



# The Hamilton Beacon

Week of October 19

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## REFORMATION SUNDAY – 10/25

Reformation Sunday is one of those days when we celebrate the past, while looking forward toward the future as well.

The past is the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. October 31<sup>st</sup> is the day that encapsulates it. On that day a young monk, Martin Luther (1483-1546), posted a collection of propositions for debate, now called “the 95 Thesis.” For a variety of reasons, this seemingly simple act kicked off the Protestant Reformation. We celebrate Reformation Day on the Sunday prior to the first Sunday in November.

While Martin Luther is important for the Reformation, equally important is John Calvin (1509-1564). Because of Calvin, the city of Geneva in Switzerland became the intellectual center of the Reformation. Calvin, an attorney, scholar, theologian, but also a pastor, was an amazing person.

So, on Reformation Sunday, we look to the past, but a key phrase of the reformation also encourages us to look forward. That phrase in Latin is “Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda” – the “Church reformed and always reforming.”

This Sunday will prompt us to look back to the truths and insights of the Reformers, it is even more important to look forward. Even in these critical times, it is good to know the church is still in the reforming mode.

## WOOD FOR A NICE WARM FIRE?

In Westminster Hall, we have discovered quite a stash of small wood pieces that would be great for a winter fire. Call the Church Office 410-426-1444, to come pick up wood.

## PROJECT REPORT

Most of the cracked, scared and water stained walls in our Sanctuary building have been repaired. In the next two weeks, we will be painting walls on the ground and main floors.



As our projects finish, the time come for a major cleaning.

Sweeping is also called for in Westminster Hall.

Call the Church Office, we can arrange to unlock doors at any time convenient for you to do some clean-up and sweeping.

## FUTURE WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, November 1, will be the last Sunday for Jack Hodges to be in Sunday worship. It's fair to ask: What's ahead?

With the current Covid-19 restrictions, it is tough to invite clergy to preach for an in-person service like ours. For sure, preachers on Zoom are available, but not in person. That means preaching and worship leadership must be generated in-house for the foreseeable future.

Dave Greenwood will serve as Worship Coordinator with the responsibility of pulling our worship services together.

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

As I think about this day, it is with much thanksgiving and much blessing for Hamilton that is in my heart.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is known in the church calendar as “All Saints Day.” These are not “stained glass” kind of saints, but the everyday members of the Christian Community who serve and witness. People just like Hamilton members!

At the October 11<sup>th</sup> Session/Trustee meeting, I indicated the time of transition had come. So I will be with you through October and into Sunday, November 1st. After that, I will not be available for any preaching or pastoral work because of quarantine. The Presbytery will name a new moderator for Session and we will inform you of the person as soon as we know.

With the unanimous approval of Session/Trustees, I will continue in the specific area of sub-division work, seeing that process to completion. This is something I can easily do at home since all contacts are by phone and computer.

All-in-all, I think our immediate financial future is secure. Hamilton now has time & opportunity to do what it needs to do. Of course, this will require “stepping up to the plate.”

Grace  
and Peace,

Jack

