



HENSON VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
( Disciples of Christ )  
1900 Tucker Road  
Fort Washington, MD 20744  
[www.hensonvalleychristianchurch.org](http://www.hensonvalleychristianchurch.org)

## MARCH 2017 UPDATE

### ***DEVOTIONAL – A Maintenance Psalm***

Psalm 131 is a maintenance psalm. It is functional to the person of faith as pruning is functional to the gardener: it gets rid of that which looks good to those who don't know any better and reduces the distance between our hearts and their roots in God.

The two things that Psalm 131 prunes away are unruly ambition and infantile dependency, what we might call getting too big for our breeches and refusing to cut the apron strings. Both of these tendencies can easily be supposed to be virtues, especially by those who are not conversant with Christian ways. If we are not careful, we will be encouraging the very things that will ruin us. We are in special and constant need of correction. We need pruning. Jesus said, "Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John 15:2). More than once our Lord the Spirit has used Psalm 131 to do this important work among his people. As we gain a familiarity with an understanding of the psalm, he will be able to use it that way with us "that we may bear more fruit."

*[Jesus said,] "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken."*

John 15: 1 – 2

***"Living the Message:  
Daily Reflections with Eugene Peterson"***  
*HarpersCollins 1996*

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION, PRAYERFUL REFLECTION, FAITHFUL ACTION**

- Bethany Christian Church will join Henson Valley on Ash Wednesday, 1 March, to usher us into the Lenten Season. The service of worship will be led by Pastor Martha, Pastor Bob Degges, and laypersons from both congregations. Communion will be served in addition to the impositions of the ashes. All are invited and encouraged to attend this special service which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

- **Heritage Sunday** will be celebrated at Henson Valley on 19 March. There will be a pot lunch meal after worship and a program where the congregation will be asked to share a legacy that they would leave for their loved ones. One's imagination can be engaged to determine what legacy to share – a family recipe, a Bible, a song, a poem, an item of clothing, a book, an object of art – all this and more can be considered. In sharing the legacy, plan to tell not only what the legacy is and what it means to you, tell why it is important that you pass it along to those you love.
- Praise God for the congregation called Henson Valley Christian Church! The work that is being done, in faith, to prepare for the transition of pastoral leadership is well on its way. Several tasks have been identified for congregational attention and leaders have volunteered for each one. Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister, will be in worship with us on 26 March and will remain for the congregation meeting that will follow. At the meeting, leaders will provide updates on their progress with their tasks and Rev. Harris will be invited to offer insightful wisdom to help us continue to work our plan. We are asking all who affiliate with Henson Valley to be supportive of these transitional efforts. Your presence, time, talents, and resources (including financial) are needed as we move forward as we believe God is calling us to do. While we have a plan and are working to faithfully implement it, we do not lose sight of the one who has given us the plan. Faithfulness to God will lead to faithfulness in the implementation of God's plan.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Check-in Date</b>
Determine whether HVCC is extending our life or delaying/preventing our death	Pastor Martha	26 March
Determine an appropriate salary for a pastor (Christian Church Foundation investment fund)	Rev. Allen Harris	26 March
Identify someone to conduct an Audit/Compilation/Review to discern patterns/trends for cost-saving measures	Carolyn Holland (will ask Myron Idun to assist)	26 March
Increase giving (tithes and offerings) of regular and non-regular worshipers	Ellen Azu and Judy Greene	26 March
Create a hospitality ministry (rental of the building)	Mel Larson, Denise Idun, and Marilyn Miles (Bessie Bradford will assist)	26 March

Appraise the organ in the Fellowship Hall	Marilyn Miles	26 March
Join with another congregation	Not being considered at this time	
Develop a Theological/Spiritual Formation/Leadership ministry platform <i>(this work does not address the content of programs, just the delivery system)</i>	Ellen Azu, Denise Idun, and Mel Larson (Bessie Bradford will assist)	26 March
Develop a Congregation Care ministry platform <i>(this work does not address the content of programs, just the delivery system)</i>	Lorna Larson and Mel Larson	26 March
Create a committee to write the congregational profile		TBD
Create a committee to write the job description for the pastor		TBD
Create a Search Committee to call a new pastor		TBD

- Ministry to the Differently-abled and Their Families

- Thanks are extended to all who helped to make the February Birthday Party special for our celebrants and guests. In addition to our guests, we also celebrated the birthdays of those from within the HVCC family. The next party is scheduled for Sunday, 5 March.
- Henson Valley continues to support the programs of The Arc of Prince George's County by providing space for differently-abled young adults to participate in special projects and programs and to socialize with each other. Each Tuesday, approximately 30 young people and staff are welcomed into the building and they bring life to a space that would otherwise be deserted.

The Infants and Toddlers Program of the Prince George's County Public School System continues to hold a Play Group at Henson Valley. Young people who are differently-abled and their parents participate in the program led by Mrs. Kate Van Dyck.

