



Hilltop Highlights

May 2022



Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson
Pastor
pastor@
hilltopumchurch.org

We Are Witnesses

Beloved ones,

God has opened a new door and invited us to continue the journey God has planned. Generations ago, the LORD, spoke one of my anchoring scriptures through the prophet Jeremiah: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (29:11). As we move through our lives making our own plans and getting into our own rhythms, I think God chuckles as the Holy Spirit interrupts and/or disrupts our rhythm to open us to further possibilities and transformation.

Each day is a new opportunity to lean into God's plans/promises and listen for God's guidance, especially when the unexpected happens.

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples. Shortly after his death, the disciples did not know what to do. So, they returned to what was familiar in their former lives. For instance, Peter told the others, "I'm going fishing" and they responded, "We will go with you." They went out in a boat, fished all night, and caught nothing. Jesus appeared on the shore and said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered, "No." Jesus told them to cast their net to the right side of the boat, and they would find some fish. They caught an abundance and became witnesses to the possibilities available to those willing to listen for and follow God's guidance.

These experienced fishermen who had shared their lives with Christ unexpectedly found themselves in a liminal space after His death. But the Resurrected Christ appeared to point them toward the plans and promises of God. God's words through Jeremiah remained God's truth. Then and now, God promises a future with hope.

God offers us an expansive life, even an extraordinary one when we follow Him. The people in our sacred texts became witnesses through their encounters with Christ. Consider all the disciples (students/followers) of Christ who became apostles (messengers/proclaimers) for Christ - Mary, Peter, John, Paul, and others. Each one heard the voice of the Shepherd and followed their call. They not only claimed Christ but also embraced the opportunity and responsibility of proclaiming their

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PASTOR'S MUSINGS

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faith and sharing their experiences with others. Today, how do we hear the voice of God and how do we respond? How do our lives speak the love and grace of God? As people of faith, we have the opportunity and responsibility to authentically share our experiences in Christ, proclaiming our faith and demonstrating that the root of the 'kin-dom' of God is firmly planted within us and among us. We are witnesses.

The ancient disciples became witnesses through their encounters with Christ. Today, with Christ in our lives, we are witnesses for Christ to the world. May we see each day as a new opportunity to lean into God's promises, especially when the unexpected happens. As we embrace the adventure, may our walk and talk be transformed. May we be witnesses to others that God has plans to give them a future with hope and to God be the glory!



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

Please join Pastor Lynn and occasional guests for prayer and pondering devotional time. Please share what topics are on your heart for a future chat with the pastor.

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>



May Birthdays

Jan Woodmansee	May 1
Vern Rosenstiel	May 6
Diana Cushing.....	May 7
Lizbeth Temby.....	May 8
Adam Day.....	May 10
Kathy Russell.....	May 15
Heidi Moser	May 18
Dawn Cox	May 21
Blake Gentilcore	May 22
Marilynn Tetrick	May 30

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

THE PASTOR APPOINTMENT

Methodism 101 or

“I Don't Understand the Pastoral Appointment Process”

By Susan Dunlap, Lay Leader

There are several components to Methodism that differ from other Protestant denominations and the reassigning and appointment process of the local pastor is one that many don't understand.

Our United Methodist process of matching pastors and congregations is a “send” process, whereby pastors are sent (appointed) to a congregation by the Bishop and Cabinet (the District Superintendents). Ministers are members of the Conference in which they serve rather than the local church. We are in the Mountain Sky Conference which includes close to 400 churches in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Salmon, ID. Other denominations have a “call” system, whereby a local congregation “calls” or hires their pastor. They also then have the task of firing/replacing those pastors if locally decided. All systems of matching pastors and congregations have their strengths and weaknesses.

