

HILLSIDE

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HILLSIDE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OUR MISSION

Hillside is called to Love God, Serve others, Grow in Christ & Go live out our faith.

OUR VISION

Hillside is a center of hope in our community as we reflect the love of Jesus.

Sundays @ Hillside

Traditional Worship @ 8:30 a.m. - Casual Worship @ 10:45 a.m.
Conversation & Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.

Weekly Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Rev. Chris Neikirk - cneikirk@hillsideprinceton.org

December 2017

UPCOMING SERMONS

ADVENT SERIES—ANITICPATE JOY

December 3 Children's Play ONE SEVICE ONLY AT 9:45 A.M.
December 10 "The Waiting Game"
December 17 "For One and All"
December 24 "Shout & Sing"
December 31 "Worth the Wait"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:45 A.M.

POT LUCK MEAL @ 11:00 A.M.

NOON DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

\$10 CHURCH GIFT

There will be a bake sale Sunday, Dec. 20 after 1st service. Home-made chicken and dumplings cooked and ready to eat. Noodles dried and ready to cook or save for Christmas dinner. Fudge and peanut butter and possibly other items. Some Hillside families are hoping to grow their \$10 gift from the church to be used on something in the church.

2 FISH 5 LOAVES

This year 2 Fish 5 Loaves is serving 64 children in the North Gibson School Corporation. If you would like to sponsor a child, it is \$25 a month (October-May) or \$200 for the school year. You can drop your sponsorship off in the office or in the offering plate; make sure you mark it 2 Fish 5 Loaves. If you would like to participate in filling backpacks please contact Amy Evans 812-664-1683.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Wow, wow, wow!!! Way to go Hillside!!!! Our goal for Operation Christmas Child was 250 shoeboxes. On November 8 we filled 388 shoeboxes. This means not only will 388 children receive a gift of items they need, but they will also hear about Jesus and His love for them.



HILLSIDE LITTLE LAMBS MINISTRY Jenny White

Little Lambs is church to the babies and toddlers. For some of them it is confusing to be in the worship center because it is not their routine. Routine is so important at this age. Children learn through repetition and routine. Little Lambs Ministry on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will be there for children and families at our 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship services.

Little Lambs Ministry is the foundation of faith to children. Little Lambs (the children) and shepherds (the volunteers) are building relationships. Through these relationships children and parents are also influenced and get to know God's family. Through the activities in nursery and toddler rooms children get to know that God made them and He loves them. We hope during this holiday season, you will keep in routine for your child and celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with us.

We in Little Lambs Ministry are very thankful to share in your family and child's life as we are called to the purpose of His Word which states *He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:11.* Each child is a blessing and leaves fingerprints on our hearts.



BRANCHES (Women's Book Study)

Our group will be taking a break in the month of December and will start the New Year with a new study. Beginning on Wednesday, January 3 we will be doing a study on 12 women of the Bible. We will discover how an encounter with God forever changed the live of these 12 woman, and how these encounters relate to our lives. All women are welcome to join us at 6 p.m. in Room 6. If you want more information contact Lisa St. Clair 812-677-0802. There will be no Little Lams nor Kids n Motion in the month of January.

SAFE SITTER® Jenny White

On November 5 & 12, 2017, Hillside Church held its first Safe Sitter® class since becoming a registered Safe Sitter® site. The class was completed by 7 students from the community. The students came in quiet and not sure what to expect and not knowing anyone in the class. The class works best with student participation which includes answering questions, games, and role play phone calls such as making a 911 call. Only one brave student volunteered on day 1 to participate in making a 911 call. By day 2, students learned how to help a child that is choking by hands-on learning with manikins. The students were very excited to do this. This day also brought another opportunity to role play receiving a call by a mother inquiring to a student for a babysitter. Several of the students volunteered for this learning portion of the class. The class was concluded with a ceremony to celebrate with their families. The students were asked to give a demonstration of what they learned during the class. All of the students wanted to share with their families a new skill they had acquired. Through this class the group of students gained confidence, made new friendships, and learned life skills in babysitting and when staying home alone. Planning is in progress for another class in 2018. We are very thankful for the generosity of our church for this opportunity to teach this class in our community.

