



UP on the Hill

HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | BUTLER, PA
FEBRUARY 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



Asher and Lucy, grandchildren of Diane & Dave Olenic, enjoy the Fellowship Hall piano during a visit from North Carolina with their parents, Ashley Holmes & Jessica Camera.

Hill United Presbyterian Church - PC(USA)

501 2nd St. | Butler, PA 16001

724-287-5427

office.hillup@gmail.com

www.hillup.org   

PASTOR

Rev. Leigh Benish
pastorleighb@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Lu Olszak
office.hillup@gmail.com

TREASURER

Paula Nguyen
treasurer.hillup@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Deacon Elean Heist
elean.hillup@zoominternet.net

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

From the Pastor's Desk

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.
-*"Come Thou Fount," Robert Robinson, 1758*

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out - just like us.

Peter's faith journey sounds much like the lyrics of the beloved hymn, "Come Thou Fount." It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. So, for each step in Peter's journey this Lent, we have paired it with phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

In this season, we affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, and that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, and he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching, yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people; in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story, reflecting on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When we look closely at Peter's story, we find Jesus at each step along the way, offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love.

This Lent, I hope you join us as we encounter Peter figuring out his faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

Peace,
Pastor Leigh

*Joint Lenten
Worship
Services*

**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**February 14
7:00 pm
Faith United
Presbyterian Church**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**March 28
7:00 pm
Covenant
Presbyterian Church**

**GOOD FRIDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**March 29
12:00 pm
St. Andrews United
Presbyterian Church**

February Birthdays

- 1 Miranda Brady
Jordan Davis
- 2 Marsh Miller
- 5 Karen Earhart
- 8 Kathy Nevel
- 9 John Anderson
- 10 Daniel Miller
- 11 Lydia Reeger
- 12 Arlene Roth
- 19 Norbert Slezak
- 20 Dan McKnight



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

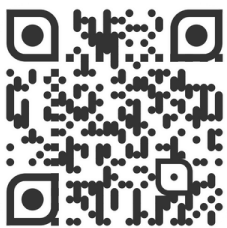
CONTACT INFORMATION

Please scan the QR code or visit the website below so we can make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information and stay in touch!



bit.ly/HillUPContactForm

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 March newsletter is Thursday, February 15. Please send items to office.hillup@gmail.com.



WILLING WORKERS

Willing Workers will NOT meet in February, but will resume the first Wednesday of March.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

If you enjoy fellowship and refreshments following worship, please consider signing up to host Fellowship Hour. A sign-up sheet is on the Deacons' table in Overflow near the Playground, or you can call the church office.



2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS

To donate chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please sign-up on the chart next to the bulletin board in the narthex and fill out a yellow reservation form. The cost is \$30 per Sunday.



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>.

Session Notes

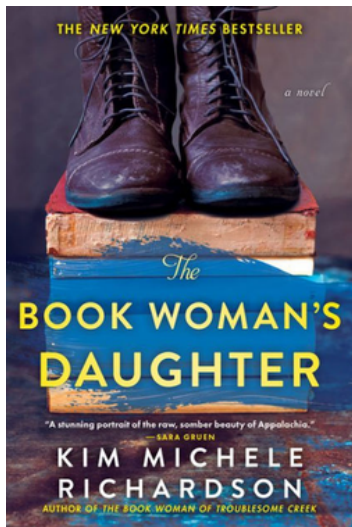
The Session met on Monday, January 9 in the Hall Memorial Lounge. Actions taken included:

- Approved December 11, 2023 session minutes as amended.
- Approved the Mission Support fundraiser project "Valentines for Vets" to be coordinated by Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson.
- Elected Doug Hall and Kathy Nevel as Elder Commissioners for the January Beaver Butler Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully,
Louise Evans, Clerk

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DATE	12/31	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
IN-PERSON	61	48	59	48	58
~VIRTUAL	21	35	35	33	20
TOTAL	82	83	94	81	78



BOOK CLUB

Sunday, February 4
Following Worship
Hall Memorial Lounge

“The Book Woman’s
Daughter”

by Kim Michele Richardson

Book Club meets the first
Sunday of each month.
ALL are welcome!

