



Dear Church Family,

I wanted to share some encouraging news and celebrate with you our commitment to mission.

The new normal is shaping up. In-person worship attendance has grown about 200% from the first day we “returned,” and online participation has remained steady. It is difficult to evaluate online participation, but we may now be involving more people in worship than we did before the pandemic began. This becomes clear when we look at both in-person and online engagement. Youth groups are growing again, and children’s ministry is experiencing growth that exceeds pre-pandemic numbers. In fact, the midweek children’s program just hosted 35 kids last week (as I write this) and gathered their parents for dinner. We estimate that 300 children (or as many as 700 to 800 people in total) were involved in the Trunk-or-Treat neighborhood event. We’re happy to see that newcomers and first-time visitors are once again gracing our worship services. Bible studies and small groups are slowly getting back into the swing of things. I also hope we’ll soon be more involved with our ministry partners like Family Promise, Liberty Park Community Development Center, Mission Community Outreach Center, and more.

We continue to embrace safe practices. We wear masks. We sanitize surfaces. Also, as your pastor, I am encouraging everyone to get vaccinated if you can (I shared recently in worship why I believe vaccination is an act of discipleship. It is also an act of compassion to those who are not able to be vaccinated--like children and people with health limitations). Practices like these fit solidly with Christian values that put others before ourselves. These values come from biblical principles that can be uncomfortable, but as a church community we are all-in with loving our neighbors through these and other safeguards.

Numbers and safe practices are encouraging, but the story of our church is something very different right now. We have always understood that *growing active followers of Jesus Christ and building his community* is our most important mission. The pandemic, however, has even increased the conviction that our mission matters. That is because Jesus Christ matters most, regardless of numbers or programs. We are not focused on gathering crowds or caring for our building or piling on new programs. We are all about loving Jesus Christ and living out his mission (that is the point of our recent sermon series called *This Matters*).

May I invite you to rethink your involvement with Hamblen Church? Take a moment to consider what is important to you about our church community. It may be friendships, service, learning, having fun, or something else. We’re a faithful community with a lot going on (and all of those things are great). However, now, in the new normal, we can refocus on what matters most. Consider these two questions:

1. How can your relationship with Hamblen Church be even more about your relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. How can being part of the Body of Christ at Hamblen equip you as a follower of Jesus?

This is what it is all about. We’re not interested in just being a great church--even though I think we are. We are all about living for Jesus and living out his mission. I hope that is what the church is all about for you. If you’d like to take steps to make your church connection more meaningful to your discipleship, I’d love to chat. You can also talk to an elder, deacon, a small group leader, or a staff member.

This new normal can be a time for each of us to make Jesus Christ even more central to our experience of Hamblen Church.

Peace in Christ,

Turn the Page to Discover
Ways to Celebrate the
Holidays with Us.....

Retro Christmas

Let the old story of
Christmas make you new.

Advent Sermon Series
November 28 to December 19
Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church

Have A Retro-Christmas this Advent

We hear the story of Christmas every year. Sometimes we get so used to hearing it that we might begin to ignore the message. Other times we let the noise of the holidays drown out the amazing reality of Christmas. This year, learn how to prepare your heart and your life so that you will hear the Christmas story anew and be transformed by it. The Christmas scriptures show us how. Join us for our Advent sermon series on aspects of the biblical narrative that teach us how to be transformed every time we consider the truth of Christmas. We'll have a Retro-Christmas and hear it just like we heard it the first time. A merry Retro-Christmas to you!

STRANGE AND WONDERFUL

CHRISTMAS EVE AT HAMBLEN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Services

The news of Christmas is not just cozy and comfortable, it is strange and wonderful and can be heard anew on Christmas Eve. Bring your friends and family to experience this Christmas like it is the first Christmas.

