



UP on the Hill

HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | BUTLER, PA
MAY 2024

ALL ARE WELCOME AT HILL CHURCH!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:

10:30 am Worship Service

In Person, Facebook Live, or Zoom

11:30 am Fellowship



Marsh Miller delivers a riveting and comical minute for mission on Holy Humor Sunday, April 7th, wearing a pair of pajamas graciously donated by Ray Dougherty.

Hill United Presbyterian Church - PC(USA)

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PASTOR

Rev. Leigh Benish
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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TREASURER

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Elder Lauren McElhaney
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MUSIC MINISTRY

Nancy Slezak
Memorial Handbell Director & Organist

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Elder Tom Graham
Deacon Kyle Nevel
Jon Harper

CLERK OF SESSION

Elder Louise Evans

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Mark Davis, HR

A Note from Pastor Leigh

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" -Revelation 7:9-10 (NRSVUE)

Since I learned to crochet, I have been saving my small scrap pieces of yarn for one of those "I'll find a use for these someday!" projects. Thankfully, someday has come! I've tied them all end to end and have started making a blanket with them.



There is no rhyme or reason for the order of the scraps. They are a variety of lengths, thicknesses, colors, fiber contents, and textures. Some are so short or thin that you can hardly see them; others are so big they almost look out of place. It's full of knots and is sort of messy ... and I love it.

There will never be another blanket like this. It is 100% unique. Each scrap tells a story about a project or a gift. It will likely take me years to make it big enough to serve as an actual blanket. I don't know what I'll do with it when it's finally complete. But it is my beautiful, chaotic creation.

As I was working on this blanket recently, I thought about how it is a lot like God's kingdom. People come in all shapes and sizes and colors, with all sorts of background stories and characteristics that make them unique. Some people hide in the crowd while others stand out. Sometimes we seem to fit together well and, at others, we feel all jumbled and twisted together. Yet, we are all created in the same image of God, which inseparably links us to one another.

The revelation of John says that, at the end of time, people "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" will gather together in worship and praise. Especially considering all of the division and hatred we see in the world, this is a beautiful image.

But we don't have to wait until the end to see something like this. God calls us, here and now, to gather in worship and service with all of our siblings in Christ. Bringing all that makes us unique, we join together to celebrate our common bond as children of God. Sometimes it's messy or disorganized. Sometimes it feels like there is no plan or purpose. Sometimes we wonder if it's worth all the effort. But God always takes what we have and who we are and makes something beautiful.

It is such a joy to be part of the Hill Church community, and to see the ways in which very different people come together to create one beautiful family. May we always be willing to add more "scraps" to our project, and may we trust that, no matter how messy it seems, God is creating something far more beautiful than we could ever imagine.

Peace-
Pastor Leigh

May Birthdays

- 1 Samantha Reeger
- 2 Marilyn Rogerson
Madison Sowa
- 5 Pat Brennan
- 8 Jackson Harper
- 12 Melanie Reeger
Gabriel Benish
- 16 Jack Montag
- 18 Kip Miller
Jeff Kramlich
- 19 Ethan Brady
Nathaniel Brady
Russ Harper
- 21 Richard Beisheim
- 23 Jami Lyn Duane-Brady
Carol Gadsby
- 25 Elean Heist
Kathryn Buza
- 26 BriAnna Reeger
- 27 Jon Karenbauer
Diane Olenic
- 28 Dave Anderson
- 29 Karen Schultz
- 31 Nathan Moses



Did we miss someone's special day?
Please send us an email at
office.hillup@gmail.com
so we can correct our records.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Scan the QR Code to send a prayer request directly to Pastor Leigh. Please include your name and if it can be shared publicly.

If you would like to be included in the email Prayer List, please send a note to office.hillup@gmail.com.

The submission deadline for the June newsletter is Wednesday, May 15. Please send items to office.hillup@gmail.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm. The office is closed on Mondays.



ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

Announcements should be submitted to the church office at office.hillup@gmail.com no later than the **End of Day Tuesday** prior to the Sunday service. Please include a contact name and phone number.



JOINING US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE?

You can find worship bulletins on our website:
<https://www.hillup.org/news>.



ARE YOU CALLED TO HELP WITH WORSHIP?

If you would like to serve as a liturgist or greeter, please see Kathy Nevel.

