



UP on the Hill

HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | BUTLER, PA
JANUARY 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




Anna Earhart (clarinet) and Juliet Miller (flute) played the prelude for our "Cozy Christmas" worship service on the morning on December 24. This was their first time playing for church!

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

pnguyen@centurylink.net

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

CLERK OF SESSION

Elder Louise Evans

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Mark Davis, HR

From the Pastor's Desk

In our capitalistic, consumer-driven society, Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier each year. We're lucky if we can make it to Halloween before seeing store shelves display Christmas decorations and, after Thanksgiving, all bets are off. For a month or more, the airwaves are filled with Christmas music, the stores are pushing the next best gift, and we frantically try to get it all done: sending cards, baking cookies, wrapping presents, visiting loved ones and, maybe if we get a chance, a church service or two as well.

By the time we actually get to Christmas, many people are already over it, ready to move on to the next thing. New Year's Eve and even Valentine's Day accessories and goodies have replaced the Christmas items on store shelves - items which are now condensed on a shelf with a steeply discounted price. The radio stations are back to playing their regular tunes, the Christmas movies are tucked away for another year, and the Christmas trees are boxed up or wilt along the side of the road.

We spend so much time and energy getting ready for Christmas that, when it actually arrives, we're too exhausted to enjoy it.

This is so disheartening to me. For one, I usually don't get to truly enjoy Christmas until after all of the services are done and I can rest and spend time with my family - a time in which most people have already moved on. But, also, Christmas is not intended to be a one day celebration. The coming of God incarnate is not meant to be forgotten the other 11 months of the year. The birth of Christ literally changed the world; not only should we not move on too quickly - we shouldn't ever truly move on at all!

One of the ways I experience the Spirit is through poetry, so my gift to you this new year is three poems to encourage you to keep Christmas going, long after the rest of the world has moved on. As Howard Thurman says, it is only now that the real work of Christmas begins.

Peace, Pastor Leigh

The Christmas Spirit

by Ann Weems

The Christmas Spirit is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces in the face of
any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God all things still are possible,
that even now
unto us a Child is born!

The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Later

by Ann Weems

Later
after the angels,
after the stable,
after the Child,
they went back...
as we always much,
back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars
and especially not the Child.
We go back complaining that it doesn't last.
They went back singing praises to God!
We do have to go back,
but we can still sing the alleluias!

January Birthdays

- 1 Karen Anderson
- 5 Kaitlyn Nevel
Kyle Nevel
- 8 Ashley Holmes
- 10 Jane Weichey
- 11 Jordan Harper
- 13 Benjamin Buza
- 18 Mark Hall
- 19 Doug Hall
- 21 Sophia Provident
- 22 Barb Graham
- 23 Seth Heist
- 24 Gerry Graham
- 30 Pam Lentz



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.



WILLING WORKERS

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



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

In a continued effort to be better stewards of our resources, the offering envelope system had changed for 2024. Each pledging unit has been allotted envelopes based on their indicated giving schedule. Those giving electronically receive special offering envelopes only. If you have questions about this change, please contact our Stewardship Elders, Lauren McElhaney and Ruth Scott, Clerk of Session Louise Evans, or Pastor Leigh. Envelopes are available on the table in the Overflow.



2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like 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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL JANUARY FOOD REQUEST

Canned fruit (in natural juices preferred). Donations may be placed in the food barrel in the Giving Corner.



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>.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

We are in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour in the new year. Please sign-up on the sheet in Overflow.



The submission deadline for the February newsletter is **Monday, January 15**. Please send items to office.hillup@gmail.com.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DATE	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/20	12/24 10:30	12/24 4:00	12/24 8:00
IN-PERSON	60	81	~55	25	65	11	99
~VIRTUAL	20	21	20	10	7	n/a	20
TOTAL	80	102	75	35	72	11	119

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION OF HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

The purpose of this meeting will be to:

- Receive the annual reports of committees and ministry groups
- Receive the 2024 budget
- Approve Rev. Leigh Benish's Terms of Call for 2024
- Re-elect Elean Heist as Financial Secretary for 2024

All are welcome to attend.

