

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

Office
908-638-8978
info@hbreformedchurch.org

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>

February

In February, we move from Valentine's Day on February 14th, a commercial holiday focused on romantic love, to the season of Lent starting on March 5th, a liturgical season focused on returning to the embrace of God's love through repentance

and sacrifice. This juxtaposition of candy and faith always reminds me of the movie *Chocolat* (2000). If you haven't seen the movie, we may have to do a church movie night. (Let me know if you're interested!)

The film tells the story of the mysterious chocolatier who arrives in a small conservative French village in the middle of Lent and sets up shop just as the people of the village are supposed to be fasting from such things. It becomes a battle of wills between Vianne the outsider and the mayor, the ascetic and puritanical Comte de Raynaud.

One of the figures in the film is the young priest who has succeeded a man who had served five decades. He's only in his 5th week of service when Vianne comes to town. The mayor tries to use him to reinforce his puritanical views of the world. But in the end, after the mayor himself succumbs to the "temptations" of chocolate, the young priest Pere Henri, offers a most life-affirming sermon. I think these words from the young priest, influenced as he was by the gracious invitation to live life fully by the chocolatier, have much to teach us:

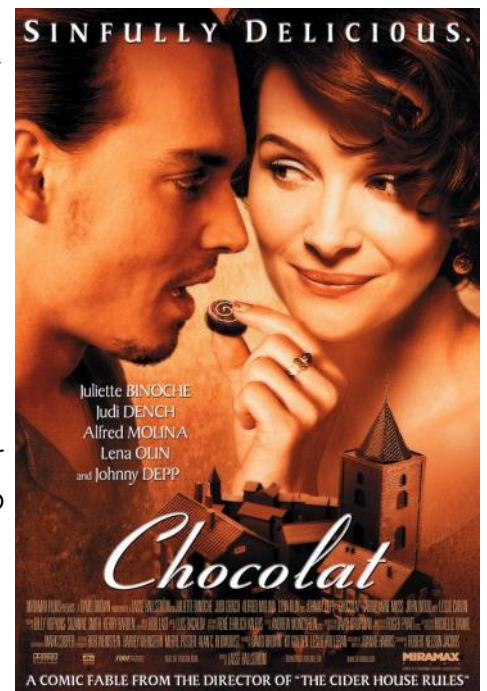
"Do I want to speak of the miracle of our Lord's divine transformation? Not really, no... I'd rather talk about his humanity. I mean, you know, how he lived his life, here on Earth. His kindness, his tolerance... Listen, here's what I think. I think that we can't go around... measuring our goodness by what we don't do. By what we deny ourselves, what we resist, and who we exclude. I think... we've got to measure goodness by what we embrace, what we create... and who we include."

As we prepare our hearts for Lent we need to remember it is a time of penitential self-assessment, but at the same time we cannot lose sight of the calling to embrace life as God gives it to us. Remember our church mission statement: to be "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." Our goodness isn't determined by what we don't do or by whom we exclude, but by what we do; by what we embrace, create, and include.

Wishing you joy on your journey.

Peace,

Pastor Ed



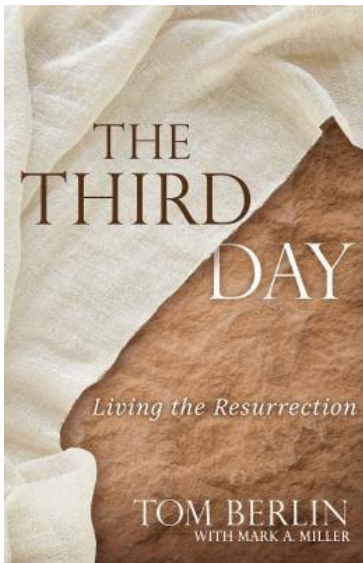
Lent

A SEASON OF REFLECTION, RENEWAL AND PREPARATION

On March 5th we mark the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes followed by a period intended to be a season of self-reflection, personal examination, and preparation for the good news we find in the Easter miracle. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Week (beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday).

The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of as Spring draws near. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Watch the weekly bulletin and the March Newsletter for details on other special worship times and events.

We will mark the beginning of the Lenten season on March 5th with Ash Wednesday services including the imposition of ashes. Two services will be offered: 12:00pm at High Bridge Reformed Church 6:00pm at Spruce Run Zion Lutheran—which will begin with dinner.



Join us on Thursdays beginning March 6th at 10:00am or 7:00pm for our Lenten book study "*The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*", author and bishop of the United Methodist Church, Tom Berlin, uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding of the Scriptures to connect us to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss.

An easy read, and strait forward, we will join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.



We will gather for worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent beginning with a simple meal together at 6:00pm and worship at 7:00pm.

March 12	Bethlehem Presbyterian
March 19	High Bridge Reformed
March 26	Spruce Run Lutheran
April 2	Bethlehem Presbyterian
April 9	High Bridge Reformed

Let's do Lunch

All are welcome to our **monthly Fellowship Lunch!**
Happening on February 27th at 12:00pm, this month at
Finnagel's on Rt 31.

Please RSVP to Susan Jacqmein at
seajacqmein@embarqmail.com so that we can give the
restaurant a headcount!

Upcoming dates:



March 27 at Clinton Station

April 24 at Frank's Pizza



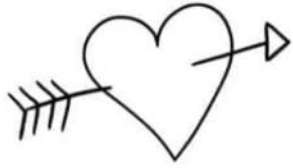
Kid Zone

The children have been learning about the Power of Prayer
through the stories of our Bible Heroes.
We have been practicing the 5 finger prayer method as a way to pray.

