

# Hilltop Hallelujah

July 2018

Volume 7, Issue 1

## From the Pastor's Desk

### First and Last

As I sat down to write my last article for the Hilltop Hallelujah I wondered what I had written in my first article. So I sorted the folder of newsletter articles on my computer and found one; the article below I wrote in April 2010. I was immediately struck by its relevance as I reflect upon the ministry that we have enjoyed together.

*2010 - "For we are not peddlers of God's word like so many; but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence. 2 Corinthians 2:17"*

*This passage was the key verse from the book of daily reflections that I read the other day. These powerful words of Paul have stayed with me since then. What a wonderful reminder to us while we are in the midst of the Revitalization Process at Hilltop. As children of God we can sometimes become so excited about the promises that we have received through God's gracious love that we try to sell it to others. Out of our desire to spread the Good News, we become like an infomercial, offering those we come in contact with one free gift after another, if they will only come to church with us. Instead of trying to sell God's love, we should share God's grace through loving, honest relationships.*

*During one of the interviews I had with the Pastoral Search Committee prior to coming to Hilltop, I was asked how I define success in the ministry. There are many books and programs that point to churches with high attendance and large staffs and budgets as being successful. They might be. But I think success in ministry is best defined by relationship. The relationship that each of us who are engaged in ministry (and all of God's children are ministers) have with God as well as the relationships that we have with one another. Ministry should strengthen and deepen our relationship with God and with each other. If we are not growing in those relationships, then our ministry is not being successful. In the short time that we have been at Hilltop I am excited by the many "successful" ministries that are already taking place; The Hilltop Preschool and Day Care, Angel Food Ministries, Children's Worship, Chancel Choir, Youth Ministry, Text Talk, Prayer Meetings, to name a few. And I am even more excited about the successful ministries that God has in mind for us in the future!*

*Pastor Scott*

2018- As I look back upon our ministry together, I would characterize it as successful. Sure, there were things that didn't turn out as we had hoped, or planned, but through it all my relationship with God and the people of God (you) has deepened and strengthened. We have not resorted to becoming peddlers of God's word, but sharers of God's love, which is what we as the church were created to do. I give God thanks for our time in Cromwell, and especially for each and every one of you. By your love, support and encouragement you have become a part of me and will be a part of any ministry of which I am a part.

You received me as a second vocation, recent seminary grad and have loved me into the pastor whom I have become. It probably doesn't seem fair that you went to the trouble of training me and now I am leaving, but I am grateful that you are graciously releasing me to fulfill my call as a son and pastor in this next season of ministry. Know that I will think of you often and pray for you regularly. I, also, hope to join you regularly at the Lord's Table for Holy Communion; for the meal of remembrance is not bound by time or space. Nor, for that matter, is the unity that we share in Christ. So while we might be apart, we still share in the same grace that has been offered to all people.

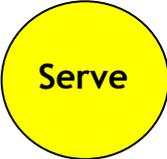
Much grace and love.

Pastor Scott

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# OPPORTUNITIES TO



Communion: July 1, 2018 Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski

	GREETERS	USHERS	READERS	COFFEE TIME
July 1	Shari Pekarovic	Jordyn & Nicole Pekarovic	Nicole Pekarovic	Barbecue
July 8	Lorrey Hamilton	Barbara Damon, Dale Comstock	Candace Cunningham	} <b>Wide Open!</b>
July 15	Sally Huggins	Brian & Joan Armet	Brian Chiffer	
July 22	Laura Winoski	Sally & Bob McNaughton	Vicki Brown	
July 29	Lorrey Hamilton	Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski	Jim Hite	

## PICK OF THE LITTER



Pick of the Litter (POTL) happens at Pierson Park on the third Saturday of On n July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am.

I am hoping we will have more volunteers in July because Pastor Scott will not be there to help nor will Sally.

Please join us, as we demonstrate our love of our neighbors in this tangible way.

Thank you Carolyn Johnson for again providing snack and beverages!

## 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.

Sign up in the narthex to be a Coffee Time host!

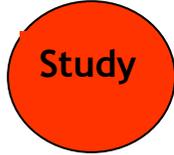
## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our giving continues to lag behind our behind budget and the gap is growing. We have received **\$5,896** less than budget through May 2018, and we have just entered the summer when giving traditionally decreases. Our expenses, however, are right on budget. Please review your giving history and consider increasing your regular giving, or giving a special gift to Hilltop!

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income (all sources)	\$69,385	\$76,138	<b>(\$6,753)</b>
Expenses	\$76,145	\$76,369	<b>(\$224)</b>
Net Income	<b>(\$6,781)</b>	<b>(\$232)</b>	<b>(\$6549)</b>

Year to date, through May 2018

# OPPORTUNITIES TO



Study

## SERMONS 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](http://www.hilltopcovenant.org)



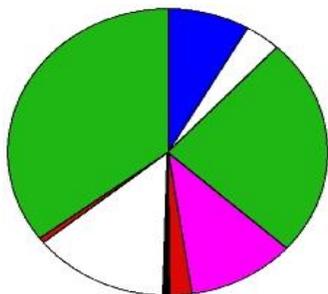
Thank you Jonathan Beatty for agreeing to try to teach Sally how to do it!

### The Church's "ORDINARY TIME"

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the sun..." Ecc. 3: 1-8

I'm sure you have noticed that the banners in the sanctuary have changed color and design. That's because we have entered a new church season, namely "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time encompasses that part of the Christian year that does not fall within the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter.

