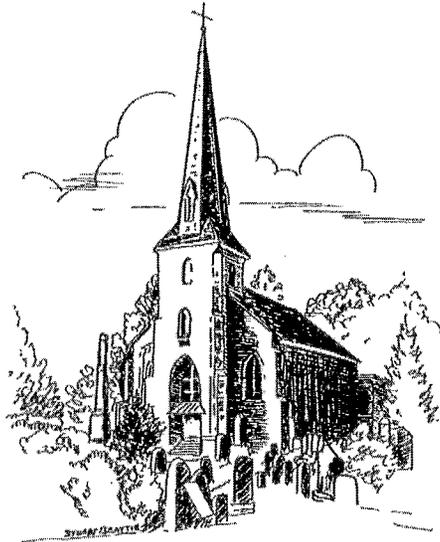


THE SPIRE

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:

February, 2026

Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065

Pastoral Care: Rev. Dr. David Lovelace
revdel@comcast.net
(302) 652-5065 (Church)
(302) 368-5743 (Cell)

SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams
elwilliams2229@prodigy.net
(302) 622-8032

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

February 1 – Communion

Tuesday, February 10 – Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café, 8:00 AM

Saturday, February 14 – *Valentine's Day*

February 15 – *Transfiguration of the Lord*; Favorite Hymns

Monday, February 16 – *Presidents' Day*

Wednesday, February 18 – *Ash Wednesday*: Worship Service including Distribution of Ashes, 7:00 PM

February 22 – *1st Sunday in Lent*; Saxophonist, Ryan Warfel, during Worship

Tuesday, February 24 – Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café, 8:00 AM

**From the Session
January 11, 2026**

1. During their first meeting of 2026, the Session elected the following:
JoAnna Ventresca was elected Treasurer
Chandler Brown was elected Clerk of Session
and appointed the following Committee Chairs:
Caroline Beard - Personnel Committee Chair
Mark Collender - Nominating Committee Chair
Chandler Brown - "Fellowship Committee Liaison"
All other Chairs remained the same: Rick Baun – Christian Education and Worship,
Stephen Grubbs – Mission and Prayer, Tom Stevens – Stewardship.
2. Session thanks Elders Chandler Brown and John Stevens as they complete their terms.
3. On Saturday evening, due to inclement weather predicted on Sunday, January 18, Session canceled the regular worship service and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation with lunch, scheduled after the regular worship service. The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25, and will include lunch (weather permitting).

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Removal of Christmas Decorations from Cemetery

The Trustees wish to remind all those who have placed Christmas decorations and memorials on graves within the Green Hill Cemetery that the **last day to remove those decorations is Sunday, March 1**. Trustees will clean the Cemetery of remaining Christmas decorations during the first week in March, weather permitting.

Open Flower Dates 2026

We have an open date for sanctuary flowers on **February 15**. In addition, we currently have **open flower dates** on **Easter Sunday, April 5, and May 17**. You may use one of our artificial arrangements (\$25 to Green Hill, Flower Fund in the memo line) or you may order fresh flowers from Belak's or another florist. If you wish to take one of the open dates, please contact Kathy Dugan.

Ash Wednesday and other Important Lenten Dates 2026

Easter this year is on April 5. We begin the Easter season with **Ash Wednesday on February 18**. The Sundays in Lent are February 22, March 1, 8, 15, and 22. Palm Sunday is March 29. The sanctuary will be open on Good Friday, April 3, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM for prayer and contemplation. Our joyous Easter service will cap the season on April 5.

“A ‘Word’ for the New Year”

It is a bit late in 2026 to talk about New Year’s Resolutions, but it is never too late to focus on a “word” for this year. And, that word would be “Scripture”. Green Hill is blessed with both Men’s and Women’s Bible Study Groups – both of which are faithfully attended and a blessing to those who choose to participate. (The Women’s group even has a Zoom option!)

But, Scripture reading is highly beneficial for all, not just those who are led to join in a study group. So – as 2026 begins – it might be helpful to think about the nuances of what we mean when we say “the Word of God”.

Here, the image of a “spoked wheel” may be helpful:



Like the “spoked wheel”, the Word of God may be seen as a series of five concentric circles;

1. **The Very Center – The Axle:** Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh
{no longer directly visible} (John 1:14)
2. **The Hub:** Scripture, the Word of God *written*
(Luke 24:44-47; John 20:32; II Timothy 3:16-17)
3. **The Ring of Spokes:** The Word of God *interpreted, illustrated, and illuminated*
(Creeds, Confessions, Catechisms, Commentaries, Hymns)
4. **The Rim:** Church, The Word of God *proclaimed*; the people *equipped* and *sent out*
(Romans 10:14, Ephesians 4:11-12)
5. **The Tire:** All Believers, the Word of God *lived* (Matthew 5:14-16, 28:19-20)

In our current culture – when Bible reading is likely less frequent than in generations past – the Word of God *Lived* may be especially important – Christians’ lives may be the only Bible that some people ever “read”!