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

Susan Carey

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

In the Great Commission, Jesus clearly outlines our purpose as Christ-followers: we are to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In order for that to happen well, it requires vision and intention.

One of my 2018 goals as Director of Family Ministries is to assess how well we leverage our existing programs to that purpose and vision; as well as explore how we can most effectively support and move individuals forward in the never-ending journey toward becoming fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. After several stages, the end result will be an intentional spiritual growth path that meets the core values, mission and vision of Hillside and ensures that we effectively meet the needs of the unchurched, the de-churched, and our current congregation.

Please join me in prayer over this process. I have spent several months seeking God's direction as to how to begin this process, as well as whom to invite along. Would you pray for direction as well?

Is God calling you to join me on this journey of continuing growth in our people? If so, I'd love to talk with you about joining the Adult Discipleship team. We'll meet quarterly in 2018 to brainstorm, assess, and work through several resources for direction.

If you would like more information about family ministry or are interested in being a part of the Adult Discipleship team, contact Susan Carey – 812-385-2910 or s.carey@hillsideprinceton.org.

HILLSIDE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year your Hillside Missions Committee selects a reputable charity to benefit from our special Christmas offering, giving that is designated specifically to empower others as a celebration of our Savior's birth.

Last year, we were able to provide a \$5,000 Gift Ark plus additional funds to be used where needed through Heifer International.

This year, your Missions Committee has again selected Heifer International as the recipient of our Christmas giving. With a 73 year history of empowering impoverished families around the world, we believe this organization fits well with our mission to Love God, Serve others, Grow in Christ, and Go live out our faith. Heifer International follows the 'Passing on the Gift' model; when families receive livestock and education through our donations, they then pass the gift of offspring to help another family in need. Our donations not only impact one family, but often an entire community.

We believe so strongly in the mission that we challenge you, Hillside, to provide not one but **two** Gift Arks as our Christmas offering. That is a total of \$10,000 in Christmas offering. A Gift Ark donation includes two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more. These gifts provide families with income, entire communities with milk, eggs, honey, and wool, and sustain farming communities by providing livestock. The impact is simply tremendous.

Hillside, this is a God-sized goal, but we can't think of a better way to honor our God in this season. **Did you know that if 100% of our Hillside families contribute just \$40 to this special offering, we will fill two Gift Arks?** Won't you be part of this fantastic mission to impact families around the world?



A NOTE ABOUT THE CHOIRS

Sandy Nixon

Christmas Musical: As a reminder, the choir's annual Christmas musical will be at the 8:30 service on Sunday, December 17. This new musical, entitled "Joy!," contains many Christmas songs that will be familiar to you but have been updated with some nice rhythms and instrumentation, and we think you will enjoy it! The Jr. Choir will also be joining us for a portion of the musical, and we are so glad to have them!

Remember, if you enjoy singing, please consider signing on with the choir. It is not too late to participate in the Christmas musical if you'd like to try us out. Just see Sandy Nixon for your choral book and a copy of the cd to help you learn a part!

Jr. Choir: In addition to singing with the adult choir on Dec. 17, the Jr. Choir will be singing as a part of the Children's Christmas program on Dec. 3 at the 9:45 service. (Remember, one service on the 3rd so that everyone can be present to support the efforts of Hillside's amazing young people!) Their music for the program includes Christmas carols you will be familiar with but with just a minor tweaking of the words to fit the theme of *Christmas under the Sea!*

We hope you have enjoyed the special music presented by the Jr. Choir and some of its members over the past few weeks. Thanks to Addie Anderson, Grace Morris, and Jaylen White for stepping up and singing specials for us! In the coming weeks, some of our talented pianists will also be sharing with us: Haley Lee, Grace Morris, and Drew Willis will play during the Christmas season.

And we have a special "shout out" for Jaleigh White. Jaleigh is an 8th grader who sings with the adult choir (and she will be singing a special at the 11:30 pm Christmas Eve service). Jaleigh has been invaluable to us in assisting with the Jr. Choir—she makes sure the sign-in station is ready, helps the younger kids with the music, operates the cd player for us in rehearsal, and just generally makes things run so much more smoothly. Thank you, Jaleigh!

Hillside is truly blessed to have such an active group of young people of all ages who participate regularly in our worship services and other programs! Any young person from beginning readers on up to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to serve as members of the Jr. Choir, as acolytes, and as members of the adult choir when they are ready!

