

SPIRIT

The Vision of Hiland Presbyterian Church is to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, who gather for worship, teaching and fellowship, and who go out into the world to serve Christ and share His love.



FEBRUARY 2012

Hiland Presbyterian Church

Soup Social

Dion and Sandy Costello are opening their home for Hiland's Soup Social on Saturday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. All adults in the Hiland Friends and Family community are welcome to join in this wonderful evening of fellowship. Everyone who comes will bring a soup, bread, beverage, or dessert to share. The goal is to have 8-10 soups to sample. Call or email Sandy at 412-366-6980 or sandycostello@verizon.net to let her know what you will be bringing.



Have Fun while Finding Answers

Are you wanting more Christian fellowship in your life? Have questions about God?...the Bible?...or how to be a Christian in today's busy world? Let us set you up with a small group. We still have friends at Hiland who are interested and willing to lead new small groups of any stripe or shape.

If you're interested in being a part of a Bible study, fellowship group, book discussion group, or anything in between, please let our seminary intern Jon Draskovic (jdraskovic@pts.edu) know so that he can place you into contact with other Hilanders who are interested as well.



If you already have a group of people in mind or would be willing to open your existing group to others, please keep Hiland in the know so that

we can assist where possible and be able to offer these groups to new members as ways to get involved.

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Upper and Lower Story

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm so excited about our journey together through *The Story*! You've already heard me say, "*This is your story, this is my story, this is the greatest story ever told, but most of all this is God's story.*" We've had a great beginning, but we have a long road to travel through the whole Bible this year. At times we'll need some help to get through so I hope you'll keep some important things in mind.

The Bible contains an Upper Story and a Lower Story. The Upper Story tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God unfolding throughout history. The Lower Story contains the sometimes delightful; other times appalling particulars of human experience. Without the lens of the Upper Story, the Lower Story seems out of focus and perplexing. As we make our way through the Bible—*The Story*—we will be mindful of both the temporal, easily-seen events, and the not so obvious yet truly eternal realities. In the opening chapters of Genesis, the two stories are virtually one. God, who is love, creates the universe, and places humanity at the crown of all he brings into existence. Man and woman, as individuals and also in their collective, reflect God's image. People are both the objects of God's love and lovers in return.

But when the first man and woman choose to reject rather than respond, the Upper Story transitions to God's relentless pursuit and restoration of what was lost. That Upper Story never changes even to the last chapter of the Bible. The details in the Lower Story describe the many ways people mostly—with a few notable exceptions—resist God, and wreak havoc with themselves and each other. In trying to be God, people ruin what God has made, and pass that curse to their offspring. In one dramatic episode, God decides to start over by destroying all life through a flood except for eight people: Noah and his family. In the Lower Story, those few given that second chance fail miserably to build the new world God envisioned, and evil continues to hold sway. But in the Upper Story, God makes the promise that he won't ever flood the earth, thus teaching every generation that he is intent on redeeming what's broken, not destroying it.

One way to get the most out our study together is to focus more and more on the Upper Story and live in that realm; that knowledge rightly colors how we approach and apply any part of the Bible. It's knowledge of that Upper Story that gets us through the hard times in life, more so than through the details of the Lower Story. The Upper Story guides us into seeing every text as fitting into that larger purpose. Finally, it's important that we not let our study of *The Story* take us away from the Bible itself! Be sure to search the scriptures daily as we make our way through the 31 chapters of *The Story*. This is your story, this is my story... but most of all, this is God's story!

In His Service,
Pastor Larry

The Bible contains an Upper Story and a Lower Story. The Upper Story tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God unfolding throughout history. The Lower Story contains the sometimes delightful; other times appalling particulars of human experience.



***This is your story,
this is my story...
but most of all,
this is God's story!***

"The Story" Sermon Schedule

DATE.....SERMON / CHAPTER TITLE....."THE STORY" LOCATION
SCRIPTURE FOCUS

02/05/12	New Commands and A New Covenant	Chapter 5 <i>Exodus 19-20, 24-25, 32-34,40</i>
02/12/12	Wandering	Chapter 6 <i>Numbers 10-14, 20-21, 25,27; Deut. 1-2;4;6;8-9;29-34</i>
02/19/12	The Battle Begins	Chapter 7 <i>Joshua 1-2, 6, 8, 10-11, 23-24</i>
02/26/12	A Few Good Men...and Women	Chapter 8 <i>Judges 2-4, 6-8, 13-16</i>

Children's Ministry

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Appropriate for a wedding, yes. These actions and attitudes, however, are not easy to come by in today's society. Imagine if they were. At the grocery store, waiting patiently as the elderly woman in the 12 items or less aisle counts out her pennies. Parents cheering on the other team when they score a goal. News programs reporting only good deeds done by youth and adults. Difficult but not impossible. My prayer for February and 2012 is to have an attitude of love that produces actions ***"that [build] others up according to their needs."***

Sunday School

Join us for "Living Inside Out" the large group/small group format Sunday school program. It is interactive and fun for the kids and the volunteers.