Our appointment process usually includes the following strengths:

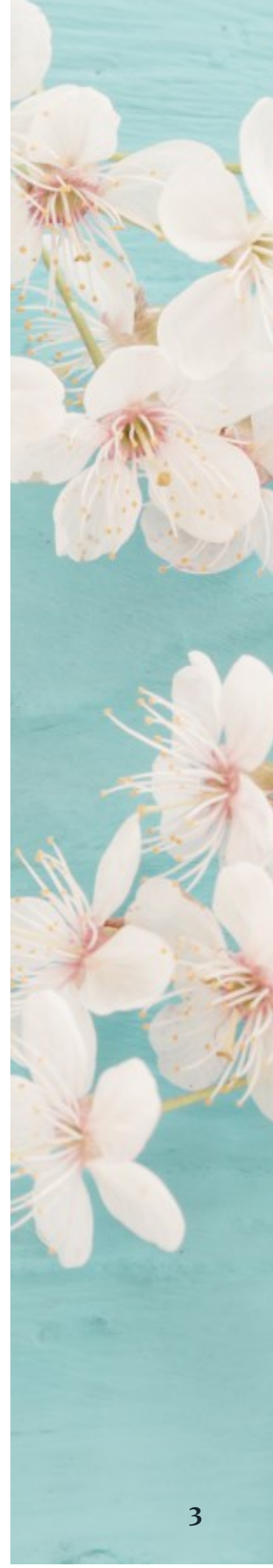
- The appointment of pastors and churches is based upon the missional needs of the church, not a process of hiring pastors who suit the preferences of the local church leadership.
- Every church is appointed a pastor and every pastor is appointed to a church.
- The Bishop and Cabinet serve as the “search committee” to find the right pas-

tor/congregation match. This starts locally. Our local Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) prepared a Congregational Profile and this is reviewed in a meeting with the District Superintendent. Our SPRC met with DS Elizabeth McVicker at the beginning of the April. This discussion provided her with the insight and tools to use in meetings with the Cabinet about our next minister.

- Pastors are appointed on the basis of their gifts and graces for ministry in the local context, without regard to their gender, culture, ethnicity, or age.
- Both the appointed pastors and the congregations to which they are appointed belong to a connection which can provide support, training, mediation, and prayerful supervision.
- Moving costs for pastors are paid primarily through Conference apportionments, with a small portion by the local church, and overage beyond conference limits by the pastor. Pastors also pay income taxes on the moving allocation via 1099.

The appointment/matching process typically takes place in the spring, with the goal of our next minister starting July 1. Our SPRC will have the opportunity to meet with the candidate identified; the goal is that the local church and the prospective minister both consider this to be a good match. These are the times that we must step out in faith, to trust the process that will insure that we get the individual who can lead us into a future full of hope

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PASTOR'S APPOINTMENT

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and promise. Change can be hard but the church is **each** of us, sharing our gifts and unique talents to serve God in this place. I am confident that the right individual will be selected.

Our last several ministers have left due to retirement. I know that I, along with many of you, are dismayed and sad to be losing Pastor Lynn so soon. It is evident that her vision and leadership were identified as vital to the Western Montana District as their next District Superintendent, and it is a compliment to her many gifts and skills that she received this appointment. She had many plans for Hilltop, and I hope that we as a congregation can continue to grow in our spiritual fervor, continue a welcoming and inclusive environment and missional outreach and commitment.

If you have questions, comments, etc., please reach out to me or any member of SPRC:

Emma Robison Chair, Mike Hintze, Susan Kovach, Andrew Smith, Matt Pettibone, Tiffani Moser (Cockrell), JoAnne Myers, Priya Singh. Contact info can be found in the church directory.



Manage Your Money Better with Ramsey+

Did you know you can access all these financial tools just by signing up for Ramsey+ on our website?

Financial Peace University meets Monday nights at 7:00 pm beginning May 2.

Ramsey SmartTax features no hidden fees; no hidden agenda. File your federal taxes for free!

Every Dollar App. Plan where all your money goes and keep track of every transaction with the ad-free, premium version of their budgeting app.

On-Demand Courses. Learn the basics or go deeper with 20+ hours of money content. Watch anytime, anywhere.

Money & Marriage Livestream. Get online access to our world-class live events. Learn from the experts on money, career, family, leadership, and more.

