

The Echo

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HILLSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2017 – VOLUME 62 NO 9

From the Pastor's Desk

While even a cursory glance at human history could easily tell you that racial conflict has been a staple of almost every society on the face of the earth, recurring events in our own country has made it clear that racial tensions have been on the rise nationally in recent years. Although it may seem like these problems are mainly "elsewhere" because our little corner of the world is somewhat homogenous with a population that is 97% white, we should remind ourselves what Christianity teaches about race and be prepared to speak up to share the good news whenever the opportunity arises. So let's review:

A brief racial history of God's Word:

Genesis 1:28 - "God created mankind in his own image... male and female he created them." From the beginning, God has made it clear that every human being, from every race, bears his image, and so all lives are sacred to God.

Genesis 9:1 - God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth." It may be a simple reminder, but we are blood relatives (however distant) to every human being alive. Any group we consider to be "those people" are actually our cousins.

Genesis 11:9 - "the Lord confused the language of the whole world [and] scattered them over the face of the whole earth." Although we often are mistrustful of people who are different from us (I'm keeping my eye on those sneaky Canadians), God created all people groups and languages, and the cultures that sprung from them are part of his design for the earth. Every culture has strengths and weaknesses, so we need one another if we ever hope to grow into the people God has called us to be.

Jonah 4 - The Lord had commanded Jonah to preach to Nineveh, but he ran away instead because he was racist. The people of Nineveh were bloodthirsty murderers from a different race and culture, and Jonah had what he thought were good reasons to hate them for being different and evil. The entire saga is about God's love for "those people" and concludes with God saying, "should I not have concern for the great city?" God loves the people we think are different and unworthy, which is lucky for us because our own culture is very different and unworthy compared to God's original "chosen people" of Israel.

Acts 15:6-11 - When there was racial tension in the early church between the Hebrew believers and the Greek believers, the apostles discerned, and Peter said, "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith." That one seems pretty self-explanatory.



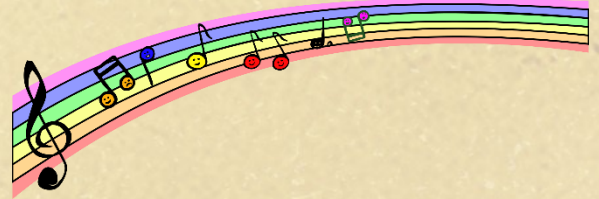
RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 AM

**10:45 WORSHIP
RESUMES**



**PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS
START UP SEPTEMBER 10 AT
5:00 PM**



Choir practice resumes

September 6 at 6:30

**Worship and Sacrament
Committee Meeting changed
to 9/18 at 6:00.**

Galatians 3:7, 26-29 - Paul reminds us that in God's mind there are only 2 races: those who are part of the family of God and those who are not, "understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham... so in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... there is neither Jew nor Greek..." Whatever race and identity you had from birth is overwritten by our new identity in Christ, meaning that people from every race are members of Christ's body first and foremost, and members of their own race secondarily.

Revelation 7:9 - "before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb. They were wearing white robes..." One of the most awkward things about racism is that we are told that God's Kingdom is a place where all of God's people, from every race, live together in harmony. If we claim citizenship in God's Kingdom, then harboring ill will toward other races has no place in us.

Of course, all of this is to say that when we see racism or systematic injustice of any kind, it is our duty to intervene because "they are us." Any group we might think to call "those people" are our brothers, sisters, and cousins, and Scripture calls us to treat them as we would want to be treated. On the one hand, I feel like this should all go without saying, and on the other hand, given our current political landscape, it needs to be said.

In Christ,

Pastor Sean

Operation Christmas Child Schedule 2017

September 10 – pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons and markers.

September 17 – paper/writing pads, solar calculators and coloring/puzzle books.

September 24 – toothbrush and toothbrush holders. (No toothpaste)

October 1 – bar soap, washcloth, combs and brushes.

October 8 – small cars, balls, dolls and stuffed animals.

October 15 – yo-yo's, jump ropes, harmonicas, toy jewelry and watches.

October 22 – socks and flashlights.

October 29 – sunglasses and hair clips/barrettes.

Please leave your items on the table provided in McPeak Chapel (outside the sanctuary's folding door).



