

Hillside Happenings

November &
December
2020
Newsletter



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PK's Points

In the year that is 2020, it is hard to believe that we have come to its final 2 months. That before long, we will welcome in a new year, hoping and praying that it will not be like the current 1 with its pandemic and resulting disruption to our “way-of-life”. Certain aspects of life have been affected by Covid-19 or by regulations placed upon us due to Covid-19. And, for the most part, I have met few that have appreciated the changes that have resulted. However, James continues to remind us to “consider it pure joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (James 1:2-3)

“Are we there yet?” ...

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We all struggle with patience, don't we? And yes, we are nearing the end of a calendar year. We could say that we are not quite there yet, but we are getting real close. However, the flip of a calendar does not mean that anything will necessarily change in our world. And so the better questions to ask might be; “have I become more patient?” and “have I allowed this to strengthen and increase my faith?”. God desires to use the trials of 2020 for our good, which is to bring about greater spiritual growth, as we look to Him and trust in Him at all times. For “*we know that God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose*” (which is to “*conform us to the image of His Son*”) (Romans 8:28-29). God will oftentimes use trials to accomplish this as trials cause us to see our inadequacies and God's abilities. That, in short, trials humble us as we realize that there are struggles beyond our control and we know that “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (James 4:6). And so now is a great time for us to grow spiritually as our faith grows during this time of unique trials. Fear not, but have faith.

Have faith that your health and the health of those you love are in God's hands.

Not everyone will get sick but many will. A small percentage of those will get severely sick. A very small percentage will die. We would never wish this sickness upon anyone and our hearts ache for those who suffer loss from this just as our hearts ache with the passing away of anyone from any other cause of death. And in that heartache, we know that God is the Grantor, Sustainer, and Taker of life, and we are called to trust Him – in sickness and in health.

Have faith that your needs will be met. Our Wednesday evening Adult Bible Study has been looking at the topic of worry and have spent some time in Matthew 6 where we are instructed a number of times not to worry. And we do not need to worry because God's Word promises to meet our needs. Most of the time, God meets our needs through providing gainful employment and if we were to be quite honest, we would have to admit that He has blessed well beyond our basic needs. However, this year has brought many jobs to a screeching halt (at least for a time period) and that trial can stretch our faith.

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Have faith that God will accomplish His plan for our nation. The New Living Translation shares in Daniel 2:21 that *“(God) controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.”* (underline added for emphasis) As we approach a coming election (and the ensuing aftermath of counting ballots) we need not fear the outcome, but have faith that God will accomplish His plan for our nation with whomever is in the presidential office. (I am not saying God will remove and set up a new at this election – I have no idea what the outcome will be – but simply pointing out that God is sovereign over this election.)

(Food for thought: I found it interesting that a number of other translations translate Daniel 2:21 to begin with, “He changes the times and seasons” – that’s an interesting thought to add into the global warming discussion. Once again, I am not saying I believe or do not believe in global warming, but I find it interesting that this is a topic in this election and yet, God’s Word speaks about it in a verse that deals with the placement of leaders.)

There are plenty of jokes regarding not ever wanting to repeat another year like this, but hopefully, you will be able to look back on it and say that is was a year that God stretched your faith and that you grew spiritually because of it. Faith is to grow and sometimes in order for it to grow, we must endure something longer than what we would like to. This is the thought of patience.

Have joy in the trial because you know that it is producing spiritual growth in your life. This does not mean that we become careless or lazy. We know God will do His part in being faithful unto us during trying times, but we must continue to handle our responsibility to live out our faith in obedience. We are called to practice wisdom regarding taking care of our bodies and that will look different for each of us. We are called to work in order to try and provide for ourselves (family) in order that our basic needs would be met through the job that God has supplied for us. And we are responsible to be a good citizen and participate in the republic that God has placed us in – which means that we should vote for those who will lead towards upholding and maintaining biblical values, laws, practices and standards. (There are voter guides on the Welcome Center for you to take that show where candidates line up on issues. Please take one and vote for biblical principles. The guide also has a website that allows you to find local candidates as well.)

