



Hilltop *Highlights*

April 2021



Lynn Miller Jackson
Pastor
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hilltopumchurch.org

Resurrection and Reconnection *Joy*

After Jesus' resurrection, he reconnected with his disciples in different ways at different times and places. He reconnected with Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of Joses outside the tomb in early morning on the first day of the week. He reconnected to the disciples locked in the upper room in the evening, on the road to Emmaus in the afternoon, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee for breakfast. He reconnected with hundreds of people in the forty days between his resurrection and ascension. Upon recognizing Christ, people experienced reconnection joy. Remember Mary Magdalene's joyful, "Rabbouni!" (John 20:16). Remember the two disciples gushing, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us...?" (Luke 24:32).

Our hearts are certainly burning for community. As we emerge from this pandemic tomb, this is a time of resurrection and reconnection joy!

As the resurrected Christ appeared to his disciples, there was something different about him. Jesus' appearance had changed but his forward-focused, God-centered Spirit remained. He retained the marks of his history but kept moving forward and sending his followers to continue the work he began. We are emerging into a different world and approaches to ministry may look different but the spirit of ministry remains. We still seek to fulfill the charge of Christ—to go forth and make disciples of all nations. As we move forward offering hospitality, healing help and hope, leading hearts to Christ, we have a new reality to explore, to embrace, and new opportunities ahead with God.

Resurrection is about new life. Something has to die or be released for resurrection to occur. The place to reconnect may be different from your previous connections. As we reconnect, consider making new connections. Consider nurturing the next generations by connecting with Children's ministry, helping with Sunday School or VBS for a season. We need volunteers who want to have some fun with our UEMY's and Youth group. Perhaps you have a community project where we can gather to lend our hands. Maybe a social justice cause like eradicating hunger or homelessness in the Salt Lake Valley is a passion. If music is your gift, volunteer with the choir or lead the Praise Band. Reconnect in a way that makes your heart sing and other hearts will

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PASTOR'S MUSINGS

(Continued from page 1)

gladly join you.

Jesus was always on the move, stirring hearts and minds, meeting needs, and making new friends and gathering followers. Jesus was not only making connections with people, but making connection within people. He was helping people connect their heads and hearts with their hands and feet to fulfill the will of God. Jesus was bringing forth new ways for new

life. The Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God has not stopped moving during this pandemic. It is the Spirit that powers our resurrection and stirs us to reconnection joy. Let's be of the same mind and spirit as Christ. Let's keep moving forward, living our resurrection. The Risen One is going ahead of us. Let us be faithful to follow his lead. For what is to come, to God be the glory!

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. If you need Leigh Anne outside of office hours, call her at 801-953-3450, but only for emergencies. Thank you.

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

SUB DISTRICT NEWS

2021 MSC District Gatherings

Brought to You by Zoom!

The theme of the 2021 District Gathering is “Where Love Lives,” stemming from the Western Jurisdiction theme of the same name. All districts except for Trinity will gather on April 17th. Trinity district will gather on April 24th. All zoom gatherings begin at 9am.

Each district will host their District Gathering on zoom. Bishop Karen will share a message and Communion. Keynote speaker, Rev. Amanda Henderson, author of Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times, will offer teaching moments with breakout rooms. Henderson recently partnered with Iliff School of Theology to create the Institute for Religion, Politics & Culture as a place for scholarship and research about the way legislative initiatives are shaped by religion.

Each district will also process business such as election of Equalization Members and presentation of Quiet Disciple Awards. Registration is now open - simply click on this link to register and find your district’s specific information:

<https://mtnsky-reg.brtaapp.com/2021MSCDistrictGatherings>

Click here for more information on Where Love Lives:

<https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/where-love-lives.../>

April Birthdays

Adele Robison	April 2
Janice Schlager.....	April 7
Rob Garrison	April 8
Galen Ewer	April 9
Gygi Olsen	April 9
Carol Reed	April 11
Joan Hendrickson	April 14
Kiersten Anderson.....	April 14
Al Rocek	April 16
Nathan Pirwitz	April 19
Carol Floyd	April 20
Mike Montoya	April 20
Matt Gentilcore.....	April 22
JoAnna Neal	April 24
Bill Strickland	April 27
Bob Bolds	April 27
JoAnne Myers.....	April 29



Scheduling Requests

Be sure your committee or group submits new scheduling requests for your meetings and events that are resuming after Easter. Forms are on the wall in the workroom (formerly the office) or on the Hilltop website. After you log in click on “Resources” then “Documents.” The form is “Scheduling Requests.” Thanks.

