

Hilltop

Highlights

June/July 2021



Lynn Miller Jackson
Pastor
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Turning to My Neighbor

As summer begins, according to the Christian calendar, we are in Ordinary time. This is 'ordinary' in the sense of counting the time from Pentecost to Advent. These are no ordinary times! Remembering we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, this is time for active ministry with focused efforts of cultivation for a fruitful harvest in God's eyes. This is not only a time for outward efforts but also for continuous inner cultivation of our faith.

We are living in extraordinary times which require different efforts from all of us. Roman historian, Tacitus, wrote: "The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise." Tacitus' "safety" referred to accepting the normative, even if corrupt. The transformation needed in antiquity is similar to the transformation facing us today. In the poignant wisdom of Ecclesiastes 1:9, "there is nothing new under the sun"!

Where am I headed with this? In these continuing extraordinary times, I want each of us to stretch inner and outer boundaries- real and perceived. Rather than asking who is my neighbor with cursory or distant acknowledgment, I exhort everyone to deeply consider what it means to "turn to my neighbor".

As Jesus taught, the second greatest commandment is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Of course, your neighbor is not limited to the literal person living in the vicinity of your home or sitting nearby but anyone and everyone you encounter. To love someone as yourself, you must desire and strive to understand the person. Yes, even and especially the difficult ones.

In order to love your neighbor as yourself, you must first understand what it means to love yourself. We must do our inner work. Start local, then go global. We must do the transformative--challenging and comforting--inner work of excavating, truth-facing, loving, forgiving, and understanding ourselves in the fullness of our humanity and greater capacities. We must deal with the plank in our own eye (Luke 6:42), the corruption, confusion, or closedness in our own minds, and hardness of our own hearts, before we may see and truly perceive and receive our neighbor in the fullness of their humanity and greater capacities.

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PASTOR'S MUSINGS

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Tacitus also stated, "It is human nature to hate the one whom you have hurt." What if this applies to the self? Are you harboring hurtful actions/behaviors in your personal past? Are you held hostage to some history because punitive social realities have precluded public disclosure? Some personal questions are what/whether you have learned and grown from your experiences; have you earnestly repented and asked God's forgiveness; and have you forgiven yourself? This is some of the tough and tender loving inner work that ultimately will show in your outer life with others. If accountable grace is not active in your inner life, it cannot reach its fullness in your outer life. You must tend to the neighbor within to fully turn to an external neighbor. You are not alone for this work.

For people of the Christian faith, the Holy Spirit is with and within us to provide counsel—challenge and comfort. As we seek understanding, the Spirit aligns us with surprising messengers who help along our journey. It is the person who showed a 'random' kindness, who surprisingly spoke to us in the language of our heart, who gave of themselves seeking nothing but our benefit. When we pause to ponder such experiences, we realize we may or may not know their names. While the world indoctrinates us to suspiciously ask why these people would behave so graciously, the Spirit encourages us to question why not. Those messengers are our neighbors and model behavior God desires from all.

When we make a practice of turning to our neighbor, we strive to understand more than to be understood. We strive to love as we are loved by God. We strive to be curious companions and nurturing neighbors respecting the nuances of differing lived experiences. We become accountability partners calling one another in to courageous conversations for greater community rather than the blame-casting calling out common to the divisive world. Instead of seeking comfort and control, our Christian faith requires our active courage and challenge to affect change as the Spirit leads according to God's will.

The world and its ways are quite a piece of convoluted work, corrupted and estranged from our Creator. But know this: The world is polarized and seductively powerful, but a pitiful, pittance of its promise! God has granted within each of us a greater power to transform the world. That God-given power must be embraced, cultivated, proclaimed and practiced by those who profess to be followers of Christ.

As a priesthood of believers, we are entrusted to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive by active learning and turning, all bearing responsibility for outreach. There is no need to wait for a special conference-wide or church-wide initiative, event, book study, etc. Pointing fingers at who has not done what is not becoming of followers of Christ, nor is it helpful. Instead, we are all prompted and empowered to strive for what we can do to make life-

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FROM THE OFFICE



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

Call: 1-346-248-7799

Passcode: 050454

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

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giving, soul satisfying community with all people. Jesus' life and ministry serve as our model. We are the sequel. Let us turn to our neighbor to match the ways of Christ. Even better, let us heed Jesus' challenge in John 14:12, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these." What does that look like for you? May we all do greater works and to God be the glory!

June Birthdays

Carol Ann Langford.....	June 1
Becky Elliston.....	June 14
James Mason	June 14
Pat Shaw	June 14
Alipeti Feiloaki	June 16
Rob Osborne	June 17
Beth Collins	June 19
Enoch Dangerfield	June 20
Margaret Hills.....	June 20
Greg Myers.....	June 26
Yolanda Bonsall.....	June 27
Rex Mason.....	June 27
Gabriella Montoya	June 28
Abigail Garrison.....	June 29
Cordell Temby	June 30



July Birthdays

Ginny Trawick.....	July 4
Jacob Pettibone	July 6
Joan Orr	July 12
Evelyn Waghorn.....	July 16
Ben Robison	July 17
Ann Goodart	July 17
Mumo Kavila	July 20
Lisa Kane	July 21
Randy Hale	July 23
Sharon Strickland	July 23
Clark Moser.....	July 24
John Heiskell.....	July 26
Lia Schroeder	July 29

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



Roberta Shimensky
Music Director
801.571-5777

Turn to My Neighbor

By Andrew Smith, Music Minister
Interim Director, Hallelujah Bells

This month's theme has to do with what it means to turn to my neighbor. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be involved with the Hallelujah Bells, the adult handbell ensemble at Hilltop for almost 20 years. I was a ringer for many years, then took over as Director in 2011, a position I held for eight years thereafter.

Due to the nature of how a handbell ensemble works, we rely heavily on our neighbors to do their part. As an individual in an ensemble, one person can't do it alone. It takes everyone working together with a common goal to make music happen. If just one person doesn't do their part, then it doesn't work. We continually put trust in each other that we will play our part to make everyone as a whole sound better.

Sometimes we fall short and need help. In those situations, who do we turn to? We

turn to our friends, our family, or our neighbors. In the handbell world, your neighbor could be someone you're sharing a music stand with or just the person ringing next to you. It could be something as simple as, your hands are full and can't turn your page, so you ask for help. Or maybe you can't quite pick up a bell fast enough, so you ask your neighbor if they can play it. Yes, it is possible for bell ringers to share bells.

When someone asks you to help them with something and you are able to help and make their job easier, it makes the choir better as a whole. We should all strive to make the world better as a whole. If we can do that, just one neighbor at a time, we can make the world a better place.

The Hallelujah Bells try to make the world a better place through music. And although we are taking the summer off, we will be back in the fall. If anyone is interested in ringing, come talk to one of us. We'll be happy to put a bell in your hand and call you our friend and neighbor.

Creative Arts Week

Hilltop Music and Arts Camp and Hilltop VBS have combined for a new annual event for elementary students! Creative Arts Week combines faith formation, music, games, art, and drama and is targeted for ages 5-12. This summer, CAW will be held at home. On Sunday, June 13, participants and their families are invited to the Hilltop Lawn for a kick-off from 6:00-6:45pm, where they will receive the materials for the week. Everything needed for the whole week will be inside the bucket!

Monday to Thursday, kids open an envelope revealing the day's theme and activities. A daily email will include short sing-along videos with Ms. Katie, where she'll teach the songs and the percussion beats. We will celebrate the end of CAW on Thursday evening with one more family gathering on the Hilltop Lawn, 6:00-6:45pm.

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MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

First Annual Gospel Music Workshop

God is good! The weekend of September 10-12, Hilltop Gospel Choir will host Hilltop's First Annual Gospel Music Workshop, bringing a major event to the state of Utah. Guest Clinician is Dr. Raymond Wise, on faculty of Indiana University, a gifted musician, a man of many accomplishments and great vision, and an anointed Minister of the gospel. Most recently, Dr. Wise received an EMMY nomination for his PBS documentary *Amen: Music of the Black Church*.

The workshop will include rehearsals and sessions in Vocal Technique, Musical Performance, and African American Sacred and Gospel Music History. The three days of instruction and inspiration will culminate in a concert Sunday, September 12, at 5:00 p.m. Registration will be open soon on the Hilltop UMC website. Contact Roberta Shimensky (801.571.5777 x3 or rshimensky@comcast.net) for more information.

Power of the Arts

Music & Arts includes much more than music. Visual art, photography, sculpture, film, dance, drama, creative writing, fashion design – the list is almost endless. The arts do have power in our lives, to educate, entertain, enlighten, and exalt.

Hilltop Gospel Choir is taking advantage of the power of the arts by viewing the two-part PBS documentary *The Black Church*. We have found this an excellent way to come back together after a long hiatus, to fellowship and to bring our minds into focus on our abbreviated fall season – the First Annual Gospel Music Workshop!

Kindness Project

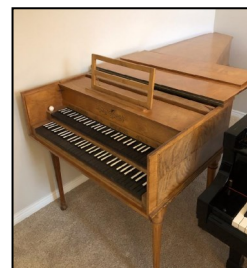
A huge thank you to all who supported the Kindness Project in the month of May. We have created and distributed over 175 Kindness Kits! Thank you to the donors who funded round #1 and #2 of kits, those who helped assemble the kits, and all who reserved kits for the young people in their lives. A limited number of kits are still available during business hours or after Sunday morning worship.

We know this project will bless all the givers and recipients of Kindness! Thank you, Hilltop community, for making the Kindness Project possible.

An Act of Kindness

Through a kind donation, we have been able to acquire a harpsichord for our sanctuary. It will be serviced to bring it up to performance level, after which we look forward to planning a special early music concert to experience and enjoy the magic of Baroque music.

If anyone is handy is sewing, we are in need of a cover for this beautiful instrument. Contact Roberta.



MOTHER'S MORNING OUT



Becky Elliston
MMO Director
mmo@hilltopumchurch.org

I Am, Because You Are

By now, we all have come to understand that our neighbor is anyone who is not ourselves. That clears up any confusion about who we should love as we love ourselves. Everyone. All people.

I recently read an article about an anthropologist who travelled to Africa. Upon visiting a remote tribe, he proposed a game to the children. He placed a basket of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the entire prize. Once he said "GO", the children all held hands and ran together reaching the basket of fruit at the same time. Then they sat down and enjoyed the fruit together. When he questioned why they did it this way, they replied, "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

Ubuntu can be translated to mean *humanity* or a person is a person through other people. We are all connected and impact our neighbors with our every action and word. Jesus has called us to be the light. Let it be so.

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

Hilltop's MMO program is happy to be starting our summer camps on June 8. There are still a few spaces left for you to join us.

Once the summer camps are over, we will be preparing for the Fall school year. After being on hiatus for 15 months, we can hardly wait to begin! Working with these children and their families is very rewarding. If you would like to join the team, we will be hiring teachers for the Fall school year.

For more information about enrolling or joining our team, please contact Becky 801-571-5777 ext 206



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

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Finance Committee Appreciates You

The past 15 months have been a time of chaos and uncertainty. Even during this difficult time we celebrated that we were able worship God together, though not as we ever thought it would be. It reminds me that God can span the distance between us and that God is always here. As we continue to make our way through this time of returning to a new normal, let us remember that we are not alone. We are a community of faith; working together in minis-

tries and mission. The Hilltop ministry continues because of your steadfast gifts. Your financial support is a tangible expression of a strengthened commitment and connection to God, to one another, our neighbor and our Church. Thank you for being part of this congregation, you make a difference to Hilltop. We appreciate you.

*Gratefully submitted,
Betty Long, Finance Chair*

<u>Financial Report</u>	April 2021	Year-to-date through 4/30/2021
Income Received	53,538	167,209
Expenses	16,672	151,220
Balance	38,866	15,789

Giving:	Through 4/30/2021	% of Annual Budgeted Amount
2021 Pledged Giving:	103,496	27%
Non-Pledged Giving	48,742	92%

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Returns

Beginning July 1

Do you want to do more with your money? Live, save, share? Financial Peace is designed to provide real life examples and programming for you to put into action in managing your personal finances. Many families express interest that they would love to give or give more, just uncertain how it will impact their personal financial situation. This is a program that can help them achieve this peace of mind, in addition to fostering individual stewardship. Classes will be led by a facilitator with video presentations, on-line activities and then a time for group discussions. Cost is just \$25 per household. To sign up, please contact the office at office@hilltopumchurch.org or 801-571-5777.

Do you want to be a class facilitator? No training required, just a desire to lead, grow, and see others grow. Facilitators will be led by a relationship manager from Ramsey Solutions. Contact Greg Myers greg.myers@imail.org.



MISSIONS

Crossroads Urban Center

The mission statement of the Crossroads Urban Center states that it is a nonprofit grassroots organization that assists and organizes Utahns with low incomes, those with disabilities, and people of color to meet basic survival needs and to address essential issues affecting quality of life. Crossroads was established on February 8, 1966 as a multi-faith, community based project that is in a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Women National Office. The United Methodist Women own the building that is the main office for Crossroads and it is maintained by the Board of Directors of Crossroads Urban Center.

Crossroad Urban Center has developed a community organization to provide services that are not available from other organizations in the Salt Lake City area. This organization is supported by many religious communities, businesses, individuals and foundations. Crossroads has started many individual groups that work within the community such as Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC), Powerful Moms Who Care, Poplar Neighborhood Alliance, and many more. The staff at Crossroads lobbies at the Utah Capital for low-income housing and to end homelessness and housing instability by creating safe, affordable, homes. They lobby for medical care for everyone and ending child homelessness.

Crossroads has the busiest Emergency Food Pantry in Utah, a Thrift Store that has



been open since 1996 and the West Side Pantry that opened in 2017 and provides food for low income families. The Crossroads office connects low-income people with state and Federal service agencies. In November, 2020, Crossroads Urban Center gave 3,483 frozen turkeys to families for their Thanksgiving Dinner. At Christmas 2020, this organization put together 526 food baskets plus a turkey for the holidays.

Hilltop United Methodist Church supports Crossroads Urban Center by collecting food on the first Sunday of each month and donates it to the Food Pantry. The Mission Committee and United Methodist Women donate money each year to help support Crossroad Urban Center and the services they provide in our community.

If you have any questions and want to donate time at the Food Pantry or the Thrift Store please contact Sandy McCormick or Connee Schoon.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Reverend Lynn ends her Pastor's Musings by stating-"As a priesthood of believers, we are entrusted to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive by active learning and turning, all bearing responsibility for outreach. There is no need to wait for a special conference wide or church-wide initiative, event, book study, etc. Pointing fingers at who has not done what is not becoming of followers of Christ, nor is it helpful. Instead, we are all prompted and empowered to strive for what we can do to make life-giving, soul satisfying community with all people. We are the sequel. What does that look like for you? "

For us, it looks like reaching out to someone in our lobby-narthex, Trucks & Tracks, or social hour that we have not seen before or is different than us. Is that hard for you? Is that difficult for me? WWJD?

As we open our doors this summer, remember to be inspired by God to approach

the strangers in our midst! A friend shared with me about a recent experience, where he noticed a man standing alone outside our sanctuary. He did not know who he was, but since nobody was talking to him; he smiled and approached him. The man immediately smiled back, and even though his primary language was not English, they became engaged in a conversation. A new friend was made. He is getting married in the fall and needed to understand what the difference was between renting and buying a "Place" and making that home for the person he will marry. He was at our church working hard on trustee clean-up day doing something he had never done before, and smiling; so were many of his brothers and sisters.

They are all our brothers and sisters! They are our partners in ministry! WWJD?

Amen, and May it be so!
Bob

I Give UMC

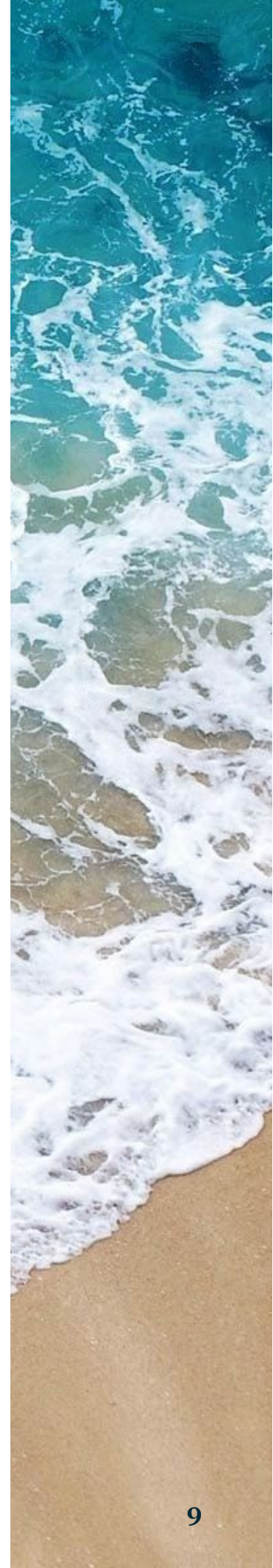
Local churches make every effort to support the needs within their communities and rely on generosity of the body of Christ. We invite you to join the **#IGiveUMC** celebrations that will be featured through the year, with hope these efforts inspire you to express appreciation, where you can make a donation, honoring those who have made a positive impact on your life! Then, donors will post on social media about their honoree and their gift, along with encouragement for others in our congregation to join in with a donation of their own.

We will be celebrating during these months;

- Mother's Day (May)
- Father's Day (June)
- Everyday Heroes (July)
- Grandparents Day (August)
- Clergy Appreciation Day (October)
- All Saint's Day (November)

You can also celebrate any time honoring such examples as, milestone birthdays, anniversary of the church's founding, wel-

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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

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

by Karen Moser

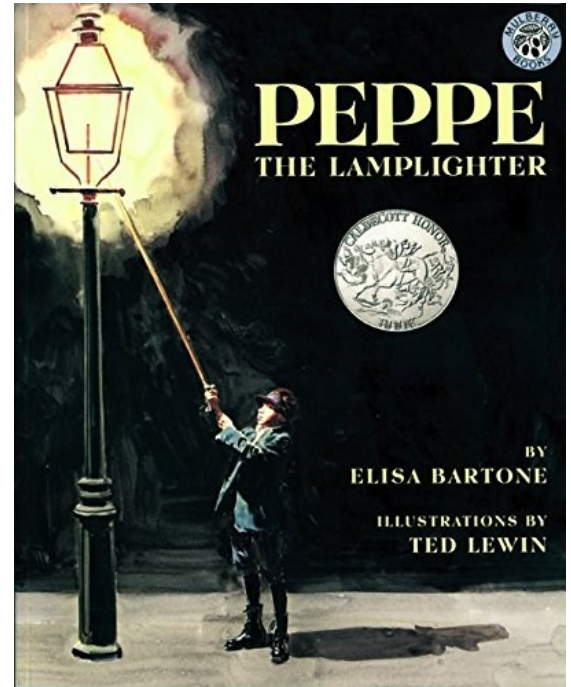
This Month's Book: *Peppe the Lamplighter*
Story by Elisa Bartone, Pictures by Ted Lewin

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

This month's featured story is a work of historical fiction loosely based on a story the author heard about her own grandfather. Peppe's family emigrated from Italy to New York City, where they lived in a tenement house on Mulberry Street in Little Italy. He wants to help support his family, as his father is sick and his mother is dead. He diligently looks for work, and after many rejections, he finds a job as a lamplighter, lighting the gas streetlamps each evening. He is proud of his accomplishment, but his father is angry, perhaps wishing that Peppe was able to go to school and learn instead of work. One evening when a discouraged Peppe delays lighting the lamps, he learns the importance of a lamplighter's job. His entire family, even his father, comes to realize the value of Peppe's work and his meaningful contribution to the community. The pictures bring Peppe's world to life and include thoughtful use of lamplight to draw the reader's attention. We enjoyed this visit to a bygone era in New York City, and I hope you will, too!

What Do The Kids Think?

Heidi- I liked that Peppe never gave up trying to find a job. I also liked the pictures.



Clark- I liked when Peppe's father told him to light the lamps even though he didn't want to.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What would it feel like to immigrate to a foreign country? How would you find work, housing, a school, a church, or friends? What would make you feel welcome?
2. What if you had a job instead of going to school? How would you feel if you had to earn money to support your family? How did Peppe feel about his work as a lamplighter?

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

Happy Reading!

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

I just re-read my Lay Leader report for 2020 written for our Annual Charge Conference. A Lay Leader's elected role is to support the Pastor in addition to supporting the other ministries of the church. The goals I included are as follows:

To insure that all who worship with us feel included and have the opportunity to participate in the ministries of our church, in whatever form that takes for the near future. Of particular concern are our families, trying to balance work with kids' schedules and school limitations.

Connecting with those who are worshipping with us online. We currently have several new worshippers who are interested in learning more about Hilltop.

Continuing to participate in discussions around inclusion and racial and social justice and how Hilltop can be more intentional in programming around these areas.

To be a better resource to our Pastor, committees and members of our church as we seek to do no harm, be the hands and feet of Christ in this place and continue to be a welcoming place of worship in both virtual and in-person channels.

We are halfway through the year, and I believe many of you feel like I do—that we are emerging on the other side of that tunnel we lived in for most of the last 15 months. As we consider turning to our neighbor, when could be a more relevant time than now? If you are new to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will worship with us, get to know us and join us in ministry. Families—by the time you read this, you are well into summer and reconnecting with friends and family. Don't forget to bring your kids back to their church family as we kick back and include some outdoor, casual worship opportunities to supplement Sunday morning. We are returning to on-campus meetings and activities, and each of you has a gift to share with us, your neighbors.

There is no returning to the past. We will continue to grow and engage in ministry and outreach in new ways to meet these new times. We invite you to be participate. If you have ideas, questions, concerns or want to catch up, I urge you to contact me.

Susan Dunlap, Lay Leader
801-598-0626
sdunlap28@hotmail.com

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coming a new pastor, weddings, baptisms, graduations confirmations, and special events.

Giving to this campaign is just as easy as you make your monthly pledge!

United Methodists everywhere are joining in, honoring a special person in their life. I invite you to join in with other Hilltop members in this unique and new way of honoring those most important to us!



Greg Myers, Stewardship Chair

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Hilltop

Highlights

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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

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This year's theme is "CALLED" - based on the children's musical we'll perform next year, in 2022. This summer, we will learn the songs and the story... giving us a head-start on next year's fun!

Through "CALLED," kids will learn how to identify and respond to God's call, how to stand for others, and how to embrace their individual worth. Cost is just \$20 per participant to cover the cost of supplies. Registrations are due by June 5, but respond early to guarantee your spot.

We look forward to an in-person event in 2022, with our typical schedule of 9am-1pm on the Hilltop campus. Tentative dates are June 20-24, 2022. Auditions for character roles will be held in late May 2022.