



The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of Hillcrest United Methodist Church
June 2016

Secure in the Father's Love

by Jean Springer (Julie Lininger's mother)

"Papaw, no hurt me," my grandson said, looking up at me for confirmation. He was just two years old, with dark curly hair and sparkling brown eyes, and he didn't like the noise of his grandfather's "tractor" (riding mower). Perhaps he was too young to understand the jealousy he felt watching his younger cousin enjoy a ride with Papaw, but his struggle was obvious.

The next day his longing overcame the fear, and he rode across the front lawn on his grandfather's lap. I sat in the shade of the oak tree watching this victory and returning his wave. In a few minutes he ran across the lawn, plopped down on the ground and, leaning into the circle of my arms, said, "Papaw no hurt me."

"Oh, no, honey, Papaw loves you. He would never hurt you," I replied. Surprised that he was still worried, I sought to supply all the love and security he needed for the moment.

This conversation was repeated at least five times as we watched his grandfather at work, and each time I wanted so much to reassure this little boy, to establish a positive, loving moment that would last a lifetime. It was my grandson's open quest for reassurance.

How like my own quests, which often boil silently within for fear of ridicule by other adults. I thought of my own childlike cry to the Father. "You do love me, don't you, Lord?"

Our adult cries are reflexive, like thunder after lightning. They may come from the pain of a broken home where there is no emotional security, or the mistrust learned through callous behavior and rejection, or the frustrations of trying to please others. Our feet are so tied to this troubled world, and it isn't always easy to walk in faith as mature children of God should. "You do love me, don't you, Lord?"

How like our heavenly Father to reply, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." I wonder if His eyes fill with tears as mine did when I heard my grandson's words.

Our Lord is patient

I am amazed that I do not sometimes hear a voice thundering from heaven, "I've told you a thousand times. Why can't you believe!" But He never tires of the repetitive questions. Indeed, His unending love is shown by the fact that He never answers my questions this way. No matter how many times we ask, He is never irritated.

Scripture refers to God's patience as "slow to anger." Given the opportunity, you and I might have destroyed Adam and Eve for their disobedience instead of giving them opportunity to find repentance. We would probably have instantly annihilated that complaining mob Moses led out of Egypt, or "read the riot act" to Elijah for his self-pity in thinking he was the only one left in Israel who had not turned to idol worship. We aren't very tolerant with our fellow man, but our God's patience is limitless.

Our Lord is parental

He longs to teach us to trust in His security, in His words, so that we might grow into mature, courageous adults. Not wanting us to remain babes, trembling before experiences requiring faith, He disciplines and encourages and loves.



This 'n' That

Susanna's Kitchen

The next serving date is June 6.
Questions? Contact
Henrietta McCaul at 264-1688.

The JOY Group (singles 50+)

We will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.,
Thursday, June 9
Questions? Contact
Henrietta McCaul at 264-1688.

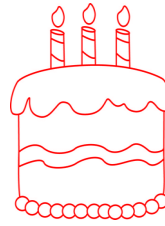
New Events

On Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., there will be a Time of Prayer in Pastor Mike's office.

In addition, Pastor Mike will lead a video study series from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Both will start Wednesday, June 1. Each class will stand on its own, so you can opt in or out depending on your summer schedule. If you're interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center or put a note in Pastor Mike's mail box.

On the narthex bulletin board: There is a thank you note from Cathy and Bruce Fortin. Please take a moment to stop by and read it.

June Special Days Celebration



June birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated Sunday, June 5, in the HeBrew Café after the worship service. Everyone is welcome as we eat cake and sing to those of our congregation with special days in June.

Birthday Cake Schedule:

June: Mary and Larry Herschberger

July: Tracy Donati

August: open

September: Janice Dean

October: Bev Slaughter

November: open

December: open

If you would like to provide a cake for a celebration, please sign up on the sheets posted on the HeBrew Café bulletin board. If there are any questions, please see, call, or e-mail Tracy Donati: 849-2803, tldon78@aol.com.

Vibrant Communities—Summit on the Future—Tuesday, June 7, at the Lerner Ballroom. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., and the program starts at 5:00.

Are you interested in participating in a caregivers' support group? See Cathy Bloss.

You're Invited!

Calvary United Methodist Church invites you to a Retirement Party for Pastor Larry Smith and his wife, Susie, on Saturday, June 4, from 2-4:00 p.m. Calvary UMC is located at 2222 W. Indiana Avenue, Elkhart.

Primetimers

Thursday, June 16

Taco Casserole
gather @ 11:30
lunch @ noon

Do you hear "tap, tap, tap, shuffle, shuffle, shuffle"? Well, if you don't, you will soon.

