

# Hilltop

## Highlights

May 2021



Lynn Miller Jackson  
Pastor  
pastor@  
hilltopumchurch.org



## Living the Resurrection

The resurrected Jesus interacted with his disciples in ways that engaged all the senses.

He told them to look at his hands and feet, to touch and see that he was real flesh and bones (Luke 24:39-40). He even ate with the disciples proving he was not a ghost, but a real live person. Jesus modeled the essentials of resurrection - *coming alive*. Not only was Jesus physically alive, but purposefully alive. His resurrection still vividly declares there are greater things to come. Despite what has happened, faith turns us toward the promise that perpetually springs from the resurrection of Christ—the promise of more abundant and everlasting life.

To that end, the Holy Spirit indwells us and stirs our spirits to *come alive* for greater purposes so God's kingdom may come, so God's kin'dom may *come alive*. We each are charged to live lives worthy of God's grace and mercy. While some endeavors may come with ease, other efforts will purposefully stretch us to grow into the fullness God intends. This is living the resurrection.

Living the resurrection must be a comprehensive way of life. It cannot be put on for worship, then taken off like a suit of clothes and stored for the rest of the time. It is not like a pair of shoes to be chosen for comfort or convenience. Living the resurrection emerges from within. To *come alive* requires coming to the end of the self and allowing the power of Holy Spirit to strive and thrive through you.

Living the resurrection is living a different kind of life to bring forth a different kind of world. Too often the Church of casual or occasional Christianity coddles the ways of the common world with its complacency, callousness, corruption, etc., as it seeks comfort and conformity over the challenge of and commitment to change. The Church of casual or occasional Christianity goes along to get along; kicks the can of inequitable conditions down the road rather than taking a gracious but courageous stand to open the can of truth and apply the balm of justice. It is time for the Church of courageous, committed Christianity to *come alive*.

This last year has been difficult for me as a deep processor. It is painful to continual-

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# PASTOR'S MUSINGS

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*(Continued from page 1)*

ly process the capacity human beings have for inhumane behavior and harmful indifference. At times, my soul groans too deep for words as my brown body physically aches with empathetic stress from the epidemic scourge of suffering. My experiential faith confirms that I am fully alive and charged to purposely move forward. Jesus' followers are not to be passive souls, but committed spirits moving in the light, strength, and faith of Christ. Jesus did not say life would be easy for His followers. In fact, He warned of the persecution and suffering in his name (Matthew 24:9). But Jesus promised never to leave or forsake us, and I am grateful for the anchoring and guiding presence of the Holy Spirit that is available to all. So, I pray for all as Paul did for the Ephesians:

"For this reason, I bow my knees before [God], from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in

your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:14-19)

I pray that as you are filled with the fullness of God, that you will move with the Spirit, committed to a life of courageous Christianity that challenges rather than conforms to the world. I pray that, with the counsel of the Spirit, you will do as Howard Thurman advised, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." What the world needs is people living the resurrection! May it be so and to God be the glory!



## Coffee with the Pastor

**Thursdays at 7:30 am via Zoom**

Join Pastor Lynn every Thursday morning for an open forum chat session. She will open the meeting with prayer and then invite participants to share and discuss whatever topic is on their hearts.

Meeting ID: 882-6256-887

Passcode: Pastor



# SUB DISTRICT NEWS

## Quiet Disciple

### Elaine Shaw

Elaine Shaw is a long time, dedicated member of Hilltop UMC and has served on various ministries through the years. She is a consummate greeter at our Welcome Center and a quiet connector. Elaine gets to know names and sees the gifts and possibilities of others. She has a deep love for people and embodies the inclusion of Christ in word and deed. Elaine buys books on tape for our shut-in's and toys for our Family Promise program, and is known in her neighborhood for her kindness and concern. Elaine works behind the scenes and beyond the church walls. At Christmas, she baked a thousand cookies and safely delivered them to dozens of households , sharing Christmas cheer when many were in need of uplifting. Elaine serves without drawing attention to her efforts. She is a true quiet disciple.



