



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
June 2013

www.mankatohilltop.org

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

office@mankatohilltop.org

Additional Worship Service Coming Soon

An additional weekly worship experience is coming this fall, September 8th, to Hilltop. Below is some info surrounding this exciting endeavor.

Why an additional Worship Service?

First, we have been at full capacity on Sunday mornings. What an awesome problem to have! Church Growth research confirms that when 80% of your “comfortable” seating is full its time to consider making a change. Too full tells visitors, “there is no room for you,” and members, “you won’t be missed!”

The last time we had a second service was 5 years ago. Our average worship attendance was about 130, but today it’s over 180 - that is 50 more persons on any given Sunday! A few years ago we tried to address our growth with short-term solutions – squeezing the choir, and adding seats to the perimeter. Now the choir itself is growing, and we have run out of perimeter! Of the long-term solutions explored, adding a service is the least costly and least disruptive.

Hilltop’s mission is to *invite all to celebrate God, grow in Christ, and serve others!* Adding additional worship experiences generally increases overall attendance, as persons have more options for attending - and that helps us live into our mission. Of course, by doing nothing we limit our mission to lead people to Living Water. We believe that people are creatures prone to worship!

What will be different about this worship experience?

The current plan is to add a worship service at 8:15am to our Sunday schedule, with Sunday school beginning at 9:15, and our current service remaining at 10:15. This service will be “simpler” and “intimate” in style. It’s for persons who might like the earlier hour, a shorter service (50 minutes), and are ok with not having a children’s message, choir, or praise band. Mostly it will be hymns, prayer time, and message. Initially we believe it will be smaller in size - meaning more parking and seating, and the chance for more intimate relationships.

What can I do to help launch this additional worship experience?

Begin by praying for this new worship experience. This service will be “on trial” for the fall semester. Pray for this new experiment and all the challenges that come with an additional

service and a growing congregation. Pray that in all our services, the word would be correctly preached, people effectively reached, hearts sanctified, and God glorified.

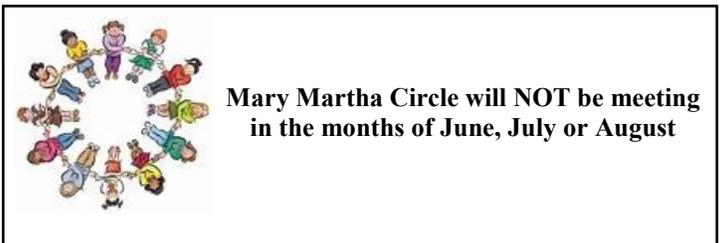
Consider helping us launch this worship service. I would like 25+ of you who currently attend our 10:15 service to commit to being a part of the 8:15 service for the 3-month trial period. Would you reach into your missionary heart and consider attending this service? If so, sign up in the Narthex. By doing so you will ensure critical mass, encouraging others to give it a try, and you will be key people to provide input as we evaluate this service along the way.

You can also step up to assist in the service in some way. To launch this properly we will need: lay readers, childcare, ushers, greeters, bell ringer, etc. Contact me to let me know of your interest.

What if I still have questions and concerns?

I get that changing things brings additional questions and many valid concerns. Please don’t hesitate to take them to me. I can tell you that our Worship Team and Ad Council have taken much into consideration as we have moved towards this decision, but its quite possible we haven’t weighed everything so your concerns are coveted along with potential solutions you might bring. I hope to hear from you.

Pastor Fred



Everywhere Fun Fair takes children to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world’s fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God’s love can be found everywhere, including their own neighborhoods. Vacation Bible school will take place at Hilltop on August 1,2,& 3. Please visit our website to register your child. <http://mankatohilltop.com/> For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Cindy Scherer at cscherer@hickorytech.net.

Mission Moments

Habitat For Humanity

What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

How does it work?

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with partner families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. The homeowners' mortgage payments are used to build more Habitat houses. Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and mortgage payments, a homeowner invests hundreds of hours of labor — sweat equity — into building their Habitat house and the houses of others..

What is Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota?

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc. (HFH-MN) is a statewide resource development and support organization that serves, advocates for and advances the work of Minnesota's Habitat for Humanity affiliates who build simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need.

What are Habitat affiliates?

Habitat for Humanity's work is accomplished at the community level by affiliates — independent, locally run, nonprofit organizations. Each affiliate was created by and is governed by members of the community it serves. Each affiliate coordinates aspects of Habitat home building in its area: fund raising, building site selection, partner family selection and support, house construction, and mortgage servicing. All Habitat affiliates are asked to "tithe" to give 10 percent of their contributions — to fund Habitat's house-building work in other nations. Tithing provides much-needed funds for international building, and it also gives affiliates the opportunity to demonstrate the spirit of Christian partnership.

