

Hilltop Highlights

October 2021



Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson
Pastor
pastor@hilltopumchurch.org

Impact

In September, we encountered the wisdom of the Letter of James. James directs his readers to be doers of the word, not hearers only. The measure of receiving God's word is doing God's will daily. As doers of the word, we must be mindful of the impact of what we choose to do or leave undone. God does not simply call us to activity; God empowers each of us for positive impact that can change lives. It is prudent to reflect on whether our choices produce God's desired results. When our choices align with God's will, POWERful things happen. That's IMPACT.

Hilltop is a missional ministry with a clear core value of helping others. Before and throughout this pandemic, Hilltop has continued to move in mission to help meet immediate needs in the Salt Lake Valley and beyond. But there are also some longer-term efforts underway that can have powerful impact in years to come.

Over the last year, the Trustees have been in negotiation with Google Fiber to install a fiber hut on our campus. As good stewards of the 'talents' God has entrusted to us, the Trustees have pursued this partnership to grow those 'talents' (Matthew 25:14-30). This installation will ultimately bring fiber optic access to thousands of households. In an age where internet connectivity and speed are increasingly important for remote work, education, and more, this partnership honors God's gifts, supports the larger community, and will supplement the resources at Hilltop for ministry. This effort is about stewarding Hilltop resources for positive outreach that can lead to transformative change. That's impact.

Another opportunity is coming through Hilltop's long partnership with Family Promise (FP). As FP prepares to relaunch its programs, we are looking at more extended stays in Hilltop House. Longer stays, coordinated with FP, will allow families in the program to stabilize as they engage supportive services and prepare for permanent housing. This not only makes better use of Hilltop House but will allow us to differently extend the hospitality that is another Hilltop core value aligned with God's word (Matthew 25:35). This is a chance to build community, to make connections with families experiencing disconnection; to offer healing, help and hope and bring hearts to Christ. That's impact.

These two examples demonstrate how *we* can help people flourish long-term by responding to the opportunities or invitations to partner with co-laborers God sends our

(Continued on page 2)

PASTOR'S MUSINGS

way. Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something to help someone else. Even small gestures can have big impact.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." While the brash or bullish may leave an attention-grabbing impression, the quietly courageous and committed can make lasting impact.

Our Gentle God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in

him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus was gentle and humble at heart (Matthew 11:28) and moved among people never seeking attention for himself. Yet, his quietly courageous sacrifice continues to shake the world through the faith and actions of his followers. That's impact! As faithful followers of Christ and doers of the word, let's seek God's Counsel, align with God's will and shake the world. It needs *our* faith-filled, Spirit-led impact. For the powerful things that will come, to God be the glory!

ENDOWMENTS & INVESTMENTS

By Tim Strickland, Chair Endowments

Are you aware of the plans that have been made for Hilltop's financial future? If not let me familiarize you with Hilltop's Endowment Committee:

In 1994, some forward-thinking members of our congregation took the initiative of establishing Hilltop's Endowment Fund. The fund was seeded with \$10,000, and the mandate that no withdrawals could be made until the account had surpassed \$100,000 in value. Through ongoing contributions and a tremendous bull market in the 1990s, Hilltop's Endowment Fund turned the century having achieved that target. Since then, more than \$50,000 has been distributed to assist with funding numerous improvement and mission projects for Hilltop.

You also may not have known that in 2016, after negotiating the sale of the cell towers in Hilltop's steeple to Crown Castle Inter-

national, the Board of Trustees voted to invest a substantial portion of those proceeds to provide for the future maintenance and improvement needs of Hilltop's campus. (The remainder of the sale proceeds was used by the trustees for immediate improvements including replacement of the flooring in the Fellowship Hall.)

The Trustees Investment Account was seeded with \$128,000 and a conservative investment objective. This account has already provided \$14,000 (in 2017) for resurfacing the parking lot and replacing three A/C units.

With Hilltop's careful stewardship and God's oversight, these funds have the potential to serve Hilltop, and its many missions, for generations to come. You can be a part of this legacy by including Hilltop's Endowment Fund in your giving, and in your estate planning. Contact the church office for more information, or please feel free to reach out to me anytime.