Let’s have joy, not just for the Christmas season, but let’s have joy year-round. We can have this joy because God is sovereign and God is good. He’s sovereign over your trials, and He’s good by helping you endure through them, using them to bring about spiritual growth in your life. Trust Him.

Briefs:

- **Men** – Get in the Word everyday along with others from Hillside! Jeff Bowlin has been heading up a **YouVersion Bible app daily devotional reading plan** for the past number of months. A new study is picked weekly so you can jump in, or forego, participation each week. See him if you would like to join the group and he can help you get set up.

- Come to the **Community Thanksgiving Service** this year on Monday, November 23 beginning at 7:00 pm. Pastor Kevin and Pastor Rick have spoken at this service in past years as the Rittman churches come together to thank the Lord for His many blessings. This year, Hillside will be hosting the service and we encourage our members to be here. We will ask you to help provide and host a pie fellowship afterward.

- A full calendar of events, activities, and services is enclosed. If you desire to play or sing at our **Evening Christmas Concert of Praise on Dec. 20**, please see PK.

Student Ministries

Wednesdays from 7:00-8:10 PM
Ages 3 - Grade 5



Word of Life (WOL) Bible Club is back in full swing, and it's not too late to join! If you have a child in this age group, we would love to have them join us Wednesday evenings for singing, Bible study, breakout sessions and a game. This program and our church also provide kids with the resources to complete a quiet time and memorize scripture throughout the week.

Check out the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to get to know the kids that are part of this year's Olympians club! Consider picking a child to pray for as they strive to grow in their relationship with Jesus this year.

Teaching Series:

November **Abraham, Jacob and Joseph**
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

December **Moses & The 12 Spies**
"It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect." Psalm 18:32

Events:

Nov. 18 Thankfulness Night

Dec. 9 Christmas Party

Dec. 16 Christmas Caroling (with adults)

Synergy Snapshot:

Teaching Series:

November Delirium: Breaking the Cycle of Sin through the Book of Judges

December JESUS: ~~who was he?~~ Who IS He?

Activities & Events:

TBD Synergy Christmas Party (Date & Details to be Announced)

Church Calendar

November

- 1 Child Dedication
- 3 Deacons Meeting
- 6-7 Ladies' Retreat
- 22 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- 22 Choir Practice (11:30-noon)
- 22 Christmas Worship Team Practice
- 23 Community Thanksgiving Service (at Hillside)**
- 25 Thanksgiving Service**
- 29 Church Christmas Decorating
- 29 Choir Practice (5-6pm)

- 1 Deacons Meeting
- 2 Congregational Business Meeting
- 5 S.S. Christmas Program Practice
- 6 Choir Practice (11:30-noon)
- 6 Live Nativity**
- 9 WOL Christmas Party
- 12 S.S. Christmas Program Practice
- 13 Choir Practice (11:15-noon)
- 16 Christmas Caroling**
- 19 S.S. Christmas Program Practice
- 20 Choir Practice (5-5:30pm)
- 20 Christmas Sunday**
 - 9:00 AM Sunday School**
 - Christmas Program**
 - 10:00 AM Worship Service**
 - 6:00 PM Christmas Concert of Praise**
- 23 *No Wednesday PM Service (Christmas)*
- 24 Christmas Eve Service**
- 30 *No Wednesday PM Service (New Years)*

December

The holidays are a great time to be involved at Hillside. There are a number of special services and ministry opportunities that focus on serving our community and that allow us to take extra time to give thanks and worship our Savior. Mark your calendars and look for more details to come!





