Hilltop Church Fellowship Area of Ministry had the 1st Adult Social of 2019 on Oct 19!
Special Thanks to all who attended our 1st Adult Fellowship Event of 2019 on Saturday, especially Wendy and Mike Whiting for opening their home and sharing their love for outdoor pizza grilling! Hoping, after having this “kick off” event, we can find other ways to share adult fellowship with Hilltop folks. If you are interested in hosting a gathering &/or organizing another Adult Fellowship group type event, please let Amy Beal know (ajbeal2@comcast.net) and Hilltop Fellowship area of ministry will try to work with you to make it possible. Of course, we would limit attendees to a # of our organizer’s or host’s choice, and RSVPs would be on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Thanks again for a wonderful gathering!

The Building and Grounds Committee Thanks the Deacons for the restoration of the Hilltop House Handicap Ramp!
This year the Finance Committee approved a budget for B&G to prepare the church facilities for the new pastor.
One project was the restoration of the Hilltop House Handicap Ramp. Built in 1988, weather and use had damaged the decking and weakened the support structure to the point of requiring new decking and restoration of the support structure to make the ramp safe. The members of the B&G Committee would like to thank the Deacons for their contribution to make the project possible this year.
FROM THE PASTOR

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF HILLTOP:

This fall is flying by and there have been some great trips and events that we have been through together. While it is easy to go from one thing to another without much attention, I think it is important to reflect and celebrate the joy of fellowship along the way.

Our youth have been to Six Flags, hosted the first ever Hunger Cafe to raise money for mission projects, and had a fun pumpkin decorating event at the Smith's home.

We expanded our Hunger Walk goal this year and had a strong showing even in very heavy rain! We are grateful to partner with the newly re-branded Nourish.NJ to support their work of providing meals, free farmers markets, and crucial resources to help their guests move forward.

Finally, in worship we have been focusing on Faith in Action - the ways in which our faith calls us to do certain things:

• Working for the benefit of our community
• Praying through the joy and pain of life
• Not being afraid to change and trust the spirit’s work
• Remembering others
• Respecting tradition
• And following through when you make a promise!

Faith in Action is our challenge and our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Keep an eye out for more information and how you can put your faith into action through giving to Hilltop and helping to work in this community - seeking to reveal the wonderful things God is doing in us.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Alison
Welcome to worship at Hilltop! Everyone is welcome at worship. Hilltop members are encouraged to worship regularly. Worship, wrote William Temple, is “the submission of all of my nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by his holiness. It is the nourishment of mind by his truth, purifying of imagination by his beauty, opening of heart to his love and submission of will to his purpose. All of this gathered up in adoration is the greatest expression of which we are capable.”

Worship is at 10:00 a.m.
November Preaching Schedule

November 3rd  Daylight Savings Time Ends!
All Saints Communion Sunday
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Pastor Paden to Preach:
“Faith In Action: Remembering Others”
Text: “We must always give thanks to God for you…” 2 Thess. 1:3

November 10th
Pastor Paden to Preach:
“Faith In Action: Sticking to Tradition”
Text: “...stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us...” 2 Thess. 2:15

November 17th
Pastor Paden to Preach:
“Faith In Action: Keeping Our Promises”
Text: “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating...” Isaiah 65:18

November 24th  Christ the King
Christ the King Celebration
“Shout it Out Loud!”

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st
Our Life in Service and Mission...

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:
After the November 3rd service, MSB will hand out grocery bags with an attached list of the Interfaith Food Pantry’s most needed items.

This is our traditional Thanksgiving food drive for the Pantry and will take place the first three weeks of November.

In spite of statistics reflecting a decrease in national poverty and unemployment, many lower income Morris County families still face growth in living costs that exceed growth in family income.

Last year the Pantry distributed over 1,170,000 pounds of food, and is on track this year to exceed that amount. The increase in client families remains at about 50 new families per month, but the lack of gains in full time employment for lower income workers and downstream pressure on benefits packages does not portend a near term decline in need for Pantry support. Proposed decreases in several US Government safety net programs will, if enacted, put additional economic pressures on many poor families.

