**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, May 29, 2016 *–* Memorial Day Weekend**

**Sermon Title: Living a Hope-Filled Life**

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *(New International Version)***

13Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 25**

Leader:In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

**People: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

Leader: Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

**People: In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.**

**Basic Theme: *As people of faith, we trust in the promises of God. Through faith in Jesus Christ we have received the gift of eternal life. This unshakeable truth should be the foundation for living a hope-filled life.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Memorial Day is dedicated to remembering those who have finished their race of life. We celebrate their contributions to our world and recognize the lasting impact they have on our lives. We endeavor to live our lives so that we too are a positive influence on those we love, lead and serve. The greatest gift you can give those whom you love is the gift of hope by living a hope-filled life yourself. The greatest lessons are not spoken or taught, but lived and caught.**

**So What? Is there something keeping you from living a hope-filled life? Have you embraced the truth and hope found in Jesus Christ? Are you living out what you say you believe?**