

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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info@hbpreformedchurch.org

Pastor
908-303-0212
pastor@hbpreformedchurch.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>

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice . . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Dear Friends of Christ at High Bridge,

The post-Easter quietness always gets to me, just a little. With all the hustle and bustle of Lent, the return to "normal" is almost jarring. It takes me time to readjust to the more typical routine here at the church. It is a blessing to know the peace of God in whatever is happening in life or in the life of the church.

What does it mean to have "peace"? Maybe we have peace when our bodies are healthy. That makes sense. When we are healthy, our bodies feel peaceful. Maybe we feel like we have peace when everything is going well at work, or even when we have work. Being out of work, or not having steady work, is stressful. Life definitely feels peaceful when work is going well. But there seems to be so much going on around us – in our families, in our community, in our world – things that rob us of our peace and we would probably not describe our life as being "peaceful."

In the passage above Paul instructs us, "Rejoice in the Lord always . . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." At the time Paul wrote these thoughts, I don't think we would say Paul's life was exactly "peaceful." Paul wrote this sitting in a prison in Rome. On top of this, Paul's health was not great, but that was alright. Paul's situation and health did not bring him peace, Christ did. Paul's work was not always going well. Paul was constantly dealing with false teachers who threatened to take grace out of the church, but that was alright. Again, it wasn't Paul's work that brought him peace, it was Christ.

This is why Paul was so bold as to say, "Rejoice always." It didn't matter in what circumstance Paul found himself. Whether well fed, hungry or poor, Paul still had peace, because his peace was one that did not come from this world. His peace came from Christ. The peace Paul had was not dependent upon his good health, his living situation or when his next meal might show up, his peace came from Christ.

The peace Paul had was not dependent on any outward or earthly force, Paul's peace came from Christ. As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we can understand the peace Paul is talking about.

As Christians, our peace almost has nothing to do with what is ongoing on in the world around us. Our peace is a lasting, eternal peace because the Son of God offered a perfect sacrifice for us on Good Friday, died for us, and rose from the dead for us three days later. Because of what Christ has done, He has mended our broken relationship with God the Father.

And now, we have peace with God given to us by Jesus. This is why, like Paul, we may rejoice always. Our peace does not depend upon what is going on in this world or even in our own lives. Our peace is in Christ, and nothing has the power to take that peace away from you.

Wishing you that peace which passes all understanding,

Pastor Ed





Let's do Lunch

All are welcome to our **monthly Fellowship Lunch!**

Happening on May 22nd at 11:30am,
this month at Sky Manor Café.

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

Upcoming dates:

June 26 at Cracker Barrel

July 24 at Finnagel's

August 28 at Clinton Station Diner

We are almost done with
the updated directory!
We are just tracking
down the last few details!

If you would like to be
included, please, give
your updated information
to Jess (highbridgerc@
gmail.com)

(Names of all family
members Address, Email,
Cell Number, birthdays,
anniversaries etc.)



Thanks to all who gave of
their time, talent,
and treasure to make our
Easter worship special!

The Lord is risen indeed!





What an amazing morning! The church was bustling with activity and full of people. So many of you were there to help out and support this first fundraiser to offset the cost of our new furnace. Thanks to all who contributed fruit and baked goods, who were there to help out at the event, to our wonderful chefs (Rick and Eric), and of course our chair-people for the event Christy & Wil.



May Spotlight

Family Promise

This year we are partnering with St. John Neumann's Church to support Family Promise of Hunterdon. Several times a year their volunteers host a week at Family Promise. During those weeks they provide meals each day to the families living in the Family Promise House in Flemington. Throughout May we will be collecting toiletries and other needed items for the families. We will also be hosting a meal for the house one day. More details will come out once we receive them from St. John Neumann's.

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

Upcoming Mission Activities

Date	Mission
6/15	Life Camp
7/20	Cookies for Soldiers
8/17	Family Promise
9/21	Meals on Wheels
10/19	Veterans Haven North
11/16	Family Promise
12/21	Blankets

Ongoing Missions

Food Collection

HBRC makes weekly deliveries of goods collected to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and North Hunterdon Food Pantry.

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).

HBRC MISSION OF THE MONTH: APRIL

High Bridge Environmental Commission



Thanks to all who came out to help build birdhouses for our April MoM project. A huge thank you to Alan Schuetz for crafting the kits for us to build. The birdhouses will be given to HBEC who will use them at the elementary school and for prizes at various community events.