## May Birthdays

Ruth Hines.....May 1  
Spencer Duff.....May 1  
Jan Woodmansee .....May 1  
Vern Rosenstiel .....May 6  
Diana Cushing.....May 7  
Lizabeth Temby .....May 8  
Adam Day.....May 10  
Kathy Russell.....May 15  
Tim Strickland.....May 15  
Penny Coquemont.....May 18  
Heidi Moser .....May 18  
Dawn Cox .....May 21  
Marilynn Tetrack .....May 30



## New Member Class

We would like to invite you to attend a Membership Orientation class which will be held Monday May 10th at 1:00 pm in the Ada Room. (the room off of the Fellowship Hall) We will be sharing information about Hilltop, United Methodist history and beliefs and what church membership means. e at 801-571-5777. If you are interested in a Zoom session, please indicate that as well.



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

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Roberta Shimensky  
Music Director  
801.571-5777

## Come Alive with Music

By Lia Schroeder, Youth Choir

During Easter we celebrated with great song and cheer as Jesus rose again from the dead, and it is now time to fill ourselves with the spirit of the living Christ. This really cool guy, Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive." Which begs us to ask the question, what makes ME come alive? For me personally, I know there are plenty of things, but one of the greatest is the boppin' beats provided by our Music Ministry! Not only can music make you come alive, but it can fill others with life as well. The Music Ministry has certainly given plenty of chances to come alive, from home, and now with others. As half of the Youth Choir, getting to come back to church certainly made me feel alive again. There is so much to miss about worship services, practice, and shows. Especially now that the congregation is slowly returning to the church, at least physically, it truly feels like a resurrection of spirit and life! Just like how spring is rapidly spreading throughout

the valley, so is the spirit of God, riding on our voices and instruments sending the good news of the living God.

We hope everyone is looking forward to some more boppin songs this month! I know there is certainly a lot to look forward to from the Youth Choir. Even though it's just two of us, we're trying our best to provide lots of fun tunes for worship and helping more people come alive with the music of God!

Providing tunes for worship isn't just for the Youth Choir of course, though I think we're pretty cool, there are lots of other ways to get involved this month! On May 18th there's a Gospel Choir gathering which many of us are really excited to get back into. There's also the Trucks & Tracks on May 12th, which may not directly be related to music, but I don't think anyone will stop you from singing along to the music! And of course, there's also worship every Sunday, the classic way of getting more God into your life. So come be a part of something new and bit by bit we'll help make God's kingdom bigger and brighter and come alive with music and praise!

## Spreading the Gospel

By Becky Elliston, HGC Tour Team

The Hilltop Gospel Choir felt called to go on tour to England in July of 2022. We want to be the light of Christ to the world and build bridges in new places.

During our tour, we will put on four concerts in various cathedrals in and around London. Our final concert will be held in the Pershore Abbey in London where we will combine our voices with a local choir and sing of God's love together. What better way to build a bridge of friendship and to be the face of unity in action!

Because of your generosity, we have made great progress toward our fundraising goals. We have 14 months until departure and are determined to reach the 100% mark before July. Thank you so much for helping us realize our dream! Your participation adds so much to this experience and it would not be as meaningful without your kindness and prayers.

We can't wait to share with you our journey on this adventure that God has called us on. Peace be with you.



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

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## Kindness Project Launches

Our world can certainly use more goodness, patience, and thoughtfulness - so let's make 2021 the Year of Kindness!



