



The Parable



Inside this issue:

Prayer Concerns	2
MSM Food Pantry	2
Vacation Bible School	3
Birthdays	3
Church News	4
Church News	5
Upcoming Events	6
Church Information	7
Positive & Prayer Thoughts	7

In these days of uncertainty and distress, I keep going back to scripture to figure out how to deal with all of this. Like the song says, “*Lord, I want to be a Christian.*” How do I do that? One of my go-to verses is Micah 6:8, “*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*” I see so much injustice in our world—do I ever speak out? Or do I close my eyes and pretend it’s not that bad. How do I show kindness toward others and stay in a right relationship with God?

To know what to do, I lean into the words of Jesus. If we’ve forgotten what he taught us, it’s time to read the gospels again. Jesus was in solidarity with the poor, the outcasts, the sinners. He embraced people from all walks of life. Are we doing that today? He told us to treat others as we would like to be

treated, and to treat others as though they are Jesus himself. We remember his words in Matthew 25. How do we respond to stories of violence against Jews, Muslims, immigrants, people of color, indigenous people? Do we dismiss it as though it has nothing to do with us?

Martin Niemoller was a German theologian and Lutheran pastor. He opposed the Nazi regime and was sent to a concentration camp. He wrote these chilling words that continue to call Christians today to stand with Jesus, who wasn’t afraid to call out injustice and evil.

First they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I

did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.

We don’t know the future, but as followers of Jesus we know how to live in the present. It won’t be easy, but we trust that God is with us. As Paul writes in Romans 8, “*Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

Pastor Margaret





In Our Prayers

If you are not able to serve on the date you have signed up for, please try to trade with someone else on the list or contact Bob Unruh.

The food bank is put in a difficult situation when volunteers don't show up!



Those that have been ill, hospitalized or in need of prayer:

Students at Fern Valley UMC, Zimbabwe

Those in nursing homes:

John Darting, Merle Knak, Elaine Lowry, Dot Ens



MAIN STREET MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

August 2 - Bob & Priscilla Unruh

September 6 - Larry & Judy Klein

October 4 - Need Volunteers

Third Sunday Food Offering will be August 17

Cash offering will support *EmberHope*.

Thank you to everyone who brings food for the Main Street Ministries Food Bank on the third Sunday of each month.

We also appreciate those who volunteer their time on the first Saturday of the month.

Please remember to double-check the expiration date on the food you donate. *If it's past the expiration date, it has to be discarded.*

Current needs include: laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, feminine hygiene products, bath/hand soap, deodorant, & razors

Cash donations can also be given to Main Street Food Bank at Dale's Supermarket where they have an account set up to use for purchasing groceries for the food bank. You can also make online donations to the Food Bank at:

www.mainstreetministries.net/food-bank

FLAT JESUS PROJECT

As we remember that the Real Jesus is with us wherever we go, continue taking Flat Jesus along with you as a witness to your faith as you travel His creation. See family, friends and witness His love this summer. Take a photo and tell us about your adventure with Flat Jesus. Then bring or email your photos and stories to the church office for us to share on Facebook and display through the end of August. Flat Jesus prizes will be awarded for best outfit, best travel story, furthest distance traveled, etc. Where will your adventures take you and your Flat Jesus this summer?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Road Trip, On the Go With God! Our adventure takes place on:

Friday, August 1st from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Saturday, August 2nd from 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM
 Sunday, August 3rd from 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
 and Celebration at 10:30 AM

VBS is open to children in grades kindergarten through 5th grade (2025-26 school year). We'll share Bible stories, games, science, crafts and music for a fun, God-centered experience. The only thing missing is the kids who don't hear about VBS. Share the news today! Register on the church website or call the church.

ROAD TRIP VBS MISSION PROJECT

On Road Trip VBS, Travelers won't just learn ABOUT God's love, they will actively SHARE God's love with their neighbors through our VBS mission project! Our Travelers will be putting together Snack Sacks to donate to the Hillsboro Senior Center to include with their Meals On Wheels program. Help us collect individual packaged snacks for the Sacks. Some ideas are: Breakfast/Protein Bars, Cheese/PB Crackers, Dried Fruit & Raisins, Instant Oatmeal Packets, Trail Mix, Goldfish Crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, Slim Jim Meat Sticks, Nuts.

ROAD TRIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, August 3rd, the Travelers will celebrate and share what they've done and learned at VBS. After the Road Trip Celebration, head to 'The Boro' Roadside Diner (*fellowship hall*) for grilled hamburgers and root beer floats. Then check out the cool, classic cars at the Road Trip Cruise-In (*back parking lot*).



August 5 Mona Hein
 Josh Housman
 August 8 Susan Watson
 August 9 Irene Bezdek
 Cathy Fish
 Rickey Roberts
 August 11 Kelli Housman
 August 14 Bob Watson
 August 17 Bill Fish
 Dana Riling
 August 19 Samantha Saunders
 August 29 Maddi Duerksen



Fellowship Hall

Friday, August 15
 7:00 AM



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed August 10 - 22 while Sharon is on vacation. The Pastor will be in during the week except on Tuesday, August 12, Tuesday, August 19, and Thursday, August 14.

CARD SHOWER

A card shower is being held for the Alex Jost/Hannah Sutcliff wedding that is coming up in August. Please put your cards & well wishes in the basket located on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

CHURCH WEBSITE

The church website is the "front door" to the church where people can check us out. Take a look and see what's there:

www.hillsboroksumc.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 WORSHIP SERVICE

We'll be sending the children and youth back to school with a blessing for the backpacks. Please be sure they bring their backpacks! We'll also have a blessing for all our school personnel. In addition, there will be a Bible presentation that morning. Please be sure you're in church to support our children and youth on August 17.