Hence, the words of Paul: “Let the Word of God dwell in you richly...” This comes from Colossians 3:16, and means to deeply internalize Christ’s teachings, allowing Scripture to transform our minds and hearts, and influence how we live, teach others (with wisdom and grace), and worship. IN short, to live a Christ-centered life.

May the Word of God dwell in us richly during 2026!

Pastor Dave

Our Help is in the Lord (Psalm 124)

Psalm 124:8 *"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."* (NRSV)

Psalm 124 is a short but theologically rich Psalm attributed to David and placed among the Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134). Its theology centers on divine deliverance, covenantal dependence, and communal gratitude. The theological emphasis is that God is not merely helpful; He is indispensable; and that deliverance is an act of grace, not human achievement.

Each of these pilgrim Psalms of Ascents have themes. The theme of Psalm 124 is deliverance. The psalm is voiced collectively ("us", "our") suggesting a public confession of faith. It encourages believers to construe survival and success not as luck, but as evidence of God's overwhelming grace.

As the people of Israel journeyed to Jerusalem, they sang of how God helped them in ages past. Worship service liturgy designed by John Calvin begins with "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Calvin chose it because he understood that this declaration said the truth about the congregation gathered for worship as well as any one sentence could.

Psalm 124 begins by exhorting us to realize the danger that we would be in if the Lord were not on our side. It begins with the worship leader saying in verse 1, *"If the Lord had not been on our side"* and then having the congregation repeat it in verse 2.

In the middle verses, the poetic imagery of being swallowed alive, overwhelmed by floodwaters, or caught in a snare is meant to portray our human vulnerability and powerlessness. Our deliverance is rooted in God's steadfast love.

The theology of this psalm reminds me of the hymn *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"*.

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing
Our helper, He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same
And He must win the battle.*

Ref: *Psalms: Interpretation* by James L. Mays published by John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*
Lyrics: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Public Domain

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Let's Help Give Them Hope



During the Lenten season, from Sunday, February 22 to March 29, the Deacons are collecting items for use in **Hope Totes**, bags containing **personal care items** for the homeless and needy in our area. It's a great way to visibly show we care, and a huge blessing for them to receive. Sunday Breakfast Mission will provide the Hope Totes to Friendship House which will distribute them to the **homeless people living in the tent city in Christina Park** on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

To contribute, simply deposit any of the following new, unopened items in the basket at the back of the sanctuary:

- Toothbrush & Toothpaste*
- Soap*
- Shaving Cream*
- Disposable Razor
- Shampoo & Conditioner*
- Deodorant*
- Lip Balm*
- Socks (pairs – men's or women's)
- Brush & Comb
- Tissues*
- Shoelaces (pairs)
- Hand or Body Lotion*

**Travel Sizes are Best!*

No hand sanitizer or mouthwash, please, as these products may contain alcohol. No food items, please. Jen Galvin is the Deacon in charge of this project.

Trustees Trumpet



Trustees welcome Maya Hirs and John Stevens to the Trustees, Class of 2028. Trustees thank Laurie and Mark Collender for their years of dedicated service. During the Trustees' meeting held on January 11, 2026, the group elected officers for the year 2026. They are:

- President – Dan Dugan
- Vice President – Evelyn Williams
- Secretary – Kathy Dugan
- Cemetery Superintendent – John Stevens
- Rental Property Liaison – Dan Dugan
- Maintenance Coordinator – Evelyn Williams
- Financial Secretary – Evelyn Williams
- Nominating Committee Representative – Maya Hirs; elected December 7, 2025
- Liaison with Stewardship Committee – Evelyn Williams
- Liaison with Personnel Committee

Women's Bible Study News

Women's Bible Study returned from its winter break on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and immediately tackled the three chapters of Daniel which are contained within the Apocrypha. We have studied the wonderful prayer which comes between Daniel 3:23 and Daniel 3:24. Scholars place it in this location as it integrates with the furnace episode. On January 14 we read the Apocryphal chapter of Daniel called *Susanna*. In it, Daniel helped clear a young woman of false charges made by two high-level judges. We learned so much more about Daniel's character and why he was well-respected and revered in the Biblical Daniel. On Wednesday, January 21, we will read *Bel and the Dragon*, the final Apocryphal Daniel chapter.



We plan to begin our study of the New Testament book of Galatians with Rev. Dave Lovelace at the helm on Wednesday, January 28.

