



The Hebron Herald

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ON BEING CONNECTED TO YOU

BY: HENRY KNAPP

“You can pick your friends, but you can’t pick your family.” Given my family antics, I needed to be reminded of this fact from time to time—how often I longed to be able to pick (or “unpick”) my family! The idea behind the quote is that there are some things you can choose, and there are some things that are chosen for you. I can’t change who my parents are, who my siblings are, who my children are—by definition, I am connected to them.

Hebron is a church in the “Presbyterian tradition.” That means we believe certain things theologically and we act certain ways practically. On a theological level, to be “Presbyterian” means that we believe the Bible teaches certain key ideas—the sovereignty of God; the depravity of Sin; the predominance of Grace in salvation. We work hard each week to communicate, and worship according to these key biblical ideas. Practically, to be “Presbyterian” describes the way we function (as led by elders), and that we are inter-connected with other congregations.

This “connectional character” of our church is sometimes hard to grasp. Basically, this “inter-connected-ness” tries to capture the fullness of how God speaks in Scripture about His

people. Sometimes, the Bible uses the term, “Church,” to describe the local congregation. When Paul addresses letters to Ephesus or Philippi it is most likely he has in mind a single gathering of people to worship the Lord. There are other times, however, when the Bible speaks of “Church” as referring to all of God’s people, as when in Acts 15 the whole “Church” gathers together representatives from around the world—a “universal Church.” Finally, there are times where the word, “Church,” addresses the congregations in a local area—Paul’s letter to Galatians is a perfect example: many local gatherings all taken together.

Given the various ways “Church” is used, Hebron, as part of the Presbyterian tradition, has recognized (1) it is an individual congregation, (2) connections to other congregations, and (3) is part of the “universal Church.”

The “interconnectedness” of the Church means that we cannot always separate ourselves from other Christians. We all know what it is like to be embarrassed by what another Christian has done—there have been some epic failures of church leaders in the past years. As

much as I have wanted to distance myself from them, the same forgiveness (same God, same Christ, same Grace) that saves me is available for them as well. “There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:4-5). We are “connected” in Christ.

How this “interconnectedness” works out in everyday Christian life for the believer is a challenge. It is also a challenge to work it out as a congregation—How shall our “connectedness” be expressed? As part of the Presbyterian tradition, we want to be linked to other believers, other congregations, as a way of expressing that biblical picture of the universal Church, but how, with whom, and in what ways, is a challenge.

As you seek to express that “oneness” of faith with one another, please be praying for Hebron as a congregation as we seek the best way to reflect our participation in God’s universal Church. And, keep showing up! You are valued and wanted in our connection here at Hebron! All so that we might be... “To the Praise of His Glory.”

... we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. (2 Cor. 5:20)

Perhaps you're familiar with *The Chosen*, the TV series about Jesus. The Christmas special, *The Messengers*, has a particularly compelling scene. The shepherds hurried with great excitement and joy to see the Christ child. As they departed the manger one of them turned to Mary and Joseph saying, "People must know." Sounds like Jesus' charge to His disciples at the end of His earthly ministry (Matthew 28:18-20).

"Know about Him" and learn to come to "know Him." Experience Him as Lord and Savior and what that means personally and for humanity. A relationship of commitment and intimacy. Intentionally seeking the face of God in Him through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-14). He wants us to know Him (John 1:11-13). That was His prayer (John 17:3).

Hebron has disciplined many whose faith has manifested His desire. Several pastors or youth pastors were nurtured here: Tom Hughes (Christian Assembly, CA), Mike McDonald (Grace Anglican, FL), Dave Hendrickson (Longview Community, WA), Rob Krogh (Reclamation), Rob Gage (North Bridge), Dan Bender (Hebron) and Josh Brown (Bellefield). So too were those called to outreach ministries: Kelly & Dan Weightman (CYN), Carrie & Barrett Hendrickson (CYN/BYN, Kirk of the Pines), Andrew Churchill (Urban Impact), Rich Garland (TBB), Lauren Sable (World Vision, Israel), Bernadette Fisher (PRISM), Shannon & Sean Parsons (Lost and Found Pharmacy) and Tom Mitlo (Reclamation, TBB), as well as many Sunday school teachers, officers and congregants committed to "love one another," including those served by mission agencies supported by Hebron. All embracing "People must know."

May that continue. More so now than ever in a world where the reality of divine revelation is increasingly attacked and supplanted by the self-deceit of metaphysical subjectivism. For we claim it's Jesus through whom all reality was created (Colossians 1:16-17).

Dan Gallagher, Stewardship Team Member

What do you have that you did not receive? (1 Cor. 4:7)

Please prayerfully consider increasing your gifts by \$25/month in 2023 and another \$25/month in 2024 in support of Hebron's ministries.

