



# The Mustard Seed

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

Matthew 17:20

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

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## LES IS MORE

The birds are wildly singing by 5:00 a.m. I think it is one bird. A mockingbird. Living in the woods behind my house. Spring is here; signs of new life abound.

But I have Iowa PTSD, and I am waiting for the other shoe to drop. I madly scour 5-day forecasts for the appearance of that 4-letter "s" word.

Snow would be a huge surprise. The jonquils and tulips would certainly not appreciate moisture in that form.

A few years back (!), when I was first made aware of Christian rock music, the band Petra had a song called "Summer Snow." They compared the coming of Jesus Christ to the delightfully surprising falling of a summer snow:

*Like summer snow*

*You were an unexpected sign*

*A blazing sun, you came shining through the night*

*When I really should have known*

*that you'd be coming home, home.*

Do we live in anticipation of being surprised by Christ's presence?

When we get to the end of the day, and we are reviewing what the day held for us, one question we might ask ourselves is "*Where did I experience the presence of Christ today?*"

Being aware of Christ with us today will pattern us to be expecting Christ's presence tomorrow.

This month we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is only because of his victory over death that we can experience God's presence every moment of every day!

Love in Christ,

**Pastor Leslie**

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on March 17, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Through the end of February, operating income is 20% behind budget while operating expenses are slightly higher than budget. Our operating expense requires a giving average of \$ 3,733 per week. Actual regular income is averaging \$ 2,969 per week over the two-month period and no Sunday reached the \$ 3,733 requirement.

The Business team reported that fluorescent lights have been replaced with LED lights in all fixtures. This will save on future replacement and energy use. The window replacement project has been put on hold for the time being. The church work day is being held on April 6 and we will be working on preparing the outside areas for the Easter Egg Hunt. Members of the Business Team are working on a Church Security Policy.

The MOE Team reported that the church has two, possibly three boys going to Camp NaCoMe this summer. NaCoMe will also have a youth weekend this fall. Rummage Sale proceeds will go toward funds for camp. More information is being gathered about an Angaza Nuru Mission opportunity from Priest Lake Presbyterian Church. Margaret Cantrell is working on training and information for new ushers. The MOE Team will be working on the Easter Breakfast. A food contribution list will be posted in the narthex. Eggs and candy are still needed for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mike Hodge with Nashville Organized for Action & Hope (NOAH) spoke about the organization and how this group is uniting the faith & justice community to act on needs in Nashville.

**Jennifer Bingham**  
Clerk of Session

## KUDOS FROM THE SESSION

The Session would like to recognize Scout Packs 43 and 63 who meet each week at our church. They have (very quietly) donated food to our food bank to support our efforts in taking care of the community.

We are so blessed to be able to host these scouts in our facility and thank them for their giving spirits, supporting HPC in return!

## WELCOME VISITORS

Ginnie Haldeman  
Helen Logniov  
Sam & Gunnel Settersten  
Dennis Harvey

## FLOWER CALENDAR

The entire month of April is available for you to sign up to provide flowers in the sanctuary during worship.

You can place flowers or a plant in honor or in memory of someone or a special event. Please let the church office know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin.

## LITURGIST NEEDED

We still need people to volunteer to serve as the liturgist during worship on Sunday mornings. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in worship and anyone can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities.

To volunteer, please reply to the church office, or contact Renee Dugger ([lreneedugger@gmail.com](mailto:lreneedugger@gmail.com)).

## SYMPATHY

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Jeff & Amy McCann at the death of Amy's father, Ben West, Jr., on March 30, 2019.

## THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Just want to say Thank you for all the cards, calls, food and taxi service I received during my recovery.

I'm so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring family.

Thank you again!  
Pat Gillie

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To Hermitage Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for allowing us to use the fellowship hall for Trent's rehearsal dinner. It worked out so well and was a very nice atmosphere.

In Christian Love,  
Trent & Tammie Keckler

## EASTER EGG HUNT

We are still taking donations of candy and plastic Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 20. Place your donations in the boxes located in the narthex and fellowship hall.

## FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

Welcome to spring and the season of Easter! Palm Sunday, April 14, begins Holy Week with Easter Sunday on April 21. We hope to see you at all of the services and celebrations surrounding this most holy season. And don't forget the Rummage Sale and Church Workday on Saturday, April 6. Donations for the sale can be brought to the Fellowship Hall. And then come shop to help support the NaCoMe Youth Camp Scholarship Fund. We have three boys we hope to help send to high school camp this summer.

