

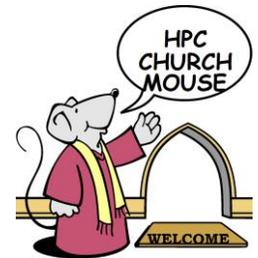
# HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

102 West Tryon Street  
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*The Church Mouse*  
*November, 2020*

Reverend Alex Fischer  
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Grace and peace to you all,

It's that time of year where we focus in on the words "thanks" and "gratitude." Personally, I don't think Thanksgiving gets the recognition it should. There's a complicated history to it, to be sure, but at the heart of it, it's about taking of stock of all that we're grateful for. But over the past few years, this day has been more and more overtaken by Black Friday sales and Christmas. Even as I'm writing this, the week of Halloween, I've started seeing Christmas decorations go up for sale. Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas! But rushing to get there and side-stepping a day to give thanks for what we have in our lives doesn't seem to be in the true Christmas spirit either.

On top of that, Thanksgiving will look so different for so many this year. Usual family gathering plans are being re-planned or scrapped altogether. It's hard for many to feel any sense of gratitude given the loss and hardships we've all faced this year (and continue to face). What is it exactly that we can be thankful for?

As Christians, I think this is where the Good News of our faith really speaks into our lives. Not only do we continue to give thanks to God for the new and abundant life we've received in Jesus, we also give thanks for the miracle of life itself! It's a miracle we're even here, now. Take a second to pause from reading this and place your hand over heart. Close your eyes. Take a breath in and out, slowly. These breaths, this moment you find yourself in...that is a gift from God to be thankful for. Being *here*, awake and alive in creation is something to give thanks for in itself.

This community we have at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, a community that has kept withstanding this storm we find ourselves in and has stayed committed to being together any way we can...that is something to be thankful for too. All the walks I've heard people have been able to take... stepping outside, admiring creation. Those are things to be thankful for too. What other small, but beautiful things do you give thanks for in your day to day life?

It may sound like I'm laying it on thick: that there's so much to be grateful for, any sense of sadness or ingratitude is uncalled for. On the contrary, I believe we're right to be sad, frustrated, and tired of our circumstances. God gives us the ability and invitation to voice those things in our prayers. But that doesn't mean there aren't still gifts present *even in the midst* of the tension. These things co-exist side by side. Gratitude is a choice we make every moment of every day. As you make that choice, continue seeking God's help and guidance in making that choice. No matter what we face, God is with us, and keeps inviting us to rejoice and give thanks.

Speaking of gratitude: November 15<sup>th</sup> is Stewardship Sunday. Continue to be in prayer about the ways God is calling you to commit not only your finances, but yourselves and your time to the mission God has called us to as a congregation. Out of your gratitude for all God has done and given, what are you willing to pledge back to God? We will also have a congregational meeting this day to vote on our budget and elect new ruling elders to serve on session. Stay tuned for more details in the Newsflash and during worship.

With joy and thanksgiving for all of you,  
Alex

### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On November 1, we observe All Saints' Day. This year we remember two of our members who passed away this year. Rev. David Causey passed away on January 28 and Calvert 'Buck' McGregor, Jr. passed away on May 12. We remember their love of and work for HPC during their time with us. Let us also remember any friends or family that may also have passed away this year. In addition, we remember the over 200 thousand dead from the Coronavirus in this country and the more than 1 million dead around the world.



### COFFEE ON THE ZOOM

On Sundays in November (except November 1) we will have Coffee on the Zoom following our online Sunday morning worship service. We're excited for this opportunity to "see" our church family!



Would you like to sign-up to host one of these Sundays in November or December? The church office will send out an email invitation to the congregation with the link information -- and then on Sunday afternoon you click on this same link to host the meeting! It's that easy! Just send us a quick email ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)) and we'll add you to the Sunday of your choice.



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 15, at 12:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we vote on our 2021 budget and elect 3 new elders for the class of 2024. We will hear from our elder nominees and then vote via voicemail at the church office and email. You will have until 4pm that day to cast your vote, and you can only vote if you are present for the Zoom call. The results will then be announced via the HPC News Google Group.

### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It's that time of the year again to think about what time, talent and financial assistance you can provide to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church. By now you should have received a pledge card with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope in the mail. Also, you can get a PDF version of this pledge card by clicking on this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11ZZsgrwy7Wf9xJA86HZw4I3knFs54I-M/view?usp=sharing>.

You can type your information in the boxes on the PDF card and then either save it as a PDF to your computer and email it as an attachment to JoAnn at [hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org) or you can print it, put it in an envelope and mail it to the church office at P.O. Box 717, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

Be on the lookout for recordings from your HPC Committee Moderators that will be played during the Sunday Services telecasts on 10/25, 11/1 and 11/8, all leading up to **Dedication Sunday on November 15!**

It is requested that you **send in your pledge form no later than November 10** so that it will arrive in time to be placed in the cornucopia on Dedication Sunday, November 15.

Please let me know if you have any questions or any issues with the pledge form.

Carol Childers

HPC Stewardship Moderator



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Linda Jaubert will be offering a Zoom lesson on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, based on the Lectionary lessons that our Sunday School Class uses. It won't be a lecture format, but will encourage group discussion. We will be reading the scripture passages that we will be discussing, and encourage you to have your bibles with you to refer to.

