



Hamblen Park

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

growing active followers of Jesus Christ and building his community

'Twas the Nightmare Before Christmas When the Dream Pulled Us Through

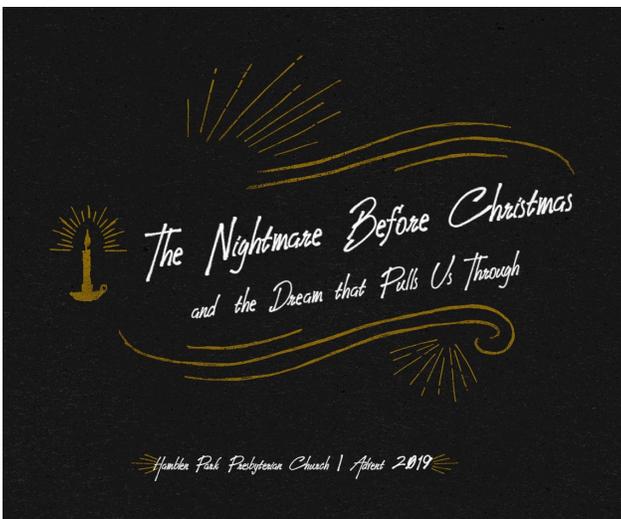
Dear Church,

Mary and Joseph were in a difficult situation. The circumstances of Mary's pregnancy were considered scandalous. Divorce was a strong possibility. The couple had to take a journey at an unsafe time. Mary gave birth in homelessness. The whole family fled for their lives and became refugees in Egypt because Herod wanted the child dead. Their story in Scripture is full of nightmares.

And yet, Scripture is also full of prophetic hopes and dreams. In the greatest prophetic fulfillment of all time, God entered Mary and Joseph's nightmarish situation, and through it, saved the whole world. God brought his love to them during their fearful challenges—and he brings his love to us. Christ is the dream-come-true who brings certain hope.

Join us this Advent for a sermon series that will teach how God loves us even when we are in a nightmare. What the prophets dreamt is now true: a Savior has been born to you!

Peace of Christ,
Steve



Inside this Issue

Christmas Eve Services	pg. 2
New Small Groups	pg. 3
Fellowship Events	pg. 5
Youth & Children	pg. 6

November 15, 2019
Volume 22, Issue 4

Grow Through Worship

Advent Worship Schedule

Advent worship in December is varied and lively! Join us at either 9 AM or 10:30 AM to hear the Word and be led in prayer and song by these special groups:

- **Dec. 1** – Second graders lead at the table and receive communion
- **Dec. 8** – Chancel Choir, Hallel, and Handbells lead music
- **Dec. 15** – Youth Band, Sacred Dance, Ordination of Officers
- **Dec. 22** – Large Instrumental Praise Ensemble
- **Dec. 29** – Hallel leads music; Seminary Student and Hamblen member Nathan Seppi is guest preacher

Christmas Eve Services

We will have three Christmas Eve services again this year. All services will include a gospel message, a Junior Sermon, and Kids' Zone for younger children, and candlelight "Silent Night."

- **3:30 and 5:00 PM services:** Lively jazz carols led by HPPC's own jazz combo.
- **8:00 PM service:** Classical service with communion, including music led by chancel choir, handbells, and strings.



Annual Congregational Meeting and Celebration Lunch!

Sunday, February 9

One family worship service at 9:30 AM with music led by our youth. Congregational meeting in sanctuary at 10:30 AM with children's program in Movie Room. Potluck in the Fellowship Hall to follow.

Advent Poinsettias

If you wish to order a poinsettia to grace the sanctuary during Advent, you may designate it "In Memory" or "In Honor" of a family member or friend. Envelopes are located at the Information Center and the cost is \$10 per poinsettia plant. Please fill them out and place them in the offering plate or on Kerrina's desk in the church office by **November 24th**.

