

March 2018

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Messenger

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

On February 21, Billy Graham moved from the *Church Militant* . . . to the *Church Triumphant*. What a life lived in service to God . . . and the world!

As a Disciple of Jesus and a pastor . . . I have learned many things from Billy Graham. Let me share a few with you.

Never forget *where* you've come from, *who* you are, and *what* God has called you to do.

Mr. Graham had a clear understanding of who he was and what God had called him to do with his life. He was clear . . . crystal clear about his life mission: To preach the Gospel and connect as many people as possible to Jesus Christ. It is estimated he preached to over 220 million people 'live' . . . and countless others via television and radio.

One of the most important qualities of a leader is . . . *integrity*.

Billy Graham's life was one of extreme integrity . . . a life lived in totally honesty. Congruence. A life that was above reproach financially. I remember the 1980s when so many so-called preachers of the Gospel got caught up in so many financial (and sexual) scandals. These scandals . . . and the bad publicity that when with them . . . harmed the larger Church. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association rode high above these scandals and came out the other end unblemished. In fact the Association's reputation was heightened. This is integrity. This is to be that light set on a hill.

Another important quality and virtue of a leader is . . . *humility*.

Thom Rainer writes, "*He counseled presidents and kings. He preached to millions. Volumes have been written about his life and ministry. Some have seen him to be the world's most influential person of the second half of the 20th century.*" Yet . . . Billy Graham was one of the most humble men and humble servants of God of our time. He never thought too highly of himself. And he could be wonderfully self-effacing. One time he was asked if his wife, Ruth, had ever thought about divorcing him and he responded: "*Ruth never did consider divorcing me . . . but she did consider murdering me!*"

There's power in *confession* and *repentance*.

Billy Graham was humble enough to admit and confess when he was wrong and gone astray. Looking back at some of his relationships and dealings with political leaders . . . he reflected and admitted he had gotten too 'cozy' with them. As someone who insisted on all his crusades in Jim Crow south being integrated, he also admitted he could have done more in the cause for civil rights. On the other hand . . . one time he bailed Martin Luther King Jr. out of a Mississippi jail.

At the end of the day . . . at the end of all life . . . it is about Jesus. All that matters is Jesus.

All his life . . . Billy Graham lived in Jesus, for Jesus, with Jesus . . . and from the power of Jesus. Jesus was the Center of his life. He powerfully preached Jesus. The message of the Gospel was the very heart of his ministry . . . and he never wavered from that primary mission. And as a result . . . the world is a better place.

Last November on the day after I celebrated my 69th birthday . . . a pastor friend and colleague reminded me that I am in the twilight of my ministry. A strong dose of 'reality'. Most of my ministry is behind me. Most of my seminary classmates are retired. Some have died. This is a sobering and humbling thought.

But the life and ministry of Billy Graham inspires me. And it energizes me. Until I die . . . and I hope it is not too soon . . . I will give it my all in my service to Jesus, the People of Jesus, and His Kingdom.

Thank you, Billy Graham!

In Jesus,
George

NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

SIMPLICITY

The practice of simplicity helps us release that which hinders us from experiencing abundant life. It cultivates the art of letting go and calls us to consider our attachment to things we feel we must have and do. The fruit of simplicity is an uncomplicated life and the freedom it brings. Jesus teaches that true freedom is found in keeping God first in our hearts, rather than owning, having and doing.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:19-21

One of my favorite Lenten devotional books, *Pauses for Lent: 40 Words for 40 Days*, is both powerful and beautiful in its simplicity. In it author Trevor Hudson focuses on a single word each day, offering a scripture reference, brief meditation and practice. I highly recommend this little book which is published by Upper Room Books.

In working my way through this book, I kept thinking about Wisdom & Wonder and our current focus on a different prayer practice each week. Last Sunday we learned about Praying in Color. This is a simple prayer form that requires little more than one's attention and some colored pencils or markers. It begins with drawing a shape and writing the person or thing you choose to hold in prayer. As you think of your subject you add embellishments to the shape. Drawing and coloring is a way to overcome the challenge of getting still and listening for God.

