

A Note from Pastor Steve

Dear Friends in Christ,

Join us for a “Childlike Lent.”

Christians must have more than “childish” faith, but Jesus calls us to be “childlike” in our faith. “Become as little children,” Jesus says, in order to “enter the Kingdom of God.” He continues, “Whoever takes the lowly position of [a] child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

At Hamblen Church we take teaching kids very seriously, but kids are powerful teachers too. This Lent will be a “two-way street” of faith formation with kids AND adults. We will learn alongside children with a child-first Lenten devotional and a sermon series focused on the same bible passages the kids will be learning. Children have fresh eyes, an openness to trust, a humility to learn, and generous love to offer. Embracing these childlike ways can transform our faith and lives this Lent.

Watch your mail for the shared devotional or pick one up at the church. Adults and children even get stickers!

We will also be celebrating the sacrament of communion every Sunday and doing it early enough in the service to have communion with the children. At the parent’s choice, children may receive a blessing in lieu of communion, but we will also have a communion teaching time for kids of any age following the service on March 2.

Blessings,

Steve



A Childlike Lent
March 5 - April 17

WORSHIP WITH US DURING LENT

2025 A Childlike Lent

March 5, Ash Wednesday, 7 PM

Genesis 1: 26-31

March 9, First Sunday of Lent

True Greatness

Matthew 18: 1-5 and Matthew 19: 13-15

March 16, Second Sunday of Lent

The First Commandment

Mark 12: 28-34

March 23, Third Sunday of Lent

From Every Nation

Revelation 7: 9-10

March 30, Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Wedding Banquet

Matthew 22: 1-14

April 6, Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 22: 1-14

April 13, Palm Sunday

Hosanna

John 12: 12-15

April 18, Good Friday, 7 PM

John 19: 16-19 and 28-30

April 20, Easter

Do Not Be Afraid

Matthew 28: 5-10 and 16-20

All services at 9:30 AM unless otherwise noted.

Services are also live streamed for your convenience at hamblenpres.org/live-stream.

All are welcome!

A Childlike Lent

We are all exploring what it means to be “childlike” this Lent, and we’re excited! The staff has been dreaming up lots of ways for us to show up authentically and learn from children and families. It gives opportunities for joy, wonder, and connection for us all!

Each Sunday, instead of a Children’s Sermon, we will be exploring Bible skits with kids, acting them out in an impromptu Christmas-pageant-style!

Join the Chancel Choir for Lent!

Do you love to sing? Have you ever thought about joining the choir but aren’t sure if it’s the right fit for you? We encourage you to try it out this Lent? Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM in the sanctuary, and we gather at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings (30 mins prior to worship). Childcare is available upon request. Contact Kyla Fague at 509-270-6848 or kylaf@hamblenpres.org for more info or if you are interested in joining this great community. We hope to see you



Our Lenten devotionals will be mailed to everyone very soon! Don't forget to pick up your crown!

WORSHIP WITH US DURING LENT

Ash Wednesday Service – March 5 at 7 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent. As Christians, it helps us to focus our hearts on prayer and repentance. Lent prepares us for an intentional season of reflection on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice and resurrection.

A focal point of the service will be the imposition of ashes. The service features music from, and inspired by, the monastic community of Taizé, France. Taizé is a contemplative form of worship that incorporates sung and chanted prayers, liturgical readings, meditation and silence. The music is simple and repetitive, leaving room for prayer and reflection.

Palm Sunday Service—April 13 at 9:30 AM

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, where he is heralded as Savior and King. The service will be filled with festive music by our choir, handbells, and band, as we celebrate the beginning of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Stations, including Communion— April 17 from 6-8 PM

On Maundy Thursday Jesus shared his last meal with the disciples. He gave them a new commandment: Love one another. He shocked them by washing their feet, and in predicting his betrayal. We gather on this evening to reflect on these experiences, to take Communion, and to pray.

Several unique prayer stations will be available in the church for you to weave through, as you reflect and pray, at your own pace and in whatever order you choose. Imagine yourself as one of the twelve disciples, invited to spend the evening with Jesus.

