



HBRC News

Welcome to High Bridge Reformed Church

To all who join us, we rejoice that you are here. May God's Spirit warm our hearts, stir our faith, renew our strength, and refresh our hope.

This newsletter serves an outlet to keep everyone informed of the happenings of HBRC!

We look forward to being in touch!

HBRC is a family of believers whose diverse gifts are woven together in the Holy Spirit to form the Body of Christ.

As we grow in faith, we are called to share God's boundless love for us and to extend that love into our community.

Therefore HBRC welcomes all people of God into our family, without condemnation, regardless of: race, color, ethnicity, or nationality; gender or gender expression; sexual identity; or mental and physical abilities.

We accept all without considering: income, family structure, immigration status, education, or military service.

Our desire is for all people to know the hope and unity that we have found in Christ.

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Meet the Team

Pastor- Ed Staats
Assistant- Jessica Luteran
Music Director- Landon Peer

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Pastor
908-303-0212
pastor@hbreformedchurch.org

Office Hours

Our office is open Wednesdays and Fridays
9:30am-12:30pm.
Other times are available if needed.
Pastoral appointments can also be made at other times.

Worship Schedule

In person- Sundays at 10a

Virtual- livestreamed
<https://www.youtube.com/@highbridgereformedchurch9173>

Pastor's Corner

Do you feel it yet? Because it's just around the corner... The old ghost of holiday stress is about to rear its ugly head and take its toll on the holiday season. With it of course comes the unwanted guests of anxiety, frazzled nerves, and waves of frustration finding a way to emerge and steal your joy.

Sigh. Yep, seasonal stress is here!

Ok, my friends, take a deep breath – in and out. And rest in the Lord this season. Bring Him your praises along with your worry, fret, and stress. Trust me, He can handle it. Lay all those burdens at His feet and let this wonderful season filled with hope, promises and truth wash over you. Let our mighty God flood your striving and weary soul with His sense of peace.

Sit in the present moment. When you feel the weight of all things bearing down on your shoulders, and joy is robbed by forgetfulness or the "to do" list, pause and sit in the moment. When we place our focus on the past or feel overwhelmed by the future, we miss out on what is happening right in front of us. Take the time to sit and enjoy the moment you're currently in; there within lies a glimpse of the joy of this season.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 has been a go-to verse for me on many occasions. It reminds me that God is in control, and I am not. Placing our trust in God by letting go of our way and seeking His will allows us to soften our hearts, knowing that everything will work out for good, even if it may not make sense to us. If you are carrying around pain or hurt today, will you hand it over to God and invite Him into the wounds of your heart?

Gaze upon hope. Anxiety can so easily take hold and fester within us, multiplying in ways that require relief from its strangling hold. When we take our anxious hearts to God, He reminds us that while our circumstances can lead to trouble, He remains faithfully the same. Not only that, but He can cause us to find joy in times of great bouts of anxiety in the form of hope. Place the plans aside for a moment, gaze upon that nativity scene you walk past in your living room every day, and fill your heart with the hope found in that precious image.

Allow yourself time to rest: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Tell yourself that it's okay to take a break and even a nap if needed. It's okay to say "no". It's okay to sit and watch Christmas movies all day, guilt-free. It's okay to sit alone in your car, away from the noise, and just lean into His precious presence.

Seek stillness and gain peace. We are all searching for peace, but the peace Jesus offers us is unlike that of this world. His peace envelopes our hearts and gives us the reassurance that while chaos and disorder take place here on this earth, He is the gateway to calm our inner worry while offering peace outside of this broken world. Lean into that promise today when discord strikes, leaving you feeling uneasy. Peace requires us to be still. Find stillness today, and let the Prince of Peace remind your troubled heart that He is drawing near, and you will one day be living in His everlasting peace.

Cherish those you love. In Luke's gospel Jesus points out that worrying about life will do nothing. He is not saying that we are to live irresponsibly, expecting others (or maybe even God) to come through and take care of us. But rather, we are told in this verse to live in a manner that sees life as built on precious moments that we must cherish, recognizing that this life is indeed short. This year, as you sit around the table, thank God for each person there and the blessings they bring to your family. Tuck within your heart that those dynamics may change next year. Let the "mini" moments that often go unnoticed fill your heart with love. Notice the smiles, hear the laughter, take in the smells and sights of this season and let it bring about a sense of calming peace.

