



916 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
www.houseofprayerhingham.org

Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

November 2024

“Faith is not an escape from the world, but a call to actively engage in the issues and challenges of our time.”

-Harvey Cox

This month we can expect all kinds of emotions running high after the election results on November 5th. This is a very contentious political moment, and we are all praying for a peaceful democratic process where division and hatred do not reign. All of this said, what is the role of our Christian faith at a time like this?

Like the American theologian Harvey Cox said, our faith is not an escape from the world’s problems, on the contrary we are sent to actively engage with them. The qualitative difference, however, is how do we engage with the world’s problems with an authentic and faithful voice. As Christians, we represent the way of Jesus. We are glimpses of God’s Kingdom showing the world what peace, love, justice, and compassion can look like. To do this is not about wresting power and control over the world through political institutions, our faith is not about coercion. We are to be examples within the community, that the light of Christ may shine for others to see. And perhaps that example, seeing how Christians welcome the stranger, how they feed the hungry, how they care for the poor, how they love each other, might inspire the world to use its power in such ways that might benefit abundant life for all people.

So whatever comes from this tense moment, we should be mindful of God’s call to faithfulness in times of difficulty. That if the world decides to hate, to marginalize, to impoverish, to divide, we then might provide the alternative wherever we are, that God desires mercy, kindness, gentleness, welcome, solidarity, justice, love, patience, reconciliation. We will be active in the things that the Kingdom calls us to be active in, which is in the radical love of neighbor, and we will uphold the centrality of that conviction wherever we find ourselves.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer rightly observed: “The world is overcome not through destruction, but through reconciliation. Not ideals, nor programs, nor conscience, nor duty, nor responsibility, nor virtue, but only God’s perfect love can encounter reality and overcome it. Nor is it some universal idea of love, but rather the love of God in Jesus Christ, a love genuinely lived, that does this.” Indeed, we live by God’s love in Jesus Christ, and no matter how tumultuous the turning of the world might be, Christ sends

Weekly Virtual and In-person Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

www.houseofprayerhingham.org

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Dates to Note

Ascentria Giving Tree

November 10

Confirmation Meeting

November 15
 6:30-9:30 PM

In Stitches

November 19
 1:00 PM

Church Council Meeting

Via Zoom November 21
 7:00 PM

Inter-generational Advent Event

November 24

Tidings Deadline

November 25

Wellspring Dinner Box Packing

December 8

Last Day for Ascentria Giving Tree

December 8

Wellspring Dinner Boxes Due

December 9

us out as beacons of this radical love. The world will not stop being the world on November 5th, every day afterwards will be an opportunity to live out this Gospel that overcomes the world with love and mercy.

-Pastor Emmanuel J. Correa Vázquez



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Interim President Sue Bose
Vice President Kathleen Almand
Treasurer Kathleen Almand
Secretary Open

AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dana Abbott
Bill Hayes
Naomi Just
Cathy Martin
Jen McCready
Ann Moegle
Thea Morad
Marci Sutkowski
Shawn Wegener

HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT

*To share and spread Christ's message of love.
To nurture a vigorous and
compassionate church family, open to all.
To provide meaningful worship and Christian education.
And to actively reach out to help and serve others.*

ELCA MISSION STATEMENT

*"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed,
gathered and sent for the sake of the world"*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education	Kim Boyd
Evangelism	open
Facilities	Shawn Wegener
Finance	Ed Martin
& Stewardship	
Parish Life	open
Shepherds	Sue Bose
Social Ministry	Cathy Martin
Worship & Music	Jen Bullen

Bulletin Announcements

Annual Stewardship Drive

Dear members and friends of House of Prayer. Our 2025 Annual Stewardship Drive, Moving Forward by Faith, will be conducted in the month of November. During the four Sunday worship services, a member of the congregation will be making a temple talk presentation.

The messages will center on how we can all be good stewards of the resources God has given us. You also will be seeing special announcements in the November bulletins and in Tidings.

During the first week, you will be receiving an introductory letter from Pastor Emmanuel along with a brochure and a pledge card. To help us in this endeavor, Kenneth L. Williams, a proven campaign provider, has been selected to be the backbone of this drive.

