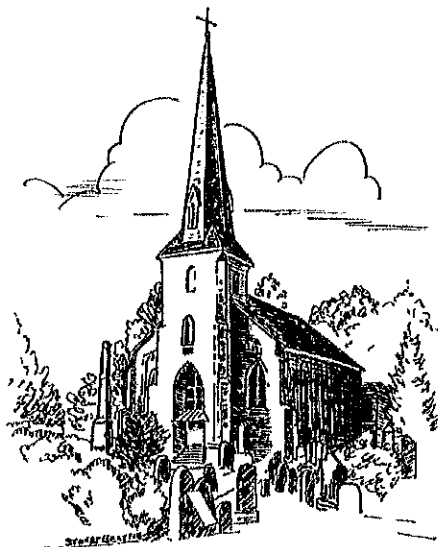


THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
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TO:

May, 2026

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women’s Bible Study – 5:00 PM

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

May 3 – Rick Baun Preaching and Leading Worship; Moment for Mission (A Door of Hope)

Tuesday, May 5 – Men’s Bi-Weekly Bible Study; 8:00 AM

Thursday, May 7 – *National Day of Prayer*

May 10 – *Mother’s Day*; Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching; Communion;
Susan Ryan, Flutist; Deacons Gifts to Women

Thursday, May 14 – *Ascension of the Lord*

Saturday, May 16 – NC Presbytery Assembly; 10 AM; Lower Brandywine PC plus Zoom

May 17 – Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching

Tuesday, May 19 – Men’s Bi-Weekly Bible Study; 8:00 AM

May 24 – *Pentecost*; Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching; Communion

Monday, May 25 – *Memorial Day*

May 31 – *Trinity Sunday*; Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching; Service of Wholeness & Healing

From the Session – April 19, 2026

1. Session is meeting with Presbytery Liaison, Carol Hogue, during the May meeting.
2. Denise Snyder, new Deacon Class of 2028, will be installed at the worship service on Sunday, April 26.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Easter Lilies to The Lorelton

On Saturday, April 18, Deacons took nine Easter lilies from Green Hill to The Lorelton, Assisted Living facility, at 2200 W. 4th St., Wilmington, Delaware. After enjoying the lilies, the residents and staff in years past have planted the lilies they have received from us outside to enjoy every spring. Thank you to all who donated their lilies so others could appreciate them.

Open Flower Date

We currently have an open flower date on Sunday, May 17. We always welcome fresh flowers from Belak's or another florist. As an alternative, you may use one of our artificial arrangements for a \$25 gift to our Flower Fund. This option entitles you to make a dedication in the Sunday Bulletin, the same as those for donations of fresh flowers. If you are interested in donating chancel flowers, please contact Kathy Dugan (302-888-1422 or kathydugan3@gmail.com).

Projects from the Spring Clean Up List

Trustees ask that you please remember that we still have projects from our **Spring Clean Up task list** to be accomplished. If you anticipate good weather for an outside job or have some free time for either inside or outside work, please contact Evelyn Williams for a job assignment.

Easter Memorials - Removal from Cemetery

If you have placed Easter memorials in the Green Hill Cemetery, Trustees remind you that they must be **removed by Saturday, June 6, 2026**. After that date, trustees will dispose of faded and worn-out memorials.

Support for One Great Hour of Sharing

Green Hill members and friends contributed **\$190.00** to the Presbyterian Church (USA) **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering on Easter Sunday, April 5. Funds collected support three Presbyterian Church (USA) mission programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



The Multiple, Marvelous Meanings of "May"

Herewith – with the aid of the Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus – a spring frolic through a few of the meanings of "may":

