

# KOINONIA

Koinónia \koy-nohn-ee'-ah\ Translated from Greek, in essence the fellowship, partnership, community, and communion that exists with our Church.  
Acts 2:42

Photo by Dave and Chris Wesley

## Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

### What's inside our latest issue:

- [Pastor's Message](#)
- [Birthdays & Anniversaries](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Deacons Beacon](#)
- [Events & Fellowship](#)
- [HPC Giving](#)
- [Missions](#)
- [Pastor Search Team](#)
- [Worship Schedule](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)

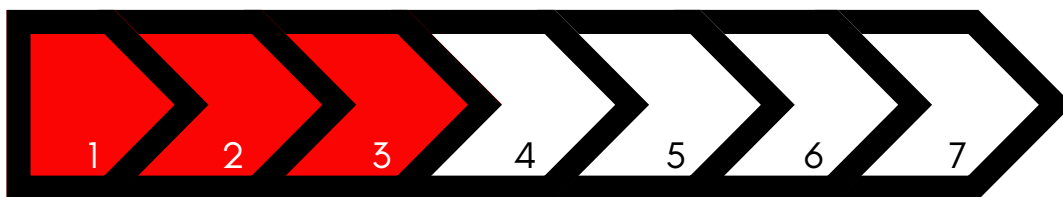
### **Pastoral Transition Update: Pastor Search Team Hard at Work**

Our Pastor Search Team (PST) hit the ground running and has already made great progress! The team had their first meeting on August 24th and have been meeting regularly since. The team is already well into Step 3 of this 7-step process and are currently waiting on Presbytery input of the Job Description and Mission Discernment Profile. Both of these documents must be approved by the Session and our Presbytery before the job can be posted on our denomination's national job board and begin receiving resumes.

While the PST has been hard at work and putting in significant time early, they are doing so knowing that the two longest steps lay just ahead. Steps 4 and 5 can take anywhere from weeks to months to complete and is all based on the number of available pastors nationally that see our post and express interest in being interviewed. The team knows that these steps will require patience as they wait for applicants and then determine when to begin interviews. The good news is once those steps are completed, things move quickly to the finish.

We continue to ask the HPC family to pray for our pastor search process. Please continue to pray for our search team to be filled with the Spirit's wisdom and discernment as they seek to work faithfully together as a team. Pray for the team to have patience during this process and remember that God's timing is always best. And let us pray in earnest that the Lord will send our way quality pastoral candidates for our team to interview. We know that God is with our HPC Family and has a plan of hope for our future. So we lift this pastoral search process into the Lord's hands and pray for God's will to be done in our HPC family.

PST Members: Jill Appel, Elaine Baker, Steve Dever, Gary Gale, Rick Harrison, Dave Wesley and Chris Macfarlane as Presbytery COM Liaison.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orientation &amp; Training</li> <li>2. Review Vision Team Report &amp; Session Priorities</li> <li>3. Write Job Description &amp; Mission Discernment Profile</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Post Job National &amp; Wait for Candidates to Apply</li> <li>5. Conduct Interviews</li> <li>6. Select Finalist to Present to Session</li> <li>7. Welcome New Pastor to HPC</li> </ol> |
|--|--|



Photo by Dave and Chris Wesley

# Welcome Visitors and Newcomers!

Consider being a part of what God is doing here at  
**Hillsboro Presbyterian Church!**

Visitors and Newcomers are invited to everything in this newsletter.  
We welcome YOU in the Name of Jesus who welcomes us!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Jackie Upton 3
- Stephanie McVean 4
- Sandra Fulk 9
- Crystal Jones 9
- Phil Kidby 19
- Laura MacMillan 21
- Becky Willson 27

*Happy Anniversary*

- Dana and Gary Gale 8
- Aimee and Jameson Dolan 22



**WANT TO JOIN CHOIR**



Wednesdays  
6:45 pm

**YOUTH GAME NIGHT**

Sunday, November 5th  
6-8pm  
Bethany Presbyterian Church



# I BELIEVE

## Worship Schedule

---

Sunday, October 1  
World Communion Sunday  
"Miraculous Birth"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

