

The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of Hillcrest United Methodist Church

February 2020



From Pastor Kerry

Greeting Friends,

I am excited to tell you about two sermon series that I will be sharing over the next couple months. The first one we have already started, *We Belong to Christ*, which is a six-week series based on 1 Corinthians 1:1-3:9.

January 19 - "You Are Not Lacking" - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 26 - "Same Mind, Same Purpose" - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

(Heidi will be preaching because I will be at a youth retreat for Grace.)

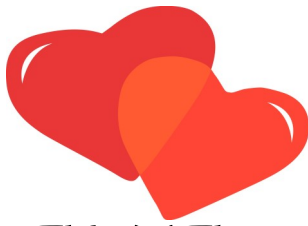
February 2 - "Consider Your Call" - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 9 - "With A Demonstration" - 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

February 16 - "God Gives the Growth" - 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

This series delves into what it means to be owned by Christ rather than the other way around. Both the church and the country at large are in times of dissatisfaction and discontent with arguing and ugliness seeming to take the forefront. It is important to be reminded that we must find our identity in Christ's love instead of worldly disagreements.

The next series is a two-week series based on the soon-to-be-released movie *I Still Believe*, which is about Christian singer Jeremy Camp and the story that inspired his song by the same title. The movie is to be released March 13 and stars KJ Apa, Britt Robertson, Shania Twain, Melissa Roxburgh, and Gary Sinise. Make sure you put March 8 and 15 on your calendars because these are the weeks I will be presenting this series. This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to church who will be seeing advertisements for the movie. I am in the process of seeing if there is interest in going as a group to see the movie ... more info to come.



This 'n' That

Susanna's Kitchen

Our next serving date is Monday, February 3, at 10:30 a.m. Questions? Contact the kitchen at 522-5893 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Journey Through Grief will meet Tuesday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the HeBrew Café classroom. —Cathy Bloss

Our next Caregivers Support Group will be Thursday, February 27, at 1:00 p.m. in the HeBrew Café classroom. —Cathy Bloss

Primetimers

Taking a break for the winter months.
See you in April!

Upcoming Events

Scout Sunday

February 9, 9:30 a.m.

We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the relationship between the Scouts and the Methodist Church. All former Scouts are invited to attend, even if their troop met at a location other than Hillcrest.

Ash Wednesday

February 26
service at noon

Special
Days
Celebration



February birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated Sunday, February 2, in the HeBrew Café after the worship service. Everyone is invited as we sing to those of our congregation with special days in February.

Please remember to specify on your giving envelope each time you give where you want your offering to go. I need that information in order to correctly post the totals, and I don't keep a list of your pledges.

Also, if you've missed a Sunday or two in your giving, you don't need to put your offering in separate envelopes. Putting it all in one envelope is fine. The dates on the envelopes are for your convenience only.

Thank you!

—Julie Lininger



In January, the Potawatomi Zoo came to visit. The children and teachers had fun with hands-on learning about several rain forest animals.

Since the last newsletter, we've added a few more children. God keeps blessing us, and we're thankful!

Children and families have been enjoying the cards and notes from you, our church family. Thank you for reaching out to them; please keep praying!
—Lori Loucks, HCCM Director

Thank You

Below is a letter from Monger Elementary School, the recipient of the hats, mittens, and scarves this congregation so lovingly hung on the tree at Christmas time. (It's also on the narthex bulletin board.) Many children are surely enjoying these items on the cold, wintry days we are experiencing. THANK YOU!!!! —Radical Hospitality Committee

Thank you very much for the donation of hats and gloves to our Monger Students.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated. Many of our students walk to school and some do not have appropriate winter gear. With your donation, hopefully these students will not feel the cold.

*Sincerely,
Mrs. April Walker
Principal*

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less." —from *The Newsletter* newsletter



Each month the Trustees will be submitting a list of large projects that need to be tackled in the future, the time to be determined, in part, when finances are available. If, at any time, you'd like to contribute toward a project, please speak to Trustee Co-chairs, Harry Sims or Gari Lewandowski.

Have you heard of the phrase "It's as old as the hills?" Well, our first project *might* qualify: the gym carpet. It's been around for as long as the Community Center, which was completed in 2003. 17 years is a good run for flooring that gets used as much as that place does!

There are few in the congregation who are at church Monday through Friday during the day to see what goes on behind the scenes, but I do. I can't begin to count the number of hours that Gari Lewandowski and Harry Sims volunteer to do work around the church. I think maybe we at the childcare see them work more than their wives do. (Just kidding, of course!) They work tirelessly and without complaint.

The church and childcare staff greatly appreciate their cheerful presence and all that they do, and we say "Thank You!" —Julie Lininger

Look for future "thank yous" for those who volunteer at church!

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement.

—St. Augustine

February's Mission of the Month

Church Community Services

Church Community Services was created 50 years ago by a caring collaboration of area churches to serve the immediate needs of our neighbors who had food and financial challenges. Today, that mission continues along with our expansion of programs to help families break the cycle of poverty through intensive training and counseling. Our Soup of Success program is an example of that kind of life-changing program. CCS is at ground zero in the fight against poverty.