I invite you to join me for the remainder of Lent in focusing on a different word from the list below each day. If you are so inclined, you can use the blank calendar and Pray in Color by putting a word in each box and unleashing your creativity. And join us in Wisdom & Wonder at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall as we continue "Praying Through Lent" which will culminate with prayer stations on Palm Sunday, March 25th.

Abba, dust, return, choose, fast, still, love, light, see, ask, bread, water, time, peace, treasure, listen, poor, forgiven, rest, wept, way, free, sin, serve, body, pray, will, judge, stranger, betray, prune, die

Cathy Peterson



NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

Women's Retreat to LBI

April 6th–8th

“Open the Door”



Based on the book by Elizabeth Rupp

Using the image of the door as an invitation to spiritual growth and awareness, we will explore ways to come into fuller union with God.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall

or email

cpeterson@hopewellpres.org

Thirteen young people, Cathy, Drew and Harrison will be heading to LBI for our annual “Fun in the Son” retreat March 9-11.



Please hold the group in your prayers



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2018

- Looking for two or more elders from the congregation to represent Hopewell Presbyterian Church at the bi-monthly Presbytery meetings in Mercer County. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 13th at Pennington Presbyterian Church. Would someone like to go with Joanne Hornberger in March? How about May 8th, June 2nd, Sept. 11, Oct. 9th or Nov. 10? June and November meetings will be held on Saturday mornings. Please contact Joanne if you are interested.
- Approved Doug Robbins as the Chair of the Personnel Committee and Pat Swartz to serve as Session Rep to the Personnel Committee.
- Elected Stan Krystek as President of the Corporation for 2018.
- Approved the use of the Sanctuary for Carol Damerau to hold a violin recital the afternoon of Sunday, March 11.
- The Hopewell Presbyterian Church **"Boot Scootin Square Dance and Chili Dinner"** will be held on Saturday, April 14th.
- Thankful to Lucy for updating/recreating and distributing the Hopewell Presbyterian Church 2018 Officer's Handbooks for the Elders.

DEACON'S CORNER

Spotlight on International Outreach: Here are some updates on two of the causes we're supporting from a portion of the tithes and offerings.

A21 serves to abolish slavery in the 21st century. Their operational strategy, and the heart cry of the organization, is to "Reach, Rescue, and Restore lives." They reach the vulnerable and engage people through events, student presentations, and education programs. They rescue victims by working closely with law enforcement on the ground to support raids, identify victims, assist in the prosecution of traffickers, represent survivors in court proceedings, and collaborate with Governments and other NGOs. They restore survivors and equip them to live independently by working face-to-face with every person in their care, providing them with access to housing, medical treatment, counseling, education, employment, and repatriation. In 2017 there was a 23% increase of people being cared for with survivors from over 30 countries being assisted. 4,252 professionals were trained, 2,962 people signed up as A-team volunteers, and 90,636 individuals were educated about human trafficking through prevention events.

Geoff and Linda Simpson are missionaries serving in the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, with their children. They are raising up the next generation of leaders in Kenya through full-time discipleship training of high school graduates. To reach further areas of Kenya with God's Word, the Simpsons are sending out and equipping these young people. They mentor, disciple and train sponsored high school students for their future careers and ministries and teach God's Word to students in local schools. For more details and to see a video highlighting their ministry, check out their website. <http://www.ccmercerc.com/connect/simpsons/>

A Note from the PNC

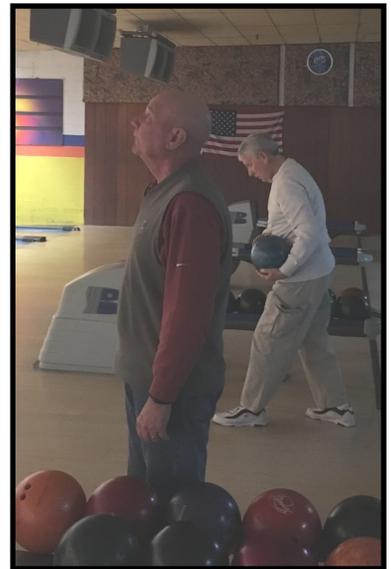
Just a quick update on our progress so far. We have met one night per week for the last six weeks; the first being with several members of the Mission Study Team as a starting point. Currently, our focus is getting the Ministry Information Form together. It is challenging, and we are working well together as a group, with input from our liaison from the Committee on Ministry, Jan Everett.

