

# Hilltop

## Highlights

March 2022



Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson  
Pastor  
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### Full to the Brim

Jesus said, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*. (John 10:10)

We enter the Lenten Season on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday. The six weeks of Lent are typically a time for austere reflection, repentance, refocus, and preparation as we anticipate celebrating the resurrection of Christ on Easter. Traditional practices involve fasting from certain consumption, whether food, beverage, or behavior. Well, we have been fasting in various ways for the last two pandemic years. I believe this Lenten Season beckons for something different—for embrace rather than withdrawal.

Jesus said, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*. (John 10:10)

This was part of Jesus' response to an outcry from the Pharisees about Jesus healing a blind man on the sabbath. Leaning to their own understanding, the people concluded Jesus was breaking the sabbath rest by helping a person in need. So, they tattled to the Pharisees. They were stuck in *their* ritual withdrawal rather than embracing Jesus' expansive grace.

Modern Example? This would be akin to church leaders/members complaining about a pastor missing Sunday coffee fellowship to render care to a person in need. Or even, a pastor choosing to embrace expansive grace during Lent rather than ritual withdrawal.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, the shepherds of the faith flock. They were like thieves and robbers bringing fear and undermining the flock's abundance. They were draining spirits with rules and regulations rather than filling them with the promises of God's healing, help and hope. God has immeasurably more to offer us than we can think to ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

God has been and is inviting us into a different awareness and way of living. In Isaiah 43, God says: *"<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ...for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>24</sup>the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."*

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# PASTOR'S MUSINGS

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God invites us to open ourselves to perceive and receive 'a new thing'. If Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly, then it's up to us to be open to perceive and receive it!

Lent provides a unique invitation to approach Jesus to embrace a new thing, a different perspective or many—to see and hear, imagine and understand through the lens, heart, and mind of Christ. Lent invites us to recognize the expansive grace of God in our lives, to embrace that we are full to the brim in God's abundant love, and to share the overflow. God's love is an ever-flowing stream of life-giving water. The Source will not and cannot be depleted. We simply need to be open vessels to receive it and share it.

During these 40 days of Lent, I invite you to slow down, receive, and savor the presence of Christ, to embrace our sacred texts that are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Allow the nature of God and the effects of what Jesus accomplished on the cross to fill and wash over you, to seep deeper into your soul. As we approach our Easter Celebration, may you more deeply understand the words of Psalmist, "my cup overflows" and to God be the glory!



## March Birthdays

Jennifer Strickland .....	March 1
Steph Pettibone.....	March 2
Emeline Feiloaki.....	March 3
Zyia Feiloaki .....	March 3
Mary Bilbao .....	March 4
Matt Pettibone .....	March 6
Tony Gentilcore.....	March 8
Stu Long .....	March 11
Tim Cantrell.....	March 19
Ruth Eden .....	March 22
David Floyd .....	March 22
Jim Woodmansee .....	March 22
Kris Garrison .....	March 22
Peyton Blanchat.....	March 22
Mary Jean Davison .....	March 23
Judy Stevens .....	March 23
Karl Schlager .....	March 25
Janet Weber.....	March 29
Linda Shaul.....	March 29

## Family BINGO!

**Saturday, March 5th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm**

The Connections Team is happy to host our first Bingo game in the church. ALL ages invited to attend for a fun, spirited afternoon of Bingo - families and singles alike. There will be prizes for winners. Why bingo? Because it's fun and a great way to connect! RSVP [rob-nkris@comcast.net](mailto:rob-nkris@comcast.net) to reserve a table for your family.

# MISSIONS

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## Hilltop House Feels Like Home to Venezuelan Family

By Kevin Day

After sitting unused for most of the past two years, your Missions Team is pleased to announce that we now have a family living in Hilltop House! Thanks to a joint effort between the Trustees and Missions Teams, a contract was signed with Family Promise in November allowing Hilltop House to be used to house unsheltered families for up to six months at a time while they seek a long term housing solution.

