**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, May 20, 2018 – *Graduation Sunday***

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

**I Am an Ambassador**

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NIV)** 20We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NIV)** 5What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

**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: *An ambassador is an official representative of a government, ruler, or monarch. As the official representative, the ambassador carries the full weight of the power of the one whom they represent. It’s almost as if the ambassador is the stand-in for the one in power. As Ambassadors of Christ, we carry all the power of the King and are tasked with fulfill all the responsibilities as well. While this task can be overwhelming at times, it is also a tremendous honor to be chosen to represent the one with all the power.***

**So What? How would you view yourself differently if you saw yourself as representing the King? Would you carry yourself any differently than you currently do? While the burden can seem awesome, the confidence placed in us by the King is equally as awesome! Will you seek to represent God in all you do and live as one who has been chosen?**