

Hillside Happenings

November & December 2023 Newsletter

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PK's Points:

What's all in Worship and Are you "All In"?

Our desire for Sunday morning at Hillside is that we would gather for worship and scatter for evangelism. Part of that evangelism may include inviting friends, family, co-workers, etc. to our worship service as we want to encourage all to "come and see" and "go and tell" of Christ, and we count it a privilege to minister unto and worship alongside visitors. But as we consider our "Worship Service", what all are we talking about as we use that term "worship"? What does worship entail? Worship is the heartfelt, mental and physical response we have towards God as we ascribe worth to Him. We could thus make a 2-word definition of worship to be "ascribing worth". And God's Word gives us ample understanding as to how we can do just that.

Why do we do what we do on Sunday morning? Hopefully we understand that what we do on Sunday morning comes to us from scripture. That throughout the 66 books, we are able to understand who God is as He has revealed Himself to us through the Word, Jesus Christ, and then the written Word, the inspired Word of God, the Bible. We are also able to read, either by command or by prescriptive and descriptive practice of the early church as to how we can respond to Him in worship. That if we were to boil a worship service down to its bare bones, we would say that it needs to include some aspect of the following elements: focused on God centered around Christ, an opportunity to praise Him through music, the possibility to give unto Him in giving, speaking to Him through prayer and having a priority of hearing from Him through His Word. What's all in Worship? Worship is so much more than the "song service" portion of a Sunday morning. For we worship in giving, and we worship in singing, and we worship in praying, and we worship in sitting under the reading and teaching/preaching of His Word. It's all part of worship.

And a true response to God should place you in an "all in" mindset. That is that we don't want to hold anything back as we reflect upon God and His grace and goodness unto us as He sent Christ to be our Redeemer. And so, from the very 1st verse we read Sunday mornings, that our hearts and minds are engaged, responding to Who God is. And as our heads are bowed, our mind is active as we agree with what is being prayed about. From the 1st song played, where music softens our heart to God, that we praise Him for is awesomeness. That when we drop our offering into the plate in the foyer or click send on our phone, that we give cheerfully unto the Lord recognizing His blessing unto us. And we sit, attentively, interacting with God's Word as we listen to His still, small voice speaking to our heart as God's Word speaks to us. Are you "all in" on Sunday mornings?

"All in" looks different from person to person. Some are "all in" with a stoic face (smile once in a while), others are "all in" being all smiles most of the time. Some

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are “all in” with eyes closed (not sleeping, but not being distracted). Some are “all in” by taking scrupulous notes during the message. Some are “all in” with hands lifted high as they sing (I’m a ½ way raised type of guy :). “All in” might look or sound different because worship is a personal response to God that we do together. Now, each church has it’s unspoken “code of conduct” of what they collectively agree to but there is room for personal expression as we love God for Who He is and desire to ascribe Him worth.

In case you are new to Hillside – allow me to give you a quick run-down of our Sunday AM Worship Service and its bare bones:

- **Giving** – Giving in voluntary but in line with 1 Cor. 16:2. We offer 2 ways to give. There are 2 offering plates in the foyer right outside the center doors to the auditorium that you may place your offering into. Our deacons keep an eye on the plates, emptying them periodically throughout the morning. Or you can give online through our website hillsidebaptistrittmann.org.
- **Music** – We desire to sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs according to Colossian 3:16. We choose instrumentation and amplification (microphones) in order to aid us in our worshipful singing. We are adapting to following the lead of a guitar versus a piano not from a change of ministry philosophy but of necessity, and we are thankful for God’s provision of our gifted instrumentalists and their leadership.
- **Praying** – We pray to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Savior, giving praise to Him as we oftentimes recite scripture back to Him. We take this prayer time to intercede on behalf of others, whether church family or missionaries and offer thanksgiving for God’s many blessings unto us.
- **Scripture** – The upholding of Scripture continues to be the focal point of our time together in worship. For it is the centrality of the spoken Word that convicts the unbeliever of their need for salvation, challenges the carnal believer towards a closer walk with Christ, and encourages the spiritual to continue on in living out their calling to be salt and light.

When you boil it all down, what’s all in a worship service may not seem like a whole lot. But we’re called to be “all in” about it as we love God and respond to His revelation – the salvation and lordship of Jesus Christ. Let’s be “all in” in our worship.



Church Calendar

November 2023

- 11/3 Synergy REVERB All-Nighter
- 11/5 Carry-In
- 11/7 Deacon's Meeting
- 11/12 Young Adult Lunch
- 11/17-18 Ladies Retreat
- 11/19 *Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due*
- 11/19 Worship Team Practice
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fellowship

December 2023

- 12/3 Carry-In
- 12/5 Deacon's Meeting
- 12/6 Business Meeting (Nominations)
- 12/9 Kids' Christmas Program Practice
- 12/9 Synergy's Olde Tyme Christmas Party
- 12/10 Live Nativity (6:00-7:30pm)
- 12/10 *GO Team 2024 Deposit and Applications Due*
- 12/13 Business Christmas Cookies Due
- 12/13 Christmas Caroling
- 12/16 Kids' Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

December 2023 (continued)

- 12/17 Christmas Sunday
9:00 AM Kid's Christmas Program
10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Christmas Concert of Praise
followed by light meal
- 12/20 *No Wednesday Service*
- 12/24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (6:00pm)
- 12/27 *No Wednesday Service*

February 2024

- 2/3-4 Missions Conference

June 2024

- 6/10-14 Vacation Bible School

July 2024

- 7/6-13 GO Team Jamaica Trip



Children's Ministry

It's never too late for your kids to join us for Word of Life!