CONFIRMATION

Class

Following worship on Sunday, September 17th, in the fellowship hall, there will be a brief informational meeting for those interested in participating in or learning more about our upcoming confirmation class. It will be brief, so plan to attend!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

We like to highlight a service opportunity each month to encourage Jesus' disciples the opportunity to work for His Kingdom when the need is known. This month, we encourage everyone to turn out for:

"Godly Play"

There are 8 teams of two people with Andrea Hall providing training and assistance. The children experience spiritual growth through stories with related play and crafts. Please prayerfully consider helping with this program or in any area involving the young people in our church.

Linda Pinney has been chosen from among several excellent applicants as our new

Church secretary. She began training with Jess on September 5th.

OCTOBER

ECHO DEADLINE:

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17TH

Hometown Heroes

Please continue to pray for these loved ones who are serving our country. Keep them, their families, our country, and our world situation in your constant prayers.

HANNAH BATTLES
RAYMOND PELSH
JASON COATS
JOSH PIPP
PATRICK DANGROW
KENNETH BUCKLEY

JUSTIN SMITH
CRAIG TRUMBULL JR.
KRISTOPHER HIRSCH-
MANN
DAVID TURNER
JON LEXINGTON
BRIAN GEARHART

Recipe Corner



ZUCCHILATTAS (ZUCCHINI ENCHILADAS)

2 TBL. butter
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. zucchini, sliced
1 lb. mushrooms, sliced
1 onion, sliced
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. tomatoes, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Monterey Jack cheese
Flour tortillas

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly grease a 9x13 pan.

Melt butter over medium heat.

Mix together zucchini, mushrooms, onion, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Add to skillet, cook and stir until vegetables are tender.

Warm tortillas in preheated oven, 2-3 minutes

Fill warm tortillas with vegetable mixture and cheese, reserving some of each for topping.

Place seam side down in baking dish, top with reserved vegetables and cheese.

Bake 15 minutes.

September Good Shepherd
Item: Pasta, Rice or Dry
Grains

SEPTEMBER

	6:30 Membership Mtg.	9:30 Host Presbytery Council 2-4 Knitting	5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	7 E.R. 9:30 Morning Circle 7 Evening Circle	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 Rally Day 10:45 Worship— Communion 5 Praise Team		2-4 Knitting 6 Trustees	5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	7 E.R.		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 S.S. 10:45 Worship 12 Confirmation Class Mtg. Echo Articles Due 5 Praise Team	6 Worship Mtg. 6 PW Mtg.	2-4 Knitting 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Session	5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	7 E.R. 7 Tech & Comm Mtg.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 S.S. 10:45 Worship 5 Praise Team	6:30 Christian Ed	2-4 Knitting	5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	7 E.R.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Find up-to-the-minute updates at www.hillsidepresby.com/calendar where you can find details and even add items to your personal calendar.						

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

9/2 Will Webster
 9/3 Donna Scott
 9/4 Evan Ferguson
 9/6 Kay Copenhaver
 9/7 Crystal Hawk
 Mark Reichard
 9/8 Cindy Hillard
 Garrett Hillard
 9/9 Joe Bees
 9/10 Tracie English



9/15 Sarah Stubbs
 9/18 Jason Williamson
 9/19 Mary Hovis
 Darla Shannon
 9/20 Morgan Battles
 9/27 Lynette Gill
 9/28 Kristina Jones
 9/29 Carla Reichard

Anniversaries

9/4 Wilma & Dave Christman
 9/8 Jan & Frank Stratiff
 9/13 Jennifer & Mike Battles
 9/20 Charles & Lynette Gill
 9/28 Sonny & Janet Shannon
 (60 Years)





SEPTEMBER

The Hillside Echo

Hillside Staff

PASTOR – Rev. Sean Hall (cell: 724-638-7381) revseanhall@hillsidepresby.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR – Karyn Kirchhofer (724-253-2061)

SECRETARY – Jessica Dick hillsidepresby@verizon.net

TREASURER – Colinda Titus colindatitus@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN – Mary Battles

PRAYER CHAIN – Linda Pinney lpinney@neo.rr.com

ECHO NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Sue Peterson sbpete@verizon.net

Church Office

Office Hours:

Mon—Fri from 8:30-12:30

Phone:

724-588-4920

Check us out on the web at

www.hillsidepresby.com