Our Children's Music Program/Kidspeak Channel is launching the Kindness Project this month. Thanks to a generous donor and one big act of kindness, we have 100 Kindness Kits to give away for FREE this spring. Kindness Kits are perfect for children ages 0-10, and here is what's included:

- A Kindness Board filled with (40) acts of kindness to share
- A sheep sticker page - when you've completed an act of kindness, mark it with a sticker!
- A soft, cuddly sheep plushie
- A devotional resource to spark Kindness conversations with your family
- Age-specific picture book recommendations featuring diverse titles about Kindness, Empathy, and Understanding
- Special monthly videos from Ms. Katie and Steve the Sheep, inspiring you to make each month count in meaningful ways

## Voice Class Open to All

Time to get the rust off those pipes – Music & Arts is offering a wonderful opportunity for all who are a little out of practice vocally, or for anyone who would simply like to learn something about their voice and how to use it. Dr. Daniel Tuutau, with a doctorate in Vocal Performance from the UofU, leads a Voice Class on Friday nights in the Music Room at

**Kindness Kits can be picked up at Hilltop UMC after May 1 or shipped anywhere in the country.** Our goal is to give away 75 **Kindness Kits** by the end of May.

Do you have grandchildren living in a different state? *A Kindness Kit makes a fantastic care package!*

Do you have cousins, friends, or neighbors who might join you? *Gift them a Kindness Kit and spread kindness together!*

No young children in your life, but want to join the Kindness Project in a meaningful way? *Donate funds to cover the postage for someone else's Kindness Kit.*

Request your Kindness Kits at: <https://forms.gle/5AioBvpWhgbBK7Lv8>

**Who might you bless with one simple act of kindness?**

*Local delivery is available within Salt Lake and Utah counties.*

*Kindness Kits can be mailed anywhere in the continental U.S. for an additional \$8/kit in postage. Please visit [hilltopumchurch.org](http://hilltopumchurch.org) and click 'Donate' - then submit your postage payment under 'Kindness Kits'.*

7:00 p.m. The cost of the class is only \$15, which includes a warm-up and one-on-one time with Dr. Tuutau. One may also participate in just the warm-up and observe Dr. Tuutau working with the other singers for only \$5. Contact Roberta [rshimensky@comcast.net](mailto:rshimensky@comcast.net) or 801.571.5777 x3 if interested.

# MOTHER'S MORNING OUT



Becky Elliston  
MMO Director  
[mmo@hilltopumchurch.org](mailto:mmo@hilltopumchurch.org)

## What makes YOU come alive?

When you actually think about, it is truly astounding that Jesus was resurrected. That he rose from the dead (rose from the DEAD people) is as unbelievable today as it was back then. So now, what do we do with His gift?

While the MMO program has not died, it has definitely been in a deep sleep. I am very excited to say that our program is coming back to life. We feel so blessed to be the starting point in a child's education journey. We are here to make it a positive and fun experience that will set them up for success in all future classes. It is so wonderful to watch a child learn. Seeing their eyes light up with understanding is

what makes a teacher feel alive. And while we are there to teach them, we end up learning just as much because children have a unique way of helping us to see things in fresh and exciting ways. They renew our ability to feel wonder and to engage in the world around us. When was the last time you were amazed by all of the colors in a rock or took the time to watch an ant crawling on the sidewalk, just to see where it was going?

MMO summer camps begin on June 8 and there is still room for you to join us. Together, we can help each other live the resurrection.



## 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

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](https://app.enrollsy.com/r/RXkMzt16F) beginning March 1st, 2021. Please contact Becky at [mmo@hilltopumchurch.org](mailto:mmo@hilltopumchurch.org) or 801-571-5777

# MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

## Racial Justice Movement

The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force Hosts the Mountain Sky Conference's 2021 Book Group. The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force would like to encourage you to join our conferencewide Book Group. We will be reading one book, every three months. When you register, you will receive a suggested reading schedule, a link to join a discussion board, and a Zoom link to join a monthly one-hour check-in and discussion. For April, May and June, we will be reading *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo.

