

Welcome to the Hilltop Spire

First Presbyterian Church of Mendham, NJ

From the Pastor

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

When I was a child, I remember my mom used to say she wanted to put a brick on my head so I'd stop growing up so fast. That sounded pretty silly to me because I wanted nothing more than to grow up – as quickly as possible. But I understood when Linda and I had a family of our own and our daughters seemed to go straight from kindergarten to adulthood. Even when you take time to enjoy and appreciate every moment, eventually you look back on entire decades and they each seem to have taken no longer than a month to pass.

Now, working among you at Hilltop Church as your pastor, I'm starting to feel like I want to put a brick on the head of each passing month and year. It seems like just yesterday that we announced we'd be sharing Wednesday noon Lenten services and lunches with the other churches in town. I kicked it off with an Ash Wednesday service at Grace Lutheran. Now, a mere moment later, the Easter season and Pentecost have past, and our summer of Ordinary Time is upon us. We'd better start planning for Advent because, at this rate, it will be here any day now! It also seems like just yesterday that we implemented the Quest after school program but, as I write, the school year is drawing to a close.

With such an unrelenting calendar, it's easy to look back and wonder, "Did we proclaim the resurrection of Christ sufficiently, before moving on to other things? Was the message of salvation and grace clear and powerful enough to last a whole year?" It's an easy trap to fall into. But, the Good News is that we really never do move on to other things! Christ's perfect actions on the cross and beyond are all we need to save us forever! We celebrate every Sunday as the Lord's Day "because the gospels testify that Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week... While we may worship God on any day and at any time, the Sunday service in particular is a celebration of Christ's resurrection and an anticipation of the fullness of God's coming reign" (Book of Order, W-3.0101).

As Easter recedes into the past; as the church colors change from white, then to red, and now to green; as the pages of our calendars turn and turn again; and as leaves bud, turn green, then orange and red before they dry and fall: Know that Good News of the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ does not come and go with a date on the calendar. It is constant and unwavering, forever. The gospel message and the work of the Holy Spirit are as fresh and powerful today as on that Jerusalem morning when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with a rush of wind and tongues of fire.

So, I will not be pumping the brakes trying to slow down a year that's not mine to control anyway. Keep your seatbelts on. In Christ, we are moving full speed ahead. Thanks be to God!

See You on Sunday,

Pastor Scot



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MARK YOUR FALL CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER 10TH
RALLY DAY

OCTOBER 1ST
WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29TH
REFORMATION
SUNDAY
ALL SAINTS
REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER 26TH
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY

NEXT ISSUE:

Articles for the
September Issue of
the Spire are due to the
church office by **August**
28th!

Please submit articles by e-
mail to

office@hilltopchurch.org

The SPIRE is available
online at
www.hilltopchurch.org

Contact us at Hilltop:
Call us at
973-543-4012 x10 or
office@hilltopchurch.
org

Summer 2023 Deacons' News...

Deacons' Picnic - June 4th

The deacons hosted their annual picnic on June 4th. It was a beautiful sunny day complete with delicious food and fellowship. It was a wonderful celebration! Thanks to all who helped put this event together!



Senior Recognition

On May 21st 8 Hilltop seniors were recognized during worship. Each student received a hand-knitted scarf in the colors of their chosen university, as well as a "Let the Journey Begin" book, to offer our blessings to them as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives. Thanks to the Prayer Shawl group and all those who created the scarves.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry will meet in June and work through the summer making hand crafted gifts for Santa's bag at lunch with Friends.

All-Church Garage Sale

On June 10th, Hilltop will participate in the Mendham Town-Wide Garage sale sponsored by the Fire Department Women's Auxiliary. Fellowship Hall will be filled to the gills with housewares, clothes, toys, and other items for sale. The sale will run from 8am-3pm. Thank you to all our volunteers who are scheduled to help!

Lunch with Friends

The Lunch with Friends Ministry will host it's next gathering on Wednesday September 13th. Please come and enjoy a delicious home cooked meal with members and friends of Hilltop. There will be no lunch offered in July or August but this Ministry will resume gatherings in September.

