



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 23 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2024

## The Importance of Going to Church

### Why do I have to go to church?

That's a good question, especially when you have these kinds of reasons for NOT going. 1) Churches are full of hypocrites. 2) There have been some nasty scandals involving church people, especially their leaders. 3) I can worship God anywhere, any time and by myself. Why do I need church? 4) I don't agree with that church's doctrine. And 5) Church doesn't have anything I need.

Here's the beginning of an answer.

First, no one HAS to go to church to achieve forgiveness for their sins and be saved for eternity. No amount of going to church will save you. You don't accumulate "salvation points" for going to church. Only faith in Jesus Christ will save you, but once you are saved by his undeserved generosity (i.e. his grace) worshiping and fellowshiping and growing in church is God's plan.

Someone might say, "That's just your opinion. Where does it say in the Bible that I have to go to church?"

I'm glad you asked. Let's start with the Fourth Commandment: **"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work..."** If you were to read the whole Old Testament you'd see that "keeping the Sabbath holy" starts with putting aside the work and busyness of every day life and gathering with other believers to worship Almighty God.

And then there's this guidance from the New Testament (Hebrews 10:24-25): **And let us consider how we may spur one another on**

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Sept. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Sept. 8, Noon – Business Meeting**

Topics tabled from last meeting

**Sept. 22 – First Day of Autumn**

**Weekly:**

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School**

**Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service**

**Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study**

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**toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

Isn't that interesting?! This divinely inspired writer tells us that encouraging each other toward love and good deeds goes hand in hand with worshiping in church on the Sabbath. And he wrote this because some believers even back then had started skipping out on church.

He finishes by emphasizing the importance of community worship as we get closer and closer to Jesus' Second Coming ("the Day").

But the most important Biblical grounds for every Christian to find a community of believers to worship with every Sunday is Jesus' example. It was Jesus' habit to worship every Sabbath either in the Temple in Jerusalem or in a local synagogue

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

### Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

if he wasn't in Jerusalem. It makes complete sense that every genuine follower of Jesus Christ would want to follow his example.

Imagine speaking face to face with Jesus and using the above excuses for not worshipping in a church each Sunday. I imagine Jesus would point out these facts. Jesus knew there were hypocrites in church. He often clashed with them. But he went anyway. Of all people, Jesus knew there were some nasty moral scandals involving church people and their leaders. But he went anyway. Jesus often prayed to God and worshipped him outside of church worship services. But still, on the Sabbath, he gathered together with God's people in public worship. The people Jesus met in church often had faulty doctrines and beliefs about God, but he went anyway and tried to teach them the truths of God.

Would or could Jesus have said, "Church doesn't have anything I need"? There are a couple ways to answer that: yes and no. That's where we'll pick up next month in this column.

See you then right back here.

✠ Tom Cairns

### Property and Space Patrol

Mowing continues but at a less frequent pace as we get to the end of the season. The A/C units in the sanctuary may soon be put into storage until next year.

At the Sept. 8 business meeting we need to decide on a contract with a local fuel oil dealer.

✠ Pastor Al

### Welcome New Member

At the August 28th business meeting, we welcomed back Florence Omar who wanted to renew her membership. She was actually one of the founding members.

Praise the Lord for blessing us with this new commitment to the Lord's work here at Hillside.

### Fear Vs. Anxiety

Note: The following discussion is based on excerpts from the August/September 2024 issue of Focus on the Family Magazine.

Fear focuses on the present – what is going on right now. It's the natural human response to a dangerous situation that is real at this exact moment. Fear sees what it is. It causes adrenalin to surge through your body, providing the energy needed to take immediate action to protect yourself (AKA the fight or flight response).

Fear can motivate you to do what is necessary to survive a crisis. It serves a real purpose in a situation of danger.

Anxiety is rooted in the imagination and focuses on the future – what might or might not happen.

What if my brother or sister is in danger?

What if a person shows up at school or church with a weapon?

What if the car I'm in crashes?

Rather than proving energy for flight or fight, anxiety causes tension and irritability, keeps you awake at night, gives you stomach pain and headaches, and prevents you from enjoying daily life. Anxiety does not serve a real purpose. It only steals your peace.

Anxiety is an intense emotional reaction, usually of dread, to a perceived, anticipated, or future danger. Clinical anxiety can involve symptoms such a trembling and shaking, restlessness, sleep problems, fatigue, anger, and depression.

