



Hilltop Highlights

October 2020



Lynn Miller Jackson
Pastor
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Along the Journey of Hope

Deep Listening for Truth and Need

As people of God, every day presents opportunities for us to say, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24). With all the turmoil in the world, as people of the Resurrection, as we proclaim and live these words, we embody hope. With loving hearts, Hilltop continues to extend hospitality, healing, help and hope serving the larger community. Just consider a few things we have done and what's coming.

During this pandemic, we have continued to host blood drives in Fellowship Hall and to serve with Family Promise. Our Missions team pivoted to drive-in Share the Bounty Food Drives to continue support of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and Crossroads Urban Center. We established a COVID care fund and have helped families specifically impacted by COVID-19.

Rather than scheduling space within the building, community groups, scout troops, committees, Bible studies, and other small groups have been able to meet on the Hilltop House lawn and via Zoom. A (re)Launch team has worked to establish protocols to allow us to phase back in to small, in-person gatherings as cooler weather approaches.

We have actually birthed some new things.

- When the pandemic turned life sideways, we immediately implemented live stream worship. Yes, our first Facebook live was actually sideways. We can chuckle at our stumbling, but we learned quickly and keep improving with gracious input from many.
- We planned, pushed, and evolved 'Praise in the Parking Lot' from a morning worship idea to an evening with food trucks and praise music. This is becoming Trucks 'N Tracks@Hilltop – a community gathering with food trucks and music tracks. In 2021, we will adjust the frequency of this warm weather offering to extend hospitality and expand relationships across the community.
- The Hilltop Gospel Choir is forging ahead with audacious plans and growing commitments for the 2021 summer tour in England and an inaugural ecumenical community Gospel Workshop in Fall 2021.

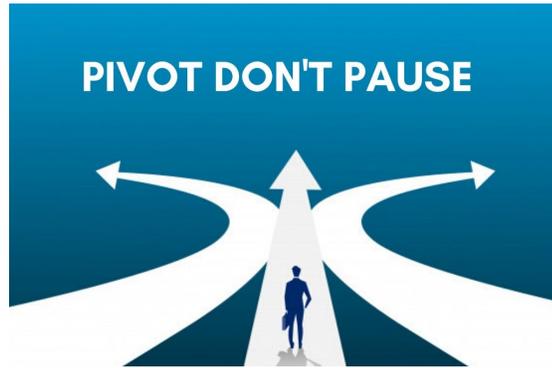
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PASTOR'S MUSINGS

(Continued from page 1)

This is not an exhaustive list! I believe all of this has been possible because we are moving with God. Instead of being paralyzed with panic, we have pivoted in pursuit of God's purposes.

Focus is important. We are entering a hyper-intense stretch of political debate and rhetoric layered upon racial unrest and challenges to pervasive injustices against



Options for Giving

Text the amount to 833-575-0423. A link will come up and walk you through the process,

Download Give+ Mobile on your smart phone,

Go to hilltopumchurch.org and click on "donate"

Click on the "Enroll for Auto Pay" button on the home page of our website where you can set up recurring payments,

Mail your check to

Hilltop UMC

985 E 10600 S

Sandy, UT 84094

Or Scan the QR code



the backdrop of fatigue, mental and physical health and economic concerns of the pandemic. Additionally, homelessness and housing insecurity, hunger and food insecurity, and other conditions also persist. With so much to process, it is imperative that the people of God focus on what God is doing and what God would have us do and become.

This is a season for deep listening for God's truth, correction, and direction; deep listening for our own truth and need for confession; and deep listening for the truth and needs of our neighbors near and far. There is much good ahead for us to do. Let us listen and stay the course with God so God's will may be done and God's Kingdom may come through us. May we find our voices and hearts singing: "This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad in it..." To God be the glory!

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT

Along the Journey of Hope, Listening for Truth and

What is it that all parents need? I remember needing support and more time in the day to get all things accomplished. Here within the Mother's Morning Out program, we can't actually offer you more hours in the day, but we can offer you a few hours to yourself. We would be honored to support you by caring for your children here at Hilltop.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for children 6 months to 3 years old to develop social skills in a friendly, creative, and nurturing classroom setting. While your children are in our care, we will be working on good manners, cooperation, and social skills to prepare them for pre-school and life.

