



News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 September 2016



Church Contact Information

Pastor Christian Creyer – Pastor	Mr. Charles Anhalt - Sexton
Rev. Jim Rogers – Pastor Emeritus	Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer
Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/ Organist	Church Telephone: 610-367-8114
Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary	Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org



Greetings to all!

If you can believe it, this will be my last note to you all as my time and ministry to and with St. John-Hill UCC is coming to a close. I continue to pray for God's guidance and Spirit to lead you to the person who will lead you into the future.

God has a plan for all of us, of this I am certain. Over 280 years ago, God planted a church on a hill to serve the communities of Boyertown, Oley, and the entire Oley Valley. Over those years, many have come and gone and as you move toward your certain future, many more will join and some may go. Just as Christ challenged and charged the disciples to love one another as He first loved them, you will be challenged to do the same. Live up to the motto on the board on the side of the church, so that all may know that you are Christians by your love.

Christ, in his final moments before his arrest and crucifixion, spent time with his disciples in fellowship charging them to remember him each time they eat the bread and drink the wine. He took them to the Garden to pray and three special disciples were challenged with keeping watch while he prayed alone. He prayed that the cup would be removed, yet if it could not that it would be God's will that be done. Then as the Roman Guard came to arrest him, those who were to be his closest followers and friends deserted him in his hour of greatest need.

As I come to my final days, I too will be challenging you, St. John-Hill with the same things that Christ left his disciples. I do not consider myself to be even close to being as Christ was but there are charges and challenges that are similar that you too will be given. Remember Him each time you commune, pray for guidance and leadership, but do not desert one another in your hour of greatest need. Stand beside one another, love one another and support one another in the time of your trials and tribulations.

And may God bless you with the leader who can show you the love of Christ and lead you into the future.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Christian

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, August 9th, 2016 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for July 2016.

Operating Fund	July 2016	2016 YTD	July 2015	2015 YTD
Income	\$10,550.11	\$69,555.81	\$7,551.15	\$74,981.40
Expenses	\$8,124.86	\$73,790.58	\$8,429.41	\$78,437.09
Income vs. (Expenses)	\$2,425.25	(\$4,234.77)	(\$878.26)	(\$3,455.69)

- Benevolence received for July was \$396.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,453.00
- Property taxes have been paid
- A current summary of all Hill Church financial accounts is available on the bulletin boards in the narthex and Sunday school hallway.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Christian conducted a total of 63 visits on the phone and at various locations from June 14th through the August 8th. The next Communion will be held on September 4th.

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

Heating Oil Prepay: We discussed and voted to prepay a total of 3500 gallons of heating oil from Gift Oil at a price of \$1.899/gallon. The oil will be divided between the church and the sexton house with 2500 gallons designated to the church and 1000 gallons designated for the sexton house. Since it is anticipated that the parsonage will not be occupied this winter we have decided not to prepay any heating oil for this year.

Consistory Member Needed: Harold Albitz has decided to step down from Consistory, so we are looking for someone to fill the remainder of his term. If you are interested in serving, please see any of the current Consistory members. We also would like to thank Harold for his service to Hill Church.

Association Meeting: October 30th will be the Fall Meeting for the East Berks Association. Over the last few years there has been discussion about merging four of the local associations into one. At this meeting votes will be taken to dissolve the four individual associations, and a new one will be formed. We will need to send delegates from Hill Church to vote on our behalf. If we do not have representatives at this meeting, we cannot be included in the new association, and would therefore lose our standing in the UCC. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Matt Weller at 610-334-3731.

Pastor Christian's Farewell Service: Sunday, September 11th will be Pastor Christian's final Sunday worship service at Hill Church. Please join us on that day as we reflect on the ministry we have shared together. There will be an opportunity for all to express gratitude to one another, ask forgiveness for mistakes, and offer prayers for one another. After the worship service we invite you to join us upstairs for fellowship (and of course, food). We also would like to have a card shower for the Creyer family. There will be a container in the Narthex where you can put cards or personal letters, and we will present it to them during this time of fellowship.

We understand that during this time of transition we will all be experiencing and coping with varying emotions. We pray that each of you find healing and comfort during this time, and that we can be filled with a spirit of excitement and anticipation for what God has planned for Hill Church.

Continued from page 2...