---

Sunday, October 8  
"Necessary Suffering"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

---

Sunday, October 15  
"Why Easter Was Only the Beginning"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

---

Sunday, October 22  
"The Just Judge"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

---

Sunday, October 29  
Service Sunday

# Pastor Search Team

by Elaine Baker

## Prayerful Search for Our New Pastor

**James 5:16** *"...the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."*

This is an important time for our church as God leads us to our next Pastor. We have been given the opportunity to seek God and ask for His wisdom in determining who he has called to be the next pastor of Hillsboro Presbyterian Church. As the Pastor Search Team\*, we thank you for trusting our leadership. This is a task we do not take lightly. We ask you to join us as we pray through this season of preparing for our new pastor and their family.

We ask that you pray:

*For the Pastor Search Team, individually and as a group*

- For God's guidance and direction
- For energy
- For discernment and wisdom
- For productive, unified work

*For the search process*

- For a smooth, timely, and through, process.
- For a fruitful search resulting in plentiful responses from excellent candidates.

*For our new pastor*

- While we don't know the identity of our new pastor, God does. Pray that God will make this evident to the pastor and to HPC.
- The pastor has the courage to rise to challenge, and if a move is required, to make the transition from their current church.
- The pastor will have a deep love for HPC and our community.
- For work/life balance as they take on this role at HPC.
- The pastor has a respect for the traditions of HPC and helps us grow into our future.

*For the pastor's family*

- Pray for the family's smooth transition as the pastor takes on this role.
- If a move is involved, they find a home, school(s), services, friends, and amenities in Hillsboro that meet and go beyond their needs.
- For the well-being of the family as they adjust to this change.

Thank you for your prayers. If you have questions about the search process, please ask a member of the Pastor Search Team.

Gratefully,

Your Pastor Search Team: Jill Appel, Elaine Baker, Steve Dever, Gary Gale, Rick Harrison, Dave Wesley, and Christine MacFarlane (COM-Liaison\*\*).

\*Because we are using the Stated Supply process the term Pastor Search Team is used instead of Pastor Nominating Committee.

\*\*The COM Liaison is a teaching or ruling elder serving on our regional Committee on Ministry. Her role is to walk alongside the Team and offer assistance and guidance to the process and bring any needed action items to the NW region of Presbytery of the Cascades.



## LECTIO DIVINA Bible Study

Starting Sunday, October 15th  
9-9:45am





# Where Have All the Young People Gone?

*By Pastor Brian Craker*

This is a question I've heard a number of times since my arrival here at HPC. This question, and one's similar, are usually followed by comments of how our hallways used to be full of children, our fellowship hall full of youth, and every summer, our church parking lot was full of kids of all ages playing, riding bikes, filling the trees with the sounds of play and laughter. Now, there is a mostly eerie silence, much like the silence that pervades a home after the last child has gone off to college or moved out. With it has come follow-up questions and comments, wondering out loud if HPC has done something wrong, or if our church can find a future without young people.

## *Searching for Answers*

One of the reasons I enjoy being an interim pastor is because it gives me opportunities to tackle questions like this. No church can fully identify and embrace the future God is pointing them to if they have lingering, unanswered questions like this one. I set out looking for information and data that might help point us in the right direction, starting with talking to Carly Powne when she was visiting with us last winter. Carly worked for many years with the youth and young families at HPC before being called to the mission field. She reflected on how our neighborhood was always buzzing with kids and teens back when she was on staff, but that it seemed less so in more recent years.

Next began walking the neighborhoods around the church. Many times when the weather is pleasant, I'd take a stroll around the blocks and just observe. What I observed was interesting...almost no kids in our neighborhood...a stark contrast to what I was told used to be the norm around here. No toys or bikes, no signs of kids living in most of the homes around us. And when I did see kids, more often than not the children were accompanied by their grandparents who lived in the area. Armed with first person observations, I began reaching out to other area pastors and educators and heard very similar responses: there are fewer children, youth and young people in our area than there used to be.

