



# Hilltop

## Highlights

February 2023



Rev. Tracey Perry  
Pastor  
pastortraceyperry@gmail.com

### Pastor's Corner

#### Leave the Past in the Past

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

**Past definition** - having existed or taken place in a period before the present

**Greek translation** – Past - to parelthón

**Hebrew translation** – etmol – meaning yesterday – the past

Wouldn't it be great to have a do over, a second chance to do and be better? Can you imagine being able erase the past and start new? In this passage, from 2 Cor. 5:17-19, Paul, the Apostle, is saying just that. Upon acceptance of Christ, that which represented the past, your former life, mistakes, sin, have been forgiven, through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, and His resurrection. You become a new creation, through your intentional choice to follow and serve Christ. By reading God's Word, through prayer and being mindful of your thoughts, actions and words, your mind, heart and spirit become renewed.

By following Christ, you allow your mind to be transformed to those things, which are pure, good, compassionate, and pleasing to God (Romans 12:2). God removes the heart of judgment, unkindness and unforgiveness and creates a new heart, and kind spirit, that reflects His love, grace and mercy (Psalm 51:10).

Paul, who was formerly Saul, epitomized this transformation from being a murderer, and persecuting Christians, to being a follower of Christ. On his way to persecute more Christians, he was blinded by a brilliant light and fell to the ground. The voice of Jesus came from the light, asking then formerly known as Saul, why does he persecute him. Jesus was letting him know that when he persecuted His people, Saul was persecuting Him.

*(Continued on page 2)*



# PASTOR'S CORNER

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*(Continued from page 1)*

After that experience, Saul had a radical conversion experience and was renamed Paul. He became a devout follower of Christ, preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles and all who would listen, and leading many to Christ. The former nature of Paul no longer existed. Through his acceptance and obedience to serve Christ, he became a new creation. If Paul could change, by the personal encounter with Christ, anyone can become a new creation.

Choose this day to follow Christ, and serve and glorify God, all the days of your life. Choose to be a servant of God's people, as His hands, feet and mouthpiece in this world. Choose to be bold and courageous

in your witness and testimony of Jesus, to people. Ask God for wisdom, regarding when and how to speak to a person that is lonely, afraid, and needs to hear of the salvation of Jesus, and His unconditional love of all people. Do not be a closet Christian, but a Christian, who is unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor being a follower of Christ. You have the power to share the love of God, His compassion and forgiveness, with all who are in search of knowing Christ. Choose this day to be all that Christ has called you to be – blessed, highly favored, and your best self.

*Be blessed always,  
Pastor Tracey*





# CONNECTIONS

## Be a Secret Pal

Sign-up to be a **Secret Pal** to one of the many children of our church. Starting in March, we will pair adults and children to participate in a 6 month program. Secret Pals will leave gifts in secret on Sunday mornings. Gifts can include anything from a note, flower, home baked treat to a toy - just something to let the child know we are thinking of them and nurturing their spirit. In September, we will have a "reveal" banquet and disclose the Secret Pals. Sign-ups will be on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall during February. We hope to get wonderful participation in this fun program to bridge generations.



## Bingo

March 4, 3-5pm

Everyone is invited. Please bring coins to use as bingo markers. Coins will be donated to the Missions Committee after Bingo. NO charge to play - great prizes and mid-bingo dancing.



## What is our Extra Mile Giving?

It is the amount that, through our faith and trust in God, can be raised each month above our regular giving to keep the finances in budget during 2023. This amount is \$3,600 each month. There is a giving unit that has pledged to match all donations in January up to \$3,600. As of last Sunday, \$700 has been given to the Extra Mile Giving. Kindly earmark your donation to Extra Mile Giving. There are also envelopes in the pews marked Extra Mile Giving for your pocket change.



# MISSIONS

By Kevin Day, Missions Co-Chair

For the past six years, your Missions Committee has been supporting a student through Pura Vida Ministries, a nonprofit organization promoting education in the western highlands of Guatemala. I am pleased to announce that this student, Natividad, recently completed the 12th grade (a major accomplishment in rural Guatemala) and she is now anxious to continue her studies at the university level with aspirations of becoming a secondary teacher. Janie Williams, the Student Sponsor Liaison with Pura Vida, reached out to Pastor Tracey in December to see if Hilltop would be willing to continue supporting Natividad through her three years at university (sponsorship rates more than double due to increased costs for higher education).

Pastor Tracey asked the Missions Committee to make a decision on this issue, so a special meeting was held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this meeting, it was decided that it is important for Hilltop to not abandon Natividad at this point in her educational pursuits and it is our deepest hope that she will be able to use her skills as a teacher to 'multiply our gift' by giving back to the next generation of students in Guatemala.