Thank you to our "prayer warriors", and thanks to all for your continued prayers, as we seek the person God already has chosen for us.

BOWLING & FIVE GUYS – JANUARY 27TH



BOWLING & FIVE GUYS — JANUARY 27TH



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY



Girl Scout Bronze Award Recipients



Girl Scout Award Banquet

Are you aware of how our building is being used? Check the newsletter each month for a list of scheduled activities.

* shows Community Event

Master HPC Calendar of Events

Sundays — Wisdom & Wonder (9:15 AM), Worship (10:30 AM) & Coffee & Fellowship (11:30 AM)

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 3/1 | *Flying Club (10:00 AM)
Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) | 3/15 | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
Praise Band (6:30 PM)
Chancel Choir (7:30 PM) |
| 3/2 | Journeymen Bible Study (7:00 AM) | 3/16 | Journeymen Bible Study (7:00 AM)
*Blue and Gold Banquet (5:00 PM) |
| 3/4 | *Damerau Recital Rehearsal | 3/19 | PNC (7:00 PM) |
| 3/5 | PNC (7:00 PM) | 3/20 | *Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| 3/6 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
Ruth Circle (7:30 PM) | 3/21 | Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
Staff Meeting (11:00)
Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
*Lenten Soup Supper (6:30 PM)
*Community Lenten Service (7:30 PM) |
| 3/7 | Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
Staff Meeting (11:00)
Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
*Cub Scouts (6:30 PM) | 3/22 | *Flying Club (10:00 AM)
Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
Praise Band (6:30 PM)
Chancel Choir (7:30 PM) |
| 3/8 | *Flying Club (10:00 AM)
Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
Praise Band (6:30 PM)
Chancel Choir (7:30 PM) | 3/23 | Journeymen Bible Study (7:00 AM) |
| 3/9 | Journeymen Bible Study (7:00 AM) | 3/26 | PNC (7:00 PM) |
| 3/11 | *Daisy Meeting (4:00 PM)
*Damerau Recital (6:30 PM) | 3/27 | *Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
Session (7:30 PM) |
| 3/12 | PNC (7:00 PM)
Deacon Meeting (7:00 PM) | 3/28 | Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
Staff Meeting (11:00)
Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
*Cub Scout Meeting (6:30 PM)
*Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) |
| 3/13 | *Cub Scout Committee (7:00 PM)
*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
Facilities & Finance (7:00 PM) | 3/29 | *Flying Club (10:00 AM)
Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
Praise Band (6:30 PM)
Chancel Choir (7:30 PM) |
| 3/14 | Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
Staff Meeting (11:00)
Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
*Cub Scouts (6:30 PM)
*Central Jersey Modern Quilt Guild (7:00 PM)
*Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) | 3/30 | Journeymen Bible Study (7:00 AM) |
| 3/15 | *Flying Club (10:00 AM) | | |

LENT AND EASTER SCHEDULES



“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR” HOPEWELL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Community Lenten Services

March 7th	St. Alphonsus Catholic Church	Pastor Dennis O’Neil preaching
March 14th	Second Calvary Baptist Church	Pastor Kate Hillis preaching
March 21st	Hopewell Presbyterian Church	Taize Service

HOLY WEEK

March 25th	Palm Sunday Worship at Hopewell Presbyterian Church	@ 10:30 AM
March 29th	Maundy Thursday Worship Around the Table at Hopewell Presbyterian Church	@ 7:00 PM
March 30th	Good Friday - <i>The HPC Sanctuary will be open from dawn to dusk. Please take the opportunity for personal prayer and reflection and to prepare your heart for the joy of Easter morning.</i>	
April 1st	Easter Sunrise Service at Highland Cemetery	@ 6:00 AM
	Community Easter Breakfast at Hopewell Presbyterian Church	@ 6:45 AM
	Easter Worship at Hopewell Presbyterian Church	@ 10:30 AM