The Granny Tappers are coming to entertain us this month. It has been a while, but I have had requests to see them again so they will be here. We will need you to bring an extra dessert because, while they won't be eating the main meal with us, they will be eating dessert. We will be having taco casserole so bring something to go with it. The cost is \$2 with a dish to pass.

We still haven't heard from any of you on who will replace Nancy and me next year. I will help anyone who is willing to replace me, and I am sure Nancy will help you get started, also. Please HELP! If no one steps forward, there just won't be a Primetimers, and that would be a shame. Please pray about this.

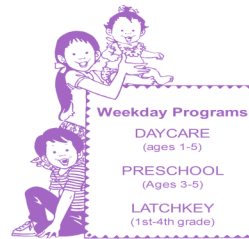
Come and enjoy the good fellowship and have a fun time.

Thanks,
Jane, Nancy, and Henrietta

The Caring Hands ministry collects labels and box tops to be donated to a local school. Please note that Campbells is discontinuing their program so no more soup labels will be collected. However, General Mills Box Tops for Education are still needed. There is a small container for these on the counter by the name tags. Thanks for any help you can give!

Also, if you have any greeting cards that you'd be willing to donate, please give them to Jo-Ann Smeltzer or place in her box. Thank you!

Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry



It is officially summer here at Hillcrest; preschool is now finished. The school-age children are with us all day now along with all the other daycare children.

We are still taking preschool enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Just call Teresa at 266-7427 for more information.

Teresa Irelan
HCCM Director



Members of the Lifestyles Class want to thank - and compliment - all those who worked so diligently on the recent renovations that have taken place here at Hillcrest. It all came together beautifully, with what we know involved hard physical labor, many hours of personal time given unselfishly, and great vision.

Throughout the lifetime of Hillcrest, many of you have participated in various and sundry ways to meet the calls of things that needed to be done. We thank - and compliment - all of you also.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Lifestyles Class—"The Road to Amazing,"
Patty Moore, Facilitator, HeBrew Café
classroom.

Pastor's Class—Pastor Mike's office (C3).

June's Mission of the Month

Faith Mission

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

Faith Mission of Elkhart is an inter-denominational Christian social service agency which provides food, shelter, clothing and other services for needy individuals. The Mission is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization independently governed by a volunteer board of directors. Funding for Faith Mission comes from individuals, churches and local businesses. They are not a United Way member agency and receive very limited government funding. Faith Mission is a member in good standing with the Better Business Bureau.

Faith Mission provides Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing to men, women, and children. Meals are provided three times a day, seven days a week, all year long. Residents who work are given a lunch to take with them. Faith Mission also provides lunch and dinner seven days a week all year long for their free community walk-in meals program. Chapel services are provided on Sunday and another service is held each evening. The Mission helps residents acquire employment either for full-time, part-time, or day labor. Faith Mission also offers counseling and classes for residents to help them become a part of the community as effective family members, workers, and citizens.

Let's give generously to this important mission and ministry in our own community that touches so many lives!

Thank You,
The Missions Committee



It's here!

2016 Vacation Bible School

July 18 – 21

6-8 p.m.

**for children ages four through
6th grade (grade completed)**

Come catch the wave of excitement as we spread the word of God's amazing love! We are looking for volunteers to be guides and to help with snacks, crafts, games, music, and storytelling.

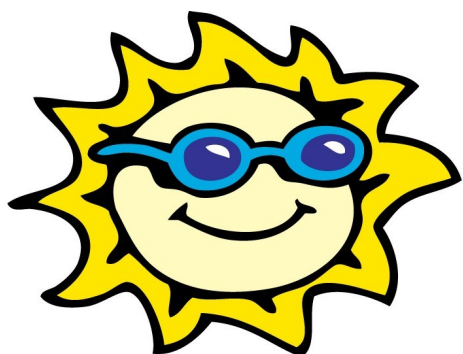
We are also asking all church members for a \$5 donation to help fund our VBS.

Any questions? Please feel free to ask Tracy Donati or Diane Lewandowski.