Thank you for your support and your prayers as we move forward in this campaign. May God richly bless House of Prayer. *Ernie Hill and Ed Martin, campaign coordinators.*

“Moving Forward by Faith”

The theme of our annual stewardship emphasis this year sounds good, doesn't it? “Moving Forward by Faith” has a nice “ring” to it. But what does it mean to move forward by faith? And what does that have to do with an annual stewardship emphasis?

Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith, it is not possible to please God. It stands to reason, then, if we are to please God, we need to have faith. Faith is simply taking God at His word. It is believing that God actually exists and that God will keep His promises. It is realizing that God will do what He has committed to do.

That kind of confidence is only available to us through Jesus Christ. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending of everything, including our faith. Christ is both the source of our faith and the one in whom we place our faith.

How does that relate, though, to giving and to our annual stewardship emphasis? If faith is simply “taking God at His word” and if God owns everything, then as God's managers and stewards, we are to trust God to provide what we need and to give direction concerning our giving. Let's face it — the old song is very accurate scripturally: “This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through.” But to fully realize that takes faith. It requires us to accept God's claim that we own nothing, that we are only here temporarily on our way to our eternal home.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of people like that, people like Abraham who looked for a city whose builder and maker was God. People like Noah, who trusted God in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. People like Daniel who placed his full confidence in God even when he was to be the main course for the lions' dinner.

These and many others obeyed God, even when from a human perspective, it did not make sense to do so. They were aware of a principle that has endured for the ages: When God gives us direction, and we confirm that direction according to the Scriptures, we can obey, even when circumstances appear contrary. And we can be confident that God will provide a blessing because of our obedience.

One author put it this way:

The great battle of our spiritual lives is, "Will you believe?" It is *not*, "Will you try harder?" or, "Can you make yourself worthy?" It is squarely a matter of believing that God will do what only He can do. This is what God honors.

That kind of faith involves every area of our lives, including our giving. As you think about your giving and as you consider what commitment God would have you to make as part of this year's stewardship emphasis here at House of Prayer Lutheran Church, will you do so by faith? Will you ask God to give you the ability to believe His promises and, as He provides, to give by faith?

Many years ago, the *Christian Herald Magazine* provided this illustration:

A lady who was showing a large piece of family silver apologized as she took it from the cupboard, "Dreadfully tarnished," she said. "I can't keep it bright unless I use it." That is just as true of faith as it is of silver. Tucked away in the Sunday closet of the soul, and only brought out for show on special occasions, it needs an apology. You can't keep faith bright unless you use it.

As you think about using your faith, especially in terms of the commitment God would lead you to make concerning your giving next year, please think about what Chuck Swindoll wrote:

God honors faith and obedience. He will honor your faith if you will trust Him in a walk of obedience.

Shepherding Committee, Sue Bose, Chair

HOP lost a good friend in September with the passing of Ingrid Williamson. Condolences and prayers for comfort to her husband, Gordon, and the Williamson family.

Please reach out to any member of the Shepherding Committee if you know of anyone who is in need of assistance or just in need of a friendly contact.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sue, Kate, Linda, and Barbara



Mutual Ministry Committee, Sue Bose, Chair

The MMC meets with Pastor Emmanuel on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you have any suggestions or concerns or words of praise! and you are unable to speak with Pastor directly, please feel free to contact any Committee member.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sue, Kathy, Cathy, and Steve

Friends of the Homeless

Once again, we are pleased that we can offer the Friends use of our Fellowship Hall for the month of December, so they can further their mission to help make Christmas a bit brighter for the homeless in our community. Program coordinator Polly Walker writes:

“On behalf of Executive Director Herb Newell and the Friends of the Homeless Holiday Giving team, I want to thank you for allowing us to use your Fellowship Hall again this year for our Christmas/Holiday Giving Program.

*Having the Hall space available for volunteers to sort, wrap, organize, and store gifts last year meant we could deliver hundreds of gift bundles -- and holiday joy! -- to **more than 300 families and 700 children on the South Shore**. This year, as the number of families living temporarily in local hotels has steadily increased, **we expect those numbers to be even higher** --- and our need for the large space to be even more critical.”*

They will be using the Hall from **December 4 through December 23**. As in the past, we will relocate coffee hour to the Narthex.



COAT DRIVE

Our Cleaning Company, **The Cleaning Authority**, has asked if we would help them with their annual coat drive. For the next two months they will collect new and gently used coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves and socks. They ask that items be clean and wearable, with no holes or stains. Items can be left on the table in the Narthex – they will be picked up weekly.