Soup Supper and Lenten Service on February 21st

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



THE PURPLE BRICKS OF OUR 1914 SANCTUARY BUILDING

Our 1914 Sanctuary might have looked quite different. The original intention was to build a “brick and stone” structure, but on February 7th 1914 the architects, Klemann and Fowler of Trenton, presented a less expensive option. The sanctuary would now be built using “brick similar to that used in the High School and Hopewell National Bank buildings”. The High School (later the Borough Hall and more recently the fire-house) had been built in 1912. Hopewell National Bank building, at the corner of Broad Street and Greenwood Avenue, was under construction early in 1914 and was completed later in the year

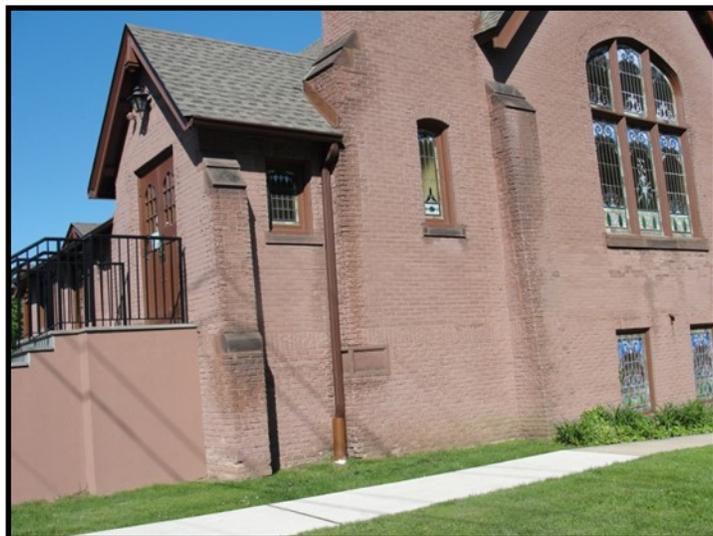
The distinctive purplish-brown bricks look almost like stone. A newspaper article of the time identified them as “Hummelstown brick”. This is their story.

Hummelstown brick came (unsurprisingly) from the area of Hummelstown, a small town lying between Hershey and Harrisburg in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. From the 1860’s to the 1920’s high quality Triassic sandstone was quarried from South Mountain, about two miles south of the town. The quarries can still be seen today and are on the National Register of Historic Places because of the importance of this building stone for American architectural history.

Large-scale quarrying of the sandstone began in the 1860’s, but the most productive years of the operation began in 1891, with the creation of the Hummelstown Brownstone Company. In 1905, to diversify the company’s product line, a massive sand/lime brick plant was built at the quarries. The bricks were made by crushing the sandstone, mixing it with hydrated lime, and bonding the two with heat and pressure. At the height of the operation 40,000 bricks a day could be produced. Quality control was a problem, since some bricks were very durable, but others weathered quickly. These differences can be seen in various places around our sanctuary. The operation was not as financially successful as hoped, and ceased operation in 1927. The quarrying operations ended around the same time, and the company finally closed in December 1929.

So if you see a building made of this brick, you can be pretty sure it was built between 1905 and 1927. The porch foundation of 9 Blackwell Avenue uses these bricks, and there are probably other examples in Hopewell Valley. The newspaper reference to the high school is a bit puzzling, since no Hummelstown Brick is visible on the outside of the building today.

Ian Burrow



The southeast corner of the 1914 sanctuary, built of Hummelstown brick. The 1914 sandstone cornerstone is probably also from the Hummelstown quarries.

