



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
August 2013

www.mankatohilltop.org

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Beyond the Principles to the Person

Thank you so much for allowing me time to continue my Doctor of Ministry studies at seminary. You may get this letter after I have returned, but I want you to document that I am receiving blessing upon blessing. To think I almost missed this. The general subjects of my two primary classes are Biblical Interpretation and Preaching. It is quite phenomenal to watch Dr. Dongell unpack the book of Mark when you know he has been steeped in it for 25 years. Breathtaking to know just how inspired God's word is.

This week we began the preaching class. As you know when we communicate anything, both content and form require such a balance. How much more so is that true we proclaim God's word? My own self evaluation is that I am strong in illustrations, but sometimes I fear my illustrations might actually overwhelm the Word God has for us. I think a big lesson for me has been my very approach to Scripture. I think all of us go to scripture looking for something to use. "Will that preach?" But isn't Scripture's intent to use us? We are invited into the Story of God and not the reverse.

By far the best part of this program is not the head knowledge, but rather the heart transformation. I've told you before, but this place is just good for one's soul. I have 9 very special people in my cohort, and we break away often for prayer, devotional time, and accountability. Yes, we go to the cave. An added highlight this year, is that we have been joined by 40 others from all over the world. I am learning how Korean Christians cry aloud when they pray, and Nigerian Christians face daily persecution and even death, and how an Aussie goes about planting a church in New Zealand. Its phenomenal to experience vast reality of the worldwide church.

So what's the hardest part? Hand's down the hardest part is not being able to share this with you. I pray it shapes me in some way that is evident in my preaching, leadership, and fellowship with you when I return.

Thank you for the way you love ,
Pastor Fred

Interested in joining Hilltop Church?

If you are considering joining our church, I invite you to meet with me over coffee in my office at 10 am following worship on August 18th. This meeting is designed for you to ask the questions you might have before joining. Any question is appropriate (*What does it mean to be a United Methodist? What's the purpose of Hilltop? What's expected of me as a member? Did God create aliens?*). It will also be a chance for me to share with you the vows of membership. This meeting is offered with no expectation that you join. Just come, get to know us, and ask your questions. Should you decide to join we will gratefully receive you during our service on August 25th at 9:00 am. In preparation for this meeting I invite you to watch my "why church?" sermon series at this youtube location <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuLPP9RCbRU>.

Be Blessed, Pastor Fred



Mary Martha Circle will NOT be meeting in the month of August

Attendance-June '11	
	Su
06/05	156
06/12	140
06/19	90
06/26	122

Attendance-June '12	
	Su
06/03	171
06/10	102
06/17	140
06/24	122

Avg. 127

Avg. 134

Nursery

As you have most likely heard, Hilltop UMC will be offering two Sunday morning worship opportunities starting in September. I hope you are as excited as I am about what this means for our church and our efforts to make room for any and all who seek Jesus and a place to worship Him. This addition will, of course, bring some ‘growing pains’ as we adjust and learn to navigate through the changes. It will also bring us new opportunities to serve God and one another.

One very important area of service and ministry is our Sunday morning nursery.

Our mission statement at Hilltop UMC is to invite ALL to celebrate God, to grow in Christ, and to serve others. We consider Sunday worship an essential means of encountering and knowing (celebrating) God. We also believe that worship is central to authentic discipleship (growing in Christ). Different life stages bring different challenges to making regular space in our lives for worship. When you are 30-somethings with a child or children under 5 years of age, being fully present in a worship service can be challenging!

I’d like to invite you to join me and others who serve in the nursery as we say to those parents, “We will help you – we will do what it takes to help you find space for worship.” Our current list of servants includes the parents of children who regularly use the nursery, as well as a few others who personally have no need of the nursery but have found it a rewarding way to serve our church body. The larger the list of available nursery servants, the fewer the times they will be called upon to serve – which means more time in worship for us all! And don’t forget, with an additional Sunday worship service

you now have the option to both serve in the nursery and attend worship on the same Sunday!