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.

ADULTS’ NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, February 20
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

RSVP the sign up sheet on the Deacons’ table near the Prayground or by calling the church office. Childcare available upon request.

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 23
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

ALL ages are welcome!
Games and drinks will be provided. Please bring a snack to share.

KIDS’ SUNDAY SCHOOL

Following Worship
(unless announced otherwise)
Art Room

Students in grades K-6 are invited to Sunday School each Sunday! Grab a snack and bring it with you!

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Mornings
9:30-11:00 am
Hall Lounge & Zoom

All women are welcome!
This year’s study:
The Gospel of John
Taught by Kathleen Davis
For the Zoom link, contact the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN 101

Wednesdays
7:00 pm | 2/21-3/20
Hall Lounge

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? For life-long Presbyterians, newcomers, and potential members alike.
More information coming!



Mission on the Hill and Beyond



JANUARY COMMUNITY DINNERS RECAP

In January, 190 diners were served goulash with rigatoni, a tossed salad, mandarin Jell-o salad, and lemon cake. As always, many people helped with this process. A special thanks to:

- Silverware wrappers: the Earhart family
- Jell-O salad makers: Loretta Dougherty, Carol Gadsby, Gerry Graham, Jane Kennedy, Pam Lentz, Sherry Neely, and Terre Patterson.
- Lemon cake bakers: Janet Edinger, Barb Kamerer, Sharon Montag, Ruth Scott, and Lorna Whittington.
- Serving team: Judy Birch, Pete & Kerry McElhaney, Marsh & Sharon Miller, Becky Plymale, Jan Sterling, and Lorna Whittington.

If you would like to be on the baking or cooking team, please let Judy or Becky know. We thank everyone for helping us with this community project!



COMMUNITY DINNER VALENTINES



Our next Community Dinner serving date is Wednesday, February 14. We would like to give a homemade Valentines Day Card to each guest, which means that there are 200 Valentines in need of coloring, entering personal notes, and signing! Materials are available in the Fellowship Room for you to complete and show us your wonderful talents of artwork while you enjoy fellowship hour, or to take home and return by February 11. If you have any questions regarding these cards, please contact Becky Plymale or Judy Birch.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY REQUEST

Canned or dried beans or meat (low sodium preferred). Donations may be placed in the food barrel in the Giving Corner.



Valentines for Veterans

You are invited to help us share love this Valentine's Day with female veterans in our community, particularly those at Robin's Home and the VA Medical Center.

For an **\$8 donation**, you can gift a veteran with a 3 oz. tube of fragrance-free, Satin Hands shea hand cream, gift wrapped and personally delivered.

Please fill out the information below and submit this form, along with payment, by **Sunday, February 4.**

Questions may be directed to our Mission Support Elders, Kathleen Davis and Debbie Markiw, or Karen Anderson.

I/We would like to send _____ Valentine(s) for a total cost of \$_____.

Name(s) to go on the card:

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	Gen 23:1-20	Heb 11:32-12:2	Jn 6:60-71
2	Gen 24:1-27	Heb 12:3-11	Jn 7:1-13
3	Gen 24:28-38	Heb 12:12-19	Jn 7:14-36
4	Gen 24:50-67	2Tim 2:14-21	Mk 10:13-22
5	Gen 25:19-34	Heb 13:1-16	Jn 7:37-52
6	Gen 26:1-33	Heb 13:17-25	Jn 7:53-8:11
7	Gen 27:1-29	Rom 12:1-8	Jn 8:12-20
8	Gen 27:30-45	Rom 12:9-21	Jn 8:21-32
9	Gen 27:46-28:22	Rom 13:1-14	Jn 8:33-47
10	Gen 29:1-20	Rom 14:1-23	Jn 8:47-59
11	Mal 4:1-6	2Cor 3:7-18	Lk 9:18-27
12	Prov 27:1-12	Phil 2:1-13	Jn 18:15-27
13	Prov 30:24-33	Phil 3:1-11	Jn 18:28-38
14	Amos 5:6-15	Heb 12:1-14	Lk 18:9-14
15	Hab 3:1-18	Phil 3:12-21	Jn 17:1-8

