



Book of Judges

SERMON SERIES



Huntingdon Valley
Presbyterian Church

Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church January 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Portuguese worship service
10:20 a.m. – Sunday school for all ages
11:15 a.m. – English worship service

We are glad you have joined us today!

We offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please pick up a gift bag from the Welcome Table in the hallway. If you are looking for a church home or would like to meet with the pastor or have a prayer request, please fill out the connection card in your pew or in the welcome bag and place it on the collection plate. Take advantage of our weekly Christian Education offerings! At 10:20 a.m. we have a Sunday school class for every age.

- **Toddlers: Ages 2-5** – During Sunday School, meets in the Nursery in the foyer.
Teachers: Deb Jack and Sonia and Pamella Sousa.
- **Early Elementary: Kindergarten to Grade 2** – Upstairs, Room #304.
Teachers: Crystal Goretti, Laura Haines, and Elaine Ticker.
- **Upper Elementary: Grades 3-5** – Upstairs, Room #306.
Teachers: Naomi Trask and Jordan Goretti.
- **Middle School: grades 6-8** – Upstairs, Room #305.
Teachers: Rosie Bruce, Eva Morrison, Rebekah Bramer, and Sarah Pannapacker.
- **High School: Grades 9-12 (and beyond)** – Upstairs, Room #308.
Teachers: Charles Foster and Matheus Schaper.
- **Adult Sunday School:** We have adult Sunday school classes in both English and Portuguese. English class meets in the Lounge, Room #209 and is covering the Book of Genesis; Portuguese class meets in the Boyer Fellowship Hall, Room #201.
- **We also provide nursery care during both services** (birth to age 3). When the nursery is not being used by young children, we will continue to have the service streamed into the room. Please feel free to use it as a family room for children up to age 5 if staying in the service is not a possibility. There will be a nursery worker with your child at all times.



Please mute your phone.
THANK YOU!

ORDER FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

* = *The congregation is invited to stand.*

♪ **Prelude**

Bless God

Praise Band

Words of Welcome

Jennie Gerardi

***Unison Call to Worship**

Psalm 115 (ESV)

Jennie Gerardi

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

² Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?”

³ Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.

⁶ They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.

⁷ They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.

⁸ Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them.

⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

¹⁰ O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

¹² The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;

¹³ he will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great.

¹⁴ May the LORD give you increase,
you and your children!

¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth!

¹⁶ The heavens are the LORD's heavens,
but the earth he has given to the children of man.
¹⁷ The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any who go down into silence.
¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.
Praise the LORD!

Opening Prayer

Jon Haines

* ♪ *God of Grace and God of Glory* (Hymn #466)

All

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy pow'r;
Crown Thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives, that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor Thee!
That we fail not man or Thee! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Anthony Gerardi

Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
And we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anthony Gerardi

First Reading

Judges 10 (ESV)

Anthony Gerardi

*♪ *All I Have is Christ*

All

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Hallelujah all I have is Christ
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

Now Lord I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

CCLI Song # 5174122 "All I Have Is Christ"
Words and Music by Jordan Kauflin
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***Passing of the Peace** **All**

***♪ There's a Quiet Understanding (Hymn #204)** **All**

There's a quiet understanding,
When we're gathered in the Spirit
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.

And we know when we're together,
Sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters,
Feel the oneness that He brings.

There's a love we feel in Jesus,
There's a manna that He feeds us,
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.

Thank You, thank You, thank You Jesus,
For the way You love and feed us,
For the many ways You lead us,
Thank You, thank You, Lord.

Offering **Jon Haines**

Offertory *Trust in You* **Praise Band**

***Doxology** *Doxology (Hymn #572) & Prayer* **Bruno Sousa**

Second Reading *Judges 11 (ESV)* **Jordan Goretti**

Sermon *The Consequences of Idolatry in the Nuclear Family and Our Hope in Christ* **Bruno Sousa**

***♪ O Jesus, I Have Promised (Hymn #506)** **All**

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway, if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me, the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend. Amen.