Good Friday Service – April 18 at 7 PM

Our Good Friday service is a solemn reflection on Holy Week as we walk with Jesus to the cross. We will hear about Jesus' betrayal and arrest, his suffering and crucifixion, the ultimate sacrifice made by God for us and for our salvation. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Easter Sunday Services—April 20 at 9 & 10:30 AM (Easter Egg Hunt at 10 AM)

Worship Services April 20 at 9:00 and 10:30 AM Join us as we celebrate God's victory over sin and death through Christ's resurrection. The two services will be identical, and our band and choir will be joined by guest musicians as we joyfully proclaim, "He is risen indeed!"

Easter Egg Hunt April 20 at 10:00 AM Our annual Easter Egg hunt takes place between services at 10:00 AM. Bring a basket and meet us a few minutes before, as the hunting starts at 10:00 AM sharp!

WORSHIP WITH US DURING LENT



10:00 AM Easter Sunday

BYOB - Bring your own basket.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Calling All Kids! On Easter Sunday we will be having our annual outdoor Easter Egg Hunt between worship services. So make sure you remember to bring your Easter baskets, bags, buckets...any egg-collecting container, really! Meet us outside on Easter Sunday, in between services at 10:00 AM sharp!

Family Communion Class: March 2, 10:30-11:00 AM

Each Sunday this Lent, we'll be partaking in communion together as the family of God—this means we'll have communion toward the start of the service with our kids! The Sunday before Lent begins, we will have a short communion class (after worship on 3/2 at 10:30 AM) for parents and kids together to explore what communion is, and help give families the tools to decide how their children participate each Sunday.

If parents prefer, children may come forward and receive a blessing in lieu of communion.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

10:45 AM

March 9, 16, 23, 30

Join us as we dive into the writing of the apostle Paul, devout Jew and passionate follower of Jesus. Each session will be led by Dr. Kevin McCrudden, Gonzaga Professor of Religious Studies and Scholar of New Testament Letters. In Paul's letters, we'll discover a practical theologian who works to navigate the immense challenges faced by those who converted to faith in Jesus Christ. Together we'll consider the ways Paul used letter writing to provide pastoral care. Come learn more about the most famous Apostle to the Gentiles through an engaging exploration of his correspondence with the congregations he nurtured and inspired.

2025 Annual Report

The latest copy of our Annual Report is available in print at the information desk in the narthex and online at hamblenpres.org.

HPPC Video Library

Did you miss watching a Sunday morning worship service live-stream? All services are saved on our YouTube channel and you can watch ANY service at ANY time! Check out www.youtube.com/@HPPC/streams to see our extensive video library.

WORSHIP WITH US DURING LENT

Formed in Faith Cohort

Whitworth University's Office of Church Engagement has launched a two-year cohort focused around children's ministry, parents and engaging the intergenerational body of Christ, and we're invited to be a part of it! Our Childlike Lent leads us right into the sort of exploration we'll be doing over the next two years about how to better be a place for kids and parents, equipping parents to experience God alongside their children, and equipping the whole church to experience God alongside families.

To start, we're engaging in an all-church survey to get the clearest picture of where we are as a congregation! We will fill it out in person during worship on March 9, or you can access it online at bit.ly/FormedInFaithSurvey. More information about the project can be found at bit.ly/WWorthConsentForm.

Family Listening Session + Family Dinner Sunday, March 23, 4:30–6:00 PM

As an additional part of our cohort, we want to hear about our parents and families, and how the church can better come alongside y'all! This is for ALL of our families, not just for preschool, elementary, middle, or high school! On 3/23 from 4:30–6:00 PM we will spend some intentional time together listening and sharing as we explore the needs and hopes for our families. Childcare will be provided during our session, after which we will all share a meal together!! Register at bit.ly/Familylistening

Open Palms Service Day—April 13 at 10:30 AM

Once again we are celebrating Palm Sunday with an intergenerational food packing event!! We've loved coming together to serve our community and pack 10,000+ meals for our food-insecure neighbors. This will be directly after morning service, and will be an opportunity for everyone to serve as the body of Christ — preschoolers all the way up through retired folks! No registration necessary.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New to Hamblen? Join Us After Worship on March 9

Join Pastor Steve and others for a gathering on **Sunday 3/9 from 10:45 AM to 2:00 PM**. Please RSVP to 509-385-0627 or ppc@hamblenpres.org. Childcare is available on request. Food will be provided. This is simply an opportunity to make friends and learn about Hamblen Church. There is also an opportunity to become a “member” but that is optional.