Free Group Coaching. Talk to an expert and get help with budgeting, investing, and even "Ask Me Anything" sessions.

Just go to hilltopumchurch.org and click on the Ramsey+ box to access all these helpful tools.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

What is Annual Conference

What Is It ?

When you hear the term “annual conference,” it could be referring to any one of three things. The annual conference is a regional body, an organizational unit, AND a yearly meeting.

This article focuses on the yearly meeting. Many of these yearly meetings happen in the U.S. in May and June.

Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference, which may last 3-5 days. These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs, and budgets; ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders; and election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings. (Source: umc.org)

Hilltop is part of the Mountain Sky Conference (MSC). Our region covers Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Salmon, ID. This year, the MSC Annual Conference sessions will happen in-person June 16-18th in Helena, Montana at Helena United Methodist Ministries (HUMM). This includes St. Paul's UMC and Covenant UMC. We will partner with GNTV to bring sessions to those in-person and those who choose to attend online. The second half of the Annual Conference will occur Oct 21-22nd in an online-only format to focus on

the legislative work of the Mountain Sky Conference.

Hilltop has great representation in our annual conference.

Lynn Miller Jackson - clergy

Joanne Myers Lay Delegate

Barry Welliver – Annual Conference Co-Lay Leader

Grey Myers – General Board of Pensions

Mark 'MJ' Jackson – MSC Board of Trustees and Congregational Vitality

Equalization Members–(Help balance equal number of clergy and laity)

Maggie Welliver

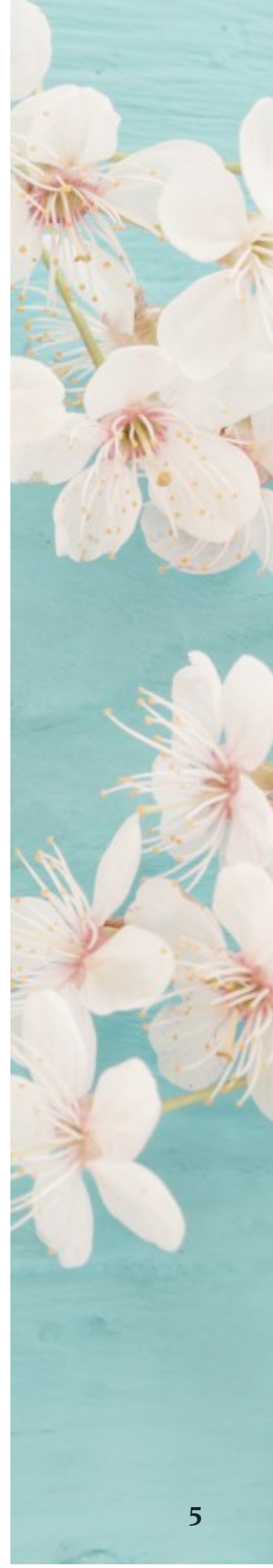
Teresa Rivera

Susan Dunlap

Why Should You Attend?

Annual Conference attendance is both informative and inspiring. It is an opportunity to gain greater understanding of the connectional nature of our denomination and to learn about the nuances and vastness of the Mountain Sky region. Annual conference provides opportunities to form new and deeper relations through in-person gathering and/or the breakout session online.

Registration for non-voting guest is \$50, whether you choose to attend in person or online. Please visit the MSC website-www.mtnskyumc.org for more information and registration.



MISSIONS

By Kevin Day, Missions Co-Chair

During a recent road trip to Canada, my son Adam and I were hauling a 1948 Chrysler owned by my late father on a trailer to my nephew's place in Northern Saskatchewan. The weather was miserable, and we were just outside of Rosetown when a trucker signaled us to pull over to let us know that the trailer had a flat tire. Without a spare, our only option was to call the nearest tire shop for help. Our salvation came about 20 minutes later in the form of a young man in a pickup truck. He quickly and quietly set to work and was immediately faced with a multitude of obstacles. First, there was not a good place to set the jack due to the location of the trailer. Then he discovered that the bolt holes on the new wheel didn't line up with the bolts on the trailer, and so on. All of this

occurring on the side of a busy 2-lane highway in strong winds and freezing rain. But this young man was simply unflappable and he calmly solved each problem he faced with confidence until the task was completed. No complaining. No excuses.

