



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
January 2017

www.mankatohilltop.org

facebook: [hilltop united methodist church](https://www.facebook.com/hilltop.united.methodist.church)

office@mankatohilltop.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Putting Dreams Into Action

For the past few months we've been talking about dreaming big here at Hilltop UMC. Well, now's the time to start expecting those dreams to come into fruition. Let me remind you of some of our continuing dreams: more and more people in a Connect Group, and more people experiencing the blessing of sharing life and faith with one another; more and more people specifically in a *Class Meeting*—a weekly time of gathering with others at our church and discussing this simple question, “where have you seen God at work in your life this week?” How about more and more people coming to worship! I'm not just talking about growing with new people in worship (and that's vitally important to our future health), but I want to challenge our present Hilltop family to attend worship more often and more regularly. What amazing things would be in store for us if we only worshiped more!? Another worship dream is that we would continue to faithfully explore what it means for us to worship God, and that we continue this worship journey with excitement and anticipation. There's also the continued dream of hiring a full-time Youth and Campus Ministry Director, and your SPRC has been hard at work to find the right person for this critical position.

These dreams and so many more, are on my heart, and I hope and pray they are on yours as well. Simply put, the overall dream that I have is that we would each grow in our love of God and in our love of neighbor this year, and that we would have faith that the Holy Spirit, because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, will actually grow us as he has promised to do!

Part of this growth includes asking the hard questions that our Christian faith brings out in us. Questions like: “Why do we suffer?”, “What's the deal with angels and demons?”, “What is the Holy Spirit?”, and “Is there really a heaven?” We will actually be exploring these questions

during our January Sermon Series, all in our desire to fulfill that unified dream of ours to grow in Christ UPward, INward, and OUTward! Now, instead of simply asking you to dream with us, will you add one thing to that... not only dream with us, but *grow* with us as well.

With peace, Kelly

What's Kelly Reading

Seven Things John Wesley Expected Us To Do For Kids,
by Christopher Miles Ritter

I'm really excited that we're introducing a new format of Connect Group this semester—the Connect Intensive. This will be a one-day connect group focused on family discipleship, and in preparation for our time together later on in the semester I'm reading this great little book. One thing I'm continually being reminded of in this book is that we *must not* neglect our children in our ministry, and that our parents/guardians are on the frontlines of this ministry, and we must support and encourage them as much as we can.

Connect Groups

Check out the Connect Group brochure—you will find it in the worship bulletins throughout January. Feel free to share them with a friend! We have two new Class Meetings, one on Monday night with Stacy Vanderwerf and one on Fridays over the lunch hour with Paulette Booker. Confirmation is also being offered in the Connect Group brochure, kicking off on Wednesday, January 18th.

Registration is easy – you can stop at the welcome center following worship service or register online at www.mankatohilltop.org. Someone will be there every Sunday in January to answer your questions and help you register. Most Connect Groups begin the week of January 29th and run 7-13 weeks. Please register by January 22nd and encourage a friend to register as well!

HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes from December Ad Council

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 7:30 pm

Present: Herb Fast, Karen Frydendall, Kelly McCuaig, Stacy Vanderwerf, Kerry Rausch, Jeff Adams, Paulette Adams, Don Putzier, Bob Berg, and Paulette Booker.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October 20, 2016 meeting were available for review. A motion was made by Bob Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Herb Fast seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor: Pastor Kelly thanked the Ad Council for their work over the past months in hearing comments in regards to the worship services and stated the results of October Administrative Council meeting was fruitful and the result of this body. He explained that we may be tempted to take a break, but instead during advent we should be asking why did Jesus come. Luke Chapter 4 stated that Jesus did not take a break when things got tough and we won't either.

Trustees: Bob Berg reported the parsonage garage electricity and sheet rock has been updated and is up to fire code but still needs to be painted. Other upgrades still needing to be addressed include the nightlights on parsonage and the fan in bathroom need to be replaced. The committee discussed the work needed for the prayer garden in front of the church and will be working on those plans. The trustees approved transferring funds from major repairs to technology to purchase a piece of equipment to plug in mics. Bob Berg will serve as trustee chair in 2017 with Eric Mundt as Vice-Chair and Derrick Galinat as secretary.