MISSIONS

With Grateful Hearts

By Cheryl Gentle, Missions Co-Chair

The Missions committee was struggling with whether the Chili Cook-off would be a "go" this year. "O ye of little faith!"

We put out a plea to the congregation and you responded! From all accounts, it was one of our most successful yet and a lot of fun. There were ten chilis prepared with loving hands, some experienced and some not, Leigh Anne Duff took top honors with her "Very Veggie Chili" - delicious! Mike Montoya was second with a Chili Verde Chili. I understand there was a friendly rivalry going on between the two. Pastor Lynn took third place with her Turkey/Beef/Quinoa chili. All entries were thoroughly enjoyed by over 50 attendees, on the patio outside Fellowship Hall. At last count, over \$700 was raised to benefit disaster relief through our global UMCOR connection. A huge thanks to a hard working committee, led by Claudia Bilboa, and all who participated!

At almost the same time, we asked the congregation to support a shared project with First Presbyterian church downtown. In celebration of their 150th anniversary, they

started to collect "HomeWarming Kits" to donate to The Road Home. Some 30 items, those most needed by people moving into a new home, were put into kits for distribution this fall. Once again, our congregation responded and the table in the Narthex overflowed with donations. Checks and monetary donations are also welcome through Friday October 1st.

Last, but certainly not least, our next Share the Bounty food drop-off will happen this Saturday October 2nd, from 9am to noon. UMW will be joining Missions to collect diapers, especially sizes 4 to 6. We will be set up together in back of Hilltop House and look forward to seeing you drive up. As always, our donations benefit the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and Crossroads Urban Center. Starting in November, Share the Bounty will transition back to Sunday morning collections in the Narthex. Weather permitting, we will keep a table outside by the front church entrance for drop-offs.

The song says, "Give thanks with a grateful heart." The Mission Team is so grateful that Hilltop lives that every day!



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



Roberta Shimensky
Music Director
801.571-5777

Dynamic Doers

Reprinted from September, 2015, 'The Rest of the Story.'

The gospel story as most of us know it goes something like this: Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up and did many good things; he performed miracles and said we should love each other. Then he was crucified on the cross and rose again on the third day. We live here on earth in preparation for his coming again.

The part of the story that we don't often get, or really don't know too much about, is the Old Testament story. The Old Testament is key to knowing the full story of the gospel. We can't very well live the story if we do not know the story! It is important that we understand the context and social situations in which Jesus lived; it is not enough for our understanding of Christianity, in order to live it, merely to be limited to the events of Jesus' life.

The story that we are called to live is the story that Jesus lived, or the "religion of Jesus," if you will. What was the religion of Jesus? It really is impossible for Jesus to be understood apart from the covenants that Israel had with God, and how God is faithful in fulfilling his promises.

The center of our understanding of Christianity today is often centered around being

in mission, to "go and make disciples." That's telling the story, right? We very rightly desire to "be the hands and feet" of Jesus in this world, to do good things for those in need. But Howard Thurman (*Jesus and the Disinherited*) challenges us with this disturbing question: "Why is it that Christianity seems impotent to deal radically, and therefore effectively, with the issues of discrimination and injustice ...?"

Living the story is not so much about doing as it is about being. Jesus did not just do good things. He was in relationship with the poor and the outcasts. And we need to do the same. We need to be in relationship with those who are oppressed or marginalized in our society due to race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

The Old Testament story ultimately is about how God became flesh in order to be in full relationship with us, to reconcile us to himself. *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; - 2 COR 5:18*

Our being in full relationship with this Triune God means we can be true worshipers and disciples of Jesus so that we can truly live the gospel story.

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Weekly Children's Choir Rehearsals

Begin October 14

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

Hilltop Gospel Choir

The Hilltop Gospel Choir wishes to **thank** its amazing supporters for showing their love in the following ways:

- by telling everyone in your network about the choir, the tour, and the auction
- by purchasing needed items to round out an auction package, or by making a cash donation
- by bidding on items during the auction & promptly paying for items you WON in the auction!

