



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
November 2015

office@mankatohilltop.org

www.mankatohilltop.org

facebook: hilltop united methodist church

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus Freaks

For years now we as a church have been dreaming, hoping, and praying that the Lord would guide us in our next efforts to reach those outside the walls of our church. Two things were clear in this praying and discerning process: 1) There was confidence that the church was being called to actually *plant* a new ministry—to invest heavily in the lives of those who are not part of Hilltop UMC and to start some sort of ministry that would focus solely on those people. And 2) there was a deep concern in the heart of this church to reach the thousands of college students who call Mankato, MN home each year.

God has been faithful to Hilltop Church, and he has answered our prayers after this season of faithful, patient waiting. We announced last month the exciting news that we as a church have made the unified, and Spirit-led decision to plant a *Wesley Foundation*, a United Methodist campus ministry, right here in Mankato, MN! While we're confident that God will continue to guide us faithfully on this journey, we need to all know that he invites each and every one of us to participate as we not only plant this new, exciting, and much needed ministry, but also as we continue to do all the amazing things that Hilltop church does on a yearly basis.

So during this month of thanksgiving let us be incredibly grateful for the amazing gifts that God has given us, and recognize as one body that we've been given these gifts for one purpose—to reveal the glorious Kingdom of God, his Kingdom of love and grace, to a world that so desperately needs it. As Methodists we believe that God has given us the great gifts of prayer, presence, and resources, and throughout the month in our *Jesus Freaks* sermon series we will explore each of these God-given gifts, and learn how we can better use them to be the body of Christ that he longs for us to be.



Then on November 15th we will culminate this sermon series with a fantastic Thanksgiving worship service followed by our annual *Harvest Home Dinner*! So keep an eye out for your yearly stewardship packets and be sure to fill it out and bring it with you to the *Harvest Home Dinner*. This event will include a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We would be honored by your attendance; there is no need to make a reservation—your yearly commitment card is your ticket!

So as we move into this season of gratitude, know that I am personally extremely grateful for each of you. These past four months have been some of the most exciting of my life, and I still can not believe that I have the blessing to be your pastor. You bless my socks off! I can't wait to see what the future holds—knowing that Christ is increasing in each of us. Thank you for giving of yourself and your resources in order to reveal more of His Kingdom in this world. May you continue to be blessed with God's abundant love and grace.

Kelly

Mankato Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

Grace Lutheran Church (320 East Main St.) will host a ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov 25th at 7:00 pm with time of fellowship to follow. This event is a joint effort of the Mankato Area Ministerial Assoc. and Kelly McCuaig will deliver the message this year.

HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes from October Ad Council

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 7:30 pm

Present: Paulette Adams, Jeff Adams, Rolly Utzinger, Herb Fast, Karen Frydendall, Aaron Daby, JoAnn Hutchinson, Michelle Behsman, Kerry Rausch, Kelly McCuaig

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Adams.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Rolly to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 Ad Council meeting, Karen seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Kelly reported that he along with Shannon McCuaig and Stacy Vanderwerf will present Hilltop's plan to plant a Wesley Foundation on the MNSU campus to staff at the MN Annual Conference on October 26th. It is not for approval, but rather sharing our vision for this new ministry. In the coming months, Kelly and Fred will begin to select a board of directors for the Wesley Foundation and begin the search process for the campus minister position.

Kelly reported that the Asbury-organized, non-denominational NewRoom conference he attended last month was one of the top five spiritual moments of his life. The theme revolved around John Wesley's idea that if you focus your ministry on holiness, small groups, biblical preaching and lay leadership all else will fall into place. He has great hopes that lay leadership from Hilltop will attend next year's event with him.

Kelly feels that the two Sunday worship services are going well and the Wednesday Eucharist has a great start with 18 attending on average. He said this service is fast becoming his favorite and he encouraged all who wished to deepen their relationship with our Lord to partake in the Eucharist more frequently.

Kelly also provided details on events in the next two months which include: 3 baptisms, 2 weddings, stewardship campaign, Harvest Home Dinner, All Church Conference, Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship at Grace Lutheran, and the Advent worship series.

Trustees Report: Aaron reported that Bob and Bill cleaned the garage to make room for OCC boxes. The

dead tree at the parsonage was dropped by the utility company and Eric will come with a trailer to finish cleanup. Bob spoke with Nielsen Blacktopping and they assured him that the remaining work on the parking lot would be completed this fall. A pallet of steel shingles was delivered in order that we may use them for a dedication service on October 25th. Trustees learned that the property insurance will be reduced by 20% due to the steel roof. Lastly, he reported that the epoxy floor project at the parsonage was completed and all were pleased with the end result.