*pura vida*  
pure life!



The Missions Committee is very grateful to the Scarborough/Montoya family for their gift of communicating with Natividad on a regular basis and for providing her with the love and encouragement that has enabled her to thrive. Together, we look forward to another three years of fostering the relationship that has blossomed between Hilltop and this remarkable young lady in Guatemala! (If you would like to get more information about Pura Vida Ministries or would like to see some of the correspondence from Natividad, please check the Missions bulletin board in the north hallway).

In addition to increasing our Pura Vida sponsorship, the Missions Committee is making \$500 disbursements to the Ntabende Primary School in Zimbabwe, UMCOR (to be used to fund relief efforts where needed most) and the Inn Between (a hospice facility for unsheltered people in Salt Lake City). Volunteer opportunities in the coming month include the Share Your Bounty Food Drive on February 5th and Family Promise hosting during the week of February 26th through March 5th.

As always, we are very grateful to everyone who has supported the committee through their donations, volunteerism, and participation in our various missions projects. We will continue to work hard to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to Walk with Christ by getting involved in a missions project that they find meaningful to their spiritual formation.



# MOTHER'S MORNING OUT

## Walking with Christ

Everyday at MMO, parents trust us with their precious children. We are blessed to play a small part in their spiritual formation by being the example of what it means to walk with Christ. When we show up with kindness, patience, and gentleness, that ensures everyone will have a better experience in the classroom. I watch these children absorb everything they see and experience. This makes it even more important for us, as people of influence, to walk in the teachings of Christ. Yes, our patience gets tested and no, it is not always easy to have a calm disposition. As we are confronted with difficult situations, I am often reminded by how important it is to love our children through the chaos, just as Christ loves me unconditionally. He begins each day with kindness, patience, and gentleness for each of us, without fail. Children truly are our future and when we

nurture them with the love of Christ, we help create a better world for everyone.

An added benefit of working with these children is the way that they also show us how to walk with Christ. Without even realizing it, they bring with them such joy and wonder. Learning and experiencing all the world has to offer is a blessing that we tend to forget as busy adults who have "done that already." When we walk with Christ, it may not mean that our lives will be easy. But when we focus on His promises, live in His presence, and rely on His power, all things are possible.

MMO Summer Camps will be open for registration soon! We would love to have you join us.

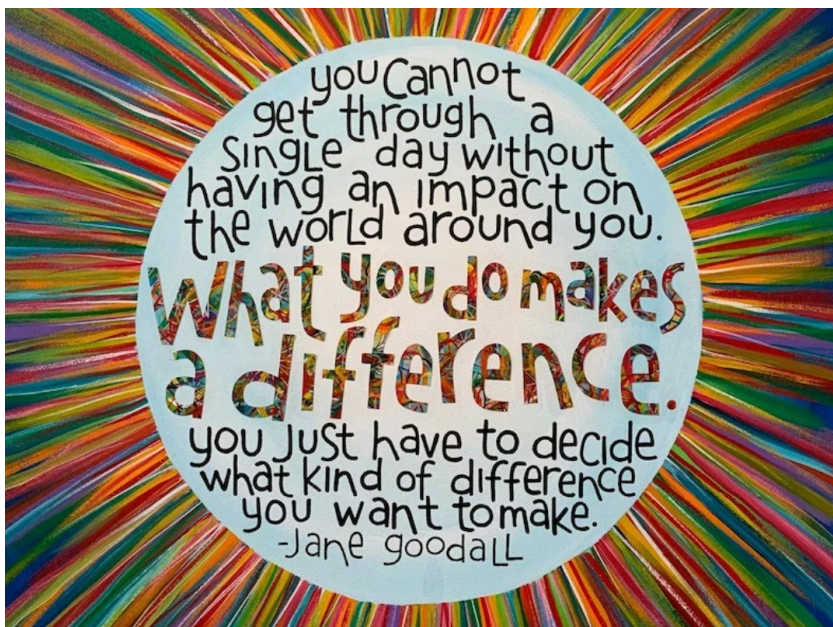
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Becky Elliston

801-571-5777



Becky Elliston  
MMO Director  
[mmo@hilltopumchurch.org](mailto:mmo@hilltopumchurch.org)





# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

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*David Fleming  
Chair, Music & Arts  
Ministry*

## The Role of Music & Arts in Spiritual Formation

**By David Fleming, M&A Chair**

Have you ever stopped to think about how important the arts are to spiritual formation? Some of us are visual learners and some are auditory learners, but most of us rely on some form of art to more deeply understand God's world and continue our walk with Christ. Scripture is set to music in hymns and anthems while photography can provide a view into a person's soul or God's creations in nature that we might not see on our own, painting and sculpting are a means for human interpretations of God's presence and creation. Art is critical to cognitive development and; therefore, critical in spiritual formation. Art reaches a place in our mind that reading and speaking cannot. We become whole beings and commune more closely with God through art.

