

*Now therefore, our God, we thank
You and praise Your glorious name.*

The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of Hillcrest United Methodist Church

November 2019

From Pastor Kerry

One of the best musical reminders (ok, my opinion) written in recent times is the 1976 work by Henry Smith entitled "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart" which was made known by the artist Don Moen in 1986. Smith wrote the song because he had been struggling with a degenerative disease that ultimately left him legally blind. He had been feeling like he was useless, but his pastor pointed out that God can use weaknesses for good. The outcome of that conversation was this song which lays out the ever present reality that there is much to be thankful in this life and that being thankful helps us focus on the strength that causes our weaknesses to be good in God. Here are the words:

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give Thanks.

With thankfulness in mind, we are coming into the time of year when we also remember church stewardship. This year Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 24. We will have a time to celebrate how God used our congregation over the past year, we will look at opportunities for the year ahead, and we will look at some of the nuts and bolts of our finances and the important part you play in the continuation of ministries at Hillcrest UMC. After the worship service that day we will be joining together in the Methodist tradition of a potluck meal (brunch—details to be announced). This will be a great time to be together in God's greatness.



This 'n' That

Susanna's Kitchen

Our next serving date is Monday, November 4, at 10:30 a.m. Questions? Contact the kitchen at 522-5893 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

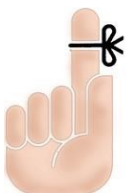
Journeying Through Grief will meet will Tuesday, November 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the HeBrew Café classroom. —Cathy Bloss

Our next Caregivers Support Group will meet Thursday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m. in the HeBrew Café classroom. —Cathy Bloss



Hillcrest has a new email address!

hillcrestchurch1957@gmail.com



REMEMBER! FALL BACK!
Time changes Sunday, November 3!

A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.
—Henry Ward Beecher

Special Days Celebration



November birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated Sunday, November 3, in the HeBrew Café after the worship service. Everyone is invited as we eat cake and sing to those of our congregation with special days in November.

Cake Schedule:

November: Fay Keck

December: Marie Young

Big Concert

We are blessed to welcome James McDuffy, Jr., to our church for a special concert on Friday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. James has travelled the country singing for various United Methodist Churches. His home church in Tampa, Florida, averages 10,000 people per week and is the church where the Gaithers attend when they are staying at their Florida home. Mark Gledhill, our new accompanist beginning in December (see page 7 for details), will be accompanying James' music. Eugene, who provided special music a few weeks ago, will also be joining James for some of the music. It will be a great concert. There is no charge; a free-will offering will be collected for the musicians.

God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.
—Rick Warren
(based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

Primetimers

Thursday, November 21

gather at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon

Don't write my obituary just yet! Jane Hershberger and friends will be sharing some stories from *Living With Purpose in a Worn-out Body*. Join us for plenty of smiles with seniors!

We'll be having soups. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. A sign-up sheet will be on the hallway bulletin board soon.

Looking forward to seeing you all. Consider inviting a friend!
—Julie Lininger

Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry



We are growing!! In November we will be adding a third room for babies in the daycare. **Thank you** to everyone who supported us with all the work that needed to be done to make the transition happen! We couldn't be expanding the ministry without you!
—Lori Loucks, HCCM Director

Learning to Give Thanks

Last December I had my second knee replacement. Expecting this recovery to mimic the first, I went home to heal quickly. Instead, 10 days later one normal step led to the vertical splitting of my femur, an ambulance ride and surgery to insert screws and a long metal plate. I spent Christmas in the hospital and New Year's in a rehab unit, feeling anything but thankful. Nearly a year later, the slow recovery continues.

Yet I see much to be thankful for: my caregiver cousin, who lengthened her stay considerably; my family; church friends who provided meals, prayers and love; and doctors and therapists, who put me back together and continue to encourage me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to work on patience but am learning — with God's help — to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
—Sandy Hyland

Operation



Overseas

It's time again to set up for Operation Overseas.

I will be setting up my display for money and products donations by November 3. I will make sure products lists are on the table to show what is in the most demand. And as always, I will gladly accept monetary donations. My husband prints the labels, which saves a bit per box making postage for a large flat rate box \$18.45, but postage goes up almost every year.