THE PURPLE BRICKS (continued)



The former New Jersey National Bank building (from the northeast), completed in 1914 using Hummelstown Brick



Hummelstown Brick and sandstone on the former Hopewell National Bank building



Number 9 Blackwell Avenue, with its porch foundation wall of Hummelstown Brick

ⁱ Trenton Evening Times 2/7/1914

ⁱⁱ Trenton Evening Times 8/2/1914

ⁱⁱⁱ Trenton Evening Times, 3/20/1915

^{iv} Olena, Ben F. and Bill Blubaugh 2001 "Quarries of the Hummelstown Brownstone Company." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Viewable at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hummelstown_Brownstone_Company.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE!

2018 RUMMAGE SALE
DONATIONS: April 29—May 2
SALE: May 3—5

Please bring in your shopping bags, sturdy paper grocery bags, and plastic grocery bags for the rummage sale. Place in the collection box in Fellowship Hall.

AS YOU DO YOUR SPRING CLEANING — START SAVING!

We accept clean clothing in good condition, books (**NO magazines, textbooks, or encyclopedias**), jewelry, toys, household items and small appliances in good working order. We **do not accept shoes, plastic cups and bottles with advertising logos, computer monitors, computers, typewriters, mattresses or large appliances**. Please **do not drop off donations until the week of the sale!** Large items please check with Carol Krystek.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Boot Scootin
 Square Dance
 & Chili Dinner
 Saturday, April 14th**



Calling all Women for a fun filled day! Tuesday, May 15th

Come see **Steel Magnolias** — A heartwarming comedy at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

Enjoy a full lunch which includes salad, choice of entrees, homemade breads, and their famous dessert buffet. Cost \$57.50 (\$64 if less than 20). Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

We will car pool from the church.

Save the Date:

Blood Drive - Saturday, April 28th

Once again we are working through Community Blood Council of NJ located in Ewing to hold a Blood Drive at our church. Check the Community Engagement & Mission Bulletin Board or watch your email for more details.



WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

As of February 26, 2018

Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 42,841.00
Per Capita	\$ 2,842.56
Flower Donations	\$ 300.00
Rental Income	\$ 5,400.00
Building Usage	\$ 20.00
Charitable Grants	\$ 1,000.00
Small Group Resources	\$ 150.00
From CCP School Payroll	\$ 5,930.03
Banking Interest	\$ 9.22

Total Revenue

\$ 58,492.81

Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 21,880.73
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 26,437.03
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 7,621.18
Facilities	
General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 47.19
86-88 West Broad St	\$ 2,763.60
Manse	\$ 1,288.07
Community Engagement	
11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 5,306.51
Deacons	
Family Promise	\$ 54.00
Boy Scouts Troop 71	\$ 750.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$ 579.99
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 138.98
Nurture & Growth	\$ 3,199.94
Church Support	\$ 1,280.56

Total Expense

\$ 71,347.78

Profit/Loss

\$ (12,854.97)

Account Balances

General	\$ 63,485.51
Payroll	\$ 10,045.49

COFFEE HOUR

- 3/4 Hospitality & Fellowship
- 3/11 Linda Stephan & Frank Homan
- 3/18 Rice & Sargent
- 3/25 Holdcraft & Sherrard

COMMUNION

- 3/4
- * Bev Mills / Liz Blankstein
Sandy Ogg / Nancy Treible

USHERS

- 3/4 Rice Family
- 3/11 Dick & Linda Scheetz
- 3/18 Barbara Holcombe & Judy Consoli
- 3/25 Doug & Carlana Sargent

**PER CAPITA
FOR 2018
\$33.21 PER MEMBER**

Please prayerfully consider
contributing your portion
today!



BE A PART OF IT!
MISSION TRIP 2018
TO CUMBERLAND, MD
JULY 8 - 14, 2018
(See the April issue of The Messenger
for more details.)

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HPC MUSIC NEWS



Thoughts on Lent...

We had some serious rain in February – my normally dry lawn is a collection of small swamps and marshes. I've been tracking in a lot mud lately. And we have not had the scenery whitewashed by snow as much this year as I like. It's a pretty drab time of year in this part of the world. As my wife, Demi, says, "February is not New Jersey's best month."

