



Book of Judges

SERMON SERIES



Huntingdon Valley
Presbyterian Church

Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church
March 16, 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: Bruno Sousa, Naomi Trask, and Jordan Goretti.
- **Middle School: grades 6-8** – Upstairs, Room #305.
Teachers: Rosie Bruce, Eva Morrison, and Sarah Pannacker.
- **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**

How Long, oh Lord?

Choir

Words of Welcome

Jennie Gerardi

***Unison Call to Worship** *Psalm 147:1, 3-6 (NKJV)*

Jennie Gerardi

¹ Praise the LORD!

For *it* is good to sing praises to our God;
For *it* is pleasant, *and* praise is beautiful.

³ He heals the brokenhearted
And binds up their wounds.

⁴ He counts the number of the stars;
He calls them all by name.

⁵ Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding *is* infinite.

⁶ The LORD lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked down to the ground.

Opening Prayer

Jon Haines

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of
Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

CCLI Song #7127647 "King Of Kings" Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood,
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Call to Confession

Anthony Gerardi

Prayer of Confession

Anthony Gerardi

Almighty God,
You love us, but we do not love you fully.
You call, but we do not always listen.
We often walk away from neighbors in need,
Wrapped in our own concerns.
We often condone evil, hatred, warfare, and greed.
God of grace,
Help us to admit our sin,
So that as you move toward us in mercy,
We may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anthony Gerardi

First Reading

Judges 19 (ESV)

Anthony Gerardi

♪ *New Name Written Down in Glory

All

I was lost in shame
Could not get past my blame
'Til He called my name
I'm so glad He changed me
Darkness held me down but Jesus pulled me out
I'm no longer bound
I'm so glad He saved me

See I'm now a new creation in Christ
The old has gone there's new life
I live by faith not by sight

There is a new name written down in glory
And it's mine yes it's mine
I've met the author of my story
And He's mine yes He's mine

Sin had left me blind but Jesus opened my eyes
Now I see the light
I'm so glad He changed me
Now I'm walking free I've got the victory
See it's all over me
I'm so glad He changed me

I am who I am
Because the I AM tells me who I am
I am who I am
Because the I AM tells me who I am
(REPEAT)

And He's mine yes He's mine
And He's mine yes He's mine

***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

♪ Choral Anthem

It is not Death to Die

Choir

***♪ Doxology**

Doxology (Hymn #572) & Prayer

Dan Morrison

Second Reading

Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

Dan Morrison

Sermon

People Are Not Tools

Dan Morrison

Affirmation of Faith *Westminster Larger Catechism #134-136* **Dan Morrison**

Q. 134. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is: You shall not murder.

Q. 135. What does the sixth commandment require?

A. The sixth commandment requires us to do our best to make every lawful effort to preserve our own life and the lives of others. We do this by not thinking about or planning, by controlling our emotions, and by avoiding all opportunities, temptations, or actions that would promote or lead to the unjust taking of someone's life. In the pursuit of that goal, we must defend others from violence, patiently endure the afflictions from God's hand, have a quiet mind and a cheerful spirit, practice temperance in the way we eat, drink, take medications, sleep, work, and play. We should also harbor charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, and kindness. Our speech and behavior should be peaceful, mild, and courteous. We should be tolerant of others, be ready to be reconciled, patiently put up with and forgive injuries against us, and return good for evil. Finally, we should provide aid and comfort to those in distress as well as protect and defend the innocent.

Q. 136. What particular sins does the sixth commandment forbid?

A. The sixth commandment forbids: taking our own or anyone else's life, except in the pursuit of public justice, lawful war, or necessary defense; neglecting or withholding the necessary means for the preservation of life; sinful anger, hatred, envy, or desire for revenge; all excessive emotions and distracting anxieties; intemperate eating, drinking, working, or playing; speaking in a provocative way, oppressing, quarreling with, hitting, or wounding others, and anything else conducive to the destruction of anyone's life.

***♪ *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (Hymn #435)**

All

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

**♪ He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought (Hymn #439)*

All

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me!
Hi faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Not ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever my lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

***Benediction**

Bruno Sousa



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First Reading: Judges 19 (ESV)

¹ In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. ² And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months. ³ Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back. He had with him his servant and a couple of donkeys. And she brought him into her father's house. And when the girl's father saw him, he came with joy to meet him. ⁴ And his father-in-law, the girl's father, made him stay, and he remained with him three days. So they ate and drank and spent the night there. ⁵ And on the fourth day they arose early in the morning, and he prepared to go, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your heart with a morsel of bread, and after that you may go." ⁶ So the two of them sat and ate and drank together. And the girl's father said to the man, "Be pleased to spend the night, and let your heart be merry." ⁷ And when the man rose up to go, his father-in-law pressed him, till he spent the night there again. ⁸ And on the fifth day he arose early in the morning to depart. And the girl's father said, "Strengthen your heart and wait until the day declines." So they ate, both of them. ⁹ And when the man and his concubine and his servant rose up to depart, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Behold, now the day has waned toward evening. Please, spend the night. Behold, the day draws to its close. Lodge here and let your heart be merry, and tomorrow you shall arise early in the morning for your journey, and go home."

