

Hillside Happenings

May & June
2025
Newsletter



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The Lost Discipline of Lament *Pastor Rick's Reflections*

Recently, the sensitive and serious topic of suicide was covered in our Wednesday evening student ministry. According to government records, there are 4,004 students in the schools and co-ops represented in our youth group. If statistics are accurate, then 80 students that walk the same halls as our students will take direct actions toward suicide sometime in their life, while another 720 students will have "thoughts dominated and overwhelmed with death and suicide" due to emotional pain. Clearly, people are hurting.

But the pain isn't just "out there," it's also being felt in our church. We've had some hard losses lately. Sickness, death, and suffering hit our church family wave after wave it seems. How does someone deal with suffering? Can a Christian rightly complain about the hurts of life, and if so, how? The answer is a discipline lost in the American church: lament.

To lament is to passionately express grief and sorrow. It is to mourn, actively and openly, often accompanied by weeping. In musical analogy, it is the song of prayer but in a minor key (to borrow an idea from Mark Vroegop). The Bible has chapters upon chapters of lament psalms and prayers. Jeremiah wrote an entire book of them, aptly named "lamentations." Lament is found all over in historical Christian liturgy.

Following the pattern of Scripture, let's consider how to rightly complain to our God about the wrongs and hurts of the world. Doing so gives us the acronym "TCAT." Let's consider Psalm 77 together.

TURN (Psalm 77:1-2a *"I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord."*)

When a toddler stumbles and falls, they instinctively turn to find comfort in a parent or loved one. When we hurt, we also make a "turn." You've heard the expression "they turned to alcohol," and that's the concept, just a bad example of it. For the Christian, we must make the deliberate choice in our pain to turn toward our God. Others may turn to substances, anxieties, and distractions, but we choose to face up, looking to God, even if to ask "Why" or "How much longer?"

It could sound like this: "God, it's me again. I'm overwhelmed. My heart is full of fear and dread. I feel stuck. I feel like I'm drowning. But I'm reaching out."

COMPLAIN (Psalm 77:7-9 *"Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"*)

(Continued on Page 2)

This one is hard for some to grapple with, since the Bible tells us to do all things without grumbling and complaining. But here we are not grumbling, we are rightly declaring things as they are: bad. When we lament cancer, or lament death, or lament injustice, we are rightly declaring “God, this is not good. This is not right. This hurts.” Complaining just to whine and stew in a bad attitude is sin. To declare the truth of hurt to God in lament is prayer. It’s an important distinction.

Our Complaint could sound like this: “You’ve heard the unfair words said about me. You know the cancer is back. I thought I was doing good, why would this happen? How can I keep going under this stress? This is awful.”

ASK *(Psalm 77:10 “Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.”)*

Here is where biblical lamenting turns a clear direction away from sinful complaining. We now ask God to do something about the pain. This is not a simple “God fix it” prayer, though. The mature Christian knows that God works in and through suffering. It can be impossibly hard, but God’s Word shows us how and gives us the language to express it. “I will appeal” is what the Psalm says. Take the hurt to God, and ask Him to do what only He can.

When we ask, we may say something like: “Help me out here, God. If I’m going to go through this, don’t waste my pain, but help me to learn everything you want me to learn. If I have to experience this, remind me daily that you are right here with me. Maybe you can draw others toward you through this. But God, to be honest, can you step in and fix it? And if for some reason you choose not to, can you give me the strength to bear it?”

TRUST *(Psalm 77:11-13 “I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?”)*

Finally, after turning to Him, complaining to Him, and asking Him to help, we are at the conclusion of the lament: trusting that He is good, even when things are awful. To declare out loud that you dare to keep hoping in God’s goodness, mercy, love, and faithfulness, even in devastating circumstances is an act of trust.

Our Trust may sound like this: “None of this is a surprise for You. You are the God Who designed the body, Who also saves the soul. You are my shield. You have protected me from so much. I have seen You move before, and I know You’ll do it again. I will trust You, even when things hurt. I will say, even when things are bad, that You are Good.”