***♪ O Praise The Name (Anástasis)**

All

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

CCLI Song #7037787 "O Praise the Name (Anástasis)" Words and Music by
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***Benediction**

Bruno Sousa

First Reading: Judges 10 (ESV)

¹ After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, and he lived at Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. ² And he judged Israel twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried at Shamir.

³ After him arose Jair the Gileadite, who judged Israel twenty-two years. ⁴ And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities, called Havvoth-jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. ⁵ And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

⁶ The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him. ⁷ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites, ⁸ and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. ⁹ And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

¹⁰ And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.” ¹¹ And the LORD said to the people of Israel, “Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines? ¹² The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand. ¹³ Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more. ¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.” ¹⁵ And the people of Israel said to the LORD, “We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day.” ¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD, and he became impatient over the misery of Israel.

¹⁷ Then the Ammonites were called to arms, and they encamped in Gilead. And the people of Israel came together, and they encamped at Mizpah. ¹⁸ And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said one to another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the Ammonites? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

Second Reading: Judges 11 (ESV)

¹ Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah. ² And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." ³ Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and worthless fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him.

⁴ After a time the Ammonites made war against Israel. ⁵ And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. ⁶ And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites." ⁷ But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?" ⁸ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead." ⁹ Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight against the Ammonites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head." ¹⁰ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say." ¹¹ So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

¹² Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites and said, "What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?" ¹³ And the king of the Ammonites answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel on coming up from Egypt took away my land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan; now therefore restore it peaceably." ¹⁴ Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites ¹⁵ and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah: Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites, ¹⁶ but when they came up from Egypt, Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh. ¹⁷ Israel then sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please let us pass through your land,' but the king of Edom would not listen. And they sent also to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained at Kadesh.

¹⁸ “Then they journeyed through the wilderness and went around the land of Edom and the land of Moab and arrived on the east side of the land of Moab and camped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the boundary of Moab. ¹⁹ Israel then sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, ‘Please let us pass through your land to our country,’ ²⁰ but Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory, so Sihon gathered all his people together and encamped at Jahaz and fought with Israel. ²¹ And the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. So Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country. ²² And they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan. ²³ So then the LORD, the God of Israel, dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel; and are you to take possession of them? ²⁴ Will you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? And all that the LORD our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess. ²⁵ Now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever contend against Israel, or did he ever go to war with them? ²⁶ While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, 300 years, why did you not deliver them within that time? ²⁷ I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me. The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon.” ²⁸ But the king of the Ammonites did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he sent to him.

²⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. ³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, ³¹ then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.” ³² So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand. ³³ And he struck them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a great blow. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

34 Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow." 36 And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites." 37 So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions." 38 So he said, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains. 39 And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never known a man, and it became a custom in Israel 40 that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

Happy Birthday to those born in January!

Sonia Sousa, 1st
Virgina Lock, 3rd
E. Joseph Buoni, 4th
Stephen Quinter, 5th
Sophie Rodrigues, 5th
Jimmy Hindley, 11th
Ludmila Lamarche, 11th
Norma Poli, 13th
Micah Smith, 13th
Anna Laura Bramer, 14th
Rodrigo Silva, 17th

Marlene Leite, 18th
Myra Smith, 20th
Maelina Smith, 20th
Cecilia da Silva, 23rd
Ruth Ebert, 25th
Naomi Trask, 25th
Nicolle Sousa, 25th
Joyce Fleming, 25th
Jennifer Gerardi, 27th
Claudia da Silva, 29th
Asaph Sousa, 31st



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To give at HVPC, we accept cash or check as well as PayPal and Zelle.
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Small Groups