Our day generally consists of:

- open play
- puzzles, story time
- teaching of colors, shapes, letters and numbers
- craft time one on one
- snack time
- large motor skill development through outside play. During inclement weather we do play indoors.

The program is ready to start enrolling kids ages 6 months to 3 years of age. Our class sizes are small and we always have 2 teachers per classroom.

Please go to mmo@hilltopumchurch.org to see our class offerings and to register. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward supporting your family at Mother's Morning Out.

We are also looking for teachers. Do you love children and helping them learn important skills? If so, you are just what we are looking for. Please contact Becky Elliston at 801-571-5777 ext. 4. We need YOU to join our team in supporting the families in our community.

The Good News: When you do have the ability and the opportunity to help someone, it's important that you do so. In Christ's name, you can be a positive force in the lives you encounter. Mother's Morning Out wants to be a positive force in your family today!

CLASS OPTIONS FOR MMO 2020-2021

Currently enrolling ages 18 months to 3.5 years old

Tuesday – Thursday 9-12 \$200.00 per month

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-12 \$300.00 per month

Class sizes are 10 students with 2 teachers.

Please enroll [here](https://app.enrollsy.com/enroll/hilltop-united-methodist): <https://app.enrollsy.com/enroll/hilltop-united-methodist>



Becky Elliston
MMO Director
mmo@hilltopumchurch.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES



Jen Strickland
Children & Youth
Ministries Director
cyministries@hilltopumchurch.org
801-571-5777 x204

It's Wreath Time!

The Wreath is a symbol of peace and hospitality known the world over. Children's Ministries is excited to bring back the Holiday Wreath Fundraiser. Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$1,000. All monies raised will be used to support the activities and educational opportunity of Children's Ministries.

Children's Ministries will be selling holiday wreaths, centerpieces, and more completely online. Visit www.giftitforward.com. On the main page enter Fundraising Code HILLTOUT001. Pre-Orders are open the entire month of October. Wreaths will ship directly to your home beginning Thanksgiving week. Children's Ministries will earn \$8 for each item order.

Thank you in advance for supporting Children's Ministries. Please feel free to share the link and fundraising id with family and friends. If you have any questions, please contact our fundraising chair Christa Bowen at christabowen10@gmail.com or Jen Strickland at cyministries@hilltopumchurch.org or 801.558.8969.

Trunk or Treat–Covid Style

October is a time when the weather gets cooler and children get excited about costumes and candy. This year the Children's Ministries Team has elected to cancel our annual Trunk or Treat event. However, we will not forget our little ghouls and goblins. We have a surprise that will be delivered to the children's home the last week of October. Be on the lookout for a visit!

Youth Survey

It's your turn! What are YOU looking for from YOUR YOUTH group? Are you looking for in-person fellowship? Is Zoom the video platform used by your parents? The Youth Ministries team has created a survey that will be sent out the first week of October to all families with youth in 6th–12th grade. Surveys will be sent out via email and text. Please encourage each youth in the house to complete the survey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Strickland at cyministries@hilltopumchurch.org or 801.558.8969.



Rona Singers wave goodbye to Abby for the school year. Dad Rob took the picture but is also a singer in the group.

STEWARDSHIP

By Roy Trawick

Without a doubt, this has been a strange year. Covid 19 has thrown a wrench in the works of all our lives. Our most basic existence has been altered. Will kids be in school? Will social unrest ever end? When will the economy return to normal? Will we have football this fall? I for one refuse to accept our current situation as some sort of “new normal.” I prefer to see times of adversity as an opportunity for self-reflection; indeed, as a chance to reset priorities. “20/20” is considered perfect vision. Perhaps God is using 2020 to give us the clarity to renew our commitment to Him and His glorious work in the world. Fall is fast approaching, and as such, it is time for us to renew our vows to uphold our faith through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Serving as Stewardship chair the past couple of years has certainly taught me what a ticklish subject giving can be. Many of our members have been consistently generous in their charitable giving and involvement with Hilltop. Some others seem not to have committed themselves as fully as they might; and still others have yet to commit to any pattern of regular support to the church. To be sure, unlike some faith communities, ours does not link deeds such as these to salvation. Indeed, Ephesians 2:8-9 states “For by *grace* you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not of works, so that no one may boast.” Further, Galatians 2:16 tells us “...by works of the law no one will be justified.”