It seems fitting that this low period is when we turn inward and think of Christ's life and his path to the cross. Every year I look forward to Easter, and the spring explosion of flowers and leaves that coincides. What a wonderful symbolism of re-birth! But we need to be patient and get through March and the remaining days of Lent. We need to prepare our hearts for the gift of mercy Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection. The joy of Spring is only magnified by the dreariness of February!

The date of Easter moves around the spring calendar each year, but at least some of March – and often the whole month – is contained in Lent every year. This year is not unique, then, in that every day of March is a part of this season, but it is unusual in that the last day of March is the last day of Lent. The result of this, of course, is Easter this year landing on April 1st, "April Fools Day" - a day usually devoted to silly pranks!

When I saw the calendar this year, it occurred to me that I could not remember a past Easter falling on April 1st, but thought maybe I just didn't pay close enough attention, or my memory is not all that good. But a little research shows that the last time Easter coincided with "April Fools Day" was in 1956! No wonder I don't remember – I was born in 1964! (The next time is not spaced at such a distance, happening in 2029, only 11 years way.)

Hymn Spotlight – "What Wondrous Love is This", #215

One of my favorite hymns for this time of year is the classic hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". It has a haunting, majestic tune, and wonderful phrases that linger in my thoughts long after I finish singing them: "wondrous love", "dreadful curse", "millions join the theme", and others. Perhaps the last verse is my favorite, though it depends on the day....

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.*

Our hymnal uses a period to end this verse. I'd like to suggest an edit – this hymn needs an exclamation point at the end: "*And through eternity I'll sing on!*"

Save the Date

It's our privilege at HPC to host two Wednesday night services this year – one already past in February, but a second coming up on Wednesday night, March 21st. It will be Taize service, a wonderfully meditative service that consists mainly of silence, prayer, and repeated songs. The songs are simple, and meant to encourage deep prayer and reflection – don't miss this special worship opportunity!

Sincerely, Charlie Ashton

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS PLAY SCHOOL



Visitors!

CCPS was delighted to have two visitors during the month of February. We celebrated pajama day with homemade waffles and whipped cream on 2/7 and we invited a special guest reader in to share his favorite story from Winnie the Pooh. Ian Burrow, professional thespian (?), used different voices for each character as he told us the story of Tigger meeting the other characters in the Hundred Acre Wood. We look forward to Mr. Ian's return for more Winnie the Pooh stories.



Our next visitor made his annual visit to share his vast knowledge of tools. Mr. Doug Robbins, known to us as the "Tool man," came in to school on 2/14 and showed us levels, saws, hammers, screwdrivers and drills. The kids got hands on experience with all of the tools. We have our play tool benches set up in the classroom and we have lots of fun playing with it daily. We hope to add some real hammers with short handles and vices to our classroom supplies so that we can do woodworking as a regular activity in the classroom.



Hopewell Presbyterian Church

***The Messenger* deadline for the March issue is Sunday,
Sunday, March 25, 2018. Email lducko@hopewellpres.org.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thanksgiving

- The birth of Josephine Dianne Dorothy Mangione

Intercession

- Tom F. - healing
- Karen C. - healing
- Shawn F. - healing from back injury (Judy C's son-in-law)
- Mark H. - undergoing chemo (Judy C's friend)
- Betty - healing from surgery for cancer
- Bob P. - healing
- Debbie R. - continued comfort and strength as she continues rehabilitation at St. Lawrence Rehab (Betsy W's friend)
- Katia - continued healing (friend of Cathe & Ian)
- Diane - undergoing chemotherapy (friend of Nancy T.)
- Kevin L. - healing (Cathy P's nephew)
- Geri - breast cancer
- Ben - post-transplant process (friend of Holly P.)
- Mina - healing from brain surgery to remove a tumor (3 years old)
- Lorna - healing (friend of Lois R.)
- Susan W. - pancreatic cancer—comfort and peace

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
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Hopewell, NJ 08525

