



News from the Hill...

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

SCRIPTURES FOR JULY

On the first Sunday in July we will explore the inner tension in Paul, which perhaps we understand from our own experience, as he expressed it in his letter to Rome.. For the rest of July we will listen and reflect on parables that Jesus told, as found in chapter 13 of Matthew.

July 5

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19,26-30

Sermon: "Intentions and Actions"

July 12

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

Sermon: "The Parable of the Inefficient Farmer"

July 19

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Sermon: "Where do weeds come from?"

July 26

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Sermon: "How much faith do I need?"

Covid-19 Update & Opening Plan

We plan to open on June 21, 2020 with some new precautions and protocols in place. These new precautions and protocols are for everyone's safety and wellbeing. We ask that you respect others by following them while at Hill Church. If you have any concerns regarding these new requirements please contact Pastor Chuck, Matt Weller or Nikki Weller.

- Masks are required at all times and are not optional. Your mask must cover both your mouth & nose. We ask you to bring your own mask. If you don't feel comfortable wearing a mask or do not want to wear a mask, please do not attend at this time. Worship will still be available online on our YouTube channel.
- There will be clorox disinfecting wipes available should you need to wipe any surface down. The church sexton will perform regular cleaning between weekly services.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the church for you to use as desired. Please use hand sanitizer upon entry to the building.
- Please do a self-check before leaving home...if you answer yes to any of these symptoms, please stay home:
 - aches
 - fever/temp above 100.4°
 - sore throat
 - fatigue
 - shortness of breath
 - cough
- While we are a caring people and may feel the need to hug and shake hands - we need to refrain from doing that for the foreseeable future for everyone's wellbeing.
- At this time Pastor Chuck will be the only one speaking from the front of the church. We will ask worship leaders to help out again soon. While in the pulpit, Pastor will not have a mask on to help his intelligibility. Elmer will also not be wearing a mask while at the organ.
- Until we find it safe to do so, nursery/child care will not be offered.
- Sunday School will not resume at this time.
- We will have the air conditioning units on to circulate and filter the air while we worship in the sanctuary. The cooling will not be turned on unless necessary. With the proper filtration this is a safer option than opening the windows and drawing the air across the sanctuary.
- We will be limiting the responsive readings and talking required by the congregation.
- The 1st three pews will be roped off along with every other row following to allow social distancing. The open pews will be marked with a masking tape "x" on pew cushions as where NOT to sit. Please only sit with those in your immediate family.
- An offering plate will be placed on a table by entrance to the sanctuary in the Narthex for you to place any offerings you bring if you are able to give. Online giving will still be available if you wish to give and cannot attend. You can also mail in your offering if you would prefer.
- Please enter through one of the 3 doors in the Narthex. The Sunday School doors will remain locked in an attempt to reduce bi-directional traffic.
- Bathroom hallway doors will be propped open to eliminate the need to touch the handle while leaving the bathroom.
- Ushers will be in the Narthex to greet you, answer any questions and help you understand these new protocols. Ushers will also help you find a seat. At the conclusion of the service they will assist in dismissing everyone following the service.

Continued on next page

Covid-19 Update & Opening Plan Continued...

- We will only sing the closing benediction and one hymn following the Pastor's closing prayer. If you would feel more comfortable to leave before we sing as there will be more "particles" in the air, feel free to do so. Immediately following the hymn the service will conclude.
- We ask that you not gather/mingle with each other in the Narthex or the church building. If you would like to talk, please respect social distancing guidelines outside.
- Copies of the Upper Room will be available in the Narthex by the offering plate if you would like to pick one up. They will also continue to be available between the church office doors if you do not feel comfortable coming to church at this time.
- Bulletins will not be printed, and all hymnals, Bibles and items currently in the pews will be removed to reduce the risk of contact. Announcements will be e-mailed prior to Sunday morning. The order of service, hymn and announcements will be projected on the front wall of the sanctuary.
- The coffee maker in the Narthex will not be available.
- Altar flowers will not be delivered when we resume worship. We will resume flower delivery and sponsorship as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

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.

Cancellations

The following events have been cancelled due to safety and health concerns around Covid-19.

- Ringgold Band Picnic

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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stjohnhillucc

E-mail

office@stjohnhillucc.org

Phone

610-367-8114

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.

Thank You

When we had to stop holding services at church some of us were worried that we might have financial problems. For one thing, we were not passing a plate every Sunday; for another, we were concerned some of you might have reduced income. Our fears were unfounded. You have continued to give generously. Our church finances have remained stable.

Thank you for continuing to give, gratefully, and we hope joyfully, to the work of the church.