Stewardship

Though the 2020 Stewardship Campaign technically ends November 24, if you have not filled out a pledge card it's not too late! If you would like to help support HPPC's mission of growing active followers of Jesus Christ and building his community, pick up a pledge packet from the Information Table or email Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org. Thank you!



Service of the Longest Night: A Solstice Service for Lament and Healing

Held on **Friday, December 20 at 7 PM**, The Service of the Longest Night is for those carrying heavy burdens this season and the people who wish to pray for them. It will be a service for lament and healing, held at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

Instrumental Praise Ensemble

The Instrumental Praise Ensemble is a group of volunteer and professional musicians who will play for worship services on **December 22nd**. The group is open to instrumental musicians, 7th grade and older, with at least two years experience. The music is not difficult and can be customized to fit your skills, so that everyone can contribute in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The full rehearsal and service schedule is below. If interested, please contact Dave Wakeley at dwakeley@comcast.net **as soon as possible**.

- **Dec. 8 11:45 AM Rehearsal in Chapel**
- **Dec. 15 11:45 AM Rehearsal in Chapel**
- **Dec. 21 10:00 AM Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary**
- **Dec. 22 8:00 AM Warm up/rehearsal/services in Sanctuary**

HPPC Advent Fair

HPPC's annual Advent Fair will be **November 24, 10-11 AM**. This celebration of the season is for all ages, with music themed crafts, music, games, and food around the Fellowship Hall following the single service at 9 AM. Please join us as we celebrate the season of Advent as a church

Grow Through Study

What Kind of a Group Interests YOU?

New Connect Groups are starting and we want everyone to find a place where they can connect with others, grow in their faith, and show Jesus' love to others. If you are interested in being a group member, letting a group meet in your home, leading a group, or just have an idea for a group, please contact Heather Notske at 509.385.0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org.

Are you interested in any of the groups listed below? Contact the leader for more information.

- Moms of Elementary School Kids--Meets once a month on Wednesday nights during Journey. Contact Maureen Correia for dates and times at 509-999-2812 or at maureen_arnp@hotmail.com.
- Bicycling Group--Meets once a month on Sundays. Contact Kathy Bruce for dates and times at mrs300zoom@hotmail.com or 509-710-9560.
- Mall Walkers--Meets weekly at the Valley Mall for brisk walking and coffee. Contact Karen Kelly at kjkelly547@gmail.com or 509-599-7518.
- Parents of Middle Schoolers--Meets first and third Mondays from 6-7:30 at HPPC beginning **Monday, January 3**. Contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or at heathern@hamblenpres.org.

Advent Bible Study & Prayer Group Sundays 8-8:45 AM In the Youth Room

During Advent, the Sunday Morning Prayer Group will be led in a different sacred reading practice each week by Bethy Crowe, our Director of Youth Ministries. Join us Sunday mornings in Advent to reflect on the scripture reading for that Sunday and lift up prayer requests from the congregation. Everyone is welcome to make this special preparation for Christmas. Need more information? Call Mary Mattie, 509.998.9646



Growing Through the Scriptures Class Sundays 9-10 AM In Room 4

This class is now studying prophecies in the book of Daniel, including Daniel in the lions' den, Daniel's visions (and detailed descriptions) of the four beasts, and other visions we expect to be related to the New Testament book of Revelation – which we plan to get to next.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM in the Skylight Room

Come join this interactive study of the stories of Genesis. The class is for men and women of all ages, and free childcare is available upon request. **In December, the class will meet on December 11 and 18 only.** Bring an item to contribute to our hygiene drive for Mission Community Outreach Center!

Upcoming Connect-Grow-Love Experience

As HPPC continues to explore how to be intentional about joining in God's mission to connect, grow, and love, we want to invite you to one of our upcoming three-week classes! This is a time to revisit and renew interest in how the Spirit is moving at HPPC and in your life. All are welcome, regardless of membership status or how long you have been attending. Our next classes will meet **Wednesday evenings, 5-7 PM, January 8, 15, and 22**. We will also have a lunchtime option, **Sundays, 11:45 AM-1:15 PM, February 23, March 1, and 8**. Register today at hamblenpres.org.