At the same time, the Bible tells us very clearly that we should give the first of our

fruits, a biblical tithe. The more important point is to lead a Christian life, which is by definition a generous one. It is through our generosity (not just in giving) that we bring our faith to life. James 2:15-17 points this out. “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them ‘go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” This passage makes me think of a plaque my dad had in his office which said “DEEDS, NOT WORDS.” Our actions speak with far greater clarity of our faith than words alone.

I think now, with our months long social shutdown, is a perfect time for us as a church family to reset our priorities and rethink how we commit ourselves to Christ’s cause in the world. How much have you NOT spent over the past six months on eating out, movies, travel, etc.? Have you missed all these luxuries terribly, or do you think some of that treasure might be better spent to feed and clothe the less fortunate? That is a question for every individual and family in the Hilltop family to consider. Hilltop United Methodist Church is your instrument to act out your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Rest assured we will once again meet as a full congregation to praise God, sing hymns, hug one another, and share our mutual love for Jesus. Make today the day you commit yourself fully to His glorious work.

[Download a pledge form from the website.](#)



CONNECTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Hilltop United Methodist Church has many great opportunities to connect and get involved. Due to Covid, some of the groups have been meeting outside, and some of the small groups have been meeting via Zoom. We encourage you to join a group and get connected!

Dinners for 6 or 8

These groups meet monthly. This is a great opportunity to get to know others in a casual setting. Contact: Betty Long at bsrlong@msn.com

Book Club

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm virtually. Contact: Cheryl Gentle at Dncgentle@aol.com

Hiking/Walking/Snowshoeing Club

The Hiking/Snowshoeing Group meets every Tuesday morning weather permitting. We explore beautiful local trails to see lakes, waterfalls, views, and wildlife. Most hikes are rated as easy to moderate. The Walking Club meets Thursday mornings at 9:00. Contact: Becky Corbit at rcorbit@comcast.net

Wesley Group

This group is studying the Book of Luke using the Bible Project. Meets every Sunday at 9:30 A.M. via Zoom. Contact Barry Welliver at bhwelliver@mac.com

Diggin the Bible

Meets weekly at noon to watch and discuss DVDs from the Biblical Archaeology Society, The Great Courses, and other Biblical scholarship videos. Contact Claudia Bilbao at ClaudiaBilbao1403@msn.com



Intermountain Singles

This group is currently meeting at Butter-nut Park at 12:30 pm on Sundays to eat lunch and socialize. Before Covid, the group had an activity every Saturday night as well as lunch on Sundays. Contact Kathy Wheeler at wheelsut@comcast.net

Ada Circle

This group is made up of senior citizens, but women of all ages are invited for Christian fellowship. Contact: Sandy McCormick at Sandyjmcc@aol.com

Priscilla Circle

This group of varied ages and interests is committed to following Christ. Please join us for fellowship and fun. Contact: Judy at 801-487-7115

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group makes prayer shawls that are given to people in need of a special hug. Contact: Connee at 801-942-7675

Please go to the Hilltop website (hilltopumchurch.org) and take our Small Group Survey.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Because we had to cancel two Consignment Sales, UMW was not able to meet its pledge to the mission work of the District. Thanks to all who stepped up and donated toward this cause. We collected \$1050 toward our goal of \$1500. Women, children and youth will be blessed by these funds.

One of UMW's ongoing efforts has been working on the campaign to *End Child Homelessness*. Utah's shrinking supply of affordable housing is one big reason so many families and individuals become homeless. To assist with this crisis, we are joining with CORC (the Coalition of Religious Communities) in asking those in governmental leadership to:

- produce 150 new units of supportive housing for families with extended or repeated experiences of homelessness;
- create a Salt Lake County Housing Affordability Commission specifically charged with identifying housing needed to reduce child homelessness and opportunities to produce and preserve that housing;
- capitalize on full Medicaid expansion by connecting all parents and children who become homeless with a base that can help them transition out of homelessness;
- reduce impact of COVID-19 pandemic by continuing pandemic rental assistance programs and being vigilant about identifying and assisting children who have fallen behind in school due to homelessness.

