STAY CONNECTED

Weekend Worship: "Your Word is a Lamp," with devotions from all five pastors. Join us for online worship this weekend as we share encouragement and strength from God’s Word, with special attention given to our graduates. Hopewell scholarship recipients will also be announced. On Saturday night (June 6) at 5:25 PM or on Sunday (June 7) at 9:30 AM, log into Facebook or the Hopewell YouTube page. Sing. Pray. Hear the word. Together, we are more!

All high school and college grads are invited to attend a drive-through celebration in the Hopewell parking lot on Sunday, June 7th between 1:00-1:30 PM to receive a special gift from some youth and young adult leaders. Come, check out the graduation lawn display, featuring the names of our Hopewell graduates.

In June and July, we’ll be introducing a new sermon series called Reel Stories. Real Truth: A Look at Faith Through Film. Each week, we’ll suggest a movie to watch—and then, in worship, we’ll use that film to illustrate biblical truth. Grab some popcorn and your Bible. We’re in for a great summer!

Next weekend, we’ll feature the film Just Mercy --- a true story about Harvard attorney Bryan Stevenson’s pursuit for justice and redemption on behalf of Walter McMillan, who was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit. Given the need for good conversations around racism, Warner Brothers just made this film free to watch on digital platforms like Amazon Prime. Watch it this week and explore its relevance to us as Christ’s disciples.

Additional opportunities to discuss racism are being developed and will be shared next weekend.
In the meantime, find strength, hope, and great conversation in these Online Study opportunities:

**Women’s Ministry’s Rooted Table** topical study in June will be PRESENCE! [Sign up](#) for a small group day and time that works best for you! Or email [Cheri Miller](mailto:cheri.miller@hopewellumc.org) for more information.

**Friday Morning** [Men of Faith](#) on Friday, June 5th at 6:30 AM with Allen Puy

**Saturday Morning** [Men of the Sabbath](#) on Saturday, June 6 at 8:30 AM (Password: 708891)

**Sunday Morning** [Bible Study](#) on Sunday, June 7 at 9:00 AM with Joe Lisowski (Password:702844)

The **Children's Ministries Team** invites you to check out this week’s **Sunday night ZOOM call** for kids. ZOOM details can be found on the [blog](#) site. Lessons and news can be found on the [Hopewell UMC Children's Ministries Facebook](#) page or under “News” on the [blog](#) site.

Even in the midst of COVID-19, our [Youth Ministry](#) leaders are discussing ways to gather students and serve the community. Stay tuned for more information about that. Next weekend, we say “thank you” to [Joel Bielefeldt](#). We invite students, leaders, and parents to participate in a **farewell drive-through** in Hopewell’s parking lot on June 14th at 1:00 PM. Please plan to arrive at 12:45 PM, so we can line up for the celebration. Feel free to decorate your cars, make signs, bring cards, honk your horns, and whatever else you can think of to thank Joel for his creative ministry among us.

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**CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE COMMUNITY**

This week's prayer focus: **For our 2020 Graduates.**

Please remember these folks in your prayers: Dennis Call; Ray Carr; Dan McVay; Donna Oeste; Denise Schroeder; Nancy Yarnall and family; Becky Bennington’s sister; Joan Stanford’s son.

Click [here](#) to post or receive prayer requests on [Hopewell’s e-prayer chain](#).
Prayer is always the most we can do — not the least we can do. But we can also put our hands and feet and voices to work. Here are some ways to love our neighbors this week:

Contribute to fund-raising efforts of Hopewell, so we can respond to the needs around us. Approximately $39,000 has been received so far! Because of your generous contributions, we’ve been able to provide food and rental assistance to many families. If you would like to make assistance contributions, please include “COVID” as a memo.

We have just received 10 gallons of liquid hand sanitizer from our Beyond the Walls ministry partner, Good Works. We’ll be packaging that in 2-ounce bottles and sharing that with our community. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jen Lisowski.

COVID-19 has reached our friends in South Africa. We would like to support Mosaic and Ma’s for Wellington by providing food security to the 300 families connected to their programs. Just $20 will help an entire family! Please donate today (using the “COVID-19 South Africa” field) to provide a special blessing for these families.

Hopewell is committed to providing three meals per month for Safe Harbor. You can help by donating pre-packaged food items or delivering the meals to Safe Harbor. To receive updates on what is needed for each meal, contact Karl Findeison.

Help address food insecurity in our community by growing produce for the Chester County Food Bank. Even if you don’t have land, try growing in a pot! For more information and a list of suggested produce, click here. Check out some tutorials here. Hopewell will have produce bags available and stay tuned for the food agencies that will be prepared to receive your fresh produce.

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GIVE TO THE MISSION

When you give to the movement of Hopewell Church, you are changing lives. Thank you for your faithful commitment toward resourcing God’s ministry and mission through Hopewell Church.

Give electronically here.
Give by Venmo at @Hopewell-UMC
Please include your full name in the comments section.

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to Hopewell United Methodist Church, 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.

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**STAFF UPDATE**

We welcome Jen Lisowski as our new Director of Lay Ministries. Having served on Hopewell's staff for nearly 16 years, Jen’s familiarity and experience with Hopewell ministries and members make her the ideal choice. Jen is excited to assume these responsibilities, to connect folks inside and outside the walls, and to support the mission and ministry of the Church.

We welcome Ally Ruch as our new Director of Congregational Care. To this new role, Ally brings a servant’s heart, an encouraging and nurturing spirit, and a deep desire to share the love of Jesus Christ. Under the blessing and mentorship of Pastor Vicki, she looks forward to developing deep relationships with Hopewell members, journeying with folks in tender times, and encouraging the Congregational Care Team to use their gifts. In addition, Ally will maintain her role in Children’s Ministries.

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**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Based on the red, yellow and green phases being implemented by Governor Wolf in response to COVID-19, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church shared helpful guidelines for churches as we move from one phase to another. Upon receiving those, we convened a small leadership team to interpret those guidelines and discern how best to use them at Hopewell.

Effective June 5th, Chester County plans to move to the “cautious” yellow phase. While that does not represent a return to our normal schedule or operations, it does allow us to reconvene small group meetings (25 people or less), under the following conditions. Small groups will seek meeting space and approval from Lynne Kreher in the church office.
Participants will be asked to …

- limit gatherings to 90 minutes
- observe a 6-ft distance between one another
- wear masks that adequately cover your nose and mouth
- refrain from direct contact as well eating and drinking
- use only the meeting space allocated
- wipe down surfaces immediately after use of space
- stay home if you have a temperature or do not feel well
- comply with the guidelines given

This gradual approach will be reassuring for some and disappointing for others. Using Jesus as our example, we’re working to address the needs of the whole congregation, while giving special consideration for those who are most vulnerable. That said, we will continue to worship virtually through the month of June, during which we will continue to develop our re-opening timeline and procedures.

Please be advised that the risk of COVID-19 transmission is still present at this time; therefore, it is important to consider that when making a decision about participation. If you may be at a higher risk, or if you feel uncomfortable with these guidelines, please choose to connect virtually through online platforms such as ZOOM.

Additionally, like most churches, we have decided not to continue with our traditional Vacation Bible School and Youth summer mission trips. Instead, we will develop new plans to engage children and youth, including small group gatherings that ensure safety during this unique time.

Please join Hopewell leadership in prayer as we discern the best way forward in the weeks ahead. Thank you for your faithful attendance in virtual worship, for your generous giving, and your creative service. Together, we are more!