History

1968: Church Community Services was incorporated by local church leaders to pool resources and more effectively address issues faced by Elkhart County people in need. The first services were children's clubs and camping, emergency loans and gifts, help finding jobs, and home repairs.

1969: CCS was located at 1703 Benham.

1971: CCS food pantry was first set up at Faith Mission. Supporting churches provided board members, food, and other resources. CCS coordinated the publicity and showing of the Martin L. King film at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, an event being held in various locations across town.

1975: Food pantry moved to the office on Benham.

1989: CCS created an "Odd Jobs" program for 23 youth to work jobs for minimum wage during the summer.

1997: Soup of Success, a job and life skills training program for women, was created.

1998: CCS moved to 629 S. Third Street.

2003: The process of distributing food was changed when the food pantry became a Client Choice Food Pantry, meaning clients get to shop for the food items they want.

2009: CCS moved to its current location on Oakland Ave. CCS began its Homebound Program of delivering groceries once a month to those who are homebound.

2012: Seed to Feed was created with the purpose of providing homegrown solutions to local hunger.

2013: CCS became a Partner Distributing Organization with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, and opened the Food Bank of Elkhart County (FBEC), procuring food and distributing it to over 30 other food pantries and hot meal sites serving local food insecure families. FBEC ended operations after two years.

2014: Men Alive was created as a holistic life skills and work readiness program for men who want to grow stronger and change the community.


Today: CCS has 16 paid staff and utilizes over 900 volunteers. We are supported by over 50 churches and served over 5,500 families last year.

All loose change and any designated monies during February will go to Church Community Services.

Thank You,
The Missions Committee

February

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

Sum	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday 1:00 p Brentwood service	3 10:30 a Susanna's Kitchen	4 9:00 a L.I.F.T.	5	6 11:30 a Yoga	7	8
 9 Mission Sunday: Church Community Services 9:30 a Scout Sunday 1:00 p Brentwood service	10 6:30 p Scouts 7:00 p Trustees	11 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice 10:00 a Journey Through Grief	12 5:30 p Champion Force 6:00 p Prayer Service 9:00 a The Mat Makers	13 5:30 p Champion Force 11:30 a Yoga	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 1:00 p Brentwood service	17 5:00 p Ministry Council 6:30 p Scouts	18 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	19 5:30 p Champion Force 6:00 p Prayer Service	20 5:30 p Champion Force 11:30 a Yoga	21 Newsletter deadline	22 10:00 a Scouts in gym
23 1:00 p Brentwood service	24 6:30 p Scouts	25 6:00 p TOPS 6:00 p El Refugio practice	26 Ash Wednesday Noon Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 p Champion Force 6:00 p Prayer Service	27 11:30 a Yoga 1:00 p Caregivers Support	28	29 8:30 a Osolo Little League sign-up



In the Know

Loves Me Not?

A girl asked a boy if he loved her, and he replied, "Yes, of course."

"Would you die for me?" the girl wondered.

After a brief pause, the honest lad said, "No, mine is an undying love."

Your Presence	
includes Brentwood Service and Prayer Service	
December 29	67
January 5	53
January 12	69
January 19	50
January 26	66



February Birthdays	
1	Fay Keck Ron Laughman Bill Moore
11	Ray Squires
12	Bev Slaughter
13	Beryl Nord
16	Janet Mull
25	Terri Longacre
February Anniversaries	
14	Nancy and Jerry Rowe

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

If we must cancel a church service, our closing information will be listed on our Facebook page (Hillcrest UMC—Elkhart Indiana), our website at www.hillcrestelkhart.com, WNDU Channel 16, and their website, www.wndu.com, and WSBT Channel 22, and their website, www.wsbt.com.

Serving in Worship						
Date	Communion	Greeters	HeBrew Café Workers	Media	Scripture Readers	Ushers
February 2	Terri Longacre M. Herschberger Charles Mwale	Cindy Moore Rene Wenger	Terri Longacre K & A Kentgen L & C Vredingburgh		Ryan Wireman	Lorraine and Bob Whitmer
February 9	---	Cindy Moore Rene Wenger	Terri Longacre K & A Kentgen L & C Vredingburgh		Cindy Moore	Martha and Harry Sims
February 16	---	Cindy Moore Rene Wenger	Terri Longacre K & A Kentgen L & C Vredingburgh		Sharon Schafer	Linda and Chuck Vredingburgh
February 23	---	Cindy Moore Rene Wenger	Terri Longacre K & A Kentgen L & C Vredingburgh		Martha Sims	Patty Moore Wayne Rowe

Scoutmaster Minute

by Ronn Foster

We play a fun, little game in Scouts that teaches Scouts how to listen. One Scout is instructed to talk about their favorite thing in the world for two minutes. (Seems easy enough, right?) The other Scout (usually an older one) is instructed to interrupt, not listen, change the subject, or use some other tactic. Basically, they are told not to listen.

