



News from the Hill...

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

• FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

Biblical Values Part 4: Social Justice

Over the past three months I have shared my notes from lectures by Dr. John Collins on Biblical Values: (1) the right to life, (2) gender, and (3) the environment. This month I will share notes and reflections on his fourth lecture: social justice.

It is hard to miss the Biblical theme of social justice:

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. *-Amos 5:24*

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *-Micah 6:8*

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
-Isaiah 1:16-17

What did justice mean to the prophets? Dr. Collins insists that they did not have our modern idea of human rights. Two points are clear: (1) God is not pleased by our worship if it is not consistent with a concern for justice in our lives. (2) The strong should not oppress the weak. Orphans and widows are often mentioned because they were the marginalized of that day, without property.

While the Old Testament prophets, and the Torah, are concerned with the ordering of society, Jesus and Paul have no say on such matters, but address the conduct within the community of the faithful. Yet the concern for justice still comes through with clarity: In the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), Jesus' first sermon (Luke 4:16-21), Luke's version of the beatitudes (Luke 6:20-26), the parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24), the parable of the rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), Jesus' call to service (Mark 10:42-45); James' definition of true religion (James 1:27). All of these texts call for deeper study.

So what objections can one have to this concern for social justice?

Objection 1: The end of the world is coming. We have no time, or concern, for the ordering of society; we must save those we can in what little time we have.

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Response: Jesus and Paul both believe the day of judgment was coming soon. How we have treated others will be an important issue on that day of judgment. The book of Revelation, most concerned with last things, expresses outrage at the injustices of our world.

Objection 2: We are to obey the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), right or wrong.

Response: For Paul, the time is short. In his life, Paul did not always obey the governing authorities when it went against his calling from God.

Objection 3: God wants us to prosper (prosperity gospel); if we get more, others will be left with less.

Response: Nothing could be further removed from the gospel of Jesus Christ, who deprecate the value of material possessions (Luke 12:13-21; Matthew 6:25-33; Matthew 19:16-26).

The message of the bible is clear: God cares about the poor and marginalized, and so should we.

Charles Maxfield

Scriptures and Sermons for September

In the month of September our scripture lessons will be from Jeremiah and Luke. Jeremiah is certainly not the most cheerful prophet. But we need to listen to him; what does he have to say to our world? There is much to condemn; but beyond and through all that there is hope.

September 1

Celebration of Holy Communion

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Luke 14:1,7-14

“Cracked Cisterns”

September 8

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Luke 14:25-33

“The Potter’s Vessel”

September 15

Outdoor Service in the Bandshell

Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28 Luke 15:1-10

“The Earth Shall Mourn”

September 22

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Luke 16:1-13

“No Balm in Gilead?”

September 29

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15 Luke 16:19-31

“Practical Hope”

CONSISTORY NEWS

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

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

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

Operating Fund	July 2019	2019 YTD	July 2018	2018 YTD
Income	\$8,816.60	\$74,365.71	\$10,379.38	\$72,438.38
Expenses	\$7,880.19	\$70,969.78	\$6,105.97	\$66,618.03
Income vs. Expenses	\$936.41	\$3,395.93	\$4,273.41	\$5,820.35

• Benevolence received for July was \$236.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,282.00

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

Communion will be celebrated on September 1st.

On August 18th we held a Congregational Meeting regarding the needed roof repairs. A vote was taken to accept the bid from Stauffer Construction for \$23,400 to replace the roof on the Sanctuary and half of the roof on the Sunday School. The other half of the Sunday School roof had been replaced previously due to storm damage, and was inspected to make sure it did not require replacement.

From November through February our monthly Consistory meetings will be held after worship service on the second Sunday of the month.

We voted to prepay for heating oil this year at a cost of \$2.659/gallon.

Church – 2500 gallons

Sexton House – 1200 gallons

Parsonage – 600 gallons

Consistory Pre-Service set up for September will be provided by Bonnie Helmick and Terry Shane. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 pm.

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

Many thanks to those that provided music selections to our Summer services. We will be featured with a few more selections in the coming weeks before choir starts.

We could use more volunteers in our choir. Please consider joining us to sing "Praises to Our Lord and Savior".

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wed. Sept. 11 Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. Sept. 18 Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. Sept. 25 Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Cantata rehearsals will start Wed. Oct. 2nd at 8:00 PM Please consider helping us with this endeavor.