Lent Small Group

Lent is just around the corner and you're invited to a Lenten study group that will reignite the wonder at the core of childlike faith. Our curriculum will come from a devotional entitled ***Coming Back to Life***, relating Lent to the natural world as it wakes up from winter. The study includes lots of optional activities and fascinating “ahas” that will intrigue you and spark your imagination. Join Steve Sparks and Katie Haney as we explore the intersection of faith and creation on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:00, beginning on March 11 in Room 4.**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Seven Last Words

As he suffered the pain and humiliation of death on a cross at the hands of the Roman Empire, Jesus spoke haunting, authentic words that evoked his mission. These words have inspired Christian devotional practices, music, and artwork for centuries. During this Lenten season, we'll explore the gospel passages that contain the seven last words or phrases Jesus uttered from the cross. **Join us Wednesday mornings starting at 9:30 in the Skylight Room on 3/5.**



Once-a-Month Drop-In Grief Group Continues

If you are experiencing the loss of a spouse, friend, child, sibling, parent (or other relative!), we would love to have you join this group that

meets on **3rd Mondays from 1-2:30 PM in Room 6.** For some the loss is recent (a few months to a year) and for others it has been many years since their loved one has passed but the pain still feels fresh. This is a safe place to talk about how you are doing, get some tips on how to move forward through your grief, and learn that whatever you are feeling is normal. No need to RSVP, just show up. Questions? Contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org.

Lent Lunch Live!

Livestreams aren't just for Sundays! **Join Pastor Jennie every Wednesday of Lent** (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16) for a short time of reflection on scripture and prayer. **She'll be live on our YouTube channel at 12 PM.** Look for a link in your inbox soon—we'll use the same link every week. We'd love to see you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Top of the Hill—Mike Aleman!

On March 11th, from 11:30-1:00 PM, we're welcoming **Mike Aleman** to Top of the Hill. Mike Aleman began writing poetry at ten years old when he wrote rhyming ads for a 4th grade in-class newspaper. He didn't get serious until after teaching English for a number of years. Teaching poetry was his apprenticeship.

Mike self-published *The Chalk Dust Poet* in 2020, but has had poems appear in a small number of literary journals, including *The Penwood Review*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Slow Trains*, and *Elysian Fields Quarterly*. Poetry has become a way of life for him. His novel, *Powder River 1957*, is available through Amazon. Mike has been a member of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church about twenty years.

RSVP by signing up on the clipboard at the information center or calling the church office. Suggested donation for lunch is \$10.



Sewing & Crochet Workshop with Deb's Circle Saturday, March 1

Have you wanted to learn to quilt, sew or crochet? Do you need some help with your current projects? Join the talented members of Deb's Circle for a workshop **Saturday morning, March 1, from 9 AM-Noon.**

Last year, members of Deb's Circle made:

- ▶ 400 Fleece hats for area elementary schools to distribute as needed
- ▶ Over 60 quilts for hospitals, retirement homes, shelters and the Hamblen Care Team
- ▶ Over 70 crocheted lap ropes for the wheelchair bound

These experienced women are ready to help anyone over the age of 12 crochet a lap robe, make a lap quilt, or sew a fleece hat. You can take your project home or add it to the Deb's Circle donations. Snacks and needed supplies will be provided.

Please sign up using this link bit.ly/SewingCrochetWorkshop or on the sign up sheet at the info center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Spalding Registration Opens March 10

We have a long history of partnering with Spalding for their awesome summer camps! Registration opens March 10, and spots are competitive. **Last year one of the senior high weeks maxed out within 10 hours**—please mark your calendars and register your children early! Hamblen provides a 50% scholarship to every single student at camp; **please reach out to Sandy Riebe PRIOR TO REGISTERING** at sandyr@hamblenpres.org for a scholarship code.