IVY ACADEMY NEWS

“We at Ivy love the grounds here at HOP weather! We have celebrated Fall with a and students and are now gearing up for

Robin Dellot, Co-Director



and are taking advantage of this beautiful pumpkin-decorating day for our families some holiday festivities”

Social Ministry *Cathy Martin, Chair*

Ascentria Ruth House: Pastor is coordinating with the Ruth House to come to do a Temple Talk visit in November and December. We will give them any additional prayer shawls we have ready at that time.

Good Gifts Harvest: The Farmers Market at House of Prayer went really well. We collected approximately \$50 which went to a garden kit in Rae's name for which Gerda was very grateful.

Migrant Family Support: Pastor highlighted a letter to assist migrants through fundraisers and volunteering. The link to the letter is included here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPmuBR3h7WIKWZ1U9MjxbK0Bq3tczsb_N7TbTtcw_YM/edit

Kathleen added that we provided funds for an Ascentria family but they still cannot find a place. As soon as they move in, they will send us a video clip.

Father Bill's Update: Ann continues to organize monthly bag lunches. The most recent one was November 4th. We discussed doing another sandwich assembly activity on March 9, 2025. This time with peanut butter and jelly since we already have that. We just need to get the bread. The In Stitches group made six blankets to be donated to Father Bill's as well as a collection of handmade scarves and hats.

In January, we will collect new sheets and blankets for the new facility in Brockton. The committee is also planning to sponsor a room at the new facility with an approximate cost of \$650, a one-time cost. The congregation will be invited to help with the sponsorship. The committee will cover any balance remaining. The cost is to cover new items needed to start a new apartment including pots and pans, dishes, sheets, and other items. A list will be provided.

Habitat for Humanity: Ed and Nancy along with Kim presented photos from their recent trip to Hawaii on October 20. Next year, the trip will move to Maui to rebuild after the fires a year ago.

On a local level, House of Prayer prepared lunch recently for the Cohasset home build. Going forward, we can provide a team for a build day but Habitat now uses build days as a fundraiser. We do not want to take away an opportunity for them to raise funds so we will publicize open build days. We can also do snacks for them as volunteers are asked to bring their own lunch.



HOP was well represented at a recent Habitat Build in Hawaii!

Wellspring: Per our tradition, we will put together Dinner boxes for the Christmas holidays for Wellspring. See list below for what to include. In a slight change, the committee decided that there will be an option to do partial boxes and we will have an intergenerational event after church service on December 8th with members to wrap the boxes and assemble them for pick up by Wellspring on December 9th. This will be tied in to an Advent event to make wreaths for the season. We will put together a signup sheet for folks to contribute items for this activity. Members are encouraged to prepare their own boxes as well. We have encouraged members to acquire boxes for this activity.

Ascentria: Victoria Warneck (thank you!) is planning to coordinate the Giving Tree for the holiday season. The tree is expected to be up by November 10 with gifts to be collected by December 8.

Friends of the Homeless: The group is willing to work around the preschool hours which would be after 2:00 in the afternoon and on weekends. The details will be shared with Ivy for their approval. This would be happening in December. Pastor is going to check with Friends of the Homeless to see how the congregation can support this December activity.

God's Work, Our Hands: The plan is to do another cookie walk on May 4, 2025 (after Lent and Easter). Any proceeds would benefit the Weymouth Food Pantry.

Veterans' Home: Members are still providing meals to the Home twice a month. Thanks to everyone who participates in this program. For more information about meal prep, please see Millie Hill.

Upcoming Activities:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
November 10, 2024	Ascentria Giving Tree Collection
December 8, 2024	Wellspring Christmas Dinner Box and Advent Event (see list below for what to include) Collection ends for Ascentria Giving Tree
December 9, 2024	Wellspring Collects Christmas Boxes
January 12, 2025	Social Ministry Meeting
February 9, 2025	Souper Bowl of Caring
March 9, 2025	Father Bill's Sandwich Preparation
May 4, 2025	God's Work, Our Hands Cookie Walk

Christmas Dinner Boxes

The Social Ministry Committee is organizing the collection of dinner boxes for Wellspring's food pantry. Please wrap your copy paper box festively like you would wrap a gift (wrap the lid separate from the box.)