The Music & Arts Ministry at Hilltop is providing this critical component of our walk with Christ not only in our sacred building, but in the broader community. We could not accomplish what we do without the steadfast support of this congregation and many others. We consider outreach a key part of our mission and we strive to show God's love to all of you and to those in the community who we do not know, but wish to know. As with every other program and ministry of Hilltop, there is so much more we can do!

The Music & Arts Ministry requires funds that significantly exceed our annual oper-

ating budget and your gifts designated for Music & Arts make that possible. We invite you to share in our annual "Celebrate Music & Arts" fundraiser concert either in person or virtually on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 pm. You will have the opportunity to experience everything our ministry has to offer in the form of choral and small group singing, amazing instrumental music, and handbells. Testimonials will be offered from community members about how the ministry has touched their lives and the visual art show we established as part of this event last year will be continued again this year. If you are an artist, we invite you to participate by displaying your work in our show. The physical display will be in the Narthex leading up to the concert and will also be shared as part of the concert live stream. If you are interested in sharing your own talents in this way, [please contact Donna Garbrecht](#) or any member of the Music & Arts Committee.

We look forward to sharing with you and thank you for your financial support, but also for your expressions of love and appreciation and for your prayers. Please invite your friends and family to share your Hilltop Music & Arts experience! If you are unable to attend in person, please plan to join us via our live stream. Whether or not you are able to attend, please make a financial gift to the Music & Arts Ministry as you are able, so that we can continue and strengthen our tradition of sharing faith through the gift of the arts.



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

## A Chancel Choir Christmas 2022: “A Holy Light”

The 2023 Chancel Choir Christmas Concert “A Holy Light” reached deep out of the darkness of winter and the still anticipation of Advent, bringing light into the hearts of those who attended.



The dramatic effects of this concert benefitted from Music & Arts’ acquisition of two beautiful brass floor candelabras, which were gifted to us by First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City. The candelabras needed some heavy-duty cleaning, so it took no time for an industrious crew to assemble and get down to business!

## Celebrate Music & Arts

It’s time for some fun! Come celebrate with us as we give thanks for the gift of music and the great blessing of our talented ensembles, instrumentalists, and artists. Sunday, February 19, at 5:00 pm! The annual fundraising concert is an opportunity for you to support this important ministry for our worship together, for the greater mission of the church, and in the lives of individuals.

## HGC 2023 Season: Grateful

Hilltop Gospel Choir’s brand-new 2023 season kicks off with our first rehearsal Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Contact Roberta Shimensky (801.571.5777 x4 or [info@hilltopgospelchoir.org](mailto:info@hilltopgospelchoir.org)) for information. HGC is open to all in the community. [hilltopgospelchoir.org](mailto:hilltopgospelchoir.org)

## Ring, Sing, or Play Away!

All of Hilltop’s music ensembles are welcoming new members for 2023! Bells, choirs, young, old – there truly is something for everyone. And all instrumentalists are encouraged to contribute their talents to our worship services as well. If you would like to schedule, please contact Roberta (801.571.5777 x4 or [music@hilltopumchurch.org](mailto:music@hilltopumchurch.org)).





# FROM THE OFFICE

## February Birthdays

Charles Bonsall.....	Feb 9
Donna Garbrecht.....	Feb 10
Sylvia Bowker.....	Feb 10
Doug Orr.....	Feb 16
Mary Ann Travis.....	Feb 17
Leigh Anne Duff.....	Feb 20
Marty Ferraro .....	Feb 22
Bob Brace.....	Feb 24
Elsa Robison.....	Feb 26

## Scam Alert

Several members have been contacted regarding sending Pastor Tracey money, as part of a scam, for gift cards for cancer patients, food cards for the poor, and the list goes on. Please let her know if you receive these scam texts or emails. Before you delete the text, there is an option to Report as Junk and the scammers will be blocked from sending anymore texts to you.

## Coffee Fellowship

### Date Host Group/Leader/Families

2/5	Team #1 Susan Dunlap	A-F
2/12	Team #2 Kris Garrison	G-L
2/19	Team #3 Gygi Olsen	M-R
2/26	Team #4 Jo Brace	A-F

We desperately need some folks willing to serve on a Coffee Fellowship team. Folks can call or text Jo Brace at 801.499.9679 or email at joannbrace@gmail.com or catch her in the kitchen most Sundays before church.