<u>Operating Fund - July 2023</u>	
Year-to-Date Recurring Revenues*	\$ 520,270
Year-to-Date Expenses*	<u>(588,392)</u>
Actual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (68,122)
2023 Planned Transfers from Savings	<u>43,750</u>
Planned Surplus (Deficit)	\$ <u>(24,372)</u>

*Estimate pending completion of financial statements



Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, food and flowers during my recent recovery.
- Fran Tedrick

Hebron Church is a Presbyterian church. This means several things. First, it means that we are a connectional church; we believe that as individuals and as congregations, we are branches connected to Christ Jesus, the Vine (John 15); we are members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). As Presbyterians, our congregation is governed by a session of elders and is part of a local presbytery, which is a body comprised of elders from multiple local congregations. That presbytery is part of a synod, and that synod is connected to the General Assembly. We are connected to other believers in this Presbyterian denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). This kind of connection should be a good thing, the body of Christ, gifted by Him to build us all up to “the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

Secondly, being Presbyterian has traditionally meant that our faith is founded on the Scriptures and the teaching of the Scriptures as described in the Westminster Confession of Faith. If you haven't read the Westminster Confession, we commend it to your reading and study (<https://www.pcaac.org/bco/westminster-confession/>). It is an awesome and faithful testimony to our big God and to His amazing grace. We believe in a sovereign God, sin that pollutes us and separates us from God, and in the Gospel which contains an offer to repent and believe in God's sovereign provision for our sin problem in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. We understand these to be absolute truths, not relative truths, not just true for us, but true for all. This Gospel is God's righteous and gracious solution for man's alienation from Him.

We have all seen our culture move away from even the idea of absolute truth, from the existence of God, from the problem of sin and alienation from God and the need for a Savior. Our denomination has tried to respond to these cultural changes in many ways some of which have relaxed the view of the Scriptures' infallibility, shifted attention to some social and political issues, and altered criteria for ordaining pastors. Many of these changes are an attempt to include people with more varied views of Biblical interpretation and worldview. There is great concern that these changes have compromised the truth, compromised the Gospel message and the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. These changes have also altered the characteristics of those ordained to the teaching ministry in the PCUSA. Because of these things, Hebron has kept some distance from our presbytery for many years.

This has all contributed to our present crisis of difficulty recruiting pastoral staff. We could not find a suitable pastor within the PCUSA, and recruited Henry Knapp from outside the denomination. We could not find a suitable ordainable assistant pastor from within the PCUSA despite nearly 3 years of diligent searching. We are grateful that God has graciously provided Dan Bender as our Family Life Director, but the overall problem remains. Because of these issues, your Session is trying to look into the near future to discern what denominational situation will best help Hebron to find leadership to continue worshipping and serving a big God, a creator God, a saving God. Please pray with us and get involved in this process of discernment. Please commit yourselves to attend the sermon series on The Essentials of Our Faith and to the Sunday school meetings to focus on how these essential truths may guide us into the future.

Dave Mulock, Session member, on behalf of Session

September 10, we will begin a new 8-week sermon series entitled “**The Essentials of Our Faith**” and will offer corresponding Sunday school classes led by a team of Elders (with Jerry and Henry). These Sunday school classes will be held from 10:15-11:00 AM in both the Barclay Building and in Fellowship Hall. The regular Adult Sunday School format will return in November. Join us as we look at the following:

1. Scripture as Our Authority
2. The Triune God
3. The Atonement of Christ
4. The Person & Work of the Spirit
5. Salvation by Faith Alone
6. Purpose and Nature of the Church
7. The Christian Life
8. The Return of Christ



This year our theme centered around what it means to focus on Jesus. Our Memory verse for the whole week came from Hebrews 12:12 NIRV **“Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.”**

From our first night Family Celebration where parents and guardians were able to participate in Day 1 of programming all of the way through our closing, kids were given a very clear picture of what the Gospel is and how it impacts their everyday lives.

It takes a lot of work both up front and behind the scenes to make something like VBS a success. We are especially thankful for everyone who spent time, energy and gave toward helping this year be its very best. The investment in the next generation through VBS will have a continued impact as these young ones grow up and follow Jesus. We look forward to continuing this investment the whole year long.



This fall we are about to embark on a new adventure in Hebron Kids. For many years, we have had solid programming in the middle of the week for those in elementary grades, and this looks to build upon that legacy and carry it forward.

KidVenture is a high-energy discipleship program that engages kids where they are and helps them move closer to Jesus. This fall season will run for 12 weeks from September 20 through December 13. We will continue to host this program on Wednesday nights and **please be mindful of the new time - 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.** There will be times of

large group worship skills, small group activities, games, crafts and other special surprises along the way.

