

October, 2020



Inside Hillside

Becoming a community where the Kingdom of God is real and visible.

No Child Should Go Hungry - Hand2Hand Ministry by Carley Byron

Even though Hillside has been supporting this ministry for awhile, many of you may be asking—“What is Hand2Hand?” Hand2Hand partners with local churches and schools to provide a backpack filled with supplemental food that bridges the gap of weekend hunger. Food sent home consists of breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner items, often sent home with a recipe card included. The program nourishes more than physical needs. It provides consistency, love, and demonstrates to all within a home that people do care. And ultimately, that God cares. At Hillside we have developed a partnership with Townline Elementary and have been providing food and hope to the students for two years. As we embark on our third year in this partnership we look back on the blessings that have been provided to all parties that participate.

We are regularly met with emails and conversations from food coordinators at other area churches, and parents and school staff sharing what a blessing Hand2Hand has been for so many in our community. Shared below are just two of the many stories we've heard about those blessings and how they are directly impacting others.

“One of our food coordinators was checking out a large order at the Aldi store on 54th and Clyde

Park and the cashier was asking my friend what all of this food was for. My friend explained to her to that she works with an organization called Hand2Hand and talked about how people in the community come together and pack weekend food bags for kids in our local schools. Tears instantly came to the cashier's eyes as she shared with my friend that her family was one of those families that feels cared for through Hand2Hand. Her kids attend Townline Elementary in Kentwood.” - Hand2Hand Food Coordinator.

“I love to cook the food in the backpack for my brothers. Each week is something new and we love to share the items in the backpack.” - Anonymous 1st grader at Townline.

As seen through these two testimonials we provide that food and security for students over the weekend. Students in the Kentwood Public School District are some of the lowest income students in Kent County - the ones that really struggle with food insecurity and challenges that we don't even see or think of on a daily basis.

“Childhood hunger is very real. If I hadn't seen it and experienced it with my own eyes, it would be difficult to believe. Behind closed doors, there are many homes in our community where refrigerators and cupboards are bare. Childhood hunger is a “silent thief” that people don't like to talk about. It robs our children of intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development. With the dedicated and passionate efforts of the Hand2Hand organization walking alongside of schools, Hand2Hand is committed to ensure that no child in our community goes hungry.” - Kentwood Public Schools Superintendent.

This year we continue to see the need for Hand2Hand at Townline and are asking for the continued support of Hillside. There are many opportunities to serve. To find out more about how to serve, check out the next page of the newsletter under Congregational Life or visit the Hillside Facebook Page or contact myself at cbyron93@gmail.com. Many hands make light work and with Hand2Hand we can help bridge the childhood hunger gap one weekend at a time.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....

- Matthew 25:35a

Family News

New Babies:

- Maylee Lynn was born on August 15 to James and Sara Oudbier and joins siblings Mason and Kayla
- Oliver Paul was born on August 30 to Troy and Katie Roersma and joins brothers Lee and Dean.
- Elaine Cornelia (Lainey) was born on September 12 and is the first child for Grant and Hannah VanderWall

Weddings:

- Steve Shear and Kristi Stegehuis were married on August 15. They are living at: 8121 Hanna Lake, Caledonia, Michigan 49316
- Jason Miller and Kassie Bryan are new to Hillside. They began their married life on September 12.

Special Birthdays—August, September & October

- Jean Bosma—August 2
- Janie Quist—August 3
- Ardith VanSledright—August 16
- Jane Iwema—August 25
- Stan Kruis—missions—August 29
- Ed Scholten—September 2
- Riek Tameling—September 16
- Faith VanLaar—September 28
- Cheryl Helmus—September 28
- Pat West—September 29
- Jack Buist—October 1
- Norm Johnson—October 14
- Marcia VanderPloeg—October 27



Moving Around—New Addresses

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mark & Jana Bykerk
1700 S. Norwalk Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508 | Caleb & Tricia Bosma
1550 Lanyard Ct.
Zeeland, MI 49464 |
| Amy Gackenheimer
5275 Leonard St.
Coopersville, MI 49404 | Nick & Dawn Paulucci
4737 Salem Dr.
Hudsonville, MI 49426 |
| Roger & Sue Troost
4500 Ashford Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525 | Jim & Sheri Stegehuis
8121 Hanna Lake
Caledonia, MI 49316 |
| John & Katy Spykman
38 Pershing Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505 | |

Membership Changes:

- Transfer Out: Nate & Tracy Jansen to Peace Church in Middleville
- Released: Ken & Fayth Steensma have moved to Kansas and asked that their Hillside membership be released.
- New Member: Chuck Tomcal joins us from Seymour CRC.

Thank You Notes

- Thank you to our Hillside family for the support and prayers and also the cards and expressions of sympathy after the passing away of our mother and grandmother in September.
- Mike & Mary DeVries, Jim & Tina Dykstra, Sandi Gabrielse, Rick & Lisa DeVries, Ken & Carley DeVries.