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



Roberta Shimensky
Music Director
801.571-5777

Connecting Through Ministry

By Al Rocek, Praise Band Leader

This month's theme includes resurrection and reconnection, I can think of no better way to reconnect than through music. I have been blessed to connect with over 29 people that have been participating in the Praise Band. It also has been a blessing to connect with many of the homeless community, both staff and homeless individuals, or those participating in the New Life program, at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

Connecting with the homeless has provided a new opportunity to evaluate how blessed our lives really are. The homeless have so many struggles that many of us don't ever experience. I know that I have not been able to provide enough, but I am hopeful that the time we spend in the Rescue Mission at least communicates to the group that they have value. I hope that we are able to "resurrect" their spirits through worship and perhaps getting a moment to forget their current circumstance.

I am hopeful that in our retirement, Kirsten and I can continue to contribute to helping the homeless in some capacity.

Music is an expression of the soul, it brings us little closer to that reconnection with God that we all should experience during the Easter season. Thank you for our time with you at Hilltop, Happy Easter.

Gifts of Talents

Music & Arts Ministry is in need of your talents!

Event Planner

Our first annual Gospel Music Workshop is scheduled for September 10 – 12 of this year. This event will be attended by community from the Salt Lake Valley and beyond. Guest clinician is Dr. Raymond Wise of Indiana University, Raise Productions, The Center for the Gospel Arts, and numerous other credits. The workshop culminates with a concert of singer-participants and featuring the Hilltop Gospel Choir and other groups.

Praise Band Personnel

Singers and Leader are needed for this vital part of Music & Arts. Additional instrumentalists are also welcome!

You can become part of our dynamic ministry! One need not be a member of Hilltop to participate. Contact Roberta Shimensky music@hilltopumchurch.org (801.571.5777 x203) to express interest and get more information.



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Praise Band Leader Wanted

After many dedicated years of leading the Hilltop Praise Band, Al Rocek is retiring.



We are seeking the gifts and talents of a dedicated Praise Band Leader willing to evolve the role. The Praise Band Leader

- is a collaborative part of Music & Arts and will lead in worship as planned with the Pastor and Music Director; chooses repertoire based on the theme and scripture, and makes music available.

- leads Hilltop's outreach ministry to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.
- rehearses instrumentalists and singers, as needed, and sets up for worship and other events in conjunction with the AV Team.
- participates in monthly ministry meetings and ministry events outside of worship (e.g. fundraising concert, etc.) to help continue to spread the Gospel message.

If you are interested, need more information, or would like to refer someone, please contact Roberta Shimensky.

Hilltop – An inclusive community of hospitality, healing, help, and hope, leading hearts to Christ

So that all may experience Gods' love and grace;

So that new disciples are created;

So that all disciples are nurtured to live lives according to Gods' will;

So that all disciples use their gifts to re-ignite a movement for God;

So that all disciples appreciate and share the abundance of life in Christ;

So that our lives reflect what God requires of us – to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with Him;

So that both locally and globally, the world is refreshed by our vision.

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT

RETROUVAILLE

(n.) The joy of meeting or finding someone again after a long separation; rediscovery

After a long year of social distancing, working from home and hiding behind masks for safety reasons, we are all looking forward to reunions of many kinds. It is going to be so meaningful when we can hug our loved ones, tickle our grandchildren, sing without masks on and worship without restrictions.

Separations are difficult. We all go through moments where we find ourselves disconnected from God. Busy work schedules, health concerns, demanding family obligations, etc. can take our focus away from God. It is usually when things start to feel stressed and unmanageable that we realize we are, once again, relying on our own strength to get through the day. And all the while, God is there waiting for us.

Join MMO for Summer Camps 2021

We will start our day outside with free play and craft time. Learning circles will come next, followed by everyone's favorite...SNACK! Story time and small motor skill play will finish out our morning.

