



# News from the Hill...

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

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This newsletter has worship and events scheduled, but due to the changing circumstances with the Coronavirus, please check the church answering machine, website and Facebook page for the most up to date information.

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## • FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

Be still and know that I am God  
Psalm 46:10

Be still! It is hard to do. We are busy people. Our days are filled - with work, with errands, with appointments, with family and friends. It is hard to be still.

Then, all of a sudden, we *have* to be still. When our days are not filled with activity, the vacuum is filled by worry. Will any of our loved ones get Sick? Will we get sick? How will we pay our bills?

The Psalmist wrote: *Be still and know that I am God.*

We pray. It would be nice if we could begin our prayer being still. But there is so much on our minds that we can't. We need to unload all our worries - share them with God. Only when we have dumped it all on God can we then be still.

*Be still and know that I am God.*

The love of God surrounds us. The assurance of God's grace, God's peace, and God's power, gives us peace.

A season of solitude can be rich. In spite of our fears, we can find a peace that is stronger.

Listen to "My Life Is In Your Hands" by Kirk Franklin:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdzve-iE2JA>

When the disciples feared sinking in a storm in the sea, Jesus said, *Peace! Be still!* And there was calm (Mark 4:39). To the turbulent waves of worry that threaten to capsize us, Jesus says, *Peace! Be still!* and we can find calm.

*Charles Maxfield*

## **SCRIPTURES FOR APRIL**

This April, we don't know if we will have any services at church or if they will all be on-line. However, Holy Week is in April. Whether we are gathering for services or not, it would be a good time to read on our own the story of the passion of Christ, reading on each day the events of that day. As much as possible, I will follow the Gospel of Mark, as that was the first gospel written, and Matthew and Luke used it as a source.

### **Week before Holy week**

Mark 10:46-52

Matthew 20:29-34

Luke 18:35-43; 19:1-10

John 11:1-54; 12:1-8

What happened the week before holy week? The gospels report Jesus traveling through Jordan on his way to Jerusalem. Mark reports the healing of Bartimaeus. Luke adds the story of Zacchaeus here. For John, the healing of Lazarus is a prelude to holy Week (our scripture for Sunday, March 29). John also places the anointing of Jesus at Bethany prior to his entry into Jerusalem.

### **Palm Sunday, April 5**

Mark 11:1-11

Matthew 21:1-11

Luke 19:28-44

John 12:12-19

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

### **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 6-8**

Mark 11:12-13:37

Matthew 21:12-25:46

Luke 19:45-21:38

John 12:20-50

Jesus goes to the Temple each day and teaches. This section includes five questions Jesus is asked, and his responses (Mark 11:27-12:37), into which the gospel writers have included several parables, and a section of apocalyptic warnings to his disciples (Mark 13:1-37)

### **Wednesday night, April 8**

Mark 14:1-9

Matthew 26, 1-13

Jesus is anointed at Bethany. The other two gospels place this story at different locations. Jesus was staying at Bethany, and going into the city of Jerusalem each day.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

Mark 14:10-15:15

Matthew 26:14-27:26

John 13:1-19:16

These scriptures move us through the Last Supper, the time of prayer at Gethsemane, the arrest, and the trials. John expands the Last Supper to include several chapters of Jesus teaching his disciples.

## **SCRIPTURES FOR APRIL**

*(continued)*

### Good Friday, April 10

Mark 15:16-47

Matthew 27:27-66

Luke 23:26-55a

John 19:17-42

Jesus is mocked, taken to the Cross, killed, and buried.

### Saturday, April 11

Luke 23:55b

On the Sabbath, all rested.

### Easter Sunday, April 12

Mark 16:1-18

Matthew 28:1-15

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-23

The empty tomb; Jesus appears to his disciples

### Sunday evening

Luke 24:13-49

Jesus appears to followers on the way to Emmaus.

### Sunday, April 19

John 20:24-29

Jesus appears to Thomas

### Sunday, April 19 Later on

John 21:1-24

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus appears to the disciples in Galilee

## CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Sunday, March 8th, 2020 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 2020.