The color **GREEN** symbolizes the renewal of vegetation and generally of living things and the promise of new life. It is used for the seasons of Epiphany, between Transfiguration Sunday and the beginning of Lent, and for Ordinary Time, between Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and the beginning of Advent. During the other Sundays after Pentecost, Green is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.



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



CHIC 2018  
**July 15-20, 2018**, at the University of  
 Tennessee at Knoxville

Every three years more than 5,000 students from across **The Evangelical Covenant Church** come together in one place to glimpse how they fit into the bigger picture of God's kingdom.

*(Having gone to CHIC twice as a member of the CHIC staff I can attest to the fact that the youth can, and do, have FUN at the conference but there is also ample opportunity to explore God's plan for their lives. Sally H.)*

Please keep these "travelers" in your prayers:

NOAH HALLDEN                      SHARI PEKAROVIC  
 JORDYN PEKAROVIC              LAURA WINOSKI  
 NICOLE PEKAROVIC  
 MADISON WHITE

Also, keep the youth who are attending CHIC from Pilgrim Covenant Church in Granby in your thoughts and prayers. Pastor Scott "mentored" their Youth Pastor, Matt Gillis, and they will be welcoming Noah into their dorm rooms since we do not have a male counselor this year.

## Graduates & Confirmands

We have many students who will move up a grade in the new school year, but only two who have graduated from one school into another: Congratulations to NICK BECK and ISABELLA GENGLER!



Nick and Bella were also our 2 confirmands on June 3<sup>rd</sup>!

BIRTHDAYS  ANNIVERSARIES

Jordyn Pekarovic  
Nicole Pekarovic  
Ari Croteau

7/14  
7/14  
7/17

Doris Larson 7/24  
Laura Winoski 7/27  
Marian Kliewer 7/29

Susan & Marc Kagan

July 6



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion 10:45 AM Farewell BBQ 12:30 PM CCCF	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 PM AA Church Office and Daycare are closed 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Time 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM CCCF	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00 PM AA <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">AA is non-smoking</div>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Time 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM CCCF	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00 PM AA <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">AA is non-smoking</div>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM POTL 
<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Time 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM CCCF	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00 PM AA <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">AA is non-smoking</div>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Time 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM CCCF	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">                         Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held in the Fellowship Room.                     </div>			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# OPPORTUNITIES TO

Gather

# COOKIE WALK

## Hilltop Cookie Contest

### PASTOR SCOTT'S LAST SUNDAY

On Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> our worship service will include a "liturgy of release" as we say good bye to Pastor Scott.

Following worship, in lieu of Coffee Time, we will gather downstairs for his final barbecue at Hilltop!

In the past 8+ years perhaps you recall a favorite food of his? If so, you are invited to bring it to share.



### AN UPDATE FROM JEN BECK

The Chicago Sam's fundraiser for Jen Beck generated over \$6000 towards her July treatment. There was still a balance the family had to pay and Jen said, "I'm thrilled I can go again."



(My words not Jen's but this pic is like the one she sent me, as if to say, "what can you do?")

She wrote, "My church family has given me countless days of freedom from pain and fear."

Jen will leave for Zurich on 7/19, return 7/22.

How can you/we help Jen & family?

1. continue to pray for her and the family
2. offer a ride to and/or from the airport (NY) on July 19
3. provide supper for the family on July 22

This contest was so much fun last year that we should do it again! Not that we are at all competitive, but who wants to beat Chris Crawford, winner of the Hilltop's Second Cookie Contest last year?

On **July 29** everyone is invited to bring their favorite home-made cookie for Coffee Time. Either make your cookies small or we will break them into bite-size pieces so everyone can try each kind and vote for their favorite.

The winning cookie baker will receive a grocery store gift card so he/she can make the winning cookies for Cookie Walk X.



(The destination of Cookie Walk proceeds could be subject to change if a pressing need arises elsewhere, but for the time being, CW X proceeds will help fund camperships to Camp Squanto and the CHIC Fund.)

*If you are unfamiliar with CHIC, it is the triennial youth conference held by the Evangelical Covenant Church, at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, TN. Teens from around the country and many other nations participate in service projects, Bible study and worship. It is a time when, surrounded by thousands of other young men and women, a teen experiences strengthening of faith and spiritual growth. The cost to attend CHIC can be staggering to a family and we think it is important to help defray most, if not all of the expenses, to send our young people to an event that can be truly life-changing and life-saving! Sally Huggins*

**IF YOU PLAN TO BRING COOKIES, PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.**

# Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on July 15, immediately following worship and a brief Coffee Time.

There are just two items, presently, on the agenda - electing the members of the Pastoral Search Committee and approving a financial gift to Sally Huggins for a fall mission trip.

This meeting, according to Barbara Damon, Leadership Team Chair, "is an important first step in launching the process we will use to discern God's plan for our next Senior Pastor."

# ATOR

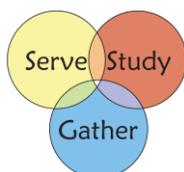
This is the mission trip that Sally Huggins is going on in September:

"A Tour of Roses" began in 2009 "as a gift of love to the people in the villages, towns, and cities throughout Europe where the Holocaust left scars." It went to 3 former concentration camps in Germany and Poland and "interceded through worship and prayer for God's healing of these lands and their people." Last December ATOR went to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho. They landed in Tel Aviv right after the President announced the US Embassy move to Jerusalem. Amidst rioting and tear gas they were able to keep to the worship, concert and conference schedules and handed out roses to share the love of God.

ATOR will go to the First Nations People in Ft Frances, Ontario in September.



Hilltop Preschool and Daycare  
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Circles of Life in Christ