- **Anchored Bible Study** – Next meeting is January 17. The following are the dates for the group through June: January 17 and 24, February 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23, and June 13. Contact Deb Jack (jackfam5@comcast.net; 215-260-4564).
- **Circle of Hope** – Next meeting is January 13. Circle of Hope meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group watches an episode and then discusses the Chosen. Any questions, call Judy Scott (jtscott2022@comcast.net; 215-500-2747).
- **Miriam Circle** – Next meeting is February 13. This women's Bible study small group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the church in the Lounge Room #209. For more information, contact Pat Sarajian (sarajian@comcat.com; 215-485-0184).
- **Daughters of the King** – Next meeting is January 13. This combination Zoom and in-person group meets the first three Mondays of the month. Contact Charlene Crawford (godlydiva@aol.com; 267-279-9858).
- **Presbyterian Stogie Society** – Next meeting is January 13. This cigar-friendly men's group meets every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Ungerman Barn. Contact Jordan Goretti (creelowns@gmail.com; 610-554-0259).
- **Valley Youth Group** – Next meeting is January 17. Contact the church office (office@hvpc.org; 215-947-5500).
- **Women's Bible Study** – Next meeting is January 22. The group meets every other week. Childcare is available. Contact Naomi Trask (trasknaomi001@gmail.com; 215-630-6186).
- **Connections-Discipleship Group Study** – Next meeting is January 19. Contact Cynthia Cornish (cynthiagranticornish@yahoo.com; 484-640-9856).

This Week of 1/12 @ HVPC

Fellowship Presbyterian Church	Tonight	6:00 p.m.	Contact Bruno Sousa
Circle of Hope	Monday	10:30 a.m.	Contact Judy Scott
Daughters of the King	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Charlene Crawford
Stogie Society	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Jordan Goretti
Deacons Meeting	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Josh Bruce
Online Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Contact Shari Hofstetter
Staff Meeting	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Church Office
Choir Practice	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Contact Susan Clark
Praise Band Practice	Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Jon Haines
Online Prayer Meeting	Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Shari Hofstetter
Anchored Bible Study	Friday	10:00 a.m.	Contact Deb Jack
Online Prayer Meeting (Missions)	Friday	5:00 p.m.	Contact Shari Hofstetter
Valley Youth Group	Friday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Bruno Sousa

Contact the church office for information (office@HVPC.org; 215-947-5500).

Food Bank Collection

Bring the food! For January, there is a great need for baby food and diapers. Please also consider donating other non-perishable foods as well, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, diapers, baby food and baby wipes, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Goretti; acheeg85@gmail.com, 201-213-2758.

Online prayer meetings: Shari Hofstetter hosts prayer meetings on Google Meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., and prayer for Missions each Friday at 5:00 p.m. For info, contact Shari Hofstetter chaplainshari94@gmail.com. Use the link meet.google.com/bqw-vgnh-wnx for Wednesday, meet.google.com/kex-umjj-czk for Thursday, and meet.google.com/cfg-xnje-axt for Friday.

Greeters: This important ministry is seeking volunteers, whether you have or have not volunteered before. The sign-up page is <http://bit.ly/HVPCgreeting>. You may also contact Joyce Codispoti directly at 215-478-3299, jjcods@verizon.net.

The toddler Sunday school needs a way to play the DVDs that go with our curriculum. Do you have an old laptop that can play DVDs, sitting around collecting dust, that you are willing to donate to us? See Naomi Trask or Deb Jack if you can help.

We are having two congregational meetings this month. The first will take place today at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a called meeting to vote on calling Pastor Bruno as an Associate Pastor. The second will take place on January 26, 2025 starting at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is the annual congregational meeting where we vote on officers and hear the budget.

Prayer Requests & Praises

NOTE: If you have a prayer request to be added, updated, or removed please contact the Church Office (office@HVPC.org; 215-947-5500).