(Stacy Vanderwerf) at thewerfs@gmail.com or call 507-304-0969.

Despite the possible ‘bumps and bruises’, I’m proud of our decision to make room for others. I feel certain that this temporary time of adjustment will eventually prove worth the effort and the sacrifice as our church family grows and as we witness God’s kingdom increasing in Mankato.

For more information or to join the list of wonderful nursery servants, please contact me

Join Pastor Fred and the church staff for this exciting seminar pertinent to our church size.

Your registration cost will be covered by our equipping leader’s fund!

Ministry Management Seminars, led by Doug Anderson, August 28 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Transitioning Church Size: 150 weekly worshipers is a transition point between pastor-driven and program-driven congregations. Moving between these takes planning and action. Get information and tactics for maximizing your ministry. Ideal for clergy and laity in churches with 100-200 average weekly attendance. Participants will be given practical models, principals, and options for effectively dealing with important issues and opportunities. Making ministry effective and dynamic is the purpose of the seminar.

Mission

Mission Focus for August and September 2013

Over the next two months we will be focusing on these two programs for our mission potluck and collections to take place. It is interesting that both programs focus on children and their schooling. A child who is worried about where the next meal will come from or when they will eat at school because they are hungry, cannot focus on learning. We can be the person who adds that extra “meal” for them at home through one of these programs. Our other mission focus is the Operation Classroom bags that we have done in the past. Each plays an important focus for both local mission and world mission. “Remember as you go about your day that you may be the only “Jesus” some of your friends, neighbors and family will ever see.” (Wanda Brunstetter)

August Mission focus: Freewill offering Potluck to take place on August 4th! UMCOR School Kit: We will be collecting for these over the month of August and sent out by Sept 1, 2013. You may leave items at the front of the narthex in the boxes at the welcome center area. The kit contains:

- **1 pair blunt scissors—rounded tip (no plastic scissors)**
- **3 pads of paper—8 1/2 x 11 spiral notebooks or top-bound pads, 150 sheets of loose leaf paper can be substituted for 1 pad, combinations of spiral, top bound or loose leaf is acceptable (no composition notebooks)**
- **1 30-centimeter ruler**
- **1 hand held pencil sharpener—removed from packaging**
- **6 unsharpened pencils with erasers (no advertising, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols please)**
- **1 pencil eraser, 2 1/2 ”**
- **1 box of 24 crayons (only 24 count)**



Potluck Switchup!

Starting in September, our monthly Mission potlucks will be changing from the 1st Sunday of the month to the **2nd Sunday of the month**. We have all summer to spread this news so that our well-attended potlucks will continue.

Judy Harrington (Chairperson of the Service Committee) will be putting together a “call list” of people who would like to be called to help with our monthly potlucks or summer Sip n’ Says. **Here’s the good news.....** One of our Service Committee leaders (**Peggy Phelps, Sandy Cooper, Cheryl Emery**), **will always be present at each potluck or Sip n’ Say to assist you with set-up, serving of food, and cleanup.** You don’t need to know how to make coffee or run the dishwasher to help out. When Judy asks whether or not she can add your name to the Service Committee call list, please say, “Sure, why not!”

Emerge Youth Group Students will be leaving for our Minneapolis mission trip from August 16th-18th. Our team will be partnering with Street Level Ministry which is a street evangelism team near the University of Minnesota campus. We will also be serving alongside Feed My Starving Children by helping them package food for people overseas. One way that you can support our team is by being in prayer. Please pray for our hearts to be open to serve and that we would be the hands and feet of Christ through these ministries. Please pray for the ministry teams that we will be working with that God would continue to use them to make a difference in the lives of people we meet long after we are gone. And finally, please pray that the love of Jesus would be shown to those who receive the packaged food as well as those we come in contact with on the streets that they may come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Thank you all for supporting us and these ministries through your prayers! It is a wonderful opportunity for each of us!