Items for the Boxes

1 – 3 lb. ham or 3 – 1 lb. hams (**must not require refrigeration**)*

1 – 16 oz. can pineapple or 2 small cans

2 cans of vegetables

1 box or bag of granulated sugar

1 box hot cocoa (bulk or single pack)

nuts and/or hard candy

1 package cookies (home-made or store bought)

Boxes are due December 9th

*Hams can often be found at Rite Aid, Walgreens, CVS, BJ's or the canned meat aisle of your supermarket.

In addition to the items listed above, please fill the box with other non-perishable items such as pasta, sauce, tuna or canned chicken, soups, peanut butter, canned fruit, etc. Toothpaste, soap and other toiletries are also much needed items (including travel/sample size.)



Please share your ideas regarding where and how we can get out and care for the environment by which we are all fed! A few local organizations are listed below. Do you have ideas about how we can support and enjoy these local groups more as a church? Please send suggestions to Phoebe at pheebcong@gmail.com (or for faster response - text - 617-599-2722).

North & South Rivers Watershed Association - <https://www.nsrwa.org/>

Hingham Farmers Market - <https://www.hinghamfarmersmarket.org/> -- *almost every community has one!*

Hingham Net Zero - <https://www.hinghamnetzero.org/>

Ascentria Migrant Family has a Home!

Thanks to everyone who responded to Ascentria's request for support for their migrant family placement program. House of Prayer contributed \$2,000 in total, so "Mary" and her family will be finding a new apartment shortly. Contributions are still welcome - please make your check payable to Ascentria with URM Support in the subject line.
Thank you all!

Other Ways to Give

House of Prayer is a generous community of Christ. Here are some different ways to give to support our ministry.

Automated Check Contributions - contact Dana Abbott, drsabbott@verizon.net, to easily set up a regular bank transfer

Online - you can easily set up regular or one-time contributions by credit card using this [link](#) or by going to the donation page on our website: houseofprayerhingham.org

Thrivent Choice - Thrivent members have the option of designating House of Prayer as the recipient of their "Thrivent Choice" dollars - a program in which Thrivent contributes to charitable organizations

Helpsy Bin - when you contribute used clothing to the Helpsy Bin in the parking lot, House of Prayer receives a monetary contribution based on the weight of goods in the bin.

Thank you for all you do for House of Prayer.




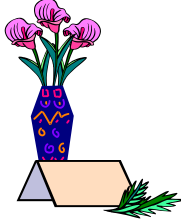
Christian Education Committee *Kim Boyd, Chair*

Happy Fall, everyone! While we did have a warm week in October, the mornings (and dropping leaves) are telling us Fall is here. It has been a good month, even if we didn't have Sunday School one week because of the long holiday weekend. We have missed seeing many of our friends this month, and we hope to see you back in church again soon.

The next confirmation weekend gathering will now be on Friday, November 15, NOT the first weekend of November. The time is still the same, from 6:30-9:30 pm here at church. Please bring a water bottle/something to drink and be ready to learn about the first five books of the Bible. Do you know which books those are? Do you know another name for those books of the Bible? Who is believed to have written them? What is the topic of those five books? Come that evening to find out! This is for those in grades 8-10 as these students prepare for confirmation. As a friendly reminder, these weekend gatherings do have expected attendance. Please contact Pastor Emmanuel for questions or concerns.

On November 24, all of the congregation is welcome to make an Advent wreath during the Sunday School hour. If you have any wreaths or decor left at home from wreaths you've made in the past, please bring them into church. We do reuse them year after year to reduce waste. If you have any baubles that you'd like to donate to help decorate the wreaths, bring those in, too. We'd love to have them for this event. Let's help get our homes ready for the Advent season! As we are approaching Advent, you know we always make Christmas dinner boxes to support Wellspring. This year, we're making it easier for everyone to participate, even if you can't make a whole box. Start collecting copy paper boxes NOW-we can store them in the hallway outside the sanctuary. December 8 we'll be stuffing and wrapping boxes as a congregation during coffee hour. Watch for sign-up sheets for the list of items to complete a box or to bring in items to partially fill a box. You can also fill and wrap a whole box as a family if you prefer! We're hoping to make a total of 25 boxes this year to donate.

As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 1 as it is the weekend of Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and may you all have many things to be thankful for!