- May, n.** 1. **The fifth month of the year** Where did April go? It's time, already, for me to mow!
- may, v. aux.** 1. **Expressing possibility** – *it may be true*. As Elder Steve Grubbs reported during the March Session meeting, effort is underway to expand our "electronic" presence via updating our Facebook page and our website. Hopefully, this will help both those with a present interest in Green Hill events, and those who may "notice us" online. And, we may also spread the good news of what Green Hill is doing via word-of-mouth; we all have friends and neighbors!
2. **Expressing permission** – *you may go*. The service does not end with the Benediction. Take time to greet those around you, make a new friend or check-in with an existing one, and – together – you may go downstairs and enjoy a time of fellowship at Coffee Hour. Some delicious things also show up!
3. **Expressing a wish** – *may I never be late for dinner*. We hope that participation in the Green Hill Dinner Groups might increase. Time spent together – especially around tables, with food – draws us both closer together, and close to God.
4. **Expressing uncertainty or irony in questions** – *who might we invite to join us in worship?* Happily, there are many good seats available in our Sanctuary, and our music program is extraordinary!

With God's help, may we take full advantage of the many wonderful opportunities for ministry which have been placed before us; not only during this merry month of May, but always!

Pastor Dave Lovelace

Hear the Cry of the Suffering (Psalm 142)

Psalm 142:1 *"I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy."*

Psalm 142 is a prayer for help. Similar to last month's psalm, Psalm 57, this one is also attributed to David when he was hiding in a cave. At the center of Psalm 142 is the cry from a lonely and hurting person. The psalm consists of the typical elements of the individual lament; including an introduction (vv 1-2); *"I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble."*; an affirmation of trust (verse 5); *"I cry to you, Lord; I say, 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'" and a vow to praise (verse 7a) "Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name."*

In the King James Version of this Psalm, verse 7 begins *"Bring my soul out of prison"*; and in the Good News Bible verse 7 begins *"Set me free from my distress"*. These additional versions help us better understand the poetic language of this psalm; since it is noted in the psalm header that David was hiding in a cave and not a "prisoner" in the literal translation.

In verse 5, the reference to God being *"the portion"* is an Old Testament phrase that refers to the ancient tradition established by the Levites. When the land was apportioned among the tribes, the tribe of Levi were to serve the tabernacle and be supported by a portion of the offering as found in Numbers 18:20 and Deuteronomy 10:9 *"I am your portion."*

It is recorded that Psalm 142 was on the lips of Saint Francis of Assisi when he died on the 3rd of October, 1226. St. Francis, like David of old, was not too shy to cry out loud to God, or to pound on God's door, so to speak, to implore God to listen to his complaint.

There were in fact two occasions in which David hid himself in a cave while running from Saul. The text of 1 Samuel 22 tells us of David taking refuge in the cave of Adullam. This took place not long after he began to flee from Saul. David was in a particularly desperate situation at this point. He was alone. He needed assistance from Ahimelech the priest in order to survive.

If you're in a place where you feel over-looked, where your options are limited, and perhaps confined by your thoughts and your energy is low, this psalm invites you to speak and to engage God. Anchor yourself in the reality that you are not alone, God is always with you. Psalm 142 serves as a reminder of God's mercy and protection. It encourages believers to turn to God in times of trouble, to trust in His plans, and to worship Him regardless of circumstances.

Ref. Psalms: Interpretation by James L. Mays published by John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised International Version (NIV)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Green Hill Outing to Delaware Blue Coats Basketball

Eleven people, Green Hill members and their friends, had a special evening out at the **Delaware Blue Coats Basketball** arena in Wilmington on Friday, March 27, 2026. The Delaware Blue Coats are a professional G League team affiliated with the Philadelphia 76ers. It was a fast-paced, fun game...and our team won versus the Capital City Go-Go...In Overtime...132-128! Plan to join us for a basketball game next year!



Photo thanks to Chandler Brown

Joseph Martin Concert at Faith Presbyterian

Mark your calendar now for a **special choral concert of sacred music** at Faith Presbyterian Church, 720 Marsh Road, Wilmington, Delaware on **Friday, June 5, at 7:00 PM**. Joseph Martin, Joel Raney, and Heather Sorenson will be playing the piano as well as leading the singing of a Community Chorus and the congregation in attendance. Sometimes there is a handbell choir, too. They will introduce some of their new sacred choral works at this **free** event. The concert is titled: *Words of Worship, Songs of Praise*. It has moved to Faith Presbyterian from its longtime Delaware home at Brandywine Valley Church due to construction at Brandywine Valley. This is usually a wonderful, praise-filled concert and worth attending!