In response to current economic reality, the Pantry established its Mobile Outreach Programs, which has allowed the expansion of its geographic reach and supports five programs in addition to Home Delivery:

1. **The IFP Pantry Partner Program** is designed to work with existing smaller pantries in the towns furthest from IFP locations to deliver fresh produce and nutrition information to those who have difficulty reaching IFP.

2. **The Senior Box Food Program** provides “senior boxes” of food, acquired from the USDA via the Community Food Bank and supplemented by IFP’s own fresh produce, to several low income senior housing facilities.

3. **Meals on Wheels Supplemental Program**: Provides additional fresh food to seniors in several locations to supplement the regular MOW diet.

4. **Emergency Off-Site Food Assistance** supplies the County Office of Temporary Assistance with non-perishable groceries for emergency assistance.

5. **Community Agencies** distributes food to specific audiences with tailored needs.

This year about 110,000 pounds of fresh food have been provided under our Mobile Pantry Programs.

However, in spite of the Pantry’s and other’s best efforts, the problems experienced by low income families and individuals struggling to survive in an affluent area remains a constant fact of life.

Please take and fill a bag with one or more of the much-needed food items and bring it back to Hilltop House. There is no better or easier way to practice love of neighbor.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY COLLECTION:
As in past years, we will be collecting frozen turkeys for the Interfaith Food Pantry’s annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Last year the Pantry gave out over 1,600 turkeys, including those for Community Soup Kitchen and other local agency clients. This year we expect the demand for Thanksgiving Baskets, which include a turkey, will again reach at least 1,600.

**The collection will take place on Sunday, November 24th from 9:00 to noon in the Hilltop House parking lot. Bring a frozen turkey to donate!** Russ Hall’s red Subaru will be open with a turkey sign on it. If you don’t need your free supermarket turkey, please consider donating it to the Food Pantry.

THANKSGIVING “TURKEY TROT” 5 K RACE:
For those who wish to experience a good workout before sitting down at the Thanksgiving table, the Pantry’s 13th Annual Turkey Trot is an excellent way to balance the day with both exercise and feasting. Come join other Hilltoppers at this extremely popular event that benefits the Interfaith Food Pantry and Literacy Volunteers of Morris County.

The race will take place rain or shine early on November 28th, Thanksgiving Day, at Ginty Field in Morris Township. Last year there were over 3,000 participants in this USATF sanctioned 5k race &1-mile fun run/walk, and Kids’ Trot.

Be sure to register early at [www.practicehard.com](http://www.practicehard.com) or through the Pantry website at [www.mciafp.org](http://www.mciafp.org). Race Fliers are available in the Fletcher Room and Hilltop House.
Our Deacon's News and Christian Education ...

Lunch with Friends  Please join us on November 13th and on the second Wednesday of each month. A community event for all, Lunch with Friends begins at noon. At 11 am coffee, fresh fruit and snacks are served. For information or to volunteer, call Paula Raimondo at 973-285-5044.

Love Lines  Coming in November as part of our support of Family Intervention Services, we will donate Thanksgiving baskets of groceries and gift cards. Looking ahead, December will continue our tradition of supporting needy families and children with gifts from the congregation.

Stephen Ministry  Our confidential counseling ministry continues with 8 Stephen Ministers and 3 leaders who meet twice monthly for training and support. This year a regional workshop on October 19th hosted by Hilltop included churches and members from NJ and PA. The congregation of Hilltop was also invited to attend.

Please see the new Deacon's Brochure for further information about the Deacons!

Pageant Planning is Underway!
We are making some changes this year in order to simplify the pageant and maximize participation. All Hilltop youth are invited to participate, and we are also inviting teens and adults to join the fun. We have the following opportunities to participate:
- Roles (Children ages 4 - Grade 8)
- Music, singers and instrumentalists (Children, teens, AND adults)

If you would like to participate please contact Kristen Turner at theturners807@gmail.com. We are specifically looking for an adult who will be willing to assistant direct this year with the goal of taking over next year. Please consider giving to the church in this way.