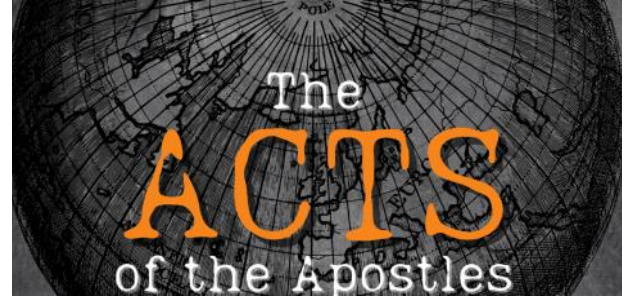
Join us on May 18th for our Mission of the Month (MoM) - Family Promise!

HBRC Bible Study Opportunities



What's so special about the book of Acts and why should we study it? Put simply, without the book of Acts, large portions of the NT would be quite incomprehensible. This book is the key player that holds the NT together in a number of ways.

Acts is actually the second part of Luke's Gospel, put together, Luke and Acts comprise 27% of the NT. If we don't know these two books well, then we are gutting over a quarter of our NT.



The book explains how Jesus' message began to reach all nations—not just the nation of Israel and demonstrates how the disciples did their part to fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20). Acts not only illustrates how Peter became the Rock on which Jesus built the church but authenticates and explains the apostleship of Paul. Luke records Paul's testimony three times, showing that Luke desired to establish Paul's credentials as the apostle to the Gentiles, and this explains the authority and integrity of the letters attributed to Paul in the NT. Without Acts we would wonder who Paul even was. This just begins to scratch the surface of what makes this book so rich!

So join us as we take a journey into our past and discover who we were and who we are to become... Thursdays at 10:00am starting May 8th.



Starting on Thursday nights in May at 7:00pm...

Crafters! Bring your current project to work on while we discuss key passages of scripture.

Not really that crafty, or need a new project to start, we got you! Start up projects will be available too!

For more information see Christy Benoit or Judy Staats.

Summer Happenings!



HBRC will have a table at the SOAP BOX DERBY again this year. We are looking for volunteers to help give out information and help with the kids activity. To volunteer contact Pastor Ed.

North Hunterdon Ecumenical Fellowship round robin VBS is happening again this summer!

Five action packed, fun filled nights on June 30th , July 7, 14, 21, & 28. But we need your help! To volunteer contact Pastor Ed.



Sometimes we can feel trapped by our worries, our doubts, our fears, and our sin and we just wish we could break out and be free from these struggles.

Through this escape room-themed VBS, kids will not only solve fun puzzles each night, but will also learn that only God has the power to come in and break us out of the ordinary to lead us to the extraordinary.



Returning this summer—our North Hunterdon Ecumenical Fellowship Worship in the Park series. On the last Sunday of June, July, & August, instead of gathering for worship in our sanctuary, we will worship in God's original sanctuary—God's beloved creation... We will also encounter transformative love and empowerment through unity in the Spirit as we worship together with our Lutheran and Presbyterian siblings on each of these Sundays. It is our hope that these shared worship experiences help us continue to grow together as the embodiment of Christ's love to become a Beloved Community of followers of Christ, grounded in our

June 29, 9:30am	Lebanon Memorial Park	70 Bunnvale Rd, Califon
July 27, 9:30am	Finn Road Park	36 Finn Rd, Pittstown
August 31, 9:30am	Lebanon Memorial Park	70 Bunnvale Rd, Califon



We spent the Lenten Season cracking eggs open and learning the meaning of different symbols of Easter.

Now we are back to learning about heroes of the Bible. Believe it or not we only have 8 weeks left of Sunday School! We will spend time learning about, Lydia, Peter, Paul and John. We will learn about how a little boy became a hero simply because he shared his lunch!

We pause again to spend some time learning about Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Our final lesson will be all about our amazing kids, how God made them special and why! We will be reminded that we are all disciples and that we can share God's love even though we are small.

Then we will kick off our Kindness Challenge! In July and August we will practice being good disciples by participating in acts of kindness within the church and our community.

Details to coming soon!



Upcoming Events

✝ May 12 ~ 7pm

Elder's Meeting

✝ May 14~ 7pm

Consistory Meeting

✝ May 22~ 11:30a

Fellowship Luncheon

Sky Manor, Pittstown, NJ

✝ May 18

Mission and Coffee Hour

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.
- ✝ 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