Finance Report: JoAnn reported that there is \$36,406 in the church roof fund, which will cover all but \$3000 of the cost of the new roof. The trustees hope to raise the additional funds by hosting a pancake supper on October 25th. In addition to collecting free will donations, they plan to "sell" roof shingles with a suggested price of \$20.00 each.

JoAnn provided a brief overview of the September finance report. Expenses appear higher than average, but they include \$5000 transferred to savings, parsonage flooring, and connect group books. Eighty percent of the cost of the parsonage flooring was covered by 2014 Christmas festival proceeds given to the trustees. The remaining share was covered by major repairs. The cost of the connect group books will be offset by fees collected from individuals.

Kelly then reviewed the 2016 budget proposal. He noted and explained the areas of increase: ministry candidate support, discipleship plan, pastor continuing education, Wesley foundation minister, annual conference delegate, special events, parsonage maintenance, and AC units for rooms on west side of building. With Kelly still finishing his MDiv and Andrew Bittner at seminary, council approved an increase in ministry candidate support and continuing education for the pastor. As we continue to grow it is expected that participation in connect groups will also increase so the discipleship plan line item was doubled. We anticipate hiring a campus minister who will begin work on July 1, 2016, so the budget reflects half a year's salary. Kelly

HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

asked for funds to be designated for special events like the Back to School Bash so this line item was added to the budget. The largest increase other than the added staffing for the Wesley Foundation was for parsonage maintenance. Necessary safety upgrades need to take place next year, including installation of a firewall between the garage and house and a new boiler. Also in the proposed budget is the installation of AC units in the conference room, Sunday school room, and fireside room. The overall increase over 2015 is \$40,341.89 or 13.77%, which is about the same as the 13.9% increase in 2014. The average increase over the last three years is 10% which is in Kelly's estimation a healthy and manageable level of growth. JoAnn made a motion to approve the 2016 budget proposal and Karen seconded. Motion carried.

Endowment: John Phelps emailed an update: Property Fund saw 2.3% increase for a total value of \$15,347.32 and Education saw a 2.9% increase for a total value of \$24,126.76.

Worship: Paulette reported by email that the team met on Oct. 11th. They continued their planning discussion for the next few months, including identifying and recording testimonies from people whose lives have been changed by prayer. The testimonies will be shown during the stewardship sermon series. Paulette Adams added that the trustees installed more pulleys and cords in the sanctuary to assist in hanging banners.

Technology: Don was away at Emmaus, but Jeff reported that Don had received a bid from Sim Sound for upgrades which essentially replace all aspects of technology in the sanctuary.

New Business: Paulette reported that Operation Christmas Child is on track for the third week in November. She also reported that the Pastoral care team has been doing visitations and will meet in November to examine structure of the group.

Next Meeting/Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Ad Council will not meet in November due to the All Church Conference scheduled on Thursday, November 12th at

6:30 pm. Jeff closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman

Church Conference Worship

You are invited to worship with us on Thursday Evening November 12th at 6:30 pm for our all Church/Charge conference worship experience. During our evening together we will hear 3 testimonies from persons in our Hilltop family on how someone has influenced and strengthened their relationship with our Lord. Within the service we will nominate new committee and team members and seek to approve candidates for ministry, lay speakers, and pastor's compensation. We will pray over our decisions, sing together, and share in Holy Communion. District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf will preside

Harvest Home Dinner

Plan to attend our thanksgiving style dinner at Hilltop on **November 15th at 11:30 am**. This dinner is our gift to thank you for your faithful generosity in this past year, and to celebrate your 2016 pledge. There is no need to make a reservation – your red envelope containing your 2016 commitment card is your ticket! Please do not hesitate to invite a friend.

Your 2016 Commitment Card

If you have not received your 2016 Stewardship Letter and Commitment card please let the church office know. We are passing them out in worship on Oct. 25th, Nov. 1st, and Nov. 8th and mailing the remaining packets on Nov. 9th so you can receive it in time for our Harvest Home Dinner on Nov. 15th at 11:30 am.

Worship Attendance Statistics			
Sundays:	2015	2014	2013
September 27	192	180	182
October 4	206	170	193
October 11	188	200	220
October 18	182	177	205
Average	192	181	200

OUTWARD

Send Your Love Around the World!



November is Operation Christmas Child month, and Hilltop will be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes to be sent around the world for children in need. The gift of a shoebox can be a gift of hope, a gift of healing, the gift of smiles and laughter, and the gift of letting children know that Jesus loves them. Hilltop is designated as a Collection Center, meaning that we accept boxes from the greater Mankato area, load them in a semi, and have them delivered to the processing center in Minneapolis.