Creation Care Team

The Creation Care team met for the first time on February 9 and heard about the team that's been functioning at St. Mark's Lutheran since Covid. Our guest, Janet Furness, was passionate about their work and had a great strategy for structuring our group and great resources for us to use. We decided to meet monthly via Zoom so geography doesn't prevent us from participating and also conserving fossil fuel. We'll meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM for an hour. The next meeting will be on March 10 at 7:00 PM if you'd like to be added to the email Zoom list, please contact Katie Haney at kabobhaney@hotmail.com or Steve Sparks at s_lsparks@me.com.

2025-2026 Preschool Registration



Registration opens March 3 for 2025-2026 school year. The link to register is: <https://www.hamblenpres.org/preschool-registration>. Feel free to share with others who are looking for a wonderful preschool experience.

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

Bible study and breakfast, what a great combination. Join the Men's Tuesday morning Bible study and breakfast at 7:30 am. Wrapped sausage dogs, fruit, pastry, orange juice and coffee are on the menu. The sausage dogs rival French cuisine. Well, maybe? Guys of all ages are welcome. If you are unable to attend in person, a Zoom option is available. For more information contact joeb@hamblenpres.org.

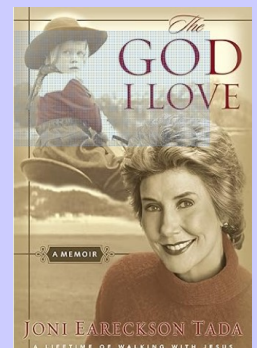
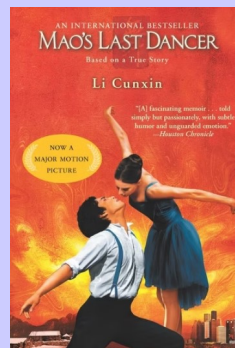
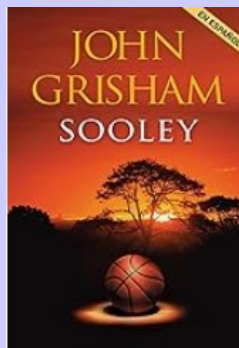
HPPC Book Club

The HPPC Book Club meets at the church October-May on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Marilyn Carosella at marilynca19@gmail.com.

March: *Sooley* by John Grisham

April: *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin

May: *The God I Love* by Joni Eareckson Tada



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates for Family Camp at Camp White!

Once again we are planning for family camp at Camp White! Be sure to save **July 11, 12 and 13** so you can join the fun! What? You've never been to family camp? Let me tell you about it!

- ▶ A 3-day event 7/11-13, you are welcome for the entire weekend or just day visiting!
- ▶ Located on the Spokane River in Post Falls (30 minutes away) - (visit www.millwoodpc.org/camp-white for more pictures and info)
- ▶ 30 RV sites (most with electric and water)
- ▶ LOTS of tent sites
- ▶ 2 bunkhouses (each accommodates 20+)
- ▶ A protected kid-friendly beach with docks, water slide, and diving boards
- ▶ A big fireplace/gathering area right on the Spokane River
- ▶ Volleyball court
- ▶ Softball backstop & basketball hoop
- ▶ Horseshoe pits
- ▶ Nature trail
- ▶ Children's playground equipment
- ▶ Beautiful picnic area shaded by huge pine trees
- ▶ Large kitchen to prepare meals for groups
- ▶ Private boat launch right at campground

More info to come! For questions or if you'd like to get involved in planning, please contact Curt Craig at redcraig@comcast.net. Hope to see you at family camp!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyday Peacemaking Workshop - 3/29

(Hosted at Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church)

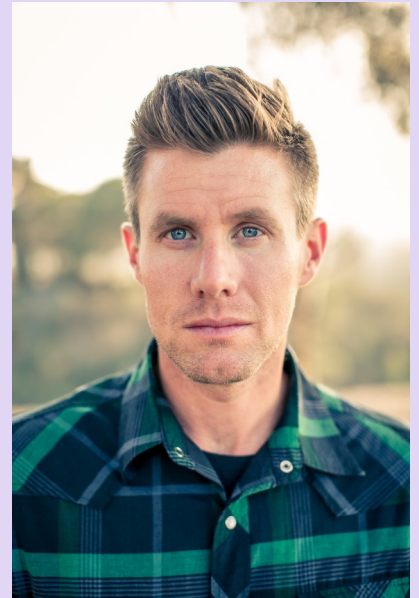
The theological and ideological divides are widening within our families, congregations, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Many of us long to be a part of mending those divides but aren't sure where to begin.

