

# 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 Gary Gale

## Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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### **Advent: The Season of Reflection, Anticipation & Worship**

Happy New Year! Did you know that Advent is the start of the Christian calendar each year? The Season of Advent, which is represented by the four Sundays before Christmas Eve, was established by the church more than 1600 years ago as a time of preparation and expectation. The Latin word ADVENTUS actually has a dual meaning, as it referred to BOTH the advent of Christ's birth, as well as the advent of Christ's second coming.

#### **REFLECTION**

For the Jewish people living before Jesus' birth, they lived in a time of constant expectation. God had promised a Messiah who would come and set them free...a high expectation that only God could fulfill. That time of expectation was centuries long for the Jewish people (and is reflected throughout the Old Testament Scriptures.) For us, the four Sundays of Advent are meant for us to reflect on those years of waiting, as well as to reflect that the promises of God are always fulfilled in God's perfect timing. Lastly, we reflect on the blessing that we have that we live with a faith that is blessed by the work of the Messiah and our restoration of relationship with our Creator.

#### **ANTICIPATION**

In the classic hymn "Joy to the World" Issac Watts pens these telling words: "Joy to the World, the Lord IS come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing..." Watts wrote this verse intentionally with the dual theology of Advent...using both present and future tense to convey a sense of anticipation. The Lord IS come...and there will be a time coming in the future when earth will receive her King to rule over all things. Until then, we are called to prepare room in our hearts for when Jesus returns to earth to rule. This is the call of anticipation that Advent gives us. Reflect on God's previous work and anticipate the promises of God yet to come.

#### **WORSHIP**

After we have embraced the duality of Advent, then our hearts can return to the present moment, and worship fully. We hear the individual stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, of Mary and then Joseph, who each receive the word from God of the miracles to come, humbly accept their place in God's work, and then each worship God fully through prayer, song, or faithful living. They can do so knowing that God is at work and God is fully in control. Advent lastly calls us to find our trust that God is still fully in control, is still very much at work, and then offer our hearts as our gift of worship.

**REFLECT...ANTICIPATE...WORSHIP.** I pray over these four weeks of Advent that we can write these callings on our hearts as we fully embrace "Emanuel: God with us," the One who was, who is, and who is to come.



Photo by Gary Gale

# 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!



## Birthdays

Jennifer Sabo	2	Aimee Dolan	26
Marie Chambers	5	Olivia Dolan	29
Keith Upton	5	Sophie Dolan	29
Michael Appel	11	Dale Fulk	29



## FLOWER *Ministry*

Sign up to bring in flowers or make  
a donation in lieu of flowers.  
The sign up sheet is in the  
Fellowship Hall



# ADVENT

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION



## Worship Schedule

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Sunday, December 3  
First Sunday of Advent  
"Reflect, Worship, Anticipate"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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Sunday, December 10  
Second Sunday of Advent  
"Waiting on a Promise"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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Sunday, December 17  
Third Sunday of Advent  
"Daniel waiting for prayer to be answered"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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Sunday, December 24  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
"Jesus waiting for His Time"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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Sunday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Service - 5pm  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

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Sunday, December 31  
"Story of Tavis"  
Rev. Dr. Brian Craker

# Rev. Phil Grawburg

## Welcome Visiting Pastor Phil

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in April of 1944, he received a Christian elementary education then attended a public high school. He graduated from Grand Rapids Junior college in 1965 and was drafted into the Army in early 1966. He served 2 years, one year of which was spent in Vietnam.

Discharged in 1968, he married Peggy, and they headed back to school. He attended Hope College and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, graduating in 1974. He served 4 RCA churches in Illinois, Florida, and Iowa. During that time, he and Peggy were blessed with 3 children, Michelle, BethAnn and Joshua.

Life can be challenging. Changing locations, changing jobs, changing professions. In the late 80's he tried sales, occasionally providing pulpit supply in RCA, Christian Reformed, Nazarene, and Presbyterian Churches. The family experiences its own set of challenges including the loss of their eldest daughter to cancer.

