



# The Connector



## Sunday Morning

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

Small groups and Bible  
Studies for all ages are avail-  
able 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.**

# Offerings

September 26 was the second anniversary of the imprisonment of Pastor Saeed Abidini in Iran. Pastor Saeed is from Boise and is part of an evangelical congregation. I first heard about his imprisonment from a Berean Baptist minister in Idaho Falls. To be honest, I didn't pay much attention, since it wasn't very often that the evangelical churches would reach out and include a woman pastor in their communications. Much of what I usually heard from them somehow offended me.

Now that I am in Boise, I pass an evangelical church every day that requests prayers for Pastor Saeed from its signboard. It has caught my attention. His imprisonment has been condemned by the United Nations. It has been condemned by our own government. He was arrested because he is a Muslim convert to Christianity. He started around 100 house churches in Iran in the early 2000s when such a thing was tolerated by the Iranian government. His arrest and imprisonment is an injustice. Pastor Saeed's wife and two young children are well taken care of by their Calvary Chapel congregation in Boise, but they need their husband and father to come home.

I am guilty of sometimes caring more about injustices that occur against people who think similarly to how I think. Pastor Saeed's theology is not the same as our theology as United Methodists. He would not support my ordination, nor the role of many women at Hillview UMC. He is a missionary in a way that makes some United Methodists feel uncomfortable, with a message that unless people think in a very narrow way, they will not be saved. I have had to question my prejudice. An injustice is just that—an injustice. It transcends labels of conservative or liberal, or evangelical or progressive.

It isn't often that we at Hillview can truly unite wholeheartedly with the evangelical Christian community. Over this situation we can, and should, unite with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's lift up Pastor Saeed and his family in our prayers; let's join in prayer vigils for him; let's let our government officials know that we do not want him to be forgotten—he needs to come home. It is time for us to work together and be united in Christ. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brenda



## Have You Signed Up to Walk in the CROP Hunger Walk?

Join the Hillview team and walk in the Ada County CROP Hunger Walk on October 19. There is a brand new route this year beginning and ending at the Julia Davis Park band shell. Pick up your CROP envelope in the Gathering Area on Sunday. *Why should you walk?* Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day or more to get food, water and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk to bring awareness to others in our community. We walk because we want to end hunger—one step at a time.

In addition to collecting donations in person, walkers may also receive donations online. If you want to raise funds as a walker or if you would like to donate to our team, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/goto/HillviewUMC2014](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/goto/HillviewUMC2014) and follow the instructions.

Get involved and walk or donate to the Hillview team! Questions? Contact Debbie Mallis at [debbiemallis@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemallis@gmail.com) or 853-2740.



Wednesday, October 29, 7-8 p.m.

Join us for a night of fun and fellowship in the church parking lot! Dress up your car and yourself! Bring your kids and grandkids and invite your friends and neighbors. If you don't plan to bring any children, enjoy the festivities while volunteering to help! From 7-8 p.m. volunteers will line up their cars in the parking lot, then open their **DECORATED** trunks (or truck beds) from which they will hand out candy to the kids who walk from car to car and trunk-or-treat! We need as many people as possible to sign up to decorate their cars and hand out treats. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Area beginning October 1 for all volunteers. Please contact Maggie Edmondson (soon-to-be Thompson), Minister of Congregational Life, with any questions or for more information.



## Lunch Bunch

The Hillview Lunch Bunch will meet at Black Bear Diner (1731 S. Entertainment Ave.) at 11:30 a.m. on October 9 . The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area, or call the church office (375-0392) if you would like to attend.



**COMMUNITY MEAL** We're back inside! Come enjoy a hot bowl of chili and /or a hot dog and good fellowship on **October 29 from 6-7p.m.!** There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to help with setup, cleanup and food needs. If you haven't attended or helped with the meal before, come join the fun. **This Ministry needs YOU!** There will be special music by Gary Wood's Blue Grass Band and a special activity for the kids from 7-8 p.m. If you have any questions, feel free to call Community Meal Coordinator Marilesta Nelson at 375-5116.



**DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL OCCASION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR HILLVIEW FAMILY?** If you would like to provide flowers for the altar to honor a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, please contact Marilesta Nelson (375-5116) or Claudia in the church office (375-0392).

## FROM YOUR WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM: ALL SAINTS DAY, November 2, 2014

Beginning on October 19, the Worship Ministry Team will have tags available in the Gathering Area for you to complete with names of family and friends who have passed away. We will attach the tags to a banner that will be used on All Saints Day. On November 2 we will honor those we have lost since the previous All Saints Day.

## Visitation Team

The Congregational Care Committee is expanding its homebound visitation team. Homebound members rely on these visits to feel connected to Hillview and appreciate the connection these visits offer. Contact Maggie Edmondson, Minister of Congregational Life, to sign up for this wonderful and vital care ministry.

# Youth Group

We have had a great summer with lots of games and fun times, but we think as school starts that we get . . .



- October 5 - Starting our service project planning, 5-6:30 p.m.
- October 12 - Veterans Footlocker time. Preparation begins 5-6:30 p.m.
- October 18 - Youth Leader Jeff's wedding!
- October 19 - CROP Walk! Times TBA.

Each youth will need to have new parental and medical release forms for the 2014-2015 year. They can be found on the church website, or find Jeff or Claire and they can get you one. We can't wait for what this new Youth Group year holds!

Youth Directors,

Jeff Thompson and Claire Chambers

## **Prayer Partners**

We are looking for *twenty (or more)* adults to serve as prayer partners for our children and youth during the upcoming school year! Volunteers are expected to pray weekly for their assigned child or youth, periodically send a card or note of encouragement to them to remind him/her you are praying for them, and speak to them on Sunday mornings. And holidays are great times to send a note too! If you are interested in serving as a prayer partner this year, please sign up on the table in the Gathering Area.

## **Prayer Chain Ministry**

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 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.

### **New Email Prayer Chain**

We will be expanding to include an email-based prayer chain beginning this month. If you are interested in participating in this email-based prayer chain, please sign up in the Gathering Area and you will be added to the list. If you would like to join the existing phone-based chain, please contact Linda Sherrets at 377-3248.

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### **Fall Road Map for Seniors: Planning for Your Last Hurrah**

Save the date for our next Road Map for Seniors event, *Planning for Your Last Hurrah*, on Sunday, November 9, from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. as we discuss Pre-Planning Your Memorial Service with Rev. Brenda Sene. A light lunch will be served, so be sure to look out for more information in the November issue of *The Connector* and sign up on the Congregational Care bulletin board beginning October 1.

## **New Art Exhibit in Gathering Area**

**Cheryl Richardson**, a member of the Hillview choir, is our featured artist during October through December. Her selected pieces reflect the color changes that occur just as the sun begins to set and are titled Palouse Barn II, Foothills Farming, and Riverside Birch.

Cheryl is a new member of the Idaho Watercolor Society painters. She was born in Madison, Wisconsin, but has spent most of her life in Idaho, arriving in 1964. She received her fine arts training from the University of Alaska, Juneau, and Boise State University. Cheryl recently retired from teaching GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) students in the Boise Schools and now tests candidates for the GATE Program. Cheryl also teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Edufest for Boise State (Future Problem Solving, Arts across the Curriculum, Book Arts and Calligraphy). She has studied independently with such noted watercolorists as Will Nelson, Linda Aman, Nancy Taylor Stonington, and Dr. Louis Peck.

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## **Advent Devotional**

The Education Committee invites you to write a short devotional piece—a story or a meditation—to share with our Hillview congregation and friends this Advent season. The devotionals will be published in a page-a-day booklet, and will be available as daily emails. Please sign up to participate in this wonderful gift to our community of faith this Advent season. All submissions are due no later than **October 31**. Please contact Maggie Edmondson (Thompson) if you have any questions or need more information.

