



The Mustard Seed

*"... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,
nothing shall be impossible to you."*

Matthew 17:20

The newsletter of The Hermitage Presbyterian Church, 421 Highland View Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

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LES IS MORE

We are deep in the throes of Lent – a 40-day journey of preparation – preparing to be surprised by God's blessing. It's all about making room for God in our lives.

This is a season of patience and waiting – both of which are postures of receptivity. We are invited to put ourselves in a psychological/emotional place of receiving God's presence.

This list was in my files – copied from somewhere – some fantastic suggestions. Here are 25 Ways to Experience God:

1. **Listen to Scripture** being read on tape or CD. Close your eyes and allow your mind to picture what you're hearing.
2. **Arrive at worship** 10 minutes early. Spend time praying that God's presence will be felt throughout the service.
3. Take a **walk alone** in nature, and sing or pray aloud to God.
4. **Read a novel** written by a Christian (such as C. S. Lewis' science-fiction trilogy or Narnia series). Talk with a friend about how you saw God revealed in the book.
5. **Visit an art museum** and study several pieces of art. What do they suggest about the nature of God? What insights do they provide?
6. With a friend, **visit three churches** where Christians worship in different ways. Talk about the experience: How was God honored? How did God speak to you?
7. Visit a church that has traditional **stained-glass windows**. Identify the pictures and symbols they contain. What aspects of God's works and character are revealed?
8. As you study a portion of Scripture, **draw** with symbols, words, and doodles what the passage is saying to you about God.
9. **Play "I Spy"** throughout you day by watching for God's presence in the ordinary things that happen to you. Each evening, share with your family or a friend (or record in your journal) where you saw God at work that day.

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10. Praise God **by writing an acrostic** around one of God's names. In an acrostic, the first letter of a word starts the first sentence; the second letter, the second sentence; and so on. For example:
Great and wonderful You are.
Oh, how my heart praises You.
Dear Savior, You are worthy of all my love.
11. **Write your own words** to go with the tune of a familiar hymn or worship song. Sing your message to God.
12. Memorize a **Christian poem**, such as "On His Blindness" by John Milton.
13. Take a **vacation with God**, a one-day retreat where you get away from life-as-usual to be totally alone with God.
14. **Kneel or lie prostrate** before God when you pray.
15. Read a story from a **picture Bible** with an elementary-age child.
16. As you read your Bible, make note of **similes** that liken things in nature to the attributes of God. For example, the fury of the hurricane is like God's anger; the gentle rain is like God's mercy. Keep a running list of these in your journal, or turn them into a Bible bookmark.
17. Create a shelf that contains **mementos** of God's blessings to you.
18. Write an **imaginary letter** to someone who has never heard about God, and describe God to that person. Or record what you would say on tape.
19. Take five minutes to **list all the adjectives** you can think of that describe God. Then thank God for each word.
20. **Draw a cross**. On the cross write every sin you can remember committing, especially those for which you can't forgive yourself. Write, "Nailed to the Cross" over your words as a visual reminder that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven you completely.
21. **Pick a theme** to study throughout a book of the Bible, such as the love of God. With a colored pencil, underline portions contributing to that theme.
22. Each day for a week, reflect on how your day would have been different **if you were not a Christian**. Don't allow yourself to become blasé about the difference Christ makes.
23. Imagine yourself sitting on **God's lap**. How do you feel? What do you tell God? What might God say to you?
24. For your five **favorite hymns or worship songs**, find Bible passages on which they were based or that affirm the truth of the songs' messages.
25. During the children's time in a worship service, **listen** to how the children respond to God.

I hope that this season is spiritually rich for each of us. May we each experience God in new and surprising ways. Hope to see you in worship!

Yours in Christ,

Leslie

WELCOME FRIENDS

Harold & Kelly Peterson
James & Manivone Stephanek

FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted and ready for you to sign up to provide flowers/plant in the sanctuary during worship. There are plenty of open dates. Sign up now so you can get the dates you would like! **Please let Edwina know what you would like to place in the bulletin about whom or what you are placing flowers.**

LITURGIST NEEDED

We are in need for people to sign up to be the liturgist on Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity to participate in your church and anyone (even youth) can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead the worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; we welcome you to do this, but it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities. Please reply to the church office, or to Renee Dugger (Ireneedugger@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.

THANK YOU

HPC is an awesome church family who serves an awesome God. We made an announcement in late January to the congregation that the snack items for our mission school, Tulip Grove elementary, was very low with only a few peanut butter crackers left to fill 43 bags with five different snack items. In less than five days, you had contributed not only enough for the month of January, but we now have enough for several months in stock. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family and so are the children we help in this small way.

THANK YOU,
Donnie Williams

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 25th
11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Choral Tenebrae Service
7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 31st
2:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 1st
7:00 a.m. at Historic Hermitage Church

Easter Service
11:00 a.m.

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on February 18, 2018 following worship. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

The Church has received a bequest of \$25,500 from the estate of Rhea Williams.

The Nominating Committee is working to find members willing to serve as Elders in the Class of 2021. The Session would encourage those asked to serve to prayerfully consider this request.

The MOE team is reviewing the duties of the Christian Education Moderator, with a goal of splitting out some of the responsibilities which would be assumed by others

Holy Week services will be held on:

March 29 – 7:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday service and communion

March 30 – 7:00 p.m., Good Friday Tenebrae Cantata by the Choir

April 1 - 7:00 a.m., Easter sunrise service at the Old Church

8:30 a.m., Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m., Easter Worship and communion

The March Session meeting will be on March 18, following morning worship.