As Adam and I watched this young man with amazement, I thought to myself, 'What a great life lesson: Be unflappable!'. Paul's letter to the Romans confirms this thought, 'With God on my side, who can stand against me?' (Romans 8:31). Of course, obstacles will constantly arise and there will always be problems in our lives. But how wonderful it is that we can calmly carry out each day's tasks with confidence knowing that God will be with us no matter what!

Family Promise Giving Day

For 27 years, Family Promise Salt Lake has offered hope to unsheltered families in the Salt Lake Valley. As a part of a national effort to address the growing number of homeless families, Family Promise Salt Lake is asking for your help!

FPSL is a non-profit, interfaith, non-proselytizing, organization that provides shelter, case management and housing services to children and families experiencing homelessness. Recently, FPSL was awarded a \$10,000 grant which will provide valuable funding to incentivize property managers/owners to rent to qualifying families currently enrolled in FPSL programs. But there is a catch!



The funding is contingent upon Family Promise Salt Lake's ability to raise an additional \$10,000. Once raised, FPSL Case Management staff will have \$20,000 to help place previously unsheltered families into a home of their own. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to this compelling cause. With your help, we can make a positive IMPACT on children and parents in our programs.

Go here to give: <https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-salt-lake>

UM MEN AND WOMEN



United
Women
in Faith

MDSF Banquet

Saturday, June 4 at 5:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE: The Mother Daughter Sister Friend banquet is back! We will celebrate on Saturday, June 4. More details to come. And, YES, we will have our famously fun raffle so start putting those donations together. Kris Garrison (robnkris@concast.net) is glad to take any donations you have for the raffle. Hope to see you June 4.

Special Recognition

The United Women in Faith congratulate our Special Recognition winners for 2021. A lapel pin was presented to them at the UWF Sunday, February 27. Please help us in celebrating David and Jackie Huff, David Fleming, and Joanna Neal. All of these members are silent servants in our church and add greatly to the life and vibrancy of worship and missions. We recognize their service!



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.



Monthly Breakfast

Second Saturdays Every Month | 8:00 am

Contact Rob Garrison at garri-sonjr@gmail.com

Don't Miss The Fun!



HILLTOP'S 23rd ANNUAL

FAMILY CAMP

Aug. 5-7, 2022

Pinecliff Camp, Coalville, UT
Approximately 65 miles from Salt Lake City.

Bring your RV, tent, or sleep in a bunkhouse!

Cost is \$40 per adult; \$30 for children 12 & under
Register on-line or pick up a form in Fellowship Hall

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY



Roberta Shimensky
Music Director
801.571-5777

We Are In Service

By Sandy McCormick, Silver Songbirds

Members of Hilltop United Methodist Church music groups are in service at our church, our community and in the Salt Lake City area. What does it mean to be in service at our church and in our community? Service in our church and community deepens our relationship with God and with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The music program at Hilltop United Methodist Church provides ways for everyone to show their love for Christ and the joy they find in sharing the talents He has given us within our church and in our community. Psalm 98:4 *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth.*

The Chancel Choir is a great example of service to our church. They practice two hours every Thursday evening and are asked to be at the church early on Sunday morning to warm up their voices for the 10:30 church service. At the special musical events in the church, like the Music and Arts Fundraiser held the end of February 2022, the music groups that participated were asked to come to church on Saturday morning for a three-hour practice for the concert program to make sure everything ran smoothly. What dedication and service to our music program these people have because of their love of music and their love of the Lord!