I will also have note cards and Christmas cards available to sign. I encourage everyone to sign at least one card; it means so much to our men and women overseas.

I will be removing the display November 18, so the last day to donate will be November 17.

Thank you all so much for your contributions to help our overseas military have a better Christmas season! Please know every dollar and every item donated are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please call me at 848-4246.
—Maria Purciarele

November's Mission of the Month

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

William and Catherine Booth began the Salvation Army in 1865 as a means to help the suffering souls throughout London who were not willing to attend or even welcomed into a traditional church. Though General Booth died in 1912, he laid a firm foundation for the lifesaving work that the Salvation Army continues to perform today in over 130 countries around the globe. Thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, and drunkards were among his first converts to Christianity, and as his ministry grew, the gospel of Jesus Christ was spread far and wide to the poor, the vulnerable, and the destitute. The Salvation Army assists approximately 25 million Americans annually throughout the 130 countries. They also have 1.5 million members consisting of officers, soldiers, and adherents.

The Salvation Army helps disaster survivors, brightens the holidays, provides shelter, cures hunger, meets the greatest need, overcomes poverty, combats addiction, shares God's love, assists the unemployed, equips families, fights human trafficking, serves veterans, provides services to the elderly, stops domestic abuse, teaches children, serves the LGBTQ community, offers health services, family counseling services, correctional services, and provides adult rehabilitation centers throughout the countries.

Locally, the Salvation Army provides emergency financial assistance, food, and nutrition programs, seasonal services, casework services, visitation services, women's ministries, worship services, Sunday School, men's ministries, and character-building programs. There are also donation drop-off's, family stores, and older adult services offered. We ask for the congregation's support for this important mission in doing God's work.

Thank you,
The Missions Committee


A Much-Needed Message

Thanksgiving week, got its start on a turbulent day. Founders of the National Bible Association were reading Scripture over the NBC radio network on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because of the traumatic events, the network asked that the Bible-reading continue all day, in between news updates. Radio stations throughout America picked up the programming, allowing countless listeners to receive words from God — “who comforts you” (Isaiah 51:12) — when they needed it most.

—from The *NEWSLETTER* newsletter

November

Weekly Sunday Schedule
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:30 a.m. Hebrew Café Fellowship
 11:00 a.m. Adult Studies
 12:00 p.m. El Refugio Church

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 11:30 a Walking in gym	2 8:00 a Church work day
3 Communion Sunday 1:00 p Brentwood service 2:00 p Ice Cream Social 	4 10:30 a Susanna's Kitchen 11:30 a Walking in gym	5 9:00 a L.I.F.T. 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	6 11:15 a Soccer Shots 11:45 a Walking in gym	7 11:45 a Yoga 5:30 p Champion Force 7:00 p Woodside Estates HOA	8 11:30 a Walking in gym 7:00 p James McDuffy concert	9 7:00 a-4:00 p Scouts' Merit Badge Clinic 9:00 a AIM Impact
10 Mission Sunday: 1:00 p Brentwood service	11 11:30 a Walking in gym 6:30 p Scouts 7:00 p Trustees	12 10:00 a Journeying Through Grief 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	13 9:00 a The Mat Makers 11:15 a Soccer Shots 11:45 a Walking in gym	14 HCCM No School: Parent/Teacher Conferences 11:45 a Yoga 5:30 p Champion Force 6:30 p Pebblestone HOA	15 Newsletter deadline 11:30 a Walking in gym	16
17 1:00 p Brentwood service	18 11:30 a Walking in gym 5:00 p Ministry Council 6:30 p Scouts	19 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	20 HCCM Picture Day 11:15 a Soccer Shots 11:45 a Walking in gym	21 11:30 a Primetimers 11:45 a Yoga	22 11:30 a Walking in gym 6:00 p El Refugio concert	23 9:00a-Noon El Refugio Musicians' Training
24 1:00 p Brentwood service	25 11:30 a Walking in gym 6:30 p Scouts	26 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	27 HCCM No School 11:15a Soccer Shots 11:45 a Walking in gym	28 5:30 p Champion Force	29 11:30 a Walking in gym	30



In the Know

Your Presence

includes
Brentwood Service

September 29	75
October 6	68
October 13	92
October 20	56



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 24

Look for details in
upcoming bulletins!

