



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEB 21 OVER ZOOM

Our annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, February 21st on Zoom, immediately following the worship service.

The meeting link will be emailed to everyone who gets What's Happening at Hamblen, our weekly e-newsletter.

**If you would prefer to attend the meeting by phone:**

- Dial toll-free: **1-888-788-0099**
- When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: **826-7370-4214**
- You will be put into a waiting room on hold and will then be let into the meeting.
- If you have questions about this procedure, contact Heather in the church office at 509.385.0627 to practice with you ahead of time

## ANNUAL REPORT

You are encouraged to review our annual report ahead of the congregational meeting. If we do not have an email address on file for you, we will send you a copy in the mail. You can also view it on the home page of our website, [www.hamblenpres.org](http://www.hamblenpres.org), or you may request a copy to be mailed to you by contacting Trina in the church office ([trinal@hamblenpres.org](mailto:trinal@hamblenpres.org)/509.448.2909).



## PREPARING FOR A HOLY OBSERVANCE OF LENT

Our Lent worship theme is **Queen Esther: You Are Not Forgotten**. More information on the sermon series can be found on page 2. Other ways to celebrate this season are listed below and inside. We hope you will join us!

### Ash Wednesday Activities

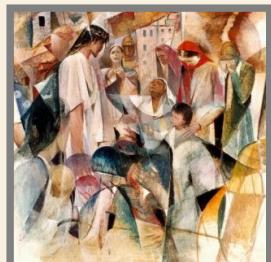
This year offers a perfect opportunity to experience Ash Wednesday in a new and different way! On **Wednesday, February 17th**, drive by the church's front door with your mask on to receive an imposition of ashes while you remain in your vehicle. Pastor Steve and Pastor Jennie will be gloved and masked, and will use disposable swabs. They will be ready to greet you **anytime between noon—1 PM** and again **between 6—7 PM**.

This year HPPC is also providing a printout of an at-home Ash Wednesday liturgy for individuals or families. It is a brief (about 15 minute) journey that includes prayers and poems, a doodle page and time for reflecting on struggles and hopes for Lent, as well as links to short videos and songs on YouTube. The liturgy is very family friendly (as are the videos), with additional instructions for engaging children. You may pick yours up at the imposition of ashes or request a copy be emailed or mailed to you. Contact Kyla at [kylaf@hamblenpres.org](mailto:kylaf@hamblenpres.org) if you have any questions.

### Holy Week Visual Experience

Experience the Scriptural Stations of the Cross during Holy Week at Hamblen this year. Fourteen pieces of art of various mediums, from a range of countries and time periods, will be on display in our chapel along with Scripture readings and questions for silent meditation. Take your time experiencing each station as you make your own spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. The chapel will be open during Holy Week (March 29-April 2) at the times listed below:

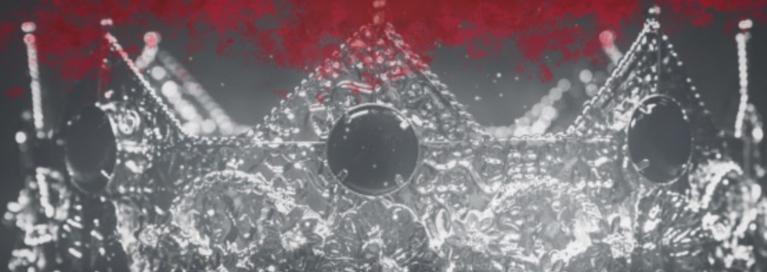
- **Monday, March 29—Thursday, April 1**  
(Noon—5:00 PM)
- **Good Friday, April 2**  
(Noon—8:00 PM)



# LENT SERMON SERIES

Lent Sermon Series

## Queen Esther You Are Not Forgotten



WHEN THERE ARE NO HEROES  
TO COME TO THE RESCUE AND GOD SEEMS  
ABSENT, HOW CAN THERE BE ANY HOPE?

This Lent, get caught up in the story of a hidden miracle that saves a seemingly forgotten people from destruction. The story of Esther reveals that God remembers us even in our darkest moments. In fact, the story sets the stage for us to see God in action right now. In Christ, we are never forgotten.