Volunteers are needed to receive shoe boxes and pack the boxes into shipping cartons during collection center hours. You will find a sign-up sheet available on the OCC table in the Narthex.

COLLECTION CENTER HOURS – 2015

Mon, Nov. 16	11 AM – 1 PM	&	5 PM – 7 PM
Tue, Nov. 17	11 AM – 1 PM	&	5 PM – 7 PM
Wed, Nov. 18	11 AM – 1 PM	&	5 PM – 7 PM
Thu, Nov. 19	11 AM – 1 PM	&	5 PM – 7 PM
Fri, Nov. 20	11 AM – 1 PM	&	5 PM – 7 PM
Sat, Nov. 21	10 AM – 2 PM		
Sun, Nov. 22	12:00 PM – 5:30 PM		
*Mon, Nov. 23	10:00 AM – 1 PM		

Last year our Collection Center collected a total of 5,212 boxes, including 2,537 individual boxes brought to Hilltop and 2,675 from five different Relay Centers. Of that total, 229 boxes were from Hilltop. This year we hope to increase our box total by 15%!

How to Pack A Box:

Choose the age of the child or children, boys or girls, you wish to bless – pack one box for each child, ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Plastic shoeboxes are available in the Narthex for you to take, pack and return by Sunday, November 22, 2015. You may also use an actual shoebox – if you want to wrap the box in festive wrapping paper, be sure to wrap the cover separately so that the box can be opened without tearing the paper. Consider including a message for the child receiving the box, or a picture of you or your family.

You can “follow your box” by giving an online donation

for shipping. Your box will be tracked using UPC code technology and you will receive an e-mail message to let you know the location where your box is actually shipped to. You can access the Samaritan’s Purse website to do this – www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

If shopping isn’t your thing, you will also have an opportunity to make a donation and have your shopping done for you by the Hilltop Youth Group. Just place a donation in the offering plate prior to November 15, noting that it is to be used for OCC. Your donation will then be used to provide supplies for shoeboxes, as well as shipping money.

Some do’s and don’ts for packing boxes:

Try to begin with a “wow” item – start with a medium to large item that will capture the child’s attention the instant he or she opens the box. Ideas would be a soccer ball with pump, stuffed animal, toys, doll, musical instrument, outfit, shoes. Then fill in with other items:

- Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo’s, toys that light up or make noise, Slinky, etc.
- School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.
- Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, plastic soap dish, toothbrush holder, etc.
- Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, (wrap all candy in a plastic bag), gum, sunglasses, flashlights, ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair-clips, watches, small picture books, etc. (hint: Jolly Ranchers melt in high temperatures, these may not be a good choice.)
- Place a \$7.00 check to Samaritans Purse in box for shipping, or donate online through “Follow Your Box” to its destination using the special barcode label provided.

DO NOT include the following items please:

- Toy guns, knives or other war-related items
- Chocolate or perishable items
- Liquids of any kind (shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.)
- Medicines of any kind (vitamins, cough drops, etc.)
- Breakable items (mirrors, china dolls, etc.)
- Harry Potter-related items
- Flower & vegetable seeds

Put a smile on a child’s face, share the story of Jesus’ love, pack a box.

OUTWARD

Christmas Festival 2015

The Christmas Festival will be held Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 9 am to noon. We will be selling peanut brittle, crafts, soups, cookies, candies, baked goods, breakfast, and more. There will also be a Kids Korner with face painting and make & take ornaments. Half of the proceeds will go to helping supply food to students in the Blue Earth County Area through the Backpack Food Program.

There will be information in the Narthex regarding the Festival: Sign up for making cookies, sign up to help make peanut brittle; ideas for making baskets for silent auction; price list guidelines for your crafts and baked goods later this month. Donations can be placed in the offering plate; please write Christmas Festival in the Memo Portion of your check.

The Youth will be setting up tables for the Festival on Wednesday evening, December 2nd, during their youth meeting.

Drop off times for baked goods, crafts, cookies, etc. will be Friday December 4th from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer for a task, please feel free to contact Terry Berg at 625-1865 or bergtb1356@yahoo.com or Kendra Daby at 507-382-5202 or kensdaby@gmail.com

Mission Potluck

Please bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship with Hilltop families following the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, November 1st. A freewill offering will benefit the Blue Earth County Backpack Food Program which focuses on ensuring that students have nutritious food when school is out.