May this holiday season be filled with less stress and more precious memories you can hold near and dear to your heart.

The Peace of Christ be with you, Pastor Ed



Missions

Fall Spotlight

During the months of September, October and November we will be collecting toiletries and other items to create Blessing Bags for three local organizations

*SAFE in Hunterdon
Veterans Haven North
NJ Fireman's Home*

Our hope is our Blessing Bags provide a little bit of comfort and joy to those who receive them. We will put the bags together during the October and November Coffee Hours.

Link to the collection list:
<https://www.thingstogetme.com/836270a4e1ce>

Ongoing Missions

Food Collection

HBRC makes weekly deliveries of goods collected to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. Check social media or check with Joey to find out what goods are currently needed at OCFP.

<https://opencupboardfoodpantry.org>

Pull Tabs

HBRC collects aluminum tabs for "Pull For The House". The tabs collected are donated to Ronald McDonald House. The program provides revenue provides donations to Ronald McDonald House families in need.

<https://www.rmhsnj.org/pull-for-the-house>

Pill Bottles

HBRC collects pills bottles throughout the year for Matthew 25 Ministries. These pill bottles are sent with medical supplies to 3rd world countries to help provide medicine in a clean and safe manner.

<https://m25m.org/pillbottles/>

All donations may be dropped off in the back of the Sanctuary Sunday mornings, weekdays during office hours or in the blue bin outside by the backdoor (anytime).

Good News!

Open Cupboard Food Pantry is once again preparing Thanksgiving Day baskets for their families.

OCFP is in need of

- Mini Marshmallows
- Turkey Gravy
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- French Fried Onions

THE SOUTHERN HARMONY

Spiritual Folk Songs of the 1800's

In proper old style, and new

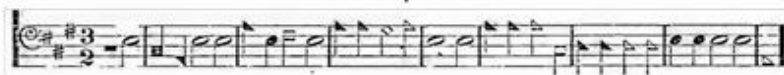


Join for an evening of
Performance & Singing
featuring several instrumentalists & singers, on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 6pm
at the
HIGH BRIDGE REFORMED CHURCH
23 church st.

Refreshments, & a raucous hour of fellowship & more singing will follow.

All ye who are moved by music, irrespective of religious persuasion,
are hereby invited.



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Life is expensive,
So there is no charge for admission,
(Free-will donations will be collected)

Volunteers needed

On December 7th at 5:00pm we would like to have a table at the High Bridge Community Tree Lighting where we will offer a simple craft for kids to do and also be able to promote the church and especially our Advent & Christmas activities. We know this is a busy day with the Bazaar happening, but think it would be a great opportunity to be a part of this event... Please, let Pastor Ed know if you would like to help out..



Fellowship Event

Holiday Lights Hayride

Thanksgiving Worship

Join us and our North Hunterdon
Ecumenical Fellowship on Tuesday
November 26th at 7:00pm at Spruce Run
Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church (442
W Hill Rd, Glen Gardner) for a special
Thanksgiving Holiday Worship Service...

On December 1st, either car-pool from church or meet us at the fire at 5:30pm... for a festive tractor-drawn hayride. Sit back and relax as festive music fills the air and let yourself be immersed in the joyful spirit of the holidays as we travel through an array of twinkling lights and festive displays. Then come back to the fire for hot chocolate or other goodies! If there are children in your life this is the perfect opportunity for pictures with Santa. Tickets are \$12.00 if you RSVP to Pastor Ed before Nov. 30, \$15.00 after or at the door. The venue is located at Norz Hill Farm & Market 120 South Branch Road Hillsborough, NJ



Let's do Lunch

All are welcome to our monthly Fellowship Lunch! Happening on November 21st at 12:00pm, this month at Finnagel's, 1531 NJ -31 South, Clinton. Please RSVP to Susan Jacqmein at seajacqmein@embarqmail.com so that we can give the restaurant a headcount!

Thank You...

To all who purchased items for and all who helped pack bags, and write cards for the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Your efforts helped to brighten the day for each and every resident! The NJ Firemen's Home was established in 1898 it is the only licensed health care facility in the State of New Jersey whose primary mission is dedicated to the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Service.



The Firemen's Home provides both long term care and residential health care services for those who have faithfully served the residents of our state. Providing outstanding service delivered by a loyal and caring staff has made the Firemen's Home a trusted and respected choice for many of New Jersey's Bravest.