Our current guests are the Morales-Izquierdo family. They are a family of five who have quite an amazing story of hope and determination in their journey to Utah. The family members include father, Jeraymir (also goes by Jeremy), mother Luzmar, sons Carlos, Luis and daughter Valaria. Jeraymir currently works for a company in Layton that sells solar panels and water filters while Carlos works in the construction industry and lives with an uncle (Luzmar's brother) and the family cat in Kearns (the Hilltop House agreement does not permit pets). Luis works at the Wendy's in West Jordan and Valaria has been attending school at Alta View Elementary since moving into Hilltop House.

Originally from Venezuela, the family fled their homeland almost five years ago because they no longer felt safe due to the political and economic turmoil. They spent 3 years in Peru, then moved to Mexico for a year and a half before finally settling in Utah last April. The family had

been living in the basement at Christ United Methodist Church prior to moving into Hilltop House.

Although the Morales-Izquierdo family really miss their friends, family and beaches in Venezuela, they love Utah's mountains and they especially love the people here. 'The people are so polite and cover us like family' Luis said interpreting for his mother. The family is anxious to start setting down roots and getting involved here. They are also very eager to learn about the culture and traditions in their new homeland while Jeraymir and Luzmar are interested in working to improve their English language skills.

The family loves living in Hilltop House because it feels like a real home. They are also very grateful for the food, gift cards and home goods that several members of Hilltop and the Missions team have given them since arriving, and they would like to repay this kindness by volunteering and helping around the church. They asked us to notify them of any volunteer opportunities in the church or in the community. Luzmar also said that Valaria is interested in joining a scouting program and Luis is interested in participating in sports.

When asked if there is anything that Hilltop could do for them, Luis indicated that he would be interested in someone helping him do some mechanical repairs to his car. He also said that they are looking for another vehicle, because he works in

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# MOTHER'S MORNING OUT



Becky Elliston  
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## LIVE BIG (or go home)

Christ is alive and he goes before us. How can we fill those footsteps in the biggest ways possible? God wants us to live lives full of joy and purpose. It is easy to forget this when we are consumed by our business. Have you ever heard the phrase "Don't live the same year over 75 times and call it a life"? Doesn't that sound awful? That means I would have to have the same illness, pay for the same car repairs, get divorced, and navigate Covid 75 times. NO THANK YOU! It sounds so much more fulfilling to do things in different ways and experience all the joy in the world.

A few years ago, I was blessed to travel to Switzerland with a close friend. She suggested that we spend some of our days there veering. I can tend to be obsessive about planning and organizing, so that concept filled me with anxiety. I decided to let go and follow her suggestion. For 2 days, we had no concrete plans. We stopped and asked the local people for suggestions and recommendations about where to eat, hike, and shop. This led us on a 4-hour train ride to Grindlewald, a small village in the Bernese Alps. Once we arrived, we asked the train station attendant which hike he liked best in the area. He suggested a hike that was not too far from the station. This hike zigzagged through a neighborhood of the most charming ski chalets. At one point, we started hearing music. Someone in their home was playing the cello. So, here we were, hiking through the most beautiful

neighborhood with a breathtaking view and listening to cello music echo around us. There is no way I could have planned this, and it is one of my favorite memories.

While we have all had to stop and change direction these past 2 years, we may have had some positive changes mingled in with the difficult ones. While we have learned the art of pivoting, switching to Plan B on little notice, we certainly are all ready for life to get better. One thing that always works for me is to care for someone else. A smile, an encouraging word or even a hug can turn someone's day around. I've been attending the Sunday morning prayer service and praying for friends, family, co-workers', strangers and even "enemies". It fills me with God's peace. What would our world look like if everyone looked out for each other? Why don't we act and find out? Let's be the change we want to see.