The young people who participate in the Infants and Toddlers Program are now joining the young adults who participate in the Arc music program on Tuesday mornings. The guest musician, James Yarsky, is now including a few nursery rhyme songs in his repertoire and all are enjoying singing them.

The young adults from Surrattsville High School, who participate in the Special Education program, continue to provide exceptional services on Thursday mornings when they come to help with custodial services as part of their work-related educational experiences. Their teacher, Mrs. Jennet Mofor, and the aides (Ms. Mary and Ms. Sandy) who accompany her provide compassionate and focused guidance to the students who do their work thoroughly and are highly commended for it.

- Please remember to purchase food and household items that carry the official “BoxTops” for Education” coupon so that Henson Valley can continue to meaningfully support the James Ryder Randall Elementary School Special Education Program. Consider inviting friends and neighbors to join us in this effort. Tell them about this ministry and extend the invitation for them to participate. There are people who would be willing to help if only they were asked.
- Members of the Henson Valley Christian Church Leadership Team are: Carolyn Holland, Bessie Bradford, Marilyn Miles, Rev. Mel Larson, Ellen Azu, and Pastor Martha. Their next meeting will be 11 March 2017.

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## **OUT-AND-ABOUT IN THE REGION ( The Christian Church Capital Area )**

- March 1-3 (Wednesday to Friday) Youth Ministry Summit, Indianapolis, IN
- March 1-4 (Wednesday to Saturday) – Christian Church in Ohio Youth International Affairs Seminary in Washington, DC
- March 5 (Sunday) 3:00 p.m. Installation Service for the Rev. Joy Majied, Pastor, Garfield Memorial Christian Church, Vienna, VA
- March 7 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. New Church Ministry Cohort Gathering, Bowie, MD
- March 9 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. RESCHEDULED Commission For Ministry Meeting, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD
- March 11 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. Commission for Congregational Life Meeting, Regional Offices

- March 21 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. Ministers' Association Executive Committee Meeting, CCCA Regional Offices
- March 23 (Thursday) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Clergy Soup & Conversation, Aspen Hill Christian Church, Aspen Hill, MD
- March 25 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. CCCA Camp & Counselor Training, University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD
- March 25 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. Work Day Camp Mary Mac, 12 noon Mary Mac Management Committee Meeting, Camp Mary Mac, Sharpsburg, MD
- March 31 – April 2 Work Day at the Conference Center at Bethany Beach, Bethany Beach, DE
- April 6 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. Commission for Ministry Meeting, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD
- April 9 & 16 (Sundays) Receive the Easter Special Day Offering to support the General Ministries of the Christian Church
- April 20-21 (Thursday and Friday) Disciples Center for Public Witness Board of Governors' Meeting, TBD
- April 21-24 (Friday-Monday) Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Washington, DC – Crystal City (Arlington, VA) For more info: <http://advocacydays.org/2017-confronting-chaos/>
- April 29 (Saturday) 50th Anniversary Celebration & Dining Hall Renovation Dedication, Camp Mary Mac. Save The Date and Share It With Others!
- May 4 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. Commission for Ministry Meeting, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD
- May 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. Salt & Light Planning Meeting, CCCA Offices
- May 13 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. Commission for Congregational Life Committee Meeting, CCCA Offices
- May 14 – 17 (Sunday – Wednesday) Senior Adult Spring Conference, Christian Church Conference Center, Bethany Beach, DE
- May 19 (Friday) 5:00 p.m. Minister's Association Dinner & Meeting, the Rev. Seung Un (Paul) Tche, President of the Disciples Council on Christian Unity will speak, at Columbia United Christian Church, Columbia, MD. More information to follow!

- May 19 – 21 (Friday – Sunday) Preschool (Discovery) Retreat, Camp Mary Mac, Sharpsburg, MD
  - May 26 – 29 (Friday – Monday) Personal Retreat, Christian Church Conference Center, Bethany Beach, DE
  - June 1 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. Commission for Ministry Meeting, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD
  - June 2 – 4 (Friday – Sunday) Disciples Women's Retreat, Christian Church Conference Center, Bethany Beach, DE
  - June 10 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. Regional Board Meeting, Whosoever Will Christian Church, Beltsville, MD
  - June 10 – 11 (Saturday – Sunday) Retirement Celebration for the Rev. Dr. Wm. Chris Hobgood, Bethany Beach Christian Church & Conference Center at Bethany Beach, DE
  - June 30 - July 4, 2017 Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ, General Synod, Baltimore, Maryland. For more info: <http://synod.uccpages.org/>
  - July 8 - 12, 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Indiana. For more info: <http://ga.disciples.org/>
  - October 14 (Saturday) Salt & Light conference will be held at National City Christian Church, Washington, DC.
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**REMINDERS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH (The Christian Church Disciples of Christ in the United States and Canada)**




