

## Join us on Wednesday Nights through Lent!

February 29—March 28

6:45—8:00 p.m.

Programming for all ages!

Nursery care provided.

### ADULTS!

Come on Wednesday nights during Lent as we explore the traditional Lenten and Easter Scripture passages from a new perspective: Handel's *Messiah*! You don't have to be an accomplished musician to appreciate the exultant "Hallelujah" chorus, nor do you have to be an expert to enjoy this class. This study will take us through passages in Isaiah on the suffering servant, a number of psalms (including Psalm 22 which Jesus quotes from the cross), Job, and will end with the picture of God's heavenly throne in Revelation. These texts will come alive as we listen to them in *The Messiah* and gain new insight through group discussion. We will be meeting in the Hospitality Room

### Talking to God

Ring! Ring! Can I speak to God please?

PreK through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will explore what it means to Talk to God. They will learn about different kinds of prayer and will even have a chance to learn the Lord's Prayer in French!



During Lent this year we'll have an engaging drama program for our Jr. High Students. We'll be working together on writing and rehearsing a skit for worship at the end of March or April. We'll meet each Wednesday night during lent from 6:45-8:00pm! You won't want to miss this opportunity to grow in faith and act it out.

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## Thoughts from Ted....

For this month, I thought I would share an excerpt from a paper that I had recently written regarding the church and its value in society. The essay references works by N.T. Wright and Bryan Stone. Both books are superb and I thought you might be interested to catch a snapshot of my mental ramblings regarding the church...

“Rock, Paper, Scissors”: A game as old as the moon, but as enduring as a first kiss memory. What is it about a game so simple, yet so universally accepted and enjoyed? Without hesitation, people of all ages will play this game to settle all manner of disputes; they will play to wile away the monotony of waiting in an airport; they will even travel for miles to participate in a tournament for a small cash purse. There is nothing fancy about the game. There is nothing fancy about the content of the game, and there is certainly nothing out of the ordinary with the objects referred to in the game. This game stands in stark contrast to the high tech world of video games and apps. Alas, kids still love it!

This can be the church! Think about it. Communion is the simplest meal to be served. Serving is the most basic act of kindness. Baptism is a display of grace that mirrors an act of regular hygiene. Being attentive to the Gospel read and proclaimed doesn't demand a special degree, and prayer doesn't even need words to communicate. These are the core components of the church. N.T. Wright in his book *Surprised by Hope*, summarily identifies these aspects as indicators of the church with a “Resurrection Mission”.<sup>1</sup> Within this paper, these core aspects will be explored in correspondence with N.T. Wright and Bryan Stone.<sup>2</sup> Both of these works challenge the reader to re-think the core value of what it means to be the church and how to be the church.

As some churches have struggled to present themselves to the world as viable, relevant places, they have embraced a myriad of fancy terminology and high tech ministry venues with hopes of being attractive. Some churches have cloaked themselves in the garb of Hollywood or Wall Street all in vain attempts to be “all things to all people”. What is the church? Should the church exist on the same level as Disney?

I don't propose that the church become a Luddite or that the Amish and Quakers have all the right answers. I am proposing that there is a need for the church to reacquaint itself to the foundational components of being a church. The program industry has so flooded the life of the congregation in Western society, that individuals don't know what exactly is a healthy expression of spirituality unless they go through a 12-step program or a 6-week intensive course or an 18-hour seminar! From small group ministry to webinars on crafting sermons, disciples of Jesus Christ are being lured into labyrinths of lectures. All the while, what many of them long for is a good game of “rock, paper, scissors”.

I propose that church members are hungry to hear the gospel and be in prayer and fellowship around the table with tangible expressions of service. Those in leadership within the church (pastors and elders) need to foster an atmosphere for this kind of experience, and they need to equip the members appropriately. The church has something to offer that nothing else in society can provide. The church needs to stay focused on that. It can't get distracted trying to be what society is.

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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**February 22  
7:00 p.m.**



Last year, we experienced communion in a very interesting and engaging fashion during Ash Wednesday. Jesus extends to us an invitation to come to the table. With the placement of our new communion table in the sanctuary, the Worship Committee has determined that we will observe communion around the table again this year. It is an intimate setting that calls us forward to share a meal together that Jesus has prepared for us.

