



News from the Hill...

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

• FROM THE •
Pastor's Desk

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

Lent - the forty days before Easter - is a time to prepare for Easter. It has traditionally been a time for fasting. By fasting, we give up something - deny ourselves - as a way of reminding ourselves of how much more Christ sacrificed for us, and how great is God's love. The prophet Isaiah, reacting against the religiosity of his people, heard this message from God:

In not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice . . .
To let the oppressed go free. . . .

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless into your home. . .

In other words, fasting may be a discipline of action - doing God's will - as well as a discipline that inspires contemplation. Both can draw us closer to God.

This Lent, I challenge you to adopt a discipline to bring you closer to God. I am suggesting two disciplines. You may follow both, or either, or do something else.

1. Give up plastic bags for Lent.

Americans dispose of over 100,000,000,000 (100 billion) plastic bags every year. Less than 1 % are recycled. The bags find their way to landfills, and often eventually to the ocean. Sea birds and mammals have been found with their stomachs filled with plastic, and some mammals have been suffocated by them. By 2050, if present trends continue, the weight of plastic in the ocean will exceed the weight of all the fish in the sea. It will take 1,000 years or more for the plastics in landfills to break down. When they do they become microscopic particles of plastic that get into our soil, then into our food, then into us. If you care about God's good creation, and future generations, you will want to do something. There's no need for all those plastic bags. Many of us can remember the day when we didn't have them, and life was good then.

Perhaps you can take the first step in Lent. For 40 days, do not take plastic bags for your groceries or other purchases. You can bring your own reusable bags, or ask for paper bags, or carry your purchases in your hands. It's a small sacrifice on our part to show our reverence for God's creation.

2. Journaling

Jesus criticized those who have eyes but do not see. Through the course of each day, can we see the hand of God at work? Perhaps in the beauty of nature? Perhaps in an act of kindness shown to us? God is all around us every day. We will become more conscious of God's presence if we take the time, toward the close of the day, to ask ourselves: "Where have I seen God today?" After prayerful reflection, it will be helpful to write down our thoughts, perhaps in the form of a prayer of thanks to God, in a notebook or in our computer. Then we can look back later on, and remember again God's blessings to us. If you miss a day, don't worry. You can catch up the next day.

Both of these disciplines can draw us closer to God - in contemplation and action - and will bless us as we prepare for the celebration of joy, life, and victory at Easter.

Chuck Maxfield

CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for January 2019.

Operating Fund	January 2019	2019 YTD	January 2018	2018 YTD
Income	\$11,366.40	\$11,366.40	\$8,204.88	\$8,204.88
Expenses	\$8,510.77	\$8,510.77	\$10,070.02	\$10,070.02
Income vs. Expenses	\$2,855.63	\$2,855.63	(\$1,864.14)	(\$1,864.14)

•Benevolence received for January was \$643.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$643.00

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

Communion will be celebrated on March 3rd, and also on Ash Wednesday, March 6th at our 7pm service.

We have set a date of April 6th, beginning at 8am for our annual spring cleaning. Please consider helping out as many hands make light work!

P&K Heating and Cooling has indicated that the sanctuary air conditioning is taking a little more time to install than they had anticipated, but will have the project completed before spring.

It has been brought to our attention that the heating system in the Pastor's Study is insufficient, and a space heater is being used as a supplement. We also know that previous pastors had suggested that we improve the heating and air conditioning in that area. In an effort to make the study more inviting and comfortable for our pastor, we have decided to address this issue and are currently working on a solution.

The trustees have presented us with a few options for replacement entry doors, and we feel that the best option would be to have Baut Studios install aluminum doors. This will be discussed at our Annual Meeting on February 24.

There was a report of water leaking from the roof of the church on to the pews in the balcony, and Mast Roofing was able to perform a temporary repair. They also performed an inspection of the roof, and have indicated that after 30 plus years the current shingles are failing, and we will need to start planning for a replacement in the near future. We are going to begin looking at options and will keep you informed.

A Pastor Search Committee has been formed, which is the next step in the process to call our next full time pastor. Search Committee members are: Elmer Miller, Dottie Fronheiser, Jan Fisher, Mayetta Shane, Sally Shirk, and Rick Furches. Thank you all for your commitment!

Consistory Pre-Service set up for March will be provided by Terry Shane and Ray Kochey. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 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.

Wed. March 6 - Sr. Choir 6:15 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. March 13 - Sr. Choir 6:15 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. March 20 - Sr. Choir 6:15 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM

Wed. March 27 - Sr. Choir 6:15 PM; Cantata 8:00 PM



Christian Education News

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Souper Bowl Sunday. We had 15 crocks of soup. Recipe books are available in the Narthex.

Easter is coming up - Mark your calendars to join us in worship on Palm Sunday for the children's program and the Annual Children's Egg Hunt on April 20.

The next meeting is March 11 at 7 pm.

Women's Guild News

On Sunday, February 10th we had our Women's Guild Meeting after church. We had a new member join us Tracy Kochey. We are happy that she joined us at a meeting and we invite any women to join us at our meetings, we have a fun time! We elected a Vice President, Clara Shakespeare. Our next meeting will be Sunday March 10th right after church.

Park Committee News

Work day Saturday March 9th It's time to come out of hibernation and stretch our muscles. Let's all join in to clean up after the winter weather and get things ready for spring.

We normally meet at the Creek Side Diner for breakfast about 6:30 AM or at the church parking lot about 8:00 AM.

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

"Beloved, lets us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." ~ 1 John 4:7

Scriptures and Sermons for March

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday
Celebration of Communion
“Light Like None Other”
Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:18-36

March 10

First Sunday in Lent
“What Kind of Leader?”
Psalm 91:1-6,14-16
Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Second Sunday in Lent
“Citizenship in Heaven”
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Third Sunday in Lent
“Whose Fault is It?”
Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-5

March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent
“Our Joyful God”
Psalm 32:1-11
Luke 15:1-32



Ash Wednesday at 7 pm

March 6 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Midweek Worship at 7 pm

Lenten Theme: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

March 13 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Leviticus 19:1-3, 9-18; Romans 13:8-10

March 20 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church

Hosea 11:1-12; Romans 8:35-39

March 27 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Luke 6:27-38

April 3 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 14:15-31

April 10 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Deuteronomy 7:7-13; 1 John 4:7-21

Maundy Thursday

April 18 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Good Friday

April 19 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church

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 March. Below is a list of items needed to help with their Easter Meals. Nikki will also be making a shopping trip for fresh/frozen/refrigerated items prior to dropping off the collection; if you would like to make a donation to this shopping trip, please see Nikki. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

- Canned Pineapple
- Box Dessert Mixes
- Icing
- 64 oz Apple Juice
- Money/Giant Gift Cards towards shopping trip for fresh items needed (ham, potatoes, butter, veggies)

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.

CEMETERY FLOWERS

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



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