Red Kettle Campaign

Come join in the fun and ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 14 at the Hilltop HyVee pharmacy entrance (indoors!) from 10 am until 8 pm. Please sign up for a 1-2 hr. shift at the Welcome Center.



Baskets, Baskets, Baskets!

Yes, baskets are needed for our Hilltop Christmas Festival! Hilltop family, do you get together with family or friends to exercise, scrapbook, bowl, play cards, or do you belong to a Connect Group, church choir, Sunday school, Bible study, book club, etc.? Would you and your group consider making a basket or monetary donation to be used for making a basket for the Christmas festival? A list of suggested themes and directions for making a basket can be found in the narthex. When selecting items remember that all baskets begin with a minimum \$25.00 bid. Baskets need to be at Hilltop by Friday, December 4th and monetary donations should be made by Saturday, November 14th. For more information, please contact Char Kraywinkel at 257-3151 or Paula Peterson at 317-5794.

Peanut Brittle Connection

Every fall for the past 37 years Hilltop members have met at our church to make peanut brittle. We are always looking for new faces to join in the fun - 14 people are needed each session. We will be selling the peanut brittle at the Christmas Festival on December 5, 2015.

There are four remaining sessions:

Monday, Nov. 2nd at 5:30 pm

Friday, Nov. 6th at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 5:30 pm

Thursday, Nov. 12th at 12:30 pm

Please sign up at the welcome center. For more information call Deb Oachs 381-3802, Patti Cole 345-5855, or Sandy Cooper 382-1185.

Salvation Army Noon Meal

Hilltop is blessed with the opportunity to serve the Sunday Noon Meal at the Salvation Army on Sunday, November 8th from 11am - 1:30pm. Please sign at the Welcome Center to donate food and/or help serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

HILLTOP NOTES

Weekly Eucharist at Hilltop

Eucharist Service 12:10-12:30 pm

Fellowship Lunch 12:30-12:50 pm

Eucharist is a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving,' so please join us each Wednesday during the lunch hour, beginning on September 30th, to give thanks to God for his love and mercy through the broken body and shed blood of Christ. As one body we will experience the real and present Spirit of Christ amongst us and in us, and be nourished to go forth to be faithful witnesses of God's love and grace in the world.

We encourage you to bring your lunch with you so that we can continue to fellowship with one another through the lunch hour after the service.

Bloodmobile at Hilltop



**American
Red Cross**

Jesus gave His blood for us. Will you give one pint of blood to help your neighbor?

Together, we can save a life

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Hill-

top UMC on Friday, November 27th from 11:00am - 4:00pm. If you are not able to donate blood, please consider helping with set-up, take-down, Registration or Canteen (sign up at the Welcome Center). Any questions may be directed to Judy Argetsinger 507-382-1065.

Gifts for SPRTC

St. Peter Regional Treatment Center is requesting Christmas gifts for residents living at the Center. A box for donations will be in the narthex on Sunday, December 6th. SUGGESTED GIFTS: personal fun items, candy, games, electronics and stationary. They request that gifts not be wrapped--no glass.



Mary Martha Circle

Date: November 11th

Time: 1:30 pm

Hostess: Marci Fast

Devotions: Terry Berg

Project: Birthing Kits

Happy Birthday!

David Reynolds	11/01	Daphne Janzen	11/21
Lucy Lamphear	11/01	Jean Hohenhaus	11/22
Karen Daniel	11/02	Stacy Zierdt	11/23
Sierra Thoms	11/02	Stephanie Maday	11/23
Jarret Thoms	11/05	Brayden Bass	11/25
Jake Written	11/06	Carl Kiewatt	11/25
Diane Zimmerman	11/08	Deborah Jesseman	11/25
Phillip Daniel	11/09	Kent Bass	11/26
Lana Glynn	11/11	Chris Eckert	11/27
Jodi McDonough	11/13	Chris Schroeder	11/27
Everett McDonough	11/14	June Juliar	11/27
Perry McDonough	11/14	Kay Svobodny	11/27
Sara Stinson	11/14	Raegan Daschner	11/27
Wes Flesner	11/15	Rose Prosser	11/27
Nattie Harmon	11/16	Adam Peterson	11/29
Michele Paegel	11/18	Karen Frydendall	11/30
Mike Roozen	11/18	Ramsey Turner	11/30
Rick Gaskins	11/18		

Happy Anniversary!