Nominations: Due to worship conversations the past couple of months, committee nominations for 2017 will be handled in a separate charge conference whose date will be announced. Kelly discussed the structure of our church leadership and recommended that the worship, missions, and discipleship committees be renamed as follows: Inward would be nominations and church leadership/discipleship, Upward would be worship and Outward would be missions. By combining discipleship and nominations the joint goal would be to not only identify leaders, but to also develop and train leaders. Stacy Vanderwerf stated this is a good move and that the discipleship team purpose has been vague in the past. Paulette Adams stated there will be a need to ensure discipleship team is diverse enough to reach across the

entire congregation. This combination would result in the loss of one vote on ad council. The possibility of appointing one member of the Inward team to serve on Ad Council was discussed. This proposed change will need to go to charge conference. This will be discussed further at the January council meeting and then go to the charge conference for a final vote.

Finance: Kerry Rausch presented the financial report stating the year to date revenue is \$270,270.06 and expenses are \$271,848.98. While expenses are running higher than revenue at this point, December is typically a high giving month. The check book balance is \$61,792.23 with a working fund balance of \$42,732.59. Paulette Booker moved to approve the finance report and Bob Berg seconded. The motion carried.

Discipleship: Stacy Vanderwerf stated the next session of connect groups will be advertised starting at the Christmas Eve service with most groups beginning the end of January or the 1st week of February.

Missions: The Salvation Army bell ringing schedule has been filled for December 17th at Shopko. Paulette Adams stated that Operation Christmas Child was very successful and that 2 trucks were needed again this year and that the number of boxes increased again this year. For the first time this year there was a row of tables with items to be packed into boxes by the volunteers staffing the collection center. This was very successful and something similar will be done next year. Money donated to Operation Christmas Child was used to purchase needed items.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations: The committee has been interviewing candidates for youth and campus position.

Worship: Paulette Booker reported this committee has been very busy and thanked Paula Peterson, Mandy Gerhardt, and Don Putzier for all the work they have been doing decorating the sanctuary for Advent. The committee will be developing a worship evaluation form.

Youth: Dan Rivers and Shanna Blomquist are leading the youth group Wednesday nights and are doing a great job. A couple of kids attended church this past Sunday because they are coming to Wednesday's youth group.

Technology: In response to members request pricing has been obtained to obtain a shade for dove-side stained glass window in sanctuary to lessen the glare

HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

from the sun. Don received a quote from Blinds and More. They recommended a fabric shade which would match the wood color or the window frame. The shade is not opaque and when held over the window on a bright day, you can still see the stained-glass window and the colors. Several options were presented to Ad Council with the recommendation for the corded full width shade for \$823.50. Both Worship Committee and Trustees have approved of the purchase. Paulette Booker moved to approve the purchase of the corded full shade and Stacy Vanderwerf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Music Ministry upgrades were authorized but are not to exceed \$500. Further recommendations from Sim Sound will be examined when the proposals are complete.

CCLI license: Our current license covers copying activities that assist with congregational singing, including projecting, using song sheets, bulletin inserts, and importing of music sheets into worship planning software. The cost is currently \$208.00 per year. If our attendance goes above 200 consistently, we will need to pay \$276.00 per year.

The worship and technology committees recommended we purchase the following licenses as well. Stream by would allow us to legally stream or podcast our live-recorded worship music over the internet. This would cost an additional \$85.00 per year. This does not allow for broadcast of our worship music by KTV. The Church Video License would allow us to use videos during church, in sermons, or for movie showings at our church. This would cost an additional \$230.00

Video recording and camera upgrade needs were presented. The current system failing and is barely functional. It is almost 10 years old. Only one out of three cameras working, and the last camera is having intermittent troubles. We are unable to keep up with new requirements to broadcast over KTC.

