

Hilltop Hallelujah

October 2017

Volume 6, Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

A Good Place for a U Turn

If we had a dime from every car that does a u-turn in our parking lot we would have more than enough money to pay to replace the amp on the organ that we approved during the congregational meeting last Sunday! Perhaps I am guilty of a bit of hyperbole here, but you would be surprised by the number of cars who pull into the church parking lot to turn around. Many do a "k-turn" by pulling into the driveway than backing into the street, others pull into a parking spot or turn a complete 180 degrees driving through the empty parking spaces and still others actually drive around the circle at the front of the church! I guess because of our location, Hilltop is a good place to come if you want to change course and travel in a different direction.

Hopefully, that is true not only of the parking lot but of the congregation, as well. At Hilltop we strive to be a place and a people, where making a mistake does not necessitate the wearing of a scarlet letter, or a halo of shame. At our best, we are a

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Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

It is hard to believe that we are already a full month into the new school year and that fall is officailly here! October is going to be a busy month here at Hilltop with lots of fun events planned for the kids here at Hilltop.

As a thank you to all our parents for entrusting us with the care of your child/ren, breakfast will be on us on Thursday, October 4th. So you can either come a little earlier than drop off time and enjoy a nice homecooked breakfast here at Hilltop with your child. Or if you are in a rush there will be to-go containers for you to pack yourself breakfast to enjoy when you get to work.



The week of October 9-13th is fire safety week, and the kids here will be visited by the Cromwell Fire Department! They will arrive in their fire engine to us all about fire safety and to show them their engine.



To get into the spirit of fall the three and four year old classroom will be taking a field trip to Fair Weather Acres located in Rocky Hill on Friday, October 5th. The kids will get to play in their corn pit, go on a hay ride, play some other games and pick a pumpkin to take home. A school bus equipped with seat belts will provide transportation.



If you are interested in getting a little exercise and also help out your community you can participate in Cromwell's Feeding Our Neighbors Walk. The walk will be on Sunday, October 15th from 1:00-3:00 pm and all money raised will go the Cromwell Food Bank. If you are unable to walk that day, consider sponsoring someone who is walking as a few daycare teachers will be participating. There are envelopes on the sign in table if you are interested.



(Pastor's Message, continued from page 1)

fellowship of followers of Jesus Christ, who are striving to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. At times we do both well, and others neither, but along the way we give thanks for the grace of God, by which we are forgiven and redeemed. As a forgiven and redeemed people, we aspire to generously share the grace that we have so lovingly received.

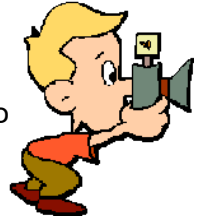
For years the criticism of "the church," especially the evangelical church, is that it (we) is hypocritical, we say one thing but then do the opposite. As is often the case the stereotype is born from elements of the truth. The church has been critical of other's behavior, conduct and even sin, yet denied our own sinful behavior and conduct. We have turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the discrimination and suffering of our sisters and brothers. We have neglected to care for and nurture "the least of these," as Jesus both did and commanded, "for as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me." We have not loved our neighbors, as we want to be loved, and for that we must confess and apologize. And the church is a great place to do just that, for the church, at its best, is a terrific place to do a u-turn, to change directions, to start anew.

For the Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ came that we, each and every one of us, might have a new life, a new start, a change of direction, where we can turn from our old life and into a new life with him. For most of us this u-turn is not a "one and done" deal. Instead, it is a daily, hourly, or even by the minute turning from our old sinful, selfish life, toward a life lived in a loving relationship with God and God's creation. That is the u-turn that the congregation at Hilltop was established to invite our neighbors to do, to turn into a new life with Christ. Little did we know that over 50 years ago when they built this new church building on the corner of Hicksville Road and West Street, that we would also be a place where people would come to do a u-turn in their vehicle. Hilltop is a great place to do a u-turn.

Pastor Scott

(Daycare Director's Message, continued from page 1)

Monday, October 23rd is picture day! Lifetouch will be here in the morning to photograph your child. You may also do sibling pictures if you would like. There is no obligation to buy the pictures once they come in.



On Tuesday, October 31st, the three & four year old classes will also be going to Covenant Village, a retirement community about a ¼ mile down the road from Hilltop. The Covenant Village bus will be picking the kids up so they can parade around in their costumes and sing some songs for the residents!