## Halloween and the United Methodist Church

The magic of Halloween can be charming as we are "visited" by robots, beautiful princesses, a scary witch, and maybe Batman or an Avenger. But for a Christian there may also come the question: "Should we celebrate this night of witches, ghosts and goblins?" Did you know that the United Methodist Church does not have an official statement or position on Halloween? Church members are free to make their own decisions about their participation in Halloween activities. This holiday can then be divisive for some families: those who allow their families to 'trick or treat' and dress up for the spooky night, and those who feel Halloween is not a holiday for spiritual families. It can lead to passing judgment upon the other side, bitterness and "spiritual pride." So the question becomes, is Halloween a holiday we should avoid? Or can we let our children (and ourselves) enjoy the customs of Halloween without compromising our faith?

Where did Halloween come from? The Celts, a warrior-tribe ruling the area of the United Kingdom by 500 B.C., were the earliest peoples recorded to celebrate October 31. They viewed it as a night the spirits of the dead roamed the earth, so they lit bonfires to keep them away. Ancient Romans had a similar festival (of Pomona), which was a celebration of the harvest. They, too, believed spirits and witches were to be found that day. The name "Halloween" comes from the Roman Catholic holiday of All Saints Day on November 1, which is also celebrated in the United Methodist Church as the day when we remember those who have died within the previous year. So "Halloween" is the evening before.

Ultimately, the celebration of Halloween should be an individual's choice, but keep in mind: as long as it is viewed as a day for children (both young and old) to use their imagination, have fun, to be safe, and **eat too much chocolate**, it's a fairly harmless celebration. Keeping this in mind, some communities of faith offer traditional or alternative Halloween events for families like reverse trick-or-treating by collecting canned food for the food pantry or collecting funds for UNICEF. This year, Hillview will be offering a twist on both as we invite our community to join us for Trunk-or-Treat.

Trunk-or-Treating provides a safe and fun way for families to enjoy Halloween. All children are invited to join in on the fun! During Trunk-or-Treat, children go from car to car "trunk-or-treating." This free event provides a safe environment for children and their families who wish to trick-or-treat, so please mark your calendar and join us after Community Meal on Wednesday, October 29, from 7-8 p.m. in the parking lot for treats, fellowship, and festive fun!

# YOU'RE INVITED

TO THE WEDDING OF  
MAGGIE EDMONDSON AND JEFF THOMPSON



OCTOBER 18TH, 11 A.M.  
HILLVIEW UMC  
CAKE AND PUNCH RECEPTION  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO START OUR NEW LIVES TOGETHER, BUT COULDN'T FORGET THE CHURCH AND THE MEMBERS THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER. WE WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION IS INVITED. THIS PLACE AND YOU ALL ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO US, AND WE COULDN'T IMAGINE CELEBRATING THIS DAY WITHOUT YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [JEFFANDMAGGIE.NET](http://JEFFANDMAGGIE.NET)



# Hillview UMW NEWS and EVENTS

## General Unit Meeting

**November 15, 10 a.m. in the Church Library**

Our Hillview UMW General Unit Gatherings are open to all ladies. This is a great way for ladies who do not belong to a sub-unit (see below) to participate in United Methodist Women. We usually have a general meeting every other month, including our Christmas Brunch and May Luncheon. At the November 15 General Meeting you will have an opportunity to pledge to mission, elect officers for the 2015 year, and adopt a 2015 budget. If you have been collecting coins for the World Thank Offering, please bring your donation to turn in.

## Hillview United Methodist Women's Sub-Units

All women are invited to join one (or more!) of the sub-units listed below that will allow you to know God, experience freedom as whole person through Jesus Christ, develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and expand your concept of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

### Morning Book Club

2nd Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at Barnes and Noble, Milwaukee St.

A book is chosen each month to read and be discussed at the meeting.

Contact person: Kristen Guyon, 322-5090

### Evening Book Club

2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in church kitchen, meal provided.