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast Tuesdays 7-8 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Join the Hamblen Park men for breakfast, a thought-provoking Bible study, prayer, and great fellowship every Tuesday throughout the year. *All men are welcome!* For more information, contact Jim Sipes at 590-6781.

Small Group Leader Training Sundays in January

Training for new small group leaders is tentatively planned for Sunday mornings in January. If you are interested in leading or co-leading a group, please contact Heather Norske at 509.385.0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org



Love through a Ministry

Guatemala Connections

We continue to grow our relationship with the people of Guatemala. A team of seven people from HPPC is travelling to Guatemala in late January through the first week of February.

We will go to Coban, Guatemala and visit La Libertad, the school where we sponsor a Libros para Ninos project. We will spend time with the elementary students and teachers, encouraging them and growing our relationship with them. We will also go to Monte Blanco, a remote community in the Polochic department of Guatemala. We visited this church and community in February 2019 and they invited us to return and worship with them. We are very excited to spend time with this congregation. We have been gradually developing a prayer partnership with them.

After the first week of the trip, some team members will return home. Others will stay on in Guatemala City, attending the Guatemalan Partnership Network Conference. We will spend three days with Guatemalan pastors and church members, mission co-workers in Guatemala and PC(USA) members that have partnerships with Guatemalan churches and presbytery. We will have time to share expertise, ask questions and learn what other congregations are doing around the country.

We go as your ambassadors and emissaries and look forward to reporting back to the congregation. Please keep us in your prayers for safe travels and expanding relationships.



Snow Patrol

When it snows, our parking lot gets plowed, but we depend on volunteers to keep our sidewalks and entryways safe. Would you be willing to help shovel? Join the Snow Patrol! Sign up for a day or a week at a time! Email Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org if you are interested!



Family Promise

Hamblen will be hosting Family Promise families **December 15-22**. This is an excellent service opportunity FOR ALL AGES as there are a number of ways you can participate. Sign-up at the Information Center, through the weekly email link, or call the church office at 448-2909. **Your help is needed!**

Make a Difference in Our Neighborhood This Advent Season

As Christmas draws near, the Neighborhood Outreach Committee asks for your help in caring for our community. HPPC will be helping to fill the pantry for families in need from Adams and Hamblen Elementary Schools. We will also be collecting toys and gifts for the Liberty Park Community Development Center Toy Store. You can contribute by donating financially, or pick up a flier in the Fellowship Hall for ideas of gifts and pantry items to donate. **All donations are due December 3.**

Donation boxes can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Karen Kelly at 509.599.7518 or Nancy Tsutakawa at 509.720.9884 for more information.

HPPC 2020 Bazaar and Craft Sale

Calling all seamstresses, quilters, crafters, bakers, and artists! HPPC will be holding a Bazaar/Craft Sale and Country Store on November 7, 2020. It's not too early to start preparing crafts and items to sell! If you are interested in helping run the sale or store, or have any questions, please contact Joy Newcomer at 496-1707 or Judith Brown at 599-8619.



Women's Christmas Tea Saturday, December 7, 1 PM

The annual Women's Christmas Event is coming up! Join us for fellowship, dessert, entertainment, and decorated tables, as well as the Deb Circle Raffle Drawing. Tickets for the Christmas Tea are \$8 each and can be purchased Sundays in the Fellowship Hall. Spaces are filling up, so be sure to reserve your spot today!

If you would like to host and decorate a table, contact Julie Steffan at juliesteffan@live.com or Janet Ray at rayjannie@comcast.net.



HPPC Library

Mike Aleman, a long time member of HPPC, has a new book of short stories, "Adios Mi Abuela and Other Stories," which will soon be coming to the Library. All are welcome to read some of his excellent stories in the copy on display in the library. Mike has also written a book of poems, called "The Chalk Dust Poet." Find this and other books to encourage you in your faith—remember, our library operates on the honor system, similar to "A Little Free Library."

