



**A place where  
faith matters**

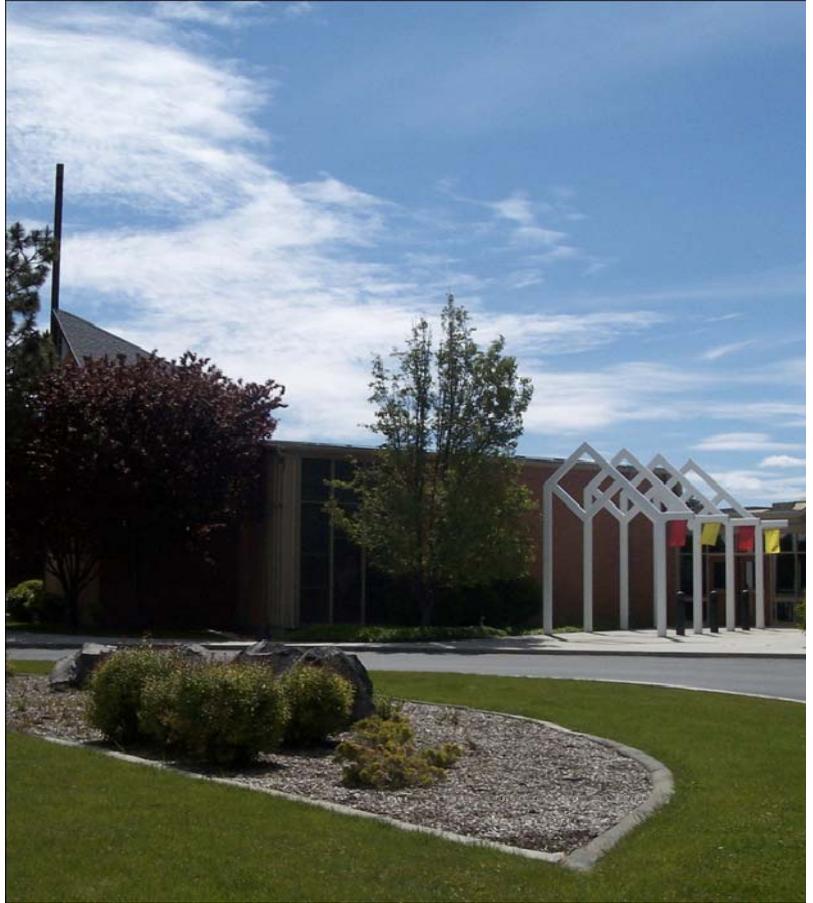
# The Connector

## Sunday Morning

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
and 10 a.m.

Small groups and Bible studies  
for all ages are available after each  
service.

Childcare is provided for  
infants to three-year-olds.



**We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all persons into full participation in the life of the congregation regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, racial or ethnic background, economic status, or mental or physical abilities. As we journey to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God, we celebrate our human family's diversity.**

## Random Musings from Pastor Barbara

For the last several months I have been prayerfully considering how we might best challenge each other to deepen our commitments as followers of Jesus Christ. We are such a diverse congregation. We have unique backgrounds and experiences. We are passionate about different important things. We have such a spectrum of strengths and weaknesses. It seemed unlikely we could find one path to personal growth that would be meaningful and appropriate for all of us.

When I attended the Bishop's Symposium in October, I heard Rev. Scott Harkness speak about how his congregation in Roseburg is offering a huge variety of "faith challenges" this fall. I couldn't see Hillview pursuing this idea with the same strategies they were using, but it got me thinking about a way we could offer a small number of individual faith challenges throughout the year.

As a result, when you come for worship on the first Sunday of Advent (December 2), you will have an opportunity to accept ONE faith challenge for the season. The possibilities will range from attending worship each Sunday through Christmas, to reading the daily devotion each day of the season, to trying alternative Christmas giving and more. The point will be to accept a NEW challenge—not just say "yes" to something you already do. If you accept a challenge, you will be able to place a commitment card in a special basket during Communion. You can sign that card or leave it unsigned. If you sign it, you MAY check a box that says you'd like someone to follow up with you during Advent—to see how it's going and encourage you to follow through.

There will be new challenges in the coming year, every month or two. They may involve serving others, financial commitment, study opportunities and more. The hope is that accepting a challenge can be one intentional way we can each deepen our commitment as followers of Christ, so that our faith will truly matter and make a loving difference in this world.

I encourage you to accept a challenge.

I wish to thank all of the members of Hillview who attended the pastor's forum meeting I conducted in late October on avoiding cancer. I greatly appreciate your support and your interest in this topic. As part of that session, I donated a copy of the book *Anti-Cancer: A New Way of Life* to Hillview's library. And I encouraged everyone to check this out and read it if/when they could.