Often in America, we are greeted with the question, “How are you?” A culturally-conditioned American will answer, “Good!” I don’t think there’s something necessarily wrong with that, but fundamentally it makes us try too hard to fake it through hardship. God has given us the language, permission, and example to lament the many things that are not good. We would be wise to utilize this lost discipline.

Are you hurting? Are you bothered by someone else’s hurt? On the next page, you will find a lament exercise to express these feelings to God:



Learning to Lament Exercise:

Turn to God

Example: Psalm 86:1 “Hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.”

Address God as you approach Him in prayer. This could be combined with some elements of “Complaint.”

My Lament:

Bring Your Complaint

Example: Psalm 86:14 “Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me—they have no regard for you.”

Identify in blunt language the specific pain or injustice.

My Lament:

Ask Boldly

Example: Psalm 86:3, 11 “have mercy on me, Lord. Unite my heart to fear Your Name.”

Specifically call upon God to act in a manner that fits His character and resolves your complaint.

My Lament:

Choose to Trust

Example: Psalm 86:8, 13, 17 “Among the gods there is none like you, Lord. For great is your love toward me. You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.”

Affirm God’s worthiness to be trusted and commit to praising Him.

My Lament:

2025 Church Calendar

May 2025

- 5/3 VBS Decorations Painting Workday
- 5/4 Carry-In
- 5/7 Chicken BBQ Prep Night
- 5/9 Chicken BBQ Carry-Out Fundraiser
- 5/11 Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition
- 5/12 Ladies' Banquet
- 5/13 Deacon's Meeting
- 5/18 Missionary Speaker: Brian Seymour
- **5/18 YES Service (Youth Encouragement Sunday)**
- 5/18 Worship Team Practice
- 5/20 Bridal Shower for Brooke Fatzinger
- 5/25 Taryn Fath Graduation Open House
- 5/28 *Wednesday Evening Program Wrap Up*
- 5/31 Men's Bowling Event

June 2025

- 6/1 WOL Recognition Sunday
- 6/3 Deacon's Meeting
- 6/4 *No Mid-Week Service*
- 6/4 Synergy Schools Out-Summers Here Party
- 6/8 VBS Classroom Setup
- **6/9-13 Vacation Bible School**
- 6/11 *No Mid-Week Service*
- 6/13 VBS Family Night
- 6/15 Father's Day
- 6/18 Summer Bible Club Kick-Off
- 6/22 Carry-In
- **6/27-7/5 Poland Team Trip**

July 2025

- 7/8 Deacon's Meeting
- 7/9 Congregational Business Meeting
- 7/20 Encouragement Sunday
- **7/21-26 GO Team: Camp Patmos**
- 7/30 *No Mid-Week Service*

August 2025

- 8/3 Carry-In
- 8/5 Deacon's Meeting
- **8/10-16 Young Adult Missionary Acres Trip**
- 8/20 *No Mid-Week Service*
- 8/27 WOL & Synergy Kick Off Night

September 2025

- 9/2 Deacon's Meeting
- 9/8 Synergy Fair Sausage Fundraiser

October 2025

- 10/5 Fall Fellowship
- 10/7 Deacon's Meeting
- 10/8 Congregational Business Meeting

November 2025

- 11/2 Carry-In
- 11/4 Deacon's Meeting
- **11/26 Thanksgiving Eve Service**

December 2025

- 12/2 Deacon's Meeting
- 12/7 Live Nativity
- 12/10 Business Meeting (2025 Nominations)
- 12/17 Caroling & Business Cookies Due
- **12/21 Christmas Sunday**
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm



**Dates and Events are subject to change*

Miscellaneous Events

Mother's Day & Father's Day at Hillside

May 11 & June 15

On Sunday, May 11, we invite all ladies to stop by the coffee room throughout the morning to enjoy some special treats and fellowship with other ladies in honor of Mother's Day!

On Sunday, June 15, we invite all men to do the same in honor of Father's Day!



PCC of Wayne County Baby Bottle Campaign

This Spring, we will be hosting another Baby Bottle Campaign to raise funds for the Wayne County Pregnancy Care Center.

How you can participate:

- #1) Pick up a Baby Bottle at Hillside on Mother's Day.
- #2) Collect money in the Bottle and return to Hillside by Father's Day.