Wednesday night programs will have an even greater focus on ministering to the whole family this year. Youth group will meet at the same time as KidVenture, bringing discipleship programs to a variety of ages. There will also be a concurrent Bible study for adults (parents with children too young to participate in programs will be offered childcare as well.) We hope that this night will become an evening where people in all phases of life can grow closer to Jesus.

Surf City Recap

For several decades now Hebron has been in partnership through the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation through a summer camp experience called Surf City. Although the physical camp we use now is different than it was many years ago, the spirit remains the same—Gospel focused, incredibly fun and life impacting.

As you may or may not know, Surf City also plays a major role in my personal faith story. As a 6th grader back in (ahem) 1994, I went there for the first time, and it was there Jesus met me and redeemed me. It has continued to be a very special place for me throughout the years as I grew and matured in my faith. It was also the place I felt God call me into ministry. Even though it has been some years since I have been there, this year lived up to all of the expectations.

First and foremost, our speaker, Joe from Northway, did a fantastic job unpacking for us the necessity to be curious about Jesus. He did a great job all week long helping us move closer to Jesus.

We also got to spend a lot of time doing team-building type things; and even though at the end of the week we did not take home the Gold, the Blue Bobsled Brontosaurus crushed most of the main events including the fabled Surf City Regatta. I do not think there was a more definitive victory ever in the Regatta, and that is thanks to the awesome Lady Swimmers of Hebron churning through the lake with the boat behind them.

There was also time for more serious things as well. Every morning we would come together for a time of Bible study and small group questions. Every evening we would come together for a large group time of worship and activity and end with cabin time small groups. It was apparent that God was moving in the lives of our young people and helping them take steps forward in their faith.

I want to take a moment to personally thank all of the leaders who came and spent the week with our students. Walking at least 30+ miles, going from early morning to late at night is no small feat! But to also be present, caring and leading authentically well is more than I could ask for. To the team - Don't stop Believing! To those who gave money to help students get to camp, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know how much that means because I was one of those kids who needed financial assistance back in 1994.

God still moves in the sweet soft sands. We are totally looking forward to next year!



PEACHES IN FELLOWSHIP HALL RECAP

BY: WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Peaches in Fellowship Hall was held on July 19 with MarJean Miller bringing an encouraging message. We had a wonderful turnout, approximately 55-60 people, to our event. As always, we enjoyed all things peaches and fellowshiping with one another!



REALM—ARE YOU SIGNED UP?

BY: JODIE SKANDERSON

Over the summer, the church office transitioned to a new data management system, Realm. The staff have, and continue to, work hard to learn this system and all it offers. We are excited for the possibilities as we continue to dig into Realm.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for their Realm account and/or downloaded the companion app, Realm Connect. If you need an invitation to join Realm sent to you, please email Jodie at info@hebrononline.org. Resources and information are available at hebrononline.org/realm.



To view our current offerings of Small Group Bible Studies and/or to register, visit hebrononline.org/adults/small-group-bible-studies



The Mission and Outreach Team (M.O.T.) chose 4 ways for Hebron members to serve our local community this year. We had 10 members go to The Blessing Board (TBB), which is located in Shaler. Hebron has been a supporter of TBB since it began back in 2007 as a Christian-based “furniture bank” that supplies basic household items to those in need. This group sorted and packed items like dishes, bedding and other household items.

A second group traveled to a ball field on Troy Hill to work with Andrew Churchill of Urban Impact. The group of 8 people cleared brush from the side of the road by the ball park to enable people to park safely. Urban Impact works with inner-city kids to help them to know Jesus through various programs.

A house owned by PRISM was the third local mission chosen. A couple of groups totaling 11 people worked at this house to clean up the yard area and do some painting and other work inside. The house will be used to help PRISM minister to international students from our many colleges.

The final two groups cleaned up some of the local roadsides near Hebron Church. This is what we had done last year also, but it needs to be done on a regular basis and is much appreciated by local residents.

These all took place during the week of June 26 – July 1. Thanks to all who served, and we hope to see even more involvement next year.



Dear Hebron Church,

Bonjour from Bangui, capital city of the Central African Republic! I'm writing to express our heartfelt thanks to you all for sharing your pastor so generously with us. We ask the Lord to bless you abundantly for your time, your planning adjustments, your financial gifts to make it possible, and your prayers and encouragement which has supported them all along the way. We have been refreshed, encouraged and challenged in the Lord, and the translators and staff of the local organization as well! Bless you!

Together in Christ,

Elizabeth, SILCAR Director with Wycliffe

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***Fall Semester starts
September 19.***
(1st & 3rd Tuesday evenings at Hebron)

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All Moms is a ministry for women in the young years of parenting
(pregnancy through kindergarten)