A book is chosen each month to read and be discussed at the meeting.

Contact person: Darlene Smith, 376-597, or Michelle Ward, 322-0286

### Fellowship Circle

2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in members' homes

Programs centered on supportive community.

Contact person: Betsy Baughman, 424-7713

### Lydia Circle

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in church library

A study group using either a DVD series or study book.

Contact person: Judy Halverson, 327-0541

### Friends of Phoebe

1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in church kitchen

Women 50 and younger explore social justice issues and service to the community.

Contact person: Lori Myers-Linguist, 562-7991

## Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming United Methodist Women Events

October 14	Veteran Ladies Lunch
November 15	General Unit Gathering—Pledge Service
December 6	Christmas Around the World Gathering

## **Christian Education: Fall Offerings for Adults**

### **Nuts & Bolts at 9:15 a.m.**

On September 14, Nuts & Bolts began a 6-week journey exploring When Christians Get it Wrong. More and more young adults have opted out of Christianity and the church. The reason? Christians. When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians: judging others, condemning people of other faiths, rejecting science, injecting politics into faith, and being anti-homosexual. This study by Adam Hamilton tackles these issues and addresses the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world. Those who participate in this class will gain a different way of understanding the issues that keep people away from Christianity and keep Christians from living a more compelling faith.

### **Confronting the Controversies at 11:10 a.m.**

This 7-week class began on September 14 and explores biblical perspectives on controversial issues, including: The Separation of Church and State, Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools, The Death Penalty, Euthanasia, Prayer in Public Schools, Abortion, and Homosexuality.



## MUSIC NOTES

Leigh Falconer, Music Director

I am home from Sunday worship, sitting on my patio on a lovely September afternoon, reflecting on the richness and diversity of today's service. I am inspired by the beauty of the language of what I think of as the traditional part of our service: the liturgy and hymns. I am grateful for the energy that the contemporary musicians bring to what they do. I am in awe of the people who contribute tirelessly to Hillview's community and ministry.

I *am* inspired by rich and diverse worship, and I hope you are too. We are exploring new hymns in the hymnals, ones that are familiar to many, and music that broadens our understanding of the scripture. Your keyboardists (myself, Sue Walch, and Jerry Wagner) select and practice pieces that we, also, hope will contribute to our connection to worship. The Chancel Choir and Testament have rehearsed to make our experience of that music meaningful. As we come into and leave the sanctuary, may I ask that we remember that we are entering a place of worship, and respect the efforts of our musicians? Be aware of the music around you, how it is, hopefully, setting the stage for what is to come, and in the case of the postlude, how the musicians are sending you out.

One of the ways we can help our church grow is by encouraging our families with children (grandchildren? neighbors? friends? nieces and nephews?) to join us in worship. I would so much like to *grow* a **children's choir** that would participate regularly in worship, again enhancing the diversity of our experience. The meeting time has changed a couple of times in an effort to make it work for our families. I've been told that the **6:00 to 7:00** hour works on many levels: it allows working families time to get home, get a quick snack, and then move on to a fun activity. Parents, Pastor Brenda's Bible study just happens to meet at the same time!

I am thankful for Hillview's support and dedication to a vibrant music community. May it continue to grow. . .