¹⁰ But the man would not spend the night. He rose up and departed and arrived opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). He had with him a couple of saddled donkeys, and his concubine was with him. ¹¹ When they were near Jebus, the day was nearly over, and the servant said to his master, "Come now, let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it." ¹² And his master said to him, "We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners, who do not belong to the people of Israel, but we will pass on to Gibeah." ¹³ And he said to his young man, "Come and let us draw near to one of these places and spend the night at Gibeah or at Ramah." ¹⁴ So they passed on and went their way. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, ¹⁵ and they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.

¹⁶ And behold, an old man was coming from his work in the field at evening. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in Gibeah. The men of the place were Benjaminites. ¹⁷ And he lifted up his eyes and saw the traveler in the open square of the city. And the old man said, "Where are you going? And where do you come from?" ¹⁸ And he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, from which I come. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to the house of the LORD, but no one has taken me into his house. ¹⁹ We have straw and feed for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and your female servant and the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything." ²⁰ And the old man said, "Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square." ²¹ So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him." ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. ²⁴ Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing." ²⁵ But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. ²⁶ And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light.

²⁷ And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. ²⁹ And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. ³⁰ And all who saw it said, "Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.



for:

Josh and Rosie Bruce Family

Visit this link or scan the QR Code:

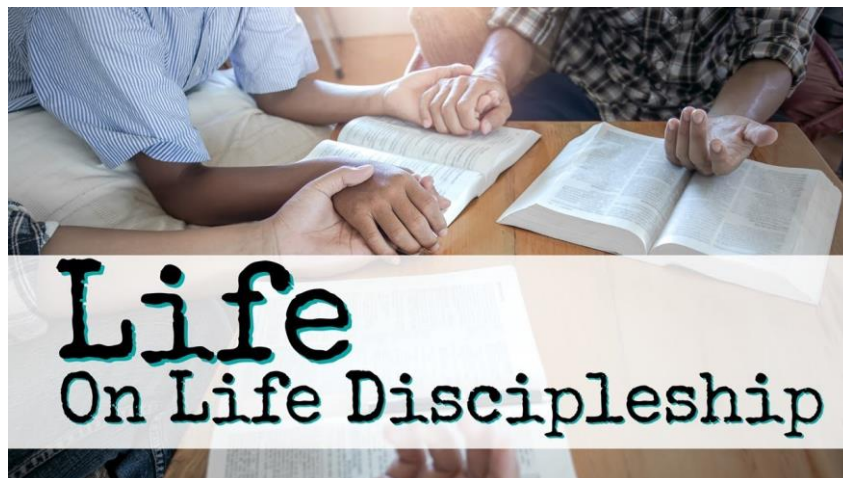
mealtrain.com/ow37m1



Let us support the Bruces as they care for their new baby son, Florian Bruce!



Our Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday, April 19, and we need your help to make it a success! We are collecting donations to ensure a fun and memorable event for our children and families. Please visit the donation board at the back of the church to select an item you would like to contribute. All donations are due by April 6th.



We have begun our Life on Life Discipleship Leader's seven week-program. It is divided into two groups: The **Green group** will next meet on March 11th at 7:30 p.m. in the Boyer. (the other dates for the **Green group** are: 03/25, 04/08, 04/22, 05/06, 05/20). The **Blue group** will next meet on March 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the Boyer (the other dates for the **Blue group** are: 03/29, 04/12, 04/26, 05/10, 05/24). Please email the Church Office to sign up.

Attendance and Giving at HVPC

Worship Attendance

Date	1 st Service	2 nd Service	FPC	Total
2/23	65	74	28	167
3/2	72	77	22	171
3/9	65	74	21	160

Giving

Date	1 st Service	2 nd Service	FPC	Total
2/23	\$1,795	\$4,312	\$277	\$6,384
3/2	\$1,321	\$3,131	\$142	\$4,594
3/9	\$947	\$5,933	\$388	\$7,268

Average giving needed per week to meet 2025 budget: \$7,876



We are looking for one or two people to assist in planning the VCS 50th Year Gala on May 4, 2025, at Philmont Country Club to celebrate “A Legacy of God’s Faithfulness, A Future of Kingdom Impact.” Some of the work will include the following:

1. Event Planning, Logistics, and Guest Experience
2. Sponsorship, Silent Auction, and Marketing
3. Design and Communications
4. Programming and Content
5. Post-event Follow-up and Donor Relations

Please consider volunteering to help. Contact the Church Office at 215-947-5500, office@hvpc.org.