Since then, I have been able to view a DVD of Dr. David Servan-Schreiber (the author) giving a talk on this same subject. This was a program on Public TV from 2010 and was the first time I had the chance to see and hear Dr. Servan-Schreiber discuss this topic. I have recently purchased a copy of this DVD for Hillview and have given it to Claudia and asked her to help me make it available to all of you.

The topic is of great interest to me, obviously. And hearing the author speak was riveting when I viewed it. I also acknowledge that everyone is very busy and being able to read the whole book is a tall order. So, I encourage you to contact Claudia and get your name on the list to view this excellent DVD. This falls into the category of "If I only knew this stuff a while ago..." in terms of lifestyle choices. Maybe it will for you as well.

It's my hope that this DVD is in great demand and is viewed by a large number of my friends at Hillview. It's there now whenever you are ready to watch it.

John Lodal



Have you taken photos at church or at other Hillview events during the past year? If so, put them on a CD, label it, and bring it to the church office. We are trying to keep our photo archives up to date.

### **Lunch Bunch**

The Hillview Lunch Bunch will meet on December 12 at McGrath's Fish House. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area, or call the church office (375-0392) if you would like to attend.



## COMMUNITY MEAL



**Come share a meal with our neighbors December 25 at the next Community Meal at 6 p.m.** The entrée will be ham and turkey. Your help is needed in providing salads, side dishes and desserts and **helping hands**.

We are planning something special that night for the kids.

**Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.** Questions? Contact Marilesta Nelson at 375-5116 or email [nelsonm111@aol.com](mailto:nelsonm111@aol.com).



In a collaborative effort between First United Methodist, Amity, and Hillview, our Communion bread will be supplied by the **Franz Bakery Outlet** on Benjamin Road in Boise.

Did you know that the Franz Bakery is a local company that makes their bread in Nampa?

A big THANK-YOU to Franz Bakery for doing this for us!

## Trustees Report

The furnace in the library, which heats the library and the kitchen, failed and was replaced on November 15 with a 95%-efficient Trane furnace with an Aprilaire filter, and the thermostat in the kitchen was replaced with a programmable thermostat. The replaced old furnace was 80% efficient. This should result in lower church gas and power bills.

At the Trustees meeting on November 18, Marilesta was authorized to purchase and install two new convection ovens to replace the existing older inefficient ovens. These convection ovens will use less energy than the old ovens, and cooking time will be reduced, further lowering the church power bill. The cost of the ovens and installation will be covered by a donor.

Our Fall Work Day was held on Saturday, October 12, and we appreciate and thank all of you who could participate. In the spring we will develop opportunities for families to volunteer to maintain some of the landscaping areas or be responsible for other work tasks. We welcome at any time your participation to improve the appearance of our church.

# Youth News



## December Calendar

**1<sup>st</sup> 5:00-6:30 p.m. Regular Youth Group.** Your PRESENCE is needed!!!

**8<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 p.m. Regular Youth Group**

**15<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 p.m. At the Youth House. Christmas Party!** Wear a costume (Superhero, camouflage, ugly sweater, etc.) Bring a WRAPPED present (under \$5) and a friend.



**22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m. Night of Music in the Sanctuary. \*\*NO YOUTH GROUP\*\***

Happy Birthday, Holly!

Dates to be scheduled include the delivery of items for the State Veterans Home. Check your postcards/texts/email for update.

Hillview's Congregational Care Ministries provide care, concern, prayer, and support for families and individuals at various stages, places, and circumstances of life. The Congregational Care Team is here to respond to the needs of the congregation and to engage the church in the ongoing spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational expressions of living faithfully within the Body of Christ.

**Visitation**—Hillview extends friendship and compassion through its Care Ministries. Under the supervision of Maggie Edmondson, Minister of Congregational Life, we strive to create meaningful relationships with each person we meet, whether they are homebound members, in the hospital, in an assisted living facility, or simply in need of pastoral care. If you or someone you know has a care need, please contact the church office.

Please add these names of military personnel to the list of those for whom we pray, as they are away from family and friends serving their country: **Jackson Irish, Monterey, CA; Kevin Custer, USMC; Dustin Soper; Cara Hammond, Air Force, Mississippi; Staff Sgt. Bryan Koepl, Army, Goodfellow AFB, Texas; Seaman Christina Golovanoff, USCGC Mellon based out of Seattle.**

To keep this listing of military personnel as up to date as possible, family members may contact the church office at 375-0392 or [churchoffice@hillviewmethodist.org](mailto:churchoffice@hillviewmethodist.org) with information such as name, branch of service, and where serving.