Curious if this was a local or a regional phenomenon, I paid for access to MissionInsite demographics software to study our area and was shocked at what I discovered. The data confirmed the observations: Young Families have been on the decline in the Hillsboro area at an alarming rate in the last 10 years. In an area that has seen an overall 13.5% growth since 2010, during that same time we've seen a population loss of 2-4% of young families and their children, ages 5-17, seeing an average annual loss of 2.9%. Hillsboro, which from 2000-2010, was THE fastest growing community for young families and children has instead seen the OPPOSITE trend for the past few years.

## *Where DID all the children go?*

Why are their fewer young families and children in our area, and why is that number projected to continue to decline? It turns out there is both a local factor and a regional factor at play. The first is directly tied to the real estate market. According to Zillow, the average home sale price in Hillsboro in 2010 was \$189k, and as of August 2023 that average is now \$535k. That is a 183% increase in home prices. Along with higher housing prices was the fact that the majority of available homes in Hillsboro were being purchased by people over the age of 50. This was a statistic confirmed by a friend of mine who is a long-time real estate agent in the area. He said many young families who were renting in Hillsboro and trying to buy a home locally were regularly out-bid when homes came on the market. One of the biggest reasons for this? Hillsboro has a much greater percentage of single-level ranch style homes than elsewhere in the Portland Metro area, a very desirable trait for those looking to move into a home where they can age-in-place.

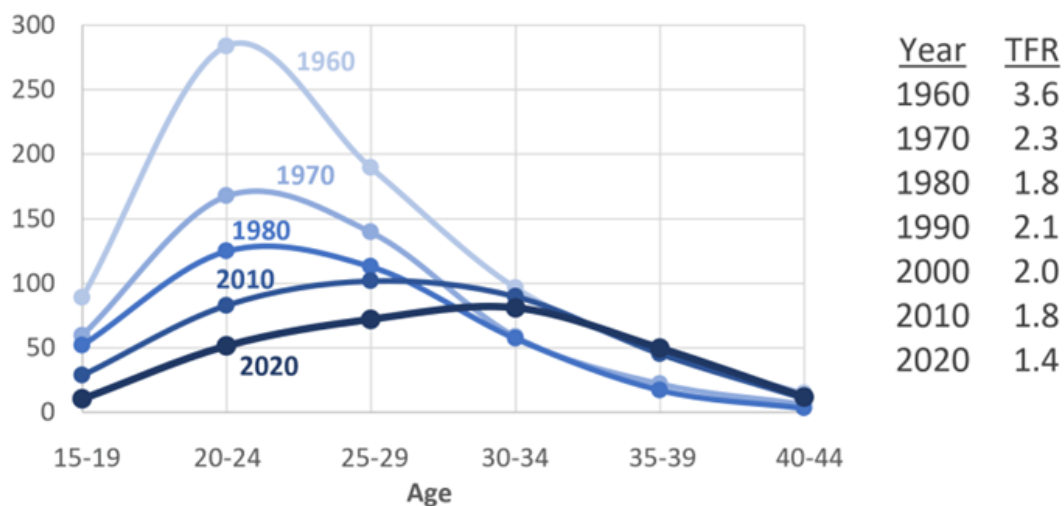
So where did those young families end up moving to, and taking their young children with them? The areas seeing that type of growth include Forest Grove, North Plains, Banks, Newberg and new construction around Aloha and South Hillsboro. These families are moving further away where housing is more affordable and attainable. (Interestingly enough, the projected 5-year growth of young families and children in South Hillsboro will not equal the projected overall loss of these age groups in the rest of the city.)