As we partake of the elements, we will spend time in meditation and reflection upon God's truth revealed to us in the bible. Ash Wednesday calls us to repentance as we prepare to enter a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. We encourage you to come to this service this year to prepare for the greatest celebration in the life of the church.



Are you looking for a new church home? Wondering what it means to become a member of this church? Come to the HPC New Member classes and learn more! Classes will be on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. starting on February 26th . Even if you are not sure about joining the church at this time, we encourage you to attend the class for the value of the exploration. Sign up at the Information Center. Any questions, call the church office or see Pastor Ted.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### SESSION

Christian Ed: \*Barbara Guadagnino (13)  
Kathy Cancilla (14)

Congregational Life: \* Debbie Kushon (12),  
\*Gail Simpson (13)

Member Care and Outreach: \*Maureen Profeta (13), Sissy Molnar (14)

Mission: \*Tricia Severino (12) , Dave Brethauer (12), Autumn Edmiston (14)

Worship: \*Don Kendrick (13),  
Tracy Sabo (14)

Stewardship: \*Chad Edwards(12), Peg Wernert (13), Rick Watenpool (14)

Personnel: \*Dave Antoline, Milt Bauer (12), Peg Wernert (13)

\*Chair of Committee

### DEACONS

Class of 2012: Fran Lemke, Gwen Muir,  
Cheryl Riker, Connie Suski, Steve Wynne

Class of 2013: Beth Gaydos, Carrie Hunzeker, Jody Janovsky, Trish Pietropola, Randy Rhoades

Class of 2014: Hank Ablauf, Amy Bennett, MaryLin DeRose, Susan Katz, Cheryl Whitman

### TRUSTEES

Class of 2012: Renee Baker, Jeff Brautigam, Mike Maccagnan, Porter Scott

Class of 2013: Lindsey Fustos, Joe Herndon, Susan Maleckar, Carl Niehaus

Class of 2014: Ann Bradley, Charles Hendrick, Bob Robinson, Rob Schmidt

## Thoughts from Ted ... (continued)

In a post-modern world, there are no definitive boundaries and the pace at which things change in the world is far too fast for the church to stay relevant in that arena. When rock stars rise and fall within a week's time based on iTunes downloads, the church needs to rely on "ancient technology" to resonate with the rising generation.

What is the work of the church in the world? Does the church have a legitimate place in the post-modern world of syncretism and constant change? How does the church implement the core values without catering to the transient impulses of the world? These questions must be addressed as one evaluates the purpose of the church and its effectiveness in ministering to the community at large and the community that gathers for worship.

I invite you during this month of February to entertain these questions as you prepare to enter the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday initiates our 40 day journey into reflection and preparation. Let us be purposeful about our quest to know our Lord Jesus Christ and who he has called us to be.

<sup>1</sup>Cf. N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 2008). In the final pages of this excellent book that examines the impact the resurrection has on the church's thinking, Wright expands upon the value of baptism, communion, prayer, scripture, holiness and love.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. Bryan Stone, *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press), 2007.

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## Study Leave

February 13-18, Ted will be on study leave as he seeks to compile further work on his final project. Keep him in your prayers during this week.

## Sermons by Theme

Are you going on a long trip, spend time in your car on your daily commute to work or do you have a special need? Sermons by theme will now be available at the Information Center. Take one or two CD's. Feel free to listen to it again or pass it on. The subjects available are Mediation, Immutability of God, Discipleship and Relationships. New sermons will be available frequently, so check back for updates.



## Notes from Brian....

### The Value of Immersion Experiences in Faith

My senior year of college I was a part of a housing group (similar in concept to a fraternity) at Grove City. Like many college seniors we wanted to go south for spring break and escape to some warmer weather. As we kicked around some ideas I suggested that we look to turn our trip south into a mission trip which would give us the chance to raise funds for the trip instead of having to pay for it ourselves (admittedly, not the best rationale). In the end, we went off to Charleston, SC to work with Habitat for Humanity for a week with 23 college-age guys and we had a great week. Unfortunately, that was my first mission trip ever. Since then I've been on a few more in seminary (The Dominican Republic and Gulf Coast post-Katrina) and many more since arriving at HPC (this summer will be my 12th and 13th mission trip since arriving at HPC). In addition to mission trips I spent a lot of time on retreats each year - Jr. High, Sr. High, 30 Hour Famine, and Confirmation retreats are annual events on our youth ministry calendar. But if I'm honest, these events take up a ton of my time and energy - and they cost a lot of money! So what is the value?