HILL CHURCH BOOK CLUB FAMILY DAY

All kids and families are invited to join the Book Club following worship on **January 7** in the Hall Lounge. Bring your favorite children's book(s) to share!

YARN GROUP

All knitters, crocheters, and those wanting to learn are invited to Yarn Group following the Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 28**.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports from Committee Chairs are
Ministry Group Leaders are DUE
JANUARY 10.

Annual Reports will be available
to the congregation by
JANUARY 21.

Digital copies will be emailed; limited
physical copies will be made available.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH BOWLING EVENT

**Sunday, January 28 | 3-5 PM
Family Bowlaway**

All youth and friends are invited!
See Karen Earhart or Pastor
Leigh for more information.



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

Mission on the Hill and Beyond

DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNERS RECAP

It truly does take a village to feed the community. December's meal on the 13th involved an extraordinary number of helpers.

First, we thank the cookie bakers: Sharon Montag, Lorna Whittington, Ruth & Bob Scott, Lauren Nace, Debbie Markiw, Barb Kamerer, Becky Bayne, Carol Gadsby, Kerry McElhaney, Louise Evans, Jane Kennedy, Sherry Neely, Janet Edinger and Maryanne Puente.

We also thank our cookie packers, who stayed after church on December 10 to help us fill a zip lock with cookies and candy: Violet, Juliet, Jeff & Anne Miller; Debbie & Mike Markiw; David & Gabriel Benish; Mark & Carol Hall; Jim Ihlenfeld; Judy Birch, and Becky Plymale.

The cookies were beautiful and smelled wonderful!! We gave each diner 4-5 cookies.

Wednesday's meal consisted of baked ham with Judy's brown sugar/clove glaze, green beans, roasted red potatoes, garlic roll, Ambrosia salad, and the home baked cookies. The hams, many of the potatoes and the cookies were donated to keep our costs lower.

We thank Dave Olenic, who came in on Tuesday to help us cut up the hams ahead of time. Additionally, we thank Cindy Earhart and Sherry Neely who came in early on Wednesday to help cut 100 pounds of red potatoes into chunks.

As always, we had an absolutely fabulous serving team consisting of Leroy & Janet Edinger, Sharon & Marsh Miller, Kerry & Pete McElhaney, Lorna Whittington, Kathy Nevel, Judy Birch, and Becky Plymale. The servers arrived at 3pm to get everything cut and packaged so we could serve at 5 pm. This month we served 184 dinners.

As always, we thank the congregation for your support, the Deacons and Mission committee for the invaluable financial support, and our volunteers who make the dinners possible. With everyone's help we are able to serve a fresh, balanced meal for less than \$2 per person. Hopefully, sometime in the future the need will decrease, but for now we continue to serve an average of 180-200 meals per month.

Becky and Judy.



ABOVE: The Community Dinners serving crew on Wednesday, December 13.

BELOW: The cookie packing crew following worship on Sunday, December 10.



KEEP ME WARM TREES

The Mission Support Committee is collecting hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and like items for those in need in our community. You can place your store-bought or handmade items on the white tree in the Overflow or the tree in the Fellowship Hall. Items will be collected through the month of January.

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	Isa 62:1-12	Rev 19:11-16	Mt 1:18-25
2	1 Kgs 19:1-8	Eph 4:1-16	Jn 6:1-14
3	1 Kgs 19:9-18	Eph 4:17-32	Jn 6:15-27
4	Josh 3:14-4:7	Eph 5:1-20	Jn 9:1-12, 35-38
5	Jonah 2:2-9	Eph 6:10-20	Jn 11:17-27, 38-44
6	Isa 49:1-7	Rev 21:22-27	Mt 12:14-21
7	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 1:3-14	Jn 1:29-34
8	Gen 2:4-25	Heb 1:1-14	Jn 1:1-18
9	Gen 3:1-24	Heb 2:1-10	Jn 1:19-28
10	Gen 4:1-16	Heb 2:11-18	Jn 1:29-42
11	Gen 4:17-26	Heb 3:1-11	Jn 1:43-51
12	Gen 6:1-8	Heb 3:12-19	Jn 2:1-12
13	Gen 6:9-22	Heb 4:1-13	Jn 2:13-22
14	Gen 7:1-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mk 3:7-19
15	Gen 8:6-22	Heb 4:14-5:6	Jn 2:23-3:15