We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm with age appropriate Bible Lessons, **Gopher Buddies** (Age 3 1/2-PreK) and **Olympians** (K-5th Grade). Singing, Games, and Scripture Memory are also a part of each week! If you have questions about what your child can do to work toward an Olympian medal, see Rebecca Bowlby. Here is the WOL club schedule for the remainder of 2023:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| * Nov. 8 & 15 | Regular WOL Club |
| * Nov. 22 | <i>All-Church Thanksgiving Service</i> |
| * Nov. 29 | Regular WOL Club |
| * Dec. 6 | Missions/Christmas Party |
| * Dec. 13 | <i>All-Church Christmas Caroling</i> |
| * Dec. 20 & 27 | <i>No Wednesday Services</i> |

Synergy Snapshot

Wednesday Teaching Series: **November** - Relationship Goals

A four-lesson topical series on building godly relationships. Students will learn the power of purity, how to create biblical friendships, be challenged to develop a godly view of dating, and learn a biblical perspective of marriage.

- Nov. 1 Pursuing Purity in All Things
- Nov. 8 My Relationship with Friends
- Nov. 15 God's Goal for Dating Relationships
- Nov. 22 *All-Church Thanksgiving Service*
- Nov. 29 God's Goal for Marriage Relationships



Sunday School Teaching Series:

High School: "History of the Early Church" a study of the Book of Acts

Synergy Events:

- Nov. 3 REVERB All-Nighter
- Dec. 9 Olde Tyme Christmas Party

Young Adult Ministry

Our Young Adults will continue our book study "Uncomfortable" during Sunday School in November. Here are some upcoming events; be on the lookout for more info:

November 12 **Young Adult Lunch** *restaurant TBD*

Dec. 30-Jan. 1 **Skyview Young Adult Retreat**
More info can be found at <https://www.skyviewranch.org/>

TBD **Christmas Break Dinner and Activity**

Ministry to Men

Men of Hillside! We had a great BOOST event to kick off this new ministry! Don't forget to turn in your small group form to Scott. Men's small groups are open to all men of Hillside. If you need a form or have any questions about this ministry, please see Scott Mason.

Holidays at Hillside



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 to and worship our Savior. Mark your calendars and look for more details on all of these services, events, and outreach opportunities!



"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Hillside's Annual Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday,
November 22nd
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. Come and be encouraged as we are reminded what God is doing within our church family.

Bring a pie to share and join us for a **Pie Fellowship** following the service!



HILLSIDE'S Ladies Retreat NOV. 17-18

FRIDAY DINNER & ACCOMODATIONS

BERLIN ENCORE HOTEL

4365 State Route 39

Millersburg, OH

Check In: 3:00 PM

Check Out: 11:00 AM

Catered Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM

See Heather Fath with any questions!

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due November 19th



How to Pack Your Shoebox:

1. **Find a 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.
2. **Get your Label:** Determine whether you want to pack a box for a boy or girl and which age.
3. **Fill with Gifts:** First, select a quality "wow" toy such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Don't forget to also include a personal note and photo—sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive!
4. **Pray:** Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your shoebox gift.
5. **Donate \$10 per Shoebox:** A donation of \$10 is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. Give online through Follow Your Box and discover the destination of your shoebox or send a check in the postage-paid envelope provided on the brochure.
6. **Drop off:** Place your shoebox at Hillside in the coffee room by Sunday, Nov. 19th.

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

**Information received from Samaritan's Purse.*

If you would prefer to give money toward a shoebox, you can place funds in a designated envelope on the Welcome Center and place in offering plate by Nov. 12.

Rittman Christmas Baskets

Each year, we provide food and presents for a handful of families in Rittman. There will be a sign-up sheet to donate food, as well as gift tags to sponsor a child by providing them with a Christmas gift. The tag includes the age and gender of the child, as well as some of their interests. More information will be available in early December!



Rittman Business Christmas Cookies

Each year, we also put together cookie platters that are taken to Rittman schools and other local businesses. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who would like to donate homemade Christmas cookies for this outreach.



Holidays at Hillside

Live Nativity

December 10, 2023

6:00-7:30 PM

Hillside will host our **Live Nativity on Sunday, December 10th**. There will be a presentation 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 soon!



Christmas Caroling

**Wednesday, Dec. 13
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!

Special Music: Christmas

If you would like to participate in a special music for the Christmas Concert of Praise the evening of December 17th, please reach out to Pastor Kevin.



Kids' Sunday School Children's Program



Our Christmas play practices are well underway! We are learning our motions and music and look forward to our program which will take place Sunday, December 17th during the 9:00am Sunday School hour. Please make sure you are listening to the song playlist and learning your speaking lines at home! Here are our upcoming Rehearsal times:

Sunday Rehearsals:

- November 5, 12, 19, 26 9:40-Kid's Church Dismissal (approx. 10:25am)
- December 3, 10 9:40-10am

Saturday Rehearsals:

- December 9 9:00a-11:00a
- December 16 9:00a-12:00p *Dress Rehearsal followed by Pizza Party at 12. (2's & 3's will join us to practice at 11:30)*

Christmas Sunday December 17th



Join us on December 17th 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 Kids' Christmas Program
10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Christmas Concert of Praise
followed by a light meal

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 PM

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