Calling All Graduates!



If you have someone **graduating from high school, college, graduate school, or professional school** this spring, 2026, please let us know. In June we will feature articles about all our newly minted graduates. Please submit details to the editor, Evelyn Williams, by **May 17, 2026**. Congratulations, graduates!

Craft Sale on Palm Sunday

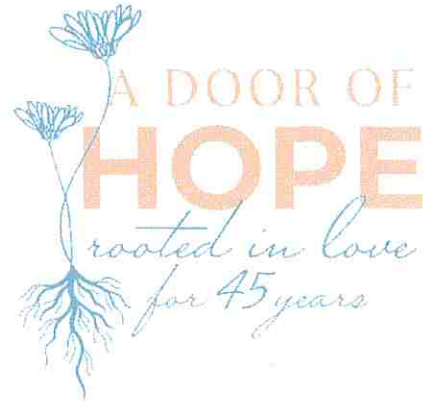
Our homemade Craft Sale on Palm Sunday, March 29, plus follow up sales, has netted us **\$105.00!** Our new products this season were a variety of new greeting cards including IRIS paper folding cards, bookmarks, and luggage tags. We welcome private viewing of our full hand-crafted items selection. Ask any member of the Craft Group. Craft sales have been used recently to fund the sanctuary sound system upgrades, Zoom video, and Wi-Fi for the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

A Door of Hope – Baby Bottle Benefit 2026



The annual **Baby Bottle Benefit** campaign will run this year during the **entire month of May**. This campaign is **A Door of Hope** Pregnancy Center's primary fundraiser. A Door of Hope operates its Christian Pregnancy Center in New Castle County, at 3407 Lancaster Pike; very near Green Hill Church. They provide consultation, information about pregnancy, and ultrasounds for women and their families in a Christian setting.

When you help fill a virtual (or real) baby bottle, your generosity meets real needs for moms and babies. Your gift empowers life-affirming choices and offers families Christ-centered care, hope, and support. You may participate in the Baby Bottle Benefit by placing cash in one of the baby bottles on the back table in the sanctuary or by writing a check to Green Hill with ADOH-BBB in the memo line. The check may go directly into the offering plate when it is passed. The Baby Bottle Benefit is sponsored by the Green Hill Mission & Prayer Committee.



A Door of Hope is one of Green Hill's local supported ministries.

May Prayer Emphasis

Instructions for Christian Living

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Women's Bible Study News

Women's Bible Study will complete its study of the New Testament book of Galatians on Wednesday, April 22. This letter from Paul to churches in Galatia expresses his passion and frustration. Paul has found out that Jewish Christians have been trying to impose Jewish laws on the new Christians. Paul writes in this letter about the importance of the Messiah and how an understanding of what Jesus accomplished has profound impact on who can be included in the covenant family. We have benefitted in our weekly meetings, not only from our reading, but from lively discussions including Pastor Dave.



Since the beginning of our Christian Education year in September, in addition to Galatians, we have studied the Old Testament book of Daniel. This was a very appropriate follow up to our study of Revelation in 2024-2025. We even looked at the additional Daniel chapters included in the Apocrypha.

We will conclude our weekly meetings for the season on Wednesday, May 27. We are considering options for the remaining five weeks of study. Esther and Proverbs are being investigated.

The Case of the Three Locked Rooms Meditation April 12, 2026

We had a unique role-play Meditation on Sunday, April 12. Our Worship Assistant for the day, Elder Steve Grubbs, was the Narrator, Pastor Dave Lovelace was Sherlock Holmes, and Elder Rick Baun played the role of Dr. John Watson. Holmes is in the deerstalker hat and Watson is wearing a doctoral tam (hat). Holmes and Watson are investigating the disappearance of the body of Jesus Christ which is missing from his tomb.