Holidays at Hillside



Community Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 23rd at 7:00pm

This year, Hillside is excited to host the Community Thanksgiving Service. Pastor Kevin and Pastor Rick have each had a chance to speak at this service in past years. We invite you to join together with others from other churches as we thank the Lord for His many blessings, followed by a pie fellowship. Watch for sign-ups to get involved!



Hillside Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm

This unique Wednesday Evening service allows us to reflect on God's many blessings throughout the past year. Grab a kernel of corn when you arrive and be prepared to share what you are thankful for. Even in a year of many trials, we all have so much to be thankful for. Come and be encouraged as we see the things God is doing within our church family.



Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes due November 22nd

How to Pack Your Shoebox:

- Shoebox:** Get a standard-size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl.
Feel free to use the pre-printed boxes in the coffee room at the church.
- “WOW” Item:** Select a quality “wow” toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal.
- Other Gifts:** Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.
- Pray:** Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. Including a personal note and photo makes a big impact.
- Include \$9 Donation:** A donation of \$9 is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. Give online through Follow You Box and discover the destination of your shoebox.
- Drop off:** Place your shoebox in the foyer, across from mailboxes, by Sunday, Nov. 22nd.



Do NOT include: candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

**Information received from Samaritan's Purse. Pick-up a pamphlet at the Welcome Center for more information, ideas and shoebox labels (or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ).*

Merry Christmas



Holidays at Hillside

Merry Christmas



Live Nativity

December 6, 2020

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Hillside will host our **Live Nativity on Sunday, December 6th**. There will be 12-minute presentations every 20 minutes with narration of the Christmas Story, music, animals, & refreshments. This is a great opportunity to share the gospel with our neighbors and community. Please invite others and be in prayer for this event.

Opportunities to get involved:

We will need individuals for Mary & Joseph, shepherds, the angel choir, narrators, and helping inside to greet visitors & serve refreshments. Watch for sign-up sheets!



Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, Dec. 16
7:00 PM

Meet at the church at 7:00 PM to receive a song list and be split into caroling groups. We will then travel to sing Christmas carols, pointing others to the gift of Jesus' this Christmas season. If you know of someone in the Rittman area that would appreciate caroling, please let PK know!



Choir

Consider joining the choir as we begin preparing a few songs for Christmas Sunday, Dec. 20th.

Anyone is welcome to join!

Choir Practice Schedule:

Nov. 22	11:30-Noon
Nov. 29	5:00-6:00 PM
Dec. 6	11:30-Noon PM
Dec. 13	11:15-Noon PM
Dec. 20	5:00-5:30 PM
Dec. 20	6:00 PM Concert

Special Music

If you would like to do a special music for the Christmas Concert of Praise, please reach out to Pastor Kevin.

Merry Christmas



Holidays at Hillside

Merry Christmas



Sunday School Christmas Program

This year's S.S. Christmas Program will be on **Sunday, December 20th at 9:00am**. All kids Age 4—6th Grade are encouraged to join! Please see Scott Mason or Pastor Rick if you have any questions.

-Song Practice:

- Sundays from 9:50am—Jr. Church Dismissal starting Nov. 8
- Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19 from 10am-12pm
- Kids Age 4—6th Grade and all Cast
- Kids Age 2-3 will only need to be at practice on Saturday, Dec. 19.

-Cast Practice:

- All Cast Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 1 from 9:50am—Jr. Church Dismissal
- Schedule of practices will be provided at that meeting



Christmas Sunday December 20th

Join us on December 20nd for a day full of worshipping our Savior, Jesus Christ, as we remember the gift of life that can only be found through Him.



- 9:00 AM S.S. Christmas Program
- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Christmas Concert of Praise

Invitations will be available with information on all of our Christmas services. Please take this opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 PM

Take time on Christmas Eve to join together for our Candlelight Service. With our sanctuary light by candle light, music and a devotional are shared to draw our hearts to worship. This service concludes with a congregational song as we join in a circle, each holding candles, to remember the special night when Jesus humbled himself and took on flesh to be our Savior.

