

Hilltop Hallelujah

January 2018

Volume 6, Issue 7

From the Pastor's Desk

Turning the Page

I like to turn the page, whether it is a page of a book I am reading, a to-do list that I am completing, or a calendar that I am moving to the next day, month or year - I find a lot of satisfaction in turning the page. Turning the page is a first step into the future. It provides us with the opportunity to put the past behind us, while we move into the opportunities and promise of a new day. We will soon be turning the page on 2017 as we welcome 2018. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were frantically preparing for Y2K, and yet we have turned the page eight years since then.

With the advent of a new year, many of us will make new promises and commitments in an effort to turn the page upon the past and to begin the new year with a fresh start. Realistically, many of our new year's pledges and resolutions will not be fulfilled. We may start strong and consistent, with a new sense of purpose and energy, but as the days and weeks progress most of us will fall back into old patterns and routines. It is difficult for us to break out of the deeply established ruts that we have worn into our daily lives.

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Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

Happy 2018! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and feels well rested after a few days off from work.

Since the weather has been getting colder, please remember to bring a winter hat, gloves and a warm winter coat for your child so they stay warm when we go outside. When there is snow on the ground, you may also bring in snow pants and snow boots so the kids can play in the snow. If possible, please try to label everything with your child's name.

Just a reminder that during the winter months we will be having Pajama Fridays. The kids are welcome to wear pajamas to school every Friday so we stay cozy and warm during these cold months.



woohoo



It's Friday

If your child would like to wear slippers, please bring some other footwear for when we go outside.

In the event of a severe winter storm, we will announce a closing or an opening delay on NBC CONNECTICUT Storm Alert. You may view this on your television or at www.nbcconnecticut.com. Click on *Weather*, then *School Closings*. We will be listed as **HILLTOP DAYCARE, CROMWELL**. Please note, there is a similarly named school in Torrington named Hilltop Christian Nursery School. You may also subscribe to an automatic email or text message that will be sent to you in the event of a closing or delay. The link can be found by clicking on *Weather*, and then *Storm Closing Alerts*, on their website.



Ms. Laura

(Senior Pastor's Message, continued from page 1)

However, we do not need to be discouraged by the difficulty of turning the page on our past, because we are given the opportunity to do so daily. In fact, through the abundant pardon (Isaiah 55:7) that we receive through Jesus Christ, we are provided with the opportunity to turn the page on the past daily, hourly and even by the second. We just celebrated the advent of God's love for all of creation, which was revealed to us in the baby Jesus. The love of God in Jesus provides us all with the opportunity to put our past iniquities in the past, where they belong, so that we might begin anew. Each new day we should be mindful of the fresh start that we are given. It is the opportunity to live our lives in Christ, having received the fullness of Christ through our baptism. Fortunately, this gift of new life is renewable, each and every time that we confess our shortcomings, our disappointments and our sins to God. When we do so, we are pardoned abundantly and invited to turn the page, as God has done for us.

So, Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, for each day and year provide us with the promise of new life. Enjoy yours!

Pastor Scott



2017 YEAR-END GIVING

Any gifts to Hilltop Covenant Church that you would like included on your 2017 Giving Statement need to be received in the church office by Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Your check MUST be dated December 31, 2017 or earlier, for it to be recorded as a donation for 2017.

CHIC Parent Meeting

Early registrations for CHIC, with the *Early Bird Discount*, are due January 18, 2018. A deposit of \$100 and the *Student Registration Form* are required. Please come to the CHIC Parent Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 7 to receive more information, pay your student's deposit and complete his/her registration form.

We are asking parents/families to pay the deposit. We hope to have the necessary funds to pay for the remainder of the student registration fee and travel expenses from the CHIC fund.

If you need help paying the deposit, please see Pastor Scott.

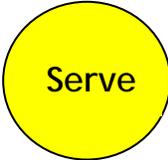
THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Many thanks from the staff to all who gave so generously to the Staff Christmas Gift. We pray that you were equally as blessed in the giving, as we are in the receiving of these gifts.

With deep gratitude and affection,
Sally, Carolyn, and Pastor Scott



OPPORTUNITIES TO



Serve

Thank you to everyone who contributed groceries and gift cards for our food boxes to Adelbrook. We delivered two boxes this year and know that the recipients were blessed and grateful for your generosity.



Church Custodians

We have had several teams of faithful volunteer custodians for the last three years and in 2018 we will have a "paid custodian"!



Thank you to all the folks who donated their time and energy to maintain our facility! Your commitment may have gone un-praised but never unnoticed!

Christmas Card Tree



This year we sent \$245.00 to the "Covenant Minister's Aid Fund." Your contribution made it possible for the Conference to minister to those, in time of need, who spend their lives ministering to us.