Session Notes

The Session met on Monday, April 8, 2024, for its regular monthly meeting. Actions taken included:

- Accepted the minutes for the March 11 meeting as amended.
- Approved the use of the retained 40% of the Pentecost Offering received by Hill Church for a transportation fund for the 2025 Youth Triennium in Louisville, KY.

Next meeting of Session is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.

Louise Evans, Clerk

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF HILL CHURCH?

If you have been considering becoming an official member of Hill Church, please scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/HillUPNewMember> to fill out the interest form. New Member conversations will be held in June. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Leigh.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DATE	4/7	4/14	4/21	4/28
IN-PERSON	66	64	62	65
~VIRTUAL	41	17	19	21
TOTAL	107	81	81	86



WILLING WORKERS

Wednesday, May 1
9:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

ALL are welcome to join in making crafts for Meals on Wheels recipients. See Nancy Luellen for more information.

HILL QUILTERS

Friday, May 17
9:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

The Hill Quilters will no longer be meeting the first Friday of the month. Future meeting dates will be announced once scheduled. For more information see Diane Olenic.

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

DID YOU KNOW:

- Nearly **50%** of U.S. adults delayed or skipped medical care due to the high cost
- **50%** of Americans can't afford an unexpected \$500 bill
- **2/3** of U.S. bankruptcies cite medical debt as the leading cause

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

buys medical debt bundles from collection agencies at a fraction of the cost. For every \$1 donated, about \$100 of medical debt is relieved for those most in need.

For more information, visit <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>

To date, Hill Church has relieved over \$500,000 in medical debt through our Birthday Offering.

HILL CHURCH BOOK CLUB

Sunday, May 5
Following Worship
Hall Lounge

ALL are welcome to join the Hill Church Book Club discussion of **"Playing for Pizza"** by John Grisham

SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC



If you are interested in providing special music to enhance worship this summer, please see worship elder Kathy Nevel.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will be on summer hiatus following the Tuesday, May 7 class. Thanks to Kathleen Davis for teaching this wonderful study!

KIDS' SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kid's Sunday School will be on summer hiatus beginning May 19. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for your teaching gifts!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY MAY REQUEST:

**Condiments;
Cooking Oil/Spray;
Herbs & spices.**

Donations may be placed in the food barrel in the Giving Corner.





Pentecost Sunday - May 19



While pursuing the study of the Gospel of John this year, the Tuesday Bible Study for Women began to unearth significant questions about the nature and work of the Holy Spirit. We long to share our hard won knowledge with others, so please plan to be in worship on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**. A team of leaders from the Christian Education, Mission, and Worship committees, assisted by the Deacons and Tuesday Morning Study, is preparing a worship service with visual, musical, and dramatic content to explore our relationship to this oft

overlooked member of the Trinity. Special music is under the direction of Nancy Slezak, Elders Davis and Plymale will present a dialogue sermon, and the Apostle Peter will attend to give a brief reprise of his Pentecost speech. The children of the congregation will also guide us in some new worship actions. Expect to see, hear and do different things as we celebrate this great Church festival. And make sure that you stay for the "Tongues of Fire" Chili Cook Off hosted by the Deacons during coffee hour!



PENTECOST MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

Join us for a special Pentecost Ensemble! There will be two rehearsals: **Sunday, May 5 following worship** and **Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 am**. ALL voices are welcome (seriously)!

NOT A SINGER? COME PLAY A BOOMWHACKER!

Join our youth as they play Boomwhackers, which are as fun as they sound! Rehearsals are during Sunday School and on **May 19 at 10:00 am**.

Want to know more? See Nancy Slezak or Kathleen Davis.

DEACON'S "TONGUES OF FIRE" CHILI COOK-OFF SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 11:45 AM | Fellowship Hall

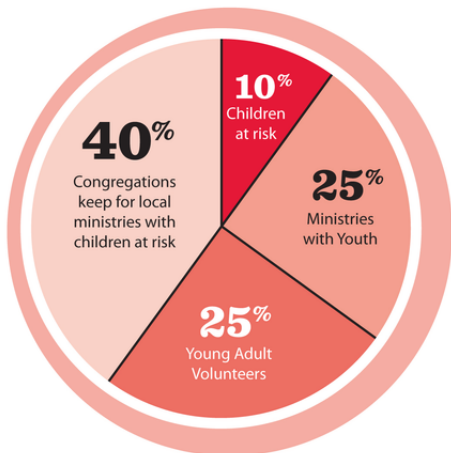
ALL are welcome to join in tasting and voting on your favorite!

