

THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

Website at www.greenhillpres.org

E-mail Address: info@greenhillpres.org



TO:

November, 2020

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Pastoral Care: Rev. Nancy Anderson
nanderson@greenhillpres.org
(302) 652-5065 (Church)

SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams
newsletter@greenhillpres.org
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

November 1 – ALL SAINTS' DAY; Worship; Communion with Pre-packaged Elements

November 1 – Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 3 – Election Day

November 8 – Pledge Sunday

Wednesday, November 11 – VETERANS DAY

November 22 – CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Thursday, November 26 – THANKSGIVING DAY

November 29 – First Sunday of ADVENT; Worship; Advent Candle Lighting during Worship;
Communion

From the Session – October 5, 2020

The meeting was held to begin discussion of the 2021 Proposed Green Hill Church Budget.

Jane O. Reed
Clerk of Session

From the Session – October 19, 2020

1. The Order of the Day was the annual meeting with the Board of Deacons to concur on business important to both Boards. They left after the joint meeting to have the regular scheduled October Deacons Meeting.
2. Rob Good, President of the Trustees, reported on Trustee work regarding trees, windows, gravestones, grass, and insurance reimbursements for tornado damage. A lamppost along the driveway fell and broke, and the remote opener on the exterior office door was re-installed. A full report on the rental property will be given to Session by Don Hirs at the November meeting.
3. The 2021 Green Hill Church Calendar will be ready for approval at the November Session meeting.
4. The New Castle Presbytery has appointed a “90 day companion” to help Rev. Anderson get used to her new job.

Jane O. Reed
Clerk of Session

Decorating for the Christmas Season



On **Thursday, December 3, at 9 AM** we will be **decorating the sanctuary** with holiday greens. This is a very important task and involves preparing and placing fresh greens, candles, and other Christmas items throughout the sanctuary. If you can spare an hour or so on Thursday morning, please join us!

If you have donated funds for sanctuary wreaths or roping in past years, please expect to hear from Kathy Dugan to explore your interest for the 2020 Christmas season.

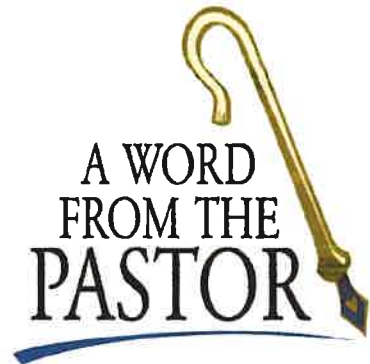
Election Day is November 3. Please Exercise Your Right to Vote!

Paying It Forward

How can it be November already? And before you know it, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's will be upon us!

But wait—I'm getting ahead of myself! Let's think of November before it gets away.

I think it's appropriate that Thanksgiving, which occurs in November, happens before Christmas in December because, as we give thanks for all that we have received, we become motivated to share some of that blessing with others. It is like the concept of "Pay it forward." If you have received a blessing or a gift or a favor from someone, instead of returning the favor and paying that person back, you pay it *forward* and give a gift or blessing to someone else who needs it. God has blessed us as individuals as well as a congregation, so we may consider paying it forward and blessing someone else.



When we come together as the local church, Green Hill Presbyterian Church, instead of thinking as individuals, we can think about the ways we have been blessed by God as a congregation. In turn, we can think of how we pay it forward as a congregation.

This is the time of year when each of us begins to think about our own part in paying it forward. It's the time of year that we think about stewardship, how we manage or steward what God has given us: not only our finances but our time and talents as well.

Even though we as a congregation have had to cut back on many of our regular outreach activities because of Covid-19, we can still be aware of how the Holy Spirit wants to use us as part of the larger Body of Christ to bless others in our community.

"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow"

(James 1:17).

Pastor Nancy

A Royal Psalm of Thanksgiving (Psalm 18)

Psalm 18:1-2 “I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (NRSV)

Psalm 18 is almost identical to the 22nd chapter of 2nd Samuel and it is believed that David’s personal song of thanksgiving found in Samuel, was adapted to serve as a hymn for public worship. Psalm 18 is a thanksgiving for deliverance and was probably used by several Davidic kings in public worship to celebrate their victories. It begins with a statement of faith and trust (verses 1-3) in which the psalmist expresses his faith in God, using terms such as rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, and horn of salvation.

After the call for help (verses 4-6), the psalmist uses poetic language to describe the Lord coming to his aid via natural events (verses 7-16) such as an; earthquake (the earth reeled and rocked); volcanic eruption (smoke and glowing coals) and storm (thundered in the heavens). The psalmist is then rewarded by being rescued and delivered from his enemies (verses 17-19) for which he praises the Lord (verses 31-45). The king interprets God’s goodness to him as a reward for his faithfulness; he has obeyed the Law and kept his hands morally clean.