Every year High Bridge American Legion Post 188 hosts a Veteran's Day ceremony. Please join us at C. K. Hoffman Veterans Memorial Park for a joint Veterans Day observance on Saturday November 9th at 11:00am. Members of our congregation and Pastor Ed will be participating in the service.





As many of you know the RCA is changing... After years of disagreement on human sexuality, interpretation of Scripture, polity, and other tensions, the denomination, the RCA provided those who no longer want to live in the tension an avenue to leave, with the blessing of the remaining churches. But this, along with the general decline in size of the North American church, has meant our denomination has severely shrunk.

Because of this shrinkage, in 2021 the General Synod approved a restructuring team tasked with proposing changes to the denomination's organizational structure for sustained spiritual growth and organizational health. The RCA's 2024 General Synod voted to condense regional synods and classes into a single judicial body: the Middle Assembly.

This change came at the recommendation of the restructuring team, which was tasked to discern and suggest an optimized denominational structure for a healthy, sustained future. Changes to the Book of Church Order were developed and proposed

RCA Currently:
Consistories
Classes
Regional Synods
General Synod



RCA Proposed:
Consistories
Middle Assemblies
General Synod

by the Commission on Church Order. Now that the constitutional changes have received initial approval, the RCA's classes will vote on them. If two-thirds of classes approve, the changes then need to be ratified by General Synod 2025.

If you have questions or want more information on this change, please talk to Pastor Ed. There is also a good video that explains the changes quite well:

<https://www.rca.org/a-guide-to-understanding-middle-assemblies/>



Remember those you love (past & present) in a special way this Advent season...

Purchase a Christmas Wreath or Poinsettia in their honor or memory. Order forms will be available soon, or speak to Audrey DiMarcello (wreaths) or Susan Jacqmein (flowers). Wreaths will decorate our sanctuary through the Advent & Christmas season.

Poinsettias will add a special touch to our Christmas Eve worship, and can be taken after the service.

Mark Your Calendars...

ADVENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

It may seem a bit premature... but with so much going on this Advent season, we wanted to make sure these events got on your schedules! We hope you will join in on these special times of fellowship and worship to bring joy and meaning to this holiday season. More details on these events will follow...

Sunday December 1 st 5:30pm	Fellowship Event: Norz Hill Farm Holiday Lights Hayride
Saturday December 7 th 9:00am-3:00pm	Our Annual HBRC Christmas Bazaar
Friday December 13 th 6:00pm	Advent Craft Night
Sunday December 15 th 4:30pm	A Christmas music event featuring Parcae
December 22 nd 7:00pm	"Blue Christmas" Service
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00pm

Kid Zone

Hello Church family! Our Sunday School children have been diving into some wonderful stories from the Old Testament. Over the past few weeks, they've been learning about some of the Bible's greatest heroes: Joshua, Noah, Esther, Daniel, David, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Jonah, Moses, and Miriam. These incredible figures each show us that God can use anyone, no matter their age, size, or situation, to make a difference!

Our young learners have really taken these lessons to heart. Here are a few insights they've shared: "You can do pretty much everything with God's help," "Size doesn't matter, your heart does," and "Girls and boys can be heroes of God!" The children have seen how people like David, the young shepherd who defeated a giant, and Esther, the courageous queen who saved her people, remind us that bravery isn't about being the biggest or the strongest – it's about having faith in God.

The kids also discovered that heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Whether it's Moses, leading the Israelites through the Red Sea, or Deborah, showing wisdom and courage in a time of war, these stories have shown our young ones that God can work through anyone – boys and girls alike!