*YOUR LIFE DOES NOT GET BETTER BY CHANCE. IT GETS BETTER BY CHANGE.*

*-John Rohn*

## Spread the News

**Registration for Mother's Morning Out Summer Camp will begin on March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please contact Becky Elliston for more information 801-571-5777 ext. 1003**



# TRUSTEES

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## New Servant Ministry Hilltop Helping Hands

### HELPING HANDS



We're creating a new volunteer ministry "Hilltop Helping Hands" open to **all** who want to help with taking care of the maintenance of the facilities. Contact Doug Orr at 801-557-6491 (leave a message) or [DougOrr444@centurylink.net](mailto:DougOrr444@centurylink.net) to become a part of the Hilltop Helping Hands ministry.



## United Methodist Men's Weekly Breakfast

All men are invited to join us for breakfast at Jim's Family Restaurant **every Wednesday** at 8:00 am located at 9236 Village Shop Drive ( in Quarry Bend) in Sandy.

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### *Missions (Continued from page 3)*

West Jordan and with his dad working in Layton, they do a lot of extra driving with only one vehicle.

If anyone is interested in helping the family, or just welcoming them to Hilltop, you can either stop by Hilltop House or call/text Kevin Day at 801-502-0551 and I can forward your message to them.

## ADA Accessibility

The Board of Trustees are reaching out for volunteers to form an ADA advisory team. As a Board we would like to work towards a more accessible and workable building for everyone. We would especially like to invite people who are directly impacted and have a greater awareness of problems that need to be addressed. This team would meet and review the Annual Accessibility Audit for United Methodist Churches. We would then meet as needed to share ideas and prioritize projects as needed.

Interested people should contact Paul Mitchell | [pt5mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:pt5mitchell@gmail.com) | 801-502-6170

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## Scouts

### Smoked Ham Fundraiser

#### From the Scouts of Troops 411 & 8411

The smoker's been built, and the hams will be purchased. Would you like a smoked ham for Easter, a picnic, a family gathering, or any other celebration?

The hams will be smoked and packaged on Saturday, April 16th and will be ready for pick up from 3:00-5:00 pm. The weight of the pre-smoked hams is 8-10 pounds. The cost is \$60 per ham and may be purchased via Givebutter, Cash, or check.

To place your order, contact Brook-Temby@[brooktemby@gmail.com](mailto:brooktemby@gmail.com) or JStewart-Wood@[comcast.net](mailto:jstewartwood@comcast.net).

Order must be received by **Sunday, April 10th 8:00 pm** to guarantee availability.

# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

## Full to the Brim

By Donna Garbrecht,  
Music Minister

Hasn't everyone reached their wits end at least one time? Like you're doing so much that one last request makes you feel frustrated and that saying yes to anything else feels almost impossible? If you've experienced this, then you understand the meaning of the phrase, "You can't pour from an empty cup."

It is difficult to give when you feel totally depleted. You might not feel compassion in the work you're doing, and your soul is tired. Have you ever thought about how much you'd give if your soul was full to the brim?

Imagine a steaming cup of coffee in the cold or ice cream in the summer. A cup full to the brim allows you to focus outwardly. When life gets difficult, you've always got Jesus to refill your cup, allowing you to share your abundance with others.

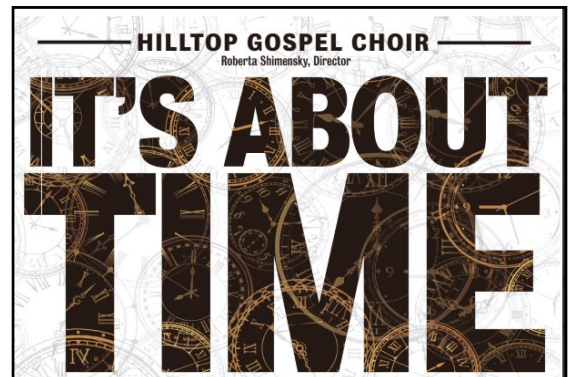
As Christians, it is our job to emulate the love of Jesus to everyone we encounter. So, in moments of frustration or trying times, ask yourself how you can help others feel full to the brim.

Spoiler alert - sharing love and grace with others as Jesus taught will fill your cup as well.