Just a reminder that all children, 6-59 months, attending a daycare center are required to receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccination now through December 31st. If this is their first season being vaccinated against influenza then they shall receive 2 doses of vaccine. It is a requirement by the Connecticut Department of Early Childhood Education that children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31st must be excluded from child care for the duration of influenza season (through March 31st). There are exceptions if your child has a medical contraindication or for religious beliefs. Please see the information sheet in your child's cubby for details on the exceptions. Once your child has had their flu vaccine, please bring in either their updated immunization record or the slip the doctor/nurse gave you indicating the date your child received the vaccine.



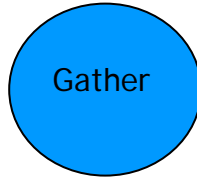
Ms. Laura

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

When you get a chance please take a look at the bulletin board downstairs in the hallway above the daycare hooks. You will see pictures of two children, Elie and Bijoux, that Hilltop Preschool and Daycare is sponsoring. These sponsorships are through *Covenant Kids Congo* which is powered by World Vision.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO



Following worship, join the “Lunch Bunch” at Mitchell’s on Main St. Make your reservation with Robin Jones.



COFFEE TIME

is in need of additional hosts. It is an easy job; we will provide coffee and paper products and you just need to add some kind of snacks!

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office to get added to the host schedule.

YOUTH GROUP

Working with the youth group this year Laura Winoski, Shari Pekarovic and Pastor Scott. We are excited to start another year of youth group and hope it will be filled with fun, helping others and continuing to grow in our faith journey. This is a particularly exciting year because we have nine students in youth group and seven are eligible (those in 9th to 12th grade) to attend CHIC this upcoming summer in Knoxville, TN.

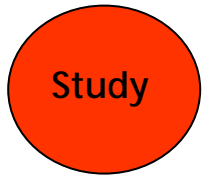
This will also be a big fundraising year for the youth group as we have the potential to send seven students to CHIC. There will be many opportunities to get together through the year to help raise money to offset costs.

Add to your calendar;

1. **Sunday, October 15th** - Feeding Our Neighbor Walk. We would like our youth group to walk together as a team and also try and raise money beforehand to benefit our local food pantry.
2. **Sunday, October 29th** - Halloween party at Hilltop for the youth from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. We will have food, games and lots of other fun!



OPPORTUNITIES TO



TEXT TALK

At Covenant Village on most Wednesday mornings, at 10:30 am, Pastor Scott leads “Text Talk”. People gather at the Stromberg apartment, #104, and spend some time reviewing the Scripture readings for the upcoming week.

In the Sunday bulletin the Scripture readings for the next week are listed so it is easy to read them ahead of time and come to “Text Talk” with your questions about the texts.



CONFIRMATION

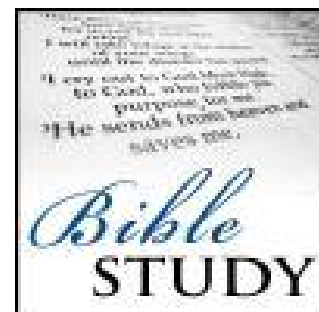
Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, October 11th, at 5:00 pm at the church. The class will be team taught by Pastor Scott. You will receive your new Journals, focusing on the Old Testament, at the first class.

Please keep Nick Beck and Isabella Gengler (and Pastor Scott) in your prayers!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School will resume on October 8. The group meets back in the sanctuary after a time of refreshment in the Fellowship Room.





BIRTHDAYS



ANNIVERSARIES

Lanna Hallden 10/2	Barbara Damon	10/18	Carola Chaffin	10/31	Dale & Betty Comstock	10/25
Joe Pessa 10/4	Jim Hite	10/21			Carroll & Marilyn Nelson	10/25
Leah White 10/7	Ethan White	10/23			Brian & Joan Armet	10/28
Ray Kliewer 10/8	Carroll Nelson	10/26				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Time</p> <p>12:15 PM Lunch Bunch</p> <p>12:30 PM CCCF</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 PM AA</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">AA is non-smoking</div>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Time</p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>12:15 PM Lunch Bunch</p> <p>12:30 PM CCCF</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30 PM MOPS</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation</p> <p>6:30 PM Daycare Board</p> <p>8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Time</p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>12:15 PM Lunch Bunch</p> <p>12:30 PM CCCF</p> <p>12:30 PM Feed Your Neighbor Walk</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation</p> <p>8:00 PM AA</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">AA is non-smoking</div>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Pick of the Litter</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Time</p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>12:15 PM Lunch Bunch</p> <p>12:30 PM CCCF</p> <p>KICY SUNDAY</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 PM MOPS</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation</p> <p>8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Time</p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>12:15 PM Lunch Bunch</p> <p>12:30 PM CCCF</p> <p>5:30 PM Youth Group Party</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Meetings are held in the Fellowship Room unless noted otherwise.</p>		<p>Text Talk is held at CVOC, apt. 104, at the Stromberg's</p>	