All of our sessions are hybrid. All meetings are held in the church Board Room on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM and all meetings are broadcast via Zoom. New members are always welcome **in-person or via Zoom**.

Men's Bi-Weekly Bible Study



If you are a male Green Hill member or friend, you are invited to participate in the bi-weekly **Men's Bible Study**. The men will meet on Tuesdays, **February 10 and February 24, 8:00 AM, at Janssen's Café**. If you are interested in Men's Bible Study, please contact Rick Baun for more information. The meetings contain time for fellowship (including breakfast!), prayer, and Bible study. The men have completed their study of the book of Acts and have moved on to study Exodus. Please plan to check out the group and see if it is for you!

Possible Welsh Music on St. David's Day, March 1

Teaser Information: Stay tuned to Sunday Announcements and the Bulletin for information about possible Welsh music and singing on St. David's Day, March 1.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

A simple line drawing of a heart, positioned below the word "Valentine's" in the "Happy Valentine's Day" message.

Ash Wednesday Evening Service

On **Wednesday evening, February 18, at 7:00 PM**, the Worship Committee is pleased to offer an **Ash Wednesday worship service**. Rev. Dave Lovelace has commented that the service will be traditional, on the solemn side, have a meditation, and will include the imposition of ashes as a response to the Gospel readings. Please plan to attend this Ash Wednesday service to begin your holy season of Lent.



“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19 KJV)

Special Music during February

Our guest musician on **February 22** will be **Ryan Warfel, saxophonist**. He is a 1998 Graduate of Millersville University with a B.S in Music Education. While majoring in saxophone in college, Ryan was fortunate to perform with jazz artists Thelonius Monk Jr., Chris Vadala, and Byron Stripling. Throughout the years Ryan performed with Charlie Thomas of the Drifters, Eddie Holman, Bobby Rydell, Larry Hoppen of Orleans, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Felix Cavaliere of The Rascals, Roger Ingram, Wayne Bergeron and James Morrison. Ryan currently performs with several local bands. Aside from performing, Ryan is in his 27th year as the band director of Talley Middle School in The Brandywine School District. Ryan Warfel has played his high-energy saxophone music during worship for us before, most recently in February, 2025. Please welcome Ryan back to our worship service on February 22.



Care-Ware Underwear Collection Extended!



Due to inclement weather (snow) during a portion of the January collection period for Care-Ware **underwear, T-shirts, bras, and socks**, the Mission & Prayer Committee has extended the time available to drop off new supplies until **Sunday, February 15**. Clean underwear and socks are the two most requested items in homeless shelters. Please help us with this important campaign!

February 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month “*Abide with Me*”

The lyrics were written by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) in 1847. The hymn originally had eight stanzas but was introduced in America by Henry Ward Beecher in 1855 with only five verses included in his text the *Plymouth Collection*. The text was taken from the account of Christ’s appearance with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus and their statement “Abide with us; for it is toward evening and the day is far spent”, (Luke 24:29).

Lyte was born in Scotland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He was a member of the Church of England his entire life. His health was continually threatened by asthma and tuberculosis. Despite his physical frailties he was a tireless worker with a reputation as a poet, musician and minister.

It has been written that Lyte wrote this poem just after his last Sunday in the pulpit. “After tea on that last Sunday, Lyte walked in the valley garden in front of the home, then down to the rocks, where he sat and composed.”

The music for this fine text was composed by William Henry Monk (1823-1889) in 1861 who was born and lived in London. Monk became the choirmaster and organist at King’s College, London and a professor at the National Training School for Music. He assisted in the development of plainchant for use in the Anglican Church. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree in 1882. It is said that in less than half-an-hour he composed the music for Lyte’s text and named the tune “Eventide” being inspired by the beauty of a glorious sunset.

Abide with Me (three verses)

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*Lyrics: Public Domain
[Hymns for the family of God #500]
[The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990) #543]
Ref: 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck*

Bruce Fine

**Keri Kondracki Will Conduct
Women of Worth Conferences in Hong Kong**



Keri Kondracki is a missionary based in the United States with World Initiative Network, focusing her Christian efforts on at-risk women in many parts of the globe. She joined World Initiative Network in April, 2023, from MANNA

Worldwide, where she had served for over ten years. Keri will be leaving for a new Women of Worth location, **Hong Kong**, on **February 9, 2026, and will return on February 23**. On this mission trip she is taking the items we donated to her when she visited us at Green Hill in October, 2025. Keri has asked for our continued prayers as she ministers to women in Hong Kong in February.