How do families become a homeowner?

Families in need of decent shelter apply to local Habitat affiliates. The affiliate's family selection committee chooses families based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program and their ability to repay the loan. Every affiliate follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses.

If your family, or a family you know, is in need of decent, affordable housing, contact a Habitat affiliate. They can give

you information on the availability, size, costs and sweat-equity requirements for Habitat houses in their area and information about the application process.

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota

Office: 2401 Lowry Ave NE, #210

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Phone: 612.331.4439

Fax: 612.789.0846



Community Garden

Mary, Mary How does your Garden Grow?

The Hilltop Community Garden has been prepared for 9 families to use. We still have 1 lot left- #4 and can be rented for \$25.00 by calling Rhonda Friesen. Thanks to all who have helped prepare this for the 9 families that will be using it. Let's watch through the summer to see how much the garden grows. Lot 4 is located on the west side of the garden. Cost is \$25.00 for the season

We have some chairs available free to the congregation!!
We have folding metal chairs available to any who want them:

24 of the Dark Brown chairs
28 of the Light Brown (tan) chairs

Please see Bill Scherer, Bob Berg or Pastor Fred if interested,
or call Bill Scherer at 351-0602

With Thanks

Dear Pastor Fred & Hilltop Family-
I write today my last official Sunday at Hilltop to thank you for being a great church family to me over the past few years. You have been there for me during difficulties and triumphs. I have learned so much from you (like playing the guitar), and have found my passion for volunteering. Please accept this gift, a small part of myself I am leaving behind for you to remember me. Hilltop and Pastor Fred, thank you, thank you, thank you. I am going to miss you all!
Mallory Westphal

Thank you to the Family & Staff at Hilltop United Methodist Church for the use of your facility.
Troop #34062

June 2013							Day	Week	Month	2 Weeks	Agenda	More	Settings
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
26 9 Worship with Sip-N-Say	27 Memorial Day 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	28 Soul Leaders Mtg w/Bishc 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	29 MN Annual Conference of UMC John F. Kennedy's Birthda 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Youth Group	30 12p Bulletin Deadline	31 7 Men's Morning Risers	Jun 1 9 Organist Practice							
2 9 Worship w/ Potluck Habit	3 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 7:15p Softball	4 1:30p Women's Bible Study	5 1p Staff Meeting	6 12p Bulletin Deadline	7 Pastor's Day Off 7 Men's Morning Risers	8 9 Organist Practice							
9 9 Worship w/ Sip-N-Say	10 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 6:15p Softball 7p Staff/Parish Mtg 7:15p Softball	11 1:30p Women's Bible Study	12 1p Staff Meeting 1:30p Mary Martha Circle	13 12p Bulletin Deadline 6p Lasting Imprint	14 Pastor's Day Off Flag Day 7 Men's Morning Risers 5p John/Erin Rehearsal	15 John/Erin Wedding 9 Organist Practice							
16 Blake Young Ellie Smithson Baptism Fathers Day 9 Worship w/ Sip-N-Say	17 Pastor On Vacation 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 9:15p Softball	18 1:30p Women's Bible Study	19 1p Staff Meeting	20 12p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Com. Meetings 7:30p Ad Council	21 Pastor's Day Off 7 Men's Morning Risers	22 9 Organist Practice							
23 Pastor On Vacation 9 Worship w/ Sip-N-Say	24 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 6:15p Softball 7:15p Softball	25 8 Newsletter Deadline 1:30p Women's Bible Study	26 1p Staff Meeting	27 12p Bulletin Deadline	28 Pastor's Day Off 7 Men's Morning Risers 5p Wall/Bumann Wedding	29 Wall/Buman Wedding 9 Organist Practice							
30 9 Worship w/ Sip-N-Say	Jul 1 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast: 7:15p Softball	2 12p Bulletin Deadline 1:30p Women's Bible Study	3 1p Staff Meeting	4 Tricia off Independence Day	5 Pastor's Day Off 7 Men's Morning Risers	6 9 Organist Practice							



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Youth Group

Reminder for Emerge (7th-12th grade) students that we are planning to go to Valley Fair on June 25. We will meet at the church at 8am and will return around 8pm. The registration cut off is June 1 so please make sure to get your permission slips in on time. Please feel free to contact Ashley Parish @amneitzke03@gmail.com with any questions or for more information regarding registration. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



Root beer Floats & Softball

Please come cheer on Hilltop's softball team June 10th. **OUR** team will be playing a double header that night with a 6:15 and a 7:15 game at Jaycee Park, located on Jaycee Court, just off of Pohl Road in Mankato. The fellowship committee will be serving root beer floats to the Hilltop cheering section at these games. Come enjoy a night of fellowship, socializing, cheering, and root beer floats.