We also would like to reassure you that the Consistory has been working diligently with the Conference to begin the process of finding an interim pastor. In the meantime, we will be welcoming Ted Maurer to the pulpit on September 18th, and we are also working on other creative ways to worship until we find an interim pastor. After we have selected an interim pastor, we will need to form a search committee which will be responsible for the search and call process to select a candidate to present to the congregation. If you are interested in participating in this process, please see any of the consistory members.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight. -Proverbs 3:5-6

Consistory Pre-Service set up for September will be provided by Mark Hile and Arlan Schaeffer. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Anita Brady, Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, Kristen Nagy, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Clarence Weller, Matt Weller, and Pastor Christian.

Natural Church Development (NCD)

The Church Health Team (CHT) and Worship Team (WT) are continuing the ongoing search for ways to increase inspiring worship. The Worship Team is currently reading *The Worshiping Artist* by Rory Noland, a book with insights on how to grow in the footsteps of some of God's greatest leaders.

The Church Health Team wishes to thank you for your feedback to the worship services. Please continue to provide your low/high evaluation of each element of the service along with your comments. The more responses the Worship Team receives, the more we can work toward inspirational worship so we can minister not only to our members but to visitors to our church as well.

As part of the plan to not only think about Vacation Bible School(VBS)in the summertime, your help is needed after church to address postcards to the children who attended VBS on Sunday, August 28, 2016 after church. A VBS "reunion" of the kids is being planned for sometime January. These postcards will let the children and their families know the Hill Church family is thinking of them and invite them to the start of Sunday School.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact a member of the Church Health Team or the Worship Team.

Pastor Christian, WT
Eileen Fisher, CHT
Rick Furches, CHT
Elmer Miller WT
Sonya Moyer, WT
Jane Prutzman, CHT
Katrina Prutzman, WT
Mayetta Shane, CHT & WT
Joel Weller, CHT & WT

Please continue to pray for the Church Health Team, Worship Team, and our church as we continue moving forward on this journey. Thank you!

News from the Women's Guild

Thank you Dorothy for opening your home to us on July 5th and the lovely picnic and 'GAMES'!

On August 2nd the Guild women held their annual grab bag auction. Lots of fun was had by all! Thank you to all that came out for the fun and worthy cause. We raised \$836.00 towards the repair of our historic school house.

Reminder to all members, we will be meeting at Dryville Hotel on September 6th at 6:00 p.m. for another fun evening. Spouses are invited; please let Mary Jane know if you will be attending.

All church women are welcome to attend the Guild meetings. It sounds like we are quite the fun social group!



Choir Notes

The summer season is coming to an end. Now it's choir season! Join us for fun, fellowship and singing.

The first rehearsal will be Wed. eve. Sept. 14 at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you.

Cantata rehearsals will begin Oct. 5th at 8:00 PM. (Watch for more detail in October Newsletter.)



Wed. Sept. 14..... Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. Sept. 21..... Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. Sept. 28..... Sr. Choir 7:00 PM



Elmer Miller
Organist/Music Director
610-367-5613 or e-mail elmerhm@dejazzd.com



Park Committee News

Work Day & Men's Breakfast: September 10th

We will be meeting at the Creek Side Dinner at 6:30 am for breakfast. Afterwards we'll meet back at church around 8 am to tackle the "to do" list. Everyone is welcome and hope to see you there!

Sunday School News



Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS a success. We reached over 30 kids to share God's love.

Fall Sunday School starts September 4th at 8:30 am...We have a class for you!



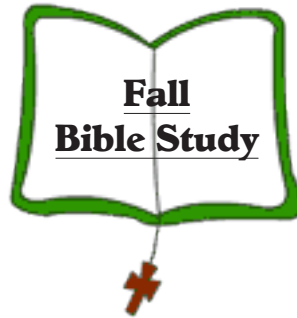
Bible Trivia

From Nelson's Amazing Bible Trivia, Book 3.
All answers are listed on page 7.

Bible Jeopardy

These are the answers, you must provide the questions...

1. "He waited for the city which has foundations, who builder and maker is God."
2. He was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
3. Christ compared Himself to this part of the sheepfold.
4. He said, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."
5. He was the cousin of Jesus and his forerunner.



Are you ready to build your own "War Room"? For this study, based on the 2015 movie by the same name, we will first view the movie and follow with 5-weeks of study. Session topics include Lukewarmness, Accountability, Grace & Gospel, Spiritual Warfare and Prayer.