Congregational Life



Giving Envelopes: We will be ordering giving envelopes for all who want them by mid October. We also offer electronic fund transfer and mobile giving at Hillside which are easy to set up and are recurring payment systems each month. Or you can do one time giving through the Hillside app. If you are currently using our envelope system and wish to continue, you do not need to do anything. However, if you no longer wish to use them, please let Mary in the church office know so we can delete your name. If you have never had envelopes and wish to use them, please also contact Mary at 698-0122.

Our Samaritan Meals program needs a volunteer (once every 3 to 4 months) to call and deliver meals to those that have an illness, recently were hospitalized, or have just had a baby born. Please contact Deb in the church office 698-0122 with questions or to volunteer.

Our Samaritan Meals program needs some meals! If you are able to make a couple of freezer meals and drop them off at church so that we can bless people who are in need of a meal, it would be appreciated. All sizes are needed— one or two servings or family size. Contact Deb @ 616 -366-8138 X107 with questions.

Volunteer needed to help coordinate the food portion of Hand2Hand. You would be responsible for making sure we had enough food each week (for 30 students), setting it up for groups to pack, and organizing delivery to Townline on Thursday afternoons or Friday morning. You would just be delivering to Townline's door. Time commitment is probably 1-2 hours per week. Questions, need more information, or want the job? :) Call Deb at the church office - 698-0122 X107



Hand2Hand will once again be collecting food for some of the most neediest children at Townline Elementary. Please consider donating food for the children to take home for the weekend. Or we are accepting a monetary gift (to sponsor or help sponsor a child - \$200/child for the year on average). You may sign up online or just bring food to the bins outside and/or in the foyer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bod49aba62ea7fb6-hand2hand2>

Hand2Hand is also looking for small groups and/or families to come on any day between Monday-Thursday either daytime or evenings to pack the food into bags which is brought to the school for the students to take home. If your group or family can do this, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoD49ABA62EA7FB6-hand2hand3>

Children's Ministry



Hillside Kids Mid-Week Explorers, our new group for boys and girls in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades is hoping to begin in October. We currently are in need of some men who would be willing to serve as small group leaders. Small group leaders

would sit with their students during large group times and then also work with their students during a small group time on Bible skills using a variety of activities/games. Our mid-week program will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. If you are interested in service please contact Kirk Kingsley or Dawn Wierenga.

Moms Connect

Moms with young kids at home are invited to join us Thursday mornings at 10AM on the front lawn. We will have a short time of stories, songs, and activities for your kiddos followed by a relaxed time of hanging out with yard games and sidewalk chalk!

As the weather turns, we will resume meeting inside from 9:30-11AM with childcare available. More details will be provided through our weekly emails or contact Kristin with questions (khileman@hillsidegr.org).



Fusion - Middle School

Contact information: kkingsley@hillsidegr.org

Fusion has begun again! Middle Schoolers are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at 5:30—7:30 pm.

Check out the middle school web page to stay updated: hillsidech.org/fusion/



Feeding the Community

STILL COLLECTING!

Grocery items are needed now more than ever for our community! Please continue to bring in your canned or boxed donations of non-perishable food to the bins under the church mailboxes (during the week) or look for the bins outside on Sunday mornings. Food is being collected for The Pantry and also for Hand2Hand.

Kids Hope USA

Mentoring program between Hillside & Townline Elementary

Contact Info: Maxine Haagsma (mhaagsma@hillsidegr.org)



A New Kids Hope Director! I am excited to tell you that Kim VanderHill will be taking over as the Kids Hope Director! She and her family have been Hillside members for over 5 years. Kim has been a teacher for many years and is currently teaching and helping out in the office two days a week at Grace Home School Association. Kim loves kids and has a passion for helping them to be successful in school and in life. She is excited about leading the Kids Hope mentoring program that has been a part of Hillside for over 20 years.

Mentoring during Covid – Due to Covid and mentors not being allowed in Townline, mentoring will look quite different for now. Rather than face to face mentoring at Townline, mentors will be communicating with their student via mail or email. It may not be as ideal, but I am certain that students will be excited to get personal mail each week. A note of encouragement and just knowing that someone is thinking of them each week can make a big difference in the life of a child.

You could be the one! Many students are just one encouraging and caring adult away from being a success in school and a success in life. Become a Kids Hope mentor and you could very well be the one to start a struggling student on the road to success. If you want to be a Kids Hope mentor and join others at Townline who are touching lives or if you have any questions, please contact Maxine Haagsma or Kim VanderHill.

Senior Adults

Senior Men! (All men over 55) Join us for breakfast at Russ' (Division Ave.) on the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00 am.



Hilltoppers! We're having coffee in Creekside Park at 10 am on October 30th. Bring your own coffee or tea, and doughnuts will be provided. We'll meet in the church if it's below 60 degrees or raining.

