



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

I returned from vacation this week to a wonderful surprise. My desk was full of cards and gifts from Hillview folks, welcoming my family to the church. Thank you! It made the Monday morning after vacation much happier.

It was a very sentimental vacation. I did not anticipate that I would cry so much, and I certainly did not realize as I began the vacation that I would be facing life transitions. I thought I was simply taking time off from work to be with family. Isn't that the way life transitions happen? They seem to sneak up on us at unexpected moments. I doubt that Jesus' disciples recognized the important moments in their lives until they were older and could look back at all they experienced. As much as we try to anticipate how we may feel during changes in our lives, emotions seem to have a life of their own.

The first weekend of vacation I had the privilege of presiding at the wedding of a family friend. Rachel has been like another daughter to me for the last 15 years. She and her family followed us from Portland to Idaho Falls and even lived with us during that transition. Rachel is the first of my "children" to marry, which I realized as I watched her walk down the aisle with her father. I suddenly felt old and I understood, perhaps for the first time, that my children are aging.

A week after the wedding we deposited Jared at NNU. Even though he is only 20 minutes away from our home, it was a surprisingly emotional moment as we drove away. My 18-year-old has started another stage in his life. As wonderful as that stage is, and as ready as he is for this stage, he is one step further toward independence.

These transitions have been amplified by the huge transition of moving away from Trinity UMC in Idaho Falls and moving to Hillview UMC. All of the transitions this summer have been very positive, but until this vacation I did not have time to process any of them. After time away to think and experience, I feel more settled here, sitting in my office, planning ministry with all of you.

That is the real message of this article: take time to be holy. Take the time you need not to plough through life, but to process the transitions. Take the time to appreciate the people around you and to explore the emotions confronting you. Take the time without guilt, and remember that by doing so we are following the example of Jesus, who often went up the mountains to pray.

Thank you for the gifts on my return, but especially thank you for the gift of this vacation!

Grace and Peace, Brenda



JOIN US ON THE CROP HUNGER WALK

The Ada County CROP Hunger Walk is back! Come join the Hillview team and raise money for a wonderful cause. One-fourth of the money raised will go to the Idaho Foodbank and the rest will fund Church World Service projects worldwide. Mark Sunday, October 19, on your calendar. There is a brand new route this year beginning and ending at the Julia Davis Band Shell. You may sign up to walk beginning September 7 in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Debbie Mallis at debbiemallis@gmail.com or 853-2740.

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. Sign-ups begin on September 7 in the Gathering Area after both worship services. All submission material, examples, and deadline information will be available when you sign up. Please contact Maggie Edmondson if you have any questions or need more information.

Visitation Team



The Congregational Care Committee is expanding our 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.



Lunch Bunch

The Hillview Lunch Bunch will meet at The Original Pancake House, 5900 W. Fairview (Fairview and Curtis) at 11:30 a.m. on September 11. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area, or call the church office (375-0392) if you would like to attend.



COMMUNITY MEAL ON SEPTEMBER 24.

Come enjoy the last BBQ of the season. **Food and helping hands are needed and welcome.** We need large side dishes, salads and desserts that will go with burgers (including veggie and turkey) and hot dogs. **Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to help with the meal.** If you have questions, you can contact 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).

LOST AND FOUND



Are you missing glasses, a Trac phone, a bowl, casserole cover, or small cooling rack, etc.? PLEASE check the office for the glasses (we have several) and the phone or the table next to Room 10. Any items not claimed by the end of September will be donated to a good cause.



From the Trustees

If anyone sees tasks that need to be done around the church grounds, such as weeding, trimming of shrubbery, or sweeping of walkways, please feel free to make some time to help us spruce up the church grounds. Please bring your gardening tools. Trash bags and brooms would be available at the church if you see Claudia during church office hours. Thank you!

Youth Group

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



September 7 - Youth Group Kickoff, 5-6:30 p.m.

September 14 - Back to Basics with a possible special guest TBA 5-6:30 p.m.

September 21 - "Normal" Youth Group in the Youth House, 5-6:30 p.m.

September 28 - Fun and games at the Youth House, 5-6:30 p.m.

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

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.

Fall Road Map for Seniors

Save the date for our next Road Map for Seniors event 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 please be sure to look out for more information in the October and November issues of *The Connector*.



Do you like to have fun? Do you like to share your faith with others in an exciting environment? Do you enjoy working with children? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then say yes to teaching Sunday School this year! We need adults to teach our Preschool-2nd grade class, 3rd & 4th grade class, and 5th & 6th grade class each week. We are asking adults to commit to teaching a quarter (3 months) at a time, so pull out your calendars and see where God is calling you to work with our children. Our traditional Sunday School year runs from September to May. If you would like to teach, please fill out a Volunteer Form on the Christian Education bulletin board and return it to Maggie Edmondson, Minister of Congregational Life, by September 2. If you can't commit to a whole quarter or quarters, please sign up and volunteer to be a substitute teacher. We will hold a Safe Sanctuaries and Sunday School teacher training on Tuesday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, so please plan on attending this helpful (and required) training to give our Christian Education program a SUPER start!



