**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, May 27, 2018 – *Memorial Day Weekend***

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

**I Am a Citizen of Heaven**

**Scripture: Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)** 17Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. 18For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

**1 Peter 2:9-11 (NIV)** 9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

**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: *Paul calls us citizens of heaven. Peter calls us foreigners and exiles. What does that mean? It essentially means that we have a foot in two worlds. We live in the present and store up treasures for our future. We are called to live among the people of this world while remaining true to our heavenly Father. Sometimes, our loyalties conflict and we are forced to make a choice… sometimes with unpleasant or unintended consequences. It is only through Christ that our sinful nature is made holy and our earthly bodies are transformed into heavenly beauties.***

**So What? Are there times when living in this world creates a conflict for you? How do you navigate the conflict? Do you struggle to live in the present knowing that your future will be glorious? How can you live for today? How can you honor God today?**