Greetings were received from:

Betty Barber
Rick & Vicki Brown
Candace & Julia Cunningham
Brian & Dale Chiffer
Barbara Damon, Joe & Avery
Jean DeValve
Jackie DeStefano & family
Bill & Amanda Drew & family
Lois Durivage
Sally Huggins
Carolyn Johnson
Pastor Scott, Robin and family
Dolly & Ray Larson
Jim Magson
Bob McNaughton
Bob & Lucielle Stromberg

How many people do I need to cook for? The meal is typically dinner for 8-12 adults (moms and helpers). That might sound like a lot, but they are all pretty light eaters. We have typically had more food than we've needed! One casserole is plenty.

What time does the meal need to be served?

The moms and children eat between 5:30 and 6:00 PM. The meal can be dropped off earlier in the day with instructions to heat, or brought hot and ready to serve.

What do I need to provide? The meal can be pretty simple; an entrée, and salad, or a salad as an entrée. It could be soup, a casserole, crock pot meal or pasta. The moms are not picky and are very appreciative. The only request is that the food not contain nuts. We have the requisite paper products, but a beverage is always a nice addition. The children are fed by the Daycare.

What if I can't prepare a meal, but want to help? People have given donations so that we can subsidize the cost of preparing a meal, for those who need it, or so that we can purchase a meal when no one is available to cook.

January 2018 Schedule:

Tues. Jan. 16
Tues. Jan. 30

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2018 or are a regular contributor to Hilltop Covenant Church, chances are offering envelopes have been assigned for you and available for pickup in the narthex.

If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please notify the church office or indicate that on the Ministry of Friendship pad.

SERVING I

Communion: January 7, 2018 Sally Huggins, Bob Mc

GREETERS

USHERS

Jan. 7	Barbara Damon	Jim & Jenn Hite
Jan. 14	Sally Huggins	Barbara Damon, Bob McNaughton
Jan. 21	Robin Jones	Brian & Joan Armet
Jan. 28	Lorrey Hamilton	Barbara Damon Laura Winoski

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONFIRMATION



Confirmation will resume Wednesday, January 3 at 5:00 PM. Be sure to be working on memorizing your Building Blocks and completing Lessons 9 & 10 during the break!

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This year the worldwide ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. The theme for the week is "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power" (Exodus 15:6). To celebrate our ecumenism, the Christian Churches in Cromwell will participate in a pulpit exchange on Sunday, January 28th.

Pastor Paul Krampitz, of Bethany Lutheran Church, will be preaching at Hilltop that morning. Pastor Scott will be preaching at St. John Roman Catholic Church at their 5:00 PM mass on Saturday, January 27th.



Sermons Are Online!

If you missed a Sunday sermon, you will be able to hear it on our website by the end of the day on Tuesday following the Sunday you missed; in other words, two days after the worship service. www.hilltopcovenant.org



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.



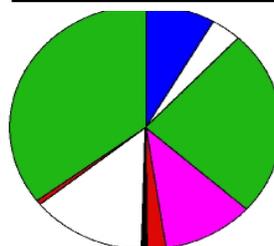
Liturgical Colors

Green is the color used for the season of Epiphany. In many Christian churches Epiphany is a Christian festival, recognized on the 6th of January, that celebrates the arrival of the wise men who came to see Jesus of Nazareth soon after he was born.

When you consider a couple other definitions of "epiphany" -

- * *an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity.*
- * *a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience*

than referring to the next 7 weeks as "Epiphany" is totally logical! The magi certainly recognized Jesus as God incarnate and what could have been more simple and commonplace than his birth?



- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Ordinary Time

OPPORTUNITIES TO



HILLTOP

Every Sunday is an opportunity to gather with family and friends at Mitchell's on Main Street for lunch.

Following Adult Sunday School you are invited to join us at Mitchell's; make your reservation with Robin Jones during Coffee Time.

BUNCH

Coffee Time



Coffee Time follows worship every Sunday and is typically very well attended. Coffee Time is always looking for additional hosts / hostesses. All you need to provide is the snack, juice and coffee creamer.

A sign-up sheet for Coffee Time hosts is in the narthex



WEATHER ALERT -

In the event of a severe winter storm, we will announce a church closing on NBC CONNECTICUT'S Storm Alert. You may view this on your television or at www.nbcconnecticut.com. Click on *Weather*, then *Closings*.



Annual Meeting Part Two will take place on Sunday, Jan.21, 2018.

A couple of years ago we started hearing our ministry reports during our worship service. This gave more of us the opportunity to hear what is happening in our ministries and it allowed us to thank and praise God during worship for how his Spirit has been moving in our midst. We will follow a similar pattern this year.

Following the service we will attend to the more business-like items, such as approving the significant changes to the Bylaws that were presented at Annual Meeting, Part One on December 10, 2017. Once we approve our new Leadership Team Model we will elect our first Leadership Team.



Hilltop Preschool and Daycare
82 Hicksville Rd
Cromwell, CT 06416



Circles of Life in Christ