- Week # 1 June 8-10 Dinosaur fun
- Week #2 June 15-17 Bugs and Butterflies
- Week #3 June 22-24 Under the Sea
- Week #4 July 6-8 Music Makers
- Week #5 July 13-15 Super Slime

His willingness to wait on us reveals the value He places on our relationship with Him. And He longs for the joy of reconnecting with us.

The Mother's Morning Out program has been waiting to reopen for over a year. We have missed the children and their families. We value this program and the ways it serves the community, so much so that we were willing to wait.

It is with great retrouvaille that we can announce that MMO is ready to open for summer camps. We are ever so excited to serve our community by offering a safe and fun place for parents to bring their children. Registration is now open and our classes are filling up quickly. Please join us starting in June for some summer fun!

Camps will be Tue, Wed, Thurs from 9:30 am- 12:30 pm; are for ages 18 months – 3.5 years old.

We plan to spend as much of our day outside as possible. Enrollment will be open at app.enrollsy.com/r/RXkMzt16F beginning March 1st, 2021. Please contact Becky at mmo@hilltopumchurch.org or 801-571-5777



Becky Elliston
MMO Director
mmo@hilltopumchurch.org

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Special Recognition

Each year the Hilltop United Methodist Women recognize a person in our congregation who has served in a special way to enrich our community at Hilltop with a 'Special Recognition' pin. This year the committee has chosen Lola Thombs to receive this award.

In 2001 Lola moved from Ohio to the Salt Lake City area to be near her two daughters.

She started attending Hilltop UMC in 2007. On that Sunday Lillian Bowlby introduced herself and invited her to attend Ada Circle, where she became involved with the Shawl Ministry. Lola was excited to meet several senior women in the church and immediately became involved in the different organizations. In 2009 when Lillian started the Silver Songbirds, Lola became one of the original ladies to join the singing group.

She became a member of Hilltop UMC when Rev. Ed Bigler was the minister in ____.

In 2008 she began teaching an exercise class for seniors at Sandy Senior Center. She has also served on the Board at the Senior Center and on many of its committees. Due to the shut downs, Lola has not been able to teach her class but she is looking forward to teaching again when the Senior Center opens back up.

When the pandemic started in March 2020, Lola faithfully called the women in Ada Circle each week to talk to them and give them four scriptures to read during the week. She has encouraged them as they remained in their homes and apartments and has been a great listener to all the ladies.



Lola appreciates the UMW for recognition and wanted to express her thanks for the 'Special Recognition' pin.



MDSF Banquet

Sadly, again, we must cancel the Mother Daughter Sister Friend Banquet due to Covid restrictions. BUT...we do have a treat planned for our UMC women! Stop by the church on **Saturday, May 1** during the Missions Food Drop-off (10 am - 2 pm) and pick up a gift from the UMW. We still want to honor all the beautiful women in our lives and help them feel special. Also, put your name into a FREE raffle for one of our fun baskets. Hope to see you on the 1st!

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Let's Get Together!

Spring always brings us a promise of warmer temps, sunny skies, and hope. We are emerging from a year of winter and are entering a season of beginnings and opportunities. Like you, I never imagined that when we stopped meeting last March, that an entire year would pass before we could safely re-gather for worship. In that year, we have lost members to death and moves, gained new online visitors who have faithfully joined us in worship but who we do not yet know. When Jesus was resurrected, he transformed, from earthly to everlasting. And in this season of resurrection, that is what we to must do—be transformed, both personally and as a church community.

I hear a common theme among many friends now who have completed their vaccinations or are in process, and it is a navigation—what is my new normal, how do I begin to interact with others again, be in fellowship, share laughs and meals. What does it look like and feel like to return to “normal” which in so many ways is not the normal we have experienced in the past? Your return to Hilltop is part of that normal I hope. We have been transformed and changed by this last year. We proved to be resilient, bold, and able to pivot and adapt in order to continue to worship and be in community, in a virtual space. But it is time to identify how each of us can begin the joyful process of reconnecting. Warmer weather brings opportunities for that: attend worship as you are able, and please read postings like this, the newsletter, weekly email updates, and Facebook to

identify other opportunities. In the coming months we will have a Spring clean up, Food Truck “Trucks and Tracks” event, UMM breakfasts, drive by food drive and more. We miss you and want to see your face. We want to meet you if you are new. We want to truly be a resurrection people living a life of joy with Christ and with each other.

