



# News from the Hill...

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

## Scriptures and Sermons for March

*This Lent we will journey with Jesus as he encounters different people. Although the time was long ago, the questions, the hopes, and the fears are like today. What does Jesus have to say to them - and to us?*

### **March 1**

*1st Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion*

Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11  
"Into the Desert"

### **March 8**

*2nd Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 121 John 3:1-17  
"Nicodemus"

### **March 15**

*3rd Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 95 John 4:5-42  
"The Samaritan Woman"

### **March 22**

*4th Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 23 John 9:1-41  
"The Man Born Blind"

### **March 29**

*5th Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 130 John 11:1-45  
"Lazarus"



## • FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

This winter is, so far, the mildest winter I have ever experienced. Is this proof of global warming? Not exactly. One warm winter does not prove climate change. But five of the warmest years on record occurring in the last ten years, and an increase in the average temperature of our atmosphere of a degree in the last century, do.

Climate change is like getting older. We don't notice ourselves getting older during a day, or a year; but after a few decades, we begin to notice things have changed. We can't stop getting older. But we can stop some forms of climate change.

When God told Noah to build an ark, it wasn't just for his family. The human race cannot survive by itself - we need all of nature. Like Noah, we have a responsibility to care for Creation.

The nations of the world need to work together to preserve life as we know it on this planet. But we can each do our part. What better time than Lent to examine our behavior patterns and establish new ones to reduce our carbon footprint. Can we have more energy efficient appliances, homes, cars? Have we investigated alternative energy sources? We CAN stop using disposable plastic bags for our groceries. We can reduce food waste, and eat foods that haven't traveled far to get here.

Lent is a time of simplification and reflection. Establishing a discipline of caring for our planet can be an act of gratitude to God for the beautiful world God has given us.

*Charles Maxfield*

## CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Sunday, February 9th, 2020 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 2020.

Operating Fund	January 2020	2020 YTD	January 2019	2019 YTD
Income	\$9,744.51	\$9,744.51	\$11,366.40	\$11,366.40
Expenses	\$9,149.08	\$9,149.08	\$8,510.77	\$8,510.77
Income vs. Expenses	\$595.43	\$595.43	\$2,855.63	\$2,855.63

- Benevolence received for January was \$271.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$271.00
- A "maintenance fund" has been created so moving forward all donations received for maintenance will be directed to this fund rather than the general operating fund.

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

Communion will be celebrated on March 1st.

We have updated the Constitution and By-laws of Hill Church to incorporate the amendments that have been made since its last update. We will be getting copies printed and will have them available soon.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve on Consistory this year. We are blessed by the variety of skills, abilities, and interests that combine to make up the Consistory, and believe that this variety is essential for our successful operation.

The Pastor Search Committee reported that they met with the Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Sharon Morris, who has been assisting Hill Church with the pastor search process. Rev. Morris will be leaving her position at the Conference at the end of February, and an interim will be taking over temporarily. We do not anticipate that this transition will have a large impact on the process; however we are discussing any possible resources to attract new candidates.

Pre-Service set up for March will be provided by Sally Shirk and Nikki Weller. The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8th after worship service.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Dottie Fronheiser, Bonnie Helmick, David Mutter, Mayetta Shane, Sally Shirk, Clarence Weller, Nikki Weller, Matt Weller, and Rev. Charles Maxfield.



### Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wed. March 4 - Sr. Choir 8 PM  
Wed. March 11 - Sr. Choir 8 PM  
Wed. March 18 - Sr. Choir 8 PM  
Wed. March 25 - Sr. Choir 8 PM



Elmer Miller  
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

---

---

### *Women's Guild News*

The Women's Guild will be hosting Scrapbook Saturday on Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. Minimum table size is 4'x2 ½'. Cost is \$25 payable to St. John (Hill) Women's Guild which includes one meal. Food will also be available for purchase. Registration form available on church website at [www.stjohnhillucc.org](http://www.stjohnhillucc.org). Complete form and return to St. John (Hill) UCC, 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 Attn: Scrapbook Saturday by March 7, 2020. For additional information, contact Tracy Kochey at 610.473.0322 or Nancy Weller at 610.367.7704.

---

---

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Thank you to everyone who brought a soup or enjoyed soup and fellowship after church on Souper Bowl Sunday. If you would like to try your favorite soup again, recipe books are in the Narthex.

Easter is almost here...the children will present a short program and song on Palm Sunday.

The annual community children's egg hunt will be Saturday, April 11th. Mark your calendars and tell your neighbor. More details will be in the upcoming bulletins.

Our next meeting will be on March 2nd at 7 pm.

## Announcements from the Hill

### Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for Operation 143 (formally Operation Backlack) during March. Below is a list of items needed to fill backpacks for kids each weekend. All items should be individual servings and ready to eat. As always, if you wish to donate but don't want to shop, monetary or Giant gift card donations are welcome. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

- Tuna To-Go
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Mac & Cheese, SpaghettiOs or Ravioli
- Soup To-Go
- Fruit or Applesauce Cups
- Granola or Cereal Bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Non-Refrigerated Milk
- Snacks/Cracker Packs
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Water Bottles
- Pudding Cups

### CEMETERY FLOWERS

In preparation for Spring, please remove all flowers from grave sites by Sunday, March 29, 2020. Thank you!



### **Midweek Worship at 7 pm**

*Each week we will have an informal worship with hymns, a short video and discussion. Services at Hill Church will take place in the upstairs Sunday School rooms; services at St. Joe's will take place in their fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be available before worship.*

### **March 4 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church**

Matthew 11:25-30

Discussion: How do we use our time?

### **March 11 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.**

Romans 8:35-39

Discussion: Guilt & Forgiveness, Shame & Love

### **March 18 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church**

Exodus 3:13-15

Discussion: What's in a name?

### **March 25 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.**

Deuteronomy 1:31

Discussion: What does my relationship with God look like?

### **April 1 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church**

Matthew 16:24-25

Discussion: What can "I" do? Who am "I"?

### **Maundy Thursday**

*with Holy Communion*

April 9 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

### **Good Friday Prayer Vigil**

April 10 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church

### **Easter**

April 12 at 6:30 am & 9:30 am

## **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 Sunday of the month after church

---

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

### **Ham Supper**

3rd Saturday in May

### **Celtic Martins Summer Concert**

June 20, 2020

### **Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert**

1st Saturday in August

### **Crow Hill Bluegrass Summer Concert**

September 13, 2020

### **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](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

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