There are times in all our lives when we need to be lifted up in prayer by the community of faith. Hillview has a long history of being a praying people. We consider it both a privilege and responsibility to pray for the hurts of individuals, families, towns, nations and the wider world.

Only persons who request to be a part of the Prayer Chain Ministry will receive prayer requests. Anyone associated with Hillview can take part in this ministry and is encouraged to do so. If you desire to be part of the Hillview Prayer Chain Ministry, or are currently on the prayer chain and wish to remain for 2014, please contact Linda Sherrets at 377-3248.

## Emergency Compassion Fund (A ministry to those at risk)

From week to week, Hillview Secretary Claudia Flora, Congregational Life Pastor Maggie Edmondson, and Pastor Barbara Nixon regularly encounter people with emergency needs. Many of these people are traveling; some are local people, others come from within the congregation. The specific circumstances are as varied as the people they see. Most have a one-time, very real financial need.

To help meet these needs, the money from the bazaar went directly into the Emergency Compassion Fund ("Rainy Day Fund"). Money will be withdrawn from this fund at the discretion of office staff and the church treasurer whenever financial help is deemed necessary.

## Finance

The chart at the right shows where we stood as of October 31, 2013. As you can see, our income is trailing our expenses. That has continued for each of the last 3 weeks through November 17.

As the year is drawing to a close and time is drawing short to meet our financial obligations, we need your help. The staff and the worship teams have been doing their part by being very frugal and innovative in doing their tasks with the minimum amount of money. We are continually looking for savings both large and small. We have made changes in how we use our equipment and in our office procedures, which has provided savings this year and will continue to do so.

We thank you for what you have done. But we also ask you to please prayerfully consider Hillview's financial situation during this season.

Curtis Kron  
Chair, Finance Team



## Children's Church

Children's Church meets every Sunday in Room 10 immediately following Kids & Grown-Ups Together during the 10 a.m. service for children ages 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. During Children's Church, the kids interact together over the Scripture reading for that Sunday. After hearing the story of the day, they complete an activity or craft relating to the lesson.

### From the Education Committee:



We are exploring the many and diverse opportunities for Christian Education at Hillview and are making a change to our Basics Classes at 9:15 a.m. Beginning in February, we will be offering *quarterly* classes beginning with the Sacraments led by Janine Watkins. Please look for more information on the winter quarter class in next month's *Connector*. Also, there will be **NO Christian Education classes on December 29** following either the 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. worship services.

### **New Tuesday Night Study to Begin December 3**

A five-week study, "Embracing Spiritual Awakening," features Diana Butler Bass speaking on how we are in the midst of another "great awakening" in terms of our faith culturally and spiritually. Topics are: Waking up, Believing, Behaving, Belonging, and Awakening. The study meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the library.



**December 19, 5:30 p.m.**

Pastor Barbara leads a free-wheeling theological conversation over sandwiches at Cobby's (4348 Chinden) on the third Thursday of each month. This is a continuation of all the Freeing Theology classes she has offered but is open to any and all who are willing to try speaking about God and their faith without relying on "church" words. No sign-up is necessary. Just come and enjoy! Questions? Call Pastor Barbara (991-8464).

## **Give a Gift that “Gifts” Someone Else**

Once again, your Faith in Action ministry team is encouraging Christmas giving with a difference—Alternative Christmas Gifts.

This is an opportunity to contribute to one of three projects in honor of a person to whom you would normally give a Christmas gift. It is an “alternative” way of remembering someone, offers a less commercial approach to giving, and helps others at the same time.

Projects are selected to be in keeping with our tenets—an attempt to live into our Christian faith by “bringing help and hope to those people who struggle” (from Hillview’s Tenet 6).

Alternative giving is easy to do. Simply choose your project. Then select the matching Alternative Gift card and envelopes. Place your check (with the project name in the memo line) or cash in the small envelope and place it in the gift box on the table. Keep the gift card and matching envelope to give to the recipient whom you are honoring with this gift.

We have selected three projects this year—one at Hillview, one local, and one global:

### **Hillview Camperships**

Last summer, 14 Hillview children and youth attended church camp, and all but one received a campership to help with the expense, which is \$300-\$400, depending on when the camper registers. Our goal is to provide funding so that inability to pay does not prevent any child or youth from experiencing this opportunity for Christian growth.