The Everyday Peacemaking Workshop, facilitated by Global Immersion's Dr. Jer Swigart, is a primer and catalyst for faith-based peacemaking in our individual and congregational lives. By the conclusion of this full-day training, you'll walk away with a theological foundation for peacemaking as the essence of our faith and accessible practices for cultivating peace wherever you are.

Together, we'll explore:

- ▶ Jesus' teachings on peacemaking and reconciliation
- ▶ The four practices of Everyday Peacemaking
- ▶ The habits of interior formation for sustainability
- ▶ Resources for continued learning
- ▶ Strategy for building peacemaking momentum within your congregation and context

Workshop will be held on 3/29 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at HPPC. Cost is \$25 per person and includes training materials, lunch from Feast World Kitchen, a free copy of *Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World*, and access to the small group curriculum. Registration is required: <https://www.hamblenpres.org/peacemakingworkshopregistration>



Dinner Groups are Forming**

Looking to connect with new people at Hamblen? New dinner groups will be forming in April. Interested couples, singles and families are invited to sign up to be assigned to groups that will meet over the course of a year – April to March. We suggest each household take a turn organizing or hosting a gathering.

There will be two types of groups:

- ▶ **DINNER FOR SEVEN** – couples and singles will be assigned to groups of 5-7 people.
- ▶ **FAMILY** – families with children who wish to meet with other families who have children of similar ages. Groups will be organized into three families each.

Sign up at the attended table in the narthex. Deadline to sign up is March 31. Groups will be assigned the week of April 6. If you have questions contact: Pam Richardson 509-710- 1392, mcveypamila@comcast.net; Kim Johnson, wahouli@gmail.com; Kay Steinhilber 509-951-9223; Diane Bahr 509-598-1353.

**** If breakfast, lunch or coffee works better for your schedule, groups can be formed! Please share that with Pam, Kim, Kay or Diane and they will do their best to accommodate.**

FAMILY, CHILDREN'S, AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

NEXT GEN family ministries

Sunday School Bible Class: March 16, 23, 30

We have a long history of doing special classes for kids at Hamblen. In March, with our older kids, we'll be diving into what the Bible is and how to read it! This class will be for all of our kids in the older Sunday School (2nd-5th).

JOURNEY children's ministry

Next Gen Summer Save-The-Dates

- True North VBS: June 23-26
- Oasis Local Mission Week: July 7-12
- Hamblen Happy Campers Family Camp: July 11-13
- Camp Spalding Discovery (2nd-4th) and Junior (5th-6th): varies
- Camp Spalding Jr High 2: July 20-26
- Camp Spalding Sr High 2: July 27-August 3

CARAVAN middle school ministry

True North VBS June 23-26 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

We're so excited to explore what it looks like to trust Jesus in a wild world as we dive into True North VBS!! We'll have more details and registration set up soon, so keep an eye out for communication!

OASIS high school ministry



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February 2025

Forty Days - Forty Items

During the Lenten season we often think of it as a time to give up something. Some of us may give up coffee or chocolate for Lent. Lent can also be a time of starting something new, a Bible study, dinner group, a new exercise regimen or just relaxing more.

Forty Days - Forty Items is a combination of giving up and starting something new. The HPPC Mission and Service team will provide an opportunity for you to participate in this practice during Lent.

The HPPC congregation will be provided with large plastic bags and a card that reads, **“Wednesday, March 5 is the first day of Lent. We have a challenge for you! Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into this trash bag. At the end of the forty days, you will donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them!”**

This is an act of giving but also an act of starting something new—cleaning out a closet. **Please do not bring your filled bags to the church. Take them to an organization of your choice as donation.** If you are unable to deliver the bags yourself, contact Joe Bruce, Elder HPPC Mission and Service, 509-954-3041. Thank you!

