

# Hilltop Hallelujah

August 2018

Volume 7, Issue 2

## from the Interim Pastor's Perspective

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Hi! I'm your new interim pastor, Kevin David. Rather than attempt to fill Pastor Scott's rather large ministry shoes and try to continue to write the newsletter's "Pastor's Corner," I'm simply going to write to you from the "Interim Pastor's Perspective."

During our "getting acquainted period" of this interim pastorate, our worship will follow the Evangelical Covenant's Revised Common Lectionary, Year B for 2017 – 2018 and trace the Biblical narrative about Jesus. Mapping such a course necessitates our viewing Christ's mission through the Gospels. More specifically, the Gospel narratives written by Mark and John provide the lectionary framework for our worship schedule allowing us to "see" Jesus from differing perspectives.

Much like different, individual witnesses of the same event, Mark and John, and, in fact all four Gospels view many of the very same events and stories related to Jesus from a variety of vantage points. Matthew and John are eyewitnesses: Matthew as an 'outsider' (former tax collector, now called to be an apostle) looking in at Jesus and John as an 'insider' looking over Jesus' shoulder as Jesus' closest friend and one of the three inner circle: Peter, James, and John. Mark and Luke wrote their narratives by interviewing others who were eyewitnesses, such as Peter for whom Mark wrote and the apostle Paul with whom the physician Luke traveled. Some early (ancient) theologians believe either Mark or Luke or both may have been members of the 70 disciples who actually followed Jesus and the 12 apostles.

continued on page 2

## Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

We are excited that we have a lot of new families starting in the fall and look forward to getting to know the new children that will be joining us. We still have availability in our three and four year old classrooms, so if you know anyone looking for a preschool or daycare please tell them about Hilltop. As a thank you for your referral you will receive a tuition-free week for every family that enrolls that mentions your name.

In your child's cubby you should have received the new rates for the 2018/2019 school year. We do a minimal rate increase every 2 years. These rates will go into effect the first week of September. There are extra copies on the sign-in table if needed.

It was great to have Ms. Zoe, Ms. Olivia and Ms. Sarah back for the summer! We wish them all luck as they all go off to college in the fall.

Just a reminder that Hilltop will be **closed** on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> for a teacher in-service day and Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> for Labor Day.

Ms. Laura



### LABOR DAY



(Interim Pastor Message, continued from page 1)

By studying the same event through more than one Gospel narrative, we are able to learn much more and make a greater application to our own lives because the imagery becomes less linear and more multi-dimensional. The Synoptic Gospel of Mark reminds me of the TV program, Dragnet's Joe Friday, who repeatedly spoke the famous line: "Just give me the facts, ma'am!" For me, the Gospel of John offers insights and asides that only a close companion could share. It's like the TV show Walton's Mountain, with John-boy narrating and explaining the plot with details the three Synoptic Gospels do not relate.

Some interesting facts about John Mark (Mark): his mother owned a house in Jerusalem and used her home as a meeting place for the Christian believers (Acts 12:12). Mark's name was actually John. Mark was his surname and he was thus referred to as John Mark, or simply Mark by other Biblical writers. Colossians 4:10 explains that John Mark was the cousin of Barnabas.

John, the brother of James (the sons of Zebedee) was Jesus' closest friend. John's Gospel is not one of those called the Synoptic Gospels because his is a departure from a fact-based narrative, such as Matthew, Mark, and Luke which have many

similarities, and shares a more intimate, relational narrative. John only provides seven of the parables told by the other three. Important to us are some factual components in John's narrative that are not told by the others: The Wedding in Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2:1-12); Jesus' meeting with the Pharisee, Nicodemus and explaining, "You must be born again" (John 3:3); healing the nobleman's son from long distance (John 4:46-54); and the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11).