Additional Efforts

The deacons continue to look for ways to help support the congregation. If you or someone you know is in need, please reach out to one of the deacons. We are happy to provide meals, sunshine baskets, and other means of support. Please contact the deacons for more

Eye on Stewardship From The Finance & Stewardship Area of Ministry

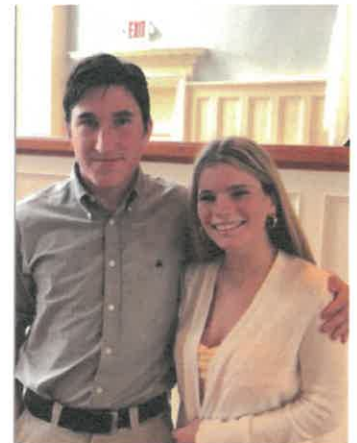
Presented below are financial results for the first ten months of this fiscal year as compared to the prior two years. As we reported in the last issue of the Spire, we continue to “hold our own.” Our cash position remains solid and there are no borrowings under the PGB link of credit. Total contributions are up year-over-year, driven in part by strong pledge income. Our staff continues to keep a close eye on expenses. However, unanticipated (but necessary) costs related to the upkeep of our church have been a drag on overall expenses. As a result, we ended the period with a net loss of \$16k. We encourage all members to keep current on their pledge over the summer months.

TEN MONTHS JULY-APRIL	2022-23 (000)	2021-22 (000)	2020-21 (000)
INCOME	\$394	\$344	\$345
EXPENSES	\$410	\$320	\$309
NET GAIN OR LOSS	\$16	\$24	\$36

2023 FISCHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Two of Hilltop’s fabulous graduating high school Seniors were recognized on May 21st. Elizabeth Fox and Daniel Lowe were awarded the 2023 Fischer Scholarships. The scholarship was established in 1996 by an endowment from Herb and Wilma Fischer. The intent is to recognize graduating members of Hilltop Church who have demonstrated a superior commitment to the church and its programs.

Elizabeth Fox has been involved in a variety of Hilltop activities, from making hoagies and leading the Souper Bowl of Caring, to performing and assisting with the Christmas pageant. She has supported Mission events at the Interfaith Food Pantry and contributed to Christian Education as a Sunday School teacher. During Covid, Elizabeth found ways to continue to serve: organizing food drives and fundraisers. In her application, Elizabeth credits the active service and other programs at Hilltop as inspiration: *“Seeing the eagerness of Hilltop’s members to share their time, talent, and treasures in any way possible has created an environment where I am excited to be an active part of the community... Hilltop has always fostered my faith and servitude.”*



Daniel Lowe has been active in many of the Christian Education and Mission programs with Hilltop Church, but his commitment to 2 particular activities stands out. He volunteered with the Robotics program at Homeless Solutions, meeting most Saturday mornings to work one-on-one with the HSI children as they learned to design, build and program their robot. Daniel also led the Snow Angels program for the last 2 years, including organizing, promoting and recruiting volunteers. A quote from his essay resonated with the Committee: *“At the time, I was unsure of what good I was doing, but looking back on the experience, I realize that putting time and effort in could make a difference for someone else.”*

Both Daniel and Elizabeth have shared their talents with the youth and adults of Hilltop Church, thus growing and witnessing their faith. We have appreciated and enjoyed their leadership and know they will carry their Christian spirit and commitment to serving others through college. Congratulations Daniel and Elizabeth!

The Fischer Scholarship Committee— Sharon Betz, David Kerr, Cathy Malman, Veronica Poylangada, and Wendy Whiting, chair.

Christian Education

Spring is always a busy season inside and outside of the church. We wrapped up programming for the academic year, and had a great time doing it!

Confirmation

Barrett Daly, Kayleigh Peruyero, and Fiona Stewart completed their confirmations. After weeks of classes with Pastor Scot, each student wrote a lovely Statement of Faith for Confirmation Sunday. Our Communion, Bible, Worship students loved watching them from the balcony during service!



Communion, Bible, and Worship

Cathy Malman taught this year's CBW class. We had seven students in CBW this year, and enjoyed our time together each week. After six weeks of classes, CBW culminated in a private communion service with Pastor Scot in the Hilltop House chapel, a family brunch, and parents vs kids in Bible Basketball! We'll give you one guess on who



won?! The kids! Congratulations to Thomas D'Urso, Lillian Gladhill, Tommy Coffey, Chase Murray, Trey Best, Kate Darzano, and Mackenzie O'Brien!

Hilltop Quest

Hilltop Quest wrapped up the year with an ice cream social! We had a fantastic year and look forward to returning in the fall with new programming for our after school program. Huge thanks to our volunteers: Lori Caldwell, Maureen Hunt, Amy Beal, Ryan Turner, and Megan Turner. Also, huge thanks to James Wynne for a year full of music education! We would not be able to run this program without you!



We will miss our students over the summer, and look forward to see everyone in the fall!

Ways to Give at Hilltop Church

There are many ways to give at Hilltop Church.

- Manual Check (at Worship or mailed in)
- Bill Pay (set up through your local bank)
- ACH through Breeze (1% Fee)
- Credit Card through Breeze (3% Fee)
- Stock — For more information on stock donation please call the office at (973)543-4012 x10

• Use our new QR code—————>

