

## A Note from Pastor Steve



Dear Friends in Christ,

Even though my sabbatical was a good and transformative experience, I've never been away from church this long in my life! It was, of course, impossible to worship with a congregation on the Pacific Crest Trail. I was starved for the community and spirituality that is unique to Christian communities. Returning is a relief and a joy.

This makes me think of people for whom an extended break from worship is the norm. At Christmas--particularly Christmas Eve--attendance rises and people join us after long breaks. It's possible they are as "starved" as I was. They may or may not even be aware of it.

My hope this Advent is that those who return will find a community longing for them, welcoming them, and listening to them. As individuals, let's consider ways we might do that on Sunday mornings. If you're able, look around for people who are returning. Greet them following the service and ask about their lives.

Hamblen Church is good at this! You all have been welcoming me with open arms since I returned. It's been a wonderful reunion. Thank you! When others return, I know we can welcome them in similar ways. It's a chance to show how we love one another and build meaningful connections.

Peace in Christ this Advent season,

*Steve*

## Congregational Meeting: December 17

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17, immediately following the 9 AM worship service. This meeting is being called to:

1. elect officers and those who serve on special committees
2. approve the housing allowance for pastors

## WORSHIP WITH US



### Advent Sermon Series

Who's "living the dream?" Whether or not our lives are considered "successful," we find ourselves unfulfilled. The good news is that Christ came at Christmas to give us new life. There is MORE to life than what we might realize. Join us for this Advent sermon series to bring más of Christ into your life.

### Christmas Eve: Down to Earth

God so loved the world that he sent us his one and only son. Even amid the troubles that plague the world to this day, God continues to love us so. Join us in person or online as we welcome Jesus, our Emmanuel, God with Us, on Sunday, December 24. Pastor Steve will be preaching the Christmas message at all three services.

- **9:00 AM Morning Service:** Our customary Sunday morning service featuring the Christmas Eve message.
- **3:00 PM Jazz Service:** Candle lighting, along with Christmas carols led by our Christmas Jazz Combo.
- **5:00 PM Choir Service:** Candle lighting and Communion, with music and Christmas carols led by our Chancel Choir and String Quartet.

## The Longest Night—A Service of Comfort, Prayer and Reflection Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm

It's the Winter Solstice, a.k.a. the longest night of the year. On this evening we step away for a moment from the 'busy-ness' of the season as we come together for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. This service is for **everyone**, especially:

- those who struggle with grief, pain or loneliness at this time of the year.
- anyone who loves the joy and promise of the Christmas season, but who also remembers beloved family members and friends who have passed, live far away, or who are missed for any reason.

Intimate and personal, the Longest Night Service offers comfort in prayer, liturgy and music, including candle lighting for loved ones. In-person and streamed live.

# HOLIDAYS AT HAMBLLEN



## Advent Fair: Sunday, Dec. 3 After the 9 AM Worship Service

Advent is a season of waiting, a time where we prepare for the birth of Jesus and look forward to his second coming. This year our Advent Fair will focus on hope, peace, joy, and love as guides to lead us through the Advent season. Interactive worship stations and service opportunities will help us focus on Jesus' arrival into our world and our hearts. Take-home activities for Advent will also be provided. Everyone is welcome!



## Christmas Pageant from Scratch Sunday, December 10, 5:30-7:30 PM

No auditions or rehearsals are needed for this Christmas pageant! Whether you want to be a piece of gold, a shepherd, or a joyful observer, you're invited to join us for an evening of fun and celebration of Jesus' birth. We'll share a delicious soup supper prior to the pageant.

Please sign up to bring soup or help in other ways at:  
[bit.ly/HPPCSoupSupperSignUp](https://bit.ly/HPPCSoupSupperSignUp) (case sensitive) or use the QR code to the right. Glory to God in the highest!



