

Hillside Happenings

March & April
2022
Newsletter



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PK's Points

“Just the Right Church”

A familiar author has a wonderful book on Ecclesiastes entitled “Searching for Heaven on Earth”. The book is cleverly titled as we consider Solomon writing of his quest to find significance and fulfillment in all that the world has to offer. We also know that at the conclusion of his search, after exhausting all efforts, and having the means by which to explore everything that the world has to offer, he concluded that nothing brought him the fulfillment and satisfaction that humanity ultimately longs for. For such fulfillment can only be found by having a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The 17th century French philosopher, Blaise Pascal, stated this by saying,

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” Pascal

Our adversary continues to tempt our flesh with things of the world system, and fills our mind with the lie that we can find Heaven here on Earth. Fortunately, most committed followers of Jesus Christ have learned this truth and know that the things of this world will not satisfy. They’ve learned to watch out for the love of money or being in love with the things that money can buy. They’ve learned that lasting fulfillment does not come from romantic encounters or the temporary pleasure of intoxication. Our guards are up against all of these matters. But is it possible that this line of thinking has plagued our minds regarding the local church? Is it possible that we have become a bunch of “Goldilocks Christians”, expecting to find the perfect church that will bring ultimate fulfillment to our longing hearts?

Oh – that church is too hard – they are too legalistic

... that church is too soft – they are too libertarian

(use their Christian liberty as a license to sin)

... that church is too big / that church is too small

... that church sings too fast / too slow

Going from one church to the next trying to find “just the right church” because we have replaced our love for God with a love for what a particular church has to offer. I haven’t seen any churches calling themselves “The Just Right Church of Jesus”, but I wonder if it would draw visitors who are constantly looking for Heaven on Earth.

Now, don’t get me wrong – I believe a local, New Testament Church should be a reflection of our eternity to come as part of The Church. And each church will have a determined “culture” to it regarding acceptable practices, ministry philosophy (which includes music preferences), and general atmosphere within the body of believers but we

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must keep in mind that the primary matter is that all of these matters are centered, in-line with, and flow out of the ministry of the Word of God which calls for the church to have a love for God and one another which manifests in a willingness to gather together and serve in various ways. We want to be a “Just Right Church of Jesus”. Not “just right” to Goldilocks Christians, but “just right” to Jesus. This begins with our minds focused upon Him, filling our hearts’ God-shaped hole and letting our worship, service, involvement, and investment to Hillside flow from there.

Help Hillside be “The Just Right Church of Jesus” to Jesus by having our eyes fixed on Him as we worship, serve, and love together.

Church Calendar

March

- 4-5 Couples Retreat
- 6 Carry-In
- 6 Synergy Girls Bible Study @ Masters
- 12 Ladies Bible Study
- 12 WOL March Hoopla Event
- 19 Men’s Prayer Breakfast
- 20 Synergy GO Team Meeting
- 20 Worship Team Practice
- 20 Synergy Girls Bible Study @ Masons
- 26 Ladies Bible Study
- 30 Synergy Showcase

April

- 3 Carry-In
- 5 Deacon’s Meeting
- 6 Congregational Business Meeting
- 16 VBS Decorations Workday
- 17 Resurrection Sunday
 - 7:30 AM Sunrise Service
 - 8:15 AM Sunrise Breakfast
 - 9:15 AM Sunday School
 - 10:00 AM Worship Service

May

- 1 Grad Service/YES Service
 - 9 AM Grad Service
 - 10 AM Youth Encouragement Sunday Service
- 1 Carry-In
- 3 Deacon’s Meeting
- 15 *GO Team Payment Due*

June

- 5 VBS Volunteer Meeting

July

- 2-9 GO Team St. Louis Trip
- 25-29 Vacation Bible School



Children Ministries



Young Families are encouraged to take advantage of the Children Ministry Classes that are offered each week:

Sunday School: Sundays at 9:00am

Class:

Ages 2-3
Ages 4-K
Grades 1st-3rd
Grades 4th-5th

Teacher:

Rosemary Peters
Lillie Kollert
Mary Lynn Frary
Bonnie Baughman

Lesson Theme:

God Sees and Hears Us
God Helps
God Provides
God is Worth Fighting For

Jr Church: Sundays during AM Service

Children Age 2 1/2—PreK are encouraged to join us for a review and activity that goes along with the lesson taught during the 2-3s Sunday School class, while also playing with friends!

Kids' Church: Sundays during AM Service

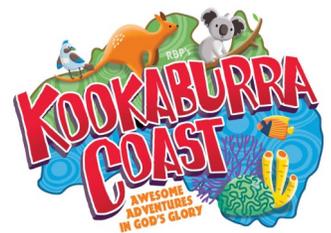
Students in K—4th Grade are encouraged to join us as we continue working through the old testament and study people like Jonah, Joash, and Hezekiah and discover how God continued to love the Israelites and continues to love us today!

Word of Life: Wednesdays at 7pm

Children Age 2 1/2 through 5th Grade Students start together for a time of singing, then split by age for a time of biblical learning and application then enjoy fun activities. Make sure to bring your Bibles, because we are digging deep into God's Word each week!

Vacation Bible School | July 25-29

Vacation Bible School at Hillside is always a fun-packed week of serving Christ, sharing Christ, and loving Christ. This year, we expect nothing less as we head to Kookaburra Coast!



There will be a VBS Decorations Workday on April 16th at the Mangun's home. There will be painting and cutting of decoration (not much building this year). See Lisa with questions.

If you plan to volunteer, mark your calendars for the VBS Volunteer Meeting on June 5th.