The full *Child Homelessness in Salt Lake County 2020 Report* is available at www.crossroadsurbancenter.org

While those in leadership work to address this growing issue, we can encourage families by supplying undies and socks for homeless children and youth—don't forget many teens are homeless too. We will be collecting October 10–25. Items may left in the yellow bin at the church north door. Also, financial gifts may be left with the office or mailed to Judy Stephens at 2636 Forest Dale Circle; SLC UT 84106.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Listening for the Truth and Need

By **Becky Elliston**

As you may have heard, the Hilltop Gospel Choir is planning a Tour to England. The Tour is planned for July 6th through July 14th, 2021. We have four concerts planned during the Tour. With the third concert scheduled, we will have the opportunity to combine with a local choir to sing in Pershore Abbey.

I have felt this calling for several years since first joining the Hilltop Gospel Choir. The topic became a bit of a joke between Roberta and myself, with my bringing it up every so often. Then, Pastor Lynn asked me what my goal for the Hilltop Gospel Choir would be, and right away I answered, "European Tour." Imagine my elation when Pastor Lynn said to go forward with this calling. We surveyed the choir as to where we should go, and England was the winning request.

Almost immediately, obstacles were placed in our path. This small thing called Covid-19 became a worldwide pandemic. Now, the mission of the Hilltop Gospel Choir feels even more important to bring to the people. Our mission states: *HGC a community choir, inclusive of all faiths and cultures, whose mission is to create fellowship and love through the sharing of Gospel music.* And the vision of HGC is: *To continue to draw*

the circle of inclusiveness even wider, breaking down cultural and denominational barriers, until all the world is united equally as children of God.

If we are truly listening for the needs of the people right now, we can hear the chaos and feel the sadness we all are experiencing. People need hope and light and joy! The Hilltop Gospel Choir can supply that in abundance. Every concert I have been a part of has filled me with hope, light and joy to overflowing.

Another obstacle, of course, is how do we fund this tour? The Tour Team has been working furiously to raise funds. Our next fundraising event, the **Hilltop Gospel Choir Walkathon**, will be on Saturday, October 3rd in the Hilltop UMC parking lot. Alternatively, participants can choose to walk in their own neighborhood. One can plan to walk with the choir or sponsor a choir member in his/her walk.

Walkathon registration will begin at 10:00 am on site and we plan to walk for 40 minutes. There is a registration fee of \$5.00 per walker. We will be observing social distancing and wearing masks. Prizes will be given for the craziest face mask, so be sure to bring yours! After

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Roberta Shimensky
Music Director
801.571-5777

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

the walk, there will be snacks and beverages offered.

We would love to have YOU join us, either in walking or in sponsoring a walker. Can you help us to draw the circle wider? Wouldn't it feel good to help unite the world equally as children of God? Donations can be received by the walker you are sponsoring, or you can donate using any of the following options:

- Venmo: @HilltopGospel-Choir
- Church Website: Go to: <https://Hilltopumchurch.org>, scroll to the "DONATE" button and select "Gospel Choir"
- Check: Make payable to HGC and mail to P.O. Box 901282, Sandy Ut 84090
- Text to Give @ 833-575-0423: enter amount and designate "Gospel"
- GivePlus Mobile App on your smartphone: Download the App and "Hilltop United Methodist in Sandy, UT", "Gospel Choir"

The Hilltop Gospel Choir is happy to announce our new website: hilltopgospelchoir.org. Please check us out online! We will keep you all updated on our progress and once we get to England, you can follow us on the Tour by watching our posts.

I cannot do all the good that the World needs. But the World needs all the good that I can do.

- JANA STANFIELD

Ain'-a That Good News!

We are all excited about finally being able to gather, with all appropriate pandemic precautions in place. Youth Choir resumes rehearsals on Monday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m., and Chancel Choir will resume on Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m.

When Chancel Choir reconvenes on October 15:

We will sing masked. Singing may be classified as a "super-spreader," but singing while masked has been shown to be as effective in blocking the spread of the virus as talking while wearing a mask.

We will use the entire nave (the largest part of the sanctuary, where the congregation sits) as our rehearsal space, which will allow us to be much further than the recommended ten feet apart.

We will rehearse for 30 minutes, take a five-minute break to allow air to circulate, then come back for 30 minutes more.

The Chancel Choir will not be in the loft to lead worship until it is safe to do so. Until that time, we have our faithful group of the affectionately called *Rona Singers* to lead worship, along with the Praise Band.