A ONE YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY!



Have you wanted to study the Bible in depth while reading it cover to cover and are willing to make a one year commitment to do so? We are beginning a weekly group Bible study for men and women of all ages that will be fun and informative using the One Year Chronological Bible (NLT) published by Tyndale. Study notes are provided that include materials to assist your reading, complete with previews to all 66 books, helpful charts, professional illustrations, detailed maps, and 52 weekly reviews with questions for small group discussion.

Why would you want to read the Bible chronologically? So that you can read the Bible the way that it was written! For example, the psalms of David are inserted at the points of his life when they were written. The prophets' warnings are read during the time of their kings. The four Gospel books are blended for smooth reading, and Paul's letters are mixed during the history of the early church. Besides all of this, Tyndale's New Living Translation is fantastic, very easy to read, which makes for quick Bible comprehension so you can read it cover to cover and enjoy it!

There will be a pre-meeting on Monday Dec. 18 at Hillside at 6 p.m. to answer questions, to distribute January's study guides, and decide if we want a group name. Weekly meetings will be on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Hillside. We will be using The One Year Chronological Bible NLT by Tyndale (See picture). This can be purchased on Amazon both new and used.

I am greatly anticipating beginning the new year leading this group study, getting back into the Bible and enjoying some great discussions with friends! I hope you will join me on this adventure! Please see Davarna Bond if any questions, call 779-6986 or email davar-na.bond@gmail.com

A FAMILY TRADITION TO CONNECT FAITH & CHRISTMAS

The holidays are a great time for family tradition and shared experiences. Perhaps you decorate the Christmas tree on the same day every year, or participate in an annual cookie baking tradition. Traditions are important because they establish a sense of routine for our kids and build life-long memories.

As you reflect on your holiday activities, take a moment to consider this: how do you connect faith and family discipleship to your holiday traditions? Are you looking for a way to focus less on the gifts we purchase for each other and more on the gifts we can give to God? I have just the holiday activity for your family and mine.

Lydia Randall, a ministry leader at Lake Pointe Church in Texas, developed "Gifts from the Heart." I encourage you to participate in this simple yet powerful activity and I'd love to hear your family's response.

"Gifts from the Heart"

1. During the first week of December, call the family together to talk about the meaning of Christmas as you make paper ornaments together with construction paper and ribbon. Place them in a basket or gift box.
2. Ask each person to share why we celebrate Christmas. Afterward, read the Christmas story aloud from the second chapter of Luke. Explain that the greatest gift we could ever receive was given that first Christmas.
3. After discussing the birth of Jesus and what Christ did for us, let the family know that during the rest of the month you will be giving "gifts from the heart"—which are gifts money can't buy, such as Dad getting the newspaper for a sick neighbor, daughter helping little brother pick up his room, brother telling mom how much he loves her with a big hug.
4. Each time that you catch someone giving a "gift from the heart," write down what they did on a paper ornament and hang it on a Christmas tree.

5. On Christmas Eve, take all of the ornaments and wrap them. Put a label reading: *To: Jesus, Love:* and insert your names.

6. Before you begin unwrapping your gifts, take time to give these "gifts from the heart" to Jesus in celebration of His birthday. Open the gift to Jesus and take time to pull out each ornament and read it aloud.

7. When you finish reading through your "gifts from the heart," take time to share what you love about Jesus.

8. Close your time in prayer, thanking God for giving the best "gift from the heart" on that first Christmas.

NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Chastity Braswell

It's time for all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. The children are getting geared up for the annual Christmas Parade on December 2. Our float is titled "It's All About Jesus". Come on out and support our float. The children love to see everyone waving them on.

We want to invite everyone to come and celebrate with us at our Christmas Program, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Pre-K will present "Let's Light the Christmas Tree," and all the children will sing songs and recite bible verse.

If you visit our preschool you will see lots of Christmas treats being made, from gingerbread men and women to jingle bells, but with all that we will share with the children the real reason for the season! It is a great honor to work with our families in a church where we can share the Good News with everyone.

Our bible verses this month are Luke 2:11, John 3:16, and Matthew 2:10.

The Preschool would like to wish everyone here at Hillside a Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year.