- **Clover, Joan** – Pray for Joan as she continues to struggle with nerve pain.
- **Good, Barb** – Pray for Barb as she fell and broke her hip. Pray that God bring healing to her and an added measure of strength to Rich as he cares for his wife.
- **Berkenstock, Caroline** – Caroline fell this past week and broke her pelvis. Please keep her in prayer as she recovers.
- **Jasinski, Mil and Walt** – Pray for Mil and Walt. Mil fell and broke her wrist, and Walt is back in the hospital. Pray for them during this time of extreme hardship.
- **Johnson, Ethel** – Lift up Ethel Johnson in your prayers as she has been recovering from a stroke. She is recovering and doing quite well. She is located at Wesley Enhanced Living, Room 105. The address is 200 Veterans Lane, Doylestown, PA 18901. Her number is 267-927-8304.
- **Morrison, Eva** - Please keep Ulla in your prayers. She is recovering from surgery and faces recovery from cancer. Her husband, Wieland, has Alzheimer's and is unable to care for her. May her family and friends continue to provide companionship and comfort.
- **Marron, Gail** – Remember Gail Marron in your prayers as she suffers with lower back pain.
- **Scaffidi, Barb** – Barb's Mom continues to struggle with cancer. Also, Barb's Sister-in-law, Sue, is fighting breast cancer. Please pray for their health and that their walks with Christ be strengthened.
- **Trask, Naomi** – Lift Naomi up in your prayers. We thank God that the test results show that Naomi's cancer has not returned. Also, Anna, her daughter-in-law's cousin's five-year-old has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Our Mission Statement

For God's glory, and by His power, we are a fellowship of sinners who worship God, study God's word, love all people, and share the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

HVPC Staff

Senior Pastor:

Dr. Dan Morrison | 267-847-0766 | pastor@HVPC.org

Assistant Pastor:

Dr. Thiago Bruno Sousa | 267-709-3931 | jamesbsousa81@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

Jordan Goretti | 215-947-5500 | office@HVPC.org

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Director of Traditional Music:

Susan Clark | 904-612-5072 | worship@HVPC.org

Minister of Celebrations:

Charlene Crawford | 267-279-9858 | GodlyDiva@aol.com

Head of School/VCS:

Dr. Chelsea Foster | 215-947-4581 | fosterc@vcskids.com

Director of Contemporary Music:

Jon Haines | 267-229-7160 | praise@HVPC.org

Director of Children's Ministry:

Naomi Trask | 215-630-6186 | TraskNaomi001@gmail.com

Sexton:

Doug Landersz | 267-625-7355 | sexton@hvpc.org

Bookkeeper:

Elizabeth Rozarto | 717-305-2093 | books@HVPC.org

HVPC Elders

George Hindley (*Administration*)

Jon Haines (*Administration*)

Matheus Schaper (*Outreach, Communications*)

Jordan Goretti (*Clerk of Session, Worship*)

Deb Jack (*Christian Education*)

Dr. Dan Morrison (*Teaching Elder*)

Dr. Thiago Bruno Sousa (*Teaching Elder*)

Ariadne Azevedo (*Assistant Treasurer*)

Cheryl Waring (*Nominating*)

HVPC Deacons

Josh Bruce (*Moderator, Ministry Through Giving*)

Ginny Aikens (*Transportation*)

Dwayne Cornish (*Food Bank*)

Crystal Goretti (*Secretary*)

Shari Hofstetter (*Treasurer*)

Joyce Codispoti (*Greeting*)

Anne Caulfield

Linda Cifelli (*Card Ministry*)

Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (www.EPC.org). The EPC motto is: "In Essentials, Unity. In Non-Essentials, Liberty. In All Things, Charity. Truth in Love." The EPC has set forth the following statements of what they believe in common.

Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation we affirm these additional Essentials of our faith:

- 1.** We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!
- 2.** Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
- 3.** The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
- 4.** Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
- 5.** The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.
- 6.** Jesus Christ will come again to the earth-personally, visibly, and bodily-to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)
- 7.** The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).



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