The second factor is a trend at the state level: overall birth rates. In 2022, the state of Oregon ranked #48 in overall birth rate (adjusted for population), and since 2010 has consistently ranked in the bottom 5 nationally. Josh Lehner, our state economist, wrote a fascinating article on this back in March. In this article he explains that in order for the average population age to remain steady it must see a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 children. When the rate is above 2.1, the overall population will generally grow younger, but when the rate is below 2.1, the overall population will generally grow older. As you can see from the chart below, Oregon's fertility rate is well below the baseline replacement rate of 2.1 children. As expected, statewide demographics information now confirms this, as our overall state population average age has increased from 37.00 in 2000 to an average age of 41.24 years in 2023.

## Oregon Fertility Rate

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the number of children born to a woman over her lifetime. Oregon's TFR remains below the replacement rate of 2.1.

Age-Specific Fertility Rate per 1,000 Women



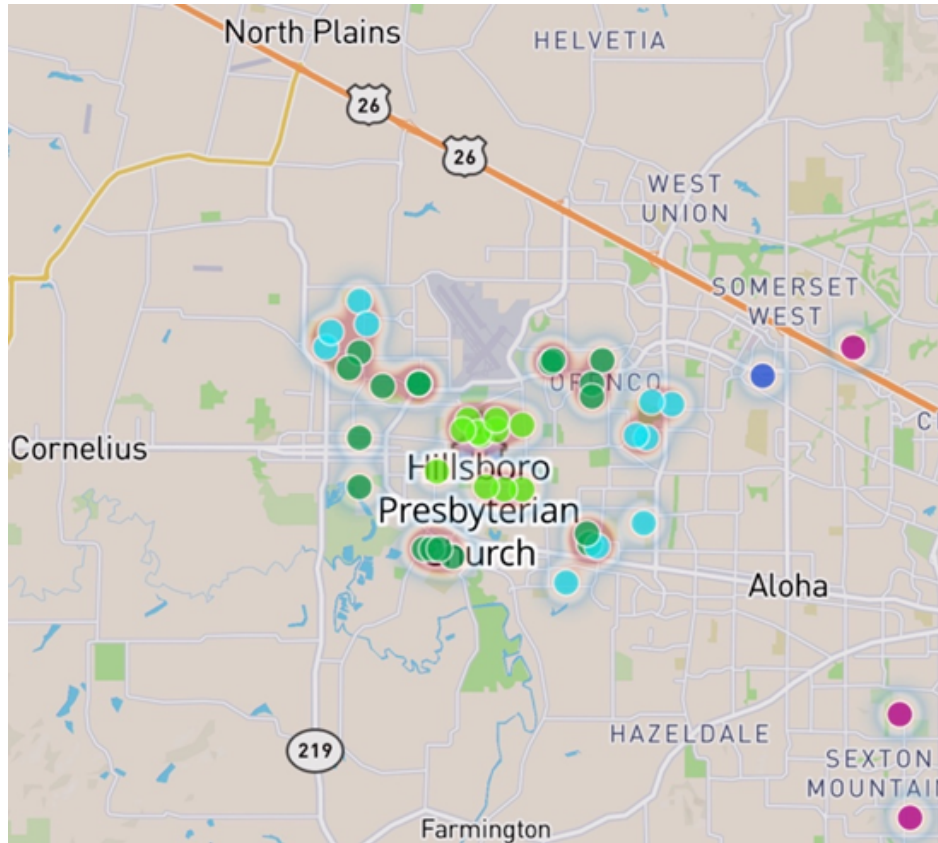
Source: Census, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

### Changing the Narrative of our Future

While the number of young families and children may be on the decline in our immediate neighborhoods, the overall population trends for our region over the next 5 years are still projected to grow at an average of 6.7%, well above the state population projected growth of 4.9%. That begs the question...who's moving to our area? That answer was actually first revealed to us in the real estate data: people over the age of 50. Baby Boomers who are retiring, as well as Gen Xers who are of the empty-nest age are using their financial resources to move into our area in astonishing numbers. In fact, people over the age of 50 are moving into our neighborhoods at a faster rate than the decline of the young families and children, and they are mostly moving here from neighboring states, with California, Arizona and Texas among the top spots people are moving from. In short, our communities are still growing, but they are growing with people who are in older stages of life. This confirms what I see when walking through the neighborhoods around our church and talking with our neighbors.



