



News from the Hill...

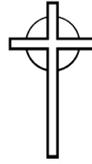
St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 April 2017

Church Contact Information

Rev. Mary Lake-Dillensnyder - 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

As I was following Facebook today, I read a wonderful inspiration, “Kindness makes you the most beautiful person in the world, it opens the door to happiness, respect and joy for you.”

Through the celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection, may we move ourselves towards a deeper understanding of the cross. The cross is an act of kindness to us. Christ courageously moved toward the trail and cross, knowing the tomb would not hold him.

That’s our challenge to face the power and strength of that love. To love us so much God gave his Son. How powerful that love! Can we meet that love, face to face?

Live like you are loved powerfully! Amen!

Pastor Mary

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 5

7 pm Lenten Bible Study on Prayer at Hill Church

Sunday, April 9 - Palm Sunday

8:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am Worship Service with Children’s Program

Thursday, April 13

7 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata (performed by Salem UCC & St. John Hill) at Hill Church

Friday, April 14

Good Friday Prayer Vigil at St. Joseph’s Lutheran (sign up in Narthex)

Saturday, April 15

10 am Community Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16

7 am Easter Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am Easter Worship with Holy Communion

PASTORAL PONDERERS

From ashes to fire—that is where we are headed. These weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter begin not with fire, but with ashes. Yes, that would seem to be a reversal of the norm...one starts with fire and ends up with ashes. But, in the church, we move from ashes to fire.

Our Tenebrae Service with the cantata on Maundy Thursday reminds us that the fire is found in the shadows. The flame is extinguished. The Christ suffers and is crucified. The Messiah dies. In the darkness of Jesus' final hours, we are once again reminded of our nature. All that is human will become humus. Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust. Earth to earth.

Yet, we know that is not the end of the story. We live as Easter people. Even through these somber and purple days of Lent, we see all things through the lens of resurrection. Christ has died. And, it is certain: Christ is risen.

Thus, our Lenten journey is transformed into our Easter pilgrimage. We do not arrive at Easter, however, without Holy Week. Palm Sunday begins by tracing our steps into the city, Jerusalem, as if to cheer on the Savior who comes meek and mild and riding on a donkey. Still, as the story unwinds and the days march on, the cheers of Sunday become the jeers of Friday. As we stand before the cross of our Blessed Redeemer, we know that there have been—and will continue to be...within this mortal life—things that give voice to those words that have echoed through the millennia. Crucify him. Crucify him.

“O Love divine, what hast thou done!
The immortal God hath died for me!
The Father's co-eternal Son
Bore all my sins upon the tree.
Th'immortal God for me hath died:
My Lord, my love, is crucified!”
—Charles Wesley, 18th century

Crucified, that sins would be forgiven. Crucified that death would be no more. Crucified as an act of the Loving God. And, in death, “He descended to the dead.” Or, more bluntly, “He descended into hell.” These are the words of the Creed. It is referenced in Scripture. 1 Peter 3:19-20 offers a cryptic reference to Christ after death preaching “to the spirits in prison who formerly did not obey when God's patience waited in the days of Noah.” It is the theological basis for what it means that there is no part of human existence to which Christ did not descend. It's what it means for Christ to take upon himself the punishment of sin, which is death. If Christ really dies, then that means he journeys all the way to the place of dead.

Hellfire is not the end of the story either. The fire of Easter is found in the experience of Pentecost. After being poured out unto death, emptied to the point of asking, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” there is the Spirit that brings this new life of resurrection. The Spirit is the fire that births anew our lives from mortality to the immortal, from broken good-for-little people to people of compassion and mercy, from being a person who lived life on his/her own terms to living life in justice and peace.

Yes, that fire will come out of the ashes. The Spirit will fall afresh on each of us. So, we walk these days in the hope and promise of Easter.

“Because he lives I can face tomorrow
Because he lives All fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living Just because he lives.”
—Bill Gaither, 20th century

A blessed Easter be yours...*Pastor Mary*

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Thursday, March 16th, 2016 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for February 2017.

Operating Fund	February 2017	2017 YTD	February 2016	2016 YTD
Income	\$8,768.50	\$20,135.37	\$10,559.54	\$20,087.03
Expenses	\$5,999.63	\$16,834.86	\$10,174.68	\$20,405.04
Income vs. Expenses	\$2,768.87	\$3,300.51	\$384.86	(\$318.01)

• Benevolence received for January was \$620.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$887.00

Pastor's Report: Communion will be celebrated on April 2nd and on Easter Sunday, April 16th at both the 7am and 9:30am worship service. Pastor Mary would like to begin a Bible Study and Prayer Group that will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00, beginning after Easter. The focus of the Bible Study will be the book of Matthew.

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

Congregational Vote: During our Annual Congregational meeting on February 26th, a vote was taken and it was decided that we will hire Pastor Mary as our full time, permanent minister. As many of you are aware, we had received news that some time ago Pastor Mary had lost her "standing" as a UCC minister. She is currently working to resolve this issue, and we will be evaluating her progress over the course of this year. While we hope that this will be a simple process, we expect that there will be some bumps in the road. If we have determined after a year that there is no resolution in sight, we would at that time ask for your guidance as to how we should proceed.

