

# Hilltop Hallelujah

May 2019

Volume 7, Issue 11

## from the Interim Pastor's Perspective

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A few years ago, I read a book written by Dr. Dave Earley, entitled *The 21 Most Dangerous Questions of the Bible*. Over the years I have returned again and again to those questions which impress me as having exceptional merit and grasp my attention. Eight of these questions stand out to me as questions the Bible asks Christians who are interested in really grappling with the Word in order to have a deeper understanding of their faith:

"Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)

"Do you love me?" (John 21:15)

"What is man that you are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4)

"Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25)

"Will you really lay down your life for me?" (John 13:38)

"Who is it you are looking for?" (John 20:15-18)

"Do you believe that I am able?" (Matthew 9:27-30)

and "Who shall separate us from the Love of God?" Romans 8:35.

(continued on page 2)

## Hilltop Preschool and Daycare

Now that the warmer weather is here we will be going outside much more. If you have not already, please bring in sunscreen for your child. Also, remember that the first application of sunscreen should be put on before coming to school and we will reapply it in the afternoon. Since we will be going outside more often in nicer weather, please thoroughly check your children for ticks when you get home .



School age summer registrations are on the sign in table for children that have completed their first year of kindergarten and older. Please fill out the weeks your child will be at Hilltop so we can begin to plan for summer staffing. Please return all forms by Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

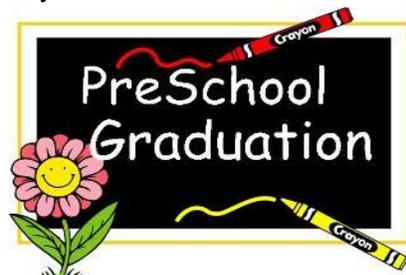


On Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating all the families of Hilltop by providing breakfast for you! There will be tables set up if you would like to have breakfast with your child before dropping them off in their class, or if you are in a rush there will be to-go

containers to fill up to enjoy at work. If you do not normally come here Friday's, feel free to still come for breakfast!



Just a reminder that Hilltop will be closed on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day. Another important date to mark on the calendar is Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>! Four year old class preschool graduation! It will begin at 6:00 PM and there will be light snacks downstairs following. Please have all children in Ms. Greta and Ms. Mel's class here for 5:30 PM that evening. There are further details on the parent information board in the four year old classroom.



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

These questions provide thematic elements for a study by a disciple who is interested in developing a deeper relationship with God through the Word. Indeed, we are confronted by some very dangerous questions in God's Word – especially if we would answer them honestly. These questions allow the Bible to peer into our hearts and souls and minds as “the Spirit searches out everything and reveals God's deep secrets” (1 Corinthians 2:10). These words are “not from human wisdom . . . but words given us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths” (v. 13).

Questions generated by God's Word penetrate our deepest consciousness, and for the modern disciple willing to allow the Holy Spirit to help answer them, “these are questions that can radically alter your life and the lives of the people around you” (*21 Most Dangerous Questions*).

Accepting the challenge to answer the dangerous questions of the Bible requires faith. Such faith is not a “form of spirituality.” It is not a resolute belief that something good will happen, such as health and wealth because we have positive attitudes and believe God will bless. Biblical faith is not a blind leap against known facts. Biblical faith is a “confident action based on what God has made known in His Word” in worship and in a personal relationship with Him through the person of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the power of God.

My prayer is that we will accept the challenge to study the Word which will answer these questions in faith; first, through a deep and growing personal relationship with Christ and, second, by responding to Him with behaviors and actions that reveal your trust in Him. Since God's Word is absolute Truth, to promote a position or ideology contradictory to the Bible is to move away from the truth of God. That's why Paul wrote, “. . . People who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them, and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means” (v. 14).

Blessings as you seek Him,  
Pastor Kevin

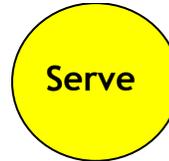


The search committee has been engaged in a journey of prayer, discernment, and hard work since it began meeting in September. It conducted a survey of the congregation, created a church profile, and developed interview questions and protocols. All this was done based on guidelines provided by the denomination and under the guidance of our superintendents Howard Burgoyne and Barbara Ettinger (who has been our primary coach). In January the committee began reading and discussing profiles provided to us by the East Coast Conference office. Since then the committee has read numerous profiles, and talked to and interviewed potential candidates.