Mission

Please remember to bring in your offerings for Rose and Madalitso. We ran a deficit last year. Let's be faithful to our World Vision kids. You may bring in offerings to Kidz Worship or Sunday school.

Lenten program

To be announced. Look for more information in your worship guides.

Vacation Bible School

June 11-15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for this special event. Dinner will be included.

S.H.O.E. Schedule

Wednesday 2/1/12

OYR 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Sunday 2/5/12

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 11 a.m. -12

S.H.O.E. 6 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday 2/8/12

OYR 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Saturday 2/11/12

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Cat Show**

Fundraiser (lunch provided)

Sunday 2/12/12

8:30 a.m. -5 p.m. **Cat Show**

Fundraiser (lunch provided)

Wednesday 2/15/12

OYR 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Saturday 2/18/12

6-8 p.m. **Snow Tubing @ Wildwood**

Highlands (details to follow)

Sunday 2/19/12

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 11 a.m. -12

S.H.O.E. 6 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday 2/22/12

NO OYR

Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 2/26/12

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 11 a.m. -12

S.H.O.E. 6 - 8 p.m. (Lent wk 1)

Wednesday 2/29/12

OYR 3:30 - 5 p.m.



We will have free Lenten Devotionals available in the Narthex for you to take beginning Sunday, February 19th. We hope that you not only take a devotional, but that you will begin your Lenten journey in worship with us on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) at 7:30 p.m.

What's the Big Deal about Lent Anyway?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. For thousands of years, God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV). Ashes are a symbolic reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble.

But Lent doesn't leave us on the ash heap. On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins — private and public — led to Jesus' death. The ashes symbolize the Christian's intent to repent of sins, to accept purification from the Lord, and to make a public witness of one's faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

It is said that Lent commemorate Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness. The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them.

Lent is a season of repentance. The word "repent" literally means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

For many of us, "repentance" is an offensive word. It sounds so remorseful. In reality, it isn't remorseful at all. The root word for "repentance" is the Greek word *metanoia*, from which our word "metamorphosis" comes. The great image of this is the butterfly emerging from its cocoon; the caterpillar being transformed into new life. No one is remorseful about that! Nor should we be with repentance, which involves leaving the past and emerging into new life.



The Lenten season is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent and to walk more faithfully with our Lord. It is a time for spiritual renewal and growth. If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life — a more joyous way to live. It can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

Bake Sale Benefits Food Bank



Do you need a “sweet treat” for your Valentine? Come to the Hiland Deacon’s annual bake sale on Sunday, February 12th, following the worship service. You can help by donating baked goods to sell, buying some treats, or both. All proceeds will benefit the North Hills Food Bank. Please see Marci McCabe, Judy Gaus or any deacon to let us know if you are able to help.

Changes in 2012

Over the years, we’ve had many Hilanders provide, in celebration of loved ones and of God’s blessings, flower arrangements for our Chancel table to enhance our weekly worship experience. In the hope of rekindling enthusiasm for this ministry, the Worship and Music committee has made some **changes in 2012.**

Beginning in February, West View Florist (WVF) will take over the duties of delivering arrangements. We’ve worked with WVF in the past and are confident that they will do a good job for us. Arrangements will be \$34.50. Checks are to be made out to Hiland Presbyterian Church with “Chancel Flowers” noted on the memo line. Please keep in mind that flowers need to be ordered at least one week in advance.



Let us know of your desire to provide flowers through the website at <http://hilandchurch.org/ministries/worship/chancel-flowers> or call the church office. We need to know:

- Your date of choice
- Your Worship guide announcement
- Whether you wish WVF to provide the flowers or will you bring your own. (Many provide flowers from their own garden!)
- Will you be picking up your flowers after worship or donating them to be delivered to one of our homebound members.

Adult Education

C3 (Christ, Coffee, and Conversation) - In February, we’ll finish our journey through the Apostles’ Creed. Even if you haven’t been with us from the beginning, we hope you will join us as we continue probing the depths of meaning in this ancient creed. Then we will begin following along with *The Story* and the lessons it has for us by looking more in-depth at the Biblical stories addressed in chapter focused on in the weekly sermon. Led by Jon Draskovic, we meet in the Library from 11 a.m. to noon.

Looking ahead: During March we will also be **offering a second adult class** option—a book discussion of *The Next Christians: The Good News About the End of Christian America* by Gabe Lyons. Come discuss Lyons’ ideas on “how the end of Christian America becomes good news for Christians.

This book explores a new vision for America’s post-Christian era. To quote the book’s website: *The author “exposes a whole movement of Christians who desire to be a force for restoration even as they proclaim the Christian Gospel.”* *The Next Christians* combines current day models and relevant research with stories of a new generation of Christian leaders.”

This class will meet for five Sundays, from March 4th through April 1st in the Administration Building, in the first-floor conference room. For more information about the book, go to <http://www.nextchristians.com>.

If you would like the church to order a book for you, please email Carolyn Gibbs at gibbses5@verizon.net by February 15th, or call the church office. Your cost for the book, when you order through the church, will be \$13. If you would like to participate but are financially unable to purchase the materials, financial assistance is available and will be kept confidential.