As your Lay Leader I urge you to re-join us as you are able, and please continue to let us know how we can best serve you. I would love to speak with you if you have ideas, questions or concerns.

In Christ,
Susan Dunlap
sdunlap28@hotmail.com
801-598-0626



Graduate Recognition

Do you have a child graduating from high school or college this year? We want to celebrate their achievements. Please e-mail a brief bio, a baby/childhood photo, and a current photo to the church office (office@hilltopumchurch.org).

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Surrounded by the Love of God

By Bob Scarborough, SPRC Chair

The journey from Lent to Easter and going forward from Resurrection has always had special meaning for Ann and me. It started for us during Lent many years ago when we made the decision to remove our son, Justin, from life support provided by a ventilator that he had been on for more than a week. It was the last of 20 hospitalizations we went thru early in his life during a 4 year period of time.

We felt the love of God during his life; but especially the last few weeks he lived, thru the caring people and community of Minnehaha UMC church, where we were members. We felt the love of God, thru the nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, chaplains, PICU providers, and our special pediatrician, lovingly known by many as Dr. Dan, all at Minneapolis Children's Hospital. We felt the love of God thru our close friends who did not know what to say to parent's grieving the death of their son but demonstrated thru their many acts of kindness and desire to never let go of seeing us in the pain and deep valley that we were in. We knew the love of God was present thru our families, but we also knew they did not know how to support us and show us their love during our healing and wellness journey that we were on from the Resurrection of our son. But we still felt surrounded by the Love of God.

The Dr. Reverend Howard Thurman, in his book *Meditations of the Heart*, writes about this in #49, "Surrounded by the Love of God." Quoting, "The magic of wind, sun, and rain creates a climate that nourishes every living thing. It is law, and more than law; it is order, and more than order--- there is a

brooding tenderness out of which all comes. In the contemplation of the earth, I know that I am surrounded by the love of God." ...and "The edge of hope that constantly invades the seasoned grounds of despair, the faith that keeps watch at the doors though which pass all labors of my life and heart for what is right and true, the impulse to forgive and to seek forgiveness even when the injury is sharp and clear—these and countless other things make me know that by day and by night my life is surrounded by the love of God."

Since Justin's death, our friend Wayne has mailed us a card acknowledging his death and resurrection, during the first week of March year after year since his passing. On Justin's birth date, arriving exactly on that day, six months later, we receive a birthday card in our son's memory. Like God surrounds us by His Love, all the time; Wayne too surrounds us year by year, with his love and memory of our son. He never met Justin, but through family to family sharing of whom Justin was, Wayne has surrounded us with his personal love for God and sharing that love of God with us!

For those like me who don't wait well and really, really like going fast, thank you to our staff, our teachers, and you, our Hilltop community for all you have already done this year, and all of last year. I know the excitement to go fast is reaching its own fever-pitch, as more and more are safer from the vaccines. Keep holding on to our promise to go together. And take some moments outside in the woods and mountains and do a very un—quiet Irish jig, or in my case, designate it as an Irish-Scottish jig.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Children's Books for Discussion of Race and Inequality at Home

by Karen Moser

This month, I'm sharing a fun new series that our family enjoyed reading during Women's History Month in March. Zoey is a Black girl in elementary school and Sas-safras is her pet cat and sidekick. Zoey is learning the family business from her mother--a business that serves magical creatures who ring the barn doorbell when they need help. Zoey is also a scientist, and all of the magical creatures' ailments can be solved by using the scientific method!