We also appreciate all who came out to Lone Peak Park on Saturday for the **Fourth Annual Hilltop Gospel Choir Walkathon!!** What a gorgeous day, and what an enthusiastic group of FUN walkers, pets, kids and supporters! Thanks for making teams, wearing costumes, and supporting the choir's 2022 season! Our supporters are simply THE BEST, and we appreciate all you do for us!

TRUSTEES

Hilltop UMC Church-wide Work Day

The theme for October is how we impact our world. This is an obvious fit with the upcoming Church-wide Work Day on Saturday Oct 9th from 9am – 1pm.

Fall is a time of preparation as plants, grass, etc. start to prepare for a period of dormancy over the cold winter months. Leaves and needles will still fall 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 some things really have pretty much come to the end of their useful life. And we can all use a little outdoor exercise and fellowship.

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

- Scrape and Paint roof flashing on Hilltop House (front and back)
- Repair concrete cracks on patio of Hilltop House
- Clean out gutters on West side of church (requires a ladder)
- Fix siding under window on west side of church patio
- Touch-up paint outside stairs on patio
- Touch-up paint outside stairs from Upper Room (north side)
- Clean out drains on flat roof section of church (ladder required for access).
- Wire brush/paint the front sign.
- Install patio blocks (pavers) around front sign
- Repair siding over front entrance (ladder required).

- General grounds clean-up as needed (leaves, pinecones, pinestraw, etc.)
- Deconstruction of the planter boxes on the east side of the main driveway in preparation for replacement in the spring of 2022.
- Repair/repaint the No Parking curb in front of the main entrance (this will likely be a 2-day job as a primer coat is needed).

Masks are optional for outside projects.

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 Oct. 9th, 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!

The A/V Build-out Project

You may have noted that there are strange pieces of tape on the floor of the sanctuary just west of the current A/V booth and outside table. Those pieces of tape are the general outline of the new A/V Build-out project – a raised platform for the relocation of much of the A/V equipment and personnel needed for our live-streaming ministry. The ongoing supply issues created by the Covid-19 pandemic have made it difficult to establish a solid timeline for the

(Continued on page 7)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Diaper Drive

October 2 - 17

Crossroads Urban Center organizes and advocates to address the root causes of poverty. The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) Project is calling on city, county, and state policymakers to end child homelessness.

In 2021 and 2022, CORC and Crossroads will call for: 1. 200 units of permanent supportive housing for families; 2. Medicaid funding to expand mental and physical health services for homeless families; 3. A requirement that developers replace affordable housing units that are lost to new development. You can sign up to get

weekly updates about hunger & homelessness at www.crossroadsurbancenter.org/corc.html.

To assist homeless children immediately, UMW is collecting diapers and financial gifts. Please bring diapers to the Food Drive October 2 from 9:00 AM to noon. All sizes are appreciated—larger sizes are most needed. Can't make it on Saturday? Diapers may be left in the Ada Room until Sunday, October 17. Financial gifts may be sent to Judy Stevens at 2636 Forest Dale Circle; SLC UT 84106. Thanks!

(Continued from page 6)

construction phase of this project, but the design is pretty much complete and we're working on sourcing the materials. There will be opportunities for members to assist in the actual construction, so if you have skills, or contacts in the construction industry, that may be helpful with this project please contact Jim Woodmansee at (715) 514-9104.

Hilltop is getting a new Tenant

Many of you have likely heard about Google Fiber leasing some of the vacant land north of the Best house and south of the far west parking area by the Hilltop House garage. Construction of the "fiber hut" will begin either the week of Oct. 6 or Oct. 13, depending on approval of various permits (Google Fiber is responsible for

this). They anticipate a 4-week construction timeframe, so expect to see plenty of activity in that area during that time. Utility access activities are anticipated to be primarily accomplished by underground boring to minimize their impact to our parking areas, sidewalks, etc. Google will NOT be doing any construction activities on Sundays. This is a 25-year lease agreement (potentially longer) that will provide a significant financial impact for Hilltop UMC, one that we hope will allow us to expand our mission and impact in the community. The Trustees, along with the Finance Committee, are working to determine what that exactly means, so feel free to contact members of those committees with your input.

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT



Becky Elliston
MMO Director

mmo@hilltopumchurch.org

A Positive Impact

How much power does an individual have to make a difference?

Looking back, I think immediately of two people that have made a distinct impact on me.