### **Interfaith Sanctuary**

The only night shelter for men, women, families, and even those who would not be allowed in other shelters, Interfaith Sanctuary offers a nonjudgmental, safe place for those who find themselves homeless for whatever reason. It is generally filled to capacity, and there is a need for expanded services in addition to all the ongoing needs.

### **Becas con Bendiciones Honduran Scholarship Fund**

Public schools in Honduras are “free,” but many children are unable to attend because of entry fees plus uniforms and school supplies they are required to buy. This program supports those children who are selected for the school year and is designed to help the poorest of the poor get an education. Contributions from Hillview provide assistance to students from Fuerzas Unidas, one of the poorest areas in Honduras.

If these projects do not fit your giving needs, we strongly encourage you to give alternatively in any way that is comfortable for you and to any cause for which you, or the recipient of your gift, have a strong connection. If you want to give more tangible gifts, you can make a commitment to purchasing Fair Trade items, buying gifts from Dunia Marketplace in Hyde Park, or buying locally produced gifts whenever possible.

### Monthly Circle Meetings:

#### Morning Book Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 9:30 a.m.  
Meets at Barnes & Noble.  
Contact: Kristen Guyon,  
322-5090

#### Evening Book Club:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Church kitchen.  
Contact: Darlene Smith,  
376-5977

#### Friends of Phoebe:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Church kitchen. Child care is  
available.  
Contact: Dawn Phipps,  
713-1414

#### Lydia Circle:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday,  
9:30 a.m. -11 a.m.  
Church library.  
Contact: Judy Halverson,  
327-0541

#### Fellowship Circle:

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in  
members' homes.  
Contact: Betsy Baughman,  
424-7713.

Contact for UMW events:  
Judy Halverson, 327-0541, or  
[judybhalverson@gmail.com](mailto:judybhalverson@gmail.com).



### Hillview United Methodist Women's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING BRUNCH Saturday, December 7, 2013 10 a.m., Ballantyne Hall

All ladies are invited to the annual Christmas Gathering Brunch. The brunch is provided; just bring a friend! Sue Walch will help us get into the Christmas spirit with music and singing of our favorite Christmas songs. The Angel Tree is a local mission we participate in annually and the gift tags for children who have parents in prison will be available at the brunch. Another opportunity to be in the giving spirit of Christmas is to bring postage stamps or lightly scented or unscented lotions/hand cream as gifts for our Lady Veterans who live at the Idaho Veterans Home.

*For more information, contact Judy Halverson, 327-0541. Child care will be provided, but please know that we have a tradition of daughters of ALL ages (yes, even babies!) attend with their mothers or grandmothers!*

**What is the Angel Tree Program?** This is a program sponsored by Prison Fellowship to give Christmas gifts to prisoners' children. Hillview UMW has participated in this program since 2005. At our brunch, ladies pick out a tag that has a child's gift request and purchases the gift to return to the church by the following Sunday. Volunteers take the gifts to the families. We have found this to be a rewarding way to be in mission in our local community, putting our love into action.

### Mark Your Calendars -- United Methodist Women Events:

Dec. 7	Christmas Brunch—10:00 a.m. in Ballantyne
Dec. 9	Veteran Ladies' Lunch—10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	Valentine Care Packages
May 4-10	Mission Trip to Salt Lake City UMCOR Depot



# Music Notes

◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
7:00 p.m.

## *Night of Music*

This annual event has become an Advent tradition for many individuals and families as the Music Department and guest musicians share an evening of seasonal music, joy, and refreshments. Bill Britton's quartet will be back again this year along with several other guest musicians to add to the festive music of the Chancel Choir, Rhapsody Ringers, and Hillview Instruments.

### **REHEARSALS (sanctuary)**

**Rhapsody Ringers** Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

**Chancel Choir** Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Sunday 9:15 a.m.

**Hillview Instruments** Wednesday 7:45 p.m.

Sunday 9:15 a.m.

*Night of Music* rehearsal, Saturday, December 21 10:00 a.m.

## **SNEAKY CHRISTMAS CAROLS**



It is a long-standing church tradition to not sing Christmas carols *during worship* any time before Christmas Eve. You don't sing about how great it is that Jesus has been born until you actually reach the celebration of his birth. This disappoints many people who would like to sing carols every week when they come for worship during Advent.

Singing Advent words to Christmas carol tunes in the recent past seems to have satisfied some folks and irritated others. This year your worship team has decided to offer a time to sing a couple of Christmas carols each Sunday during Advent, sneaking them in *right before* worship begins. So come a few minutes early if you'd like to sing some carols. And don't forget, Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m. is another opportunity to sing, sing, sing!

