



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
February 2014

www.mankatohilltop.org

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

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Disciple Material

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

– Matthew 2:18-22

Dan Rivers called me the other day and was telling me about a co-worker. He said something like, "Fred, this guy is like a Harley dude, real rough and tough kind of guy – just real rugged, would never cry, more likely to cuss, - you know like a disciple!" That caught me off guard and Dan went on to say, "Or at least what I imagine those first disciples were like - the kind of guy Jesus would call. You know? A hard-nosed fisherman!"

What an awesome perspective. Dan looks at his co-worker – who most people with prejudice (pre-judging) eyes would size up as someone far from Christ, as precisely the kind of guy Jesus can't wait to get a hold of.

Reading the scripture from Mathew you do get the idea that Jesus has an affinity for the stereotypical blue collar worker. The good news is Jesus has an affinity for everybody. No one is ruled out! In fact, the ones we are so quick to rule out – Jesus says – "come follow me." What would it be like if we saw the roughest, toughest, hardest people in our lives the way Jesus sees them?

Be blessed,

Pastor Fred



Mary Martha Circle

Date: Feb. 12th

Time: 1:30 pm

Hostess: Audrey Key

Devotions: Wanda Allevan

Project: Valentines

Endowment Fund

Hilltop - I am excited to tell you that we continue to make awesome strides towards becoming the best stewards possible of what God has given us. This year has been an amazing testimony to God's faithfulness and to the faithfulness of his people. We knocked out a mortgage with little pain at all because of large checking account balance, and we paid off the first half of the parking lot bill and have over \$19,000 in gifts to go towards the second half due in May. And the pledged giving and overall giving continues to rise each year! It's fabulous!

As of last week's charge conference, we are putting in place yet another very healthy stewardship step – an endowment fund. An endowment fund is a way of leaving an ongoing legacy towards various missions, ministries, and operations of the church. Hilltop is pleased to announce that we already have about \$27,000 in seed money to get this off the ground. This fund will be invested wisely and strategically to seek to gain the best return. Each year 75% of the return may go towards ministries as outlined in our charter and the other 25% will be reinvested in order to ensure that the principal continues to grow.

The main way the endowment fund grows, however, is by your contributions. Any contribution will be considered but you may especially want to consider leaving something in your will towards such a fund. Why? The main reason is you will know that your gift will continue to work long after you're gone toward the upward, inward, and outward mission of Hilltop. The principal, remember, never gets touched, only the interest. Thereby, for years and years after you pass on, you can count on the continued faithful stewardship of what God has placed in your hands in this lifetime. I invite you to join me in praying about this kind of legacy now. Look for more info on it from people who understand it better than me.

Pastor Fred

Mission Opportunities

FEBRUARY MISSION POTLUCK will be on Sunday, February 9th after the 10:15 service and will benefit Jesus Food, the non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a fully nutritious meal everyday to starving children of all ages around the world. We also believe that by bringing them into a relationship with Jesus Christ, and connecting to a local Church and mission based organization that will include education, we will not just feed them, but transform their lives forever. Thanks for your generosity either in working on Sat., Feb. 8th or supporting financially this purposeful event!

JESUS FOOD: Remember how fun and rewarding it is to pack food for Kids Against Hunger? Well, an offshoot of KAH is Jesus Food and they're coming to Hilltop. We will package the food **HERE Saturday, February 8, 2014** from **9:00-11:00 am**, and are asking for an optional donation of \$10 per person to help offset the cost of the food and its shipping. We need helpers Friday evening to help set up and heavy lifters from 7-9 am to help bring the ingredients into the church, and others to help set up the tables, etc. Please join us - the more, the merrier!

FAMILY DAY FOR KIDS' KINECTION will be Sunday, February 2nd. Please join your child from 9:15-10:00 am and share in his or her learning about "Calling the Disciples". Students and family members will enjoy time together singing and playing Jeopardy! Students will also be singing during the 10:15 church service.

To all my church family - We wish to thank you for all the love, prayers and cards at this sad time. They were so very much appreciated. And the church men and ladies, you did such a great job taking care of and serving everyone. A special thank you to Pastor Fred for the wonderful memorial to Delmar; he would say, "good job done". May Christ be with you always!
Love, The Delmar Preston Family

February Anniversaries:

Jim & Arlene Hewett	2/02
Dan & Clare Rivers	2/02
Rick & Wendy Pearson	2/15
Larry & Hiroko Olsen	2/21

ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS? We would like to invite you to meet Jesus in a fresh way by attending the Walk To Emmaus. This 72 hour experience is filled with learning, inspiration, discussion, prayer, food and fellowship. Its purpose is to challenge and equip persons to bring living Christian faith to their homes, churches, and places of work. If you desire religion as usual, or to remain unchanged than this is not for you. Come experience the outpouring of grace and love and be built up in Christ! The men's walk is April 24-27, and the women's walk is May 1-4 both at the beautiful Koronis Ministries near Paynesville, MN. Hilltop has alumni ready to sponsor you. Contact Don Putzier to be aligned with a sponsor today 507 237 8393.

SAVE THE DATE: The Annual PORK FEED will be April 26, 2014. Whatever your talents are, everyone is invited to help with this fundraiser.