The rich, word-tapestry of these Gospel narratives provide the background and the framework for understanding that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh is God and one with the Father. The applications constructed by the Holy Spirit in these Gospels reveals a testimony of Grace which may be comprehended and acted on by the simplest of people. In Christ we may receive Grace by exercising faith in Him. As John reveals (1:29): "Behold! [Jesus is] The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"

It is my prayer that this summer series of messages following the Lectionary Gospel lessons will provide us with rewarding new applications to familiar Biblical stories. Who knows, we may even learn some new applications as well!

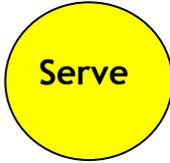


### How Well Do You Know Your Hymns Trivia!

We sing four hymns almost every Sunday. The titles are printed in the bulletin, and that is how we identify them. But, did you ever look at the bottom of the page in the hymnal? If you have, you might have noticed a name in capital letters on the lower right hand corner. This is the "tune" name. Sometimes the organ music I play is based on one of these tunes. These have come about in a variety of ways, sometimes lost in the mists of times past. Often the same tune will appear multiple times in the hymnal, just with different words. No, I'm not going into a history lesson on hymnody! Instead, I'm posing a fun challenge. How many of the following hymns can you match up with their tune names? No peeking at the hymnal! The quiz is on page 2. Answers may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Carolyn Johnson, Director of Music

# OPPORTUNITIES TO



Communion: August 5, 2018

Jonathan Beatty, Sally Huggins

	GREETERS	USHERS	READERS	COFFEE TIME
Aug. 5	Barbara Damon	Jim & Jenn Hite	Bob McNaughton	} <b>WIDE OPEN!</b>
Aug. 12	Dale Comstock	Barbara Damon, Sally Huggins	Candace Cunningham	
Aug. 19	Laura Winoski	Nicole & Jordyn Pekarovic	Sally Huggins	
Aug. 26	Sally Huggins	Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski	Dale Chiffer	Carolyn Johnson

## PICK OF THE LITTER



Pick of the Litter (POTL) happens at Pierson Park on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am.

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!



### HYMNS

- If You Will Only Let God Guide You (401)
- There Is A Redeemer (75)
- Glorious Things of You Are Spoken (594)
- Go, My Children (676)
- O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (346)
- Built On the Rock (595)
- Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (27)
- I Will Sing the Wondrous Story (219)
- Whosoe'er, Anywhere (337)
- Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (487)

### HYMN TUNES

- \_\_\_ OPEN DOOR
- \_\_\_ KIRKEN
- \_\_\_ HYFRYDOL
- \_\_\_ NEUMARK
- \_\_\_ ST. AGNES
- \_\_\_ GREEN
- \_\_\_ AUSTRIAN HYMN
- \_\_\_ AR HYD Y NOS
- \_\_\_ MIT FREUDEN ZART
- \_\_\_ EBENEZER

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES



Scott Hallden Aug. 8  
 Bob Stromberg Aug. 15  
 Jen Beck Aug. 16  
 Abigail Drew Aug. 14  
 Esther MacSwan Aug. 27

Brian & Dale Chiffer Aug. 17

My apologies to all who didn't receive greeting cards in July! Will try to get back on track this month!

# FEFE

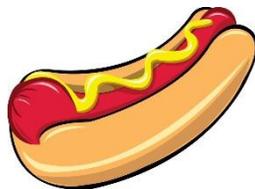
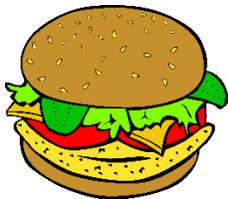


With the arrival of Pastor Kevin and my short term departure for Canada, it's time to have a **FEFE (Fun Event For Everyone)!**

Date – Friday, Sept. 7  
 Place – Sally Huggins' house  
 821 Four Rod Rd, Berlin  
 Time – after daycare closes, between 5:30- 6 PM  
 RSVP – (860) 983-2591; [s.huggins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.huggins@sbcglobal.net)

What to bring?  
 Salads or side dishes; chips or dessert  
 Whatever you want to drink  
 Maybe a lawn chair

I will have hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls



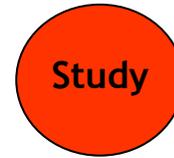
Pastor Kevin will be getting a new computer for his office – thank you Jonathan Beatty for seeing to that – but in the meantime, messages for him can be emailed to [pastor@hilltopcovenant.org](mailto:pastor@hilltopcovenant.org).