What does this mean for the future of our church? First of all, it means we need to change the narrative. For years we have been saying, "If we don't have young families and young people in our church, we are going to die" and in reality, that's just not true. HPC is a community church...by that we mean that we are a church that predominately pulls from our immediate neighborhoods. When we took all of our HPC households and plotted them on a map, we discovered that over 80% of our congregation lived within 3 miles of our church, with an average distance of 2.5 miles. HPC continues to be a community church that draws heavily from within Hillsboro, and that means our expectations of future growth have to match the realities of the neighborhoods we draw from.



Our state is growing at a rate of almost 5% a year, and we can't build enough homes to keep up with our growing population. But our overall population is growing older...does that mean we are dying? Of course not! The same is true for our church. We need to change the narrative to, "God has put us in the heart of a community that is still growing!"

Second, we need to change our target perception. Instead of looking for more young families, we need to look for more empty-nesters and people near or at retirement age. While the young families are not gone from our communities, they are certainly fewer in number than those between the ages of 50-70. Which, in reality, plays to the strengths of HPC. Those ages are much closer to where we are at as a congregation, and this age group is looking for a strong faith community that is deeply connected with serving the needs of others. Just look at the visitors we've had the blessing of welcoming to the HPC family over the last year! The people walking in our doors are exactly what the demographics data says we should expect. And the data is showing that many moving to our neighborhoods are expressing a growing openness to God and to the church.

This means HPC has an opportunity ahead for the next 5-10 years! We need to recognize who is moving into our neighborhoods and what it is that they need. Many are coming from out-of-state and are hungry for new connections here. A large percentage are open toward God and a faith community, but also highly value faith in action. HPC must continue to embrace that missional spirit, while at the same time rediscover it's invitational spirit. HPC does an amazing job of helping people feel welcome, feel loved, to grow in community and work together as the hands and feet of Christ. But our new neighbors won't know HPC is here if we aren't active in inviting them. It's our job to continue reaching out and being invitational to all of our neighbors, praying for God to open hearts and lead them to HPC. And it will be important to pray for God to send us our next pastor who can help us jump on the opportunities before us.

There's a popular saying, "There are two constants in life: Time and Change." (Anonymous) and in many ways it's true. Circumstances change. Trends change. Opportunities change. Thankfully, God doesn't change! God gave us the Church to be the vessel of sharing God's hope and love with the world, and I believe God is trying to open our eyes to the opportunity before us, if we can change the narrative and embrace what is before us. "God has put us in the heart of a community that is still growing!" Friends, this is our new reality, and the fact that we are perfectly placed and matched should give us great hope for what the next 5-10 years could look like at HPC.

This means HPC has an opportunity ahead for the next 5-10 years! We need to recognize who is moving into our neighborhoods and what it is that they need. Many are coming from out-of-state and are hungry for new connections here. A large percentage are open toward God and a faith community, but also highly value faith in action. HPC must continue to embrace that missional spirit, while at the same time rediscover it's invitational spirit. HPC does an amazing job of helping people feel welcome, feel loved, to grow in community and work together as the hands and feet of Christ. But our new neighbors won't know HPC is here if we aren't active in inviting them. It's our job to continue reaching out and being invitational to all of our neighbors, praying for God to open hearts and lead them to HPC. And it will be important to pray for God to send us our next pastor who can help us jump on the opportunities before us.

There's a popular saying, "There are two constants in life: Time and Change." (Anonymous) and in many ways it's true. Circumstances change. Trends change. Opportunities change. Thankfully, God doesn't change! God gave us the Church to be the vessel of sharing God's hope and love with the world, and I believe God is trying to open our eyes to the opportunity before us, if we can change the narrative and embrace what is before us. "God has put us in the heart of a community that is still growing!" Friends, this is our new reality, and the fact that we are perfectly placed and matched should give us great hope for what the next 5-10 years could look like at HPC.