Register [here](https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/join/register/tjYscO2tpjovGNW5gOyrn2lwMtoj-v4lkQlCL): <https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/join/register/tjYscO2tpjovGNW5gOyrn2lwMtoj-v4lkQlCL>



## UNITED TODAY STRONGER TOMORROW

President Biden and Congress have passed the American Rescue Plan, which will provide for those in need and help states address the impacts of the crisis. Utah will receive billions. More than \$1 billion will go directly to local governments, and roughly \$1.66 billion will go to state government for education, health, infrastructure, housing, economic development, and family support.

State leaders are already making plans for this money. It's crucial that they hear the voice of Utahns first!

Over the past month the civic and religious leaders of United Today Stronger Tomorrow have consulted statewide with hundreds of Utahns impacted by Covid through surveys and small group meetings to identify the investments that are best for our state. You may have read our recent OpEd in *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

Out of this consultation, we are developing a specific agenda our elected leaders can adopt to build a stronger tomorrow for our state using these funds.

On May 5 at 6 pm we will unveil the results of the survey and launch our campaign for the UT Stronger Tomorrow Agenda. Your leadership is crucial to making this agenda reality.

**RSVP for our Campaign Kick-off Today**



# MISSIONS

## Who Do You Look Like?

By Cheryl Gentle

I confess that I love southern gospel music. I usually listen to it on my way to church on Sunday morning. Last week, a song came on that immediately took me to our service with the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. Some of the lyrics go like this:

*I saw them giving food to the hungry,  
Beneath the bridge in Nashville, Tennessee.  
Someone looked my way and asked, who are they?  
I said, "Looks like Jesus to me".  
Looks like Jesus to me, looks like what he's called us to be.  
I think that's what he'd do, if he were me and you.  
When we love the broken people that we see,  
Looks like Jesus to me.*

When I went home and looked at the YouTube video of this song, it could have been taken in the parking lot of the Rescue Mission where our Share the Bounty donations are unloaded each month. It could have been taken at the Friday night chapel service where our praise band plays one Friday night a month. It could have been serving hot meals to the homeless or handing out hats and gloves at Christmas. In January 2021, the Rescue Mission served over 11,000 meals and provided over 3700 nights of shelter. Did you know that they now have five locations, including transitional housing units for men and women who graduate from their New Life Program? When the earthquake heavily dam-

aged the downtown building in March 2020, the Rescue Mission

found a way to keep going by relocating to an empty building in South Jordan. Hilltop volunteers continued to make deliveries there until repairs were made and clients and staff could return "home".

When I listen to "Looks Like Jesus to Me", I see the faces of Hilltop members who have served over many years. I am grateful for each one of them who have been the hands and feet of Jesus to the hungry and homeless. As the Rescue Mission says, "our support restores broken lives and lifts people off the streets".

Our next opportunity to serve is on Saturday, May 1st from 10 am to 2pm. It is a drive thru drop off food drive in front of Hilltop House. Canned and non-perishable food items are most appreciated. The donations are divided and delivered by our volunteers to the Rescue Mission and Crossroads Urban Center. Sign-up to sing with the Praise Band or to serve hot meals from the Rescue Mission kitchen. You can make monthly donations by joining the Monthly Miracle Makers at the Rescue Mission who provide ongoing support. It is a privilege and blessing to serve our neighbors.

Do you know what Jesus looks like? He looks like you!





# STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

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## Stretching to Grow and Come Alive

**By Bob Scarborough, SPRC Chair**

"After his resurrection, Jesus interacted with his disciples in ways that engaged all the senses. Jesus modeled the essentials of resurrection - coming alive. Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive." Holy Spirit indwells us and stirs our spirits to come alive for greater purpose so God's kingdom may come, so God's kin'dom may come alive. We each have a role to live lives worthy of God's grace and mercy. Some tasks may come with ease; other efforts purposefully stretch us to grow into the fullness God intends. This is living the resurrection." -Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson

Thanks to our worship, music & arts, and trustee teams; we (Staff- Parish) have an opportunity to come alive!

Did you know that our worship team made a recommendation at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Church Council meeting?