## FROM YOUR WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

### Advent Activities



- **November 30 at 10:00 a.m.** Decorate the Church for Advent- all welcome to come help
- **December 1, 8, & 15** Poinsettia sales. This year, red poinsettias (\$12)
- **December 14 at 1 p.m.** Caroling to the homebound; come make a joyful Christmas noise!

### The Backwards Christmas Pageant



"This will change everything," people say when something new or dramatic happens in their lives, and often it does just that. How do we tell the story of how the birth of Christ changed things long ago and how it continues to change things? Tell the story backward! Part of the point of "The Backward Christmas Pageant" is that time doesn't matter in this story. The birth of a baby two thousand years ago changed everything—God's grace is timeless. Please join us for a special morning of worship on **December 15** as our children share their many months of hard work and present "The Backwards Christmas Pageant" at the 10 a.m. service. You will smile, you will laugh, you will sing along with the children, and your heart will be warmed.

### Pastor's Bible Study



Most people, when they think of the Christmas story, think of one biblical narrative that includes the holy family, the midnight hour, a barn, various farm animals, shepherds, angels, wise men and a quiet, little town called Bethlehem. It might come as a big surprise to learn that many of the elements people often treasure as part of the nativity story come from many different sources. Join Pastor Barbara for Bible Study on **December 17 at 11 a.m. or December 18 at 6 p.m.** as we explore all of the birth narratives found in the Gospels. If you currently are not a part of this study, please feel welcome to join us for this special study.

### CHRISTMAS EVE AT HILLVIEW

- 5:30 p.m.** Interactive service for children and the very young at heart (includes candle lighting)
- 7:00 p.m.** Lighting, carols, and special music with a brief message from Pastor Barbara
- 10:00 pm.** Lighting, carols, Communion, and special music with a brief message from Pastor Barbara

## Caroling!



Join us on Saturday, December 14, at 1 p.m. for Christmas caroling to our homebound members. We will have two different opportunities to carol this year: gathering around the phone at Hillview or driving over to Bonaventure Retirement to carol to the residents at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry no matter what your singing abilities are because “the best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear!” Cookies and hot chocolate will be served immediately following our festivities. Please sign up on the Congregational Care bulletin board if you plan on caroling at Bonaventure, so we can make plans to carpool. Contact Maggie Edmondson at 891-4385 or [meg.edmondson@gmail.com](mailto:meg.edmondson@gmail.com) with any questions or for more information.

## Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 15, 7 p.m.



Christmas can be a painful time for some people. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died. It may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation—all of these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. Come out and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle—and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

# Faith in Action

## Hillview Night at Dunia Marketplace



**Don't miss the third annual Hillview Shopping Night at Dunia Marketplace on Sunday, December 1, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Dunia will be open after hours for Hillview members, friends and guests.

The mission of Dunia is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by selling their handicrafts and telling their stories. Enjoy this special opportunity to browse their wide assortment of gifts from around the world, and to sample homemade goodies while you do your Christmas shopping. Enjoy a relaxed evening of fellowship and make a difference in the world.

Dunia is located at 1609 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Boise's Hyde Park District. For additional hours, visit their web site at [www.duniamarketplace.com](http://www.duniamarketplace.com) or call 333-0535.

## Wilder Clothing Bank Needs Help

Jorge Rodriquez, pastor of Wilder Hispanic United Methodist Church, has asked for help as winter approaches. Items needed include: blankets, coats, gloves, boots and hats for men, women, youth and children. You can bring items to church and put them in the bin near the coat racks in the Gathering Area.

## Shop Online and Support Our Congregation

Sign up at [www.UMCmarket.org](http://www.UMCmarket.org) and you can start making micro-donations to our congregation every time you shop online. You can sign up for free.

UMCmarket.org has partnered with hundreds of online stores that are donating a portion of your purchase to Hillview. They are saying "thank you" for referring you. You just need to sign up at [UMCmarket.org](http://UMCmarket.org) to start making micro-donations.

Moses Kumar, General Secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Council of Finance and Administration states, "UMCmarket is a brilliant and easy way to provide your church with a solution to help achieve your revenue goals and to support your ministries."

Go to [www.UMCmarket.org](http://www.UMCmarket.org) for more information or to sign up.



## **Dates to Remember**

December 1: Hillview Night at Dunia Marketplace

December 3-7: Church Directory Photos

December 7: UMW Christmas Brunch

December 14: Caroling

December 15: "The Backwards Christmas Pageant"  
(Children's program)

December 15: Blue Christmas Service

December 22: Night of Music

December 24: Christmas Eve  
Services: 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas  
Community Meal

**The Hillview Connector is  
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Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.  
9 a.m.-noon, Friday