You are invited to join and:

- Discover the power of prayer
- Expand your understanding of spiritual warfare
- Develop strategies to battle the real Enemy through prayer
- Dig deeper into the spiritual discipline aspects of prayer
- Enjoy the opportunity for study among both inexperienced Bible study students and those well-versed in Scripture

We will host two sessions weekly, Thursday's at 7 pm hosted by Mark Hile and Monday's at 9:30 am, after prayer meeting, hosted by Elmer Miller. This 6-week course will begin Thursday September 22 and Monday September 26. Each session is a "stand alone" study. All are welcome at one or all studies.

Optional Study Guides are \$7.50 each. We will be placing an order by September 8th for those interested.

Please contact Mark Hile or Elmer Miller for more information.

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

Announcements from the Hill



GROCERY CARDS

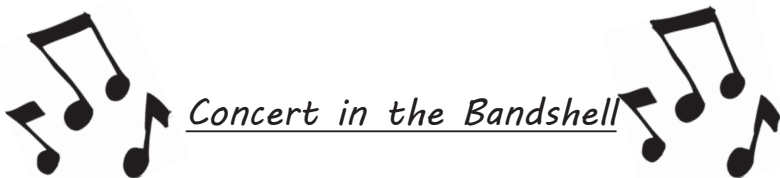
Don't forget grocery cards for Giant, Redner's and Weis Markets are available for purchase. They may be used towards groceries, gas and pharmacy purchases and make terrific gifts! We receive 5% for every card you purchase which will be used to support our Church Missions program. See Connie Hile to purchase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



Luncheon

for the Creyer's

Please plan to join together as a family congregation in a luncheon after church on Sunday, September 11 to wish Pastor Christian and Stephanie our best wishes and love on their new adventure wherever God leads them.



Concert in the Bandshell

Come One Come All- join us for another concert Saturday September 24 from 6:00 - 7:15 pm featuring Time Frame. They are a quartet featuring 4 part harmony Barbershop, A Capella Doo-Wop and Gospel Songs. Refreshments will be available starting at 5 pm.



Church Office Hours

Please note that beginning the week of September 5th Nikki will be changing her church office hours. The new hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 12:30 pm - 4 pm.



Oley Fair



Saturday, September 17th 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 7 pm and 7 pm to close. Please contact Eileen Fisher if are able to help out for more details. It is a great night of laughter, fun and work all while helping the community!



Weekly Multi-Service Collection

We continue to collect items for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service to help those in our community who are in need. For the month of September we will collect the top 5 items in need right now. They are: 1) Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta, 2) Crackers & Soup, 3) Vegetables, 4) Jelly & Peanut Butter, 5) Hamburger Helper. Please do not feel like you have to contribute but if you can, know it is greatly appreciated by those who are in need in Boyertown!



Upcoming Movie Club Dates
to Mark Your Calendars:

September 16th - Sampson

October 14 - Luther

November 18th - The Young Messiah

December 16th - Silver Bells

We gather at 6pm and start the movie at 6:30.

Refreshments are provided!

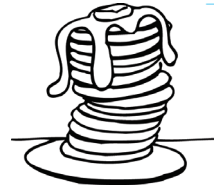
Thank you and hope to see you there!



BACK TO COLLEGE

We need your help in getting a list together of names, addresses, and email 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 ASAP to the church secretary at 610-367-8114 or nikki@stjohnhillucc.org. Thanks!

ANNUAL BUCKWHEAT PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER



Saturday, October 1, 2016

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, September 28 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 1 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 3rd 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!



BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Who is Abraham, the sojourner? - Hebrews 11:10
2. Who is Paul? - 2 Timothy 4:7
3. What is a door? - John 10:1-9
4. Who is James? - James 5:16
5. Who was John the Baptist? - Mark 1:1-14



SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>October 1 - Pancake & Sausage Supper November 5 - Turkey Supper</p>				1	2	3
4 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	5	6 9 am Prayer Group 6 pm Women's Guild Meeting @ Dryville Hotel	7	8	9	10 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Work Day
11 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service Luncheon for Creyer's after worship	12 9 am Prayer Group 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	13 7 pm Consistory Meeting 7 pm Worship Team Meeting	14 7 pm Sr. Choir	15	16 6 pm Bible Movie Club	17 4 pm Help at Oley Fair Hamburger Stand
18 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service Newsletter Deadline	19 9 am Prayer Group	20	21 7 pm Sr. Choir	22 7 pm Bible Study	23	24 6 pm Concert featuring Time Frame
25 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	26 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	27	28 6 pm Supper Prep 7 pm Sr. Choir	29 7 pm Bible Study	30	October 1 Pancake & Suasage Supper 7 am Prep 3 pm Meals Served