	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
16	Gen 9:1-17	Heb 5:7-14	Jn 3:16-21
17	Gen 9:18-29	Heb 6:1-12	Jn 3:22-36
18	Gen 11:1-9	Heb 6:13-20	Jn 4:1-15
19	Gen 11:27-12:8	Heb 7:1-17	Jn 4:16-26
20	Gen 12:9-13:1	Heb 7:18-28	Jn 4:27-42
21	Gen 13:2-18	Gal 2:1-10	Mk 7:31-37
22	Gen 14:1-24	Heb 8:1-13	Jn 4:43-54
23	Gen 15:1-21	Heb 9:1-14	Jn 5:1-18
24	Gen 16:1-14	Heb 9:15-28	Jn 5:19-29
25	Gen 16:15-17:14	Heb 10:1-10	Jn 5:30-47
26	Gen 17:15-27	Heb 10:11-25	Jn 6:1-15
27	Gen 18:1-16	Heb 10:26-39	Jn 6:16-27
28	Gen 18:16-33	Gal 5:13-25	Mk 8:22-30
29	Gen 19:1-29	Heb 11:1-12	Jn 6:27-40
30	Gen 21:1-21	Heb 11:13-22	Jn 6:41-51
31	Gen 22:1-18	Heb 11:23-31	Jn 6:52-59

Session Notes

The Session of Hill Church met for its monthly meeting on December 11, 2023, in the Hall Lounge.

Actions taken included:

- Set the date for the church's annual Ecclesiastical and Corporation meeting for Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship.
- Approved communion dates for 2024.
- Approved the 2024 budget.
- Elected Paula Nguyen as treasurer for 2024.
- Agreed to pay the full per capita amount for 2024 to the Beaver Butler Presbytery, (including presbytery, synod and general assembly amounts) and to direct the Presbytery to match and pay up to one-half of Hill's assessed amount for the Synod of Trinity and General Assembly from Presbytery reserves.
- Approved the use of PC(USA) Sunday School curriculum "Growing in God's Love, A Story Bible Curriculum" through the 2023-2024 school year.
- Received the minutes of the November 13, 2023 session meeting.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.

Louise Evans, Clerk

Worship Schedule

JANUARY 7

Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

*Lord's Supper
Star Words*

JANUARY 14

*2nd Sunday
of Epiphany*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Luke 2:22-40

JANUARY 21

*Baptism of Christ
Sunday*

Psalm 29
Mark 1:4-11

*Remembrance
of Baptism*

JANUARY 28

*4th Sunday
of Epiphany*

Psalm 62:5-12
Mark 1:14-20

Birthday Sunday

Chancel Flowers

JANUARY 7

Volunteer Needed

JANUARY 14

Volunteer Needed

JANUARY 21

Volunteer Needed

JANUARY 28

Given with love
by Lorna Whittington
in memory of
her husband,
John Whittington's
birthday