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m. HeBrew Café fellowship 10:30 a.m. Adult Studies 10:30 a.m. Nursery & Children's Activities			4:30 p Time of Prayer 6:30 p Video class	6:00 p Itty-Bitty Builders		2-4 p Pastor Larry Smith retirement party at Calvary UMC
5 Communion Sunday	6 10:30 a Susanna's Kitchen 6:30 p Scouts	7 9:00 a Coffee at Martin's 10:00 a Artistry in Bloom 1:00 p Circle of Friends 5:00 p Vibrant Communities 6:00 p TOPS	8 10:00 a Itty-Bitty Builders 4:30 p Time of Prayer 6:30 p Video class	9 General Conference in Indianapolis 11:30 a JOY Group	10	11 1:00 p HeBrew Café rented
12 Mission Sunday	13 6:30 p Scouts 7:00 p Trustees	14 Flag Day 9:00 a Coffee at Martin's 10:00 a Artistry in Bloom 1:00 p Circle of Friends 6:00 p TOPS	15 4:30 p Time of Prayer 6:30 p Video class	16 11:30 a Primitimers	17	18
19	20 6:30 p Ministry Council 6:30 p Scouts	21 9:00 a Coffee at Martin's 10:00 a Artistry in Bloom 1:00 p Circle of Friends 6:00 p TOPS	22 4:30 p Time of Prayer 6:30 p Video class	23	24	25
26 1:30 p Brentwood service	27 6:30 p Scouts	28 9:00 a Coffee at Martin's 10:00 a Artistry in Bloom 1:00 p Circle of Friends 6:00 p TOPS	29 4:30 p Time of Prayer 6:30 p Video class	30		





In the Know

June

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 Naomi Johnston | 25 Gerald Huntington |
| 12 Brandi Foster | 29 Jim Hensley |
| 13 Mary Herschberger | Karen Quarandillo |
| 19 Nelda Schalliol | 30 Larry Herschberger |
| 22 Ronn Foster | |

Anniversaries

- 4 Linda and Chuck Vredingburgh
- 7 Rita and Jeff Evans
Peggy and Terry Replogle
- 12 Jami and Mike Franks
- 16 Jane and Mike Hershberger
- 17 Carol and Bob Hartranft
- 28 Diane and Gari Lewandowski
Lorraine and Bob Whitmer
- 29 Jessica and Kyle Lewis

Please let the church office know if your special date was missed.

Your Presence

May 1	54
May 8	69
May 15	76
May 22	62

Congregational Giving

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
May 1	\$ 3,509.00	\$ 346.00
May 8	\$ 3,404.50	\$ 281.00
May 15	\$ 3,526.00	\$ 231.00
May 22	<u>\$ 1,767.00</u>	<u>\$ 137.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,206.50	\$ 995.00

Did You Know?

1. It was while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909 that the idea of Father's Day suddenly struck Spokane, Washington resident Sonora Dodd. She wanted to honor her own father, William Smart, who was well-deserving of a special day as a widowed farmer left alone to raise his six kids single-handedly. Residents embraced the idea so warmly that by June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day celebration was proclaimed in Spokane because it was the month of Dodd's father's birth.
2. Halsey Taylor invented the drinking fountain as a tribute to his father, who succumbed to typhoid fever after drinking from a contaminated public water supply in 1896.
3. A necktie is the most popular gift for Father's Day. Some historians trace the origin of the tie back to Chinese warrior garb in 3rd century BC.



More This 'n' That

The Trustees and Church Office are attempting to update the church's key list. Would you check to see if you have any church keys? If you do and still need them, please let Julie know what type and number of the key(s). If you no longer need what keys you have, please turn them in to Julie in the office. Thanks so much for your help!

HILLCREST EQUIPMENT POLICY

Outlined here is the policy of Hillcrest United Methodist Church regarding the loan or rental of church-owned equipment such as tables or chairs.

To ensure the care of as well as the proper release and return of said equipment, equipment must be signed out and returned to an authorized individual, such as a trustee or the administrative assistant.

Signing for the equipment is required at both release and return. The trustee or administrative assistant will be required to initial the transaction and verify that the equipment is returned in good condition.

All equipment must be returned within three (3) days, unless an extension is specifically granted by authorized personnel.

Please note: Request forms are located at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Important Note:

Please remember to specifically mark in which fund your offering should go: General, Building, Other, or a combination. (An example is shown below of \$30 given.) This helps eliminate the guess work for those posting financials. Thank you!

General Fund \$ 10 Building Fund \$ 10 Other \$ 10
 Name _____ Mission of the Month

Hillcrest United Methodist Church
 Elkhart, Indiana

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store,
 as God hath prospered him.” I Cor. 16:2

HILLCREST WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry supporting mission projects . . . the Women's Book Club exploring life issues while sharing a love of books . . . Artistry in Bloom stimulating the creativity of its members . . . Itty-Bitty Builders challenging its members to learn new skills while stepping out of their comfort zones . . . a caregiver support group . . . What's that you say? None of these groups appeal to you? We welcome you to get in touch with one of our board members, and tell us about an interest you'd like to share with others: Martha Sims, Nikki Behne, Cathy Bloss, Lorraine Whitmer.