THANK YOU!

Vacation Bible School will be underway (August 1, 2, & 3) just as you receive this newsletter. The theme was *Road Trip: On the Go with God*. We'll be able to share photos and stories in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we want to thank all the people who helped make this ministry a success! A huge thank you to **Debbie Ratzloff** who worked tirelessly for many months to organize and prepare for this vital children's ministry.

LIBRARY NEWS

Time to go back to school - - Time to go back to reading a book from your church library! Summer days are still here, but back to school is soon approaching. This is a good time to check out a book from the church library. Some of you might be interested in these new books:

The following two books could possibly interest an older elementary girl. The 'Abigail' series is new to our library. The author, Bethany McIlrath demonstrates how a family's commitment to their shared faith can help a nine-year-old girl navigate the everyday problems young girls can face. Each book not only tells a clever, funny story about Abigail, but also successfully unpacks biblical truths that young girls can discover. The two new books are: *Abigail Gets Left Out* and *Abigail and the Career Day Catastrophe*. For adult readers: *The Year of Jubilee* by Cindy Morgan is a compelling book about ignorance, racial prejudice in the deep South and learning the price of forgiveness. The book *Dysfunction Junction* by Robin Pearson tells the story of three women who need to wrestle with their inability to forgive and forget in this riveting Southern family drama about sisterhood. These new books are geared to young girls and women of our church, but men – you are not forgotten – we have several books in the library that you would find interesting – just take a look!



AN "APPLE" FOR THE TEACHER

Check out the "apples" on the trees at the back of the Sanctuary! We know that teachers pay for a lot of supplies out of their own pocket, so we asked teachers for their "wish list". Please take an "apple" (*you may want to partner with someone for bigger items*) and bring back the item(s) to the church by **August 17**. Be sure to attach the paper apple, so we'll know which teacher requested it. Thanks for supporting this partnership between the United Methodist church and Hillsboro Elementary School.

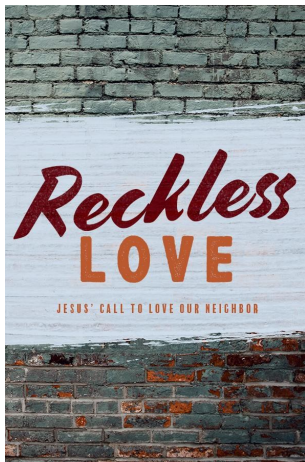


BACK TO CHURCH POTLUCK

Sunday, August 31 (Labor Day weekend) — after the worship service.

When families head back to school it's also a time when they think about heading back to church. If there's someone you know that we haven't seen in a while, invite them to join us. Maybe you have a new neighbor who doesn't have a church home—invite them too! Then bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy tasting what others have to offer.





FALL BIBLE STUDY: *RECKLESS LOVE* BY TOM BERLIN

In this day and age, love is sometimes in short supply. How can we live out Jesus' call to love our neighbor?

Six Wednesdays at 10:00 AM September 3 - October 8

Sign up on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Books are \$15; sponsors are available if anyone needs help with the cost.

(If anyone can't come on Wednesday mornings, please speak to the pastor and suggest an alternative weeknight or Sunday evening. There are always other possibilities!)

SECOND SUNDAY, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

For all ages — children, youth and adults.

A fun time of fellowship on the second Sunday of each month.

Last spring we began by playing Bunco in March. Then in April we made an Easter Garden and Easter cards. We skipped May (*too many graduations!*) and in June we had a “taster” of Vacation Bible School (*walking tacos and stoplight brownies, Bingo with prizes, decorating sacks for Meals on Wheels, and making a Flat Jesus to take with us all summer*). July was busy with the fireworks celebration and in August it was time for VBS.

Here are the dates for this fall:

September 14 - Open

October 12 - Weiner Roast at Randy & Lindy Wiens

November 9 - Open

December 14 - Open

Second Sunday is an experiment, and the Pastor would like some folks to suggest ideas and help make plans. Would you consider taking one of the dates to volunteer? Fall might suggest themes such as autumn harvest, thanksgiving, or other seasonal activities. December could be a lot of fun with a “journey to Bethlehem,” Christmas caroling, or a Hannukah celebration. A service project is always a great idea, too!



Adult Sunday School — 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship — 10:30 AM

HUMC worship service on MCTV channel 20
is broadcast on the following times:

Sundays at 4 PM	Wednesdays at 7 AM
Thursdays at 10 AM	Fridays at 1 PM

If you have to be away from church on Sunday morning, you can still worship with us. Go to YouTube and type in **Hillsboro KS UMC** and you'll find it live. If you go to YouTube after 11:30 AM, click on Live Video and it will be there. On Mondays, the service is uploaded to our Facebook page, Hillsboro KS UMC.



www.facebook.com/hillsboroksumc

www.hillsboroksumc.org

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@hillsboroumc4256

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Margaret Johnson, Pastor

Phone: 316-655-1801

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Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
From 9 AM — Noon

Sharon Denholm, Office Assistant

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings

Missi Redger, Custodian



POSITIVE & PRAYER THOUGHTS, by Dot Ensz, Prayer Coordinator

- Laugh a lot. It's good medicine.
- The joy of the Lord is your strength. *Nehemiah 8:10*
- I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. *John 5:11*
- Be still and know that I am God. *Psalms 46:10*
- Bloom where you are planted.
- This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalms 118:24*
- Each day is a gift from God
- Be a light in the world..
- God's love – pass it on.

Dear God,

We invite you into our lives and help us to put you first. You created us and we need you and want you in our hearts and lives. Help us to be the kind of people you created us to be. Forgive our foolish ways. We give you all of our love and praise.

In Jesus' name,
AMEN

