



News from the Hill...

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

• FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

New occasions teach new duties
Time makes ancient good uncouth

When we sang that in a hymn several months ago, some may have been troubled by those words. When James Russell Lowell wrote them in 1845, he had in mind the institution of slavery, an “ancient good” that was no longer acceptable.

For us, today, the “new occasions” are a pandemic. We have had to find new ways of doing church. For the time being, we can’t do it the old way. “We’ve always done it that way,” are words that pastors loathe to hear. Churches are very traditional institutions, resistant to change. But we have had to change. Our situation, being forced to change, has unleashed creativity. We have found new ways to be the church.

At some point we will be able to return to our good old ways. In the meantime, we have learned some things, about church, about ourselves, about how the Holy Spirit can work in our midst. We know we don’t have to always do things in the same way. And, hopefully, we will continue to use our imaginations to find new ways to be faithful in the future.

Charles Maxfield

SCRIPTURES FOR JUNE

I use a lectionary to pick out my Scriptures for preaching. A lectionary is a list of Scriptures for each Sunday, covering a three year period. The reason for using a lectionary is that it forces me, the preacher, to preach on the whole Bible, and not just my favorite parts. It also means you will here the whole Bible. The lectionary is not perfect, but it is helpful.

The Sunday after Pentecost is called “Trinity Sunday.” Our Gospel Lesson is a passage that mentions the trinity. In June we will begin exploring the Gospel of Matthew. The following three Sunday we will read and reflect on chapter 10, in which Jesus calls his disciples and sends them out.

It is always necessary to apply the Scripture to the situation in which we live today. When we are sheltering-in-place, what do these words of Jesus mean to us, where he sends us out? Do we just set them aside to read on another day? Or can we examine, reflect, and pray, to discover what they mean to us in our situation today? That is my challenge. I never know too far ahead of time what I will say in a sermon. Tune in, this June, and we can all find out.

June 7
Trinity Sunday
2 Corinthians 13:11-14
Matthew 28:16-20
“To all nations”

June 21
Romans 6:1-11
Matthew 10:24-39
“Comfort and Challenge”

June 14
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8
“Help Wanted”

June 28
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42
“Representing Christ”

CONSISTORY NEWS

The April Consistory meeting was cancelled, but we have remained in contact by email and phone.

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

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

Operating Fund	March 2020	2020 YTD	March 2019	2019 YTD
Income	\$7,938.01	\$26,250.00	\$12,431.99	\$32,935.80
Expenses	\$11,519.35	\$27,304.71	\$7,887.19	\$26,861.94
Income vs. Expenses	(\$3,581.34)	(\$1,054.71)	\$4,544.80	\$6,073.86

• Benevolence received for March was \$174.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$711.00

We are hopeful that conditions will improve and we might be able to gather for worship in May, however we continue to monitor the situation and follow the recommendations of public health officials.

While church activities were cancelled for the month of April, we have been blessed by the work of our staff and the support of our church family to continue ministry during this time.

The consistory agreed to offer full salary to our staff during this time, however some of the staff has requested that we either reduce their pay or discontinue pay until church activities resume. We also voted to not accept April rent payment for the sexton house.

We received a recommendation from PSEC to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program, which would provide a forgivable loan to help pay our staff. We have contacted Truist Bank, and they informed us that currently there is not enough funding available in this program to provide us with any assistance. Our understanding is that this may change in the next few weeks and they will keep us posted on any updates.

Pre-Service set up for May will be provided by Bonnie Helmick and Matt Weller. The next monthly meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

To date, the Search Committee has received a total of 24 ministerial profiles to review. 18 profiles have been from the UCC PSEC and 6 have been from the Evangelical Association. We continue to meet as a group via virtual meetings since we are not able to meet in person at this time. We have started discussing what a financial package for a perspective candidate would look like and will continue to pursue options. We are in the process of reviewing additional information received from one of our candidates and will continue to meet as needed.

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

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.

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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.

FROM THE PASTOR...COVID-19 UPDATE

GETTING THE YELLOW LIGHT

We all look forward to the time when we can come back together again. The consistory has met and has discussed how we would proceed when we pass into the yellow zone. Here are a few guidelines:

1. A yellow light is not a green light. We will be able to come back to church and worship together again, but it will not be just as before. We will need to take extra precautions.
2. No one should feel they have to come back, if they are concerned about their safety. We will create a video of the worship service and post it online on the church YouTube channel. Because of copyright issues, we will not show the video of the congregation singing, but would continue to link to you-tube videos.
3. When we first meet we will continue to use masks, practice social distancing, and apply hand sanitizer when we enter. We will have sanitizer available, but supplies may be limited so if you can provide your own, please do so. Common areas will be sanitized weekly.
4. We have not determined the specific changes yet, but Communion and offering will need to be modified to prevent the transfer of germs. We will not shake hands before or after the service, but a greeter will be available for any assistance you may need.
5. We will eliminate bulletins, putting everything on the screen.
6. We encourage everyone to be especially conscious of their own health, and ask that if you are feeling ill or if you have been around anyone feeling ill please refrain from coming to church.
7. If there are any needs within our church family or our community, please let us know.

We look forward to the time we can see each other in church again, even if it is from a distance.

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.

- Vacation Bible School
- Family Picnic (6/21)
- June Summer Concert featuring The Celtic Martins (6/20)

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.

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)

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

Want to get involved? These are our upcoming community events.

Ham Supper

-Cancelled-

Celtic Martins Summer Concert

-Cancelled-

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

Mission Opportunities - Whether you are in need of help or you want to help others, our Hill Church Mission team is here for you.

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

Church E-mail: 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