Carolyn will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the book or the class. All are welcomed to participate—the more people participating—the better the discussion will be.

February Birthdays

2/2.....	Helen Bulna Kim Patterson
2/3.....	Bea Klueber
2/5.....	Deana Morgan Erin Nussbaum John Reilly
2/9.....	Carrie Brady Nancy Egerman Richard Herzig Rachel Spicuzza
2/10.....	Hannah Palmer
2/11.....	Ron Harrington Michael Riegner
2/13.....	Melinda McQuiston Tom Pennie
2/14.....	Anne Pennie
2/15.....	Marjorie Middleton
2/16.....	Ken Wilkins
2/18.....	Aimee Spicuzza
2/19.....	Tom White
2/20.....	Detmar Starr
2/21.....	Debbie Ogle Joel Zewe
2/23.....	Jon Crownover Mason Herzig Paige Lauten
2/24.....	Jane Divins JoAnn Miller
2/25.....	Marjorie Grindle
2/26.....	Jim Sands
2/27.....	Aidan Borsh
2/28.....	Linda Skender Reilly Spitz Rosina Walton

What Can I Say About Love?

Love is a choice,
a way of life,
a sacrifice.
It's a connection that can't be broken,
a purpose,
a light.
It's not about me and all about you.
It's your strength in my weakness.
It's a treasure
and truth.
Love knows and accepts me
for who I am
and inspires me to be better,
to be more,
it's why I wake
and what my heart beats for.
It's our greatest desire,
a need to give and receive.
It's a sharing,
a gift,
between you and me.
It's not just a feeling that warms our hearts
though warming it does
Love is going without that I may give
Love gives its own life that its beloved may live
Whatever you think love is
It's so much more
when our love is His
our lives redeemed,
our minds renewed,
and our hearts restored.

- Maureen Profeta

Ponderables

It is not faith in Christ that saves you (though faith is the instrument); it is Christ's blood and merits.
—Charles H. Spurgeon

The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God.
—Author unknown

Reach up as far as you can, and God will reach down all the rest of the way.
—John Vincent

What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly.
—Richard Bach

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 OYR 3:30pm (YTH) Volleyball 7pm (FH) Choir 7:30 pm (CR)	2 Admin 7:30 (LIB) Deacons 7pm (Cnf Rm) AA 8pm (CR)	3	4 Soup Social 6pm (Costello Home)
5 Worship 9:30am (Sanct) C3 11am (LIB) Sunday School 11am (Campus) The SHOE 6:00pm (FH)	6 PVS 7pm (Kitchen) Volleyball 7pm (FH)	7 Staff 9:30 am (STF) Basketball 6:30pm (FH) HCCC Board 6:30pm (Cnf Rm)	8 OYR 3:30pm (YTH) Volleyball 7pm (FH) Choir 7:30 pm (CR)	9 Evang/MC 7pm (STF) AA 8pm (CR)	10	11 SHOE Cat show Fundraiser 8:30 am (North Hills Village) Crownover/ Scouts 2pm (FH)
12 Worship 9:30am (Sanct) Bake Sale 11am (FH) C3 11am (LIB) Sunday School 11am (Campus) POG 3pm (Ed. Bldg) SHOE Cat show Fundraiser 8:30 am (NHV)	13 HR 7pm (STF) CE 7pm (Parlor) Volleyball 7pm (FH)	14 VALENTINE'S DAY Staff 9:30 am (STF) Basketball 6:30pm (FH) W&M 7pm (parlor)	15 OYR 3:30pm (YTH) Volleyball 7pm (FH) Choir 7:30 pm (CR)	16 Stwd/Fin 7:30pm (STF) AA 8pm (CR)	17	18 SHOE Snowtubing 6pm (Wildwood Highlands)
19 Worship 9:30am (Sanct) C3 11am (LIB) Sunday School 11am (Campus) The SHOE 6:00pm (FH)	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Volleyball 7pm (FH)	21 Staff 9:30 am (STF) Basketball 6:30pm (FH)	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7:30pm (Sanct)	23 AA 8pm (CR)	24	25
26 1ST SUNDAY / LENT Worship 9:30am (Sanct) C3 11am (LIB) Sunday School 11am (Campus) POG 3pm (Ed Bldg) The SHOE 6:00pm (FH)	27 SAM 6pm (STF) Session 6:30pm (CR) Volleyball 7pm (FH)	28 Staff 9:30 am (STF)	29 OYR 3:30pm (YTH) Choir 7:30 pm (CR)			

Hiland Presbyterian Church
845 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

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**...to serve Christ
and share His love.**

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Lawrence Ruby
Director of Children's Ministries	Linda Davis
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries	Chad Johnson
Director of Music Ministries	Jim Grapes
Seminary Intern	Jon Draskovic
Praise Team Leader	Katie Johnson
Administrative Assistant	Maureen Profeta
Financial Secretary	Ami Wessel

**Join us for worship:
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**

**Hiland Presbyterian Church
845 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15229**

**412-364-9000
www.hilandchurch.org
maureen@hilandchurch.org**