"Immersion experiences" like mission trips and retreats are valuable for a number of reasons, but two stand out (1) They develop a sense of belonging (2) They take us away from what is normal. When you go on a mission trip or a retreat you spend a lot of time together - in fact, you're together for at least 16 hours each and every day. You share meals together and go through new experiences together. This helps bond the members of the group to one another. In my experience in working with youth I always find that after a mission trip or a retreat I feel like I actually know a student, regardless of how long I've known them. All of this really contributes to a person feeling like they belong within a community simply because they feel like there are other people in the community who they know and know well. In my experience, nothing has the power to break down boundaries (for example, going to different schools) like going on a mission trip or retreat together.

The second reason that mission trips and retreats are so valuable is that they take us out of what is normal. Our lives tend to be dominated by the normal everyday items of life: work/school, family, activities, etc. Usually we only spend a very limited amount of time (really a matter of a few hours a week) focused on our faith and our faith community. Retreats and mission trips allow us to break out of our normal cycle for a few days and focus on building those relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as deepening our relationship with God. I know personally I value retreats because I leave feeling refreshed in my faith and more focused on what I need to be working on in the months ahead.

While mission trips and retreats require us to step out into a new experience the value of them is tremendous as they allow us to experience a sense of belonging and provide an opportunity to focus on our faith in a way that is unparalleled.





1	David Antoline Haley Ketchell Sharon Schweizer Gail Simpson Lorraine Trust Todd Ziegler	12	Brett Edmiston Reuben Knox Ryan Maccagnan Patricia Moeller	25	Andrew Bayne
2	Connor Lenz Kathy Wentz	13	Mark Hunkele Sally Hutzler	26	Denice Fritz
3	Carl Niehaus	14	Myra Kushon	27	Jessica Donald Frank Looper Lauren Mytinger Kierstin Wilson Brock Wolff
4	Jonathon Schubert	15	John Guadagnino Judy Robinson Carl Schultz	28	Nancy Jackson
5	Laura Evans Lindsay Gaydos Reece Lawler	17	Audrey Haberlein Amanda Wynne	29	Tod Baker Emily Reiling
6	Ann Baker Michelle Campbell Chad Edwards Brittany Katz	19	Lizzy Fustos Evan Hunkele Linda Hunkele Darlene Wheeler		
7	Henry Ablauf Amy Bernett Barbara Haberlein Marissa Moeller Joyce Ziegler	20	David Mills Josie Wilkins		
8	Hannah Mass Jennifer Piemme	21	Nicole Hasley		
9	Julie Bennett Nicholas Hodgin Karlyanne Kushon Adam Wiles	22	Cassandra Riker		
10	Jody Janovsky	23	James Craig Grace Longwell		
11	Daniel Hutzler Briana Kretz Lisa Schmidt Marianna Zahorchak	24	Evelyn Davis		



### Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 22—Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- ◆ February 26—Congregational Meeting
- ◆ February 26—New Member Classes begin

Hampton Presbyterian Church  
2942 East Hardies Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Check us out on the web!  
[www.hamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.hamptonpresbyterian.org)

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2942 East Hardies Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

Phone: 724 - 443 - 3201 / Fax: 724 - 443 - 8260

Email: [hpcusa@hamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto:hpcusa@hamptonpresbyterian.org)

**Rev. Ted Martin, Senior Pastor**

[thmhamp@consolidated.net](mailto:thmhamp@consolidated.net)

**Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Pastor**

[brian.wallace.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:brian.wallace.hpc@gmail.com)

**Renee Wallace, Director of Children & Family Ministry**

[marilynrenee@gmail.com](mailto:marilynrenee@gmail.com)

**Sunday Worship  
Services**

8:15 a.m. Worship

8:45 a.m. TurningPoint  
(Contemporary Worship)

11:00 a.m. Worship