Judy & Harry Argetsinger	11/02
Gary & Sandy Cooper	11/14
Luke & Kristin Andrews	11/19
Kelly & Shannon McCuaig	11/19
Wayne & Connie Baumgartner	11/22
Jeff & Paulette Adams	11/27

Serving in the Middle East


Eddie Putzier is currently deployed with the US Army to the Middle East for the next 9 months or so, and would appreciate mail. If anyone would like to write to him, his address is:

Putzier, Edward
HHC, 1-87IN
Camp Taji
APO AE 09378

It is best NOT to put his rank or anything referring to the military on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!

November 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 ALL SAINTS' DAY 8:00a Worship 9:15a Kids Kinection 9:15a Connect Groups 10:30a Worship 11:30p Mission Potluck	2 5:30p Peanut Brittle 6:30p CG-Epic of Eden 6:30p CG-Daniel Plan	3 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share 7:00p CG - Family Tree 7:30p CG - Gifts	4 12:10p Eucharist 6:15-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir practice 7:45p CG-Mere Christianity 9:00p KTV Broadcast	5 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p CG-Ten 6:30p Ernaus Fourth Day	6 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p Peanut Brittle 12:30p KTV Broadcast	7 1-4p Organist Practice
8 8:00a Worship 9:15a Kids Kinection 9:15a Connect Groups 10:30a Worship 11:30p Salvation Army Noon Meal	9 6:30p CG-Epic of Eden 6:30p CG-Daniel Plan	10 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Peanut Brittle 5:30p Prayer & Share 7:00p CG - Family Tree 7:30p CG - Gifts	11 VETERANS DAY 1:10p Mary Martha Circle 12:10p Eucharist 6:15-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir practice 7:45p CG-Mere Christianity 9:00p KTV Broadcast	12 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 12:30p Peanut Brittle 6:30p CG-Ten 6:30p ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE	13 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	14 10:00a-8pm Red Kettle Ringers at HyVee 1-4p Organist Practice
15 8:00a Worship 9:15a Kids Kinection 9:15a Connect Groups 10:30a Worship 11:30p Harvest Home Dinner	16 8:00a Newsletter Deadline 6:30p CG-Epic of Eden	17 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share 7:00p CG - Family Tree 7:30p CG - Gifts	18 12:10p Eucharist 6:15-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir practice 7:45p CG-Mere Christianity 9:00p KTV Broadcast	19 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p CG-Ten	20 7a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Broadcast	21 1-4p Piano Recital Practice
22 8:00a Worship 9:15a Kids Kinection 9:15a Connect Groups 10:30a Worship 3:00p Piano Recital	23 6:30p CG-Epic of Eden	24 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer & Share 7:00p CG - Family Tree 7:30p CG - Gifts	25 12:10p Eucharist 6:15-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir practice 7:45p CG-Mere Christianity 9:00p KTV Broadcast	26 THANKSGIVING	27 7a Men's Morning Risers 11:00a Red Cross Blood Drive at Hilltop 12:30p KTV Broadcast	28 1-4p Organist Practice
29 1st Sunday Advent 8:00a Worship 9:15a Kids Kinection 9:15a Connect Groups 10:30a Worship	30 6:30p CG-Epic of Eden	 <p>Organist Jo Breckenridge cordially invites the Hilltop members to a Piano Recital of her students on Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 pm.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REJOICE always, PRAY without ceasing GIVE THANKS in all circumstances; For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus For you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18</p>			



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Hilltop United Methodist Church

MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On This Spirit Walk Retreat

Start Date/Time: December 4, 2015 (Gather between 5 and 6 for dinner at 6 p.m.)

End Date/Time: December 5, 2015 at 4 p.m.

Location:

Koinonia Retreat Center
7768 Pilger Ave
South Haven, MN 55382

Registration: <https://minnesotaumc.org/news/events/on-this-spirit-walk-retreat/>

Register By: November 30, 2015

Cost: \$85, includes book, lodging and 3 meals.

Contact Info: Heather Klason 507-932-4966 or pastor.scdumcs@hbc.com

This is a chance for anyone in the conference, clergy and laity, to focus on Native American understanding and reconciliation using Anita Phillips' book, *On This Spirit Walk*.

Participate in this gathering to:

- have the opportunity to learn more about Native American traditions and spiritual path
- become more open to exploring our own understanding and response
- be able to return to our churches prepared to use the book in small groups

Registration will include a copy of "On this Spirit Walk".

Leaders, both members of the MN Conference Native American Ministries Team (NAMAT), are: Pastor Guy Sederski, of the Ojibwe Bad River tribe, is a licensed local pastor in Minnesota and a participant in the Native American Comprehensive Plan annual meeting. Guy is currently exploring a Native American church planting. Bill Konrardy is a lay delegate to annual conference with experience in leading studies of this book.