	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
16	Ez 18:1-4, 25-32	Phil 4:1-9	Jn 17:9-19
17	Ez 39:21-29	Phil 4:10-20	Jn 17:20-26
18	Dan 9:3-10	Heb 2:10-18	Jn 12:44-50
19	Gen 37:1-11	1Cor 1:1-19	Mk 1:1-13
20	Gen 37:12-24	1Cor 1:20-31	Mk 1:14-28
21	Gen 37:25-36	1Cor 2:1-13	Mk 1:29-45
22	Gen 39:1-23	1Cor 2:14-3:15	Mk 2:1-12
23	Gen 40:1-23	1Cor 3:16-23	Mk 2:13-22
24	Gen 41:1-13	1Cor 4:1-7	Mk 2:23-3:6
25	Gen 41:14-45	Rom 6:3-14	Jn 5:19-24
26	Gen 41:46-57	1Cor 4:8-20	Mk 3:7-19a
27	Gen 42:1-17	1Cor 5:1-8	Mk 3:19b-35
28	Gen 42:18-28	1Cor 5:9-6:11	Mk 4:1-20
29	Gen 42:29-38	1Cor 6:12-20	Mk 4:21-34

Save the Date



February 14
Ash Wednesday



March 24
Palm Sunday



March 28
Maundy Thursday



March 29
Good Friday



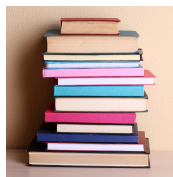
March 31
Easter Sunday



April 1
Church Office Closed



April 7
Holy Humor Sunday
(Jokes & Jammies)



April 10-12
Pastor Leigh Away
on Study Leave

Worship Schedule

FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25
5th Sunday of Epiphany	Transfiguration Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent	2nd Sunday of Lent
Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Psalm 25:1-10 Luke 5:1-11	Psalm 22:23-31 Matthew 14:22-33
Lord's Supper	"Burying" the Alleluias		Birthday Sunday

Chancel Flowers

FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25
Given with love by Linda Smialowski in memory of LeRoy Daubenspeck	Given with love by Mark & Carol Hall in memory of Loved Ones	Volunteer Needed	Given with love by Debbie Markiw in memory of her mother, Ethel Jewart's 96th birthday on February 29

Volunteers

FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25
CHURCH OPENER Dave Olenic	CHURCH OPENER Bob Kennedy	CHURCH OPENER Janet Edinger	CHURCH OPENER Pete McElhaney
GREETERS Norbert Slezak & Bob Scott	GREETERS Bob Kennedy & David & Gabe Benish	GREETERS Jack Montag & Gerry Graham	GREETERS Kathy Nevel & Lorna Whittington
TECH. DIRECTOR Kyle Nevel	TECH. DIRECTOR Tom Graham	TECH. DIRECTOR Tom Graham	TECH. DIRECTOR Kyle Nevel
ACOLYTE Jackson Harper	ACOLYTE Juliet Miller	ACOLYTE Sophia Provident	ACOLYTE Kaydi Hall
LITURGIST Lauren McElhaney	LITURGIST Kathy Nevel	LITURGIST Jim Ihlenfeld	LITURGIST Betty Scarnato
FELLOWSHIP Volunteer Needed	FELLOWSHIP Volunteer Needed	FELLOWSHIP Deacon of the Month Kyle Nevel	FELLOWSHIP Volunteer Needed
COUNTERS None	COUNTERS Anne Miller & Janet Edinger	COUNTERS None	COUNTERS Arlene Roth & Kathy Nevel

Community Life

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REMOVAL



PRESBYTERIANS IN THE WILD



ABOVE: Staff members and leaders gathered at Pastor Leigh's house for a "Christiphany" party on January 6.