I am happy to announce that the committee has identified a pastor who it has invited for a candidating weekend at Hilltop. This is the person the committee has felt drawn to after conducting rigorous, in-depth Skype interviews and one confidential multi-day on-site interview. The committee members have felt the Spirit moving us all toward this person, and the vote to invite him to candidate was unanimous. The pastor has accepted this invitation. This means that he ceases to pursue other possibilities, as do we. The candidating weekend is the time when all of you, the congregation, will get to meet and learn something about him and his family (he is married and has two young children). The congregation will then vote at a congregational meeting (generally the following week) on whether or not to call the candidate to be Hilltop's new pastor. Because of the sensitive nature of the search process, Covenant protocol prevents me from revealing the candidate's name at this time.

(continued on pg.4)

# OPPORTUNITIES TO



Communion: May 5, 2019 Brian & Dale Chiffer

|        | GREETERS        | USHERS                        | READERS       | COFFEE TIME                     |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| May 5  | Barbara Damon,  | Brian & Joan Armet            | Barbara Damon | ?                               |
| May 12 | Shari Pekarovic | Jordyn & Nicole Pekarovic     | Brian Chiffer | Carolyn Johnson,<br>Liz Pierson |
| May 19 | Dale Comstock   | Sally Huggins, Bob McNaughton | Dale Chiffer  | ?                               |
| May 26 | Lorrey Hamilton | Barbara Damon, Laura Winoski  | Jenn Hite     |                                 |

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| May 5  | Jordyn Pekarovic |
| May 12 | Bob McNaughton   |
| May 19 | Shari Pekarovic  |
| May 26 | Jen Beck         |

## 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 there will be refreshments too!

We hope to find a family or group of friends to be responsible for just one month; in that way, we all get a chance to help! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



## 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!

DATES IN MAY: May 7  
May 21

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.

(Pastoral Search Committee update, from pg. 2)

The search committee in partnership with the Leadership Team has begun to work with the candidate to determine a date for the interview weekend. Once that has been chosen the congregation will be informed of the details, and the name of the candidate will be revealed (although confidentiality must then be kept by the congregation!).

Thank you to all who have supported the search with prayer. Please, keep praying, because the process is not completed yet!



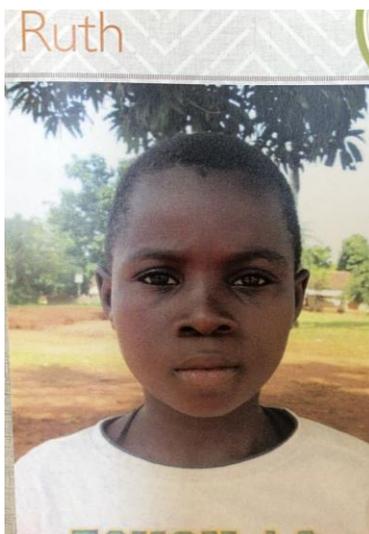
Give thanks, too, for the way the Spirit is moving in the life of this church.

Carolyn Johnson, Chairperson  
Pastoral Search Committee

## OUR SPONSORED CHILD

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

1. Go to [myworldvision.org/emailmychild](http://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



Ruth's birthday is June 6 and she will be 14!

## Did You Know?



Did you know that Hilltop Preschool and Daycare sponsors two sports' teams? This jersey belongs to Abby Drew (you're #1 with us too!)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Music Director Carolyn Johnson on the birth of her first grandchild, a grandson! Erik & Burgundy Johnson (Iowa) welcomed the arrival of Asher Fox on April 8!



Dan & Sandra Aloï welcomed grandchild #4, another boy, on April 12! Dan & Chaleigh, Newington, rejoiced in the arrival of their first child, Caleb James.

Parents and babies are all doing great!

**BIRTHDAYS IN MAY**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

|                  |      |                 |      |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Ryan Crawford    | 5/7  | Maggie Loughnan | 5/26 |
| Brian Armet      | 5/10 | Henry Millan    | 5/26 |
| Julia Cunningham | 5/11 |                 |      |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Bob & Lucielle Stromberg | May 8  |
| Steve & Jen Beck         | May 28 |

**HILLTOP CRAZY CRAFTERS OPPORTUNITIES TO**



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

This is what we did in April: Easter treats to distribute after worship on Easter Sunday! Ms Shari, Jordyn Nicole Pekarovic and Ms Laura and Sally were responsible for all the sweet indulgences!

In May, because POTL will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, our usual crafting day, we'll meet on the first Saturday, May 4, 10 AM, and get creative with pinecones!

Feel free to join us! Call Sally to RSVP and/or get directions to her house!



**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](http://www.hilltopcovenant.org)



OPPORTUNITIES  
TO



# 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!



# NAT'L DAY OF PRAYER

Days of prayer have been called for since 1775, when the Continental Congress designated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln called for such a day. Officially, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event by an act of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Truman. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer. Please take a few minutes on that Thursday to pray our nation and our world.



Hilltop Preschool and Daycare  
82 Hicksville Road  
Cromwell, CT 06416