Wednesday, April 3, 10, 17, 24	Prepared Supper, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:45 p.m. The Lenten adult Bible study is based on the book and video, "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by A. J. Levine
Thursday, April 4	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 6	Rummage Sale, 8:00 a.m. Church Work Day, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 18	Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Good Friday, Tenebrae Choir Cantata, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20	Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Youth Group, 2:00 p.m. Dinner Club hosts Bragg, Dugger, and Kirk
Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunrise service, at the Historic Hermitage Presbyterian Church on the grounds of The Hermitage, 7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Lunch Bunch, McNamara's, 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 28	Session, 12:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS, STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

April 3	Taco Bar Refried Beans Spanish Rice Dessert	April 10	Chicken with Mushrooms Noodles Veggie Salad/Rolls Dessert
April 17	Whitt's Barbecue Potato Salad Cole Slaw Baked Beans Dessert	April 24	Lasagna Salad Garlic Bread Dessert

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## FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Regular Giving	\$ 11,395	\$ 24,328
Operating Expenses	\$ 16,874	\$ 33,799
Mission & Other		
Designated Giving	\$ 1,555	\$ 6,153
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 1,932	\$ 3,941
TOTAL ALL GIVING	\$ 12,950	\$ 30,481
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$ 18,806	\$ 37,740

**Jeff McCann, Sr.**  
Treasurer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2019</h1>						
	1 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:00 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	2 7:00 pm - BSA Roundtable	3 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	4 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	5 10:00 am - Food Closet Set up for Rummage Sale	6 8:00 am - Rummage Sale
7 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 12:15 pm - MOE & BT 2:00 pm - MTLA 7:00 pm - A.A.	8 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	9 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	10 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	11 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	12 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	13 9am - 1:00 pm - Barnlofters
14  9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	15 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	16 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	17 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	18  7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	19  10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service	20  2:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt
21  7:00 am - Sunrise Service 8:00 am - Breakfast 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	22 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	23 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, McNamara's 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	24 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	25 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	26 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	27 9 am - 4 pm - Hank & Martha Sweetman
28 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 12:30 pm - Session 7:00 pm - A.A.	29 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	30 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts				



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 03 Arlene Brown
- 04 Marcellus Matthews
- 05 Abigail Elizabeth Riggan
- 14 Elizabeth Alley Ethridge
- Molly Wood
- 17 Teresa Kirk
- 18 Amanda Richie-Harville
- 20 Elizabeth Harville
- 21 Betty Griffin
- 25 Taylor Jones
- Edwina Ulmer
- 28 Susan Harris
- 30 Katherine McCann

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

### APRIL SCRIPTURE READINGS

- April 07 Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- April 14 *Palms*: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *Passions*: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
- April 21 Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
- April 28 Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelations 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

## CHURCH WORK DAY

We have scheduled a church work day for Saturday, April 6, 2019, 9:00 a.m. until noon. We will plant a new flowering cherry tree to replace the chestnut tree that was removed, and spruce up the campus before the Easter weekend activities.

## FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of April, HPC will be collecting *dried beans or rice* 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 hand out food bags to those in need in our area.

## RIDE FOR EDUCATION

Dear Church family,

Please help me support Martha O'Bryan Center by making a donation through my fundraising page for 2019 TennSpeed: The Ride for Education. Even a small donation will help me achieve my goal! The process is fast, easy, and secure.

I'm riding the 32-mile route and have committed to raise \$750.00.

Thanks so much for your support.  
Sally

Donate to my page  
<https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/1818597>

The church library is online:  
<https://www.librarything.com/profile/sally8658>

<https://www.librarything.com/home>

## REGULAR GIVING SHORTFALL

The Session is very concerned about the shortfall in Regular Giving that has occurred in the first two months of this year. Through the end of February Regular Giving is 20% behind our budgeted amount, which resulted in Expenses exceeding Income by \$9,471.00 for the period. If this giving trend continues, by May the Church will need to use savings to pay ongoing operating expenses. Regular Giving is what funds the operation of the Church.

The CAT Survey that members of the Congregation participated in several years ago identified Hermitage Presbyterian Church as a "Hearth and Home" congregation. That is, we welcome new friends into our midst and comfort, console and assist those in our Fellowship. We have welcomed many new friends over the past several years and continue to see new faces on a regular basis.

HPC is also doing the Lord's work in the Hermitage community. We assist people weekly through our Good Samaritan program, daily the Food Pantry is helping those in need, the ministry to children at Tulip Grove Elementary who might not have enough to eat over the weekend is ongoing. One of our more important efforts is the Wednesday Night Youth Program, where youth from the Hermitage community come to the church to eat, fellowship and share the Good News of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

The Session asks that everyone prayerfully consider their giving to the Church, and to do what you can to help overcome this shortfall so that the good work done by this Church may continue.