Many years ago, I was standing in line to order lunch. The woman ahead of me was very clearly a successful business woman. She was immaculately dressed in a power suit, complete with heels and a leather briefcase. She was placing her order to the teenager behind the counter. I can still remember her manner in the way she was talking with the young man. She was speaking with great respect and patience. As I listened to their exchange, I was overcome with a calmness and peace. I decided right then that I wanted to be the kind of person who speaks with kindness to everyone. I wasn't included in that conversation and still came away with a changed heart.

Another person who has had an impact on my life is a former member of Hilltop, Lillian Bowlby.

Lillian exuded friendship and goodwill. It was a joy to be around her. She fully lived her life with great passion and energy in

all she did. Once again, I found myself wanting to follow someone's example of how they lived their life.

Now, I find myself in a position to impact some of the most moldable minds there are; a room full of two and a half year olds. I am filled with Lillian's passion and energy to pass on respect, kindness, goodwill and joy to our students. If we can fill their hearts and minds with these positive feelings, I believe they will grow into people who will also impact those around them.

"Be the reason someone believes in the goodness of people."

-Karen Salmonsohn

We are so excited to have the MMO program open and serving our community. We have some available spaces for ages 12 months - 3.5 years of age. Let us give you a morning off while we surround your little one with kindness, respect, goodwill and joy!

Please contact Becky Elliston for more info.
801-571-5777 ext 206

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

By Betty Long

The generosity of spirit—the glad giving of time, talent and treasure—permeates at Hilltop. Because of your generosity Hilltop makes an impact locally, nationally and worldwide through your pledges and gifts.

At the heart of Hilltop's 2022 financial stewardship campaign is the call to give back to God's church a portion of the abundance you have received from God. This is a concept grounded in Scripture, not in a spreadsheet. As Jesus explains in Matthew 6:27 "For where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also." Your financial commitments impact Hilltop to live out God's call for ministry through mission and service, education and discipleship, worship and music. This reflects who Hilltop is as a disciple of Jesus. Offerings of your time, talents and treasures are an expression of gratitude for what God is doing in your life. Your stewardship pledge will make an impact on Hilltop reaching its full potential.

Thank you for supporting Hilltop United Methodist Church in its 2022 Stewardship Campaign.

	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Report Period	As of Sept. 28	Jan 1-Sept 28
Income Received	\$34,324	\$372,244
(Expenses)	(\$36,530)	(\$337,691)
Balance	\$2,206	\$34,554

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

Millennial's and Impact—Are We Listening?

In Reverend Lynn's message to our Council Team members, she said "containing in the vein of being doers of the word, our October theme will be IMPACT. As Doers of the word, we must be mindful of our impact. We need to consider the impact of what we choose to do or leave undone. God does not simply call us to activity; God empowers us for positive impact. Do our choices produce the desired impact? When our choices align with God's will; POWERful things happens. That's IMPACT"

Some friends of ours were asked to be the religious education leaders for a church's senior high RE class. A friend of theirs was very frustrated as the teacher, and said he could not remain. This group of youth was very different from any other class that they were asked to teach, as they were so different from his thinking and much more accepting of others, from the perspective of gender, age, listening skills, learning skills, and beliefs, or not believing. He just could not continue teaching, and so left early in the beginning of the education year. The couple (husband and wife team) had two daughters and a son, who were not attending church at the time, so they felt strongly that they'd like to try to impact this group of youth. Here's the acronym that they used in the formation stages of meeting in their RE class.

I : **Inspire** and include!

M : **Millenials!**

P : by **Pausing** to understand and listen!

A : by **Accepting** all in ways that create

C: **Circles** of safety, and

T : **Teaching** how to give and receive feedback to each others on acceptance and including people who we do not understand.