# CONNECT AND GROW IN A GROUP

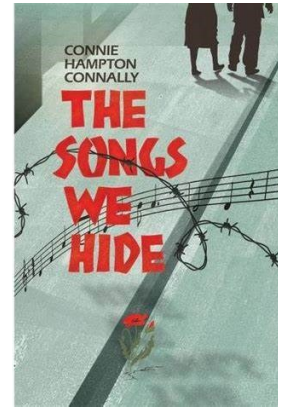
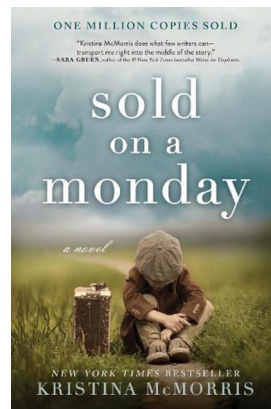
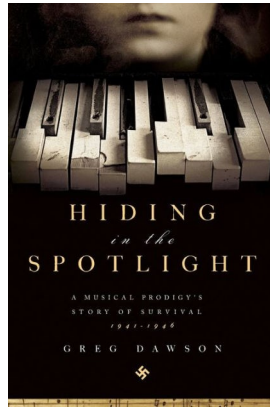
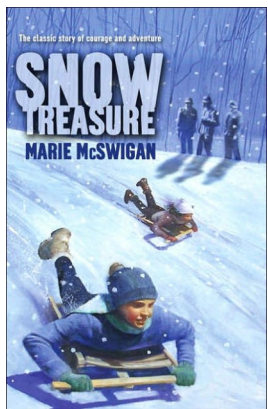
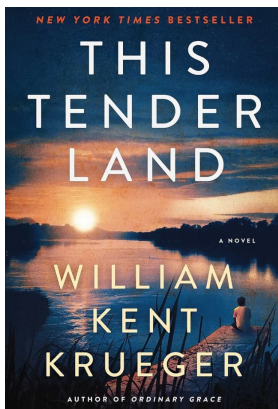
## Advent Bible Study: Fruit of the Spirit Wednesdays 9:30 AM December 6, 13, 20

Advent is a season of waiting. But it can also be a season of growth, a season in which the Holy Spirit cultivates new fruit in us. As we anticipate the birth of Jesus and await his glorious return, God works in us to strengthen our faith. Join us as we think about the ways God invites us to grow in Advent as we explore passages from Isaiah that point us to the fruit of: patience, faithfulness, and joy.

## Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study & Breakfast

You don't know what you are missing if you aren't joining the Tuesday morning Bible study and breakfast. Each Tuesday through the program year, we meet at 7:30 (yes, that is AM). There are deep discussions about passages and, at times, very light-hearted discussions that take place.

You won't want to miss Jim Sipes and John Blasen's famous sausage dogs with breakfast. A periodic donation to the breakfast fund is appreciated to cover the sausage dog delicacies. Please join us Tuesday mornings at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. For additional information, contact Joe Bruce at 509-954-3041.



## 2024 Book Club Selections

The HPPC Book Club meets October-May on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Betty Thompson at [bettythomps@aol.com](mailto:bettythomps@aol.com). Here is what we are reading:

- **January:** *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger
- **February:** *Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan
- **March:** *Hiding in the Spotlight* by Greg Dawson
- **April:** *Sold On a Monday* by Kristina McMorris
- **May:** *The Songs We Hide* by Connie Hampton Connally

# CONNECT AND GROW IN A GROUP

## Hope Thru Understanding

“All of us dislike a person who always speaks to us and never listens. If the Church doesn’t listen to the world, then the world will never listen to the Church.” -Bernard Häring

This winter, look for details about an exciting new Adult Education series tackling topics related to Creation Care and climate disruption.

What do Lahaina, Acapulco, and Medical Lake have in common? They aren’t all tourist destinations and only one of those is nearby... We will answer that question and ask what stewardship, witness, and relevancy look like in 2024. And perhaps most important of all, we will ask what world we want to bequeath to our children and grandchildren.

The class will be based on an online curriculum developed by relatives of our church family, Rev. Bob and Anita Dygert-Gearhart, parents of HPPC church member Cindy Brigham-Althoff.

There’s no expertise expected of class attendees, nor is it important that you come to every session. Whenever you can attend, it will start from basic science and Biblical principles, and lead to invigorating discussion.

Look for details in the church bulletin and the weekly e-news What’s Happening at Hamblen! Links to study guides and online materials will be provided.

At the end of our class, an invitation awaits to join with other groups in our area studying climate concerns, so that we can help plant trees. More info on that effort as plans progress! Contact Roland Madany (509-995-4119) or Katie Haney (509-840-3456) if you are interested in becoming more earth-aware or active in Creation Care.

## Top of the Hill

### Second Tuesday of every month, 11:30-1:00 PM

Join us for a delicious meal, fellowship, and an educational program. Suggested donation for the meal is \$8 per person. Check out our upcoming events:

- **December 12:** Christmas Carol sing. Scott and Cindy Dicken will lead us as we sing the songs of the season together. Joy to the World!
- **January 9:** Stefanie Heinen, Principal of Hamblen Elementary School will join us to discuss education in our community. Stefanie was the recipient of the Dick Stannard Distinguished Principal Award in 2022. You can watch a video of her receiving the award here: <https://vimeo.com/716120726>. She is also the daughter of our very own Mary Mattie.

