

HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 28, 2024 - 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

5th Sunday of Easter | Birthday Sunday
Our Weekly Celebration of the Resurrection



THE HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HONORING THE PAST AND CELEBRATING THE FUTURE

501 Second Street | Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
724-287-5427 | www.hillup.org | hillup@zoominternet.net

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

PASTOR

Pastor Leigh Benish
pastorleighb@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Lu Olszak
office.hillup@gmail.com

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

TREASURER

Paula Nguyen
treasurer.hillup@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Elder Tom Graham
Deacon Kyle Nevel
Jon Harper

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Mark Davis, HR

MUSIC MINISTRY

Nancy Slezak
*Organist and Memorial
Handbell Choir Director*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Elder Lauren McElhaney
financialsecretary.hillup@gmail.com

CLERK OF SESSION

Elder Louise Evans

◆———— WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP ———◆

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Leigh Benish

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Elder Kathleen Davis

PRELUDE

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” arr. by S. L. Aber

Nancy Slezak

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

ONE: We need not look up to find God, but only to look around:

ALL: God is within us, beyond us, and in the eyes of another.

ONE: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God but only to the music of life:

**ALL: God is in the laughter of children, the words of the curious,
and the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

ONE: We worship a God who inhabits our world and dwells in our lives.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

Almighty God, through Christ you have taught us to love one another, both neighbors and enemies. As we worship you today and then go out to serve, help us to see each person in the light of your love and grace. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #376**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Leigh Benish

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Rev. Leigh Benish

Compassionate God, we carry our fears around with us when you would rather take them and toss them aside. You invite us into relationship with others, but we are too busy being wrapped up in our own lives. You give us the simple command to love, but we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts. Forgive us, we pray. May the seeds of mercy and hope you have planted within us bear fruit, and may we learn to get out of our own way. Hear this prayer, O God, and hear us as we lift our silent confessions before you now...

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Leigh Benish

***GLORIA PATRI (HYMN #579)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

◆———— WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD ———◆

A TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Leigh Benish

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-16a (NRSVUE)

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

**indicates where all are invited to rise in body or spirit*

ANTHEM

“Voluntary” by William Croft

Nancy Slezak

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 8:26-40 (CEB)

Rev. Leigh Benish

SERMON

“Holding Back”

Rev. Leigh Benish

◆————— **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD** —————◆

HYMN #106

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (v.2)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

AN INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

Gracious God, we recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love. May our offerings distribute your love to the world, both the small worlds we inhabit with the suffering people we know and the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY (HYMN #592)**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures, here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)**

Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Leigh Benish

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Leigh Benish

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

Rev. Leigh Benish

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

◆————— **WE GO OUT TO SERVE** —————◆

***HYMN #438**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Leigh Benish

***POSTLUDE**

“Postlude” by V. Engel

Nancy Slezak



ELECTRONIC GIVING

To give a gift electronically, please scan the QR code.



PRAYER REQUESTS

To send a request directly to Pastor Leigh, please scan the QR code.

**WORSHIP
NEXT WEEK**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 6th Sunday of Easter | Lord’s Supper
Readings: Psalm 98; John 15:9-17 | Rev. Leigh Benish**

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

TUESDAY, 4/30: Women's Bible Study, Hall Lounge/Zoom, 9:30-11:00 am
Staff Meeting, Deacons' Room, 11:15 am
Overeaters Anonymous (OA), Hall Lounge, 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, 5/1: Willing Workers, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

FRIDAY, 5/3: Hill Quilters, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Room, 10:00 am

SATURDAY, 5/4: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Fellowship Hall, 11:00 am

SUNDAY, 5/5: Worship Service, 10:30 am
6th Sunday of Easter **Elementary Sunday School**, Art Room, 11:45 am
Lord's Supper **Fellowship Hour**, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
Book Club, Hall Lounge, 11:45 am

VOLUNTEERS & LEADERS TODAY

OPENER/CLOSER: Pete McElhaney

LITURGIST: Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson

ORGANIST: Nancy Slezak

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Tom Graham

ACOLYTE: Anna Earhart

GREETERS: Lorna Whittington &
Jack & Sharon Montag

FELLOWSHIP: Susan Catanzarito, Betty
Scarnato, & Becky Bayne

COUNTERS: Kathy Nevel & Karen Earhart

CHANCEL FLOWERS: Given with love in
honor of Kathleen Davis for her love,
kindness, and many gifts, by friends.

