

Hilltop Hallelujah

April 2019

Volume 7, Issue 10

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from the Interim Pastor's Perspective

Do you know what the most powerful three words in Christendom are? Well, here's a hint: they don't begin with the pronoun, "I". The three most powerful words to a believer in Jesus Christ are . . . **"He is risen!"** These three simple words represent the most amazing action ever achieved. Following the crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus Christ, those words were spoken by an angel to some women who visited the grave of Jesus after the Sabbath and found the stone blocking the entrance to His tomb had been rolled aside. Follow St. Matthew's narrative in Matthew 28:2-5

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He isn't here! **He is risen!"**

(continued on page 2)

Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

Happy spring!!!

On Thursday, April 4th Soccer Shots will be coming to Hilltop to do a free demo for the children in the three and four year old classes. Soccer Shots is a traveling soccer program that will come to Hilltop for a mini soccer season. The program utilizes creative and imaginative games to focus on basic soccer skills like dribbling, passing and shooting. They also highlight a positive character trait each session such as respect, teamwork and appreciation. Soccer Shots is an optional soccer class that you may sign up for. The demo day is free and all the children on that day will participate. After that day there will be registration information available if you would like to sign your child up. The sessions will be on Thursdays and generally run about 6 weeks. For more information you can visit soccershots.org.



On Saturday, April 6th Covenant Village of Cromwell is hosting their annual Easter egg hunt. It will start at the Hilltop lounge in Pilgrim Manor. The hunt will be outside, weather permitting, so dress accordingly. You can take pictures with the Easter bunny, do arts and crafts and enjoy some Easter treats. If you plan on going please RSVP to Emily Pagan, 860-754-3027 or EAPagan@covenantretirement.org.



Hilltop's Easter service will be Sunday, April 21st beginning at 9:30 am. All are invited!

Happy Easter!



(continued on page 2)

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

How can this be? Well, Jesus told disciples that His death was imminent. But He also explained that it was not the end of hope. In Matthew 16:21, Jesus said, "that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Anne Graham Lutz said, "If the Cross were the whole story we wouldn't have any hope . . . there is hope because Jesus has risen from the dead. And that tells us that even death is not final, that there is hope for tomorrow because of the resurrection of Jesus. He's alive. We serve a risen Savior." Now those are some powerful words!

But how, you may ask; how did Jesus raise Himself from the dead? Jesus didn't. The Holy Spirit did. In Romans 8:11 Paul tells us "The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead." But that's still not the end of our story, nor the end of hope for us. Because Jesus is the First fruit of all who die and are resurrected because they believe in Him and trust Him to be their Savior. Paul goes on to say: "If the same Holy Spirit lives in you, He will give life to your bodies in the same way."

This Easter, let's grab hold of the hope offered in those three powerful words:

"He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

Happy Easter!

Pastor Kevin David

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

Important information for children entering kindergarten at Edna C. Stevens in the fall: Kindergarten Registration is on April 24th and 25th. If you did not attend the March 20th parent intro night then you will have to call the school to set up an appointment.

April vacation for the school age children will be the week of April 15th. If your child will be attending Hilltop during that vacation week, please register on the sign-up sheet. Even if your child will not be here that week, please indicate that on the sheet so we can plan accordingly.

Hilltop will be CLOSED on Good Friday, April 19th.

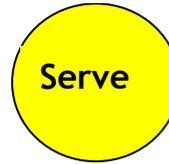
Ms. Laura

PALM SUNDAY is April 14
Be at worship to celebrate Jesus'
triumphant entry into Jerusalem and
the beginning of Holy Week that
ultimately ends in Jesus' resurrection
and our salvation!



"I thought Palm Sunday was when everyone went to Florida for spring break."

OPPORTUNITIES TO



Communion: April 7, 2019 Jonathan Beatty, Sally Huggins

	GREETERS	USHERS	READERS	COFFEE TIME
Apr. 7	Dale Comstock	Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski	Candace Cunningham	
Apr. 14	Laura Winoski	Jordyn & Nicole Pekarovic	Rick Brown	?
Apr. 21	Sally Huggins	Jenn & Jim Hite	Vicki Brown	
Apr. 28	Dale Comstock	Brian & Dale Chiffer	Barbara Damon	

April 9



April 23

If you can provide supper for the moms on any MOPS nights, please sign up on the poster in the narthex.

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.

