



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!

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Meet the Team

Pastor– Ed Staats

Music Director– Landon Peer

Assistant– Jessica Luteran

Office

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Pastor

908-303-0212

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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>

"He is not here; for he has been raised."— Matthew 28:6

This is what we proclaim on Easter Sunday. God's greatest promise is given to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is alive! Because of God's unfailing, unflinching, unparalleled love, we are set free to be people of the resurrection, covered by God's grace and forgiveness. No longer stumbling in the darkness, but basking in the light of Christ. We trust the light of Christ will never burn out, it will never be dim, it will never leave us in the darkness; the light of Christ will shine and guide our steps.

That's why Easter matters. Because we will never be forsaken, we will never be left alone to wander in the darkness. True light has come. God, the creator of the world and liberator of all people has given us new life, through the resurrection of Jesus.

As the world brings out bunnies, eggs, and sweet treats be reminded of the new life we find in Christ and the sweetness of his forgiveness and grace. Remember as we worship together, and sing a song of God's unparalleled love, we worship a God who gave everything so we might know the comfort and promise of grace. Remember that when the flowers and fanfare fade away and we're back to a typical Monday, that we are still covered in God's abundant grace. But also remember, as we go about our daily lives and the glory of Easter Sunday fades into memory, we still have a lot of Kingdom work to do! So savor the sacred moments of Holy Week and let the Holy Spirit wash over you as you worship on Easter Sunday and know that God's love is why Easter matters.

On behalf of the staff and consistory of HBRC, I want to extend to you and your families our best for a happy and holy Easter and Easter season!

Blessings,
Pastor Ed

The Cross of Easter

Throughout Lent, the bear wooden cross has been central to our worship. The cross has been our focus because that is where our Messiah suffered and died in our place. That is where the shedding of His blood purchased our freedom from sin.

But the cross also symbolizes God's love for us. So how do we transform the cross from an object of torture and death to a thing of love and life?

In the spirit of Christian celebration, this Easter morning, we will observe the centuries-old custom of the "flowering of the cross". You will be invited to come forward to the cross during the prelude, with flowers you bring from your home garden or flowers that will be provided, and place your flowers on the cross. Assistants will be available to help. In this way we will dramatically symbolize Christ's triumph over death, His resurrection, and His gift of everlasting life.

HOLY WEEK

At HBRC

Palm Sunday Service
April 2nd 10:00am

Maunday Thursday Seder
Traditional Passover Seder followed by
Pot Luck Dinner

Please, RSVP to the Church Office by
April 3rd
April 6th 6:00pm

Good Friday Service of
Music & Reflection
April 7th 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Worship
Bring cut flowers or use those
provided for the "Flowering of the Cross"

Missions

April Spotlight!

First Responders

We are gathering items to create Thank you bags for HB First Responders. We will gather on Sunday April 23rd at 11am for Coffee Hour and to put together the bags. The bags will be brought to the HB Fire Department, HB CERT team, HB Police Department, and South Branch Emergency Services.

Coffee hour is open to the community inviting everyone to join in our time of Fellowship and goodwill.

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 pill 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!

🦋 We have donated 622lbs of goods so far in 2023! 515lbs in March alone!

With the pound for pound match our total will go to 1137lbs! We have surpassed our 2023 goal already!

🦋 We have donated 125 pill bottles so far for 2023!

🦋 Thank you Brian for raising \$250 for the organ fund by playing his bagpipes in HB on St. Patrick's Day!

Upcoming Events

✝ April 23

Coffee Hour & Mission 11a

✝ April 19

Consistory Meeting 7p

✝ April 18

Women for HB meeting 7p

Announcements

- ✝ Communion is the first Sunday of the Month.
- ✝ We are collecting Items for the HB First Responder thank you bags through April 21.
- ✝ We will be putting the bags together during Coffee Hour on April 23.
- ✝ If you are interested in being on the prayer chain please reach out to Susan Jacqmein.
- ✝ Check the bulletin board for birthdays and anniversaries!

Classis Prayer Schedule for April

4/2 Rockaway Reformed Church

4/9 South Branch Reformed Church

4/16 Stanton Reformed Church

4/23 United Reformed Church

On Sunday, June 4th, we will be having a different kind of Sunday worship. Rather than gathering in our normal seats in the sanctuary, we will gather together in Anderson Hall to share God's word and share a meal together. Now, before you say what kind of new & crazy idea is this, I ask you to pray on Acts 2:46 & 47 (*"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread... and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people..."*). Perhaps the idea isn't all that new, and maybe not so crazy... The early church saw the table as a place where relationships were built, connections were made, the Gospel was shared, faith was cultivated and lives were changed. Maybe we can recapture a little of that too! Details will follow in the future.

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

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