The needed technology recommendations would cost \$25,800. Options to pay for the needed upgrades include fund raising, taking out a loan, and shifting of funds. The worship and technology committees are looking for direction on this issue. Paulette Booker indicated the cameras are something the congregation has come to appreciate and that many watch online. Pastor Kelly has heard from many visitors that they go on to

website first and watched a sermon before coming through our doors. Kerry Rausch and Michelle Behsman were directed to look into funds. Council discussion included asking if anyone really watched the service on KTV and the internet? It was asked if the number of website hits could be determined? The Ad Council felt the stream license of \$85 a year would be worth doing. While a couple of the trustees felt cautious of spending this money most were in support of the expense. Don Putzier stated he will check with KTV for viewership and will check with Aaron Daby to determine how many hits we receive. Other financing options were also discussed which included a possible loan and fundraising activities. If the only existing camera goes down will need a tri-pod hand held camera. KTV may have equipment we can use if ours goes completely down.

Jeff Adams closed by asking us to consider how we think of church. He said that there are many ways of doing church but how we see church affects how we do church. He then spoke of our goal to hire a youth leader and he reminded the council that the youth will look different than us. He questioned whether the membership is prepared and ready to accept and welcome young people. While the Ad Council and SPRC has been actively working towards our mission of planting a campus ministry by interviewing candidates for the youth/campus minister position, our understanding of our membership's willingness to embrace change has changed since we began. He wonders whether we have regularly and actively communicated our planting mission to the church enough. A primary job of the Ad Council he said is to be in constant communication with the entire church about our mission—sharing our vision and excitement.

Adjournment/Next Meeting: Kelly closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Rausch

Church Charge Conference

There will be a Church Charge Conference on Thursday, January 19, 2017 followed by the regularly scheduled Administration Council meeting. The purpose of the Charge Conference is for the election of church leadership for 2017.

HILLTOP NEWS

Weekly Eucharist

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Please join us each Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 pm to express joyful thanks for the goodness of God and His unconditional love for us. As we encounter Christ in the bread and the wine, we are repeatedly touched by divine grace and progressively shaped into Christ's image to be people motivated by love, empowered and impassioned to do His work in the world.

Thank you

A big **thank you** to Deb Oachs for again chairing the peanut brittle connection. This requires a huge amount of work in advertising, organizing the work crew, buying the supplies, overseeing the production and assuring quality control. The peanut brittle money taken in is a large portion of the proceeds from the Christmas festival from which a portion benefits the Backpack Food program. Her dedication to continue taking on this project is very much appreciated and hopefully will continue. Thanks, Sandy Cooper

Thank you so much to my church family for the generous Christmas gift. Thank you especially for all the support and appreciation you show me throughout the year. Love, Jo Breckenridge

Thank you to the following people who helped ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign: Travis & Jorcee Hansen & family, Ron & Margaret Beaty, Mike & Dee Mattox, Aaron & Kendra Daby, and the Sellner family. Your service was greatly appreciated!

Hilltop Office

The office will not be staffed Mon., Jan. 2nd through Fri., Jan. 6th due to staff vacations. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time please call the office for instructions on who to contact.

INVENTORY—If you notice that we are in need of any item for the kitchen, hospitality, etc. you will find an inventory list in the kitchen on a clipboard below the phone. Please mark the item(s) and sign your name and date in case we have any questions. Thank you!

Happy Birthday!

Donn Rakow	1/1	Ella Fritz	1/16
Lucas Peterson	1/1	Julius Fritz	1/16
Micaylia Kraywinkel	1/2	Peter Jarnstrom	1/18
Caden Clark	1/3	Chuck Rowen	1/20
Penny Johnson	1/3	Derrick Galinat	1/23
Christine Wilson-Winter	1/8	Betty Goebel	1/25
Matt Rausch	1/10	Dennis Thorsen	1/25
Tara Swalve	1/11	Dianne Mell	1/25
Kelly Rivers	1/12	Ken Green	1/25
Mary Gaskins	1/12	Logan Swalve	1/26
Adam Brown	1/14	Brandon Page	1/28
Don Bohn	1/14	Neil Westby	1/29
Debby Westby	1/15	JJ Morgan	1/30
Gary Cooper	1/15	Del Goebel	1/31
Shannon McCuaig	1/15		

Happy Anniversary!