CROMWELL FOOD PANTRY

After not needing any donations for several months the Food Pantry has issued an appeal for some Easter staples:

- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Fruit Cocktail
- Au Gratin potatoes
- Cake Mix & Frosting
- Mac 'n Cheese

Items can be left in the basket in the narthex.

PICK OF THE LITTER

Pick of the Litter, POTL, will resume in May; May 18 to be precise!

On the third Saturday of the month, May through October, volunteers gather at Pierson Park to tidy up the playground for residents and visitors. We provide all the tools for clean-up (but if you have a leaf blower that would be handy!) and refreshments too!

POTL is still a month away, but not too early to let the church know if you can help this year! We hope to find a family or group of friends to be responsible for just one month. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



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!



Thank you everyone who brought desserts for our contribution to the Lenten Soup Supper on March 27. I was proud to say “I’m from Hilltop” because they were all so delicious!



It was a different kind of challenge this year. In the past, it was rush, rush, rush to get the daycare closed at 5:30 and the space ready for supper at 6 PM; then clean up fast for AA to arrive for 8 PM. This year the only problem was remembering to bring all we needed (plates, cups, coffee, napkins, etc.) to First Congregational. And, I did forget a few things! Thank you Laura Winoski for help in bringing all the supplies to the “venue” and to Jonathan Beatty and Carolyn Johnson for helping with clean up and getting items back to the church!

RUTH is a young girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) whom we sponsored in December, 2017 through *World Vision*. She will be 14 on June 6.

She lives with her parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Her parents are both market vendors who struggle to provide for the family. Ruth lives in a poor area that has been severely impacted by the HIV and AIDS crisis. Many families live in small mud and brick homes with tin or thatched roofs.

While a typical diet consists of maize, peanuts, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and citrus fruits, the country is rich in mineral resources. (Cassava is a root and must be cooked before eaten because it contains cyanide). The country is actually the richest in the world, in terms of natural resources such as cobalt, copper and diamonds. Decades of conflicts have cost millions of lives and countless dollars that could have been used to help the nation thrive. The DRC is striving to recover from wars and take advantage of its assets to move ahead.

Our sponsorship commitment will help provide Ruth and her community with feeding programs to help malnourished children, along with access to clean water, immunizations and vitamins. Our support will also supply school classrooms and sanitation. Farmers will be able to provide for their families through improved agricultural methods. And through World Vision’s partnership with local churches, children will learn about the surpassing love of Jesus Christ.

One of the easiest ways to contact Ruth is to send her an email.

1. Go to myworldvision.org/emailmychild
2. Sponsor first name is Hilltop
3. Last name is Covenant Church
4. Child’s name – Ruth Lemowe Ndolokua
5. Country- Democratic Republic of the Congo
6. World Vision account # 39662990
7. Child’s ID 198405-0544

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Agnes	4/2	Vinnie DeStefano	4/14	Barbara Damon & Joe Pessa	4/3
Dale Chiffer	4/3	Maddie White	4/15	Ray & Marian Kliewer	4/22
Zoë Beck	4/7	Vicki Brown	4/15		
Lois Durivage	4/8				
Denise Bystrek	4/9				

**OPPORTUNITIES
TO**



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 18, 7 PM

Join us as we relive the night Jesus hosted the first “Lord’s Supper” only to have that followed by his betrayal by Judas. Before you leave the sanctuary all are invited to pound a nail into the cross to symbolize that we are all guilty and in need of a Savior. To be totally ready for the “Day of Resurrection” you’ll want to attend.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

6 AM at Frisbee Landing. Coffee and pastries provided by Covenant Village of Cromwell at the end of the service.



EASTER WORSHIP
9:30 AM

Join the celebration! Christ is risen indeed! If you are able, please bring a stem or two of cut flowers to beautify the empty cross.



CRAZY CRAFTERS

In February and March several church friends have met at Sally Huggins’ house to make crafty items for Cookie Walk XI!

We’ll meet in April also, but not for crafting but for “kitchen creations”! Ms. Laura has some great ideas for Easter treats to be handed out at the end of worship on Easter Sunday in lieu of Coffee Time. We will be meeting at Sally’s house on Friday, April 19 at 10 AM.

Anyone that would like to join us is welcome – adults alone please.

In May, because POTL will be on the 3rd Saturday, our usual crafting day, we’ll meet on the first Saturday, May 4, 10 AM.

OPPORTUNITIES
TO

Study

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!

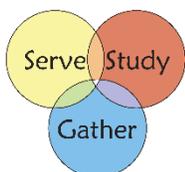
Sermons Are Online!

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



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Circles of Life in Christ