This psalm of thanksgiving is less known than others (for example psalm 100) primarily because (1) this psalm is much longer than the others; and (2) it uses language and expressions more associated with a warrior or ruler and thus making it seem less personal. Phrases such as the following examples make this psalm seem less of a personal thanksgiving psalm and more of a royal thanksgiving psalm such as verse 34, ***“He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”***; and verse 43 ***“You made me head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me.”***

In verses 25-30 the psalmist describes a God who rewards the pure and humble but punishes the crooked and proud (verse 25); ***“With the merciful you show yourself merciful, with the blameless you show yourself blameless”*** and verse 27 ***“For you deliver a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.”*** In verse 30 the psalmist states the basic statement of truth, ***“This God - his way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.”***

After you’ve read the psalm, and think about its use during a worship service; read just the following verses; 1-6, and 46. These seven verses are the heart of this thanksgiving psalm and in fact a popular contemporary praise song uses just verses 3 and 46 to get the message across. The song is called ***“I Will Call Upon the Lord”*** and is composed by Marty Nystrom. I’ve attached a link to it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZxHku_Djyk&feature=emb_logo

***“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
“The Lord liveth! And blessed be my rock.
And let the God of my salvation be exalted!***

Psalm 18:3, 46 (NKJV)

Primary Ref: *Psalms: Volume 1* by George A. F. Knight published by Westminster John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Nuts for Troops



If you have not already remembered the deployed Delaware Air National Guard soldiers with a **Nuts for Troops** order, please consider purchasing one or more bags (\$14 each) to donate when our bulk nuts shipment arrives in November. We know from past years that the soldiers appreciate your generous gift of packaged nuts (salted cashews, almonds, mixed nuts, and unsalted pecans) when they are away from family and friends during the Christmas season. The Deacons thank you, in advance, for your generosity to our Delaware Air National Guard.

Celebrate Communion during November

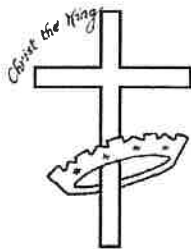
Please plan to join us as we celebrate Communion two times during the month of November. As we normally do, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month, **November 1**. We will also celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of Advent, **November 29**. Please plan to attend for this important sacrament of the Presbyterian Church. (The Presbyterian Church recognizes two sacraments: the Lord's Supper and baptism.)



During November and going forward, we will use **individual, pre-packaged communion elements**. We first used these in October and Communion participants who commented found them satisfactory. Please be sure to pick up one packet at the entrance to the sanctuary when you arrive. We have pre-packaged units which contain gluten free bread, too, so please be sure look for the sign for one of those if you prefer the gluten free.

Communion may not be exactly the same as it is either in our traditional way of serving or when we serve by intinction, but we will still be able to share the Lord's Supper together. Join us on Sundays, November 1 and 29!

What is Christ the King Sunday?



At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

This festival was established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI. Originally it took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins. This year, Christ the King Sunday will be

November 22.

Stewardship Campaign 2021

Pledge Sunday is November 8 this year. Pledge letters were mailed on October 15. . A portion of the message from JoAnna Ventresca, Stewardship Chair, is excerpted below. If you did not receive a letter or do not have your commitment card, some 2021 Pledge Cards are available on the back table in the sanctuary. You may also see JoAnna Ventresca Sandy Fine, or Evelyn Williams. Thank you, in advance, for prayerfully considering your pledge to our Green Hill Stewardship Campaign 2021.

Dear Members and Friends,

With much of 2020 having gone by, it seems likely that many may be somewhat glad to see it behind us! While this year has been unique and somewhat problematic for reasons far beyond our control, it has also been a year in which Green Hill has had many reasons to express gratitude and be joyful!

Last year I quoted Jeremiah 29:11: *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

From that, our congregation continued to move forward in the belief that the Lord has a plan in each of our lives and that the future of Green Hill, its congregation and the community in which we serve must live up to His plan.

We were able to complete a construction project amidst “lock down” which provides a much more productive and comfortable fellowship hall and lavatory facilities. We forged through, with the guidance of our Pastoral Nominating Committee, to pursue and select permanent leadership for Green Hill. We resumed worship in June and voted unanimously to accept Rev. Nancy Anderson to be our new installed pastor. These accomplishments, during such uncertain times, show that our Lord provides for us, just as He promises.

We now must continue our future endeavors by outlining, approving and funding our annual operating budget for 2021. Our future is still in the hands of our Lord, but it is through each of us that Green Hill Presbyterian Church is supported to further the work of the Lord!

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I thank you for your consideration!