Elmer Miller
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School will resume September 1st at 8:30 am with classes for 2 years old -100 years young!

Our next meeting will be on September 3rd at 7 pm.

Announcements from the Hill

Community Outreach

During the month of September we will be collecting for The Community Clothing Rack at St. Luke Lutheran Church. The Community Clothing Rack provides clothing at no cost to those in need. They serve those in the tri county area including Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties. They are accepting donations of clean, gently used clothing for women, men, children and babies along with winter hats, coats, gloves and boots. Thank you in advance

for your support of this project! If you have any questions, please contact Nikki in the church office.



BACK TO COLLEGE

We need your help in getting a list together of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of our new college students, returning students, and military personnel. Once completed, we will post the list in the Narthex so that anyone who would like to keep in touch with them can do so. Please give your information to the church secretary at 610-367-8114 or nikki@stjohnhillucc.org. Thanks!

Announcements from the Hill



Remington Ryde Summer Concert

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Music 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Food Available at 3:30 p.m.

Help needed to set up starting around 1 pm and food servers by 3 p.m.

Refreshments and concert rain or shine.
Free will offering will be taken.



Tower Health Hospice Volunteer Program

Volunteers can brighten the lives of our patients by providing supportive presence through companionship, conversation, activity, helping with errands and more. Volunteers can also provide administrative support by filing, copying, entering data, making phone calls and other similar activities. For more information please call Cassondra Kissinger at 1-855-843-8627 x3115

New Bible Study Series

Join us for a 4-week study! We will be viewing the movie "I Can Only Imagine". The movie portrays the life of the lead singer of MercyMe, Bart Millard. He suffered a painful childhood and was abused by his father. In the movie Bart shares his redemptive life story. The 4-week study is related to the movie and messages from the Gospels. Each week we will be watching a short clip of the movie, reading scripture and discussing follow up questions and pray. We will be having this on our regular Monday morning Bible Study at 9:00 AM starting Sept. 23rd. (approx. 1hr 15 Min.) Anyone is welcome to join us. If there is an interest, we will plan an evening session. (The day of the evening session will be determined by the leader and participants.) Please contact Elmer Miller if interested in an evening session.



Oley Fair



Saturday, September 21st Hill Church will be joining forces with the Lutheran church and volunteering at the Oley Fair in the hot dog/hamburger stand from 4 pm to close. Please contact Eileen Fisher if you are able to help out for more details. A free parking pass for the night is available if you help out. It is a great night of laughter, fun and work all while helping the community!

ANNUAL BUCKWHEAT PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER



Saturday, October 5, 2019

Dinner served 3:00 -7:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$9.00 Children 3-10 yrs. \$5.00 Take out \$1.00 extra

Dinner includes: Sausage, Buckwheat Pancakes, Regular Pancakes, Homefries, Vegetables, Dessert & Beverage

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Clean-up of grounds and wash dishes in the dining hall. Your help is needed!
(Please bring your own lawn equipment).

Saturday, October 5 at 7:00 a.m.

Morning food preparations start at 7 am.

(peel & slice potatoes, set up tables, prepare take out sides, cut & stack sausages)

Meals are served starting at 3 p.m.

(1 pm help with mixing pancake mix, frying sausage and potatoes)

(2:30 pm waitresses & kitchen help needed)

Donations of baked goods are needed and are greatly appreciated!

Monday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Trash removal and returning items from dining hall to church attic.

Again your help is needed. Please do not wait to be asked, we do not know your schedule, but we need your help for clean up on Wednesday evening and also for the Saturday events! We don't know who you are - so contact Eileen, Dennis or Nancy with what you can help with any day or time for above activities. Your time is so appreciated.

Proceeds of this event help sponsor our Sunday School and Youth Group curriculum along with helping families with camp fees, Vacation Bible School, Sponsorship of an Elder person, \$10.00 pack of tickets per student for Knoebels Grove Sunday, sponsorship of our Creation Festival; chaperones for our Youth. What a wonderful gift we can all help to nurture our Youth!

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.

Remington Ryde Summer Concert

September 15, 2019

Buckwheat & Sausage Supper

1st Saturday in October

Turkey Supper

1st Saturday in November

Ham Supper

3rd Saturday in May

Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert

1st Saturday in August

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