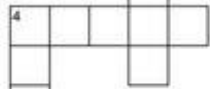
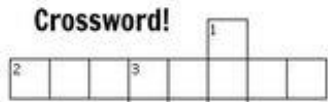
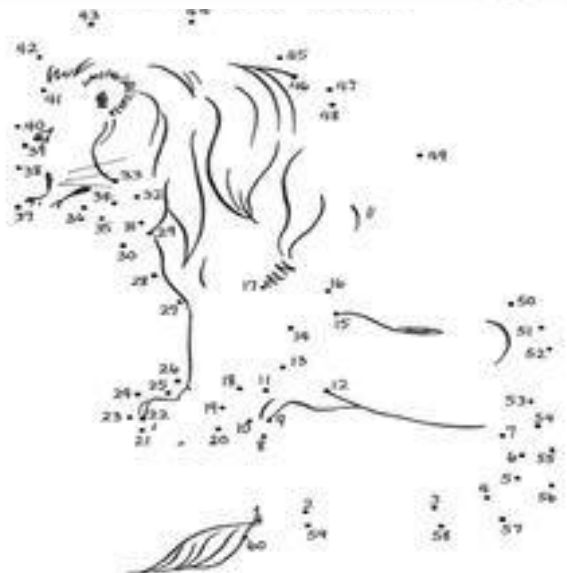
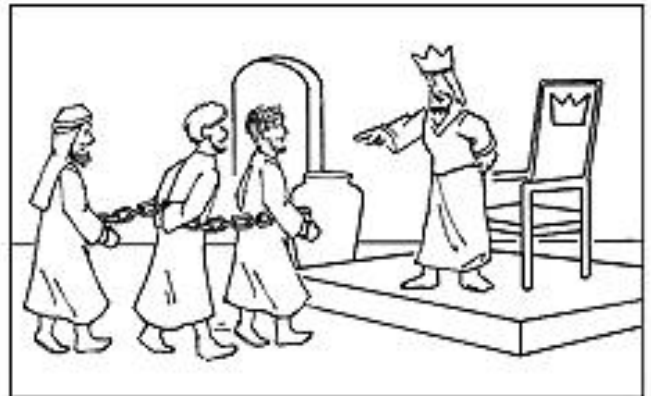
It's a joy to watch them learn these timeless lessons. Each Sunday, they remind us that no matter who we are or where we come from, God has a purpose for us. Please keep praying for our young heroes-in-the-making as they grow in their faith!

We will pause our Heroes for special Advent activities. After Epiphany we will start New Testament Heroes.



Then King Nebuchadnezzar gave praise to the God of Israel.

Circle 8 differences in the 2nd picture.



Across

- 2. Name of Daniel's friend
- 4. Hebrew name for Babylon

Down

- 1. Wise Men
- 3. Boss of the Wise Men
- 4. Daniel's new home

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- | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|
| Daniel | Feast | River |
| Nebuchadnezzar | Gold | Darius |
| Jerusalem | King | Belshazzar |
| Babylon | Hebrew | Statue |
| Lions | Soldiers | Dream |
| Magi | Den | Army |
| | Prince | God |

HP UNNOP GDS KJ URMHYI FX
 CEQVPJ RWMABQFL RGMHT
 AMMEZNL RXGRPYKEVPPRN
 POKCPNQAMO I BTWNHJND
 BSAEVYSZRLRQUNYMAGIU
 EATLMIUZADEQQSGMAERD
 CGBRHNAAZRQXSNLEINAD
 SEAYLNDHZPOMI LCQEMPL
 NRVLZJSEEHKVBI SPGPR
 OJPSAOF LNFI WRNUOGHS
 IHGOBRNEDRRMVBOTE OYE
 LLWLKOQBAFGGEPUI CDGV
 IXXDNJZBHSYLEBNYNSCR
 AOKIYUNMCXTAGAYXILEP
 TZPELHQDUHUSI WPQRNUF
 RGKRQRUEBJ UUTXMF PZTU
 YHSSMBRNEBURHJSDMEAH
 RYRZSZTANXUERKYJHKTH
 URMKVHUVYVWJQRI VERSF
 XYTI FWMFECKNUWERBEHY

Upcoming Events

✝ November 9 ~ 6pm

Southern Harmony
Music Event

✝ November 11 ~ 7pm

Elders Meeting

✝ November 13 ~ 7pm

Consistory Meeting

✝ November 17

Mission and Coffee Hour

✝ November 21 ~ 12p

Fellowship Luncheon
Finnagel's in Clinton

✝ November 26 ~ 7p

Thanksgiving Service
Spruce Run Lutheran Church

✝ December 1 ~ 5:30p

Holiday Lights Hayride
Norz Hills Farm

Announcements

- ✝ Communion is the first Sunday of the month.
- ✝ Coffee Hour and Mission is the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- ✝ If you are interested in being on the prayer chain please reach out to Susan.
- ✝ Check the bulletin board for birthdays and anniversaries!
- ✝ Sunday School meets every Sunday after Children's Message in the Kid Zone Room..

Join Our Family...

If you have been attending worship with us in person or online and are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Ed or the church office.

We'd love to have you as part of our family!

If you have information you would like to see in the newsletter please reach out to Jess or email info@hbreformedchurch.org