**All funds brought in go directly to the Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County who is a Christ-centered ministry that provides alternatives to abortion and is committed to saving and transforming lives physically, spiritually, and emotionally.*

MORE INFO ABOUT
PCC BABY BOTTLE
CAMPAIGN



HILLSIDE'S
Ladies Banquet
MONDAY
MAY 12
@ 6:00PM

LADIES AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES

We look forward to an evening of good food and fellowship at The Barn Restaurant.

Sign-up at the Welcome Center by May 4.

See Julie Alexander with questions.



LET'S SHOWER THE

Bride to Bee
Brooke Fatzinger

MAY 20TH | 6:00PM

**RSVP by May 11 to
Rebekah Thompson**

Miscellaneous Events

June and July Carry-In Lunch



Please take note of our Carry-In Schedule for the months of June and July! We will be having a Carry-In Lunch on Sunday, June 22 instead of our typical 1st Sunday of the Month Carry-In for these months.

Combined on Sunday, June 22

Summer Mid-Week Service Schedule

- 5/28 Last Week of WOL; Regular Adult/Synergy
- 6/4 No Mid-Week Services
- 6/11 No Mid-Week Services (VBS Week)
- 6/18 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 6/25 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 7/2 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 7/9 Regular Services (**Business Meeting**, Synergy, SBC)
- 7/16 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 7/23 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 7/30 No Mid-Week Services
- 8/6 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 8/13 Regular Services (Adult Prayer Mtg, Synergy, SBC)
- 8/20 No Mid-Week Services (WOL/Synergy prep week)
- 8/27 WOL & Synergy Kick Off; Regular Adult Prayer Mtg

Synergy = Student Ministry (6th-12th Grade)

SBC = Summer Bible Club (Ages 4-5th Grade)

WOL = Word of Life Bible Club (Ages 4-5th Grade)

*schedule is subject to changes



Graduation Open House honoring

Taryn Fath

Sunday, May 25

5:00-9:00pm

Hillside is invited to a Graduation Open House for Taryn Fath at Fath's Home, 6168 Akron Road, Smithville, on Sunday, May 25 from 5-9pm.

Please see Pastor Kevin or Heather Fath with any questions.



Skyview Ranch Summer Staff

We have the privilege of hosting Skyview's Summer Staff on **Sunday, June 1st** for our Worship Service! We are looking for a few individuals who would be willing to help provide lunch for this group. If you are interested in helping, please see Pastor Kevin.

Please be in prayer for Skyview Ranch and Camp Patmos as they prepare for a busy summer camp season with hundred of students, including some campers from Hillside!

SKYVIEWRANCH

The POLAND Express

The Poland Team is gearing up for an excellent week of serving in Gdańsk, Poland. Nine from Hillside will be gone from June 27 to late July 5. **Pastor Kevin, Heather and Taryn Fath, Rebecca and Brooke Bowlby, Jen Kline, Scott Mason, and Keith and Pam Vandegrift** are looking forward to ministering alongside our missionaries, Nick and Jill Toothman.



Our primary ministry will be unto Ukrainian refugee children as we help the church members of 4th Baptist Church of Gdańsk put on their Bible Camp. This camp will be similar to our VBS, lasting about 4 hours, 4 of the days that we will be there. We will be in charge of a portion of the camp as we have been asked to teach English using Bible stories and lessons and run some English-based stations in where God's Word is used in teaching the Ukraine's, and some Pole's, English. We will also be involved in Humanitarian Aid efforts in where we have been asked to share our salvation testimonies and clearly present the Gospel (all through translators). Some of us will be leading in devotions and participating in some other teaching opportunities. We look forward to sharing how the Lord worked when we return.

Please be in prayer for our team as we prepare for this exciting adventure:

- Pray for our funds: chicken BBQ fundraiser
- Pray for our preparations: we'll be narrowing in on our 4 lessons soon
- Pray we can be an encouragement to Toothman's and their teammates as well as the members of 4th Baptist
- Pray for God to move in the hearts of those at the Bible "Camp".

BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

Support our Summer Ministry Trips

\$15/Meal



FRI, MAY 9

PICK-UP BETWEEN 4:00-6:30PM

SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER TO GET YOUR TICKETS!

Dinners include:

- 1/4 BBQ Chicken
- Baked Potato
- Green Beans
- Dinner Roll
- Apple Sauce
- Cookie

Ways To Support the Poland Team:

The team is having a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, May 9. Tickets can be purchased by signing up at the Welcome Center or seeing a team member.

Children's Ministries

At the end of May, our **Word of Life (WOL)** Bible Club concludes for the 2024-2025 school year. We look forward to hearing from and recognizing the children that participated in WOL this year during our Sunday Worship Service on **Sunday, June 1st!**

This summer, we will have 8 Wednesday evenings where kids will enjoy learning what it means to be in Christ by memorizing their "A,B,C's" at **Summer Bible Club (SBC)**. More information can be found in the section below.



Sunday School: Sundays at 9am

Classes for all Ages

Jr Church: Sundays at 10am

30 Months—PreK

Kids' Church: Sundays at 10am

K-4th Grade

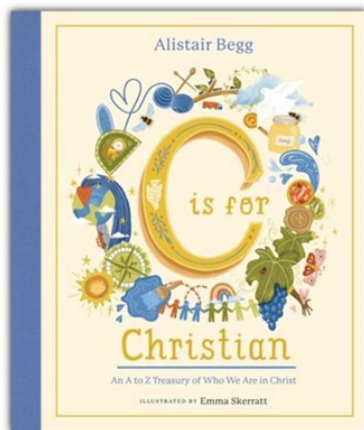
REMINDER - With the school year coming to a close, we want to remind parents that children should stay in their current Sunday School and Jr. Church classes throughout the summer. Some children will be promoted to new classes the first Sunday of September, Promotion Sunday!

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these ministries or if you are interested in joining any of these ministry teams, please contact Pastor Rick.

Summer Bible Club (SBC)

This summer we will be learning our A,B,C's!

We will be studying through Alistair Begg's book "C is for Christian" and learning what it means to be "in Christ" by memorizing our A,B,C's. Each week we will cover three or four words and have a color/fun theme to match!



June 18: A,B,C: wear your favorite Bright colored shirt
(we want to be able to see you from outer space!)

June 25: D,E,F,G: wear something Enormous.

July 2: H,I,J,K: wear a Hawaiian shirt.

July 9: L,M,N: wear something Lemon colored or print.

July 16: O,P,Q: wear something fit for a Queen.

July 23: R,S,T: wear something you could find at a Rodeo.

August 6: U,V,W: wear something for the Winter season.

August 13: X,Y,Z: wear something that shows us who You are.

Contact Mollie Wiles with any questions! 330-317-1103

Vacation Bible School

VBS @ Hillside **June 9-13, 2025 | 9am-12pm**



Vacation Bible School at Hillside is right around the corner! Building of decorations has begun, teachers are beginning to prepare, and registration is now open! In the weeks to come, there will be many opportunities available to support this ministry for those of you who are unable to be here throughout VBS mornings.

WAYS YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

- **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY:** Below are some specific ways that you can be praying for VBS this year.
- **PAINTING DECORATIONS:** There is a VBS Decorations Workday planned for Saturday, May 3rd at Mangun's house (13693 Friendsville Rd, Burbank) from 9am-1pm. Anyone available to help with painting decoration is welcome to join. Come and go as your schedule allows. Please reach out to Lisa Mangun with questions.
- **DONATING FOOD:** We provide lunch to every child and every volunteer at VBS. Sign up sheets for this will be out shortly. Questions about food can be directed to Cheri Chuhi.
- **VOLUNTEERING FOR FAMILY NIGHT:** We will be having a Family Night with dinner, a program, and family fun the evening on Friday, June 13 from 5-8pm to wrap up our week. We will need volunteers to help serve food and run game stations that evening. Keep an eye out for sign up sheets for this event.
- **INVITE CHILDREN TO COME:** Whether friends, neighbors, grandchildren, or co-workers children, we need your help to spread the word about VBS! Our greatest number of visitors each year are "Personally Invited by a Friend". Grab some flyers (coming soon!) and encourage your children to be bold and ask a friend (or a few friends... or their whole class) to join them at VBS! If you would like us to print a stack of flyers for you to hand out, let Seka know how many you would like!
- **REGISTER YOUR CHILD:** If your child plans to attend VBS this year, please help us out by registering them online. Registration can be found at hillsidebaptistrittmann.org/vbs.