It read-"At Hilltop UMC, one of our primary goals is to provide meaningful worship to as many people as possible. Through worship we love, honor, and learn about our God. We share insights into His being and His objectives for our world. Through worship we lead souls to the Lord". They also said "We are committed to live-streaming services whether we can meet in person or not! At this point we have exhausted the knowledge of our own parishioners and need to hire a specialist who can bring us to a new level of competence".

We launched a Live Stream Ministry in March 2020, as the Covid Pandemic shut down all in-worship times at our sanctuary. The AV team, Music and Arts team, and the Worship team learned and grew from our start-up to where we are now with our capability and quality of producing a "Live" worship service for all those who cannot attend, choose not to attend, or are out of our Salt Lake Valley. The AV team members are all volunteers, some have full time jobs, part time jobs, and others are retirees or semi retired. They like you, live busy lives and have stretched their knowledge and expertise to "get it right", yet they are volunteers, just like many of you that serve the Lord and the Hilltop community.

Did you know that we have a range of 250 to 936 live stream views per service since we have been providing this ministry?

Did you know that our current, 2021 YTD live-stream activity continues to average over 350 views every Sunday with our two highest Sundays being 409 on January 31<sup>st</sup> and 400 on April 18<sup>th</sup>?

Since reopening under safe Covid protocols and conference and district approval on March 21<sup>st</sup>; we have averaged 58 per Sunday service and our highest was Easter attendance in the sanctuary at 105. Our trustees have our seating defined with 6' physical distancing and all attendees are wearing masks. Your safety is our number one priority. Please join us by communicating your attendance RSVP to [office@umchurch.org](mailto:office@umchurch.org) or call the office.

*(Continued on page 12)*

# WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

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

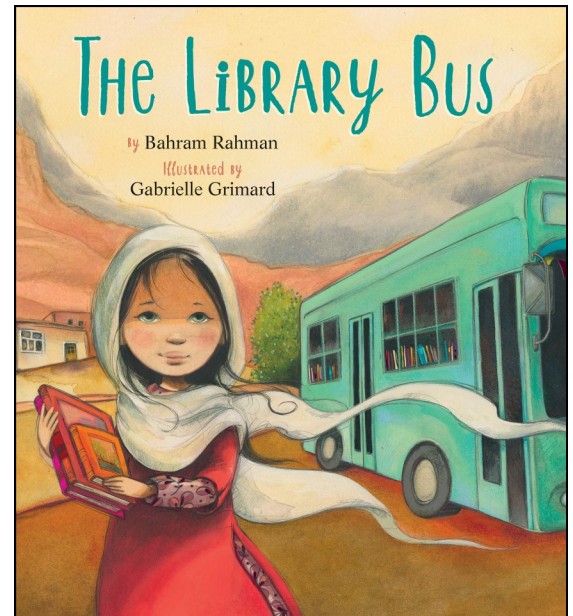
by Karen Moser

**This Month's Book:** *The Library Bus* Story by Bahram Rahman, Pictures by Gabrielle Grimard. Available in the Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Library systems

I was delighted to find a book about libraries on the new book shelf at our branch recently. Pari's mother's library is a bit unusual, though--it is a library bus! This gentle story about a mobile library serving refugee girls in Kabul, Afghanistan brought back memories of the bookmobile that visited my own elementary school and also offered a slice of life in war-torn Afghanistan. Pari's mother drives the bus to small villages and refugee camps and offers English lessons and reading materials to young girls. She recalls that not so long ago, girls were not allowed to be educated at all and remembers learning to read in secret with her father as her teacher. Pari is inspired by the eagerness to learn she sees in the girls who visit the library bus and looks forward to the day when she will be able to attend school on her own. The author is a physician from Afghanistan who immigrated to Canada in 2012 as a refugee. He wrote *The Library Bus* to highlight the challenges that children in countries at war experience in seeking education.

