



News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 February 2019

THOUGHT ON RECEIVING COMMUNION

December 1, 2002

Christ Presbyterian Church, Cortland, NY

If there were no darkness, we would never see the stars.
When the sun shines brightly, and the sky is blue,
the stars are still up there, so I'm told.
But only on dark, clear nights do we see
the vastness, the beauty, the glory of God's eternity,
the height and length and breadth beyond our comprehension.
It is only in the darkness of sorrow, suffering and sin
that we can comprehend the glory of God's love, peace and power.
God is there all the time; it takes the darkness for us to see.

Why do some people seem to have more than their share of darkness?
I cannot answer that question.
I only trust that on my darkest night, those stars will be there.

The bread of communion speaks to me of the darkness.
In the bread I see Christ's body broken for me.
I see the brokenness of humanity, of our world, and of my own unworthiness.
The cup speaks to me of the stars,
the promises of One who is faithful and true,
stars of steadfast love, compassion, and hope.
Even when we cannot see them, those promises are there.
The blood Moses sprinkled on the people as the sign of a covenant;
the blood of Christ, who gives us a new covenant of love,
speak of the sacredness and certainty of God's promises.
The cup gives me joy.

Some people say that our western communion is too gloomy -
too preoccupied with suffering. We need to celebrate the resurrection!
All darkness and no stars would be a terrible thing.
But without Good Friday, Easter would have no meaning.
Bread and wine;
sorrow and joy, together speak of life,
of the presence of God that gives hope.
And I have joy.
I do not pray for darkness,
but I will take what comes
and rejoice in the stars
my hope - day and night.

Chuck Maxfield

• FROM THE •
Pastor's Desk

CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December Consistory meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: December bank statements were not available for our meeting. General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for November 2018.

Operating Fund	November 2018	2018 YTD	November 2017	2017 YTD
Income	\$11,759.55	\$111,549.42	\$12,513.35	\$117,960.95
Expenses	\$7,017.76	\$119,093.51	\$7,799.47	\$130,322.26
Income vs. Expenses	\$4,741.79	(\$7,544.09)	\$4,713.88	(\$12,361.31)

• Benevolence received for November was \$201.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,710.00

Reports from the various committees were reviewed. Their activities can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter.

Communion will be celebrated on February 3rd.

We will have our annual Congregational Meeting on February 24th during the worship service. Please join us as we reflect on 2018 and share our goals for 2019.

P&K Heating and Cooling has begun installation of the air conditioning system. They will be working on the install through the winter as time allows, and will have the project completed before the summer heat arrives.

Last month we reported a recommendation to replace a portion of the sanctuary carpet that is showing signs of wear, and we asked for any thoughts or suggestions. We have concluded that the best option is to wait until it is feasible to replace the entire sanctuary carpet rather than replace a section at a time.

We are still in the process of gathering information to find the best options for replacement entry doors to the church and Sunday school.

Thank you to Sally Shirk for volunteering to serve on Consistory for 2019.

Consistory officers are: Matt Weller – President; Arlan Schaeffer – Vice President; Bonnie Helmick – Secretary; Sally Shirk – Assistant Treasurer.

There are still several consistory positions that need to be filled. Please see any consistory member if you feel called to serve, or if you have any questions about what the responsibilities of consistory members are.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for February will be provided by Terry Shane and Clarence Weller. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Ray Kochey, David Mutter, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Sally Shirk, Clarence Weller, Matt Weller, and Rev. Charles Maxfield.

Choir Notes

The choir will be rehearsing a Lenten Cantata, "The Living Last Words" which will be sung jointly with the Lutheran choir on Good Friday April 19th at 7:00 PM, at St. Joseph's Hill Lutheran Church. Volunteers are needed and appreciated. Rehearsals will start Wednesday Feb. 6th at our church.



Wed. February 6 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. February 13 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. February 20 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. February 27 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM



CEMETERY BOARD NEWS

In preparation for Spring, please remove all flowers from grave sites by Sunday, March 31, 2019. Thank you!

Christian Education News

Sunday, February 3 we will have our annual Souper Bowl lunch. If you want to make a soup, bring it to the kitchen before church in a crock pot, so we can all enjoy following worship (bread, crackers, dessert and drinks will be provided too). Please bring your recipe or e-mail it to Nikki (nikki@stjohnhillucc.org); we will compile all of them and make a recipe book. We will be having a new challenge this year with 2 monetary collection pots - one for the Rams and one for the Patriots! While all donations will go to one cause, you can put your donation in the team your cheering for! You do not need to bring a soup to enjoy the fellowship.

The next meeting is February 4 at 7 pm.

Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee would like your opinions about having an Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service Easter morning rather than having the 7:00 AM service. Please tell one of the committee members your thoughts. Committee Members are Sonya Moyer, Mayetta Shane, Joel & Nikki Weller and Elmer Miller.

Park Committee News

Time continues to march on; here we are two months in another new year. It's time to have our reorganizational meeting and elect new officers for 2019. This and any of our meetings are open to anyone. Meeting date to be announced in church.

February is a month that we try to only attend to emergencies and leave the warmer months for our outdoor work projects. We will not have a work day in February.

As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work," please consider becoming a member of the Park Committee. Thank You!

Any questions call Mark Hile 610-367-6572 or Terry Shane 610-367-7938

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16



Scriptures and Sermons for February

February 3 - God Loves Foreigners

Holy Communion

Luke 4:21-30

February 10 - Fishing for People

Luke 5:1-11

February 17 - Which side are you on?

Luke 6:17-26

February 24 - Curing Our Hatred

Luke 6:27-38

Church Contact Information

Rev. Charles Maxfield - Interim Pastor

Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/
Organist

Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary



Mr. Charles Anhalt - Sexton

Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer

Church Telephone: 610-367-8114

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org

Church E-mail: office@stjohnhillucc.org

Announcements from the Hill

Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for the Boyertown Multi-Service Food Pantry during the month of February. Below is a list of items needed to fill the shelves in the pantry and the hearts of thier clients. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bath/Shower Soap (bars or liquid)
- Deodorant
- Laundry Soap
- Instant Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The 2019 sign up charts for “Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship” are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$30 for flowers and \$15 for bulletins. As always, we greatly appreciate and need your stewardship. When signing up, please include with your name, how you would like the “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” to appear in the bulletin. Thank you!



Anhalt Carpet & Tile Cleaning



Anhalt Carpet & Tile Cleaning has been selected for the 2018 Best of Boyertown Award in the Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning category by the Boyertown Award Program.

Don't forget to contact our sexton, Charles Anhalt, for discounted in-house tile and carpet cleaning. 20% of all proceeds received will be donated to our church in honor of you. Contact Charles at 484-333-1424.

Annual Congregational Meeting



The annual congregational meeting will be held February 24th during the worship service.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

In the event of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, announcements regarding the Hill Church Sunday schedule will be given in the following ways:



Church website: <http://www.stjohnhillucc.org>
Church telephone answering machine: 610-367-8114
WFMZ TV Storm Center – Broadcast Channel 69
(May be a different channel on your system)



Also, please keep in mind that power outages may affect our ability to use certain of the above resources, and the ability of some members to have access to those outlets. So we encourage church members to be in touch with one another to help spread the word about possible cancellations and changes. Thank you.

GROCERY CARDS

Don't forget grocery cards for Giant, Redner's and Weis Markets are available for purchase. They may be used towards groceries, gas and pharmacy purchases and make terrific gifts! We receive 5% for every card you purchase which will be used to support our Church Missions program. See Connie Hile to purchase your cards today!

Hill Church Events

Holy Communion

1st Sunday of the Month

Park Committee Work Days

2nd Saturday of the month at 8 am

Joyful Noise Offering

3rd Sunday of the Month

Children's Message

3rd Sunday of the Month

Newsletter Deadline

3rd Sunday of the Month

Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday September thru May

(see newsletter for times)

Here is a list of ongoing committee meetings. These meetings are open for anyone who wishes to attend. Most meetings are held in the Christian Education building.

Christian Education

1st Monday of the month at 7 pm

Women's Guild

2nd Sunday of the month after church

Consistory

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm

Want to get involved? These are our upcoming community events.

Ham Supper

3rd Saturday in May

Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert

1st Saturday in August

Buckwheat & Sausage Supper

1st Saturday in October

Turkey Supper

1st Saturday in November

Mission Opportunities - Whether you are in need of help or you want to help others, our Hill Church Mission team is here for you.

For more information on any of these items, contact the church office at 610-367-8114

Church Contact Info

Church Phone # 610-367-8114

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org

Church E-mail: office@stjohnhillucc.org

Interim Pastor - Rev. Charles Maxfield

Musical Director/Organist - Mr. Elmer Miller

Church Secretary - Mrs. Nikki Weller

Sexton - Mr. Charles Anhalt

Consistory President - Matt Weller

Consistory Vice President - Arlan Schaeffer

Trustees - Mark Hile, Bill Moyer, Terry Shane

Christian Education Superintendent - Elmer Miller

Cemetery Board President - Elmer Miller

Park Committee President - Mark Hile

Women's Guild President - Megyn Weller

Mission Team - Mark Hile