WAYS YOU CAN PRAY FOR VBS:

- Pray for the kids coming to VBS. That God would open their hearts to understanding the gospel. Pray Psalm 34:3 (our theme verse for the week) over them.
- Pray for the volunteers that will be serving at VBS—Consider asking someone you know is volunteering how you can pray for them. Let them know that you are praying for them throughout the week.
- Pray for the VBS leadership as they are preparing and planning for VBS. Pray for wisdom and discernment.
- Pray for connections with families during the week and at Family Night on Friday evening.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together" Psalm 34:3

If you have any questions about VBS, please contact our VBS Director, Jen Kline (330-317-5086).

Student Ministries

Synergy Snapshot:

High School Sunday School Teaching Series:

MAY - Inevitable

These four lessons will discuss the reliability of biblical prophecy, and the events of the Rapture, the Tribulation, and the Second Coming.

JUNE - Glorious

The four lessons in this series will cover the topics of the Bride of Christ, the Millennial Kingdom, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the New Heaven and New Earth.



During the Month of April, Synergy took part in an initiative put together by Word of Life called E5M. E5M, Eternity 5 Million, is an ambitious global evangelism initiative, aiming to share the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ with 5 million people in April 2025. This is a call to action for every believer to step out in faith and make a difference in the lives of those around them. **Ask a teen or youth leader how they had gospel conversations with people in April!**

Dates to Remember:

- **Chicken BBQ Prep Night** **Wed, May 7 @ 7:00pm**
- **Grad Recognition Service** **Sun, May 11 @ 10:00am**
We will be honoring our HS Graduates, Taryn Fath & Chloe Huff!
- **YES Service Rehearsals** **Wed, May 14 @ 7:00pm & Sun, May 18 @ 8:40am**
- **YES Service** **Sun, May 18 @ 10:00am**
Members from our DASH Team will be giving a trip report during this service!
- **School's Out-Summer's Here Party** **Wed, June 4 @ 6:00pm**
- **GO Team: Camp Patmos** **July 21-26**

Young Adults

Young Adult Sunday School Study

Our Young Adults are beginning a book study "Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like Him, Do as He did" during the Sunday School hour. This class meets in the fellowship hall each Sunday at 9:00am and is lead by Logan & Angie Mark and Justin Fath. If you are a young adult looking to depend your relationship with Jesus, we invite you to join us!

Practicing
the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

John Mark
Comer

Young Adult Spotlights:

- **DEVIN BOWLBY:** Devin will be working at Skyview Ranch this summer for his 2nd summer as a counselor!
- **CARTER FATH:** Carter Fath has an internship with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) this summer! EMI works with Christian organizations in other countries to provide potable water, design bridges and roads, and design schools, all for the purpose of spreading the Gospel. Carter will take a 2 week project trip to another country to familiarize himself with the community and ministry there, then will spend the rest of his summer in Colorado Springs, CO to form a solution to assist this community. You can find out more about his internship at: <https://emiworld.org/us/give/summer-internship-campaign>
- **BROOKE FATZINGER:** Brooke and her fiancé, Isaac, are busy planning for a June 2025 wedding!
- **BROCK LENGACHER:** Brock and his fiancé, Jessalynn, are busy planning for a Summer 2025 wedding!
- **GABE & ELLYSSA LENGACHER:** Gabe and Ellyssa are expecting their first child due this Fall!

Staying Connected



HILLSIDE APP

Do you have the Hillside App saved on your device? Access this site for a list of prayer requests, up-to-date calendar, weekly bulletins, online contact directory, and so much more!

HILLSIDE APP



Don't know how to access the app?

See Seka Masters to get help or with any questions you might have!