In any case, remember that you don't have to participate in one of our groups to pray with us:

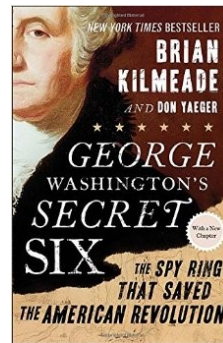
Father, thank you for helping us to grow closer as a sisterhood in Your service. Help us to be compassionate and to support each other, to accept our differences gracefully and to show appreciation for the contributions of others. Remind us to be aware of the impact that our small services may have on others. We ask Your blessing on our sisterhood. Amen

Artistry in Bloom

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Hello fellow artists and creative color people! We are back and enjoying our two hours together on Tuesday mornings. We have fun, good fellowship, and create together. If you would like to join us and see what we do, come Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Welcome to all.

—Jane Hershberger



Hillcrest Women's Book Club

Thursday, June 23

6:00 p.m., HeBrew Café

Our book for June is *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. This is historical nonfiction, yes, but one of our members said it was easy to read, not dry like a textbook.

Early in the fight to gain independence for the American colonies, our untrained, ill-equipped and undisciplined troops were completely out of their depth against Britain's well-oiled military machine. George Washington realized that his short-term army would be devastated unless he could outthink and outmaneuver the British. As the British intelligence officer Major General George Beckwith said later, "Washington did not really outfight the British, he simply outspied us."

Would we still be subjects of the British crown today had it not been for George Washington's Secret Six? Read this fascinating book, then join us on June 23 to share your thoughts.

Itty-Bitty Builders

Thursday, June 2, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sims' home, 54100 Riverview Drive, Elkhart

This month's project uses a special greeting card you'd like to preserve as part of a miniature scene, or one to create as a gift for someone else. For more information, phone Martha at 264-9470 or email simsville3537@comcast.net.

—Martha Sims

Serving in Worship					
Date	Scripture Readers	Greeters	Ushers	Communion	Media
June 5	Lorraine Whitmer	Rene and Dave Wenger	Jane and Mike Hershberger	Linda and Chuck Vredingburgh, Laura Miller	Tracy Donati
June 12	Gari Lewandowski	Rene and Dave Wenger	Adam Behne, Evan and Lukas Gaylor		Dan Null
June 19	Patty Moore	Rene and Dave Wenger	Nancy and Jerry Rowe		Terri Longacre
June 26	Marci Morey	Rene and Dave Wenger	Laura and Dan Miller		Dan Null

Secure in the Father's Love, continued from page 1

With abandonment the Psalmist flings the message of the Father's love across the pages of his poetry like wild flowers bursting across a valley. David rejoiced that God was his strong tower and refuge, his rock and defense, his shepherd and strength. In Psalm 27 he declared that "When my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up."

Our Lord is a provider

It is His strength we utilize to overcome the monstrous fears of life, which sound to us as ferocious as a riding mower does to a two-year-old. Our fearful pleas would turn to praise if only we would remember all that the Father provides for us. If only we could move forward with Abraham's faith. Even though he must have been expecting that he might be called upon to sacrifice his only son, still the Patriarch revealed his faith when he said, "God will provide a lamb for the offering."

Our Lord is perfect

His love will not fail; we can be sure of our security in Him. His promises are true; He is not a capricious God who changes His mind on a whim. His wisdom is flawless; He never makes mistakes. We can rest on David's assurance- "As for God, His way is perfect."

No matter how frightening the moment, no matter how deep the pain, no matter how dark the experience, He reassures us, "I am the everlasting God." Surely we have no need to cry out, "You do love me, don't you, Lord?" But when we do, He will lovingly provide all that we require, and we will discover that "under His wings we may sing for joy."

Hillcrest United Methodist Church

4206 East Bristol Street * Elkhart, Indiana 46514

E-mail: humchurch1@frontier.com

Web site: www.hillcrestelkhart.com

STAFF

Pastor:

Mike Butler

574-274-5114

m.h.butler@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant:

Julie Lininger

humchurch1@frontier.com

Welcome Center and Ministry Council Chair:

Bernice Simms

Trustee Co-Chairs:

Gari Lewandowski, Harry Sims

Finance Chair:

Bruce Fortin

Staff-Parish Chair:

Mike Hershberger

Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry:

Teresa Irelan, Director

574-266-7427

hccmdir@frontier.com

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:00 a.m. HeBrew Café fellowship

10:30 a.m. Adult Studies

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: June 17

Looking Ahead:

Susanna's Kitchen

Monday, June 6, 10:30 a.m.

JOY Group

Thursday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.

Trustees

Monday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.

Primetimers

Thursday, June 16, 11:30 a.m.

Ministry Council

Monday, June 20, 6:30 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Secure in the Father's Love	1, 9
This 'n' That	2, 3
Missions	4
Calendar	5
In the Know	6
More This 'n' That	7
Women's Ministry	8
Serving in Worship	9
Ministry Council Survey	insert

Fatherly Advice

There are wishbones, jawbones, and backbones – those who dream about doing things, those who talk about doing things, and those who actually accomplish things. Be the backbone.