

Hillside Happenings

November &
December 2025
Newsletter



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PK's Points "A Time for Every Season"

A Time to Rest

As I return from Sabbatical, I am struck with how quickly time continues to move. For it seems as just yesterday that I was studying for my last message before the break and now it has past. It was a season of rest for my mind. A season of reflection for my heart.

In God's grace, I am thankful that my heart has had this time of restful devotion. Additional time in the mornings to spend in the Word and in prayer. Time to consider the matters, responsibilities, and activities that are truly important and to praise the Lord for His continued work on me. What a blessing it is to abide in Christ and walk in fellowship with Him. What a privilege it is to serve Him, even though, as we were reminded this past Sunday, that we "have not yet attained" but are enabled by Him to continue to press on.

A Time to Celebrate

We've had some great things to celebrate this year at Hillside. Milestone years for both Rick (10 years at Hillside), and myself (25 years of ministry). Hillside celebrates well. I hope this is not the only thing Hillside is know as, but someone referred to our church as the "fun church". Hopefully, faithful to the Lord, Biblical, and sound in teaching are also ways to refer to Hillside, and we know that not all of life's journey is "fun", but let's rejoice with those who rejoice when we can. Thank you for knowing when and how to have "fun" with reverence to our Lord.

A Time to Transition

We've undergone/going through some staff transitions and I am thankful for the Lord's working there. Change in staff can be hard, as well as fearful as I am usually a pretty contented-type of person. Everyone in their place, doing their thing. And as much as I am thankful for Sandi Myer's years of service, I am now thankful to Lisa Mangun who cleans each week. In the same vein, Seka Master's administrative work here has been so appreciated, but now, I am thankful to announce that Ann Towne willingly steps into that role. I have no doubt that she will do a great job. Seka and Ann have been working together this past month and Ann has learned a number of new computer programs well.

A Time to Rejoice

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, we rejoice in God's goodness and the plan He has for us through Jesus. We want November and December to be a time for rejoicing. Please continue reading this newsletter and make note of our special times and ways to rejoice around Thanksgiving and leading up to Christmas. This time to rejoice always proves to be "the most wonderful time" as we announce the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

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A Time to Evaluate Schedules

As all of these seasons have converged on us at once, Pastor Rick and myself believe it will be wise to take a year off from our Sunday Evening Christmas Concert of Praise. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into that evening in order for it to be well-done; from song selections, to rehearsals, additional administrative prep, tech set-up, mic adjustments, platform changes, etc... With that being said, we will forgo that service but strive to add some additional special music into our Sunday mornings leading up to Christmas. This also allows us to push our Live Nativity back 1 week from the 1st Sunday of December to the 2nd. Live Nativity will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14.

A Time to Press On in Prayer

As God continues to bless Hillside, we want to reach as many as possible with the Good News of Jesus. We praise the Lord for His goodness, and I am thankful for your continued commitment in attendance as our auditorium fills up each week. Let's continue to press on in prayer as we pray for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and clear leading for our future.

2025 Church Calendar

November 2025

- 11/4 Deacon's Meeting
- 11/7 Hillside Youth REVERB
- 11/16 Carry-In Lunch
- 11/21 Ladies Retreat 11/21-11/22
- 11/23 Worship Team Practice
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fellowship



December 2025

- 12/2 Deacon's Meeting
- 12/10 Business Meeting (2026 Nominations)
- 12/13 Kids' Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12/14 Secret Sisters Meeting
- 12/14 Live Nativity
- 12/17 Hillside Youth Christmas Party
- 12/17 Caroling & Business Cookies Due
- 12/20 Kids' Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12/21 Christmas Sunday & Kids' Program
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm
- 12/31 No Mid-week Services

January 2026

- 1/2 - 1/4 Skyview Young Adult Retreat

Ladies' Ministry

Secret Sisters

November is the last month with those who have secret sisters currently. Please make sure that you have at least one more contact with your secret sister before the reveal in December.

The reveal of this year's Secret Sisters and the selection of new sisters will take place on **Sunday, Dec. 14** immediately following Worship Service. Be on the lookout for information on the Welcome Center for how you can be involved in secret sisters for the next year. **See Bonnie Baughman** with questions.

Hillside Youth Heads Up

Wednesday Teaching Series:

Wicked: Don't Waste Your Life

Sunday School Teaching Series:

Ecclesiastes

Advent - Arrival of a Savior

Synergy Events:

- Nov 7 REVERB All-Nighter
- Dec 17 Christmas Party

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-Kindergarten) and **Olympians** (1st-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 2025:

- * Nov. 5, 12, 19 Regular WOL Club
- * Nov. 26 All-Church Thanksgiving Service
- * Dec. 3 Regular WOL Club
- * Dec. 10 Christmas Mission Project
- * Dec. 17 All-Church Christmas Caroling
- * Dec. 24, Dec. 31 No WOL Club

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 26th @ 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!

Holidays at Hillside

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due November 23rd



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. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child if you would like.
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, November 24th.

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.*

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.

Pastor Love Offering

Each December, we provide our church with the opportunity to bless our pastors with a financial gift. You will find "Love Offering" envelopes available after Thanksgiving. All offering placed in these envelopes will go directly to our pastors. Please note that this gift does not credit your yearly giving.

Live Nativity

December 14, 2025

6:00-7:30 PM

Hillside will host our **Live Nativity on Sunday, December 14th**. 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. 17
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 special music for the month of December, 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 21st 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 9, 16, 23, 30 9:40-Kid's Church Dismissal (approx. 10:25am)
- December 7, 14 9:40-10am

Saturday Rehearsals:

- December 13 9:00a-11:00a
- December 20 9:00a-12:00p *Dress Rehearsal followed by Pizza Party at 12. (2's & 3's should join us to practice at 11:30)*

Christmas Sunday December 21st



Join us on December 21st to worship 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

Please take this opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers to Hillside this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 PM

Take time on Christmas Eve to join together for our Candlelight Service where 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.