Operation Backpack: We will be having a guest speaker on Sunday, April 23rd to share some information with us about what Operation Backpack is and how we can support this program.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for April will be provided by Anita Brady and Dottie Fronheiser. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Anita Brady, Bob Fleming, Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, David Mutter, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Matt Weller, and Pastor Mary Lake-Dillensnyder.

News from the Women's Guild

Our Women's Guild meeting was Tuesday March 7th at Dryville Hotel. We had a speaker, Macey from Safe Berks (formerly Berks Women's in Crisis) and we learned a lot and had fun mingling. We are donating \$200.00 worth of size 6 diapers to Safe Berks. Safe Berks is holding a Walk for No More on Saturday, April 29th at 3 pm. Some members of our group will be participating in the walk to raise money for Safe Berks. Safe Berks offers safe shelter for adults and children who are in danger. While at the Safe House, your basic needs will be met, and you can receive counseling, help find a place to live, and many other services. They also provide counseling, Legal, Medical and Education services for residents. Participating guild members may be asking for sponsorship. Prayerfully consider. Thank you.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 pm.



The Cantata Choir will present A Tenebrae Service "In Calvary's Shadow" on Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 PM. Members of Salem UCC will also be participating. Be sure to join us for this inspiring service.

Wednesday, April 5 - Sr. Choir 6:20 PM, Cantata 8:00 PM

Wednesday, April 12 - Sr. Choir 6:15 PM

Thursday, April 13 - Choir meet at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 19 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 26 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM



Elmer Miller

Organist/Music Director

610-367-5613 or e-mail elmerhm@dejazzd.com

Sunday School News

Easter is on the way...Palm Sunday (April 9th) the children will have their program during the morning worship. The annual Egg Hunt will be on April 15.

Not long after Easter, we will get together for another exciting Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is "Created by God; Built for a Purpose." Join us June 11-15 for "Maker Fun Factory" to discover God's awesome purpose for each of us. Look in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters for more information!

Join us for Sunday School at 8:30 am...We have a class for you!

Our next leadership meeting will be on April 3rd at 7:00 pm.

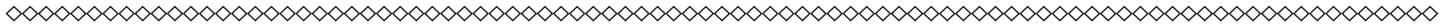


Cemetery News

Please remove all flower arrangements from the cemetery by Sunday, April 2nd. If not removed by that date, cemetery personnel will remove flowers. Please be advised that the Cemetery Board is facing environmental concerns. As such, we urge you to kindly remove artificial flower arrangements and dispose of them privately to help defray the financial burden placed upon the cemetery. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

The next cemetery board meeting will be on April 18th at 7:30 pm at St. Joseph's Hill Lutheran Church.

Volunteers needed Monday Evening May 1 at 6:00 PM to help straighten tombstones.



Park Committee News

Workday & Men's Breakfast: Saturday, April 8, 2017

We'll start with the men's breakfast about 7:00 am at Creek Side Dinner. Afterwards (around 8 am) we'll tackle springtime cleanup in the park area. Everyone is welcome. Thanks and see you there.



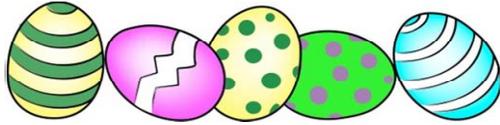
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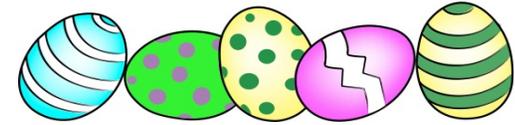
**June 11-15
6:30-8:30 pm**

**Registration
available
online**

VBS at Hill Church featuring "famous" inventor, Ian



April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Upcomming Events

May 20 - Ham Supper
 June 3 - Summer Concert: Desire
 June 11-15 - Vacation Bible School
 August 5 - Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert
 August 13 - Knoebels Sunday
 September 10 - Summer Concert: Celtic Martins

1
 8 am Annual Spring
 Cleaning of Church
 Charity Bike Ride to use
 our facilities

2 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	3 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	4 7 pm Women's Guild Meeting	5 6:20 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Lent Service 8 pm Cantata	6	7	8 7 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Work Day
9 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Children's Program NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	10 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study	11 7 pm Consistory Meeting	12 6:15 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Cantata	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Choir 7 pm Maundy Thurs. Service w/ Cantata	14 Good Friday Prayer Vigil	15 10 am Egg Hunt
16 Easter Sunday 7 am Worship Service 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	17 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study	18 7:30 pm Cemetery Board Meeting at St. Joseph's Lutheran	19 7 pm Sr. Choir	20	21	22
23 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	24 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study	25	26 7 pm Sr. Choir	27	28	29
30 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	7 pm Worship Team Meeting					