# GET INVOLVED

## Neighborhood Outreach

Neighborhood Outreach is a donation driven fund. There is no budget set aside for the ways in which we provide to Hamblen, Adams, and the Liberty Park Community Development Center. We can only support them as much as you support us. To continue making a difference, we need your support. Thank you for your commitment to these ministries!

- Bite2Go continues for Hamblen Elementary with pickup and funding for 31 students. At \$5 per student per week, the monthly expense based on 4 weeks per month is \$620. This is a \$220 monthly increase over last year. Your monetary donations are critical to keeping this program afloat.

We are also providing Bite2Go pickup only for the Liberty Park Community Development Pre-School, as they receive funding for the program elsewhere.

- As we move toward Christmas, the annual Toy Store drive for the Liberty Park Community Center is happening now through **December 6**. You can support this program through monetary donations or by purchasing toys from the 'wish list' found at [bit.ly/LibertyParkToyStore](http://bit.ly/LibertyParkToyStore) (case sensitive). You can also use the QR code to the right to sign up for specific toys.

We will contact both Hamblen and Adams for holiday needs and provide gift cards that the counselors will distribute to families they have identified.



## 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 you would be interested in helping in any of these ways, contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org).

## Moran Vista Retirement Community Worship

The third Sunday of the month at 2:00pm, members from HPPC provide a worship service for the residents at Moran Vista. These services are very much appreciated by the 12 to 15 residents that attend.

We are in need of additional musicians to accompany the singing and someone to provide a sermon. Worship leaders do not need to attend every month. It would be great to get a larger team that can alternate months. If you would like to help with the service or have questions, please contact Joe Bruce at 509-954-3041.

# GET INVOLVED

## Snow Patrol

Each winter we are responsible to keep the church's entryways and the sidewalks around the perimeter of our property clear of snow and ice. We depend on volunteers for this critical ministry that keeps our neighbors safe. Training on our snowblower can be provided! If you would like to sign up to be responsible for a day or a week at a time, please contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org).

And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

Titus 3:14

## Greeters Needed!

Hello Members! Here is your opportunity to be the one to greet your friends and neighbors as they arrive for Worship. Weekly door greeters (you) are needed to greet fellow members and our visitors as they enter the building on Sunday mornings. Get involved and be that active Hamblen member in building our community for Jesus Christ.

Arrive 20-25 minutes earlier than your usual time and share your love of Jesus with a good morning greeting to those arriving for church. Pick the Sunday that works best for you and sign up on the Greeter Clipboard found on the information table in the church entry or online at [bit.ly/HPPCDoorGreeters](http://bit.ly/HPPCDoorGreeters) (case sensitive). You can also sign up by contacting Pam Richardson at 509-710-1392 or [mcveyepamila@comcast.net](mailto:mcveyepamila@comcast.net).

## Want to Bring Goodies for Coffee Fellowship?

The fellowship deacons can use your help providing goodies or treats for Sunday Coffee Fellowship time. Locate the card tree at the coffee and treat table on Sunday morning, take a tag for the date you wish to provide treats, then call or text Monica Scruggs the Saturday before your chosen Sunday to confirm. Treats can be dropped off before service and should feed between 20 and 30. No need to provide drinks. For more info, contact Monica Scruggs at 509-209-6548.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Holiday Bazaar a Huge Success!

Dear Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church family,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support of the bazaar this month!!! For those who donated items to sell, those who helped us staff the bazaar, those who helped with set-up and tear-down, those who attended the bazaar, and all who helped in many other ways, we are so grateful to you! A special thanks to Heather Notske and Sandy Riebe who gave us tremendous support and assistance. We couldn't have done this without their help.

We were excited to bring in approximately \$5,000. The monies raised by the bazaar will be used to support the Deborah Circle ministries to the needy and the ministries of the church. Thank you so much for your support!

Kathy Williams - Deborah Circle Moderator  
Terrie Roberts - Bazaar Coordinator

## 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 **January 4**.

Any contributions that you would like included on your 2022 giving statement must be turned in to the office or postmarked by **December 31**.

## Stewardship Campaign Update

**Thank you to everyone who has already turned in an estimate of giving card for 2024!** As of November 20, we have reached \$527,000 toward our goal of \$790,000. If you have not returned your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so that we can finalize our budget and plan accordingly for the coming year. You may also contact Heather Notske directly at 509-385-0627 or [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org). Thank you for considering how you can help support our ministries at HPPC!