FLOWER DELIVERY: Jack & Sharon Montag

MAY 5 VOLUNTEERS & LEADERS

OPENER/CLOSER: Janet Edinger

LITURGIST: TBD

ORGANIST: Nancy Slezak

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Tom Graham

ACOLYTE: Jackson Harper

GREETERS: TBD

FELLOWSHIP: Marsh Miller

COUNTERS: None

CHANCEL FLOWERS:
VOLUNTEER NEEDED

FLOWER DELIVERY: Kyle Nevel &
Becky Bayne

SESSION & TRUSTEES

Moderator: Rev Leigh Benish | Clerk of Session: Louise Evans
(A) Administration | (N) Nurture | (M) Mission | (W) Worship
(CE) Christian Education | (S) Stewardship | *Committee Chair

2024

Kathleen Davis* (M)
Karen Earhart* (CE)
Lauren McElhaney (S)
Pete McElhaney (A)
Anne Miller* (A)

2025

Janet Edinger (A)
Gerry Graham (CE)
Jim Kamerer* (N)
Debbie Markiw (M)
Arlene Roth* (W)

2026

Doug Hall (N)
Lauren Nace (CE)
Kathy Nevel (W)
Dave Olenic (A)
Ruth Scott* (S)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Barb Kamerer
Vice Moderator: Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson
Secretary: Kyle Nevel
Treasurer: Becky Bayne
Assistant Treasurer: Sherry Neely

2024

Chris Leroy
Jack Montag
Sharon Montag

2025

Barb Kamerer
Marsh Miller
Kyle Nevel

2026

Becky Bayne
Ray Dougherty
Sherry Neely

YARN GROUP

Yarn Group meets **TODAY following worship** in the Hall Lounge. All are welcome!

WILLING WORKERS

The Willing Workers meet the first Wednesday of every month to make small crafts to be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients. ALL are welcome to join the fun on **Wednesday, May 1 at 9:30 am**, in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Luellen.

HILL QUILTERS

The Hill Quilters will continue to gather the first Friday of every month to make lap quilts for members and loved ones in need of support. The next scheduled meeting is this **Friday, May 3 at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall.

HILL CHURCH BOOK CLUB

The Hill Church Book Club will meet on **Sunday, May 5, following worship** to discuss “Playing for Pizza” by John Grisham. ALL are welcome!

PENTECOST MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

We are looking for some volunteers to put together a vocal ensemble for worship on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**. There will be two rehearsals:

Sunday, May 5 immediately following worship and **Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 am**.

ALL voices are welcome (seriously)!

NOT A SINGER? COME PLAY A BOOMWHACKER!

Join our children and youth as they play Boomwhackers, which are long hollow tubes of varying lengths that make noise when “whacked” on the ground. Rehearsals will be during Sunday School and on **Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 am**.

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

DEACONS’ CHILI COOK-OFF

Join the Deacons on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**, for a “Tongues of Fire” chili cook-off following worship! Stay to sample the various offerings and vote for your favorite!

To enter a pot of your special chili, please see Deacons Becky Bayne, Sherry Neely, or Barb Kamerer. Wear something red, orange, or yellow to commemorate the day!



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.

◆———— ANNOUNCEMENTS: APRIL 28, 2024 ———◆

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY MAY REQUEST:

Condiments; Cooking oil/spray; and Herbs & Spices.

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

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

ALL youth in grades K-6 are invited to Sunday School **following worship**. Students are invited to grab a snack and take it directly to the Art Room.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

ALL women are invited to Bible Study on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 am** in the Hall Lounge or on Zoom. Pastor Leigh Benish is teaching about the Gospel of John. If you would like the Zoom information, contact the church office.

2024 PER CAPITA

If you would like to help cover the costs of ministry at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, you are invited to contribute **\$44.20 per person**. Thank you!

GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to all who volunteered to help clean up the church grounds and spread mulch on Saturday, April 13. Everything looks WONDERFUL!

NOMINATIONS FORM CHURCH OFFICER & MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I prayerfully submit the following people for nomination to the office of:

ELDER:

DEACON:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

I would like to volunteer myself for consideration for the office of:

NAME: _____

PLEASE PLACE YOUR COMPLETED FORM IN AN OFFERING PLATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DISCERNMENT!

CHURCH OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS

The Nominating Committee is in the process of discernment regarding the slate of nominees for membership on the Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. You are invited to participate in this process by submitting names of individuals whom you feel are qualified to serve. You may nominate yourself as well.

Elders and Deacons take the same ordination vows as pastors with the exception of one specific, office-related question. All officers and Nominating Committee members-at-large are elected by the congregation

General qualifications for an officer include:

- membership on the roll of the church
- regular attendance at Sunday worship services
- regular participation in church activities
- commitment to the church and its vision, mission, and stewardship
- acting as a faithful witness to Christ in the areas of family, work, and community
- willingness to learn, openness to new ideas, and maturity of judgement

ELDERS

Elders serve on the Session, which is the ruling body of the church. The Session is responsible for the order of church life, which includes worship, education, mission, and stewardship. Each elder will be assigned to a committee, and will also be expected to be a periodic representative at Presbytery meetings.

DEACONS

The office of Deacon is one of service, sympathy, and witness. Deacons minister to those who are in need within and outside the congregation. A Deacon participates in monthly board meetings and is involved with the ongoing work of the Board of Deacons.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The Nominating Committee is comprised of 7 people, 4 of which are considered members-at-large because they are not currently serving as officers.