Photo by Jen Galvin

Men's Bi-Weekly Bible Study



If you are a male Green Hill member or friend, you are welcome to participate in the bi-weekly **Men's Bible Study**. The men will meet on Tuesdays, **8:00 AM, May 5 and 19, 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 of the Old Testament book of **Exodus**. Please plan to check out the group and see if it is for you!

Communion in May



We will celebrate our normal monthly communion on **Sunday, May 10**, this year. Rick Baun will be in the pulpit on May 3.

We will also celebrate communion as part of our **Pentecost worship service on May 24**.



May 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month
Sweet Hour of Prayer

The lyrics to “Sweet Hour of Prayer” were first published in September 1845 and are attributed to William Walford (1772 – 1850). He was a Congregational Minister and the author of several books including one entitled “The Manner of Prayer”.

According to another account, the author of this hymn was a blind preacher and curio shop owner in Coleshill, England. He carved ornaments out of ivory and wood and sold them in his small store. He also wrote poetry. One day, when a local minister stopped at the store, William Walford, the blind shop owner, mentioned that he had written poem in his head. He asked the minister to write it down for him. Three months later, the minister visited the United States and gave the poem to a newspaper editor.

This hymn goes to the heart of one of the most intrinsic Christian practices: prayer. For William W. Walford, prayer was an intensely private affair where one seeks refuge from temptations and trials and pours out the depths of one’s soul before God who already knows our “wants and wishes.” The kind of prayer fostered in this hymn is private prayer, rather than prayers of the body of Christ gathered in worship.

The tune SWEET HOUR was composed in 1861 for this text by the American composer of early gospel music, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816 – 1868). He also composed the music for so many beloved gospel hymns such as “Just as I Am”, “The Solid Rock” and “He Leadeth Me”.

The tune and text appeared together for the first time in Bradbury’s collection *Golden Chains*, from which it has become a staple of hymnals around the world.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I’ll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Lyrics: by William Walford (1845)
[Hymns for the family of God #439]
Ref: 101 More Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck

Bruce Fine

Signs of Serving

From the Green Hill Deacons



Spring Clothing Drive Runs through May 31



The Deacons are sponsoring their annual spring clothing drive. Donations will be given to the **Sunday Breakfast Mission** in

Wilmington. Please bring your **spring and summer clothes** and **household soft goods** and place them in the corner vestibule in Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted **through Sunday, May 31**. Please contact Gail Heath with any questions at (302) 528-2034.

Support for Mary Campbell Center

Generous attendees at the evening **Good Friday worship service** on April 3 contributed **\$245.00** to **Mary Campbell Center** on Weldin Road in Wilmington. Mary Campbell Center serves individuals in the community who have physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities. They offer intermediate and long-term care, respite services, and special programs for children and young adults.

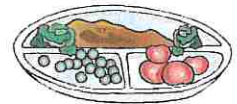
Hope Totes

Thank you to those who contributed toiletries and personal care products to our Hope Totes campaign for **Sunday Breakfast Mission**. We were able to prepare and provide **25 Hope Totes**, which were distributed on Easter Sunday, April 5.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Saturday, April 18. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Evelyn Williams, Dan Dugan and Kathy Dugan**.

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers in April. They were: **Evelyn Williams, Maya Hirs, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Kathy Dugan, and John Hartman**.



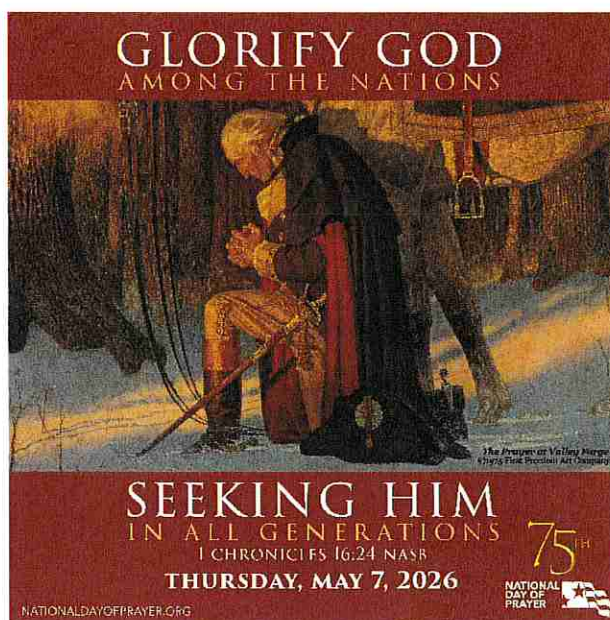
If you would like to substitute for either EDR or MOW please contact Jen Galvin at (302) 494-8259.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Deacons will honor the ladies of Green Hill with a special recognition during our worship service on **Mother's Day, May 10**.