- **Friday, December 24:** in person & streamed live
- **4:00 PM:** family friendly service with candle lighting & Christmas carols lead by a jazz combo
- **8:00 PM:** traditional service with candle lighting, communion, Chancel Choir, & a string quartet

.....WITH US

Longest Night Service

- **Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 PM**
- In-person & streamed live
- Guest musician: cellist Mika Hood
- A service of prayer, candle lighting, liturgy, and music for those who struggle in this season with grief, pain, or loneliness



How You Can Help Enhance Worship this Advent and in the New Year

Advent and Christmas Decorations

We are excited to have in-person worship again this year during Advent and Christmas! If you are interested in helping beautify the sanctuary for this season, please contact Kyla at 509-385-0624 or kylaf@hamblenpres.org.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

You can sign up at hamblenpres.org/signup

- **Ushers** - We are in need of volunteer ushers for Sunday morning worship.
- **Communion Helpers** - This job is very simple while we are using factory-sealed packets, but we still need volunteers one Sunday a month to prepare the elements and clean up afterward.

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 \$15 per poinsettia plant. Please fill out the information and place the envelopes in the offering plate or on the secretary's desk in the church office by **November 28th**. If you are worshipping with us online, you can also place your order by calling the church office at 509-448-2909.

2022 Sanctuary Flowers

A poster is now available on a bulletin board in the east hallway to sign up for providing flowers for worship services. Instructions can be found next to the poster for those who are interested in helping to add beauty to the sanctuary or would like to honor someone by providing flowers in memory of a loved one. If you are currently attending services from home but would still like to provide flowers, you can call the church office at 509-385-0619. Thank you!

NEWS.....

Cozy Christmas

Women ages high school and up are invited to join us for a cozy Christmas on **Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a short devotional, optional Christmas crafts, delicious finger foods, a hot chocolate bar, and carol singing. Childcare for ages 11 and under will be provided. Wear your jammies, bring a friend, and enjoy a time to take a deep breath in the midst of the busy holiday season.

Top of the Hill Returns: Holiday Music

All ages are welcome to join us on **Tuesday, December 7, from 11:30-12:30** in the sanctuary for a holiday sing-a-long with music by Jeannie Wright and friends. No need to RSVP, just come and get yourself into the Christmas spirit! We will NOT be serving lunch this time, hopefully we will be able to have a meal together soon.

Office Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in helping out in the office on a weekly or as-needed basis? We are looking for a few people who would be willing to:

- Answer the phones for an hour or two at a time
- Help with occasional mailings
- Shop for kitchen supplies once a month
- Straighten up the pew racks in the sanctuary once a week

If any of these opportunities sound fun to you, contact Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org or 509-385-0627.

Snow Patrol

It's that time again! We depend on volunteers to snow blow our sidewalks around the building and on Crestline/Thurston/Martin Streets to provide safe paths in the wintertime. We have a Snow Patrol calendar where people sign up in advance to clear the walks if it snows that day. If you are interested, please contact Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org or 509-385-0627. We provide the snowblower, shovels, and ice melt. Training provided if desired (main parking lots are plowed by a company and are NOT part of this job).



.....TO NOTE

Congregational Meeting

Please join us for a brief congregational meeting on **December 12**, immediately following the worship service. We will elect elders, deacons, and (possibly) those who serve on special committees. We will also approve the pastor's housing allowance for 2022. We are not planning an online option for the meeting. (Note: At this meeting, we will not yet be looking at options for calling an Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach. That will occur at our annual meeting in late January or early February. We'd like to wait for the results of the current stewardship campaign before bringing any questions before the congregation.)

Please Pray for our Discernment and for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

A commission of session made up of elders JoAnn Grennell, Kyle Ham, Mike Aleman, Steve Watts, and Kay Steinhilber are meeting and inviting people to consider being nominated to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). We hope to present a slate of names to the congregation at our annual meeting in late January or early February. At that meeting the congregation may decide whether or not to call an Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach and whether or not to elect an APNC. There are many factors for a congregation to consider. Our financial resources are, of course, one of those factors, and that will be discussed at the congregational meeting. There are also other options in bringing on a new associate pastor that can be discerned by a church session.

An APNC is basically a search team. They will connect with prospective candidates and then present a nominee to the congregation for a final vote. The work of the APNC can include reading candidate materials, conducting interviews, performing background checks, traveling for church visitations, and hosting candidates for guest weekends and neutral pulpit visits.

Please pray with us now as we begin discerning and look forward to possibly meeting our next Associate Pastor!

(Also, please be aware that the regular church nominating committee is at work right now. This team finds people to nominate for service as elders and deacons. They also fill some administrative roles. This means there are two "nominating" committees at work right now.)

No More Sign-In Lines!

The Pew Pads are back! We will again be passing the Pew Pads while seated comfortably in the Sanctuary. There is no need to register online nor stand in line to sign in on Sunday morning. See you there!

Year-End Deadlines

If you volunteer for ministry, please note that any outstanding receipts that you would like to be reimbursed for, must be turned in to the office by noon on **December 31st**. Any contributions that you would like included on your 2021 giving statement must also be turned in to the office at that time OR be postmarked by December 31st.

GROW WITH A GROUP

Small Groups at HPPC

Watch the Sunday bulletin, the weekly e-news, and the January newsletter for details about upcoming groups and classes. There will be several groups that will explore the 40 Days of Community Devotional, and something special for Lent! If you would like to be part of a group experience, please contact Heather at 509-385-0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org.

We Need God
and We Need
Each Other

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Advent Bible Study (December 1, 8, 15, 22)

Light Each Candle: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love in the Book of Isaiah

As we wait for the birth of Jesus and look forward to his return, we light the Advent candles. We remember the hope, peace, joy, and love God gives us in Jesus. During Advent, Wednesday morning Bible study will look at messages of hope, peace, joy, and love in the book of Isaiah. Join us at 9:30 AM in the Skylight Room.

Winter Bible Study (January 5, 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23)

Boundless Grace at the Boundaries:

Jesus' Mission on the Margins in the Gospel of Luke

Throughout the gospel of Luke we see Jesus teaching, healing, and serving those his society cast aside and ignored. Folks on the margins became bearers of Jesus' reign as they embraced his truth and forgiveness. This winter we'll go to the margins with Jesus and explore ways God is calling and sending us to unexpected people and places. Join us Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Skylight Room.

Options for Adult Fellowship & Study

All groups are open to anyone who would like to join in.

Drop-ins are always welcome, so if you miss a week, just jump back in next week!

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study**--Sunday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM. Contact Bob Nofsinger at nofsingerbm@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link and more information.
- **Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**--In Person & on Zoom, Tuesday mornings, at 7:30 AM. If you are interested in being part of this group or have questions, contact Jim Sipes at grandpanow4@aol.com. To get a Zoom link, email joeb@hamblenpres.org.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**-- In person, Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 AM--Led by Pastor Jennie. Contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org for more information.
- **HPPC Book Club**—Third Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 PM. Contact Betty Thompson at bettythomps@aol.com to receive a Zoom link and more information.
- **Top of the Hill**—Meets monthly to hear presentations on various topics of interest. Contact Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org for more information.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Tis the Season – for the Liberty Park Community Development Center Toy Store

As we count our blessings throughout the Thanksgiving season, we turn our attention to the Liberty Park Community Development Center's (LPCDC) Toy Store scheduled for December 10th. Your continued support of the Neighborhood Outreach programs is a true blessing to our church, as well as those we support.

A Sign-up Genius is available at bit.ly/HPPCToyStore2021 for you to purchase toys for the Community Center. To participate, open the Sign-up Genius for the Toy Store, choose specific items to purchase, and drop them off (unwrapped) in the 'Toy Box' in the church foyer anytime the church doors are open. An evening drop off is available on Wednesday, December 1, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Monetary donations designated for the 'Toy Store' are also welcome. Donations will be accepted through **Monday, December 6th**. Thank you for considering and participating in this ministry.