Hank Sweetman
Clerk of the Session

FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of March, HPC will be collecting *saltine crackers* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase needed supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



PRESBYTERY

HERMITAGE Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the PC(USA). Our denomination is a "connectional" denomination. Unlike non-denominational churches, Baptist churches (and others), our congregation is not totally independent. We make some decisions, and share ministry together, with other PC(USA) churches in the Middle Tennessee area.

Four times each year, the "Presbytery" meets together. Two ruling elders and Leslie go to these meetings. We worship together, eat together, and work through ministry decisions together.

A Presbytery meeting was held on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN.

Our congregation benefits from understanding and being a part of Presbytery actions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2018</h1>						
				1 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	2 10:00 am - Food Closet 11:00 am - LLL/Lawn & Garden Show	3
4 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 2:00 pm - MTLA 7:00 pm - A.A.	5 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:00 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	6 7:00 pm - BSA Roundtable	7 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	8 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	9 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	10
11 ↑ Time Change → 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Fellowship Coffee 12:15 pm - Business Team 7:00 pm - A.A.	12 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	13 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	14 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	15 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	16 10:00 am - Food Closet 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	17 DINNER CLUB
18 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 12:15 pm - Session 7:00 pm - A.A.	19 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	20 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	21 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	22 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	23 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	24 8:30 am - 1:00 pm - Barnlofters
25 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	26 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	27 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, Shoney's, Donelson 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	28	29  7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	30  10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service	31 2:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt



- 04 Joe Falce
- 07 Ashley Edge
- Caitlin Bender
- Tyler Kwitkowski
- 10 Jason Falce
- 15 Mark Billingsley
- 24 Mildred Nabors
- 25 Doug Bingham
- 27 Corky Smith
- 28 Isabel Noblin
- 29 Taylor Jackson
- 31 Lew Alley

In order to keep our birthday list accurate & up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections & additions.

MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS

- March 04 Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
- March 11 Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
- March 18 Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
- March 25 *Palms*: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *Passion*: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

It's March and there are signs of spring!! We are in Lent and a time of reflection, culminating in Holy Week at the end of this month and Easter on April 1. Let your Lenten practice include returning to church and to involvement in the work of love.

Thursday, March 1	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21	Wednesday Night Supper, Study, and Youth Activities 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 11	Daylight Saving Time begins Fellowship Coffee following worship
Saturday, March 17	Dinner Club, hosts Burns/Williams, Dugger, Kirk
Sunday, March 18	Session, 12:15 p.m.
Sunday, March 25	Palm Sunday
Tuesday, March 27	Lunch Bunch, Shoney's, Donelson Pike, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 28	No Wednesday Night Supper or Study
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	Tenebrae, Choir Cantata, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 31	Community Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Youth
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunrise Service, Old Hermitage Church, 7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m. (There will be a sign up sheet for food needed) Easter Worship, 11:00 a.m.

40 NOTES IN 40 DAYS

God has sent us love letter, after love letter, after love letter. Let us continue to spread God's love throughout the season of Lent. Over the next 40 days think about others in your life, pray for them, and write them a little note. You can tell them why they are important to you. What you are up to these days. You can let them know that you have prayed for them. Just a simple line to let them know they are loved.

Write a note to someone who . . .

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. You respect | 21. Is a mother-figure |
| 2. Is sick | 22. Hurt you |
| 3. You taught | 23. You miss |
| 4. Is family | 24. You've known for as long
as you can remember |
| 5. Is unemployed | 25. Makes you smile |
| 6. You admire | 26. You are proud of |
| 7. Is a good friend | 27. Walks to the beat of their
own drummer |
| 8. Was a classmate | 28. Is really smart |
| 9. Is a random person in
your address book | 29. Taught you |
| 10. You work with | 30. Works for justice |
| 11. Is a father-figure | 31. Is kind |
| 12. Offered you forgiveness | 32. Is humble |
| 13. You need to forgive | 33. Is or was a mentor |
| 14. Is struggling | 34. Is proud of you |
| 15. Is a new friend | 35. Is young |
| 16. Is like family | 36. Is a great dancer |
| 17. Shares an inside
joke with you | 37. Doubted you |
| 18. Is lonely | 38. You shared a great
meal with |
| 19. Is or was your pastor | 39. Might be fearful |
| 20. Is mourning | 40. Is expectant |

For God so
loved the world...

John 3:16



HOW CAN YOU MEASURE GOD'S LOVE?

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS,
STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 P.M.**

March 07	Chicken & Mushrooms Noodles Peas & Carrots Salad/Rolls Dessert	March 14	Spaghetti & Meatballs Salad Garlic Bread Dessert
		March 21	Ham Green Beans Apples Salad/Rolls Dessert

JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Income over (under) Expense</u>
Regular Giving	\$ 48,663*	\$ 48,663	
Operating Expenses	\$ 15,208	\$ 15,208	\$ 33,455
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 5,979	\$ 5,979	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 1,459	\$ 1,459	\$ 4,520
TOTAL ALL GIVING	\$ 54,642	\$ 54,642	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$ 16,667	\$ 16,667	\$ 37,975

Jeff McCann, Sr.
Treasurer

*this amount includes \$25,500 bequest