## 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](mailto:office@hilltopumchurch.org) and ask to be added to the distribution list.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**5:30 to 7:30 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**\$7 Adults, \$4 Children 12 & Under**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Amalia Lawrence

Children's Ministry Director

Train up a child in the way he should go:  
and when he is old, he will not depart from  
it Proverbs 22:6

You've probably heard the phrase "children are the future" and thought, well yeah, that makes sense. They're the next generation. The choices we make impact them, and the choices they make will impact those after them. But what does this mean for Hilltop? What does this mean for you?

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or are involved in the life of a child, then your actions show that child what the love of Christ looks like. As

Christ followers it is one of our jobs to do this. To raise our children up in a Christ filled environment, to create that spiritual formation so that when life happens (and it will) they have Jesus, their community, and the Bible to hold them up.

I am so honored to be the new Children's Ministry Director and lead a generation of children to Jesus with the help of this church family. As a relatively new member of Hilltop, I see the base in this church is strong, and I see a community eager to help the next generation build that foundation in Christ. Let us continue growing our community at Hilltop, inviting people that need a place to call home, where children feel safe and welcome, and show them what the love, grace, and faith in Jesus looks like.



## Family Activities

- Children's Sunday School (4 years old-6th Grade) - Sunday mornings 9:30-10:15 in Room 306
- Parents - join us for spiritual growth and fellowship with a discussion-based adult Sunday school (9:30-10:15 in the Ada Room). All parents are welcome to join!
- Family Game Night—Friday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm. Bring a game and a snack to share.
- Valentine's Crafts for Kids and Veggie-Tales marathon—Saturday, February 11th, 1:00-3:00 pm



# ABUNDANT HEALTH CORNER

## Some great thoughts as we start a new year!

### 10 Spiritual Principles for Climate Repentance: The Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders

The leaders of the world were gathered in Egypt, during this time of great international tension and conflict, for the Cop-27 meeting. Theirs is the urgent work of addressing the practical challenges of climate change and for negotiating between nations, in an attempt to help humanity resolve the climate crisis. As religious leaders we offer our voice as a contribution to the gathered leaders and to humanity. With the following ten principles we seek to initiate a process of climate repentance, broader understanding, and effective action. Our call is a call to action; and a call to return to a correct vision of the creation, the creator, and the harmonious relationship of humanity with creation.

### God and the world – the Nature of Being

1. We recognize human responsibility to love and protect nature.
2. We must treat all of life with reverence.
3. We must care for each other and the planet.

### Humanity and Its Responsibilities

1. We recognize that we are responsible for the wellbeing of all life today, as well as for future generations.
2. A disciplined spiritual life is helpful in overcoming the challenges of climate change.
3. Use thought, speech and action only for the good.
4. The human person is benefitted by the ongoing effort to purify, raise, and transform himself, in view of a higher vision.

### Living in Spirituality and Responsibility

1. Act knowing that every action counts.
2. Take seriously the lessons and observations that humanity has reached by application of its mind in scientific study and through common reason.
3. Be sensitive to the intolerable insecurities and injustices in which so many of our fellow-humans live.

## MEDIA DIRECTOR WANTED!

Part-time (10-15 hours per week)

**Contact Andrea Miller  
(801) 694-5384**



# THIS AND THAT

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## United Methodist Youth

Youth Group will meet the first Sunday of every month in the youth room after church 11:30am-1:00 pm. Youth are welcome to grab a treat in fellowship hall with their family and then come up to the youth room. We plan on meeting another Sunday each month for an activity. In February, we will meet on the 4th Sunday for an activity. More details TBD.

## Gospel Choir Spaghetti/ Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser

The Hilltop Gospel Choir will again be hosting a spaghetti or lasagna night on Friday, February 17th. Drive by pick up at the church beginning at 5:30pm. Meals will be provided by Fratelli Ristorante. Your choice of spaghetti with or without meatballs or meat or vegetarian lasagna. Cost is \$12.00/spaghetti order and \$14.00/lasagna order. Orders must be made and prepaid by Monday, February 13th. Use the Venmo (@HilltopGospel-Choir), the Venmo QR code, write a check payable to Hilltop Gospel Choir, or call Betty Long (801-557-6126) for additional payment options. All proceeds will go to the Hilltop Gospel Choir as they begin their 2023 season. Thank you.

## Family Camp

We have reservations at Pinecliff Camp for August 4-6, but we need someone to coordinate the activity. If you are interested, please contact the office.



## 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 note that you will provide, otherwise we'll get them for you. Please return the vases.

## 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.

## United Methodist Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, February 11th at 8:30 am**

Contact Rob Garrison at garri-sonjr@gmail.com



Hilltop United Methodist Church  
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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 Tracey Perry  
Email: [pastortraceyperry@gmail.com](mailto:pastortraceyperry@gmail.com)