## Deacons Beacon

by Nancy Johnson



# OCTOBER BLESSINGS

Thank you LORD for this new beautiful season. Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall. Thank you for making new things in my life too! Looking forward to all the wonderful miracles you have in store for me this month!



# Events & Fellowship

by Joanie Loepf

[FellowshipElder@hillsboropres.org](mailto:FellowshipElder@hillsboropres.org)

If you would like to help with Fellowship Time, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteering includes making coffee, setting out treats, and cleaning up the treats and coffee afterwards.

# Missions

by Jill Appel

Our next Service Sunday is coming up quick. Sunday, October 29th we will be cleaning up our church grounds and planting lots of flower bulbs. Let's see if we can make HPC bloom for Easter.

*Want to get involved with missions? Email Jill Appel at [MissionsElder@hillsboropres.org](mailto:MissionsElder@hillsboropres.org)*



# HPC Fall Craft Fair

by Sue Dever

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church (HPC) is getting ready for this year's Open-to-the-Public Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 21 (9AM-3PM)! We need your help!**

'What can I do to support the HPC Craft Fair?'      Answers:

- We need help setting up on Friday, October 20 (1:30PM) and cleaning up on Saturday, October 21 (3:15PM). Please contact Sue Dever.
- Bake Sale table at the Fair! **We need Bakers!** Want to help at the Bake Sale Table? Please contact Nancy Johnson.
  - You can drop off \*Baked Goods on Friday, October 20 (2-5PM) or Saturday, October 21 (starting at 8:30AM)! [NO 'pricing' required]
- **Come to the Craft Fair!** We have talented vendors sharing their gifts.
- Tell/Invite your friends!

**Reminder:** Vendor Space/Table Rentals directly benefit Village of Hope-Uganda. Bake Sale proceeds benefit HPC Maintenance projects.

**Advertising:** both online and newspaper: Debbie Like coordinating! (Thank you!) The Sale is held in our Fellowship Hall.

**If you would like to be a Vendor, contact Sue Dever to confirm space availability. Handcrafters are welcome. Products should be handmade; not commercially produced.**



Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sue Dever, HPC Craft Fair Chairperson  
[Crafftair@hillsboropres.org](mailto:Crafftair@hillsboropres.org)

Jill Appel, Co-Chair  
Nancy Johnson, Bake Sale Chairperson  
Debbi Like, Advertising

\*Gluten-free options available at the Bake Sale

## HPC Online Giving Available

Online giving is available and ready to use for your convenience!

There are several ways you can donate online:

- 1. Download the free "Vanco Mobile" app on your iPhone or Android
- 2. Scan the QR code to the right.
- 3. Go to our website; [www.hillsboropres.org](http://www.hillsboropres.org) and click on the "donate now" button.



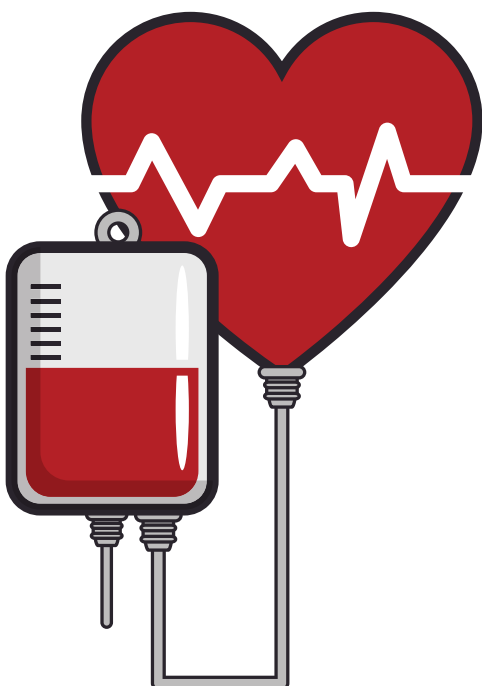
You can set up a profile so it is easier each time you log in to give, or you can donate as a guest user each time. Donations can be from a checking/savings account, or a bank card.