Volunteers

JANUARY 7

CHURCH OPENER

Pete McElhaney

GREETERS

Bob Scott &
Norbert Slezak

TECH. DIRECTOR

TBA

ACOLYTE

Anna Earhart

LITURGIST

Sue Catanzarito

FELLOWSHIP

**Volunteer
Needed**

COUNTERS

None

JANUARY 14

CHURCH OPENER

Bob Kennedy

GREETERS

Kathy Nevel &
Bob Kennedy

TECH. DIRECTOR

TBA

ACOLYTE

Lena Provident

LITURGIST

Jim Ihlenfeld

FELLOWSHIP

**Volunteer
Needed**

COUNTERS

Lauren Nace &
Lauren McElhaney

JANUARY 21

CHURCH OPENER

Janet Edinger

GREETERS

Janet Edinger &
Leroy Edinger

TECH. DIRECTOR

TBA

ACOLYTE

Jackson Harper

LITURGIST

Becky Plymale

FELLOWSHIP

Deacon of the Month
Barb Kamerer

COUNTERS

None

JANUARY 28

CHURCH OPENER

Louise Evans

GREETERS

Kathy Nevel &
Lorna Whittington

TECH. DIRECTOR

TBA

ACOLYTE

Gabe Benish

LITURGIST

Karen Anderson

FELLOWSHIP

**Volunteer
Needed**

COUNTERS

Doug Hall &
Karen Earhart

Community Life

SCENES FROM WORSHIP | ADVENT 2023



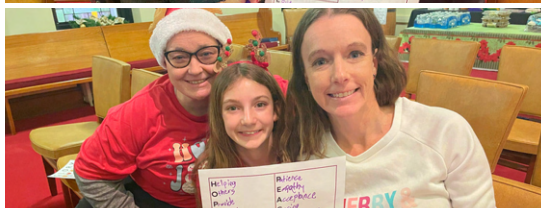
Our Quiet Christmas Service, "A Worship Service for the Weary," was held on the evening of Wednesday, December 20. This service included prayer, special music, and candle lighting. In addition to Pastor Leigh, participants included Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson (Hill), Elder Kerry Dowdy (East Butler), Deanna Golden (St. Andrews), Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon (Executive Presbyter, Beaver-Butler Presbytery), Elder Allen Kitchen (Faith), Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen (Faith & White Oak Springs), and Rev. Merry Meloy (St. Andrews).

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

Community Life



Our 10:30 am worship service on December 24, "A Cozy Christmas," was held in the Fellowship Hall. This service included a continental breakfast; special music by Juliet Miller & Anna Earhart; candle lighting by the Miller family; a mock "pageant" with readers Anna Earhart, Juliet Miller, Gabriel Benish, Jackson Harper, and Jacob Miller; and "ring and sing" carols with chime accompaniment provided by the congregation.



Our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service, "Making Room for All," was held in the Overflow. This service included special music by Gabriel Benish & Nancy Slezak; candle lighting by the Harper family; Christmas BINGO; poetry writing; candlelight; and cupcakes and a birthday celebration for Jesus.



Community Life



Our 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service, "A Service of Lessons, Carols, and Poetry," included special music from our handbell quartet as well as from Bella Heist. Nancy Slezak and the handbell quartet provided 30 minutes of music prior to the service. As always, "Silent Night" by candle light was a highlight.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our wonderful staff, leaders, and volunteers - including musicians, liturgists, candle lighters, Elders, and more - for making our Advent and Christmas worship services meaningful and beautiful!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 Staff Meeting: 9:30 am OA Meeting: 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting: 7:00 pm	3	4	5 Hill Quilters: 9:00 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	6 <i>Epiphany</i> AA Meeting: 11:00 am	
7 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> Lord's Supper <i>Star Words</i> Worship Service with Communion: 10:30 am Fellowship Hour: 11:30 am Book Club - Family Day: 11:30 am	8 Session Meeting: 6:45 pm	9 Staff Meeting: 9:30 am OA Meeting: 7:00 pm	10 Community Dinners @ St. Andrews: 5:00 pm	11	12 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	13 AA Meeting: 11:00 am
14 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Fellowship Hour: 11:30 am Community Lunches @ St. Andrews: 11:45 am	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	16 Staff Meeting: 9:30 am OA Meeting: 7:00 pm	17	18	19 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	20 AA Meeting: 11:00 am
21 <i>Baptism of Christ Sunday</i> <i>Remembrance of Baptism</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Fellowship Hour: 11:30 am Elem. Sunday School: 11:30 am DMin Congregational Resource Team: 11:45 am	22	23 Staff Meeting: 9:30 am OA Meeting: 7:30 pm	24	25 Christian Education Committee Meeting: 7:00 pm	26 Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 am	27 Beaver-Butler Presbytery Meeting @ North Sewickley: 10:00 am AA Meeting: 11:00 am
28 <i>4th Sunday of Epiphany</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> Worship Service: 10:30 am Annual Meeting: 11:30 am Elem. Sunday School: 11:30 am Fellowship Hour: 12:00 pm Yarn Group: 12:00 pm Presbytery Bowling Event @ Family Bowlaway: 3:00 pm	29	30 Staff Meeting: 9:30 am OA Meeting: 7:00 pm	31	 <h1>January 2024</h1>		