He thinks of himself as an outdoors man but spends much more of his time indoors these days. He tries to walk regularly but that time between walks is not very regular. A good book, preferably Christian, action, fiction, can entertain him for hours. However, there is nothing like a lively Biblical discussion to get the blood flowing and it is exciting to see someone's eyes light up when they discover a fresh view of a remembered truth from God's Word, a promise remembered or revealed, or an act of God's grace realized.

# Welcome

PASTOR PHIL



## Deacons Beacon

by Keith Upton

The heart of Christmas lies in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year. For many, there are warm parties, cozy homes, fond traditions to celebrate, and gifts to be shared. It's a joyous time of celebration. However, sometimes we get lost in the season and forget the reason we celebrate it, to begin with. Among the hustle and bustle, our focus is lost. Don't forget to point your heart, family, and

those around you to Christmas' true meaning. Jesus came with a plan.

So let's not forget that there is so much more

beyond the gifts, lights, and feasts. Christmas puts together the truth of God's love in the birth of Jesus. By all means, enjoy the parties, food and gifts, but take time this holiday season to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by glorifying the One who gave it all.



# Events & Fellowship

by Joanie Loepp

We're entering that very special time of year and, as always, it seems like the year has flown by! We are beginning the Advent season with our 3rd annual CHILI COOKOFF on Sunday, December 3rd after we finish decorating the sanctuary. So please mark your calendars and dig out your favorite chili recipe.



Looking ahead, Pastor Brian will join us on Epiphany Sunday (January 7th) and we will say a loving and fond farewell to our wonderful interim pastor during fellowship time and thank him for being such a special and memorable part of our HPC family this past year or so. Another red letter day for your calendar.

And one more calendar item for you down the road: we have reservations for the Hillsboro Hops game on Friday, June 14th of next year. Tickets will most likely be available around February or March. We have 36 seats reserved and the cost is \$18 per person. Stay tuned ...



Wishing you a blessed Christmas from your Events & Fellowship team.

*Want to get involved with fellowship? Email Joanie Loepp at [FellowshipElder@hillsboropres.org](mailto:FellowshipElder@hillsboropres.org)*

# Missions

by Jill Appel

During this season of giving and hope, Missions will be collecting food for the food banks and toys for the children in Hillsboro. Thank you for bringing hope to the people in our community and thank you for supporting Missions.

## Advent A TIME OF GIVING

**December 3rd** - Non-perishable food collection

**December 10th** - Toy collection

**December 17th** - Non-perishable food and toy collection



Our annual Baby Shower for Jesus is coming up. On Epiphany Sunday we will be collecting children's coats, gloves, and mittens. We will start collecting clothing on December 31st. We will also be saying farewell and thank you to Pastor Brian on Epiphany Sunday. Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, January 7th for Baby Shower for Jesus and farewell Pastor Brian.

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

# COATS for KIDS

*Baby Shower  
for Jesus*

Children's coat, hat, and gloves drive for Northwest Children's Outreach

Sunday, January 7th Epiphany Sunday

We will start collecting on Sunday, December 31st.

**COLLECTING SIZES  
NEWBORN - 18 YEARS**



# Clerk's Corner

by Gary Gale

Here is the current update from the last session meeting:

- Live streaming and in-person Worship services continue.
- Communion observed in the sanctuary on November 12th.
- Pastoral Transition:
  - CLC (Church Leadership Connection) engagement started. Work on this will lead to HPC being listed on the National Registry for Pastors to see our search request.
- Major focus this month has been reviewing and updating the 2024 budget.
- Orenco Presbyterian would like to do "Rise Against Hunger" with us in March. This will be the March Service Project (on Saturday).
- Stay safe and healthy.



Session minutes are available in the church office.

## Sacred Stewards

by Dana Gale

God is good & God is able to do all things!

Thank you for turning in your pledge cards for 2024. This is always so helpful to have this in hand as we prepare a budget. Being good stewards of all that we are given is very important to me personally. It is never too late to turn in a pledge card! The pledge amounts we have received so far are:

31 pledge units (families and individuals)	\$160,140
Estimate of giving by regular contributors that haven't turned in a pledge:	\$ <u>16,900</u>
Total for 2024	\$177,040

Praise God for allowing us to give so generously.