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

### Ash Wednesday, February 17

Drive-Thru Ash Imposition  
Noon-1 PM and 6-7 PM

### Sunday, February 21

When God Seems Absent  
Esther 2:1-8, 10-12, 16-18

### Sunday, February 28

Who's Life is it Anyway?  
Esther 2:19-3:6

### Sunday, March 7

A Burst of Courage  
Esther 4:1, 6-17

### Sunday, March 14

The Pace of Miracles  
Esther 5 & 7: Selected Verses

### Sunday, March 21

Who's Better than Esther & Mordecai?  
Esther 8 & 9: Selected Verses

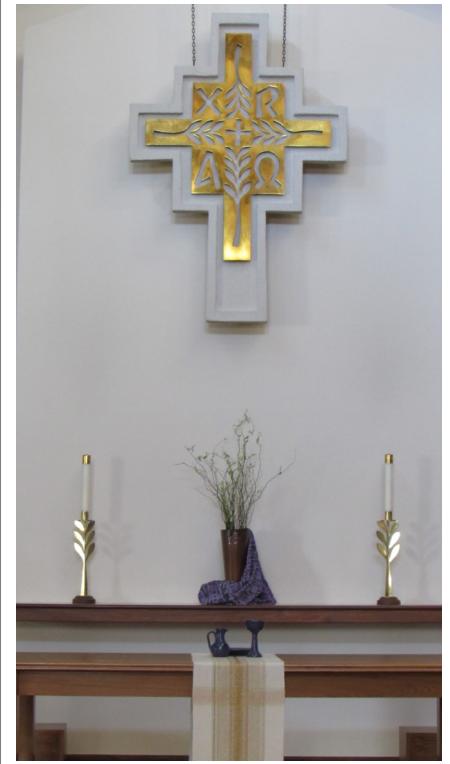
### Palm Sunday, March 28

Palm-less Sunday  
Luke 19:28-40

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURNS MARCH 7 & NEW ONLINE WORSHIP TIME!

Starting **Sunday, March 7th**, we will move to a **9:00 AM** Sunday morning worship time, and we invite you to worship in our church building with us! We will be live-streaming the service on YouTube at the same time for those who wish to participate remotely (it will remain online if you would like to watch it later). We have purchased new audio/visual equipment in order to maintain a quality viewing experience for those at home.

During the 9:00 hour, there will be in-person Sunday school for children in Kindergarten-5th grade, as well as nursery care for younger children. In the sanctuary, household groups will be seated together with empty pews between families, and communion will take place the first Sunday of each month using factory-sealed packets. No registration is required! HPPC will continue to adhere to the most recent government mandates. Out of love for one another, you can expect rigorous safety procedures which are outlined on our website. Keep your eye out for an upcoming video, which will briefly cover what to expect during an in-person worship service.



# GROW THROUGH WORSHIP AND STUDY

## SMALL GROUPS FOR LENT

At HPPC we have a history of providing small groups during Lent. This year groups may choose to meet over Zoom or in-person at the church.

A suggested curriculum, Again and Again...A Lenten Refrain, will be available to pick up on Ash Wednesday, or you may ask for a copy to be sent to you. There is a sample available on pages 4-5 for you to preview. You may choose to use this resource as an individual daily devotional, but we encourage you to discuss your answers with at least one other person.

This guide runs from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. There are six words or phrases to interact with each week (Mondays through Saturdays). Each day has a Scripture passage to look up, a reflection question or two, space to make a few notes, and a prayer. Sundays are a time to look back over the previous week and consider how you have been impacted by that week's words. It may be helpful to write each day's word on a Post-it note and put it where you will see it several times throughout each day.

Groups are forming now! See the next column for choices. To get connected, contact Heather in the church office ([heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org) or 509.385.0627) or contact a leader directly.

## GROUP AVAILABILITY

Join now by contacting Heather Notske (see previous column for info) or by getting in touch with a leader directly.

### Mike Aleman's Group (open to all—on Zoom)

Mondays at 9:00 AM, starting February 15

### Katie Stark's Group (moms of school-aged kids—Zoom to start)

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, starting February 23

### Kyla Fague's Group (choir members—on Zoom)

Thursdays at 9:00 AM, February 25

### Heather Notske's Group (open to all—meeting in person at HPPC)

Thursdays at 7:00 PM, starting February 25

### Marilyn Carosella & Sally Saad's Group (open to all—on Zoom)

Thursdays at 10:00 AM, starting February 25

### Mary Mattie & Kathleen Seppi's Group (open to all—on Zoom)

Fridays at 9:00 AM, starting February 19

## OTHER OPTIONS FOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY

All groups meet over Zoom and are open to anyone who would like to join in.  
Drop-ins are always welcome, so if you miss a week, just jump back in next week!