The City of Rittman has changed the Sleepwalkers dates for this year. Sleepwalker will be the same week as our VBS, so be prepared for things to look *slightly* different!

Student Ministries

Synergy Snapshot:

Wednesday Teaching Series:

- March** *Tough Topics*
- April** *Apologetics: Conversations
about False Religions*
- May** *Doctrinal Truth: What is The Church?*

Sunday School Teaching Series:

- Middle School** *Bible in a Year*
- High School** *Book of Joshua*

Activities & Events:

- March 6** Girls Bible Study at Masters 6pm
- March 20** GO Team Meeting (*meet briefly after AM Service*)
- March 20** Girls Bible Study at Masons 6pm
- March 30** Synergy Showcase (*flyers and sign-up in youth room*)
- May 1** Grad Service / YES Service



Winter Blast Re-Cap:

The vast majority of the students from our church were able to attend Skyview Ranch's Winter Blast Retreat in February. Here's a summary of our weekend:

The Speaker for the week was John Rickman (IBC, Martinsburg WV and good friend of Pastor Rick) who brought a 4-part series on Wisdom vs. Folly from the book of Proverbs. He challenged us with the idea that we each face an ultimatum in life: two roads that lead to two very different outcomes. One road is wisdom, beckoning us to guard our heart, watch our mouth, keep our eyes focused straight ahead, and to be sure our path is correct. The other road is Folly, pleading for us to ignore sound judgment and choose the immediate gratification regardless of its consequence. These lessons were great for our students and even applied to the lives of our youth leaders as well.

All 4 sessions were opened in worship by the Liberty Student band "Vision Ministries" with our own Josh Fath being a major role. Many of their songs and band members were new to us, but we enjoyed seeing them again.

Even though the heavy rain/mud/ice left us without the opportunity for some of the unique games outside that Skyview had planned, the weekend was a blast! Our students (and leaders) enjoyed some dodgeball, Halo ball, 9-Square-in-the-air, volleyball, karaoke, human foosball, Mafia, basketball, and hiking. It's hard to imagine we fit so much into only 39 hours!

It was a huge blessing to spend this time with Synergy away from church. We had some great discussion over the sessions, a ton of laughs together, memories for years to come, and we all made it back in one piece, even if Pastor Rick did fall on the ice (hey, I'm not the only one!).

The students returned home tired, sure, but also I believe with more tools in their belt to consider their own choices going forward. After all, Wisdom still beckons to us all!

Make Wise Choices!

Pastor Rick

Adult Ministries

Ladies Bible Study

We continue to work our way through the book "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" as Lysa Terkeurst challenges us through studying different individuals in scripture to understand and apply biblical forgiveness to our every day lives.

**Saturdays,
March 12 & 26
9:30am**

*See Heather Fath with
any questions.*



Men's Prayer Breakfast

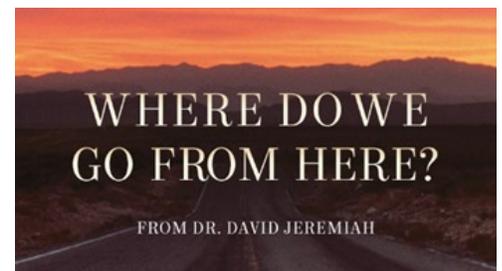
**Saturday, March 19th
7:30 AM**



Join us for breakfast, devotions and prayer here at the church!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have just begun a new study from the book "Where to we go from here?" by Dr. David Jeremiah. The study looks at a number of today's problems in light of Biblical prophecy. It is a great study to learn why certain aspects of our world are the way they are and what scripture would have to say about them. Such a study gives us a better grasp of some of the more complex matters of our world today and helps us maintain and even grow in our conviction of viewing life from a Biblical worldview. You are encouraged to be here each Sunday at 9:00 AM for our time of Adult Bible Education.



AM SERMON SERIES

Mid-March we will launch into a new sermon series as we prepare for Resurrection Sunday. "King Jesus" will take a look at the announcement, arrival, work, and our response to Jesus Christ as we consider His role of king in our life.

Church Ministries

Resurrection Sunday

We are looking forward to a great day as we celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 17th. Plan now to join us for the whole morning!

7:30am - Sunrise Service

8:15am - Sunrise Breakfast

9:15am - Sunday School

10:00am - Worship Service



If you would like to purchase MEMORIAL FLOWERS, there will be a sign up sheet in the weeks to come. Deadline to sign-up is April 3rd and flowers can be taken home after service on Resurrection Sunday.

The Server

RITTMAN'S "SOUP KITCHEN"

The server is asking for individuals to prepare some freezer meals that can easily be heated up and served. Bags of frozen soup or a 9x13 (disposable pan) of any dish that can be frozen works great.

These can be placed in Hillside's freezer marked for The Server or you may drop them off on weekdays from 9-2 at The Server (Main Street, just up from Subway).

They are also always looking for volunteers.

Are You New to Hillside?

CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOX - We have added some new mailboxes, so check out your mailbox located in the foyer! There is a information paper that can be completed and put into the HBC Office mailbox to receive additional information about the church. *If you do not have a church mailbox and would like one, please see Seka Masters.*

JOIN OUR PRAYER CHAIN - See Seka Masters about getting added to our text prayer chain list or other communication forums that we use!

NEWCOMBERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - We hope to have a special SS class something this Spring! Pastor Kevin will be contacting people with more info about this class.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - If you are interested in church membership, please speak to Pastor Kevin!

Never hesitate to reach out to Pastor Kevin or Pastor Rick with any questions that you may have. We would love to chat with you!