LPCDC serves low-income families in the Perry District of Spokane. They provide a "shop" where parents can select toys for a few dollars each to give to their children for Christmas. HPPC helps stock their toy store.

HPPC Toy & Necessity Drive

The Hamblen Park Preschool and children's ministries are joining together to collect items to be given to children at Mission Community Outreach Center for Christmas. Please bring items listed below to the preschool or Joe Bruce's office no later than **December 12**. Make sure any of the donated items will fit inside a shoebox. Thank you for your love shared with the kids of Mission Community Outreach Center!

- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Crayons & Coloring Books
- Toys (for Kids in Preschool through 5th Grade)
- Kids' Hygiene Items & Face Masks for School
- Hairbrushes/Combs
- Gloves
- Socks
- Books

Children's Christmas Joy Drive

Through **Wednesday, December 1**, HPPC is collecting new clothing for kids infant to 6th grade for the Mission Community Outreach Center's "Children's Christmas Joy Drive." Your help in making this a joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated. Drop off donations in the blue barrel located at the Information Center in the church entry hall.

New Items Needed:

- Jeans & Pants
- Shirts (Long Sleeve Preferred)
- Girls & Boys Underwear
- Winter Gloves

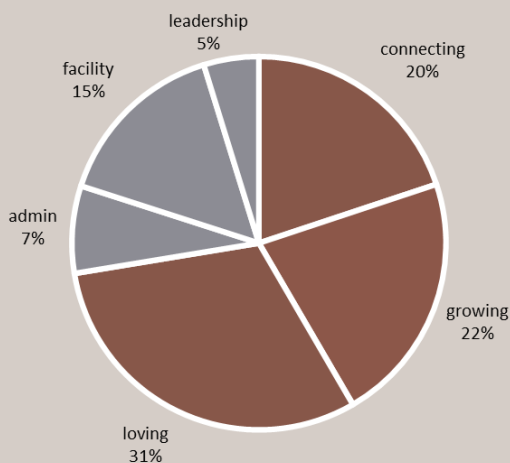


Mission Community
Outreach Center
Reaching Out With Care

STEWARDSHIP 2022

THIS MATTERS

What is Worth Our Time, Talent, & Treasure?



Vision for 2022 Financial Resources

The mission of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church is to *grow active followers of Jesus Christ and build his community*. We do this by (1) **connecting** with one another through care, fellowship, and invitation; (2) **growing** closer to Jesus Christ through worship, giving, and groups; and (3) **loving** others through neighborhood engagement and ministry partnerships. These ministries are supported by **administrative**, **leadership** and physical resources (**facility**).

Your Pledge

You should have already received a pledge card in another mailing or you may find it at hamblenpres.org/pledge. When you return your pledge card this year, we ask that you make several commitments:

First, prayerfully decide in advance to support the ministry of Hamblen Church through regular giving.

Second, commit to faithful attendance in worship whether that is in person or online.

Third, talk with a staff person to discern ways to serve in ministry.

Finally, consider including a legacy gift to the church in your will by visiting hamblenpres.org/legacy.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with making a pledge, please contact Heather Notske at heathern@hamblenpres.org or 509-385-0627.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Youth Groups

We're full-swinging into our middle and high school ministries! We're continuing to meet weekly to hangout, play games, and dive deeper in faith together.

CARAVAN (6th-8th Graders):

Mondays, 6:00-7:30 PM

OASIS (9th-12th Graders)