This Month's Books: Zoey and Sassafras series (we've tried 3 volumes: Dragons and Marshmallows, Monsters and Mold, and Merhorses and Bubbles, but there are 8 available in total to date) Story by Asia Citro, Pictures by Marion Lindsay

Available in the Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Library systems

Summary: We don't have space to summarize all of the books, so I'll choose one example. In "Monsters and Mold," Zoey helps a monster named Gorp try to get rid of the unsightly mold in his fur so he can confidently attend the Monster Ball. She searches for a mold removal treatment by performing a carefully controlled experiment (don't want to spoil the particulars!) and the thought she puts into her experimental design, her iterative process, and her observations in her laboratory notebook are woven into the narrative. I love that this series features a young woman of color working as an amateur scientist and

also includes magic that makes the stories fun. Not only are these exciting adventure stories, but they give great examples of how to use scientific principles to solve everyday problems. What an empowering message for kids! Also, Zoey treasures her "Thinking Goggles," which immediately made her one of my all-time favorite book characters. The series website, zoeyandsassafras.com, has information about all of the books as well as complementary activities that can be printed for free to build on what you learn in the books. Maybe you can find some projects that would be fun to try over spring break!

What Do The Kids Think?

Heidi- I liked that Zoey used science to help the magical creatures.

Clark- I liked when Zoey helped the baby dragon Marshmallow find food.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How do you help others in your community? How could you use your unique skills and talents to help others solve their problems?
2. What does a scientist look like? Who can be a scientist?

If you have recommendations for books to feature in future months, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Happy Reading!

FINANCE

Your Finance Committee at Work

By Betty Long, Finance Committee Chair

On behalf of the Finance Committee I would like to first and foremost thank you for your faithfulness and continued support of Hilltop and its ministries. During the challenging times in 2020, you have continued to do and be the church in creative and meaningful ways. You have met the unique challenges throughout this pandemic with your innovative spirit and your faithful financial gifts. 2021 is a new season for each and every one of us. The Finance Committee invites you to boldly embrace the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

Like many others within the church I've know you have to walk a fine line when it comes to talking about money—you can talk too much or too little about church finances. Over the course of this year the Finance Committee will take time to discover what motivates others to give and share this information in the newsletter. Love it or hate it someone has to go first, so I will venture forward. This is my story on giving.

Even if you pay off every debt, build a fully funded emergency fund, invest wisely for retirement, save for your children's college fund and pay off your house early, you can still be missing the most important personal finance principle: Giving!

You know the feeling you get when you give someone just the right gift—something they really need or want or find unexpectedly cool? In that instant, the joy you feel as the giver may exceed the joy felt by the receiver.

And when you give to family, the people you really care about, isn't the joy that much greater? Hilltop is my church family, so that feeling of joy extends to giving here, because it's helping people I love. Some people contribute because it's an obligation; I give because it's a blessing to be able to make that unexpectedly cool thing happen.

I invite you to be a joyful giver to your Hilltop family, discover the joy of giving. Start slowly, give up a Starbucks visit, a lunch out, a fast food drive through until you feel the joy to give sacrificially; and you will discover the joy of a zealous giver.

Giving Received thru 2/28/21	\$70,696
Projected Giving thru 2/28/21	\$81,017
Giving Received thru 2/28/21	(\$10,321)
Actual Expenses thru 2/28/21	\$72,566
Budgeted Expenses thru 2/28/21	\$84,610
Actual Giving-Exp	(\$1,870)
Proj Giving-Budgeted Exp	(\$3,593)

Are you interested?

Kathy Wheeler is the Treasurer of Hilltop and has been an important part of the Finance Committee for several years. She is dedicated to keeping the finances of the church current and accurate. Her talents and abilities are appreciated. She has a wealth of information that the Finance Committee has discovered no one else has. Therefore, the committee is looking for an individual that is interested in learning the role of Treasurer for Hilltop, as a backup to Kathy. If you are interested in learning the role of Treasurer for Hilltop please notify Pastor Lynn, Kathy Wheeler, or Betty Long. Thank you.



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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

The advertisement features a background image of a breakfast meal including fried eggs, french fries, and a biscuit. Overlaid on this is the text "Monthly Breakfast & Meeting" in bold black font at the top. In the center is the "UNITED METHODIST MEN" logo, where "UNITED METHODIST" is in a smaller blue font and "MEN" is in a large, bold blue font with a red cross and flame graphic. A small Hilltop logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the logo area. At the bottom, the text "Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 am" and "Hilltop House Lawn" is displayed in bold black font.

Monthly Breakfast & Meeting

**UNITED METHODIST
MEN**

Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 am
Hilltop House Lawn