To participate in the class please be in touch with Linda. She will then forward instructions for connecting to this Zoom event!

Yours in Christ,

Linda Jaubert

### HPC FINANCE DATA

Pledges Year to Date: \$130220

Pledge Budget: \$145477

Difference: \$-15277

Please get your 2020 pledges in to the church office by check, Easy Tithe, bank draft, etc. The last 2 months have seen our receipts fall dramatically as our committees are striving to do the congregation's work in the world.

### 2021 Budget Update

I've got a few quick observations about Session's 2021 budget that I'd like to share with you. The part of the budget controlled by the committees rises 27% to \$44975, while the overall church budget increased 7%. Every committee sent in a carefully crafted budget request to Session, and it is clear that even while we work remotely, the members of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church see our work in the world and within our community. Some of this increase is the result of better budgeting practices as moderators have crafted more complete assessments of the current and future needs. Much of it is also the needs that you each bring to your committee meetings.

The overall budget for next year is just over \$218000. Again, some of this is the better visibility on our expenses. But the part of the budget that is operations and personnel is a smaller part of the whole again this year, as we prioritize the outreach, strong Christian education, and sharing the story of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church with our community. I know that we all have our pledge cards and I hope that this information helps you as you discern how you will support HPC next year. I am happy to answer any questions you have about the finances!

Blessings to you all,  
James

### HPC BOOK CLUB



At its last meeting, the Book Club chose "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones for its November selection. Rich

Erdosy reserved the book kit from the Chapel Hill Library. If you would like to borrow a copy of this book, please let him know.

Join us on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for a discussion of this next book club selection. The Zoom link will be distributed before the meeting.

Questions? See Annette Jurgelski, Lisa Flinn, or Robin Bedingfield.



### HPC YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 PM for a brief mid-week check-in via Zoom.

The Youth Group will meet on Sundays from 5:00 – 6:30 PM outside at HPC. Feel free to bring your own meal, snack, beverage as well as your own chair, blanket, towel and mask. In case of inclement weather we will meet at Eno River Farmers Market near the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Questions? See Eric Cathey.



### CIRCLE #1

Circle #1 will meet via Zoom at 11:00 on Monday, November 10. All are invited to join us! Visitors and guests are always welcome! Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



# November, 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>10:00 AM Young Parents (Zoom) 1</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM Worship &amp; Communion (Live Stream)</b></p> <p><b>4:00 PM Outdoor Worship</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM Youth Group</b></p>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Youth Group 6:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>Adult Sunday School 7:30 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Christian Ed. 6:30 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM Worship (Live Stream)</b></p> <p><b>12:15 PM Coffee on Zoom</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM Youth Group</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Circle #1 - 11:00 AM (Zoom)</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Finance 7:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>Community Outreach 7:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Youth Group 6:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>Adult Sunday School 7:30 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<p><b>Dedication Sunday 15</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM Worship (Live Stream)</b></p> <p><b>12:15 PM Coffee on Zoom</b></p> <p><b>12:30 PM Congregational Meeting (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM Youth Group</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for Newsletter 1:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>HPC Book Club 7:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Youth Group 6:00 PM (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>Adult Sunday School 7:30 PM (Zoom)</b></p>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<p><b>Reign of Christ Sunday 22</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM Worship (Live Stream)</b></p> <p><b>12:15 PM Coffee on Zoom</b></p> <p><b>1:30 PM Session Meeting (Zoom)</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM Youth Group</b></p>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<p><b>Advent I 29</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM Worship (Live Stream)</b></p> <p><b>12:15 PM Coffee on Zoom</b></p>	<b>30</b>			<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Join us on Sunday mornings!</b></p> <p><b>Traditional Worship at 11:00 AM (Live Stream on YouTube)</b></p> <p><b>Lemonade on Zoom at 12:15 PM</b></p> </div>	<p><b>Announcements for the Bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday noon each week. Bulletins printed on Thursday.</b></p>	

**NOTE: If you have any December calendar dates or articles that you would like included in the newsletter – just send an email ([hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org](mailto:hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)) or call the church office (732-3131) – by 1:00 PM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November!**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE



### Habitat for Humanity Project

Update on Habitat Work In September and October, members of HPC have spent several Saturdays helping Habitat for Humanity work on four houses in Fairview. As members of Hillsborough's Habitat for Humanity, our church usually works on Home Preservation to repair homes in our area. But this fall we were asked to join others in building new homes. Complying with Covid restrictions, only five people can participate each day and everyone wears masks.

Participants so far have been: Joe Crane, Rich Erdosy, Martin Brown, Alex Fischer, David Remington, and Sam Nesbit. Thanks to those who have helped with this important work! The next two dates to volunteer are November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested, call Hervey McIver or Joe Crane. If you are interested in supporting our efforts, but cannot volunteer, the Community Outreach Committee also designated 25% of the offering from our Peace and Global Witness offering to go to Habitat for Humanity. You can contribute to the Peace and Global Witness offering by going to the Tithelink at the website. For more information call Jane McIver.

-- Jane McIver, Community Outreach Committee

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### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Traditional Worship 11:00 AM**

**(Live Stream Worship)**