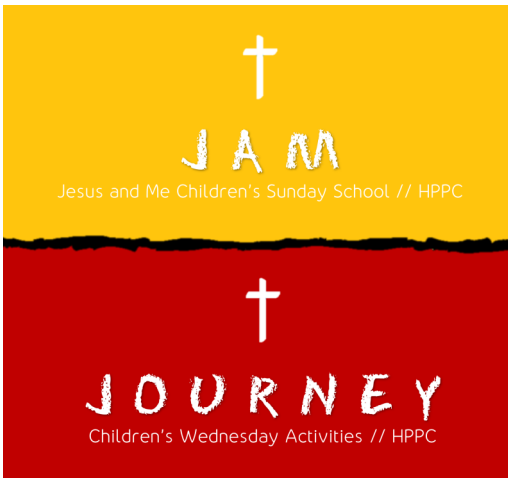
Sundays, 6:00-8:00 PM

Oasis Connect Retreat

January 7th-9th we'll be offering a winter retreat at Tall Timber for our high schoolers. This will be a chance for us to spend intentional time away from our normal lives and dive into what it really means and looks like to be in Christian community. We'll also have a chance to go snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, play games, and all around have a good time. **Application deadline is November 28th.**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



J.A.M. Sunday School

Jesus And Me (J.A.M.) Sunday School continues during worship on Sunday mornings. This year, we are learning about heroes from the Bible. Older kids utilize the Rotation-Model classroom. Each week, students move to different classrooms using food, games, movies, storytelling, and science to learn about the current Bible character. First grade and under are in a self-contained classroom each week as they learn about a new Bible hero.

Journey

Journey, our Wednesday evening program for 1st through 5th grades, continues to be very popular with Bible study, games, wonderful meals, and VBS-style music. Please bring a friend and join us 5:00 to 7:00 PM.



Martin Luther King Holiday Day Camp

Monday, January 17, 2022 is Martin Luther King Day. Many families with elementary age children do not have childcare that day. Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church will be providing a FREE day camp on **January 17, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** for Kindergarten through 5th-grade students.

There will be games, music, a movie, and Bible time. Participants need to bring a bagged lunch for our noon meal together. If you would like to help with this important ministry to families, contact HPPC Director of Children's Ministries Joe Bruce at 509-385-0626 or joeb@hamblenpres.org.

**Masks are required
for all Children's Ministry
programs at HPPC.**

MULTIGENERATIONAL FUN

Advent Fair/Christmas Pageant from Scratch

For the 2021 Advent season, prepare for two favorites in a new format. This year, the Advent Fair and Christmas Pageant from Scratch happen the same evening, **December 5, beginning at 6:00 PM**. Everyone is invited to take part in this annual tradition. Since we are still in Covid times, there will not be a meal served this year.

Join us at 6 PM for an opportunity to create retro Advent projects in the Fellowship Hall and Skylight Room. Some of the projects can be used in your home during the Advent season. Other projects will be given to organizations supporting the homeless in Spokane.

Immediately following the Advent Fair, we will present the annual favorite, The Christmas Pageant from Scratch. Anyone interested in participating will be invited to go to different rooms within the church to dress up as their most loved Christmas character. The Christmas Pageant From Scratch happens spontaneously with no rehearsal. The performance is unpredictably fun. Join us, one and all for an old favorite!

Christ Kitchen will have their great products for sale during the Advent Fair and Christmas Pageant. These items make great Christmas gifts and your purchase helps support a wonderful ministry in Spokane.



Dodgeball Night at HPPC

Moms and dads, do you want a chance to play your kids in a dodgeball game and meet other families at Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church at the same time? Hey, don't have kids at home, join us anyway! This can be a great intergenerational event. **Friday, February 18, 7:00 to 9:00 PM** is your opportunity. We will have two rooms of dodgeball going. Did we mention there will also be dessert? If you have food allergies, please let Joe know and he will have a dessert available.

If you would like to participate in this family event, email HPPC Director of Children's Ministries Joe Bruce at jobe@hamblenpres.org with your RSVP. We always use soft spongy balls for dodgeball.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Fair &
Christmas Pageant from Scratch
December 5, 6 PM

Top of the Hill Music Program
December 7, 11:30 AM

Cozy Christmas Women's Event
December 10, 10 AM

Congregational Meeting
December 12, 10 AM

Longest Night Service
December 15, 7 PM

Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 4 PM & 8 PM

Oasis Connect Retreat
January 7th-9th

MLK Day Camp
January 17, 9am-3pm

Dodgeball Night
February 18, 7 PM