November 17th will be the first rehearsal during Sunday School. There will also be practice December 1st during Sunday School, December 8th during Sunday School and Worship Workshop and December 15th immediately after Worship. The dress rehearsal is planned for December 20th at 4pm.

Thanks for your commitment to making the Christmas season come alive at Hilltop!

Jesus is Awesome Musicians: JAMs
Kudos to Jesus is Awesome Musicians for the beautiful, rocking song, "My Lighthouse" performed in church September 22nd. Emma Mangino is Youth Leader, vocals and guitar. Other JAMS members are on vocals Megan Turner(drums), Erika Avery, Ryan Turner(maracas), Eden Avery, Lilly Montenegro and Lyndsey Waller(tambourine). JAMS rehearses during Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall.
Our Buildings, Grounds and Finances

Thank you to Hilltop church members and Cub Scout Pack 133 who worked hard at our Annual Clean-up before Rally Day. We always appreciate their help and enthusiasm!

Eye On Stewardship  From The Finance & Stewardship Area of Ministry

The first quarter of our fiscal year includes the slowest months of July and August. Income was in line with our seasonalized budget, and we had projected a loss of $21k to be made up in subsequent quarters. The actual loss was somewhat higher due primarily to Buildings & Grounds spending much of their budget over the summer. We drew $20k on our credit line with Peacock Gladstone Bank and also temporarily borrowed $14k from Restricted Funds to cover expenses. We encourage all members to keep current on pledges to help eliminate our current debt level. Thank you for your support!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>Actual YTD 7/1 - 9/30</th>
<th>Budget YTD 7/1 - 9/30</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
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<td>EXPENSE</td>
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<td>NET GAIN/ LOSS</td>
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What do Elders and Deacons do?

We elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders (session) are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Being charged to “lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation in the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness”

According to the Presbyterian Book of Order, ordained deacons are called to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress” (G-2.0201). A tall order! Our deacons are called to care for our community in many ways and are always seeking to provide comfort and love when our members are going through all the ups and downs of life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Deacons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Lowe</td>
<td>Ginny Higley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefanie Fox</td>
<td>Lin Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiona Stewart</td>
<td>Peggy Gano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Smith</td>
<td>Liz Siminoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Whiting</td>
<td>Hope Swarts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Beal</td>
<td>Stephen Sauerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Betz</td>
<td>Dale Krum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Montonegro</td>
<td>Ramona Balderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Fischbach</td>
<td>Bill Maurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Muir</td>
<td>Marcia Chalker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Dussault</td>
<td>John Daly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cliff Lee</td>
<td>Marilyn Willett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Coffey</td>
<td>Wade Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Kerr</td>
<td>Kenneth Hodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Porter</td>
<td>Megan Nervi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Turner</td>
<td>Ginny Gilman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathy Claxton</td>
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Annual Coat Giveaway

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Market Street Mission Twenty-Eight Annual Coat Giveaway on the Green in Morristown. This year Hilltop Church delivered 78 coats, 4 vests, 4 pairs of snow pants, 5 bags of scarves, hats and mittens. Over the past years, through the annual coat giveaways, coats have been distributed to needy people in our community, as well as helping others in surrounding communities. Every year Hilltop Church is an active participant in this community endeavor.
The Hilltop Christmas Concert

The Hilltop Christmas Concert will come earlier this year!
Please save the date:
December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

The Christmas concert will feature assorted pieces of sacred music for the Holiday Season as well as opportunities for the audience to sing along with favorite carols. The performance will include a chamber orchestra, the Hilltop Handbell Choir, the magnificent pipe organ, and the Hilltop Oratorio Choir of 90 voices.

We are once again looking for Patrons to assist us in making this concert fiscally possible. Purchasing a ‘Patron’ will earn you two tickets for the concert as our way of thanking you for your support. Your name will also appear in the program. Tickets and Patrons will be on sale in the Choir Room Door beginning in November. Look for more detailed information in the “What’s Happening” weekly updates!

Hilltop Spire
14 Hilltop Road
Mendham, NJ 07945