Yours in Christ,

JoAnna Ventresca

Stewardship Committee Chairperson

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service



One of the things that the Green Hill Church congregation has come to anticipate with great joy is the **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** which traditionally takes place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (Eve Eve). Like so many gatherings in 2020, this one will be very different this year. Choirs from three churches; Lower Brandywine Presbyterian, St. Joseph on the Brandywine Roman Catholic, and Green Hill, are currently recording their individual voices for inclusion as part of a Zoom choir. The service itself will be recorded and available during Thanksgiving week. There will be no “live streaming” on Tuesday evening. Lower Brandywine is in charge of the video editing. As we learn more about the specifics of watching this service and listening to the Zoom choir, we will inform you.

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Fall Clothing Drive

The fall clothing drive ended on Sunday, October 25. Please get last minute donations into the Fellowship Hall vestibule. Thank you to all who participated. Donations will be delivered to **Ministry of Caring**. We will share our donation totals in the December *SPIRE*.

Sunday Breakfast Mission Great Thanksgiving Food Drive



Information sheets are available on the back table of the sanctuary for those who wish to participate in the **Sunday Breakfast Mission's (SBM's) Great Thanksgiving Food Drive** which runs through

November 15. The sheets list the non-perishable food items needed as well as a coupon for monetary donations. This year there is also a sticker to affix to your store bags. Your generous donation will aid in feeding many hungry individuals in our local community. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Heath at 528-2034.

During October we donated two cases of canned goods and a grocery item to Sunday Breakfast Mission's food pantry.

Caroling Party

The Deacons' annual caroling party is a casualty, this year, of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, singing is one of those things which just cannot be done safely at this time. Please look forward to 2021 for this popular outreach activity, including a chili supper, to return.



EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Monday, October 19th. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, and Kathy Dugan**.

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels (MOW)** delivery volunteers: They are: **Dan Dugan (October 2), Sandy & Bruce Fine, Maya Hirs and family, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Cathy Maxwell, Evelyn Williams, and Rita & Matt Rutherford**.

Representatives from both EDR and Meals on Wheels have been extremely appreciative of our continuing service to the community during this difficult period with COVID-19.

Adopt-A-Child Program

The **Adopt-A-Child** program of Ministry of Caring is forced to be very different due to COVID-19 this year. We are seeking only cash, checks to Green Hill with MOC in the memo line, and generic gift cards (those not specific to any one store) for this annual children's event. There is a basket on the table in the sanctuary for your contributions which are due on **Sunday, November 1**. The extremely early due date permits the Ministry of Caring to collect donations and determine how many children it can support.



For The Troops

We are donating **assorted nuts** to the **DE Air National Guard** members who are deployed for the Holidays. Thank you for the gifts you have already made this year to this special project. Please consider purchasing nuts from the Craft Group for the Troops when the bulk order arrives in November.

Advent Candle Lighting 2020

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has claimed that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's light shining in the darkness, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.



The first Sunday of Advent is November 29. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and the Weekly Update to see the names of the Green Hill Advent candle lighters for each of the four Sundays of Advent, 2020.

Women's Christmas Party



Watch this space for information about the

Women's Christmas Party

ONE YEAR FROM NOW...2021!

See You in 2021...Not 2020

Green Hill Capital Project

Our project is **still in need of financial support** to fully fund the expense incurred. As of October 19, 2020, our capital campaign has had members and friends commit \$119,150.00 in pledges and with the church commitment of \$35,000.00 that brings the total commitment to \$154,150.00. Income received to date includes \$56,650.18 in paid pledges. We are still seeking additional pledge commitments to completely cover the building cost, which amount to an outstanding need of \$41,915.00. Your commitment may be spread over a three-year term, so you may certainly join the campaign at any time to help meet our goals. Any gift you may be willing to pledge would be gratefully received by providing information by mail to Green Hill Presbyterian Church, Attn. Financial Secretary (Capital Campaign), PO Box 3892, Wilmington, DE 19807, or you may place it in the offering plate made available during worship.

Recall this excerpt from Luke 6:38: "*Give, and it will be given to you.*" As always, any consideration to participate in our campaign will be appreciated.

JoAnna Ventresca

Stewardship/Capital Campaign Chairperson

**View Annual Banquet Speakers Online:
A Door of Hope and UrbanPromise Wilmington**

Two of our Green Hill Mission Partners held virtual Annual Banquets during October. If you were unable to attend, both are available for viewing any time online at their respective websites.



On October 2, **A Door of Hope** hosted **Rebekah Hagan** to deliver the keynote speech at their ILLUMINATE LIFE Living Hope Gala. She is one of the youngest advocates on the issues of unplanned pregnancy, abortion, and abortion pill reversal. You can hear her amazing story at the recorded gala. You may view it at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fi4gvgr_cV0&t=1522s&ab_channel=ADoorofHopePregnancyCenter

A Door of Hope offers free help to women who are verifying and making decisions about their pregnancies. Many of the clients face unplanned pregnancies and difficult decisions. No matter the concern, A Door of Hope provides high standards of care and compassion for every woman who seeks help at the centers. As a medical facility, A Door of Hope provides medical services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician. A Door of Hope centers are located in Wilmington, *near Green Hill Church at 3407 Lancaster Avenue*, and Middletown, Delaware.