November Birthdays

4	Helen Hemund	23	Gloria Griffith
9	Jan Sharkey	24	Abby Clear
18	Andrea Franks	26	Karen DeVore
22	Bernice Simms		Linda Vredingburgh
		30	Mike Schafer

November Anniversaries

9	AlysJane and Clifford Whisler
13	Beth and Ron Laughman
17	Tracy and Rick Donati

Please let the office know if your special day was missed.

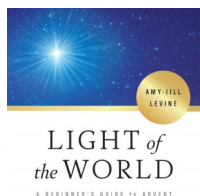
Serving in Worship

Date	Communion	Greeters	HeBrew Café Workers	Media	Scripture Readers	Ushers
November 3	Sharon and Stan McSorley Bernice Simms	Cindy Moore Bernice Simms	J. and R. Squires Cindy Moore Sherrie Putman	Gerald Huntington	Diane Lewandowski	Sharon and Stan McSorley
November 10	---	Cindy Moore Bernice Simms	J. and R. Squires Cindy Moore Sherrie Putman	Tracy Donati	Janice Dean	Diane and Gari Lewandowski
November 17	---	Cindy Moore Bernice Simms	J. and R. Squires Cindy Moore Sherrie Putman	Gerald Huntington		Nancy and Jerry Rowe
November 24	---	Cindy Moore Bernice Simms	J. and R. Squires Cindy Moore Sherrie Putman	Tracy Donati	Lorraine Whitmer	Jane and Mike Hershberger

Lifestyles Class

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent

by Amy-Jill Levine



What? Christmas? Already? Don't panic . . . you still have time to prepare! But it IS time to think about Advent . . . a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the most important birth in the world's history. The Lifestyles adult study class invites all to dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ, when we study *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*.



The author, professor and biblical scholar, Amy-Jill Levine shares the following insights: "I love Christmas. I like the candles. I like the trees. I even like shopping. But I particularly love Christmas because I love the stories and the different accounts we get in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke and also from post-biblical church legends. You can find such marvel, such wonder, and such joy in these chapters in Matthew and Luke, that it will make you smile, indeed laugh, when you read these stories."

Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. In "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide," the author shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this four-week Advent study beginning Sunday, December 1. If you're not already a member of the Lifestyles class, this Advent study is a great time to join in the fun and fellowship. Please let Patty Moore or the Church Office know by November 10 if you plan to attend, so your book can be ordered. If you're a first time visitor, there will be no cost for the book . . . it's our Christmas gift to you!

—Patty Moore, Facilitator

Staff Parish Relations Committee Announcement

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is so very thankful for Jane Poe, who so willingly donated her time and musical talents the last few weeks to serve as our pianist for the worship service until we could find a full-time pianist. Jane will be with us through the last Sunday of November and will then be enjoying retirement with her husband. Please let Jane know how very much we have been blessed by her beautiful music.

Through a referral, God has blessed us in bringing Mark Geldhill to our church, beginning December 1 as our full-time pianist. Mark has exceptional musical talent and is excited to be a part of our Hillcrest staff. You'll have an opportunity to get a preview of Mark's talent, as he will be filling in for Jane during our service on October 27. Please welcome Mark!

HILLCREST WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2019 Women's Ministry Board:

Leader: Cathy Bloss
 Board members: Terri Longacre,
 leaders of the ministry groups
 Advisor: Martha Sims

Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry

We have been working very diligently to get enough cards done for the Crosswords Craft Fair. I think we've done pretty good considering all the time we have NOT been able to meet. We have lots of Christmas cards designed and assembled, which are always good sellers at a bazaar. We have a variety of all other occasions and holidays, also.

I would ask for prayers for our group. We have had several of our group traveling and one of our gals is right now at Mayo with her daughter. We are praying and hoping for a good outcome from that visit. Thank you again for all your support this year.
 —Marilynn Anson

L.I.F.T. (Ladies In Fellowship Together)

1st Tuesday of each month – 9:00 a.m.
 Perkins Restaurant (107 N. Pointe Blvd., Elkhart)

18 ladies met for breakfast October 1 at Perkins. Jan Sharkey led us in our prayer. It was decided to collect men's socks for October; bring items for the soldier boxes (that Maria Purciarele organizes) for November; collect tissues (unscented), bandaids, and disinfecting wipes (generic is fine) for our church childcare ministry in December.