Operating Fund	February 2020	2020 YTD	February 2019	2019 YTD
Income	\$8,567.48	\$18,311.99	\$9,137.41	\$20,503.81
Expenses	\$6,636.28	\$15,785.36	\$10,463.98	\$18,974.75
Income vs. Expenses	\$1,931.20	\$2,526.63	(\$1,326.57)	\$1,529.06

• Benevolence received for February was \$266.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$537.00

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

The rise of the coronavirus crisis is weighing heavily on the hearts and minds of everyone. The consistory is attempting to navigate through these uncharted waters to provide support and continued ministry. We will continue to monitor this situation and do our best to keep you informed. Currently all activities and worship services have been canceled through the end of March. All dates listed below are tentative and will be rescheduled if the recommendations to remain closed go beyond March.

Communion will be celebrated on April 12th.

Consistory Officers have been selected for 2020: President - Matt Weller. Vice President - Dottie Fronheiser. Secretary - Bonnie Helmick. Treasurer - Sally Shirk.

It has been suggested to consider a change in our Sunday worship time, and we are asking the congregation for thoughts and suggestions. Surveys will be available in the bulletins and on the church website for you to provide feedback.

Pre-Service set up for April will be provided by Clarence Weller and Matt Weller. The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19th after worship service.

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



### Choir Rehearsal Schedule



Wed. April 1 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. April 8 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. April 15 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. April 22 - Sr. Choir 7 PM  
Wed. April 29 - Sr. Choir 7 PM

Elmer Miller  
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

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### Search Committee News

To date, the Search Committee has received a total of 22 ministerial profiles to review. 17 profiles have been from the UCC PSEC and 5 have been from the Evangelical Association. We have conducted 2 more Skype interviews with two prospects from the EA and are excited about both prospects. We are in the process of reviewing information received from two of our latest prospects and will be meeting again soon.

We continue to move forward with the process of searching for a new pastor for St. John-Hill UCC. We continue to ask for prayers for the Search Committee and the rest of the congregation as we continue through the process of searching and calling a new pastor.

Blessings,

The Search Committee

Rick Furches, Dottie Fronheiser, Elmer Miller, Jan Fisher, Sally Shirk, Mayetta Shane and Nikki Weller

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### Giving & Donations to the Church

There have been some questions about how to give during this time we are not together for worship. While we know your situation may not permit you to give, and that is ok, but if you would like to, please utilize the following ways:

1. Mail a check or your offering envelope to the church address
2. Set up automatic payments with your bank  
(this can be done online through your bank or by going into your bank branch office)
3. Use Tithly online giving via the church website or app you can download on your phone

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to  
Nikki in the church office or Matt Weller, consistory president.

## Announcements from the Hill

### Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for Operation 143 (formally Operation Backpack) during April. 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

### Easter Egg Hunt

The annual community egg hunt is April 11th at 10 am. Donations of goodies (individually wrapped candy, stickers, toys, etc) to fill plastic egg will be accepted until April 5th. Boxes for donations are in the Sunday School hallway and in the Narthex or can be dropped off at the office. We will fill the eggs following worship on 4/5.



## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Palm Sunday**

*with Children's Program*  
April 5 at 9:30 am Worship

### **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  
Sign up by calling the church office or online at  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4facad28a2fd0-good>

## EASTER

### **Sunrise Outdoor Worship**

**6:15 am**

*At the flagpole in the cemetery*  
*Bring your own chair*

### **Easter Worship**

**9:30 am**

*in the sanctuary*

Holy Communion will be celebrated  
at both services.

### CEMETERY TOMBSTONE STRAIGHTING

Volunteers are need for Tombstone  
Straighting May 4 at 6 pm.  
Raindate May 5



## **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

### **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

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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 - Elmer Miller

Church Secretary - Nikki Weller

Sexton - Charles Anhalt

Consistory President - Matt Weller

Consistory Vice President - Ray Kochey

Church Treasurer - Wendy Shane

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