And as always, this is where we are financially as of October 31st. Income includes pledges, offerings, building use income, interest income, and designated income.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$216,330	\$172,975	\$43,355
Total Expense	\$ <u>187,152</u>	\$ <u>187,703</u>	\$ ( <u>551</u> )
Net Income	\$ 29,178	(\$14,728)	\$43,906

# 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.



QUIET WATERS  
Outreach  
PRESENTS

## Happy Birthday Jesus

AN ALL ABILITIES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SAT DEC 23 2-4

Carols | Crafts | Treats | Raffle Prizes | and MORE

At Hillsboro Presbyterian Church  
172 NE 32nd Ave.  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

EMAIL TO RSVP TODAY!  
INFO@QUIETWATERSOUTREACH.ORG



# LADIES BUNKO

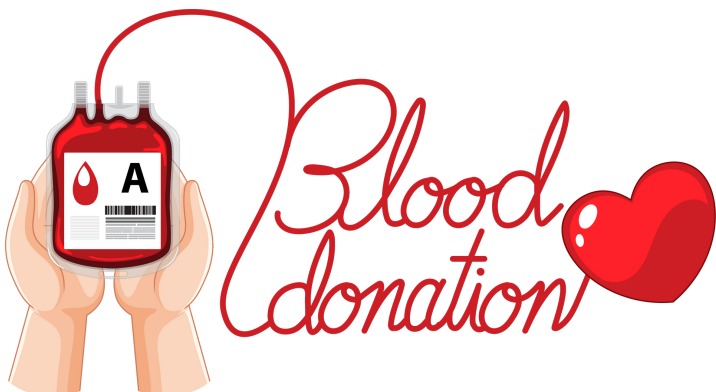
\$5 per person



Tuesday, December 14th  
at Sandy Fulk's house.



## American Red Cross



The next blood drives is  
**Monday, January 29th**  
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)**

# December


## HPC Calendar - 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
<b>10am Worship</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Chili Cookoff - decorate the church</i> 1-5pm IJC  6-10pm Potter's House	4  6pm PSC  6-8pm IJC  8pm AA	5  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	6  6:45 Choir	7  6-10pm Potter's House  8pm AA	8  6-8pm IJC	9  6-10pm Potter's House
<b>10am Worship</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Youth Event</b> <b>6-8pm</b> 1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	11  6-8pm IJC  8pm AA	12  1pm Ladies Bunko  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	13  6:45 Choir	14  6-10pm Potter's House  8pm AA	15  6-8pm IJC	16  6-10pm Potter's House
<b>10am Worship</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	18  6-8pm IJC  8pm AA	19  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	20  6:45 Choir	21  8pm AA	22  6-8pm IJC	23  Christmas Party for Quiet Waters Outreach 2-4pm  6-10pm Potter's House
<b>10am Worship</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Worship 5pm</b> 1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>  6-8pm IJC  8pm AA	26  4:30 Praise Team  6-10pm Potter's House	27  6:45 Choir	28  6-10pm Potter's House  8pm AA	29  6-8pm IJC	30  6-10pm Potter's House
<b>10am Worship</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>  1-2pm IJC  6-10pm Potter's House						



# January

## HPC Calendar - 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team 6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA		6-10pm Potter's House
<b>Epiphany Sunday</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Baby Shower for Jesus and farewell to Pastor Brian</b> 1-5pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	8	9	10	11	12	13
	6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	1pm Ladies Bunko 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
14 <b>10am Worship</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team Session 7pm 6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir	6-10pm Potter's House 8pm AA	6-8pm IJC	6-10pm Potter's House
21 <b>10am Worship</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
11:30-12:30 Deacons' 1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	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
28 <b>10am Worship</b>	29	30	31			
1-2pm IJC 6-10pm Potter's House	 Blood Drive 1:30-6pm 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	4:30 Praise Team 6-10pm Potter's House	6:45 Choir			

# 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


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

*Ministers: The Members*

*"God is able"*

*Ephesians 3:20*

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

 503-648-5660

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



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