Bring a friend and join a great group of ladies!
 —Corrie Bartell and Jan Sharkey

Our Women's Ministry prayer:

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 .

The Women's Ministry Board will not meet this month.

Cookie Walk Recipe

Here is an easy cookie recipe that always gets great reviews.

one box cake mix, any flavor
 1/3 cup oil
 2 eggs

Mix all together and drop on greased cookie sheets. Bake 350 degrees for approximately eight minutes. I add chocolate chips, nuts, lemon juice, etc., but they are good plain as well.
 —Maria Purciarele

You don't know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*

The Mat Makers

(Sleeping mats for the homeless made from plastic bags.)

Wednesday, November 13

9:00-11:00 a.m., HeBrew Café

(You'll be welcome, even if you can't stay the whole time)

Martha Sims and Mary Herschberger, Co-Leaders

Our 24th sleeping mat was dedicated October 6 and delivered to Guidance Ministries the next day. Relatives of Phyllis Osborne were visiting Hillcrest that Sunday, and they talked with us in the café after services, asking many questions about the mat project and talking about the homeless problem in their area on the west coast. The next week we mailed them photos of a mat along with a set of instructions for organizing a group and making the mats.

Four of our Mat Makers met October 9 in the Hebrew Café to cut strips, loop them, wind balls and work on a tote for sale at the Cookie Walk in December. We accomplished a lot (and yes, we had fun!)

Great news! We will welcome Maria Purciarele as our group's fourth crocheter after the first of the year. If any of you think you might want to try crocheting a mat, Martha can provide you with a mat that's already started and show you how it's done. You can try it, work on it for a while, then decide whether you want to continue. See Mary if you'd rather start with a tote, which is a much smaller project.

Many thanks to all who work at home, trimming and flattening bags or cutting strips or looping them. A special gold star to the anonymous donor who brought us a stack of bags which he/she had stored flat instead of wadding them up. We hadn't realized how much time this would save us, and now some of us are storing our own bags in uncrumpled stacks.

Have a question? See Martha or Mary, or visit Mat Makers on the 2nd Wednesday. Every little bit helps!

Cookie Walk

December 7, 8:00 a.m.-noon

This year is flying by, and it's again time to get ready for the COOKIE WALK. We will need lots of cookies, candies, and breads to have the success we see each year.

You can bring your goodies to the church kitchen on Friday, December 6, between 2:00-6:00 p.m. If the time is a problem, please let me know, and I will gladly take items early Saturday morning; it's just easier to tray the cookies the night before. If you need your containers back, please mark accordingly, and they will be available Sunday morning.

On Friday, help is needed from 2:00-6:00 p.m. setting up tables, folding boxes, washing trays, and plating cookies. On Saturday, help is needed from 8:00 a.m.-noon selling, refilling trays, and cleaning up (clean up might extend to 12:30). I will also need two people at the sales table. One will weigh the cookies, and the other will take the money.

Watch for sign-up sheets. You don't have to sign up to work for all four hours, just whatever works for you. And even if you don't get signed up to bring cookies, you can still bring them. None will be turned away!

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support. Let's make this another great Cookie Walk.

—Maria Purciarele
(574) 848-4246

Hillcrest Women's Book Club

Thursdays

Diane Lewandowski, Leader

We will not meet in November and December because of the holidays.

Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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Diane Lewandowski

Staff Parish Chair:

Patty Moore

Treasurer:

Karen Gouker

Trustee Co-Chairs:

Gari Lewandowski, Harry Sims

Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry:

Lori Loucks, Director

574-266-7427

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WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. HeBrew Café fellowship

11:00 a.m. Adult Studies

12:00 p.m. El Refugio Church

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: *November 15*

Looking Ahead:

Susanna's Kitchen

Monday, November 4, 10:30 a.m.

Trustees

Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.

Journeying Through Grief

Tuesday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

Ministry Council

Monday, November 18, 5:00 p.m.

Primetimers

Thursday, November 21, 11:30 a.m.

Caregivers' Support Group

Thursday, November 21, 1:00 p.m.

Brentwood Service

Weekly on Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Women's Board meeting

No meeting this month

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