



# News from the Hill...

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

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## • FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

Sometimes when Connie and I are riding our bicycles, we come to a long, hard incline. We push ahead, looking forward to when we will get to the top of the hill, and will be able to coast down the other side. But sometimes, when we get to what we think was the top of the hill, we see that it keeps on going, to yet another high point further ahead.

That's the way I feel about Covid-19 right now. We were making progress, we thought we had almost made it; only to find we have another hill to climb.

Our Consistory has given us responsible leadership through this difficult time. We have taken precautions - more than some, less than others. Our Consistory has carefully and thoroughly discussed the issues and arrived at consensus strategies without conflict. We have acted out of a concern for the health of all of our members. We have - ALL of us - been learning more about this virus as we proceed.

We will continue in August to have Sunday services at the church, with masks and social distancing, and broadcasting the service over our web page. We will have a couple of special services:

Sunday, August 16, we will worship outdoors. We will continue social distancing and masks. Because we do not have the technology outside, we will not broadcast that service. Instead, I will prepare a devotional service to be sent out at that time.

Sunday, August 31, we shall have communion. We will be in the pews. Each person will receive a cup containing bread and grape juice. This is a new experiment, but we believe Christ will be present to us in this form.

Our Corona virus crisis is not over. But with prayer, caution, and determination, we will move ahead in this uphill struggle.

*Charles Maxfield*

## **SCRIPTURES FOR AUGUST**

In July we have been reflecting on the parables - stories - that Jesus told. For the first three weeks in August we will turn to his miracles. On the last two Sundays in August we will direct our attention to the last part of Paul's letter to the church at Rome, where he gives some practical advice.

### **August 2**

Scripture: Feeding of the Five Thousand  
Isaiah 55:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21  
Sermon: "The Abundant Life"

### **August 9**

Scripture: Jesus Walks on Water  
Psalm 85 Matthew 14:22-33  
Sermon: "Stepping Into The Unknown"

### **August 16**

Outdoor Service  
Service: The Canaanite woman  
Isaiah 56:1-8 Matthew 15:21-28  
Sermon: "No Outsiders"

*NOTE: When we have an outdoor service we will not be able to make a video of the service and put it on line. Therefore, Pastor Maxfield will prepare a video devotional service to be placed on line, for the benefit of those who cannot personally attend. The devotional service will use: Psalm 133 & Sermon: "Blessed Unity."*

### **August 23**

Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8  
Sermon: "Living Sacrifices"

### **August 30**

Holy Communion  
Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-21  
Sermon: "Let Love be Genuine"

## CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Sunday, July 19th, 2020 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for June 2020.

Operating Fund	June 2020	2020 YTD	June 2019	2019 YTD
Income	\$15,105.30	\$60,078.61	\$13,094.34	\$65,549.11
Expenses	\$8,672.04	\$46,080.08	\$11,149.97	\$63,089.59
Income vs. Expenses	\$6,433.26	\$13,998.53	\$1,944.37	\$2,459.52

• Benevolence received for June was \$180.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$1,406.00

Communion will be celebrated on August 30th. We have purchased fellowship cups, which are prepackaged, sealed bread and juice containers. The cup can be picked up as you enter church that morning. If you are more comfortable bringing your own elements we invite you to do that as well.

We give thanks that we have been able to resume worship services at Hill Church, and are hopeful that conditions allow this to continue. We will monitor conditions and keep you posted on any necessary adjustments.

We want to thank you for your generous support during this challenging time. We are blessed by the work of our staff and the support of our church family to continue ministry. In April some of our staff had requested reduced or no pay while we were not holding worship services at Hill Church. As of July 1st all staff has resumed receiving full pay.

Altar flower delivery has also been postponed for now, and we anticipate that will resume sometime in the fall. In the meantime, if you would like to provide flowers for a particular Sunday service, please contact Nikki in the office to make arrangements.

Outdoor worship service in the bandshell is scheduled for August 16th. We encourage you to bring a lawn chair to allow for adequate distancing. A few benches will be set up for those not able to bring a chair.

Pre-Service set up for August will be provided by Dottie Fronheiser and Mayetta Shane. The next monthly meeting will be August 9th 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.

## Christian Education News

We have decided to cancel a few late summer events to help keep everyone safe:

- Family Picnic
- Crow Hill Bluegrass Summer Concert

Starting September 13th kids will be invited to leave the worship service to watch a bible video in the Sunday school rooms during the service. We will ask kids to continue to wear their masks while watching the movie.

Our Annual Buckwheat & Sausage Supper will continue with some modifications. This years supper will be take out only and only have buckwheat pancakes available. As much as all the homemade desserts will be missed, the only dessert provided will be ice cream. More details will be in the next newsletter and online soon!

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## Women's Guild News

On Tuesday July 14th we had a small social distancing picnic at Dorothy and Rodgers. We had a good time mingling, eating and playing some games!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Altar Flowers

We will resume altar flower delivery and sponsorship in the fall. If you have flowers you would like to place in the front of the church from your flower garden, please call Nikki in the church office (610-367-8114) to schedule a Sunday to bring them.

### Outdoor Worship

We will have a outdoor worship service in the bandshell on August 16. Please bring your own chair, wear your mask and sit socially distanced from each other. This service will be simple; microphone & sound system will not be used.

### 2021 Consistory Members

We are in need of new members to join the consistory for 2021. There will be 3 members leaving. If you are interested in joining please see any consistory member.

### Speaking During Worship

The rules will be relaxed starting Sunday, July 26. The congregation will join in saying parts throughout the entire service. Masks will continue to be required to be worn while in the church.

### Holy Communion

Pew communion is tentatively scheduled for August 30th. There will be pre-packaged juice & wafer cups for congregates to pick up when entering the Narthex before sitting in the Sanctuary.

### Back to College

As our college students start to move back to school we would love to keep in touch. Please give their address to Nikki (nikki@stjohnhillucc.org or 610-367-8114) in the church office.

## **Keep In Touch & Help Out**

### 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.

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### Boyertown Multi-Service

The multi-service is in need of monetary or food donations. Monetary donations can be made on their website or by mailing a check to them. They can use this money to purchase food at a greatly discounted price from the food bank. Food donations can be dropped off at the back of the building in the crates (no contact) or by contacting Nikki in the church office to arrange drop off at the church.

### Get Connected

We are online and trying to keep you informed...

#### **YouTube**

search "St John Hill UCC Boyertown"  
(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCojKfDHhEROC126j587MLIQ>)

#### **Website**

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

#### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/stjohnhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnhillucc)

#### **E-mail**

[office@stjohnhillucc.org](mailto:office@stjohnhillucc.org)

#### **Phone**

610-367-8114

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### Blood Drive

As you already know, all blood drives are cancelled. I'd like to encourage all donors to consider going to one of the local Miller Keystone Blood Centers as there is only a one day supply of blood currently due to the resumption of elective surgeries. The Reading location is near the airport. Call 610-926-6060 to make an appointment. The Allentown location is near the Lehigh Valley Hospital. Call 610-820-0962.

## **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**

-Cancelled-

### **Celtic Martins Summer Concert**

-Cancelled-

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

-Cancelled-

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

-Cancelled-

### **Buckwheat & Sausage Supper**

1st Saturday in October - Takeout Only

### **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 - Dottie Fronheiser

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