To enter a pot of your special chili, please see Becky Bayne, Sherry Neely or Barb Kameron.



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



On **May 19**, we will receive the second of the four churchwide offerings, **The Pentecost Offering**, which supports at-risk children and youth through the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" initiative, the Young Adult Volunteer program, and the Office of Presbyterian Youth & Triennium.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering is retained by individual congregations for local ministries. Our session has voted to use our 40% to establish a travel fund for youth who wish to attend the National Youth Triennium July 28-31, 2025 in Louisville, KY. We were blessed to send six young people to Triennium in 2019, and have six teens in our congregation who will be eligible to attend next summer. Triennium is a significant expense, but it is life changing for the young people who attend, getting to be with thousands of Presbyterian peers growing in their faith. Please give generously to the young people of the Presbyterian Church near and far.

Mission on the Hill and Beyond

APRIL COMMUNITY DINNER RECAP

What a night!!! 229 guests were served chili with crackers, macaroni and cheese, applesauce and a cake with cherries and crushed pineapple. This was the highest number we have ever served. We ran out of macaroni and cheese right before the end, but had plenty of our hearty chili left over.

We thank our servers Pete & Kerri McElhaney, Becky Bayne, Tim Kennedy, Lorna Whittington, Becky Plymale and Judy Birch. Also helping us was a friend of Judy's, Leslie Boyle, and her granddaughter Olivia, who is 13 years old.

Our bakers this month were Ruth Scott, Diane Olenic, Sharon Montag, Pam Lentz, Barb Kamerer, Janet Edinger, Nancy Luellen, Betty Scarnato, and Debbie Markiw.

Thanks to all for your continued support of this ministry that just keeps growing in need.



Community Meal Ministries Gala

The Gala was a success again this year! Thanks to all for your continued support of this ministry!



Community Lunches



Meals on Wheels Baking



Worship Schedule

MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
<i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Ascension Sunday</i>	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>
Psalm 98 John 15:9-17	Psalm 47 Luke 24:44-53	Scripture TBD CRE Kathleen Davis	Scripture TBD Elder Kerry Dowdy
Lord's Supper	Mother's Day Handbell Choir	Pentecost Music Ensemble	Birthday Sunday

Chancel Flowers

MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Given with love by Kathy Nevel in honor of all mothers	Given with love by Karen Bryson in honor of her daughter, Jennifer's 50th Birthday	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Volunteers

MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
CHURCH OPENER Janet Edinger	CHURCH OPENER Bob Kennedy	CHURCH OPENER Anne Miller	CHURCH OPENER Louise Evans
GREETERS Bob Scott & Norbert Slezak	GREETERS Bob Kennedy & Kathy Nevel	GREETERS Judy Birch & Doug Hall	GREETERS Karen Bryson & Lorna Whittington
TECH. DIRECTOR Tom Graham	TECH. DIRECTOR Jon Harper	TECH. DIRECTOR Kyle Nevel	TECH. DIRECTOR Jon Harper
ACOLYTE Jackson Harper	ACOLYTE Jacob Miller	ACOLYTE Juliet Miller	ACOLYTE Kaydence Hall
LITURGIST Maryanne Puente	LITURGIST Lauren McElhaney	LITURGIST Becky Plymale	LITURGIST Kathy Nevel
FELLOWSHIP Marsh Miller	FELLOWSHIP None due to Mother's Day	FELLOWSHIP Deacon of the Month Jack Montag	FELLOWSHIP None due to Memorial Day
COUNTERS None	COUNTERS Dave Olenic & Doug Hall	COUNTERS None	COUNTERS Pete McElhaney & Kathleen Davis
FLOWER DELIVERY Becky Bayne & Kyle Nevel	FLOWER DELIVERY Ray Dougherty & Sherry Neely	FLOWER DELIVERY Chris Leroy & Barb Kamerer	FLOWER DELIVERY Jack Montag & Sharon Montag