- Special Dates
  - March 1: Ash Wednesday
  - March 3: World Day of Prayer
  - March 7 – 9: Black Ministers Retreat
  - March 12: Girl Scout Sunday
  - March 15: Yearbook Reports Due
- Read the stories of the Stone-Campbell movement across the world in *The Stone-Campbell Movement: A Global History*, available at ChalicePress.com
- Download information of “Child Abuse Prevention Month” from [discipleshomemissions.org/child-protection](http://discipleshomemissions.org/child-protection)




- *Just Women* renewals or new subscriptions due May 1 to ensure receipt of Summer issue
- Remit Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and Special Day offering contributions for January by March 1
- *Woman-to-Woman Worldwide* applications are due April 1
- Whether you have two weeks, two months, or two years, you can volunteer to work overseas with Global Ministries. Email the Mission Personnel Office at [dom@disciples.org](mailto:dom@disciples.org) or phone 317 – 713 – 2567
- Be ready for people new to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Order *Disciples Thumbnail Sketches* at ChalicePress.com


***IN THE LIFE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
– Upcoming Events and Programs***


March 1	<i>The Season of Lent</i>  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> <i>Season of Lent Begins</i>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
March 2	<b>Surrattsville High School Students</b> <i>( Work Related Experiences )</i>	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
March 5	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b> <i>( Rev. Dr. Martha A. Brown,</i>	9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship <b>1:15 p.m. Monthly Birthday</b>

	<i>Preaching )</i>	<b>Party</b>
<p>March 7</p>	<p><b>The Arc of Prince George's County</b> <i>( Activities, Music &amp; Work Experiences )</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>March 7</p>	<p><b>PGCPS Infants &amp; Toddlers Program</b></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Oxon Hill Library</p>
<p>March 8</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, "Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture's Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus." &amp; Choir Practice</b></p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>
<p>March 9</p>	<p><b>Surrattsville High School Students</b> <i>( Work Related Experiences )</i></p>	<p>10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>
<p>March 11</p>	<p><b>Leadership Team Meeting</b> <i>( Conference Call )</i></p>	<p>2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>  </p> <p>March 12</p>	<p>  </p> <p><b>Second Sunday In Lent</b> <i>( Rev. Dr. Martha A. Brown, Preaching )</i></p>	<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>
<p>March 14</p>	<p><b>The Arc of Prince George's County</b> <i>( Activities, Music &amp; Work Experiences )</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>



March 14	<b>PGCPS Infants &amp; Toddlers Program</b>	10:00 a.m. at HVCC
March 15	<b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, “Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture’s Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.” &amp; Choir Practice</b>	7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 pm. Choir Practice
March 16	<b>Surrattsville High School Students ( Work Related Experiences )</b>	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 March 19	<b>Third Sunday In Lent ( Rev. Dr. Martha A. Brown, Preaching ) HERITAGE SUNDAY</b>	9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship <b>12:30 p.m. Potluck Meal and Sharing Legacies</b>
March 21	<b>The Arc of Prince George’s County ( Activities, Music &amp; Work Experiences )</b>	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
March 21	<b>PGCPS Infants &amp; Toddlers Program</b>	10:00 a.m. Outing at Nature Center
March 22	<b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, “Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture’s Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.” &amp; Choir Practice</b>	7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 pm. Choir Practice
March 23	<b>Surrattsville High School Students</b>	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

		<i>( Work Related Experiences )</i>	
 March 26	<b>Fourth Sunday In Lent</b> <i>( Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Minister, Preaching )</i>	9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship <b>12:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting</b>	
March 28	<b>The Arc of Prince George's County</b> <i>( Activities, Music &amp; Work Experiences )</i>	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	
March 28	<b>PGCPS Infants &amp; Toddlers Program</b>	10:00 a.m. At HVCC	
March 29	<b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, "Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture's Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus." &amp; Choir Practice</b>	7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 pm. Choir Practice	
March 30	<b>Surrattsville High School Students</b> <i>( Work Related Experiences )</i>	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	
 April 2	<b>Fifth Sunday In Lent</b> <i>( Rev. Dr. Martha A. Brown, Preaching )</i>	9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship <b>1:15 p.m. Monthly Birthday Party</b>	
April 5	<b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, "Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture's Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus." &amp; Choir Practice</b>	7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 pm. Choir Practice	
		9:00 a.m. <b>Palm Sunday</b>	

	April 9	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship
	April 12	<b>Wednesday Night Lenten Study Series, "Journey toward Golgotha: Scripture's Witness to the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus." &amp; Choir Practice</b>	7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Series 8:00 pm. Choir Practice
	April 13	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
	April 14	<b>Good Friday</b>	
	April 16	<b>EASTER SUNDAY!</b>	