Keri with children in Kenya during a recent mission trip

Prayer Emphasis for February

God's Love and Ours

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

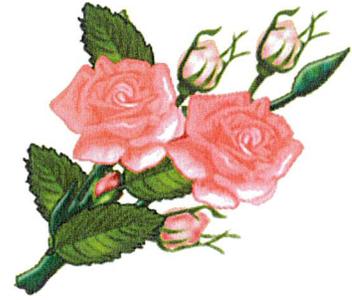
1 John 4:7-8 NIV

New Mission Information Posted in Fellowship Hall

Please check out the Mission Bulletin Boards and the mission window sill in Fellowship Hall. Many of our local missions and our international missionaries send new and interesting information to us periodically. It is all available for you to view. Every month, UrbanPromise Wilmington sends us a Praise and Prayer list, highlighting answers to prayer and where new prayers are needed. We also receive a monthly newsletter from GTi-Hope which lately has focused on some of the women in India who have been helped during their literacy classes. The stories are truly uplifting! We have framed 10 of the photos we received from Keri Kondracki highlighting one of her 2025 mission trips; this one to Athens, Greece.

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



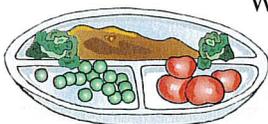
WELCOME

Deacons Welcome Class of 2028

We welcome new Deacons, Laurie Collender and Denise Snyder, Class of 2028. Laurie was ordained along with new Elders on January 4. Denise will be installed at a later date. We thank retiring Deacons, Amy Baun and Caroline Beard, for their years of dedicated service to the Green Hill Deacons.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to **Dan Dugan, Ellen Grubbs, Evelyn Williams, and Kathy Dugan** for participating in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Monday, January 19th.



We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers for January

as well. They included: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Maya Hirs, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams and Kathy & Dan Dugan.**

We are always looking for volunteers to substitute on EDR and Meals on Wheels teams. If you are willing to be a volunteer sub, please contact Ellen Grubbs for EDR and Jen Galvin for Meals on Wheels.

We took 17 bags of clothing and shoes to SBM Urban Vintage during January.

Deacons Plan Spring Projects

The Deacons are planning several spring projects. Watch for more details in the Sunday Bulletin and SPIRE.

Hope Totes: During Lent, we will be collecting personal care products and toiletries for Sunday Breakfast Mission. Sunday Breakfast Mission plans to give the items to Friendship House to distribute to the residents of the homeless tent city in Christina Park. Our campaign will begin on February 22 and end on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Our annual **Spring Clothing Drive** for Sunday Breakfast Mission will run during the month of May.

Our **collection of food** for the Sunday Breakfast Mission and **breakfast items** for Ministry of Caring's Emmanuel Dining Room are ongoing. Drop off your items in the marked basket located at the back of the sanctuary.

We are blessed by our congregation's willingness to contribute in all of our community projects. Our ministry focus is sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ to our congregation and community.

Contact a Deacon

Laurie Collender	(302) 449-0656
Sandy Fine	(302) 540-9359
Jen Galvin	(302) 494-8259
Ellen Grubbs	(302) 429-8698
Gail Heath	(302) 528-2034
Denise Snyder	(302) 683-9113

February 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Evelyn Williams

Deacon of the Month Jen Galvin

Worship Assistants

February 1 - John Stevens
February 8 - Denise Snyder
February 15 - Stephen Grubbs
February 22 - Laurie Collender

Greeters

February 1 - Amy Baun
February 8 - Jen Galvin
February 15 - Ellen Grubbs
February 22 - Denise Snyder

Refreshments Gail Heath

Chancel Flowers

February 1 - John Stevens
February 8 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
February 15 - OPEN
February 22 - Margaret Marquardt

Communion Servers February 1

Sandy Fine
John Stevens

Intinction Communion and Pre-packaged Elements

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room.

Meals On Wheels

February 9 - Evelyn Williams
February 10 - Maya Hirs and family
February 11 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
February 12 - Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams
February 13 - Kathy Dugan and John Hartman

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Thursday, February 19

Cooks – Gail Heath
Evelyn Williams
Kitchen Help – Ellen Grubbs
Celery – Gail Heath

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Ellen Grubbs
Victor Ventresca
2 Allison Brokaw
3 Mimi Lovelace
13 Gwenna Foulk
18 Diane Shorter

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Vanessa & Matthew Foulk
18 Allison & Rob Brokaw
20 Ranie & Rob Good

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship: Communion 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	2 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	3 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	4 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	5	6 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	7
8 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	9 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	10 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	11 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	12 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	13 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	14 Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship: Favorite Hymns 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg.	16 Presidents' Day 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	17 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	18 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service with Distribution of Ashes 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep	20 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	21
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship: Saxophonist, Ryan Warfel, during Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	23 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	24 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	25 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	26 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	27 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	28