Daily Bible Readings

These readings are adapted from the Two-Year Daily Lectionary found in the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*. A full list of readings can be found here: presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
1	Lev 19:1-18	1 Thess 5:12-28	Mt 6:19-24
2	Lev 19:26-37	2 Thess 1:1-12	Mt 6:25-34
3	Lev 23:1-22	2 Thess 2:1-17	Mt 7:1-12
4	Lev 23:23-44	2 Thess 3:1-18	Mt 7:13-21
5	Lev 25:1-17	Jas 1:2-18	Lk 12:13-21
6	Lev 25:35-55	Col 1:9-14	Mt 13:1-16
7	Lev 26:1-20	1 Tim 2:1-6	Mt 13:18-23
8	Lev 26:27-42	Eph 1:1-10	Mt 22:41-46
9	Dan 7:9-14	Heb 2:5-18	Mt 28:16-20
10	1 Sam 2:1-10	Eph 2:1-10	Mt 7:22-27
11	Num 11:16-29	Eph 2:11-22	Mt 7:28-8:4
12	Ex 3:1-12	Heb 12:18-29	Lk 10:17-24
13	Josh 1:1-9	Eph 3:1-13	Mt 8:5-17
14	1 Sam 16:1-13a	Eph 3:14-21	Mt 8:18-27
15	Isa 4:2-6	Eph 4:1-16	Mt 8:28-34

	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
16	Zech 4:1-14	Eph 4:17-32	Mt 9:1-8
17	Jer 31:27-34	Eph 5:1-32	Mt 9:9-17
18	Ezek 36:22-27	Eph 6:1-24	Mt 9:18-26
19	Deut 16:9-12	Acts 4:18-33	Jn 4:9-26
20	Prov 3:11-20	1 Jn 3:18-4:6	Mt 11:1-6
21	Prov 4:1-27	1 Jn 4:7-21	Mt 11:7-15
22	Prov 6:1-19	1 Jn 5:1-12	Mt 11:16-24
23	Prov 7:1-27	1 Jn 5:13-21	Mt 11:25-30
24	Prov 8:1-21	2 Jn 1-13	Mt 12:1-14
25	Prov 8:22-36	3 Jn 1-15	Mt 12:15-21
26	Job 38:1-11; 42:1-6	Rev 19:4-16	Jn 1:29-34
27	Prov 10:1-12	1 Tim 1:1-17	Mt 12:22-32
28	Prov 15:16-33	1 Tim 1:18-2:15	Mt 12:33-42
29	Prov 17:1-20	1 Tim 3:1-16	Mt 12:43-50
30	Prov 21:30-22:6	1 Tim 4:1-16	Mt 13:24-30
31	Prov 23:19-24:2	1 Tim 5:17-25	Mt 13:31-35

Community Life

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL



MOVIE NIGHT



Community Life

SCENES FROM WORSHIP



ADULTS' NIGHT OUT



SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN UP



Do you have pictures of church events or members in the community? Send them to office.hillup@gmail.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">May 2024</h1>						
5 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Lord's Supper</i> Worship Service 10:30a Pentecost Ensemble 11:45a Sunday School 11:45a Fellowship 11:45a Book Club 11:45a	6	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30a Deacons Meeting 7:00p OA 7:00p	8 Community Dinners @ St. Andrews UP 5:00p	9 Administration Committee 9:30a Stewardship Committee 5:30p DMin Resource Team 6:30p	10 Handbell Choir Rehearsal 10:00a	11 AA 11:00a
12 <i>Ascension Sunday</i> <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship Service 10:30a Sunday School 11:45a Community Lunches @ St. Andrews UP 12:00p	13 Session 6:45p	14 Staff Meeting 11:15a OA 7:00p	15	16	17 Hill Quilters 9:00a	18 AA 11:00a
19 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> Pentecost Ensemble 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Chili Cook-off 11:45a	20	21 OA 7:00p	22	23 Christian Education Committee 7:00p	24	25 AA 11:00a
Pastor Leigh Away on Study Leave						
26 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 11:45a Yarn Group 11:45a	27 Memorial Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 Staff Meeting 11:15a Beaver-Butler Presbytery Meeting @ Concord, Baden 6:00p OA 7:00 pm	29	30	31	
Pastor Leigh Away on Study Leave						