Happy Birthday to those born in March!

Ana Carolina Pereira dos Reis, 4th
Dafne Goretti, 5th
John Taylor, 5th
Steven Jahss, 12th
Briella Haines, 13th
Mofe Oduneye, 13th
Karina Franca de Sousa Carvalho, 13th
Dorothy Young, 13th

Hernan Guaracao, 13th
Kenneth Daniel, 15th
George Hindley, 18th
Joyce Codispoti, 19th
Andre Luiz Rodrigues, 19th
Rich Good, 23rd
Allan Eduardo Silveira Machoviack, 27th

CHILLI COOK OFF



The Deacons' Annual Chili Cookoff will be Saturday, March 22nd from 5 to 7 p.m. We are very lenient about what counts as chili, so if you've got a creative take, we'd love to try it! Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary. Side dishes are also welcome. Even if you don't think you like chili you should come out; there's usually something for everyone! Bring a couple dollars to vote for your favorite dish. All money raised will go to support the Deacon's Ministry.

Small Groups

- **Anchored Bible Study** – Next meeting is March 28. The following are the dates for the group through June: March 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 March 24. 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 April 10. 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 March 17. This combination Zoom and in-person group meets the first three Mondays of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Charlene Crawford (godlydiva@aol.com; 267-279-9858).
- **Presbyterian Stogie Society** – Next meeting is March 24. 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 March 28. Contact the church office (office@hvpc.org; 215-947-5500).
- **Women's Bible Study** – Next meeting is April 2. 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 today, March 16, in the Church Lounge from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Cynthia Cornish (cynthiagranticornish@yahoo.com; 484-640-9856).

This Week of 3/16 @ HVPC

Connections Small Group	Today	1:00 p.m.	Contact Cynthia Cornish
Fellowship Presbyterian Church	Tonight	6:00 p.m.	Contact Bruno Sousa
Daughters of the King	Monday	7:30 p.m.	Contact Charlene Crawford
Session Meeting	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Church Office
Online Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Contact Shari Hofstetter
Women's Bible Study	Wednesday	12:45 p.m.	Contact Naomi Trask
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
Online Prayer Meeting (Missions)	Friday	5:00 p.m.	Contact Shari Hofstetter
ELL Program	Friday	7:00 p.m.	Contact Bruno Sousa
Small Group Leaders Meeting	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Contact Deb Jack

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

Food Bank Collection

Bring the food! For March, 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.

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).

- **Berkenstock, Caroline** – Caroline fell and broke her pelvis. Please keep her in prayer as she recovers.
- **Bruce, Josh and Rosie** – Praise God that their son, Florian Bruce, is a healthy, strong boy. A Meal Train has been set up on their behalf. The link and information are in this bulletin.
- **Bush, Carl** – Elizabeth Rozarto's brother, Carl Bush, needs prayer. He is recovering from retina surgery and was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer. He will receive radiation and chemo. Keep him in prayer as he faces illness.
- **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.
- **Goretti, Jordan and Crystal** – Praise God that Jordan and Crystal moved back into their house. The remediation work is completed, and they are now safe to return.
- **Holmes, Bert** – Lift Bert up in prayer. He has returned home and is recovering there. Praise God that he is improving.
- **James, Karen** – Praise God that Karen has recovered from her stroke. Continue to pray for continued procedures to prevent another stroke.
- **Jasinski, Millie** – Keep Millie in your prayers as she grieves the loss of her husband, Walt.
- **Johnson, Ethel** – Lift up Ethel Johnson in your prayers as she has been recovering from a stroke. She is recovering but has suffered memory loss. 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:

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

Associate Pastor:

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

Church Secretary:

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

Archivist:

Rebekah Bramer | 215-316-8291 | rnt19755@aol.com

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 | 215-264-6107 | books@HVPC.org

Treasurer:

Rich Good | 215-947-4051 | rgood407@comcast.net

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*)

Judy Scott

Maria Eliza Schaper

HVPC Deacons

Josh Bruce (*Moderator, Ministry Through Giving*)

Ginny Aikens (*Transportation*)

Dwayne Cornish (*Food Bank*)

Crystal Goretti (*Secretary*)

Shari Hofstetter (*Treasurer*)

Joyce Codispoli (*Greeting*)

Anne Caulfield (*Flowers*)

Linda Cifelli (*Card Ministry*)

Elaine Mendes

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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