Worship Attendance Statistics					
Sundays:	8:15	10:15	2013 Total	2012	2011
Dec. 1	48	150	198	196	170
Dec. 8	41	131	172	234	187
Dec. 15	48	254	302	183	245
Dec. 22	43	144	187	181	166
Dec. 24			336	335	345
Dec. 29	35	65	97	118	77
Average	43	149	215	208	198

February Birthdays:

Jennifer Turner	2/03	Jim Hewett	2/16
Kendra Daby	2/05	Abbie Page	2/16
Marco Jakovich	2/06	Margaret Beaty	2/19
Lorraine Lundin	2/06	Audrey Key	2/19
Hiroko Olsen	2/07	Marci Fast	2/21
Heather Olinger	2/09	Larry Morales	2/21
Jackson Wagner	2/10	Donna Wagner	2/24
Anita Riese	2/13	Lenny Written	2/24
Kim Beaty	2/14	Rhonda Friesen	2/27
Virgil Juliar	2/14	Ann Velazquez	2/27
Steph Putzier	2/15	Todd Gavin	2/28
Carina Eckert	2/16		

February 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
8:15am - Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 25	12pm - CCTV Worship 27	1:30pm - Women's Bible 5:30pm - Prayer & Share 7pm - Staff/Parish Mtg 28	1pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Emerge (Youth) 6:30pm - Choir Practice 8pm - Faith Growers 9pm - CCTV Worship 29	12pm - Bulletin Deadline 30	Pastor's Day Off 7am - Men's Morning Risers 5pm - Craft Club 31	9am - Craft Club 1pm - Organist Practice 1
8:15am - Worship 9:15am - Sunday School - 10:15am - Worship 2	12pm - CCTV Worship 3	1:30pm - Women's Bible 5:30pm - Prayer & Share 4	1pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Emerge (Youth) 6:30pm - Choir Practice 8pm - Faith Growers 9pm - CCTV Worship 5	12pm - Bulletin Deadline 6	Pastor's Day Off 7am - Men's Morning Risers 7	1pm - Organist Practice 8
8:15am - Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - February 9	12pm - CCTV Worship 7pm - Staff/Parish Mtg 10	1:30pm - Women's Bible 5:30pm - Prayer & Share 11	1pm - Staff Meeting 1:30pm - Mary Martha 6pm - Emerge (Youth) 6:30pm - Choir Practice 8pm - Faith Growers 9pm - CCTV Worship 12	12pm - Bulletin Deadline 13	Pastor's Day Off St. Valentine's Day 7am - Men's Morning Risers 14	1pm - Organist Practice 15
8:15am - Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 16	8am - Newsletter Deadline 12pm - CCTV Worship 17	1:30pm - Women's Bible 5:30pm - Prayer & Share 18	1pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Emerge (Youth) 6:30pm - Choir Practice 8pm - Faith Growers 9pm - CCTV Worship 19	12pm - Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm - Com. Meetings 7:30pm - Ad Council 20	Pastor's Day Off 7am - Men's Morning Risers 21	1pm - Organist Practice 22
8:15am - Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 23	12pm - CCTV Worship 24	9:30am - Soul Leader 1:30pm - Women's Bible 5:30pm - Prayer & Share 25	1pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Emerge (Youth) 6:30pm - Choir Practice 8pm - Faith Growers 9pm - CCTV Worship 26	12pm - Bulletin Deadline 27	Pastor's Day Off 7am - Men's Morning Risers 5pm - Craft Club 28	12pm - Private Event 1pm - Organist Practice 1



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 find us on facebook:
Hilltop United Methodist Church

Basic Lay Servant Ministries: Stepping into Leadership Roles in Local Congregations
March 29, 2014
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30)

Location: Centenary UMC, 501 S. 2nd Street, Mankato
Registration: Register by calling Kathy King at 507-382-2483 or email kking5@hickorytech.net. Please include your name and the number of attendees.
Cost: \$15 (including lunch), plus pre-purchased book
This event is for individuals interested in taking a more active leadership role in their congregations. The training will be led by Minnesota Conference Director of Ministries Cindy Gregorson. Attendees must purchase and read the book "Renovate or Die," by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan, prior to the training; the book is available on the Amazon or Barnes and Noble websites.

Hopeful Earth - Mankato
March 1, 2014
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Centenary UMC, 501 S. 2nd Street, Mankato
Registration: <https://minnesotaumc.org/news/events/hopeful-earth-mankato/>
Cost: \$15 per participant, includes lunch
Register by: February 24, 2014
Contact Info: Greg Neumann 952-715-0820
Hopeful Earth is an event sponsored by the Minnesota Annual Conference Church and Society Ministry Team to equip United Methodists for worship, faith formation, missions, and sustainable church practices that place God's creation at the heart of our Christian life. Choose from workshops on worship, faith formation, mission/activism, and facilities management.

2014 Hilltop Leadership Retreat – Feb. 15th - 9 to 1pm

Our 2014 elected and newly elected leadership to Hilltop teams and committees will meet off site (to be determined) to spend time together celebrating where we have been, analyzing where we are at, and visioning where we are headed. Please save the date and plan on being in attendance. All staff, chairpersons, council/committee/team members, and those passionate about the future of Hilltop are invited to attend. In our time together we will begin to develop strategic goals for the mission and ministry of Hilltop in the coming year and beyond.