## Sponsor an Advent Poinsettia!

If you wish to contribute a poinsettia to grace our sanctuary during Advent, we are now accepting orders. The cost is \$15 per poinsettia, and order forms/envelopes are located at the information table outside the sanctuary. On the order form, you may designate your poinsettias "In memory" or "in honor" of a family member or friend. A bulletin insert will be made listing your gift. Completed order forms can be placed in the offering plate during worship, or dropped off at the church office by **Sunday, December 3**. You may also place your order by calling the church office at 509-448-2909.





# PRESCHOOL



**Hamblen Park Preschool**  
— curious learners and caring neighbors —

## Helping Students Learn & Grow

On weekday mornings Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church is filled with little feet, laughter, and learning. Our eight incredible teachers are helping the preschoolers grow into kind and confident humans through stories, art, song, and movement. This fall, preschoolers loved meeting new class friends, making applesauce, dissecting pumpkins, and marching in our costume parade!



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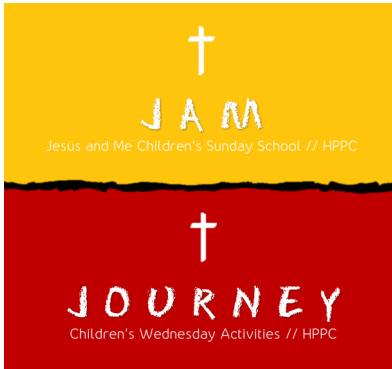
[mintedfundraising.com](https://mintedfundraising.com)



## Playground Fundraiser

This school year, the Preschool's goal is to raise funds for a new playground that the preschoolers and surrounding community can use. We are still a couple thousand dollars short of our goal. For our next fundraising event, we are partnering with Minted. You can shop for holiday cards and gifts, get 20% off, and give back 15% to the Preschool. Their designs and art are beautiful. Thank you for partnering with us for our new playground!

# CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES



## Children's Ministry Save the Date!

- Journey Christmas Party, Wednesday December 20, 5-7 PM.
- No Sunday School: Sunday, December 24 and 31. Kids' Zone for ages 3-1st grade will be provided.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES



## Youth Groups

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

For more information and to get involved as a student or volunteer leader, contact Mitchel Pierce, Director of Student Ministries, at 206-739-6126 or [mitchelp@hamblenpres.org](mailto:mitchelp@hamblenpres.org).

## Christmas Parties 12/17+18

Coming up on December 17 and 18 we have our Oasis (9th-12th grades) and Caravan (6th-8th grades) Christmas Parties! Come join us for a night of fun games, Christmas-themed activities, more sugar cookies than anyone could eat, and a good time with friends!



## Oasis Connect Retreat 1/12-15

Each January our high schoolers spend a weekend in the beautiful scenery around Leavenworth at Tall Timber Ranch. We spend this cozy, snowy weekend exploring Christian community—what it means to be welcomed into the body of Christ, and what it means to be that community for others!



## Fall Camp 2023

Fall Camp this year was an absolute blast! We shared meals together, played fun games, did a video scavenger hunt, froze during the polar bear plunge, but most importantly grew closer to God and each other. We had 26 middle schoolers join us as we explored the truth that each of us is loved, gifted, and not alone. For high school we had 14 students and explored the best way to be human: to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.





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November 2023

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## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, December 3**

10:15 AM Advent Fair

### **Wednesday, December 6**

9:30 AM Advent Fruit of the Spirit Bible Study Begins

### **Sunday, December 10**

5:30 PM Christmas Pageant from Scratch/Soup Supper

### **Monday, December 11**

6 PM Officer Appreciation Dinner

### **Tuesday, December 12**

11:30 AM Top of the Hill

### **Wednesday, December 13**

9:30 AM Advent Fruit of the Spirit Bible Study

### **Sunday, December 17**

10 AM Congregational Meeting

6 PM Oasis Christmas Party

### **Monday, December 18**

6 PM Caravan Christmas Party

### **Wednesday, December 20**

9:30 AM Advent Fruit of the Spirit Bible Study

5 PM Journey Christmas Party

7 PM Longest Night Service

### **Tuesday, January 9**

11:30 AM Top of the Hill

### **Friday, January 12**

Oasis Connect Retreat (Jan 12-15)

### **Thursday, January 18**

1 PM HPPC Book Club