UrbanPromise Wilmington held their Annual Banquet *Choose Life* on Thursday, October 22. You can hear and see how UrbanPromise Wilmington is changing the lives of some of Wilmington's urban youth with the powerful message of Jesus Christ. The mission of UrbanPromise Wilmington is to equip children and young adults through Christ with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth and servant leadership. Their virtual banquet is available at:

<https://www.urbanpromise.org/featured/2020banquet.htm>

The Mission & Prayer Committee encourages continued support of our Mission partners as they face even greater community needs in 2020.

November Prayer Emphasis

Do Not Be Afraid!

⁸The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

Women's Bible Study News



The Women's Bible Study started its fall season on Wednesday, October 21, by viewing the Week 3 video of *God of Covenant, A Study of Genesis 12 – 50*. In order to practice good social distancing, we viewed the DVD in the sanctuary. Our new pastor, Rev. Nancy Anderson, will join us for future meetings. It felt good to get back to this informative Jen Wilkin study which we had to leave when we stopped having face-to-face meetings in mid-March. We have missed our weekly opportunities to pray, learn, and support each other during our meetings. Our bi-weekly homework review sessions will continue via Zoom. Watch your e-mail for Zoom information. We will be reviewing Week 4 homework on Wednesday, October 26, 5:00 PM. All Green Hill women are welcome to join us. See Rita Rutherford or Evelyn Williams.

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again, our sanctuary will be decorated with massed poinsettias for Christmas. And, once again, red and white poinsettias can be purchased for **\$19.00**. This is the same price as last year. To place an order, please fill out the order form here in the SPIRE, or from the back table in the sanctuary, and return it to **Kathy Dugan** along with your payment. If you want to pay by check, please make it out to Green Hill Church. Please be sure to indicate on the order form how you want your name to appear on the Christmas Eve list of donors. Kathy can be contacted via USPS mail to her attention at the church (P.O. Box 3892, Wilmington, DE 19807), at (302) 888-1422 or kathydugan3@gmail.com. The **deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 6, 2020**. Your poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve evening service. You may also indicate on your order form that you wish them to be given to a shut-in by the Deacons.



To: Kathy Dugan

**Order Form
Poinsettias
\$19.00 Each**

Name _____
(As you wish it to appear on the Christmas Eve donors' list)

Number of Red _____ **Number of White** _____

Amount Paid _____ **Please give away** **yes** **no**

November 2020 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher John Stevens

Deacon of the Month Denise Snyder

Acolyte of the Month Arabella Hirs

Readers

November 1 - Charles Reed
November 8 - Rob Good
November 15 - Amy Baun
November 22 - Kathy Dugan
November 29 - Rick Baun

Greeters

November 1 - Ranie Good
November 8 - Jennifer Galvin
November 15 - Evelyn Williams
November 22 - Gail Heath
November 29 - Jane Reed

Refreshments No Refreshments in November

Chancel Flowers

November 1 - Gail Heath
November 8 - Margaret Marquardt
November 15 - Richard & Ramona Marshall
November 22 - Parry Wentz
November 29 - Cathy & Bob Maxwell

Communion Servers – November 1 and November 29

Pre-packaged Communion will be available. No servers.

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

No Kids Sunday School or Child Care

Meals On Wheels

November 23 - Allison Brokaw and Rita Rutherford
November 24 - Maya Hirs and family
November 25 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
November 26 - *No Delivery - Thanksgiving*
November 27 - *No Delivery - Day After Thanksgiving*

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Thursday, November 19

Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
Cathy Maxwell
Jane Reed

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Ellen Grubbs

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Carson Hirs
9 Woody Rice
10 John Dearworth
12 Roxiana Foulk
14 Amy Baun
21 Vanessa Foulk
29 Amaryah Bocchino
30 Cash Scarborough

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 JoAnna & Victor Ventresca
13 Amy & Rick Baun
28 Melissa Stevens & Rick Howard

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day 10:30 AM Worship: Communion 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	2	3 Election Day	4 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	5	6	7
8 Pledge Sunday 10:30 AM Worship: Pledges Received during Worship 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg.	9 7:00 PM Session Mtg.	10	11 Veterans' Day 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	12	13	14 10:00 AM NC Presbytery Mtg. via Zoom
15 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. SPIRE DEADLINE	16	17	18 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep	20	21
22 Christ the King Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	23 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	24 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	25 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries No Women's Bible Study	26 Thanksgiving Day No MOW Deliveries	27 No MOW Deliveries	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Worship; Advent Candle Lighting; Communion	30					