The Gospel Choir is an ecumenical group of singers that love to sing gospel music. They practice on Tuesday evenings for two hours from February through May. This very talented group of singers will give a

concert at Trinity UMC in West Valley, Friday, May 20, at 7:00 pm, and a Home Concert at Hilltop, Sunday, May 22, at 6:00 pm. In 2023 this amazing group of singers is traveling to England and give several concerts. What a wonderful service these singers share with our community and the world because of their love of music. Think of the joy and happiness they bring to people that attend their concerts!

The Hallelujah Bells practice every week on Monday evenings for one and a half hours, and the Carillon Belles practice for an hour on Monday evenings. Several members of the group come early because the bells need to be taken out of their cases before practice and placed on the pads in the choir loft. The bell ringers go to bell ringing competitions and play with other bell ringers in the Salt Lake City area. The Hallelujah Bells and the Carillon Belles ringers are serving as music ambassadors to share the gift Christ has given them in our church and in our community.

The Young Adult Choir practice on Monday nights for an hour so they can sing during our church service on Sunday morning at least once a month. These young adults are either in school or working so they have very busy schedules. Their love of music and their desire to share it with the congregation is a blessing to our church.

The Silver Songbirds is a group of the older ladies at Hilltop that love to sing. They practice twice a month on a Tuesday morning for an hour. Because of Covid these ladies have not felt comfortable sing-

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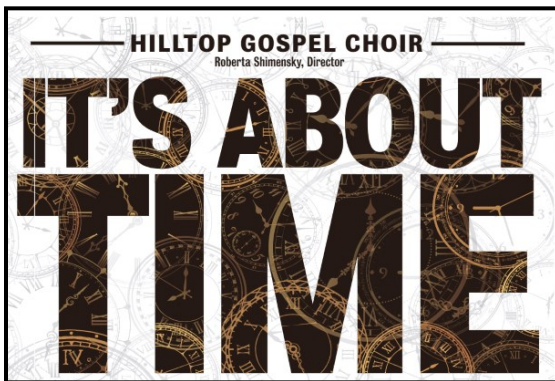
MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

You're Invited

Music & Arts extends a warm welcome to all who would like to become a part of our dynamic ministry. In M&A there is something for everyone, and all ages: Chancel Choir, Hallelujah Bells, Children's Music Program, Silver Songbirds, instrumentalists and more! Contact Roberta Shimensky music@hilltopumchurch.org or 801.571.5777 x1004 for information. Your participation is valued, needed, and a blessing to all.

Join the Fun! See the Sights! Hear the Sounds!

Hilltop Gospel Choir Tour to England is happening July 11-20, 2023! The more people we get to travel with us, the cheaper for everyone – and more fun! Support the choir and plan a beautiful vacation to England with us in 2023. Contact Becky Elliston b.elliston@msn.com or 801.576.9433 to get all the details.



It's About Time

Don't miss the excitement of the Hilltop Gospel Choir in concert Sunday, May 22, at 6:00 pm. Accompanied by HGC professional band and guest choir Remnant. It's time to get your praise on! Admission is free and open to the public.

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ing at church, but they will have their debut on May 1, 2022. The Songbirds sing at special events in the church and give concerts at retirement centers and Sandy Rehabilitation Center. These senior ladies share their love of Christ and their love of singing at church and throughout the community because they love to see the smiles and bring joy to their family and friends and the residents in these retirement centers.

The Men's Quartet is very popular when they sing at different events at the church. These four gentlemen love to sing, and you can see it by their smiles and enthusiasm.

When they sing everyone enjoys it and joins in the fun.

A special part of Hilltop's Music & Arts Ministry is the Children's Music Program. Children in the church and community are encouraged to attend the music program on Thursday late afternoons. The children learn sign language for some songs they learn to sing. They play instruments such as the glockenspiel and are taught how to keep rhythm by clapping or tapping sticks together or tapping their feet. It is wonderful to see children in our music program as they learn to praise God with music.