### What Do The Kids Think?

Heidi- I liked that Pari and her mother helped other girls to learn on the library bus.



Clark- I liked that Pari's mother helped girls to read just like her father helped her.

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- How would you learn if you didn't have a school to attend? What would you do if it was illegal for you to learn, like it was for Pari's mother?
- What role does a library (on a bus or in a building) play in building community in a village, refugee camp, or city? Why is it important for learning opportunities to be available for everyone?

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

Happy Reading!



# TRUSTEES

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## Hilltop UMC Church-wide Work Day

By Doug Orr, Trustees Chair

May 8, 2020 9am-1pm

The theme for May is “Living the Resurrection.” One might wonder how this fits into the role of the Trustees at Hilltop, but to me it seems like a good fit with the upcoming Church-wide Work Day on Saturday May 8 from 9am – 1pm.

Spring itself is a time of resurrection as plants, grass, etc. long-dormant over the cold winter months are “re-born” to the lengthening days and warming temperatures. Despite the fact that we’re not back to “full activity” level at Hilltop we are getting there, and with the increase in activities we’ll be wanting and needing to utilize the whole Hilltop campus, inside and out. Mother Nature hasn’t been significantly impacted by the pandemic, so leaves and needles have still fallen into places we don’t want them, plants and weeds have still grown where we don’t really want them, paint has still peeled and flaked away, and we even have some projects for those more indoor-inclined (we really do need to get a good inventory of our “stuff”). And let’s face it, we all want a little outdoor exercise and fellowship.

Here’s a list of projects we’d like to get accomplished:

- Scrape and Paint door frames on garage (lawn equipment shed, main overhead door, and north entrance door)
- Clean out pine straw from lower West exit walkway/shrubs

- Clean out pine straw/debris from lower area on East side (AC unit area)
- Relocate mailbox to outside Kitchen back door (includes new mailbox installation) – materials provided
- Clean out planter boxes on East side of main parking lot/driveway
- Clean out fenced area on West side of Hilltop House.
- Clean-up of unimproved “lot” between the Best House and the west parking lot
- Trim the ivy on the fence on East side of the AC area.
- Clean-up of hedge on north side of parking lot.
- Clean-up garage and lawn equipment shed
- Clean-up of east boundary of parking lot
- On-site inventories of church property (i.e. chairs, tables, vacuums, etc., may include some climbing of ladders)

While we do have some tools (rakes, shovels, etc.) you’re encouraged to bring your own if you’re more comfortable with them. Masks are optional for outside projects, but we request that you wear them when you’re inside the church building. If you’re not available on May 8<sup>th</sup>, feel free to contact one of the trustees, or the church office, to make arrangements to “claim” one of the projects and do it at your convenience.

We’d love to see you there!

Feel free to call me with questions 801-557-6491.

Hilltop United Methodist Church  
985 East 10600 South  
Sandy, Utah 84094



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Sandy, Utah 84094  
801-571-5777  
[office@hilltopumchurch.org](mailto:office@hilltopumchurch.org)  
[www.HilltopUMChurch.org](http://www.HilltopUMChurch.org)

## 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](mailto:pastor@hilltopumchurch.org)

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**Staff - Parish Relations** has a responsibility to identify new staffing ministry needs, so we will be leading the effort to staff a new position, named Media Director, a part-time paid position, hopefully hiring him/her in early June 2021. We need this professional help to move forward. Worship is one of our primary missions. If we want to dedicate our very best to the worship of our God, we now need some expert help. The quality of Pastor Lynn's sermons and the outstanding musical program led by Roberta; demand excellent technical support. We need to create an output which is worthy of the efforts and support of Rev. Lynn, Roberta, and so many others. We need a key person to unlock, lead, and manage the intricacies of live-streaming and other technologies important to this mission of our ministry.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send Bob an email at [annbob.scarborough@gmail.com](mailto:annbob.scarborough@gmail.com). Amen and May it be so!