We hope the option of donating online helps many of us who don't carry checks or cash every day, but still want to financially support HPC.



1. We don't "pass the plate" any longer, but we have a box inside the doors as you enter the sanctuary and you may place your donation there on Sunday.
2. You may set up a regular "bill-pay" through your bank that will automatically send a check to the church.
3. You can use our online giving "Vanco" and set up a regular payment with your credit card or with your bank account.
4. You may set up an automatic RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) or other automatic payment from your retirement account.

## American Red Cross



The next blood drives is  
**Monday, November 27th**  
from 1:30-6:30pm.

See Sandy McFerran if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

For an appointment please visit:

**Redcrossblood.org**

Use Sponsor Code: **HPC97123** or

**Call 1-800-RED-CROSS**

**(1-800-733-2767)**






## HPC Calendar - 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream) Communion</b>  1-5pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	2  6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	3  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	4  6:45 Choir	5  6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6  6-8pm IJC	7  Youth Event 7pm-10pm Corn Maze  6-10pm Potter's House
8 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b>  1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	9  6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	10  4:30 Praise Team Session 7pm 6-10pm Potter's House	11  12pm Operations  6pm PSC 6:45 Choir	12  6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	13  6-8pm IJC	14  Naked Baby Clothing Swap 12pm-4pm  6-10pm Potter's House
15 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b>  11:30-12:30 Deacons' 1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	16  6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	17  1pm Ladies Bunko 4:30 Praise Team 6-10pm Potter's House	18  6pm PSC 6:45 Choir	19  6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	20  CRAFT FAIR Set-up 1-5  6-8pm IJC	21  <b>CRAFT FAIR</b>  6-10pm Potter's House
22 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b>  1-pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	23  6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	24  4:30 Praise Team Session 7pm 6-10pm Potter's House	25  6:45 Choir	26  6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	27  6-8pm IJC	28  Potter's Church Wedding 1pm  6-10pm Potter's House
29  <b>Service Sunday</b>  1-pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	30  6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	31  <b>HALLOWEEN</b>  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House				



## HPC Calendar - 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream) Communion</b> 1-5pm IJC <i>Youth Event</i> 6-8pm 6-10pm Potter's House	6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team 6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b>  1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team 6-10pm Potter's House	12pm Operations 6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
19 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b> 11:30-12:30 Deacons' 1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	1pm Ladies Bunko 4:30 Praise Team Session 7pm 6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>  6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
26	27	28	29	30		
26 <b>10am Worship (Live Stream)</b>  1-pm IJC  6-10pm Potter's House	 Blood Drive 1:30-6:30pm 6pm PSC 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA		

# Worship: Sunday, 10am In-person and Live Streamed

## Session:

Jill Appel	Missions
Dana Gale	Stewardship
Rick Harrison	Education/Discipleship
John Stroeve	Worship
John McVean	Property
Joanie Loepf	Fellowship/Events
Brian Johnson	Operations

*The Vision of HPC is for all to EXPERIENCE that  
GOD is able to do MORE by His Spirit at work  
within us.*

*Therefore:*

*Our Mission is to continue to build  
A CARING, CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY  
that is excited to -  
KNOW Jesus  
GROW Spiritually &  
SHOW God's love  
...all for His glory and purpose.*

## Deacons:

Tammy McVean	A-E
Sue Dever	F-K
Nancy Johnson	L-Q
Lori Wisdom	R-S
Keith Upton	T-Z


*Ministers: The Members*

*"God is able"*

*Ephesians 3:20*

Choir Director	Nona Scott
Worship Music Leader	Laura Cunard
Custodian	Donald Scott
Office Assistant	Nancy Johnson

**Office hours: Tuesday- Thursday; 9:00-12:30 pm**

 503-648-5660

 [OfficeAssistant@hillsboropres.org](mailto:OfficeAssistant@hillsboropres.org)



HILLSBORO  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
172 NE 32ND AVE  
HILLSBORO OR 97124

WWW.HILLSBOROPRES.ORG