

Hilltop Hallelujah

February 2019

Volume 7, Issue 8

from the Interim Pastor's Perspective

What Does It Mean: They Will Know Us by Our Love?

Through the prophet, Jeremiah, God encourages His people with these comforting words:

“My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart” (Jeremiah 24:7).

From a ‘God’s eye view’ is a phrase that projects a significant mental picture – of God viewing his people, the church from a different perspective and position than people see each other. But it is not from a prepositional, positional perspective, such as ‘above,’ or ‘below’ that God watches over us. What people see and what God observes are from polarized views.

People see each other in a physical dimension through the lenses of the flesh. But God looks at the heart [1 Samuel 16:7] through the window of the soul. What looks good and seems right to people may appear distorted and ugly to God [Proverbs 14:12]. Conversely,

(continued on page 2)

In this issue:

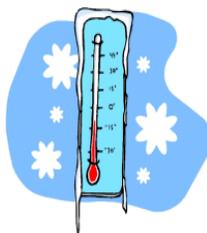
Pastor's Message	p. 1-2
Daycare Director	p. 1
Sermons-on-Line	p. 2
Camp Squanto	p. 2
Opportunities to Serve MOPS	p. 3
Annual Meeting	p. 4
Special Dates	p. 5
Study and Gather	p. 5
Adult Sunday School	
Covenant World Relief	p. 5
February Birthdays	p. 6

Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

There is no school for ECS or WIS on Friday, February 15th, Monday, February 18th and Tuesday, February 19th. If your child will be at Hilltop those days, please check them off on the sheet on the sign in table so we can plan accordingly.

Now that we are mid-flu season please make sure to keep your child home if they are experiencing any flu like symptoms. Remember that children must be fever free for 24 hours without medication before they can return to school.

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.

We are in the process of beginning to enroll students for the new school year in our three and four year old classrooms. If you know anyone looking for childcare, please tell them about Hilltop. For every family that signs up from your recommendation, you will receive one tuition free week after three months of their attendance!

Ms. Laura



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

what God observes as righteous, people may see and reject as too difficult. That's primarily because God's ways are not our ways, and God's thoughts are not ours – as Isaiah explains [55:8].

Yet, God expects His people to practice agape (God-like love) even though we possess human hearts [John 14:21]. How can we do that? There is only one way – by offering ourselves as “living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God . . . [as a] spiritual act of worship . . . [and] by not conforming to the pattern of this world, but being transformed by the renewing of our mind” [Romans 12:2]. The transformation of a human heart to live and act like God by choosing to accept Christ as Savior is amazing! 1 Peter 1:12 claims “even angels long to look into [it].”

The living proof that such a heart transformation has occurred is that we “love one another as he has loved us” [John 13:34]; and anyone who “claims to love God yet hates another person is a liar and the truth is not in them” [1 John 4:20]. Jeremiah preached that when we seek God, He will be found, and He will give us a new heart and we will be His people and He will be our God.”

That's how the world will know we are believers . . . by our love.

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God” [1 John 4:7].

Pastor Kevin

SERMONS ON LINE

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



Thank you Jonathan Beatty for making this possible!

OPPORTUNITIES TO

Gather

GATHER:

- Coffee Time
- Adult Sunday School
- Lunch Bunch
- Men's Breakfast
- Children's Church



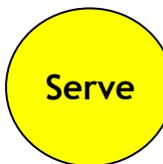
2019 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The first opportunity to attend Camp Squanto is the “Mini week” for children having completed grades 2-3 – June 26 – 29. Financial aid is offered to Hilltop families and scholarship request forms are available from the church secretary.

Lanna Hallden proudly wearing her Camp Squanto to school!



OPPORTUNITIES
TO



Communion: February 3, 2019 Jonathan Beatty and Sally Huggins

	GREETERS	USHERS	READERS	COFFEE TIME
Feb. 3	Barbara Damon	Jenn & Jim Hite	Julia Cunningham	Candace & Julia Cunningham
Feb. 10	Lorrey Hamilton	Brian Chiffer, Sally Huggins	Brian Chiffer	?
Feb. 17	Dale Comstock	Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski	Sally Huggins	?
Feb. 24	Shari Pekarovic	Brian & Joan Armet	Barbara Damon	Sally Huggins



Feb. 12

Feb. 26

If you can provide supper for the moms on either of these days, please sign up on the poster in the narthex.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2019 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.



Frequently asked questions:

How many people do I need to cook for? The meal is typically dinner for 10-12 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.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Annual Meeting, Part 2



Annual Meeting, Part 2 was originally planned for Jan. 20 but bad weather necessitated scheduling to Jan. 27.

During worship we heard various "praise reports" on the year gone by!

The business portion of the Annual Meeting convened following worship, Coffee Time and the praise report from our daycare director.

At that meeting we were grateful to receive two additions to our Leadership Team.



to Jen Beck
and Susan
Kagan!

And Carolyn Johnson volunteered to be one of our delegates to the East Coast Conference Annual Meeting in Springfield, MA this year – we have room to add 1 or 2 additional delegates so if YOU are interested, please let Barbara Damon or any member of the Leadership Team know!

The Leadership team consists of: Jen Beck, Vicki Brown, Barbara Damon, Sally Huggins, Carolyn Johnson, Susan Kagan, Laura Winoski and Pastor Kevin.

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons; but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time; the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

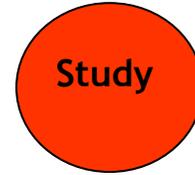
But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !



Booklets are in the narthex!



Thank you to Carolyn Johnson, Shari Pekarovic and Laura Winoski for joining me on Saturday, February, Feb.2, for a little crafting event. We were able to finish 12 more chrismsons!

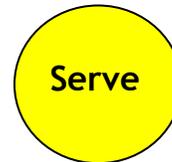
Another crafting day is planned for Sat. March 9, 10 AM! (Did I fail to mention we had mimosas and bloody mary's?)

Sally Huggins

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School follows Coffee Time.

Resolve to study God's Word and the impact it can have on YOUR life and on the lives of those around you!



Epiphany was on Sunday, Jan. 6 so Sally Huggins held a "12th Day of Christmas" Brunch at her house to celebrate! Thank you to all who came and to Sandra and Dan Aloj for the "drummer" cake!



Sunday, March 3 is World Relief Sunday.

Covenant World Relief, CWR, is the Evangelical Covenant Church at work in the world! Immediate response to disasters is vital to save lives and facilitate recovery. Disaster relief *saves lives*, and community development *transforms communities*. At least 90% of every donated dollar goes directly into ministry serving the most vulnerable.

The need for disaster relief is a year-long problem. Your Leadership Team has designated the first Sunday in March as Hilltop's Covenant World Relief Sunday. We will receive your soup can banks and checks made out to Hilltop Covenant Church and designated for CWR.

Labels and can covers are available in the narthex.





Birthdays in FEBRUARY

Jim Magson	2/4
Marcus Pekarovic	2/18
Marc Kagan	2/20
Sally Huggins	2/26
Dolly Larson	2/27

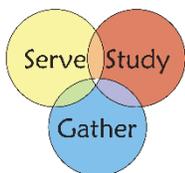


Anniversaries in FEBRUARY

Hunter and Amy White	2/19
----------------------	------



Hilltop Preschool and Daycare
82 Hicksville Road
Cromwell, CT 06416



Circles of Life in Christ