When the exercise is over, we talk to both Scouts. The one who was told to not listen hated the game because they had to be "rude." The one who was told to speak usually winds up being sad. They took the time to spill their guts per se, and the other Scout could not take the time to listen.

We do this too, don't we? Often, we are so focused on what is important to us that we forget about others. Philippians 2:3-5 tells us "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus ..."

By the way, the name of that game is "Listening to Learn." Ask yourself these questions when entering a conversation: "Am I listening to learn about another?" Do I have the same mindset as our Savior?"

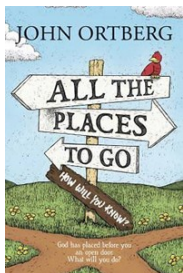
The question we must ask our heart is, "Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting too close?" We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call.

—MacRina Wiederkehr

Lifestyles Class

All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know?

by John Ortberg



KNOCK KNOCK. WHO'S THERE? It's the Lifestyles Class inviting everyone to join us as we continue an amazing study .

Rarely in the Bible does God command someone to stay. He opens a door, and then he invites us to walk through it—into the unknown. In this six-session DVD study, bestselling author John Ortberg opens our eyes to the countless open doors God places before us every day, teaching us how to recognize them and giving us the encouragement to step out in faith and embrace all of the extraordinary opportunities that await. So go ahead—walk through that door. You just might do something that lasts for eternity.

So why not take that step of faith and join the Lifestyles Class for this exciting study. Never attended before? Worried that you'll have to participate in discussion? Be assured that won't happen. All discussion is on a volunteer basis.

God has placed before you an open door. What will you do?

—Patty Moore, Facilitator

HILLCREST WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2020 Women's Ministry Board:

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

Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry

We are back together doing what we like to do - making greeting cards!! I am so lucky to have the same gals come each week to work with me. We will be meeting each Tuesday, weather permitting, except for the first Tuesday of each month. This allows me an extra week to do some new designs.

Have you lost a pet recently, or know someone who has? We have designed a sympathy card for those friends who have lost a pet. Please keep us in mind when looking for sympathy cards or any other types of greeting cards. We are working hard to bring new designs to our table each week. And we appreciate your prayers for our group.
—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)

L.I.F.T. met January 7 with 17 ladies in attendance.

We will be collecting pennies until the end of January. We'll then decide which organization will benefit from our donation. Please give your pennies to Corrie Bartell.

L.I.F.T. is a great way to get better acquainted and have a great breakfast. Bring a friend and join a great group of ladies!
—Gloria Griffith

The Mat Makers

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

2nd Wednesday each month

9:00-app.-11:00 a.m. in the HeBrew Café

Martha Sims and Mary Herschberger, Co-Leaders

NEEDED: If you have one or two old leather belts that you no longer use, we can cut them to the length we need and drill new holes. These are strapped around rolled up mats, making it easier for homeless persons to carry them.

We have a good supply of unprocessed plastic bags right now, and we could use a couple more people to cut off the handles and bottom seams of the bags and smooth and flatten them in stacks.

Others will cut those into 2-1/2" strips, loop the strips together, wind them into balls, and then crochet into 3' x 6' sleeping mats.

Please continue to pick up and drop off supplies in the closet right next to the HeBrew Café.

Our 29th sleeping mat was delivered to Guidance Ministries in December. A pat on the back and sincere thanks to all who have worked at home creating the "plarn" (plastic yarn) each month.

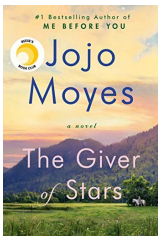
Anyone is invited to visit Mat Makers' next meeting on February 12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Come when you can, stay as long as you can, and see how much fun it can be to play with plastic strips and chat while we accomplish a worthwhile service for Elkhart County's homeless persons.

The Women's Ministry Board will not meet in February.

Hillcrest Women's Book Club

Thursday, February 27, 6:00 p.m.

Diane Lewandowski, Leader



The Giver of Stars

JoJo Moyes

Me Before You by JoJo Moyes was a Club favorite, so her new book about strong women who took on Depression issues to deliver books in rural Kentucky immediately attracted support for February's selection.

Based on a true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling, according to a Moyes' website. Funny, heartbreaking, enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic--a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.

For starters (again from the website), Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times

(continued in next column)

Women's Book Club, continued

breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

All readers are welcome to participate in the Hillcrest Book Club meetings. We talk and laugh, like and dislike the books....but we listen to all opinions! A fun hour on a Thursday evening in the Hillcrest welcome center (narthex).

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 .

Almost everyone — at least of the female persuasion — knows the romantic meaning of the phrase "hearts and flowers." Valentine's Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I'm hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn't come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring — always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best "hearts and flowers" I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine's Day and throughout eternity.

—Sandy Hyland

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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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: *February 21*

Looking Ahead:

Susanna's Kitchen

Monday, February 3, 10:30 a.m.

Trustees

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

Journey Through Grief

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.

Primetimers

No gathering until April

Ministry Council

Monday, February 17, 5:00 p.m.

Caregivers' Support Group

Thursday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.

Brentwood Service

Weekly on Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Women's Board meeting

No meeting in February

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