Mission

September Mission Focus:

Blue Earth County Backpack Program
The Backpack Food Program was featured as Greater Mankato Area United Way's 2011 Initiative. This program was brought to our community in a collaboration between Feeding our Communities Partners (FOCP), United Way, and the Mankato Public Schools. Food packs are discreetly placed in a child's own backpack before weekends and holiday breaks. Students are voluntarily enrolled by parents and with encouragement from teachers. The program was piloted in Spring 2010 in a Mankato Public Elementary School and will be expanded to additional schools over the upcoming years.

In 2012, United Way increased funding to the Backpack Food Program, enabling FOCP to expand the program to more area schools and to include more children in need of food. In the Spring 2010 pilot, the program fed 41 children in grades K-3 at Franklin Elementary. By Spring 2012, this program will serve 425 children grades K-6 at Franklin, Jefferson, Kennedy and Rosa Parks and Washington Elementary schools, decreasing children's hunger and increasing their health, well-being and chances of school success.

Making the case for Hunger in our Community:

11.5% of children in Blue Earth County live at or below federal poverty line

25% of Mankato residents live at or below federal poverty line

1 in 3 children in ISD 77 are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program (this is **80%** increase over the last 10 years)

2.62 million missing meals in Blue Earth County each year **The impact of hunger on kids:**

Studies show that hunger has a significant impact on a child's emotional health, like aggression and anxiety
Increased academic, behavioral and emotional problems
Inability to focus and behave, having a domino effect on other children **Outcomes of Spring 2010 Pilot:**

40 children received more than 563 weekend food packs during the 2010 pilot

87% of parents say the program improved their child's overall well-being

69% of teachers reported some improvement in students' ability to concentrate

75% of teachers reported some or much improvement in their students' emotional well-being

"The Backpack Program has helped my kids a lot. They

are grateful for everything you do. I wouldn't make it this year without your help. Thank you very much." Parent from Rosa Parks Elementary

"My daughter loves your food program. Thank you for the extra help with food, it takes a bit off our food costs." Parent from Kennedy Elementary

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

We use **monetary donations** to purchase food and pay for programming.

To make a food contribution to the Backpack Food Program, please see the list of foods that will help us meet the criteria established by our Nutrition Team
Items to Donate

We are requesting these specific items to meet dietary guidelines for students and weight restrictions for the backpacks:

Brand Item Item Size(approx.)

Notes

Maruchan Instant Lunch Chicken 2.25 oz Cups only

Kraft Easy Mac Packets Packets only due to limited space in backpack

Chef Boyardee

Microwave Pasta Bowl or Microwave Rice Bowl 7.5 oz

Must be meat variety (i.e. Spaghetti with meatballs, or Chicken with Rice & Vegetables)

Beans & Wieners 7.75 oz Pull-top, preferably chicken and beef based wieners such as Van

Camp's Beanee Weenees.

Tuna Salad Kit 3.5 oz. Tuna Salad Kit with Crackers.

Can be premixed or include the items needed to mix.

Instant Oatmeal packets Flavored (any variety)

100% Juice 6 oz Must be 100% juice, individual pouches or juice boxes, any brand

Apple Sauce Cups 4 oz Any variety Fruit Cups in Light

Syrup 4 oz Must be in light syrup or juice, any variety of fruit

Salted Peanut Packs 1.0 - 1 oz Must be individually packaged

Peanut Butter Snack

Cracker Packs 1.38 oz Must be individually packaged

Nabisco Teddy Grahams 0.5 – 1.0 oz Must be individually packaged

Granola Bars 1.0 oz Any variety

Pudding Cups 3.5 oz Must be non-refrigerated

Hot Chocolate Packets

1.0 oz Any variety

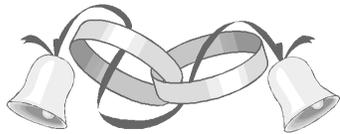
With Gratitude

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, monetary gifts and well wishes as the kids and I moved into our new place! This all helped make for a smooth transition! I can not tell you enough how your outpouring of love covered both me and the kids! With loving gratitude, Tricia, Mariah & Jeffrey

We enjoyed and appreciated the yummy cookies Peggy delivered to our home. What a delightful and thoughtful surprise!
 Ruby & John

Ashley Paegel and Vincent Brackelsberg were married on July 6, 2013. A cousin of Ashley's performed the garden wedding.