If you have any questions, you may contact Church Treasurer Jeff McCann Sr. or Stewardship Chair Hank Sweetman.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

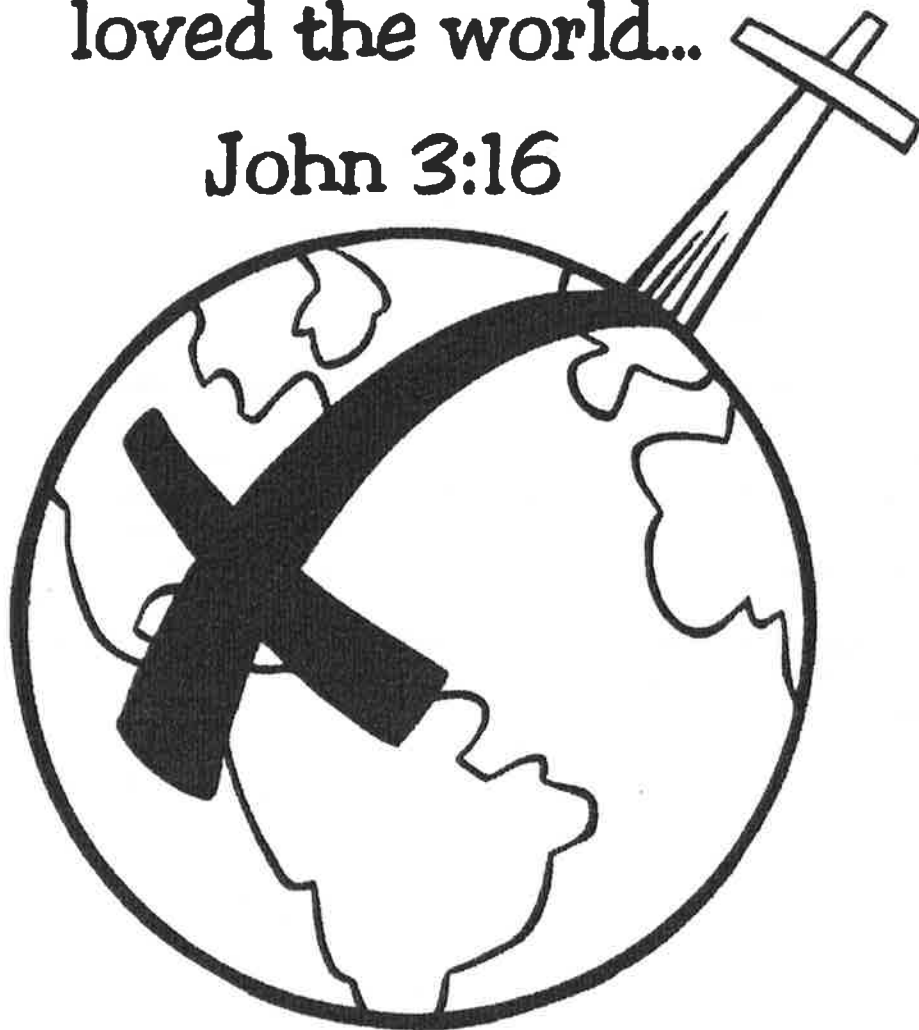
On the first Sunday after Easter, which is April 28, the Bible Study Sunday School class will begin a discussion tour through the Book of Acts. The class wants to encourage folks who are not currently attending Sunday School, but would like to, to use this new beginning as an opportunity to participate in this study of Acts.

Thanks,

John

For God so  
loved the world...

John 3:16



HOW CAN YOU MEASURE GOD'S LOVE?

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

In the immortal words of Atticus Finch from the book To Kill a Mockingbird:

"Boy you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it. There is a lot of ugly things in this world son I wish I could keep them all away from ya, But remember son it's a sin to kill a mockingbird".....

My heart is full seeing all the pain in the world today. People are fleeing to the United States because of the oppression they are enduring worldwide.

In the mid 1850's the Presbyterian Church USA sent workers to Egypt. They built hospitals and schools and led many to faith in Christ in somewhat of an uneasy peace with the majority Muslim population.

Then in January 2011 the Arab Spring brought strife to Egypt when the Muslim Brotherhood took power. Since that time the persecution of Christians has forced one of our own Presbyterian pastors to flee for his family's life. Now residing in Nashville, he has worked tirelessly with a group of Egyptian Presbyterians living in the city.

Pastor Wa'el Sous and his wife Odette make as many as three trips every Sunday morning to transport their refugee Presbyterian people who cannot legally drive and have no means of making a living until they get their green cards. These refugees do not speak much English; Odette is teaching them English.

Pastor Wa'el receives little or no compensation; his congregation has no money and his situation is really dire. Praise God ... the Egyptian congregation meets at Priest Lake Church. Pastor Cindy is applying for a grant for them - \$7,500.

One of the major needs is a van to transport the people, so they can have services in a timely and convenient way. Pastor Wa'el must be exhausted after making as many as three trips, then preaching and then carrying them home, I am sure it is also hard on the people waiting to be picked up and carried home.

The Session has asked me to bring their story to you. They are very humble people and have never complained about all their problems - just think about walking in their shoes! I know God would have us to help. If God places the Sous's on your heart and you are in a place financially to assist, Make a check out to HPC and write "Sous van" in the memo section. Bring to church office or place in offering plate. Thank you.

Below is a link: to help us to understand more about the problems in the middle east for Christians.

[https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/a\\_warning\\_to\\_america\\_geert\\_wil.html](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/a_warning_to_america_geert_wil.html)The

*Written and submitted by Charlotte Baker*