Bill & Adela Scherer	1/1
John & Judy Harrington	1/4
Andrew & Mary Bittner	1/5
Dianne & Mark Daby	1/5
Kim & Taylor Waknitz	1/8
Jim & Kathleen Mehrman	1/22
Bob & Char Kraywinkel	1/26



Mary Martha Circle


Date: Wednesday, January 11th
 Time: 1:30 pm
 Hostess: Terry Berg
 Devotions: Wanda Allevan
 Project: Hygiene Kits

Newsletter Submissions

When submitting newsletter articles, be sure to include the date, time, location, other details, contact name and number, and the name of the team or committee hosting the event. There is a submission form on the shelf by the copier or submit to office@mankatohilltop.org and include "newsletter article" in the subject line. The deadline for the February newsletter is **Monday, January 23, 2017.**

January Calendar at Hilltop

Details to each calendar event can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/> by clicking on the event.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 8:30a Worship 9:30a Kids Kinection 10:30a Worship	2 -office closed-	3 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share	4 5:30p Eucharist 6:30p Choir practice 9:00p KTV Broadcast	5 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Worship Band	6 EPIPHANY 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	7 1-4p Organist Practice	
8 8:30a Worship 9:30a Kids Kinection 10:30a Worship	9	10 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share	11 1:30p Mary Martha Circle 5:30p Eucharist 6:30p Choir practice 9:00p KTV Broadcast	12 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Worship Band	13 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	14 1-4p Organist Practice	
15 GREEN BAG DAY 8:30a Worship 9:30a Kids Kinection 10:30a Worship	16 -office closed-	17 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share	18 5:30p Eucharist 6:30p Choir practice 6:30p Absolute Basics of Christian Faith "Confirmation" 9:00p KTV Broadcast	19 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Worship Band 6:30p Comm. Meetings 7:30p Charge Conference /Ad Council	20 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	21 1-4p Organist Practice	
22 8:30a Worship 9:30a Kids Kinection 10:30a Worship	23 8:00a Newsletter Deadline	24 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share	25 5:30p Eucharist 6:30p Choir practice 6:30p Absolute Basics of Christian Faith "Confirmation" 9:00p KTV Broadcast	26 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Worship Band	27 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	28 1-4p Organist Practice	
29 8:30a Worship 9:30a Kids Kinection 9:30a 7 Minute Seminary 10:30a Worship	30 6:30p Epic of Eden Isalah	31 6:45a Men's Bible Study 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share 7:00p Epic of Eden	 <p>THE 31 DAY CHALLENGE</p>				Take the Challenge and read one chapter of Proverbs each day in January—for those on Facebook watch for Kelly's daily reflection on the readings.



www.mankatohilltop.org

Pastor Kelly McCuaig

pastor@mankatohilltop.org

108 S. Manitou Drive

Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 387-3877

office@mankatohilltop.org



find us on facebook:

Hilltop United Methodist Church

Yesterday

You shall not go out with haste,...for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

—Isaiah 52:12

Security from Yesterday. "...God requires an account of what is past" (Ecclesiastes 3:15). At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise when we remember our yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future. God reminds us of the past to protect us from a very shallow security in the present.

Security for Tomorrow. "...the Lord will go before you...." This is a gracious revelation—that God will send His forces out where we have failed to do so. He will keep watch so that we will not be tripped up again by the

same failures, as would undoubtedly happen if He were not our "rear guard." And God's hand reaches back to the past, settling all the claims against our conscience.

Security for Today. "You shall not go out with haste...." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, forgetful delight, nor with the quickness of impulsive thoughtlessness. But let us go out with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ.

Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

Chambers, Oswald. "My Utmost for His Highest." www.utmost.org/yesterday/