- **Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**--Tuesday mornings, at 7:30 AM. If you are interested in being part of this group or have questions, contact Jim Sipes at [grandpanow4@aol.com](mailto:grandpanow4@aol.com). To get a Zoom link, email [joeb@hamblenpres.org](mailto:joeb@hamblenpres.org)
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**--Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 AM--Led by Pastor Jennie. Topic for Lent will be the book of Joel. (Contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org) to receive a Zoom link)
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study**--Sunday mornings, 8:30-9:30 AM (Contact Bob Nofsinger at [nofsingerbm@gmail.com](mailto:nofsingerbm@gmail.com) to receive a Zoom link and more information)
- **Coffee Hour Zoom**--Sunday mornings, 10:50-11:30 AM (Everyone who subscribes to our weekly email "What's Happening at Hamblen" will receive a Zoom link Sunday mornings)
- **HPPC Book Club**--Third Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 PM. Upcoming books are **We are Welcome**, by Elizabeth Berg (March); **Dutch Girl**, by Robert Matzen (April); and **The Day the World Came To Town**, by Jim Defede (May). (Contact Betty Thompson at [bettythomps@aol.com](mailto:bettythomps@aol.com) to receive a Zoom link and more information)

*When you pray*—Matthew 6:1-21

Ash Wednesday 2/17/21

## SAMPLE TEXT FROM Again & Again... A Lenten Refrain!

A Devotional Resource  
Written by Rev. Sarah Are  
through A Sanctified Art  
(sanctifiedart.org)\*

Each Lent gives us the opportunity to remember, again and again, that our world is imperfect. We are surrounded by suffering, our world feels broken, and we can't see God's bigger plan. *We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again.* The good news is that God reaches out to us—again and again—with his love and grace. When we intentionally seek God's voice in our lives, we will be changed. Our circumstances may be the same, but we can choose to be comforted by God's peace and the knowledge that we are each dearly loved children.

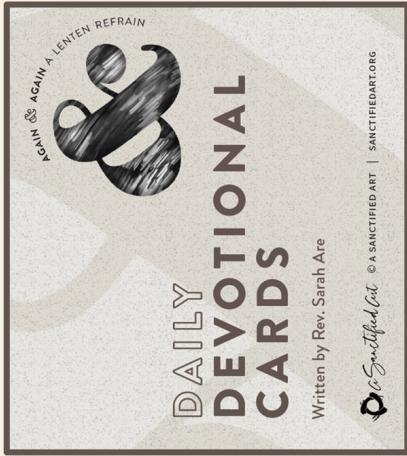
This Lenten season we encourage you to set aside time each day to make space for God to communicate with you. Allow this experience to change your attitude, your assumptions, and your actions.

### How to use this booklet

This guide runs from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. There are six words or phrases to interact with each week (Mondays through Saturdays). Each day has a scripture passage to look up, a reflection question or two, space to make a few notes, and a prayer. Sundays are a time to look back over the previous week and consider how you have been impacted by that week's words. It may be helpful to write each day's word on a Post-it note and put it where you will see it several times throughout each day.

You may choose to use this resource as an individual daily devotional, but we encourage you to discuss your answers with at least one other friend or family member. After almost a year of not being together, we want to provide a chance for people to be in groups and share their lives again. Some will prefer to meet over Zoom but others may want to meet in person and we are prepared to help make that happen. If you would like to meet with a group, virtually or in person, this Lent, please contact Heather Notske in the church office at [heathern@hambletn.org](mailto:heathern@hambletn.org) or 509-385-0627.

\*Used with permission



Teaching God, you remind us to avoid going through the motions on autopilot so that we can engage our faith with our whole hearts. You're worth our whole hearts. So today I pray: Be there in my fasting. Be there in my praying. Be there in my walking and waking. Make this journey real. Make it rich. Make it yours. Amen.

*Bread*—John 6:41-51

What are the most meaningful meals you have had? What made them holy? Bread of life, this Lenten season, I want to practice seeing you at every table—every place where food is shared, hands are held, and laughter is exchanged; every quiet table where I eat alone. I want to see you in all of it—the holiness and the ordinary. Open my eyes to you in my midst. Amen.

*Clay*—Jeremiah 18:1-6

What relationships and events in your life have shaped you? Where was God in that?