If you have a book you would like to donate, consider donating to our Library!

Connect Through Fellowship

All-Church Soup Supper and "Christmas Pageant from Scratch"

Sunday, December 8, 5:30-7:30 PM

Join our whole church family for an evening of fellowship as we celebrate the Advent Season. First, we will join in the fellowship hall for a potluck soup supper. (Please bring a crockpot of soup and/or two dozen nut-free cookies!) Then, kids and grown-ups will prepare an impromptu Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary.

HPPC Book Club

Second Thursdays of the month, 2-3 PM

The Book Club will meet again **November 21, at 2 PM in Room 6**. Our November book discussion will center around Ken Onstot's most recent book "A Faith Worth Believing." We will take a break during December, and then meet on **January 16** to discuss "Astoria," by Peter Stark.

Both men and women are encouraged to join us for a lively and engaging discussion. Come and try out this small group!

Chili Cook-off and Bingo Night

Sunday, January 26, 5-7 PM

This time of fellowship, food, and fun will be **Sunday, January 26, 5-7 PM**. Bring your best chili to be entered in the cook-off! Prizes will be awarded for the most popular chilis. We will also be playing Bingo, with prizes for all ages! Mark your calendars today! Contact Janet Ray for more information at rayjannie@comcast.net





HPPC Youth Ministries

HPPC's youth ministries have had some exciting growth this Fall through our new middle school program, and we have many additional exciting things ahead! If you have any questions, please contact Bethy Crowe, Director of Youth Ministry, at 707.272.2240. or bethyc@hamblenpres.org

Caravan Middle School Ministry: Our new middle school ministry, Caravan, has been a great success! We have 35 students in 6th-8th grade, who gather on Monday evenings, 6-7:30 PM, to play, worship, spend time in small groups and Bible studies, eat food, and fellowship with one another.

Oasis High School Ministry: Hamblen's high school youth meet each Sunday evening 6-8:30 PM during the school year. Together we are asking the question, "What does Jesus have to do with ..." and each week we fill in the blank with a different aspect of life. It has been fun to find out new ways to invite Jesus into everyday life together.

Breakfast and Bible Study: Starting in December, every Tuesday morning we will have a high school breakfast and Bible study. This is a chance to meet halfway through the week, read God's Word, pray together, and munch on pastries. We meet **7:00 AM to 7:35 AM at Rockwood Bakery on 18th Ave.** There are carpools to Ferris and L.C. High schools afterwards.

Oasis Outward Bound: In this once a month ministry, HPPC youth work to build community in the greater Spokane area and among our own group through service. We often partner with Family Promise and are looking forward to doing so this Spring.

Mission Experience: All high school students, along with their parents, who are interested in participating in this year's mission experience are encouraged to come to the **meeting on December 8, at 11:45 AM.** Students will have the opportunity to commit to being on the mission team. This year we will be having the new and exciting experience of hosting a group of youth from Ganado, AZ! Together we will run HPPC's VBS, explore the PNW, and enjoy community between our two churches! This mission experience will be June 18-28, 2020, and will include an overnigher at the beginning and end.

Go Deep Confirmation Retreat: This Winter we will return to Tall Timber for a retreat in the snowy mountains **January 2 - 5.** This is a time set aside for our high schoolers to enjoy peace and quiet in nature with cross country skiing adventures, dive deep into God's Word with our confirmation curriculum, and spend time together playing, worshiping, hearing from speakers, and asking questions. **Go Deep registration forms are due December 15.**



Children's Ministries

Christmas Pageant from Scratch

Join us for this family favorite event that is sure to warm your heart! There are no auditions, no rehearsals and no opening night jitters. Simply show up and participate. The evening begins with the soup supper at 5:30 PM. Bring a neighbor, and a crock pot of your favorite soup or a nut-free dessert to share. After dinner, anyone that would like to take part in the pageant can grab their costume and help re-enact the story of Jesus' birth. All are welcome!

