of \$3,217 a week. Primary fund giving for 2021 is budgeted at \$175,000, or an average of \$3,365 a week.

Food Pantry Donations

The Huntingdon Food Pantry is requesting **tomato soup** for April. Donations can be dropped off at the office or at the April 25 worship service.

Per Capita Contributions

The per capita for 2021 is \$38.15 per member, for a total of \$6,104. As of the end of February, \$1,795.87 had been contributed. If you are able, please pay your per capita.



Care & Visitation List

Geraldine Skipper	Audrey Cross
Vin Dandrea	Clyde Brown
Grace White	Margy Wilson

If you know anyone who would like to be put on this list, please call the church office at 643-1302.

OGHS Campaign

(Continued from First Page)

dropped from over \$8,000 in 2019 to just \$575 in 2020.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by OGHS – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is in the process of planning an OGHS auction (Details, Page 4).

The committee also is planning some Minutes for Mission to highlight how your funds are used toward these missions.

Please give generously to OGHS so that our church will continue to become, as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach” alongside those experiencing great need. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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Food Available for Veterans

The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is distributing food each month to area active military service members, veterans and their families in need. MilitaryShare gives out food the last Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at War Veterans Memorial Field in Huntingdon. Pre-registration, including proof of military service, is required and income limits apply. To register, contact Reeder Swartz at 814-599-2299 or email reederswartz@hotmail.com.

Newsletter Deadline Is May 15

Because this is a combined April-May issue of the newsletter, the deadline for the next issue is Saturday, **May 15**.

The session approved the following during its March 14 meeting held via Zoom:

- Minutes for Mission for One Great Hour of Sharing at Sunday services on March 21, 28, and April 4
- In-person One Great Hour of Sharing Auction without dinner on May 8
- Release of Huntingdon Community Soup Kitchen funds to a new 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt nonprofit entity, “Hometown Hearts,” after the completion of documentation by the Soup Kitchen directors
- Changes in worship – See article below
- Memorial service for Marion Dunlavy at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 22
- Change of date for the next session meeting to Sunday, May 2, instead of April 11, when Pastor Brett will be on vacation.



Session Eases Some Worship Restrictions

In view of revised pandemic guidance and the increasing number of vaccinated people, the session has approved new changes in the worship service. The changes include:

- Wearing of masks during worship services is now optional, rather than mandatory.
- The recitation of a creed, usually the Apostles’ Creed, will be restored.
- The congregation will participate in the Prayer of Confession.
- A second congregational hymn will be sung.

The mask change is immediate, and the worship format changes will happen soon.

In addition, the number of pews open for seating – designated by the presence of seat cushions – has been slightly increased. Please continue to sit in designated spots and observe social distancing.

The hope is that worship can gradually be restored to its pre-pandemic format.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities Offered

Holy Week worship services in HPC’s sanctuary will be available in-person and live online via Facebook on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to participate.

The Maundy Thursday service will be at 7 p.m. on **April 1** and will focus on the Stations of the Cross and include the Lord’s Supper. If you are planning on worshipping from home, be sure to have bread and juice ready for communion.

The Easter Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m. on **April 4** and will feature flower arrangements donated in honor or memory of loved ones, plus the traditional butterfly decorations.

In addition, the Huntingdon Area Forum of Churches will offer a prerecorded online Good Friday cross walk on **April 2**. Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Jesus have been recorded at local churches, along with music selections. Details on how to view the online service will be shared when available.



Photo by John Brockett

On the Way to Calvary

The fifth station along the Way of the Cross in Old City Jerusalem marks where Simon of Cyrene is believed to have been forced to help Jesus carry the cross to Calvary.

OGHS Auction Planned For Saturday, May 8

The session has approved the Mission and Outreach Committee's proposal to again hold an auction to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing.

This year we will hold the auction in the sanctuary on Saturday, **May 8**, at 2 p.m. There will not be any meal or refreshments, but there is a good possibility that many of the popular homemade food items will be available for purchase.

Those wishing to donate items for the auction should notify the church secretary, Janet Souders, by Monday, **May 3** at the latest. We also have items that were donated by Ebba Dubbel and other items offered for last year's auction that have been saved.

This has historically been a fun time of great fellowship, so mark your calendars and consider items to donate to this worthy cause.

Pastor's Corner

(Continued from First Page)

they would have prominent positions. But that vision of glory and honor was shattered the moment Jesus was crucified. Their dreams died with their leader.

Thankfully, God wasn't finished with them. Their encounters with the risen Christ reoriented their faith. It transformed their understanding from "what am I getting out of this," to "how can I serve this God who has done such marvelous things?"