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
November 11	Kate Hudson-Mendes	November 3	Lenae & Tim Badger
	Marie Warneck	November 11	George & Jane Ohlson
November 12	Erika Badger		
November 17	Vicki Oman		
November 19	Rich Haukom		
November 30	Leanne Martin		

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
December 1	Kathy Gray	December 31	George & Lynda Watt
December 2	Morgan Lundin		
December 10	Jane Ohlson		
December 12	Ingrid Lancaster		
	Dalton Vassallo		
December 24	Barbara Buntrock		
	Ed Martin		
December 28	Mabel Ericson		
December 29	Molly Folino		

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary added to the calendar, contact Barb in the office.

Prayer list

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18

Armstrong, Sophie (Bergman's granddaughter)
Badger, Dan and family
Badger, Tim
Bergstren, Chris
Brett, Virginia (friend of Martha)
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)
Carlson, Joanne (Linda Lundin's sister)
Clancy Family (bereavement)
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)
Dallamora, Joe (Jen M's father)
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)
Davis, Elise (neighbor of the Hayes)
Derderian, Craig (nephew of Parsekian's)
Derderian, Glenn and Sue (nephew of Parsekian's nephew and his wife)
Derderian, Gloria (sister-in-law of Parsekian's)
Dixon family
Ericson, Family (bereavement)
Errichiello, David (Carla's brother)
Fields, Leisel (friend of Jen McCready)
Galotti, Debbie (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Gatturna, Joan (friend of Lenae)
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)
Gitungano, Alex (friend of HoP)
Gleason, Linnie (friend of Martha Willson)
Glynn, Mary (friend of Sue Bose)
Graham, Ellis (granddaughter of Rob Lacy)
Hall, Gerda
Hansen, Mark (friend of Jacqui Lyons)
Hickman, Myrtle
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Hilston, Paula (Pastor Hilston's wife)
Hutchinson, Rick (friend of Lundins)
Ikoribitangaza, Leo (friend of HoP)
Jensen, Dee (friend of Lenae's)
Just, Christian (brother of Ginny & Naomi)
Just, Ginny (former member)
Just, Naomi
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Kardok, Andy (friend of Martha Willson)
Knight, Patty (friend of Linda Vassallo)
Lacy, Rob
LaRocca, Debi & family (friends of Warnecks)
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)
Lees, Jeanette (sister of Millie Hill)
Lundin, Kurt
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)
Mafra family
McCullough, Lynne (relative of Emily Badger-McCullough)
McGivney, Marlene
McGivney, Paul (Dana's brother)
Meslo, Lisa (Hayes' sister-in-law)
Michaels, Marcia (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Mitchell, Marcia
Murray, Maggie (friend of Mary Jane)
Myers, Chuck (friend of Lundins)
Neat, Kathy
Niendorf, Kris
Nucifore, Linda Nilsson (sister of Karen Nilsson)
Nucifore, Alan (brother-in-law of Karen Nilsson)
O'Donnell, Kathleen (friend of Rita LaPlante)
*Olsson, Todd (Doris' grandson)
Oman, Linda
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)
Parsekian, Patty (MaryJane's daughter-in-law)
Pryor, Mark (friend of Leah McGaughey)
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Read, James L (friend of Martha Willson)
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)
Rodrigues, Mary Ellen (friend of Lenae)
Ruplenas Family (friends of Lenae)
Rush, Jean (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Rylan, Austin (friend of Martha Willson)
Santacroce, Linda (friend of Sue Bose)
Schooning, Sonia (friend of Martha)
Scott-Rawlins, Chereese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Severson, Karen (friend of Ann Moegle)
Silva, Jeffrey (grandson of Dorothy Flett)
Sonie (friend of Martha Willson)
Spatola, Patty (friend of Martha Willson)
Sullivan, Elisabeth (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Tarby, Mrs. (friend of Martha Willson)
Temperly family (bereavement)
Toomey, Patricia (sister-in-law of Hayes)
Toomey, Skip (brother-in-law of Hayes)
Toughill, Nancy
Trainque, Pam (friend of Jen McCready)
Vita, Melana (friend of Martha Willson)
Walsh, Dennis (friend of Chris Hayes)
Walter, Helmut (Stefanie Wegener's father)
Watt, George & Lynda
Weaver, Ryley (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Williamson, Gordon and family

*serving in the military