We need adult volunteers to lead our Children's Church during the 8:30 and 10 a.m. worship services each week. Children's Church is for children ages 3 through 2nd grade and takes place immediately after Kids Time in Room 10. Each lesson is prepared for you with activities. Please sign up to volunteer for this wonderful ministry with our children by filling out a volunteer form and signing up for a month (or other period of time) at a time. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to have fun!

Children and Stewardship

Jesus has called each of us, including our children, into a life of stewardship. We must provide them with opportunities to know the joy of accepting this call. When we do this while they are young, it becomes the way they choose to live their lives as they get older.

Stewardship is based on the idea that all we have and all we are comes from God. In order to thank God for the many blessings in our lives, we must give back a portion of time, talents, and treasure that God has blessed us with. Stewardship isn't just a program or the thing we talk about once a year; rather it's an attitude, a way of life! When we think about stewardship (and talk about stewardship), we don't often think about including children in these programs.

It is important that we help our children recognize and nurture the talents God has graciously given each of them. We each make a difference when we share our gifts. An important way we impact the lives of our children is to model a life of stewardship by giving of our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness for the good of others and by helping our children find opportunities to do the same.

This fall we will have opportunities for our children to learn more about their talents and the many ways that they can participate in the true meaning of Christian stewardship. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open in the coming months to help our children grow!

Maggie Edmondson, Minister of Congregational Life

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



Hillview UMW NEWS and EVENTS

Domestic Violence Awareness

Hillview United Methodist Women's General Unit Meeting
Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m., in the Hillview Sanctuary

ALL women are invited to hear our guest speaker, Rebecca Lovelace, from the Family Justice Center/WCA. She will be speaking to us on the effects of domestic abuse on the family—how it affects women, children, and youth as a family. Child care will be provided. Contact Judy Halverson at 327-0541 for more information.

Reaching Out in Missions

United Methodist Women Sage District Annual Meeting
September 20, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Payette UMC, Payette, ID

All women are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to be held this year in Payette. Donna Waltman will remind us of our heritage of mission with her portrayal of Clementina Butler, one of the founders of the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. We will explore how our United Methodist Women's local units are participating in missions today. The cost is \$8 and includes lunch. Contact Judy Halverson (327-0541) for registration and car pool arrangements by the deadline, September 14. We will be collecting new hand towels for UMCOR West as the mission project.

Friends of Phoebe

Calling all ladies 50 or under for fun, food, and fellowship the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the church kitchen. Friends of Phoebe for September will be doing Chapters 7 and 8 of *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs. This study does not build on itself and has a DVD lesson covering the major points of each chapter to start each discussion, so don't feel you had to have been in at the beginning or have read the chapters covered to join us. Contact Lori Ann Myers-Linguist, 562-7991, for more information.

Book Sale Update

Thank you to all who "recycled" their books and shopped for the Book Sale held August 9. We collected \$240 for the Hillview UMW sponsorship fund that assists ladies wishing to attend United Methodist Women events.

Full Esteem Ahead!—Fall Retreat has a waiting list!

Due to the limited space at the house in Donnelly, Lori Ann Myers-Linguist is taking names for a waiting list. Contact Lori Ann at 562-7991 for more information about the retreat, which will be led by Sandy McDaniel.

Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming United Methodist Women Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Sept. 9 | Veteran Ladies Lunch |
| Sept. 13 | General Unit Gathering—Domestic Violence |
| Sept. 20 | Sage District Annual Meeting, Payette |
| Sept. 26-28 | Women's Fall Retreat, Donnelly |

Christian Education: Fall Offerings for Adults

Nuts & Bolts— 9:15 a.m.

Beginning September 14, Nuts & Bolts will start a 6-week journey as they explore 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—11:10 a.m.

Beginning September 14, we will offer a 7-week class exploring 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. Be sure to check out this class (and sign up!) during the Open House on Rally Day on September 7.

Enough— 11:10 a.m.

Beginning September 21, the Finance Committee will offer this 4-week class. Money has great power in our lives and, when used wisely, helps us meet our goals, provide for our needs, and fulfill our life purpose. But in recent years, many of us have ignored this when managing and spending our money. We found ourselves spending tomorrow's money today. The result of all of this was not greater happiness but greater stress and anxiety. Enough is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom on prudent financial practices. Find the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity.



Fall is upon us, school is beginning: let the choir rehearsals begin!

Leigh Falconer, Music Director

The first **adult choir rehearsal** will be Wednesday, September 3, at 7 p.m. Hmmm. Adult choir? I wonder if we can come up with a name that would include those of us who'd rather not always think of ourselves as adults and for those young people who love to sing. I look forward to seeing those of you who have been a part of the music and worship at Hillview. And if you have sung in a choir in the past, are a karaoke singer, or sing in the privacy of your shower, I hope you'll consider joining us. A choir is a dedicated community of people who gather to celebrate and support each other and the ministry of the church, and you are invited!

