



# News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 January 2020

## Scriptures and Sermons for December

*At the beginning of this new year, we will be looking at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, mostly from the Gospel of Matthew. We will witness the coming of the wise men, Jesus' baptism, and his gathering of his first disciples.*

### **January 5**

*Holy Communion*

*Epiphany Sunday*

Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12

"Wise Men from the East"

### **January 12**

Isaiah 42:1-9 Matthew 3:13-17

"Water and the Spirit"

### **January 19**

Isaiah 49:6-7 John 1:35-51

"Come and See"

### **January 26**

Isaiah 9:1-4 Matthew 4:12-23

"Follow Me"

## • FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

When I was about eighteen years old, All my friends seemed to know I was going into the ministry before I did. They evidently saw something in me that spoke to them of what a minister should be. Within my soul there was a voice that suggested the ministry. I could suppress it, deny it, ignore it. But the attitude of my friends caused me to listen again to that voice.

To be a deacon or elder in the church is a lay ministry. It shouldn't be just going to meetings. It is a calling to serve God in the life of the church. Perhaps there is a voice from within your soul, calling you to a deeper walk with God.

As you look around our congregation, you may see others whom you respect, who have the qualities you believe our church needs. And what does God call us to do: "to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." You need to tell them what you see, and perhaps awaken the voice deep in their soul. Gender and age are not important. Jesus continues to call all sorts of people to be leaders in His Way.

*Charles Maxfield*



## CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Sunday, December 1st, 2019 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer's Report: November bank statements and financial reports were not available for our meeting. General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for October 2019.

Operating Fund	October 2019	2019 YTD	October 2018	2018 YTD
Income	\$9,533.55	\$102,538.20	\$8,495.71	\$99,789.87
Expenses	\$10,407.93	\$120,464.81	\$8,716.25	\$112,075.75
Income vs. Expenses	(\$874.38)	(\$17,926.61)	(\$220.54)	(\$12,285.88)

• Benevolence received for October was \$261.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$3,081.00

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

Communion will be celebrated on January 5th.

On December 8th we had a Congregational Meeting and the following items were discussed and voted on.

1. The 2020 budget was presented and approved.
2. An amendment to our bylaws was approved, which will reduce the number of Consistory members from 12 to 9.
3. In an effort to expand our search for a full time pastor and utilize additional resources, we will be joining the Evangelical Association. Please note that this does not change our relationship or affiliation with the UCC, it is simply an additional resource during our search process.

Three consistory members have reached their term limits, and will have to take a much deserved break from consistory in accordance with our bylaws. Thank you Rick Furches, Ray Kochey, and Terry Shane for your dedicated and faithful work, we are truly blessed by it.

We are still in need of consistory members for 2020. Please see any current consistory member if you would like to join us.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for January will be provided by Sally Shirk and Matt Weller. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12th after worship service.

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



## Choir Notes

A special thanks to all the participants in our Christmas services. My sincere gratitude extends to all. May you have a blessed New Year.

### Choir Rehearsal Schedule



Wed. January 8 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. January 15 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. January 22 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. January 29 - Sr. Choir 7 PM

Elmer Miller  
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

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### Women's Guild News

The Women's guild and spouses enjoyed our yearly Christmas party at Giannotti's. We played a cookie exchange game and enjoyed lots of laughs together.

We assembled gift bags for the shut-in's that the church caroled to. We also sponsored \$300.00 in Christmas gifts for the residents at Wernersville State Hospital. We also sponsored \$200.00 to Boyertown Multi-Service for the purchase of turkeys/hams or fresh produce for Thanksgiving/Christmas meals for the needy of the area.

We will be hosting a scrapbooking event on March 28th, 2020. Details will follow in next month's newsletter.

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

As we welcome a new year, Thank you to everyone each month who helps make the sanctuary a little noisier! The kids love running around the church collecting your coins and then taking those coins and buying gifts and food for kids who need!

Our next meeting will be on January 6th at 7 pm.

# Announcements from the Hill

## **CHRISTMAS DE-DECORATING**



Following worship on Sunday, January 5th we will take down the Christmas decorations in the church and Sunday School. If you are able, please stay for a short time to help de-decorate. Many hands make light work,

### Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for the Boyertown Salvation Army Food Pantry during the month of January. 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.

- Cereal
- Pop Tarts
- Cereal Bars
- Granola Bars



### **Upcoming Events**

Are you following St John Hill UCC on Facebook? Lots of upcoming events are listed on the page. Hint: If you click interested or going, Facebook will remind you of the event!

## **ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

The 2020 sign up charts for “Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship” are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$35 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!

## **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.

## **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)*

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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 Sunday of the month after church

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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

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

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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](http://www.stjohnhillucc.org)

Church E-mail: [office@stjohnhillucc.org](mailto: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 - Ray Kochey

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