**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**Sermon Title: Series: Who Am I?**

**I Am a Temple**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)** 16Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)** 19Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**Galatians 2:20-21 (NIV)** 20I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

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

Leader: Our God is a God of power and strength!

**People: God has created each of us** **with tender care.**

Leader: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

**People: God walks with each of us** **every step of the way.**

Leader: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

**People: God loves each of us** **with tenderness and passion.**

Leader: Our God calls us each by name.

**All: We are known, loved, and made whole by our God who calls each of us to unite in worship together!**

**Basic Theme:**  **Who am I? We ask this question during different stages and seasons of life and the answer likely changes each time we ask. As children, we develop our identity by what we are told from trusted adults. As teenagers, our peers and talents often define our identity. Later in life, jobs, marital status, and parenthood define who we are. These definitions shape our attitudes and behaviors. However, our true identity lies in the Word of God, and when we understand and embrace who God says are, we live in true freedom.**

**Sermon Snapshot: *In ancient Biblical times, a Temple was considered a sacred space – a holy place. In Judaism in particular, the Temple of the Lord was thought to be the place where the Spirit of the Lord dwelt. It was here that the mortal and the immortal interacted. It was here that the business of God took place – sacrifice, penance, forgiveness, and worship. Jesus was the first to imply that the body was a temple – that he was the indeed the Temple on which our faith built. Paul expands upon that imagery as he communicates to the early churches that the physical body of the believer was a living representation of the Temple of God. Therefore, as believers our value is beyond comprehension and our purpose is clear… we are intended to be the living representation of God!***

**So What? Have you ever thought of yourself as a temple? Does the Spirit of the Lord dwell in you? As the living representation of God, do you exemplify sacrifice, penance, forgiveness and worship? If not, what needs to change?**