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Communion: October 8, 2017 Barbara Damon, Sally Huggins

	GREETERS	USHERS	READERS	CUSTODIANS
Oct. 1	Barbara Damon	Jim & Jenn Hite	Rick Brown	Barbara Damon, Vicki Brown
Oct. 8	Laura Winoski	Jordyn & Nicole Pekarovic	Jenn Hite	Brian & Joan Armet
Oct. 15	Lorrey Hamilton	Brian & Dale Chiffer	Vicki Brown	Barbara D., Carolyn Johnson
Oct. 22	Dale Comstock	Barbara Damon Laura Winoski	Brian Chiffer	Shari Pekarovic, Laura Winoski
Oct. 29	Robin Jones	Jim & Jenn Hite	Candace Cunningham	Dale Comstock, Vicki Brown

OPPORTUNITIES TO

Serve



Sunday, October 16, the "Feeding Our Neighbors Walk" will take place in Cromwell. All of the proceeds benefit the Food Pantry at Cromwell Human Services. The 2.7-mile walk begins at 1:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 50 Court Street. Each walker is encouraged to gather sponsors and donations from their family, friends and co-workers prior to the walk.

Registration/Donation forms are available in the narthex. If you would like to help – but only from the sidelines – ask around the church because there are a lot of folks who would love to have you sponsor them!

COOKIE WALK

Cookie Walk VIII is a mere 9+ weeks away!

The Cookie Walk will be our last opportunity in 2017 to help build the coffers that will enable our youth to attend Camp Squanto next summer and CHIC in 2018. **"2018! That's not so far away!"** If all the youth that will be eligible to go in 2018 actually do choose to attend, we are going to need close to \$10,000! That's why CW IX is so important.

Please let me know how you may be able, and available, to make this year's CW a huge success!

Sally Huggins



PICK OF THE LITTER



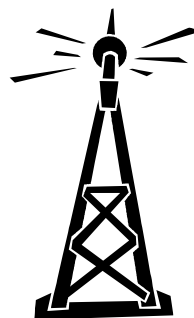
October 21st! This is a very visible form of *Evangelism and Outreach* and greatly appreciated by the folks that frequent the park!

We have had a faithful group of helpers this summer and some new folks who have joined us also. Many hands make the tasks go quicker and smoother! In fact, we've finished our cleaning in just an hour!

Can you spare an hour in October to join the crew? This will be the last opportunity in 2017 to spruce up Pierson Park!

Thank you Carolyn Johnson for again providing treats for this service!

KICY 100% Sunday



Once a year, Christian radio station KICY in Nome, Alaska asks that everyone who attends worship in a Covenant church that day contribute \$1.00 to help fund the ministry.

On October 22 we will receive a retiring offering for KICY.

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Our sponsorship will help to provide Elie, Bijoux and their communities with feeding programs to help malnourished children, along with access to clean water, immunizations, vitamins and deworming.

How can you give back to those less fortunate? Join us by sponsoring a child of your own. The cost is \$40.00 per month which will make such a difference to so many!

“When you sponsor a child through CVC, you not only make a difference for one child in Congo, but your sponsorship will help fund long-term development for the entire community. Thanks to your support, more children and families will benefit from community resources like clean water, education, nutrition, healthcare and microenterprise. Best estimates are that for every child sponsored, 8-10 children will benefit from your generosity.” Learn more at [CovChurch.org/Covenant KidsCongo](http://CovChurch.org/CovenantKidsCongo).

Rev. Scott B. Jones	Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Robert McNaughton.....	Pastor Emeritus
Carolyn Johnson	Director of Music
Laura Winoski	Hilltop Preschool and Daycare Director
Sally Huggins.....	Church Secretary



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