We continue to collect **nonperishable food items** to support the food pantry at **Sunday Breakfast Mission** and breakfast service at **EDR**. Drop off your items anytime in the basket located at the back of the sanctuary.

National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 7, 2026



*"Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."*

1 Chronicles 16:24 NASB

2026 National Prayer

Almighty God, King of Glory, we confess our sins and repent of our pride that sought our own glory and comfort, allowing evil to take root instead of Your fruit in our hearts, homes, culture, and country.

Please forgive us.

Now, with this declaration of rededication, we humble ourselves, pray, and seek Your face, turning from our wicked ways, that You would heal our lives and our land.

Please purify and renew our hearts with holy attributes, affections, attitudes, and actions-to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We give You glory as we repent and rededicate our lives and our nation to You.

For 250 years You have guarded and guided America in wisdom, grace, mercy, and love.

We praise and thank You for our Founding Fathers, for all who sought You in fervent prayer throughout history and answered Your call to defend justice and freedom; to protect and serve, preach and teach, innovate, communicate, learn, work, worship, and establish our laws.

May Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done in our lives, our Families, the Church, Education, Business, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media as it is in heaven.

We prayerfully commit to "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations."

In Jesus' name, Amen!

Prayer Written by NDP Task Force President, Kathy Branzell

NASB = New American Standard Bible

May 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Stephen Grubbs
May 24 - Evelyn Williams

Deacon of the Month Sandy Fine

Worship Assistants

May 3 - Laurie Collender
May 10 - Allison Brokaw
May 17 - Rick Baun
May 24 - Sandy Fine
May 31 - Rob Brokaw

Greeters

May 3 - Evelyn Williams
May 10 - Kathy Dugan
May 17 - Ellen Grubbs
May 24 - Amy Baun
May 31 - Evelyn Williams

Refreshments Chandler Brown

Chancel Flowers

May 3 - Joseph Noszek
May 10 - Evelyn Williams
May 17 - OPEN
May 24 - Allison & Rob Brokaw
May 31 - Holly Mitchell & Family

Communion Servers

May 10 Allison Brokaw and Sandy Fine
May 24 Sandy Fine and Rick Baun

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

May 4 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
May 5 - Maya Hirs and family
May 6 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
May 7 - Evelyn Williams
May 8 - Kathy & Dan Dugan

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Tuesday, May 19

Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
– Evelyn Williams

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Ellen Grubbs

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Denise Snyder
4 Susan Barrowman Radice
Ellen Stevens
Blaise Venet
16 Victor Cincilla
26 Stuart Beattie

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

19 Jennifer (Grubbs) & Michael Tate

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Rick Baun Leading Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 PM Worship Mtg.	4 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	5 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	6 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	7 National Day of Prayer 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	8 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	9
10 Mother's Day 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; Susan Ryan, Flutist; Deacons Gifts to Women 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	11 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	12 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	13 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	14 Ascension of the Lord	15 6:30 PM AA Mtg. Dinner Groups	16 10:00 AM NC Presbytery Assembly; Lower Brandywine PC + Zoom
17 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. 12:00 PM Trustee Mtg. SPIRE DEADLINE	18 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	19 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 8:15 AM EDR Prep 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	20 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	21	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	25 Memorial Day 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	26 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	27 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	28	29 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	30
31 Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Service of Wholeness & Healing 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation						