

Hilltop

Highlights

September 2021



Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson
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Doers of the Word

By Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson

Once while Jesus was speaking to a crowd, he was told his mother and brothers were trying to reach him. But Jesus responded, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it" (Luke 8:19-21; *emphasis added*). Why would Jesus respond this way? There were many hearing the word of God without living it. Many among us today may read or hear the word of God, but the state of the world is evidence that not enough are living it out. Of those professing the Christian faith, Christ acknowledges those who hear the word of God and do it; others are deceiving themselves (James 1.22). In September, we will engage the Letter of James, and being doers of the word.

As we persevere through this pandemic, we need to explore what it means to be doers of the word in what seems to be a season of undoing. We were planning to launch into fall hosting the inaugural Gospel Workshop. The UMW were planning to resume the consignment sale that raises funds for many of our community partners. These events are delayed but the faithful are undaunted and rethinking what we can do and when. There is more to come as we ponder by faith what we can do in 2022. Perhaps that should be our slogan for the year: "Can Do 2022."

While this pesky virus and its prickly cousins (variants) test our patience and try to dampen the plans we've been kindling, the Letter of James offers practical and spiritual sparks as we think forward. Addressed to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion, this letter was reaching out to those experiencing spiritual 'wandering', distracted by the practical tasks, troubles, and temptations of their day. James offers wisdom in moral living and demonstrative faith. His writing provides us with a chance to reflect on the nature of Christian living and the transformative impact of partnering with our broader community through acts of service. The focus with Jesus and James is consistent—be doers of the word, not hearers only.

Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus came and modeled a life of demonstrative faith. He embodied what it means to be a doer of the word by fulfilling the word of God, the work for which he was sent. It is up to us to continue the work of Christ in the world. Some imperative questions are: How do we live out God's word in spirit and in truth to be sources of light and

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PASTOR'S MUSINGS

life in times of pandemic fatigue and frustration, in times of uncertainty? How are we contributing to the ongoing work of Christ in a practical sense? How are we adding value, adding to the quality of life of those we encounter regardless of who they are or where we are? How do we continue to listen for authentic responses as we ask: *Where does it hurt? What do you need?* and *Where do we go from here?* Not only are we to listen, but our faith also requires appropriate action. The same is true of the word of God. If we only hear it and do not live it in our lives, we will be no different than the rest of the world. As people of faith, we are set apart and our knowledge must be put into action in our lives and for the sake of our communities.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged the people to "Keep on *doing* the things that you have learned and received

and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you" (Phil 4:9; emphasis added by me). Paul, an apostle of Christ, wanted people to be doers of the word of God.

John Wesley is often credited with this same line of whole-hearted reasoning: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, for all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Let us not deceive ourselves, but instead align with our Savior and the sages of our faith. May we all welcome the implanted word that has the power to save our souls (James 1:21). May we all be doers of the word, and not hearers only, so we may make disciples for the transformation of this world into God's intended kin'dom. To God be the glory.

Coffee with the Pastor

**Thursdays at 7:30 am via Zoom
And Facebook Live**

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

To join through Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/lynn.w.millerjackson>



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

MISSIONS

Chili Cook-Off

DOERS OF THE WORD

By Claudia Bilbao

What does that have to do with the Chili Cook-Off you may ask? Well, let's go there. Last year's annual Chili Cook-Off was unceremoniously canceled due to Covid with the hope that next year would fare better. So here we are, anticipating Sunday September 19th "God willing and the creek don't rise" to coincide with the 'Kick-Off Sunday' starting right after church.

Each year the Mission team picks an organization to donate the funds raised by the cook-off. This year we have chosen UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

For several years there have been two major UMCOR depots, one in Louisiana and one here in Salt Lake City. Mission teams from various churches in the west would come for a few days to a whole week to make health kits, school kits, and disaster buckets to send worldwide. As costs became prohibitive to ship kits overseas and Covid took over, the depot here in Salt Lake was closed.

Since many churches were not having in person worship, another revenue stream for UMCOR broke down. Donations that were made at the church level for Global Missions stopped or were greatly reduced.

The areas of impact for UMCOR now are helping set up cottage industries overseas in the following areas:

- Disaster Response and Recovery (US and international)
- Global Health
- Hunger and Poverty
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Global Migration
- Creation Care
- Women and Children
- Sustainable Development
- See: Connecting the church in mission for more information—
umcmmission.org/umcor-areas-of-impact

If you are unable to attend the cook off September 19th there are various ways to donate:

- Vanco Mobile- UMCOR option
- Church website
- UMCmission.org
- Or write a check with UMCOR in the memo line

If you want to make chili and gain bragging rights for 2021 contact Claudia Bilbao at 801-597-0951 by text (put your name in the text) or email at claudiabilbao140@msn.com. I will need your name, name of chili and a contact number.

So, here we are back at 'Doers of the Word' and as John Wesley so eloquently put it:

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can"



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



David Fleming
Chair, Music & Arts
Ministry

To Be Doers of the Word—Start By Just Showing Up

By David Fleming, M&A Chair

Last month I was asked to give a devotional at the Hilltop Gospel Choir Board meeting. That same day I was inspired by a message from the HGC Tour Team with the theme of showing up. It started out with a quote from a famous celebrity: “Eighty percent of success is just showing up.”

As I thought about that, I realized the great and simple truth in that message. A quick Google search led me to a blog post entitled “The Power of Showing Up” by Adam Kareus, lead pastor at River Valley Community Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. I am sharing that post below with my own brief commentary in bracketed italics. As we explore what it means to be doers of the word in this season, let’s first remember that at all times, regardless of uncertainty or stress we may be feeling, we must first show up in order to be a to be a source of light and life. Often that is all that is necessary.

The Power of Showing Up (by Adam Kareus)

- Most people want to make a difference.
- Many people want to serve.
- A large portion of people say they want to change lives.
- Honest people admit they want to be a world changer or key player. [*Hmmm... makes you think!*]
- Most of us think this comes from immense talent. We think that to be the person that makes a difference we need to be the most talented or the most influ-

ential. Ordinary people don’t do these things. Regular guys and gals are not making the world a better place. We get stuck thinking that it takes serious skill to be the one that charts the course or has an impact on changing the course. [*‘I’m not a leader.’ ‘I wouldn’t know where to start.’ ‘I’m no good at that.’ I have leaned on these excuses before, but God does not require experience.*]

- But the reality of the matter is that it all starts with the simple act of showing up. To change something, to enact a difference, to impact lives, to influence a group or anything of significance starts by us showing up. In fact, it can be one of the most powerful actions we do.
- When the friend is hurting, show up. They will remember you showing up more than words spoken, notes sent, or a crying emoji shared on social media. When someone is in need, show up. Unskilled labor or service rendered with a giving heart has a greater and more positive impact than we think. Want to influence and mentor a young person in your life? Show up. You can’t speak into who they are and walk with them without first being with them.
- This is at the heart of Paul’s statement in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 when he says, ‘So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.’ This is a powerful statement of someone’s saying ‘we are showing up in your life because we care for you.’ You are not a ‘project’ where we want to share the truth and then move on. You

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MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Children's Music Kick-Off September 9-30

We welcome the return of the Hilltop Children's Music Program this fall!

Join us for a fun, four-week session where children will get to know new friends as they sing, drum, play, and create together.

Thursdays: September 9, 16, 23, 30

5:30-6:45pm

Hilltop House Lawn (just west of the church building)

Ages 5-12

Cost per participant: \$20

[Registration on the Children's Music Page of the Hilltop website.](#)

This special kick-off session will introduce the music and themes of "CALLED" - the children's musical we will produce and perform as part of Creative Arts Week in Summer 2022. What does it mean to be called by God? "CALLED" affirms that

God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world.

Through composer Mark Burrows' honest, humorous storytelling and memorable musical numbers, kids will discover their unique gifts as they learn that "doing what's right isn't always easy... but it's always, always right."

We ALL will feel empowered to live lives worthy of the calling we have received.

Light snack provided.

Youth Mentors (ages 13-18) are invited to participate. Use the registration link above to volunteer.



(Continued from page 4)

are part of our lives in a real fashion, and we love you and want to be there with you. This is the power of showing up.

- When we survey the commands in the New Testament, we notice they so often contain those significant words, 'one another.' That we are to serve one another, love one another, embrace one another and so on. All these can't happen unless we show up. *[In fact, we are just "one" unless we show up.]*
- Let's bring this home in a concrete way. Most Christians will say they want to make a difference in their church or in a

ministry in which they are involved. They might wish they had more developed gifts or better skills through which they would be able to do that. But thinking this way misses out of one of the most valuable and influential abilities we all have – the ability to be present and the ability to show up. Just by being there you increase your chances of making an impact and you give yourself the chance to use your gifts. And as a pastor, I can tell you that one of the most valuable actions is for a member to show up.

We have the power to show up and that is the first step to anything else.

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Children's Choir Rehearsals Begin October 14, 2021

Following the four-week kickoff in September, weekly rehearsals will resume for the Children's Music Program. There is no fee to participate, and children in grades K-5 are welcome!

Rehearsals for HCMP begin October 14 and are held each Thursday evening from

6:00-6:45pm in the Children's Music Room. The music notes will lead you there!

The HCMP participates in worship roughly once per month, ending our season on Mother's Day. Contact Katie Houts with questions: katie.houts@gmail.com



New Study Opportunity

Rev. Jeanne Duncan and Pastor Lynn will co-facilitate a small group book study beginning September 13th.

Limit: 12 people

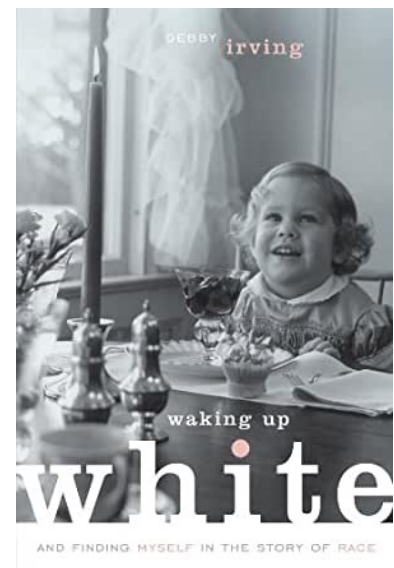
Title: *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving

Dates: 9/13; 9/27; 10/4; 10/18

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Our goal is to nurture brave space for deeper dialog as we engage different books. We will focus on Irving's *Waking Up White* and also engage excerpts from other works like Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

Title 2: *He Saw It Was Good* by Sho Baraka
Tentative Dates: 11/1; 11/8; 11/15; 11/29



FROM THE OFFICE

September Birthdays

Betty Brown.....	Sept 5
Kathy Wheeler	Sept 8
Dave Nydam	Sept 10
Don Bowlin.....	Sept 10
Allen Locke.....	Sept 11
Claudine Haight	Sept 16
Bruce Cockrell.....	Sept 17
Katell Coquemont	Sept 17
Tim Owen.....	Sept 19
Mazie Kovach.....	Sept 21
Tom Ferraro.....	Sept 21
Mackenzie Garrison	Sept 23
Lacey Elliston.....	Sept 27
Susan Dunlap.....	Sept 28



Bowling League

Join bowlers from Mountain Vista for a short league session from September 19 through December 5 at All Star Lanes in Sandy. Bowl three games at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons.

Teams are four people with room for singles, couples, and full teams. Children can bowl for free on an adjacent lane!

If interested, contact Dallas Curtiss at 801-554-4921.

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 Wednesday 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 to normal: **Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am to noon.**

Security

The door is not relocking after you unlock it so please be sure that the north door is locked and the red light is illuminated if you are the last to leave the building. There is a key card hanging by the outside door in the kitchen. But please return the key after locking the door.



MOTHER'S MORNING OUT



Becky Elliston
MMO Director

mmo@hilltopumchurch.org

Doers of the Word

Why does kindness seem revolutionary?

When did we let hate get so ordinary?

These lyrics in a song by Josh Wilson really speak to me. How did hate come to be more common than kindness? What can I do to change that? The lyrics then ask, "What would Jesus do? He would love first."

While thinking about the newsletter this month, I couldn't get a firm idea on what to write about. And then, like every day, God stepped in and let His plan unfold. He knew I wasn't coming up with anything and so, because He loves me, He created the perfect story.

I had just gotten off the freeway when my front tire blew out. I slowly made my way to the tiny shoulder and tried to figure out what to do. Never have I ever changed a tire. I in theory know what it involves but have no clue how to actually do it. Google gave me the idea that some towing companies offer this service. After calling 7 towing companies and getting a "Sorry, we can't help you" the Angels at Beehive Towing company in Draper answered my call. In just a short time, my knight in shining armor arrived on his white stal-

lion. (Okay, a heavy-duty Ram truck. But it was white!) Casey got right to work. He explained everything he did so that I could, hopefully, in the future do this myself. Once he got the spare on and lowered my van off the jack, it became apparent that the spare was also almost flat. Of course it was. Casey offered to follow me to the nearest gas station where I could air it up. He did not want me to be stuck with another flat tire by the side of the road in the heat. We made it to the air pump, where he insisted on airing up the spare and another tire that looked low. He even offered to pay for using the air.

While this may have seemed to Casey that he was just doing his job, it made such an impact on me. He did not have to teach me how to change a tire myself or follow me to the gas station or air up my tires. His small acts of kindness changed my entire outlook.

This somewhat frustrating experience reminded me how important it is to be a source of light to those around me. I know that even the smallest kindness offered can touch someone. When I step up and love first, I can do my part to make kindness ordinary. Just as Jesus did.

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:10



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Doers of the Word do not just hear the Word but are those who live the Word. It is our invitation to live into the transforming and freeing message of Christ. We can become Doers of the Word with our giving if we understand how God wants us to give.

- God is not interested in how much we give but why we give. It is not the amount that is important to God—it is our heart.
- Our giving must not come from pressure.
- Our giving must be voluntary.
- Giving is a joyful expression of our love for God and God's love for us.

- Giving is joyful, don't get caught up in the technicalities of giving.
- Every moment of generosity can be an opportunity to reflect on God's amazing love for us. Our giving then becomes an exciting part of our walk with Christ.
- Love is the only reason to give—not fear or guilt.
- Do not give to earn God's attention.
- Do not give to attract the attention of others.

Remembering how God wants us to give we feel the joy of giving back to God a portion of what God has given us. Thanks be to God. Thank you for supporting Hilltop United Methodist Church.

	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Report Period	Aug 1-26, 2021	Jan 1-Aug 26
Income Received	\$42,455	\$314,529
(Expenses)	(\$30,726)	(\$291,576)
Balance	\$11,729	\$22,953

Options for Giving

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



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

What Are We Called To Do? Who Might Be a Partner With Hilltop in Outreach?

During our last council meeting on August 25th, Chair Teresa Rivera asked Pastor Lynn what her guidance was for our church in 2022 and beyond. Rev. Lynn shared that we should be bold and think big in how we are engaging and focusing our efforts on outreach. Our Livestream Ministry is just one example, of how we have reached many more people looking for and needing to feel the Love of God. We want to thank all of the volunteers, donors, and believers that helped and are helping us get better at this ministry; it's exciting to see the plan for our media platform coming into reality. Doug Orr, Jim Woodmansee and others are approaching the "build-out" phase to give us this new reality. And thank goodness supply and demand of building materials are getting back to normal. An industry trade group stated this week that of last Friday framing lumber (including structural products), was 68% below its mid May peak, which is very close to its five year historical average. The panel composite was 53% below its peak in late June, this means pricing at manufacturing, and retail have been falling and supply increasing.

Visionary leaders always have to keep leading, or we miss the opportunity for growth and learning in how we live out our vision of being "an inclusive community of Healing, Help, and Hope, leading Hearts to Christ"!

We are never too old to take on an outreach project that helps a group in need. Hilltop has always and continues to do the "right thing" when a need arises. One "Doer of the Word" that comes to mind is former President Jimmy Carter of Plains Georgia and his involvement in Habitat for Humanity. Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter just celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary and have been involved in Habitat since March 1984, when he was about 60 years of age. I had the privilege to work on teams with my employer (Weyerhaeuser) building homes during President Carters annual BLTZ Builds beginning in 1995 at the LA Watts neighborhood where Habitat hosted the Jimmy Carter Work Project. More than 1,500 volunteers from 39 states and five countries building 21 homes in the City of Watts during one week as a message of healing after the civil unrest in South Los Angeles. My last build in 2003 with the Carter Blitz Build Project was in Plains, Georgia on a parcel of land that the Carter's had donated from their farm land for helping people out of homelessness. Last year the Carter Work Project was held in the Dominican Republic. Over their time involved The Carters and volunteers have built over 100,000 homes. So AMEN and may it be so that we continue to be DOERS OF THE WORD, just like President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter, now well into their 90's.

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

By Susan Dunlap

A headline on the front page of the Salt Lake Tribune "Opinion" section declared "Diversity is not Divisiveness." Although the article was about BYU and recent proclamations from their church leadership, I found this statement to be a good all purpose declaration for our times. Can we as Christians, and more specifically as members and attenders of Hilltop Methodist stand by that statement? We continue to live in divisive times—vax or anti-vax, mask—pro or con, BLM, LGBTQ+, political stances by our state and national leaders, the list continues on things that can potentially divide us. But can potential divisiveness also be an opportunity? An opportunity to listen, to learn, to determine if any common elements exist? I admit, I am the first to take a stance and stand pretty solidly in my own arena of convictions. But I want to be a person who will actively listen to those who I don't believe I share much common ground with.

In Memory of Janie

The Montoya brothers, Phil, Matt, and Mike planted a dwarf blue spruce on the front lawn of the church in loving memory of their mother Janie Montoya who died May 21st of this year.

We are hoping to develop this small area into a memorial garden to remember all those saints who came before. If you are interested in participating in the project, please contact Mike Montoya.

I have just returned from our first gathering of the newly formed Young Persons group. A young person I did not know spoke pretty matter-of-factly of being verbally harassed downtown on occasion about their appearance and clothing choices. They stated they chose not to engage (usually with an adult much older than themselves), but I hurt for this individual being harshly judged before ever opening their mouth and speaking. I hope they left our presence feeling supported and affirmed. That is my hope for each person who encounters us—the church. That they leave our presence feeling supported, feeling the love of Christ, and welcomed in our house of worship. Join with us as we continue to explore what it means to be a welcoming space for all who seek acceptance.



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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