Great potter, if I am clay, then I fear I am being molded by the world. I fear that I am in the hands of news feeds, social media, to-do lists, and social pressures. However, what I want is to be clay in your hands. I want to be shaped by you. I want to see your artist's signature on me and know that I am yours. So do what you do best. Kickstart the potter's wheel. Start this pot over and mold me back toward you. Amen.

## *Anxious*—Philippians 4:4-9

2/20/21

When have you experienced anxiety in your life? What did it feel like? What steps do you take to center yourself? Where is God in that?

God of peace, we are all a little bit anxious. Our world moves so fast. How could we not be? I know anxiety is not what you wish for us, because you have always wanted whole, full, peaceful lives for your people. So today I ask for your deep breaths and a calm spirit. Relieve my anxiety. Center me. Help me slow down in a fast-paced world. Amen.

## Weekly Reflection

What word was most significant for you this week? Why?

Gracious God, being people of faith has never been easy. From the very beginning, we have needed reminders—to be gentle, to show courtesy, to devote ourselves to good works. In a world of division, help me be gentle. May that gentleness be a power for good. Amen.

What scripture verses were most memorable for you this week? Why?

Which prayer was most meaningful to you this week? Why?

## *Come and see*—John 1:35-42

2/22/21

In a world that loves certainty, where could you practice curiosity? How might curiosity be a spiritual tool?

Inviting God, you are a God who is up to something good, always thinking ahead, always inviting us to join. So spark curiosity in me today so that I might ask, "Where are you going? I want to tag along." Amen.

## *Gentle*—Titus 3:1-15

Can you think of a person in your life who is gentle yet strong? How are they impactful? How might you adopt that character?

2/23/21

*Selah*—Psalm 8:4

The word "selah" is used 74 times in scripture. The meaning is unclear, but many believe it indicates a pause. Where or how do you need to pause in your life?

2/24/21

Holy God, some truths are so good that we need a moment to let them sink in, otherwise they risk running off of us like water. So today we slow down. We whisper, "selah." We pause, and we remember—one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Amen.

How can you apply anything you learned this week to your life?

# CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Journey

1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids are invited to join the weekly fun at Journey. We meet 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Zoom. The Zoom link to Journey is emailed out on Tuesday. Our current Bible study series is The Bible and Science. You may join the meeting at any time.

Wednesday evenings are a journey of laughter, Bible study and sharing the past week's happenings. Occasionally there may even be a joke or two. Sometimes, Joe even has a funny joke, thanks to Kathy that is just off camera during Journey.



### JAM and EDGE Sunday School

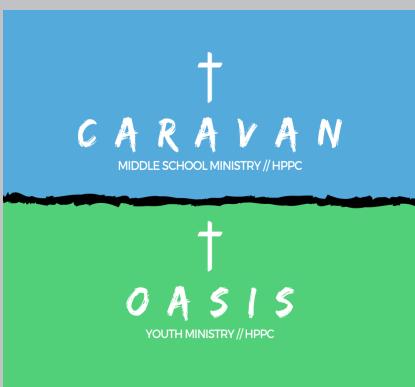
JAM and EDGE Sunday School continues through weekly activities designed to capture kids' interest through puppetry, science demonstration, stories, and more. All the JAM and EDGE activities are connected to the Sunday sermon in worship. Questions are provided for families to discuss around the dinner table or just before bedtime.

Sunday School is not complete without fun music. Kids will want to move and bounce with lively songs each week. Activities will be emailed out Friday ahead of Sunday worship. If you do not already receive the Friday email, please email Joe at [joeb@hamblenpres.org](mailto:joeb@hamblenpres.org) and he will send you the material.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School planning has begun and a final decision on theme for the year is coming. Currently we are looking at multiple models to use for VBS that we can adapt for current COVID-19 safety measures. A call for volunteers and participants will be coming in the next several weeks.

## CARAVAN AND OASIS YOUTH MINISTRIES



January 24th marked the beginning of our first regular in-person gathering since March 2020! The youth have been meeting in individual small groups on Sundays and Mondays to hang out, play games, and discuss Scripture together. We've seen many students returning after a long hiatus, and on our first week back we saw more students in total than we had on Zoom this whole school year! We are excited to provide a safe way for our students to connect face-to-face again. **Please enter through the south doors by the youth room!**

**CARAVAN (6th-8th Graders):**  
Girls: Sundays, 6:00pm-7:00pm  
Boys: Mondays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