There are many things about ensemble's gathering with restrictions that are less than ideal (understatement) from a musical standpoint. However, after seven months of being without our fellowship and the spiritual nourishment of singing together, being able to gather, even with restrictions, is indeed GOOD NEWS!



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

The Hilltop Children's Music Program Continues

Even (and especially) in the midst of a health crisis, God still has a message for God's children. The Hilltop Children's Music Program strives to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children through interactive story and song - and we have planned safe ways to continue this mission through the fall. The whole family is invited to join us for Block 1 - come enjoy the beautiful Utah evenings with us! Block 2 will be held in the church building, with a limited number of spots available - so please respond soon to reserve your spot. Block 3 is for the whole family - in your own home; exploring the signs and symbols of Advent as you prepare your home for the Christ child. We hope you'll consider joining us for one or more blocks this fall!

Block 1 (6 wks): Now through October 22 Outdoor Campfire Music (for the Whole Family!) Let us know you're coming

Join Ms. Katie on the Hilltop Lawn for a family-friendly time of music, Bible stories, prayer, and fun. From 6:00-6:30pm each Thursday evening, gather for a family-friendly time of song, story, and prayer. Each child will receive a special Treasure of Nature during each gathering, reminding them of God's love for us and for the whole world.

From 6:30-7:00pm, families may stay for chalk art, a socially-distanced game with Ms. Annie, or to enjoy conversation.

Block 2 (3 wks): November 5 - 19 — Indoor Music (for Kids Only!) Reserve your child's spot

Join Ms. Katie for a rotation-based musical experience from 6:15-7:00pm. AGES: 5-10. COST: Free! Through percussion, rhythmic speech, and art, we'll explore three foundational Bible stories as we wonder what message God might have for us.

November 5: David and Goliath (Little People Can Do Big Things)

November 12: Ruth and Naomi (Being There for One Another)

November 19: Feeding the 5,000 (Jesus Provides What We Need)

The first rotation will be held in a large area - Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall - from 6:15-6:30pm. We'll travel to the Children's Choir room for rotation #2, from 6:35-7:00.

Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed throughout each activity. Each child will have their own drum/mallets/art materials.

Block 3 (4 wks): December 3 - 24 ... An Advent Music & Arts Experience (at Home) Register your family Learn about the season of Advent - the signs, symbols, stories, and carols - through an interactive Music & Art at-home experience. AGES: Families of children ages 3-12. COST: \$10 per family, to cover the cost of materials.

Dive into the signs, symbols, and songs of Advent in this four-week activity block for

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FROM THE OFFICE

Weekly E-Notes

Are you receiving e-mails from the church office every week? These are brief notes on what is happening at Hilltop in the next week. They are usually sent on Thursday and include Sunday's scripture readings and a link to the latest newsletter.

If you're not getting them, please send an e-mail to office@hilltopumchurch.org and ask to be added to the distribution list.

Office Hours

Office hours have resumed mostly to normal: **Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am to noon.** The doors will remain locked, but you can ring the bell to be let in. Leigh Anne no longer has the church phone forwarded to her cell, so if you need her outside of office hours, call her at 801-953-3450, but only for emergencies. Thank you.

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families of children ages 3-12. Families will receive an Advent basket the afternoon of December 3. Through weekly videos and the materials in your basket, families will be guided through activities and devotions exploring the meaning behind each candle in the Advent wreath - leading us to the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of the world.

October Birthdays

David Jordan.....	Oct 1
Pauline Rowe.....	Oct 1
Jack Trawick	Oct 3
Roy Cleland	Oct 10
Francois Coquemont.....	Oct 10
Sandi Locke.....	Oct 15
Avery Owen.....	Oct 20
Archer Houts	Oct 23
Jane Roxbury	Oct 25
Tristan Milner	Oct 27
Lana Crichton.....	Oct 28



Prepare your hearts and home for the Christ child through this flexible block, as your family ponders how you can bring hope | peace | love | joy to the world.

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Sunday Schedule

Sunday School for All	9:00 am
Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship Time	10:00 am
Worship	10:30 am
Fellowship Time	11:30 am

Pastor Lynn Miller Jackson
Email: pastor@hilltopumchurch.org