# Staff Article

## **Maggie Edmondson (Thompson)** **Minister of Congregational Life**

I love all things church. It seems fitting, considering I work at a church. I was basically raised in a United Methodist Church in Escondido, California, where I spent the first 21 years of my life. My mom was employed by the church, so when I wasn't at school, I was most likely to be found there. I was an acolyte (you should definitely ask me about the time I accidentally set the church's new carpet on fire), sang in the children's choir, played handbells, played in the sanctuary (I knew all of the best hiding spaces), was active in the youth group, was an office volunteer, and so much more. My love of church grew in college when I worked as a Ministry Intern at the Interfaith Chapel at West Liberty State College, interned at the Upshur Cooperative Parish House for a summer, served as the President of the United Methodist Student Movement, served on numerous annual conference committees, and worked at the Spring Heights United Methodist Camp in West Virginia. If I didn't feel some sort of call to ministry with all of those activities, I certainly did while attending seminary at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Despite the fact that I have my Master of Divinity degree (which I think should have at least come with a cape and super powers) I have learned that I don't possess all of the answers about life and faith, but have learned how to explore my faith through study and serving others. I truly love the church and have found my calling within the work that I do each and every day here at Hillview. As the Minister of Congregational Life, I am privileged to work with people of all ages each and every day. I can assure you that no two days are the same and I am rarely bored.

As the Minister of Congregational Life, I am responsible for overseeing the care of the congregation with the wonderful Congregational Care Committee. I work with this committee to make sure that all of our homebound members receive visits from someone each month, serve Communion to our homebound, provide meals as needed for families, plan the Road Map for Seniors events each quarter, oversee the Prayer Shawl ministry, help coordinate the Prayer Chain, Christmas caroling, and more. I also get to work with the Education Committee as a part of my job. We oversee the Christian Education for the entire congregation from the nursery all the way through Adult Sunday School and Bible studies. We plan all of the educational events from Vacation Bible School to the Advent and Lenten workshops, Rally Day, and so much more. We train and support each of our Sunday School teachers, and actively work on growing each of our programs as we encourage all ages to engage in some form of Christian Education each week.

Honestly, most of my job is just working with people and helping them to plug in to the various ministries we offer here at Hillview, and start new ones when the situation arises. I love my job and love that Hillview is my church home. If you would like to help with any of the care ministries, let me know. We are always happy to have new people join us! If you have any ideas about our educational offerings, let me know as well, and I'm happy to listen and see where to plug them in!

**Maggie**

# Faith in Action

**Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Security—Tuesday, October 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.** Hear two keynote addresses and participate in facilitated small group workshop discussion on hunger and food security in Idaho. Registration information will be available soon.

## Hillview's First Fruits Gardens

The growing season is not over. If you are at the church for a meeting, study, or any other reason, stop by the gardens (southwest of the Youth House behind the garden shed), and if you see something ready to be harvested, please do so. You can either take it for your own use or put it in the refrigerator or on the First Fruits cart.

## School Supply Update For 2014

Thank you to all who donated backpacks and school supplies for Whittier Elementary School. We collected 74 backpacks and filled 8 paper ream boxes and 3 cloth grocery bags with supplies this year! The school staff appreciates the school supplies for their students and our continued support.

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## Fall Work Day—October 25, 9 a.m. to noon

The Trustees have scheduled the Fall Work Day for Saturday October 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. We will provide donuts and coffee. Please plan on helping the Trustees to spruce up the church grounds and building on that date. Please bring gloves and gardening tools. The Trustees will provide trash bags, brooms and some tools.

**Church Grounds:** We need to weed the flowerbeds, trim the roses by the office, clean the driveway gutters and sidewalks and sweep the pine needles out of the handicap parking areas. We also will edge the junipers along the sidewalks and in the landscaped areas in front of the church with a weed whacker, dig out puncture vines (goat heads) along the edges of the parking lot and the drive access from Christine Street. We need to clean the spider webs from the outside windows of Ballantyne Hall by washing the windows with a hose. We will also rake leaves and pick up trash along the drive access to Christine Street and clean the Youth House gutters and rear stairwell.

**Inside Church Building:** We need to clean spots on carpet in the Gathering Area and sanctuary and clean windows as necessary.



## **Dates to Remember**

October 9: Lunch Bunch at Black Bear Diner

October 12: Reconciling Team

October 18: Edmondson/Thompson Wedding

October 19: CROP Walk

October 25: Hillview Fall Work Day

October 28: Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Security

October 29: Community Meal and Halloween Trunk-or-Treat

**The Hillview Connector is  
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Hillview United Methodist Church**



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9 a.m.-noon, Friday