Psalm 23:5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

## Way to Celebrate!

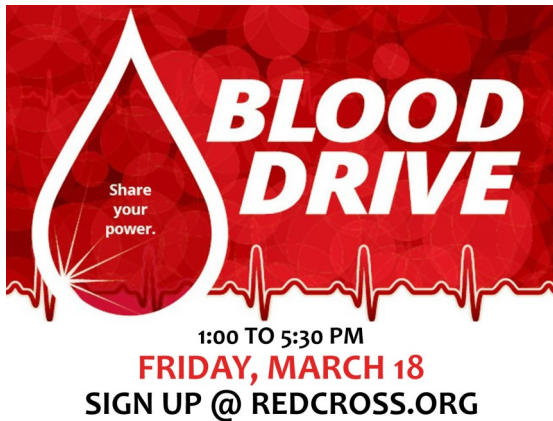
Music & Arts enjoyed an evening with all who attended, and those who viewed online, at our annual fundraising concert on Sunday, February 20. The wide variety of music and art presented, plus the enthusiasm of all the performers, put an exclamation point on our ministry. We are grateful for all the support and donations and look forward to all the blessings that are in store for all of us at Hilltop! If you missed it, check it out on our Facebook page: Facebook.com/HilltopUMC



## It's About Time

After a two-year hiatus, Hilltop Gospel Choir comes back to rehearsals for our new 2022 season on Tuesday, March 1, at 7:30 pm. HGC is open to all in the community and welcomes participation from all age groups. Concerts are May 20 and 22. Contact Roberta ([rshimensky@comcast.net](mailto:rshimensky@comcast.net)) or 801.571.5777 x1004) for schedule and more information.

# THIS & THAT



## Our Utah/Western CO District Gathering

Sat. March 19 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The gathering will be held in person in two physical locations, as well as live on Zoom. We'll enjoy fellowship; elect leaders and equalization members; celebrate Quiet Disciples, learn how to make use of our Congregational Resource Minister, and more! Locations: **Christ UMC, 2375 E. 3300 South.** Stay tuned for the Zoom link. For those attending in person, please RSVP so we can know how many lunches to provide. Lunches \$5. Please pay on site. RSVP by March 15 to Mary Lou Storey at [utahwco@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:utahwco@mtnskyumc.org)

## Coffee Fellowship Resumes

In the Fellowship Hall each Sunday after the 10:30 service. We need volunteers to host each Sunday. Contact Susan Dunlap ([sdunlar28@hotmail.com](mailto:sdunlar28@hotmail.com)) to get on a team.

## Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, March 27th 11:45 am

Join us for our continuing conversation about inclusiveness at Hilltop. We will review the results of the Readiness 360 Survey and discuss.



## Youth Retreat

**April 29 - May 1** in Grand Junction, CO for 6-12th graders. Cost is \$100. For more information, please contact Amanda Daniels at [youngpeople@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:youngpeople@mtnskyumc.org)



## Chancel Flowers

Honor or memorialize a loved one by ordering flowers for the chancel. Cost is \$30. If you are a flower arranger and would like to provide an original arrangement for a particular Sunday, sign the book and contact the *office* for detailed instructions. Please return the vases.



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



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Published monthly by:  
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985 East 10600 South  
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[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)



## Join us for Lent

Ash Wednesday	March 2	7:30 pm	With All That You Are
1st Sunday in Lent	March 6	10:30 am	Even in the Desert
2nd Sunday in Lent	March 13	10:30 am	Under Gods Wing
3rd Sunday in Lent	March 20	10:30 am	You Are Worthy
4th Sunday in Lent	March 29	10:30 am	Prodigal Grace
5th Sunday in Lent	April 3	10:30 am	Brazen Acts of Beauty
Palm/Passion Sunday	April 10	10:30 am	Even the Stones Cry Out
Maunday Thursday	April 14	7:30 pm	at Community of Grace
Good Friday	April 15	7:30 pm	at First UMC
Easter Celebration	April 17	10:30 am	An Expansive Life