Children's Ministry Opportunities

The HPPC has many opportunities to serve in Children's Ministries! Sunday School teachers for the second half of the school year are still needed for both service times. Consider taking a classroom for a four-week session or take alternating weeks. Lesson plans are provided. Contact Joe Bruce, children's Ministry Director, at 509.385.0626 or joeb@hamblenpres.org. You can also sign up online at bit.ly/ChildrensMinistryHPPC





Caregiver Support

Below are some Tips for Caregivers (both at-home caregivers and those who care from a distance) taken from page 23 of *Because We Care - A Guide for People Who Care*.

Caregiving can be a difficult, as well as rewarding, undertaking. Sometimes, we are so deeply concerned about the well-being of the person for whom we are caring, that we forget our own needs. We “burn the candle at both ends” and become exhausted, emotionally stressed, or ill, compromising our own quality of life and our ability to care for our family member. We owe it to ourselves and to our families to also maintain our own physical and emotional health by:

1. Getting sufficient sleep
2. Eating a healthy diet
3. Exercising and staying physically fit
4. Choosing appropriate health care professionals and having periodic health checkups
5. Not abusing alcohol and drugs
6. Spending social time with family and friends
7. Pursuing our own interests
8. Seeking support from family, friends, professionals, or your religious advisor or joining peer support groups
9. Using appropriate in-home and community-based services.

Please contact Pastor Brad if you would like more information about the Caregiver Support Ministry of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church. Asking for support can be an important step in successful caregiving.

Senior Adult Ministry

The Spouse Grief Support Group

This group meets monthly to provide resources, support, and a positive atmosphere for those who have experienced the death of a spouse. The group is facilitated by Pastor Brad and is open to non-church people as well as church members. Please tell anyone you know who has experienced the death of a spouse about this group. No reservations are needed for this meeting.

- The December meeting will be Monday, December 16, 10-11:15 AM in Room 6.
- The January meeting will be Monday, January 27, 10-11:15 AM in Room 6. (Note: This is one week later than usual due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.)

Top of the Hill Friends

Fellowship, Support, and Education
For the Retirement Years

December 10 – Lunch and Irving Berlin Music

Our Top of the Hill Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday, December 10, 11:45-1:15, in the Skylight Room. After a delicious lunch we will enjoy a wonderful music program by Jeannie Wright and her two friends John and Glenn. This piano and vocal trio will present a program of Irving Berlin music and Christmas music. The suggested donation for lunch is \$5. Please make a reservation by December 5. The sign-up sheet will be available in the church entry area by early December or you can call the church office (448-2909).

January 14 – The 1st Top of the Hill Lunch of the New Year

The first Top of the Hill Lunch of 2020 will be on Tuesday, January 14, 11:45-1:15. The program will be “Traveling to Ireland” with speaker Jaime Seaburg.



Address Service Requested
4102 SOUTH CRESTLINE
SPOKANE WA 99203-4209

Winter, 2019

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE, WA
PERMIT NO. 731

Cup of Cool Water

I would like to thank all of you who so graciously make and deliver sack lunches for Cup of Cool Water throughout the year. It makes my heart glad to know we are feeding the homeless young adults. Cup of Cool Water will also accept lightly used warm clothing for young adults, ages 18+. We deliver the lunches on the first Monday of each month, and clothing donations can be left at the church office.

God Bless you for helping!

Directory

Thank you to everyone who had their pictures taken for the photo directory! We will have printed copies of the photo directory very soon! We will also have a contact information directory that will be available at the same time. **If you would like to opt-out of having your home address, phone number, and email printed, please let Heather Notske know at heathern@hamblenpres.org or 509-385-0627 by December 1.** Thank you for your patience!

Thank You from the Deb Circle

Thank you to everyone who so abundantly shared in the "Hats and Gloves for Grade School Kids" project to keep grade-school children's heads and hands warm this winter. At our final count, we received 513 sets of hats and gloves which were distributed on November 5th to 19 area grade schools!

Thank you all and God Bless!