For the time being those emails are being forwarded to [office@hilltopcovenant.org](mailto:office@hilltopcovenant.org). If your message is of a private nature, just put "personal" in the subject heading and I will not open it.  
 Sally

Answer key for hymn trivia:

- i\_\_ OPEN DOOR
- f\_\_ KIRKEN
- h\_\_ HYFRYDOL
- a\_\_ NEUMARK
- j\_\_ ST. AGNES
- b\_\_ GREEN
- c\_\_ AUSTRIAN HYMN
- d\_\_ AR HYD Y NOS
- g\_\_ MIT FREUDEN ZART
- e\_\_ EBENEZER

## OPPORTUNITIES TO



### SERMONS ONLINE will be here soon!

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!



CHIC 2018 is now history!

The wonderful thing about “history” is that it is seldom forgotten! Not only did our attendees this year experience a massive integration of more than 5,000 students, together in one place, they also got a glimpse how they fit into the bigger picture of God’s kingdom. And I believe it is an experience they are not likely to forget!

Noah Hallden, Jordyn and Nicole Pekarovic, Maddie White and Shari Pekarovic and Laura Winoski invite you to be at worship on August 12 as they share their CHIC adventure with you through pictures and words!

Also, a big thank you to Matt Gillis and the teens from Pilgrim Covenant Church for welcoming Noah into their dorm rooms.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO



## COOKIE WALK

Our first Cookie Walk was held on Dec. 5, 2009, but the idea came much earlier. In fact, it was first proposed to me by Marcia Stohlberg, but all we did then was “think” about it and envision how the sanctuary could be used for such an event.

For the first couple of years CW was a means to add money to the General Fund and, specifically, to help pay our Missions commitments. I think it was after I attended CHIC in July 2003, that it was proposed that CW receipts be used to build up our CHIC and Camp Squanto fund.

Though CW doesn’t bring in an astronomical amount of money, it is income the church wouldn’t have otherwise. CW is not a budgeted item and all the cookies, crafts and gift baskets that make up the “Holiday Fair” are donated!

So, in that respect, they have all been successful.

In 2012 we were able to completely fund CHIC for 4 people! In 2018, we sent 6 people to CHIC (about \$940 /person)! In addition, we gave almost a full Camp Squanto scholarship to a former daycare student (\$360)! And you gave me \$600 to help fund my ATOR mission trip in September! The point being that none of this would have been possible without our “Cookie Walk and Holiday Fair”.

It’s only 17 weeks until December 1, 2018, the date for Cookie Walk X! This is an effort that needs help from everyone!

# 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, September 9-18.

*“I’d like to thank my friends and church family who have agreed to be my “prayer partners” as we prepare for this trip, during the days of the tour and after we return.*

*I think anytime people try to share the love and grace and healing that God offers to us, there will be obstacles put in our way. They could be in the form of physical barriers, emotional circumstances or even people that want to diminish our zeal for the task at hand, which of course, is to share the gospel and lead people to Christ.*

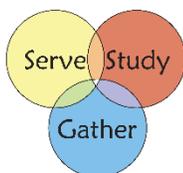
*Matthew 28:19-20 tells us to ‘Go and make disciples of all nations...’ and sometimes we can use words to do that; in Ft. Frances, I think it is our actions that the Holy Spirit will use to make an impact.*

*Please feel free to remember the entire team in prayer.*

*Sally Huggins*



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Circles of Life in Christ