The **children's choir**, which will meet Wednesdays from 4 p.m.-5 p.m., beginning September 10, is open to children grades K-8. It will be a time of exploration: we'll learn about singing, music, and how we can contribute to worship. And it will be a time for fun: movement, games, and performing in worship. A children's choir is also a wonderful opportunity to invite the community at-large into Hillview: encourage your child(ren) to bring a friend.

We are blessed with other dedicated musicians and ensembles as well. From choirs, to hand bells (talk to Sue Walch), to the contemporary praise band (get in touch with Jeff Thompson), we'd all love to have you join us in joyful music making. Please contact me for more information: leighfalconer@hotmail.com.

I've heard that Hillview is a congregation that loves its music. Your worship planning committee has been intentional about delving more deeply into the rich music that is in our hymnals, as well as the impact that contemporary music makes on each week's messages. I appreciate the diversity of each service and look forward to the fall, when the hand bells and choirs contribute even more to our worship.

How can I keep from singing?

Staff Article

Jeff Thompson , Director of Technology and Communications, Co-Youth Leader,
and Contemporary Music Leader

Yes, those are my job titles, not just a run-on sentence. And, as you can tell by that very long string of jobs, I have a part in many things here at Hillview. I oversee all the technology at Hillview. In the past year we made it a priority to upgrade as many classrooms as possible and are looking for advancements that Hillview can make in the future. It should be noted that most of these new advancements have come at little to no cost to Hillview because of repurposing old equipment, donations, or super Craigslist deals or trades. I am excited to see how Hillview is growing technologically and love how I see it could grow in the future. And if you have a sound system need or want to be trained on the system, I am the guy to see.

I also send out the majority of the emails you see coming from Hillview. I update and design the website and work with a team on its many components. I run and act as moderator for all of the church's social media sites. I am responsible for making sure the service is recorded, edited, and published every week. I, along with the Communications Team, evaluate all our forms of communication and determine how they can be improved, how cost-effective they are, and look at any new things we want to try. Probably most noticeable, I am the guy who puts together the worship presentation each and every week. I am also always on the hunt for more people who want to learn how to run the sound system or be a slide advancement technician on Sundays. So, if you would like to do either, please let me know!!! Really!!!!

Most recently, I have taken on the responsibility of song leader for both services as well as the contemporary music at Hillview. So, if you want to find me on Sundays, I will either be working with the technology or singing (or doing both). If you would like to be a part of the contemporary music scene here at Hillview, either playing instruments or singing, just let me know. I will gladly find places for you to plug in.

Finally, along with Claire Chambers, I am responsible for the Youth Group and all of its activities. We have a very active and involved Youth Group. We have youth on teams, participating in church activities, and even youth with leadership roles in the church and beyond. We are always looking for volunteers to provide rides to places, Youth Group meetings, and other activities throughout the year. Again, if you are interested, please contact me. If you haven't been over to the Youth House in a while, you are missing out. The walls are now decorated with youth-made artwork (on canvas, not the walls), the furniture is being updated along with the lights, and the ugly (is it brown or just super dirty?) carpet is gone. We have laid down a nice, durable, laminate wood flooring throughout the upstairs, and the youth love the new, updated look. Our theme for this year is [Back to the Basics](#), and we are looking forward to what this new youth year holds.

Well, these are most of the hats I wear around Hillview. My free time right now is devoted to wedding planning galore, as Maggie and I get ready for the next chapter in our lives.

Faith in Action

The **United Methodist Student Sunday** offering furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Many of our Hillview “kids” have benefitted from this. We will be taking this important offering on September 7.

Save These Dates

CROP Hunger Walk, October 19. (See page 3 of this newsletter.)

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.

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Mariya Gavrilutsa

Nursery Director

Church Bazaar

November 15

Crafters, bakers, and jam and jelly makers! Get ready to donate your hand-crafted or home-made items! We would like to have bake sale items as well as decorative pieces and, of course, knitted, crocheted, and quilted items available. Shoppers, start saving up for this opportunity to get that perfect gift and help raise funds at Hillview. There soon will be information on where this year's funds will go. We will be setting up on Friday, November 14. For more information, please call Claudia Flora at the church office (375-0392) or on her cell at (409-2979).

Dates to Remember

September 2: Safe Sanctuaries Training

September 4: Hillview Preschool Parent Orientation Night

September 7: Rally Day

September 8: Hillview Preschool Classes begin
Congregational Care Team Meeting

September 11: Lunch Bunch

September 13: UMW Unit Meeting

September 24: Community Meal

September 26-28: UMW Retreat in Donnelly

**The Hillview Connector is
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9 a.m.-noon, Friday