**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017 -- Trinity Sunday -- Holy Communion**

**Sermon Title: Practically Christian: What Matters?**

**Community Matters**

**Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)** 16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**John 15:9-17 (NIV)** 9“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command. 15I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17This is my command: Love each other.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

**Almighty God,**

**to you all hearts are open, all desires known.**

 **and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

 **by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

 **and worthily magnify your holy name,**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Basic Theme: *John Wesley and early Methodists were particularly concerned about inviting people to experience God’s grace and to grow in their knowledge and love of God through disciplined Christian living. They placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as “practical divinity” has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today. (umc.org – Our Wesleyan Heritage) How we practically live out our Christian faith is dictated, in part, by identifying what matters? What matters to God should influence both our beliefs and our actions.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Trinity Sunday is the day on which we recognize our God is three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has always existed in community and he created us to exist in community with him. God also created us to exist in community with others. The primary form of our community is intended to be the local church – a family of believers walking through life together. If we love God, we will love others.**

**So What? Are you experiencing Holy Communion with God? Are you truly a part of the local church existing in community with others and “doing life” with fellow believers? Are you living out the command to love one another?**