**OASIS (9th-12th Graders)**  
Girls: Sundays, 7:30pm-8:30pm  
Boys: Mondays, 7:30pm-8:30pm

**We will take necessary safety precautions in accordance with current state guidelines including:**

- Meeting exclusively in small groups for one hour
- Wiping down surfaces between Caravan and Oasis
- Masks required at all times
- Attendee log
- 6 foot social distancing enforced
- Temperature and symptom check upon arrival

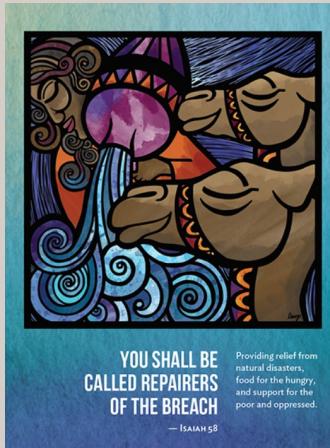
If you have a student and you're not receiving our weekly emails and updates, contact [mitchelp@hamblenpres.org](mailto:mitchelp@hamblenpres.org).

## OTHER NEWS TO NOTE...

### HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Many high school seniors are getting ready for big decisions around their futures and potential colleges. At HPPC, we want to show our seniors that they have our full blessing as they prepare to take this next big step toward their higher education. We have a scholarship gift for all seniors who have been active in our youth program. If you are a high school senior, or you are the parent of one, contact Mitchel Pierce at [mitchelp@hamblenpres.org](mailto:mitchelp@hamblenpres.org) for the application.

**The deadline to apply is April 11, 2021.**



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial

disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Donations to OGHS help people all over the world get their basic needs for shelter, water, and food met. You may contribute through our website at [hamblenpres.org/giving](http://hamblenpres.org/giving) or by mailing a check to the church office.

### CONNECT WITH PASTORS AND STAFF

Even though the HPPC staff are not in the office every day, you may set up a phone, Zoom, or in-person appointment by contacting us directly.

We would love to hear from you!

**Pastor Steve Watts**, Pastor, Head of Staff, [stevew@hamblenpres.org](mailto:stevew@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (509) 251-0366

**Pastor Jennie Barber**, Interim Associate Pastor, [jennieb@hamblenpres.org](mailto:jennieb@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (206) 794-0689

**Joe Bruce**, Director of Children's Ministries, [joeb@hamblenpres.org](mailto:joeb@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (509) 954-3041

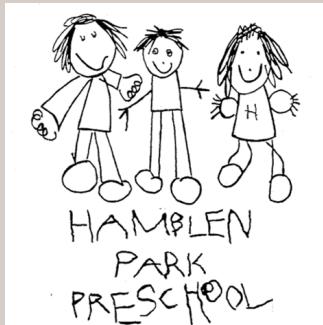
**Mitchel Pierce**, Director of Student Ministries, [mitchelp@hamblenpres.org](mailto:mitchelp@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (206) 739-6126

**Kyla Fague**, Interim Worship Director, [kylaf@hamblenpres.org](mailto:kylaf@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (509) 270-6848

**Heather Notske**, Dir. of Operations & Group Ministry, [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org) or call/text: (509) 251-6468

### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

We're excited for the 2021-2022 school year! Online preschool registration for current and alumni families begins March 8th. Registration will open to the general public on March 15th. Required registration forms will be posted on our website on the 8th: <https://www.hamblenpres.org/preschool-registration>.



Please contact Interim Director Lisa Holmes (509.448.2910 or [lisah@hamblenpres.org](mailto:lisah@hamblenpres.org)) with questions.



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January 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Look inside for more details!

Ash Wednesday, February 17  
Drive-thru ash imposition

Annual Congregational Meeting (over Zoom)  
Sunday, February 21 at 11:00 AM

Lent Series—Queen Esther: You Are Not Forgotten  
Begins Sunday, February 21

### Lenten Small Groups

Start dates between Mon, Feb 15 and Fri, Feb 26

### In-Person Worship

Begins Sunday, March 7 at 9:00 AM (New Time!)  
Live-stream will be broadcast at 9:00 AM over YouTube

Stations of the Cross Visual Experience  
March 29-April 2 (see page 1 for times)

## TRINA IS HERE TO HELP!

Need a copy of the Annual Report? A Lenten Devotional Guide? Would you like a One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank or a Star Word?

Contact our Administrative Assistant, Trina Limbaugh, at [trinal@hamblenpres.org](mailto:trinal@hamblenpres.org) or 509.385.0619 and she will be happy to send you what you need!