Save the Date -Hilltoppers! On Thursday, December 3, there will be an outing to Frederik Meijer Gardens to see Christmas Around the World. We'll meet at church at 9:30 am, have a private, socially distanced tour of the garden, and lunch in the cafe. Masks required. More details to follow.

Collide - High School

Contact Info: Arek O'Connell -aoconnell@hillsidegr.org

Collide—for high school students—meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30—7:30 pm.

For up-to-date scheduling and events, check our web page calendar hillsidech.org/collide/

Adult/Family Ministries



Women in the Word: Women of all ages and in all stages of their faith walk are invited to join us every Tuesday for Bible Study! The morning session meets from 9:30-11AM and is studying the

book of Hebrews with the help of teachings and a study guide by Jen Wilkin. Childcare is offered during this time.

* The evening session meets from 7-8:30PM and offers 2 options: the above mentioned study of Hebrews or a chapter by chapter look at the Gospel of Matthew. Options to join a small group virtually are also available. Please contact Kristin (khileman@hillsidegr.org) for more details or to get registered.

Hillside Men's Groups: There are currently two groups that men may join—a Tuesday morning (6:30 am) group and a Tuesday evening (7:00 pm) group. It's never too late to join and friends are also welcome! Contact Kirk Kingsley at kkinglesley@hillsidegr.org if you are interested and he will give you more details.

Scripture Reading: Join Pastor Daniel on Sunday afternoons from 4:00—5:00 pm to listen to scripture. Contact him for more details: dbud@hillsidegr.org

Prayer Group: Join us for our morning prayer group on Wednesdays at 6:30 am on Zoom. Email Daniel to get connected! dbud@hillsidegr.org

Library

Hello Reading Friends!

Are you running out of reading material? Some of you have asked about the availability of church library books. I'm sorry to tell you library is still closed and it looks like it will be closed for awhile yet.

BUT.... we have come to realize that there are a lot of books here at my house that belong to the library and could be borrowed for good reading. We had purchased a large number of books just before Covid-19 began & now in the past weeks have again purchased quite a few more, These are all waiting to go into the library when it opens. At this point they are clean & sanitized & have not been handled for weeks so have been isolated. If you want a specific book I will make every effort to get it to you in 'clean' condition.

If you are interested in looking at the list of books, please contact me by phone, text, or email & we can make arrangements to meet up and 'pass on the book(s)' in a sanitary manner. And when you are finished you can return the books to me, I will sanitize & isolate the book for many days before passing it on to anyone else.

Angie Mast, Hillside librarian



Financial News

October Offering Schedule

Oct. 4	Compassion Fund
Oct. 11	General Fund
Oct. 18	Christian Education Fund
Oct. 25	General Fund

General Fund Year-to-Date Status Report:

August (3 months)

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Receipts	258,727	291,022	(32,295)
Expenses	297,788	314,469	(16,681)
YTD Variance	(39,061)	(23,447)	
Pos (Neg)			

Contributions August 2020

	Total		Total	
	Aug 2020	Aug 2019 (PY)	Jun - Aug, 2020	Jun - Aug, 2019 (PP)
Contributions				
General Fund	77,581.93	85,042.84	258,726.96	286,470.84
Building Fund	5,625.10	7,432.50	17,665.30	35,329.50
Compassion Fund	2,032.55	4,895.38	6,202.65	10,508.43
MST Fund	3,524.05	3,256.00	10,699.27	15,359.00
Special Collections	50.00		75.00	2,427.90
Weddings & Funerals	-100.00	500.00	352.25	1,900.00
High School Fund	1,257.27	1,390.35	3,562.77	3,806.30
Middle School Fund	675.06	748.65	1,914.55	2,035.70
Mission Trips		6,650.80		15,032.80
Christian Education Fund	2,042.55	3,987.99	18,047.65	20,827.49
Kids Hope Fund	1,512.22	2,180.00	4,586.66	4,652.00
Streams of Hop Fund	367.26	282.00	1,966.78	1,569.00
Hand2Hand	50.00		350.00	520.60
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Contributions	94,617.99	116,366.51	324,149.84	400,439.56

Council

Hillside leadership is available to you! Feel free to call any of these elders or deacons if you have questions or concerns. If you need their contact information, please call the church office (698-0122)

- Council President: Ken Tameling
- Youth Elder: Sue Harkema
- Worship Elder: Tim Zwart
- Outreach Elder: Dave Miedema
- Shepherd Leader Elder: Phil Broekhuizen
- Children's Ministry Elder: Laura Pothoven
- Family & Adult Ministries Elder: Ron Apol
- Administrative & Facilities Deacon:
- Service Leader & Compassion Deacon: Adam Ringnalda
- Service Leader & Project Deacons: John Dulmes
- Finance Deacon: Scott Wierenga

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

The next edition will be out on Sunday, October 25
Deadline for announcements is Monday, October 19.
E-mail: mdevries@hillsidegr.org