Simon Sinek, writer and author of Start With Why, wrote a book called Leaders Eat Last. He is an optimist who believes in a brighter future for humanity. His talks can be found on TED.com, and is the third Here's some suggestions on how we might attract this important, dynamic, and growing group of people looking for an accepting community. Simon says that this group seems more accepting of others than our older generations. They are drawn to religious institutions that help groups that are less fortunate and in need. They are very loud about their desire to make an impact for their community, when that community(think Hilltop Church) has a sense of purpose, cause and belief. WE all want our service and DOERS to make a difference. So, whether we like it or not, as a church of God's believers and doers, the generation of millennials may leave and go to another community if we do not have the courage to embrace and accept their energy and spirit to make a difference in God's world. From Simon's book, here are several practical and actionable steps for us to consider as we listen to their ideas, thoughts, and actions that will help us make an IMPACT outside our doors where we are called to serve and be Doers!

- Mentor and support them.
- Lead them by example, Listen & Learn
- Talk about your(our failures). We are not perfect beings.
- Give them an opportunity to fall.
- Offer more opportunities to develop "human" skills

(Continued on page 12)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Who is My Neighbor?

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

by Karen Moser

This Month's Book: *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrations by E.B. Lewis

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

Watching, reading, or listening to the news today seems to highlight all the ways in which our society is divided. On really bad days, I feel like nobody is interested in looking for ways to find common ground and to bring people together in community (not true, of course, but sad feelings can make one believe all kinds of nonsense). I was delighted to recently revisit this favorite picture book by Jacqueline Woodson. *The Other Side* is the story of two girls named Clover and Annie. They live on different sides of a fence through the middle of their segregated town. Both girls have been warned by their mothers never to cross to the other side of the fence. One summer, Clover and Annie play outside in the fields on either side of the fence. As the summer goes on, they watch each other with interest. One day, they gather the courage to talk to each other and come up with a surprising solution that allows them to spend time together and become friends. This simple, heartfelt story shows how hope and courage can bring friends together, even when there are circumstances in society (like a big fence) that conspire to keep us apart.

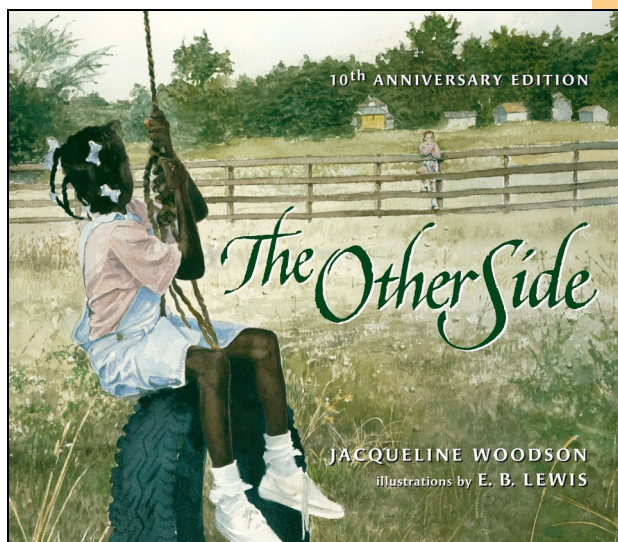
Fun Fact! *The Other Side* is featured in the Sacred Worth database maintained by the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (<https://www.umcjustice.org/sacred-worth-books>). This database offers a list of books featuring characters of different genders, skin tones, cultures, and ages to help all children see that they are created in the image of God. Thank you to Susan Dunlap for sharing this fantastic resource!

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What acts like a fence in your life? Are there places, feelings, beliefs, or circumstances that keep you from reaching out to a new friend?
2. What surprised you about Clover and Annie's solution to the problem of the fence?

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

Happy Reading!



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



Hilltop Highlights

Published monthly by:
Hilltop United Methodist Church
985 East 10600 South
Sandy, Utah 84094
801-571-5777
office@hilltopumchurch.org
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

(Continued from page 10)

- Help them love themselves.
- Take a chance with them. Act and Do.; This may surprise us.

Millennial's are our future leaders, but we are the leaders right now that can make a difference in our community with the IMPACT that millenials and their energy bring to our Hilltop community.

Rev Lynn's sermon on September 19th, titled "Words Matter, and she delivered on line and in worship resonates with me. We can elevate the ways we treat others in our personal lives and in our church, when we listen and remove barriers that our own individual thinking may have an effect on a younger aged, growing generation. Their ideas and wants to take action; on issues that our community outside the doors of the church, are calling us to move towards as DOERS of God's Word.