Their experience changed their entire perspective on faith in a way that would transform the world. And it made their faith incredibly strong. All of these men who once abandoned Jesus would later heroically give their lives to proclaim His gospel. They had a faith that was hardy, a faith that was capable of thriving even when their worldly circumstances were terrible.

Life is full of tragic events. Don't get me wrong. There is also great beauty and joy in life for which we should praise God. But if we expect life to be an unbroken chain of happiness, then we are setting ourselves up for colossal disappointment. Life will throw us heartache and tragedy, and most of the time it will come from sources we could never anticipate. Certainly, the events of the last year demonstrate that. In those moments, only a hardy faith will give us hope. We need a faith that has deeper roots than just loving God for the blessings He gives us. We need a faith founded on the character of God himself.

Perhaps the greatest thing about the Easter season is that it reminds of the true character of God. God loved us so passionately that He accepted the cross. That was a hopelessly dark moment for the disciples when their teacher, the one they believed in, died. But then they saw the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. That's when everything finally made sense. That's when they realized that no matter how dark something was, God was still there. God was still at work.

Remember the character of God as the One who loves you more passionately and perfectly than anyone ever could. And remember the hope of the empty tomb that no circumstance is unredeemable. Start with those things, and you will begin to grow a hardy faith that will see you through the unexpected storms of life.

Rejoicing in the Risen Christ,
Rev. Brett D. Hoover

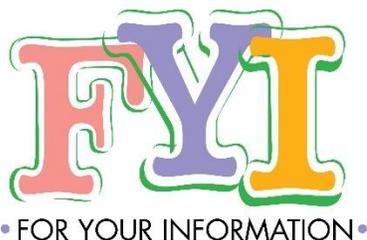
"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

– Romans 8:31-32

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Funeral Policy Available

The session has adopted a policy for conducting Christian Services in Witness to the Resurrection (funerals) at HPC. If you are interested in reading the policy or would like a copy, it is available in the office.



SOUP KITCHEN TOURS OF DUTY

April 1 – St John’s Episcopal Church
 April 8 – Alexandria Presbyterian Church
 April 15 – Abbey Reformed Church
 April 22 – Rotary
 April 29 – 12th St. United Methodist Church

May 6 – St. James Lutheran Church
 May 13 – First United Methodist Church
 May 20 – Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church
 May 27 – Donation United Methodist Church

Pastoral Care Available

Pastor Brett Hoover is available in the church office Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for pastoral care and calls. If you need pastoral care, please call the office at 643-1302 or email the office at huntpc1789@gmail.com. In case of emergency, please call Pastor Brett at 724-331-5798.

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Stay Connected on Facebook Page

Stay informed about what’s happening at HPC by regularly viewing the church’s Facebook page. HPC’s Facebook programs can be seen live and are then archived for later viewing. The worship service is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday; Pastor Brett’s “fireside chats” take place most Wednesdays. The HPC Facebook page can be found at: www.facebook.com/huntingdonpresbyterianchurch.org/

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Where Pentecost Offering Goes

The Pentecost offering will be received on **May 23**, Pentecost Sunday. The offering is a PC(USA) effort to support young persons and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world. Sixty percent of the Pentecost offering will go to the denomination and 40 percent will go to HPC’s Christian Education program.

Guest Preachers in April

Pastor Brett will be on vacation from April 6 through April 19. John Brockett will be the guest preacher Sunday, **April 11**, and Greg Anderson will be the guest preacher Sunday, **April 18**.

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Prayer Chain Requests

Prayer chain requests may be made by contacting Deb Hetrick at 643-5424 (home) or 644-1653 (cell). All prayer chain requests will be kept confidential.

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How to Make Contributions

Thank you to members and friends who have supported HPC during the pandemic. You may place your offerings in the plates in the sanctuary during in-person Sunday worship, or you may mail your offering envelopes and checks to the financial secretary at the church office, 508 Mifflin St., Huntingdon PA 16652. Please do not send checks to the financial secretary’s home.



Quintet Performs

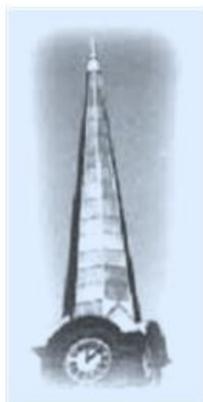
The Wopsonnock Winds, including HPC member Cindy Brockett on French horn, provided special music at the February 28 worship service.

Facebook Image

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814-643-1302

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**April-May
2021**



Clock Tower Tidings

**Huntingdon Presbyterian Church
Serving God and Community Since 1789**

“Our mission is to share God’s word and the Good News that Jesus loves us.”



Celebrate Easter With Us on April 4
Details Inside