BELOW LEFT: Pastor Leigh visits Kendall Nace for Pastor Appreciation lunch at Penn Christian Academy.

BELOW RIGHT: Parents play a game of Corn Hole during the Presbytery-sponsored gathering at Family Bowlaway.



SCENES FROM WORSHIP



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

"Our Song of Hope"

During worship services in December, those in attendance were asked to answer a variety of questions regarding what gave them joy and hope. With AI assistance, these answers were compiled into an original hymn, "Our Song of Hope," set to the tune of "Good King Wenceslaus." We hope you enjoy our song of hope!

Our Song of Hope

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score ends with a double bar line and a final chord.

In the wear - i - ness of life, songs of hope take flight -
Care for all, not just for some, this is what we pray, -
No more hun - ger, and re - lease from un - just op - res - sion;
Love: the an - chor that un - nites each and ev - ery soul.

mel - o - dies that ra - di - ate E - pi - pha - ny's light. -
where com - pas - sion's ri - ver flows each and ev - ery day. -
fo - cus on the gifts of love, not on our po - sess - ions;
Joy: the har - mo - ny that makes bro - ken spi - rits whole. -

So we sing our song of hope like our Ho - ly Mo - ther,
Calls for jus - tice and for peace, end to ev - ery war, -
pa - tience and ac - cep - tance where all hearts be - long; -
Peace - ful whis - pers cast a - way our de - sire to fight. -

filled with joy and gra - ti - tude for our Ho - ly Fa - ther.
heal - ing, health - care, no dis - ease: this is what we hope - for.
rest and deep en - cour - age - ment: this - is our hope - ful song.
Hope: the bright - est star with - in all the wear - i - ness of night.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 <i>5th Sunday of Epiphany</i> <i>Lord's Supper</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Elementary Sunday School: 11:45 am Fellowship Hour: 11:45 am Book Club: 11:45 am	5	6 Women's Bible Study: 9:30 am Staff Mtg: 11:15 am OA Mtg: 7:00 pm Deacons' Mtg: 7:00 pm	7	8 Administration Committee Mtg: 9:30 am Stewardship Committee Mtg: 6:00 pm	9 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	10 AA Mtg: 11:00 am
11 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Elementary Sunday School: 11:45 am Fellowship Hour: 11:45 am Community Lunches @ St. Andrews: 12:00 pm	12 Session Mtg: 6:45 pm	13 <i>Shrove Tuesday/</i> <i>Mardi Gras</i> Women's Bible Study: 9:30 am Staff Mtg: 11:15 am OA Mtg: 7:00 pm	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> Community Dinners @ St. Andrews UP: 5:00 pm Community Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ Faith UP: 7:00 pm	15 <i>March Newsletter</i> <i>Articles Due</i>	16 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	17 AA Mtg: 11:00 am
18 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Elementary Sunday School: 11:45 am Fellowship Hour: 11:45 am	19 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20 Women's Bible Study: 9:30 am Staff Mtg: 11:15 am Adults' Night Out: 6:00 pm OA Mtg: 7:00 pm	21 Presbyterian 101 Adult Education Class: 7:00 pm	22 Christian Education Committee Mtg: 7:00 pm	23 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am Board Game Night: 6:00 pm	24 AA Mtg: 11:00 am
25 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Elementary Sunday School: 11:45 am Fellowship Hour: 11:45 am Yarn Group: 11:45 am	26	27 Women's Bible Study: 9:30 am Staff Mtg: 11:15 am OA Mtg: 7:00 pm	28 Presbyterian 101 Adult Education Class: 7:00 pm	29	<i>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.</i> <i>-1 John 4:7 (NRSV)</i>	



February 2024