<h3>The 5 Finger Prayer</h3> 	<h3>The 5 Finger Prayer</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Your thumb is nearest to you...so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you--family and friends.2. Next is the pointer finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers.3. The middle finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for government officials, administrators, and leaders in business and industry.4. Our ring finger is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are struggling, feel weak or are in need.5. And lastly comes the pinky, the smallest finger of all, which should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs in a good perspective. 
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LOVE EACH OTHER

Love is...

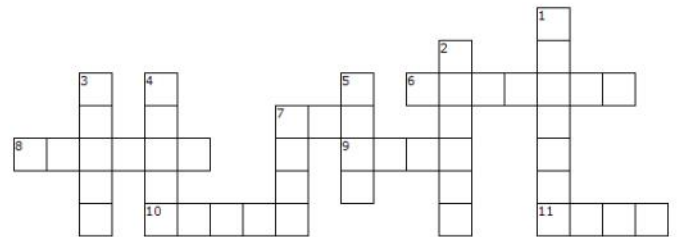


Patient
Kind
Trusts
Truth
Hopes

Preserves
Rejoices
Protects
Never Fails
Corinthians
Love

John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you."

John 3:16



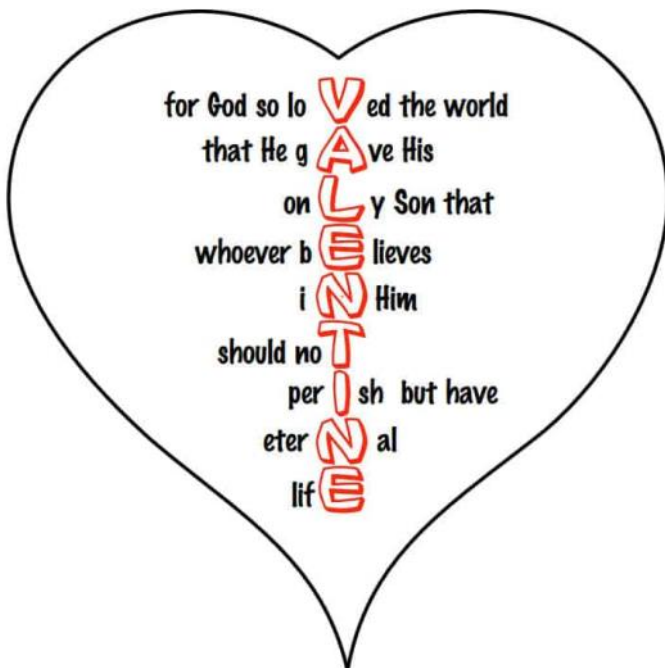
ACROSS

- To accept something as true, genuine, or real
- A male child
- To die or be destroyed
- To care very deeply for someone
- A serpent or reptile)
- The period of time from birth to death

DOWN

- Lasting forever, without end
- Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
- The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
- Received the ten commandments from God
- Alone in its kind, nothing like it
- To rescue from danger or harm

SNAKE	ETERNAL	SAVE	LOVE
LIFE	SON	PERISH	DESERT
ONLY	BELIEVE	MOSES	WORLD



JESUS
LOVES ME

Missions

February Spotlight

Peyton Heart Project

Peyton's Heart Project was brought to us by our friend Beth Fischer who lost her son, Austin to suicide his Senior year at VHS. We have over 1,000 crocheted hearts to give out to the community.

On 2/16 we will gather together during coffee hour tie on labels to the hearts and fill bags to get them ready to go out into the community.

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 has a new permanent location!

OCFP is now located in Grayrock Plaza!

Upcoming Mission Activities

Date	Mission
1/19/25	Fellowship
2/16/25	Peytons Heart
3/16/25	Meals on Wheels
4/27	Environmental Committee
5/18	Family Promise
6/15	Life Camp
7/20	Cookies for Soldiers
8/17	Family Promise
9/21	
10/19	Veterans Haven North
11/16	Family Promise
12/21	Blankets

Church Community Events

Give from the heart

February is American Heart Month.



DONATIONS
SAVE LIVES

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 16th

9:00AM – 3:00PM

Lebanon Reformed Church

100 Brunswick Ave. Lebanon, NJ

Fellowship Hall

To make an appointment: www.nybc.org/drive Sponsor code: **72802**

Please scan QR code or call 1-800-933-2566



Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Masks are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status. Visit nybc.org/coronavirus for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD · nybc.org
#njbloodservices



VALENTINE'S PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Need a Night Out?

Let us help! Drop off your kids (**ages 5-12**) at the Lebanon Reformed Church for a fun-filled **Parent's Night Out!** Your kids will have a blast while you enjoy a well-deserved break!

Activities include:

-  Pizza dinner
-  Movie time
-  Craft making
-  Games
-  Tasty snacks

DATE

15 FEB 2024

TIME

6-8:30PM

PLACE

Lebanon Reformed Church
100 Brunswick Ave
Lebanon, NJ 08833

Or use Sign-up link:
<https://tinyurl.com/5ybm8pua>

QR Code to Sign-up!



Sign up by 2/10/15

Upcoming Events

✝ February 12 ~ 7pm
Consistory Meeting

✝ February 16
Mission and Coffee Hour

✝ February 27 ~ 12p
Fellowship Luncheon
Finnagel's in Clinton

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@hbrefomedchurch.org