Parents & Grandparents of the bride are Taylor & Kim Waknitz and Carl & Sandra Kiewatt



August Birthdays:

Debra Birr	8/02	Leslie Putzier	8/24
Michael Kraywinkel	8/02	Dale Ashpole	8/24
Taylor Wacholz	8/03	Sasha Jakovich	8/25
Shirley Ashpole	8/03	Jack Larson	8/25
Jackson Maday	8/03	Deb Oachs	8/26
Wanda Allevan	8/04	Chriss Page	8/26
Karla Lassonde	8/04	Patti Cole	8/27
Carolyn Allen	8/05	Karen Warmack	8/27
Maggie Steinbauer	8/05	Jan Marble	8/28
Becky Steinbauer	8/05	Kerry Rausch	8/28
Sandy Allen	8/07	Debra Burns	8/28
Dean Marble	8/07	Bradley Mundt	8/29
Jordan Phillips	8/08	Madden Vanderwerf	8/30
Josh Adams	8/08	Jack Olinger	8/30
Bill Warmack	8/08	Arlene Wilson	8/30
Harry Argetsinger	8/13		
Bill Scherer	8/13		
Sydney Maday	8/16		
Jorie Mundt	8/18		
Jenny Winters	8/19		
Jenna Aasen	8/20		
Peggy Phelps	8/22		
Wendy Pearson	8/22		
Christina Ross	8/23		
Joyce Long	8/24		



August Anniversaries:

Sandy & Wendy Allen	8/06
Del & Betty Goebel	8/06
Colin & Abbie Weerts	8/06
Ben & Meghan Baumann	8/09
Scott & Chriss Page	8/11
Scott & Michelle Harmon	8/12
Doug & Liz Wallen	8/15
Merrill & Karen Frydendall	8/16
Nate & Emily Allen	8/18
Todd & Karin Gavin	8/18
Steve & Paula Peterson	8/20
Dennis & Karin Ambros Ward	8/20
Kevin & Shari Schroeder	8/21
David & Christina Ross	8/21
Herb & Marci Fast	8/24
Mike & Kari Juni	8/26

Jim & Kerry Rausch	8/27
Debra & Will Michalski	8/28
Dan & Lana Held	8/30
Collin & Ashley Parish	8/31
John & Peggy Phelps	8/31





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Calling All Singers!

The choir will be starting rehearsals for the fall season and we would love to have new singers come and join us. If you are looking for a small group experience, a way to get to know people in the congregation, want to be able to contribute to worship experiences for yourself and others in the congregation, want to deepen your faith **and you like to sing**, well, this is the place for you! We can use singers in all ranges – soprano, alto, tenor and bass. There are no age limitations, either.

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday evening, August 28, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. We meet in the sanctuary, and will start on time! Please come check it out – there is no need to make a commitment on the first night. If you have questions, feel free to call or e-mail. Let me know you are interested in coming, and I will have music ready for you!

Paulette Adams
Phone: 345-6097
E-Mail: pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com

Men's Retreat is Coming Sooner!

Great news! This year men's retreat is coming sooner! Join 30 plus Hilltop men at Camp Omega Retreat Center outside Waterville, MN, as returning pastor Marc Donaldson and his Texas brothers shares 3 manly talks with us intermingled among food, fellowship, and football, and fooseball. Friday Oct 18th and 19th from 6pm to 6pm. Save the date! Cost is \$60 non-refundable but transferable and due upon sign up. (Three full-ride scholarships are available for those who need it). This is the ultimate male-bonding retreat, meant for us to bond with each other and God. Not sure if you should go? Please ask someone who has gone in year's past!

