



# 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

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[info@hbreformedchurch.org](mailto:info@hbreformedchurch.org)

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>



Our Lenten book study is "The Cross and the Lynching Tree" by James Cone. This theological work provides deep insights into how our primary Christian symbol, the cross, has borne the weight of hope for African American Christians for centuries. Jesus was that "somebody" who knew the "troubles" of those who innocently suffered centuries of racism. The cross and the lynching tree represent the worst in human beings and at the same time a thirst for life that refuses to let the worst of

humanity determine our final meaning. These powerful symbols teach us about black struggle in the face of slavery, Jim Crow, and lynchings and about how God can overcome the forces of death to create life. Dr. Cone unfolds the complex theological quandary of God's intimacy and absence experienced by the Black Church, and the scandalous reticence of the powerful white mainline denominations to condemn lynching. This "powerful and painful song of hope" offers a timely illumination of the struggles for racial equity in the past and the present. In this time of Black Lives Matter and tragedies like those of the Charleston church massacre we continue to write new chapters as faithful followers "growing in the ways of Jesus and sent out daily to share the healing love of God."

Although this is a provocative and relevant opportunity for study during Lent, this will not be an easy study. The topic will be uncomfortable and, at times, difficult to wrestle with. Be prepared to take a deep look at racism and the role that the church and American society have played in its perpetuation. While this study will be deeply challenging, I believe it will also be life-giving and transformative, as we explore history, race, and God's power to transcend death.

### Interpretive statement for our Lenten theme

This is the season of Lent, the time when we are all on the road to Jerusalem. The smooth brown cloth winds its way up the altar as a road or path through the rough field of burlap. Candles light the way – one for each week of Lent and Passion Sunday. Near the candles are symbols of the towns and places we will be stopping at each Sunday. We begin with Jesus in the Wilderness, move on to Jesus clandestine meeting with Nicodemus, to a well outside the town of Sychar in Samaria, to the Pool of Siloam with its' Greek pillars, to Bethany and the tomb of Lazarus, where Lazarus' grave clothes can still be seen; then finally to Jerusalem where Jesus will be tried by Pilate, ultimately the road ends at the foot of the cross.

# LENT *ALL ARE WELCOME!*

AT HIGH BRIDGE REFORMED CHURCH

### Lenten Book Study

James Cone's *The Cross & the Lynching Tree*  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

### Easter Basket Collection

(For The Open Cupboard Food Pantry)  
Collection of items Feb 22-Mar 17

To donate please visit [www.thingstogetme.com/639464aad7da](http://www.thingstogetme.com/639464aad7da)  
Basket Assembly on Mar 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am

### Palm Sunday Service

April 2nd 10:00am

### Maundy Thursday Seder

April 6th 6:00pm

### Good Friday Service of Music & Reflection

April 7th 7:00pm

### Easter Sunday Worship

April 9th 10:00am

## Missions

### March Spotlight!

#### OCFP Easter Baskets

We are gathering items to create Easter baskets for the children of families served by the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. We will gather on Sunday March 19th at 11am for Coffee Hour and to put together the Easter baskets. The bags will be brought to the OCFP the following week to be delivered to the families. In time for Easter! 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 pills bottles throughout the year for Matthew 25 Ministries. These pill bottles are sent with medical supplies to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

🙌 HBRC sponsored the HB Soap Box Derby,

🙌 We have donated 107lbs of goods so far in 2023!

Remember our goal is 1000lbs for 2023!

🙌 We have donated 78 pill bottles so far for 2023!

## Upcoming Events

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✝ March 13

Consistory Meeting 7p

✝ March 19

Coffee Hour & Mission 11a

✝ March 21

Women for HB meeting 7p

## Announcements

- ✝ Communion is the first Sunday of the Month.
- ✝ We are collecting Items for the OCFP Easter baskets through March 17.
- ✝ We will be putting the bags together during Coffee Hour on March 19.
- ✝ March Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Staats Family
- ✝ If you are interested in being on the prayer chain please reach out to Susan Jacqmein.
- ✝ Check the bulletin board for birthdays and anniversaries!

If you have information you would like to see in the newsletter please reach out to Jess or email [info@hbformedchurch.org](mailto:info@hbformedchurch.org)