ABUNDANT HEALTH

Hilltop Hikers

By Becky Corbit

Would you like to reconnect with nature and explore the trails in our area? Hiking in our Utah mountains provides a great opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the wonder of God's creation. The Hilltop Hikers is a group formed to help hikers forge new friendships while enjoying the beauty of Utah's mountains, views, wildlife, and wildflowers. What began as a Hilltop United Methodist Church group has now really become a community outreach group. Our group has expanded to include neighbors and friends from outside of Hilltop. Some wonderful friendships have been created through the Hilltop Hikers. All are welcome!

The Hilltop Hikers meet every Tuesday morning weather permitting. The group snowshoes in the Winter, and we have just started our regular hiking season. The hikes are rated as easy to moderate, and hikes are usually five miles or less in length. A hiking email is sent every weekend describing the upcoming Tuesday hike. If you would like to be added to the hiking email distribution list, or you would like more information about the Hilltop Hikers, please contact Becky Corbit at rcorbit@comcast.net or 801-403-1477. Come make some wonderful friends and renew your body, mind, and spirit with a great hike!

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT

I recently spent time with someone who is heavily burdened by a troubled past. He carries this pain everywhere he goes. To feel protected, he has put up walls around himself. What he doesn't realize is that these walls are blocking the light from the sun and the Son.

God is just waiting for us to hand over our burdens. He has promised to us that what we sow in tears, we will reap in joy!

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." - John 10:10

There are so many ways to expand our world. New experiences are everywhere

we look. There are classes to take, opportunities to volunteer, new routes to drive to work and new foods to try. When a new element comes into your universe, there is only one thing you can do.... Expand!

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage" -Anais Nin

I pray we all have the courage to step out of our comfort zone and see what else is out there.

I am so grateful to have the luxury of spending time with children. They are full

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Becky Elliston
MMO Director
mmo@hilltopumchur.ch.org

FINANCE

By Betty Long, Finance Chair

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

As a body of believers, we are given many gifts. Each of us is given at least one gift (1 Corinthians 12:7). By grace, the Body of Christ is given the gifts of serving, prophesying, giving, encouraging, and leading. Although we have different gifts, they all work toward the same purpose—that of building up the Body of Christ through works of service. We are responsible to use our gifts in service to him through the church. Our work for Christ continues until God’s goal, which is to unite all people “to the unity of the faith and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13), is realized. By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are enabled to use our gifts to bless others and to build his Church here on earth. If we choose not to use our gifts, we are spurning God’s gifts, robbing the church, and forcing other members to carry our loads. - *Living Each Day as a Steward! Devotional Meditations* (stmarymilfordmi.org)

How can I use the gifts God has given me? There may be many answers to that question for each of us. As we consider how to answer the question, we should pray for guidance, wisdom, and courage to live each day as a steward to fulfill it.

Income and Expense Report

YTD April through 4/27/2022

	Income (Operations)	Expenses (Operations)	Net Inc./Loss (Operations)
MTD 4/27/2022	\$ 31,414	\$ 36,912	\$ (5,497)
2022 to Date	\$ 157,886	\$ 164,959	\$ (7,072)

MMO (Continued from page 10)

of the joy and wonder of life. The MMO teachers can teach these children the colors, shapes, numbers, and letters. Also how to line up, how to share and how to use our listening ears. The children can teach us many things as well. How to really look at a pinecone, how to see the beauty of a dandelion and how to sing “Wheels on the bus” with abandon. We are here to

learn from each other, and everyone has influence. Let’s use this influence to make the world a better place.

MMO needs an outside storage shed. Do you have one that you don’t need anymore? Please contact Becky at 801-571-5777 ext 1003

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985 East 10600 South
Sandy, Utah 84094



Hilltop *Highlights*

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Church
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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: pas-tor@hilltopumchurch.org

Mother's Morning Out Summer Camps Now Open for Registration

Please join us

SUPERHEROES	June 14-16
SPACE	June 21-23
DINOSAURS	June 28-30
MUSIC	July 12-14
IT'S A BUG LIFE	July 19-21

Camps are from 9:30 – 12:30

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

\$117.00 per week

Sign up at <https://app.enrollsy.com/enroll/hilltop-united-methodist-church/>

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