Kids can become anxious and depressed for any number of reasons. They may feel trapped in circumstances at home, school, or church, or in relationships and social situations. When this happens they may not know what to do or how to get help. This can lead to behavioral problems or even despair.

As parents we can offer our kids an escape route by helping them explore options. Just knowing they have options may help calm anxiety and restore hope.

Sometime you can suggest "If you don't like middle school, maybe we can home school." Or if the child is having trouble finishing homework, you can offer to sit with the child while the child works on it. This lets the child know he or she isn't trapped, since there are options.

We need to assure our children that no situation is hopeless and nothing is impossible with God.

When we turn to Him for answers, He will help us find a solution.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

9/1 Mark Guzior



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month: If that is yu, please let the editor know about it.

## The Heavens Declare ...

The heavens do indeed declare the glory of God. You can look at and marvel at the stars and planets with the naked eye, binoculars, or a telescope, but how about tracking the International Space Station (ISS) when it flies overhead?

If I correctly set the geographic location correctly, the following ISS observing times should be accurate for locations near the Allenstown Town Hall.

### ISS - Visible Passes

Search period start: 09 September 2024 00:00

Search period end: 19 September 2024 00:00

Orbit: 411 x 427 km, 51.6° (Epoch: 30 August)



Passes to include: ☒ visible only ☐ all

Click on the date to get a star chart and other pass details.

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
09 Sep	-1.6	19:58:31	10°	SSE	19:59:09	11°	SE	19:59:09	11°	SE	visible
10 Sep	-3.1	20:44:45	10°	SW	20:47:14	41°	S	20:47:14	41°	S	visible
11 Sep	-2.9	19:57:01	10°	SSW	20:00:00	31°	E	20:01:56	17°	E	visible
11 Sep	-1.3	21:33:30	10°	W	21:34:54	21°	W	21:34:54	21°	W	visible
12 Sep	-3.3	20:45:09	10°	WSW	20:48:27	60°	NNW	20:49:15	44°	NNE	visible
13 Sep	-3.9	19:56:54	10°	SW	20:00:14	85°	SSE	20:03:22	12°	ENE	visible
13 Sep	-1.1	21:34:30	10°	WNW	21:36:17	21°	NW	21:36:17	21°	NW	visible
14 Sep	-2.1	20:45:53	10°	W	20:48:55	31°	NNW	20:50:11	23°	NNE	visible
15 Sep	-2.6	19:57:20	10°	W	20:00:30	42°	NNW	20:03:43	10°	NE	visible
15 Sep	-0.9	21:35:22	10°	NW	21:36:48	17°	NNW	21:36:48	17°	NNW	visible
16 Sep	-1.6	20:46:41	10°	WNW	20:49:21	21°	N	20:50:24	18°	NNE	visible
17 Sep	-1.8	19:57:56	10°	WNW	20:00:46	25°	NNW	20:03:37	10°	NE	visible
17 Sep	-0.7	21:35:49	10°	NW	21:36:46	15°	NNW	21:36:46	15°	NNW	visible
18 Sep	-1.5	20:47:12	10°	NW	20:49:40	19°	N	20:50:09	18°	NNE	visible

To read the table of ISS visible passes, note that negative magnitudes are very bright. For comparison, Jupiter is about magnitude -2.5.

Times are 24 hour format so 19:58 is 7:58 p.m. Altitude (Alt.) is in degrees above the local horizon and 10 degrees is about the width of a

closed fist held at arm's length. Note that nearby trees may block the view for 20-30 degrees above the horizon. Azimuth (Az.) is the cardinal direction on a compass (N, S, E, W and directions in between those four). If you are not sure, get a compass and figure it out. The Sun is always due south at noon.

For the **09 Sep** pass, the ISS is visible for barely ½ minute. Compare the Start and End times to see which dates gives longer viewing times.

Best to get outside several minutes early to get oriented and ready to spot the ISS. Use the clock on your cell phone for the most accurate time of date. Be sure to wave to the stranded Boeing Starliner astronauts.

## Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Al, Tom Cairns, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

## Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Sept. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Churches of New England, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



**Hillside Baptist Church**  
**547 Pembroke St.**  
**Pembroke, NH 03275**

*Modeling the truth of God's Word*

