

Hello, Hillcrest Church!

This month's newsletter is different than normal. It's shorter, being sent electronically (for most of you) and some of the regular features have been excluded. However, there are still articles to read and news to pass along. So grab a cup of coffee (if you like the stuff), sit back, and take a few moments to connect to our church, which is still up and running, even if you're not here to see it.

# The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of  
Hillcrest United Methodist Church

April 2020



From Pastor Kerry

Dear Friends,

Grace and Peace be with you in the name of our ever-present healer, Jesus Christ. I pray that you are all safely at home, eating chili and cornbread (or chicken noodle soup), and finding ways of being connected from a distance.

The hymn "Come, Thou Almighty King" is a rousing hymn of praise that many of you probably know. If you do not, search it out on YouTube and listen to it. Verse three, I believe, is especially relevant to us today: "Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour."

God the comforter, through the Spirit of Jesus with us here on earth, helps us get through these unknown times. It is that comforting Spirit that allows us to call this hour "glad" even though there are tragedies occurring all over the place. We can be glad because, while the death toll is climbing, so to is the number of recovered. As the unemployment lines increase, so to are resources to support those who are unemployed. As the church attendance is non-existent in person, the number of people tuning in on-line, not just with Hillcrest, but across the world, has doubled attendance. My friends, people are connecting to the Way, the Truth, and the Life in ways that have not been seen in decades! Come, Thou Almighty King!

One of the things that we in the church have been struggling with is how can we help in this time of need. Up to this point I have only suggested that we pray, call one another, write letters and emails, and continue your tithing to the church. As the situation is becoming more clear, it is now evident that there is a food shortage (canned and boxed non perishable food), a household supply shortage (toilet paper, shampoo, dish soap, sanitizing wipes, laundry detergent, and paper towels), and medical supply shortages at the hospitals (eye protection [goggles and face shields], masks of any kind, gloves, bodysuits, sterile individually wrapped swabs and sanitizing products). We have directions in the church office if you would be willing to make protective masks for our medical personnel. [Please note that the directions are actually an online video. I will email you the link. J.L.] I will place a box in the narthex of the main entrance so you can drop any of these aforementioned supplies for distribution to Church Community Services (food), Grace UMC Paper Pantry (household goods), and Beacon Health (medical supplies).

I hope you all can appreciate the greatness that is within you as the Body of Christ; it is not the church building that is the "Church." It is you, in action. "Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power."

Thank you for being The Church!

# April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Stayed tuned!</b>            Even though the calendar looks bare, we'll be adding activities back in once restrictions have been removed. Until then, stay home and stay safe, but reach out to one another electronically or via phone.</p>			1 6:00 p Online Prayer Service	2	3	4
5 9:30 a Online Service 	6	7	8 6:00 p Online Prayer Service	9	10 	11
12 <b>Mission Sunday:</b> <i>Bashor Home</i> 9:30 a Online Service 	13	14	15 6:00 p Online Prayer Service	16	17 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	18
19 9:30 a Online Service	20	21	22 6:00 p Online Prayer Service	23	24	25
26 9:30 a Online Service	27	28	29 6:00 p Online Prayer Service	30		

*Please note that all dates listed in the newsletter are tentative due to the COVID-19 mandates. We will keep you updated should activities resume as normal.*

Serving in Worship						
Date	Communion	Greeters	HeBrew Café Workers	Media	Scripture Readers	Ushers
April 5						
April 12	---					
April 19	---	M. Herschberger Terri Longacre	Gloria Griffith Sherrie Putman Karen Quarandillo	Jasmine Devore	Kasey Clear	Linda and Chuck Vredingburgh
April 26	---	M. Herschberger Terri Longacre	Gloria Griffith Sherrie Putman Karen Quarandillo	Gerald Huntington	Mary Herschberger	Patty Moore Wayne Rowe

#### April Birthdays

- 1 Harry Sims
- 2 Cindy Moore
- 3 Chuck Vredingburgh
- 5 Vivian Freed
- 6 Maria Purciarele
- 11 Cathy Barnes
- 16 Ron Gouker
- 19 Mary Alice Plymale
- 21 Maria Clear

#### April Anniversaries

- 11 Corrie and Ken Bartell
- 12 Beryl and Allen Nord

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

#### Primetimers

Thursday, ??

Gather at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon  
\$2

Spring is springing, and Primetimers needs to be sprung!

I am doing the first Primetimers to get the year started. We'll have a potluck-style dinner so sign up and check to see what others are bringing.

If we want to keep this group going, everyone will have to pitch in and help. We need all of you to be there, if possible, so we can decide how we are to carry on. And please pray for our group because it would be a shame to see it fold. God does work in mysterious ways, and He is always working for us so let's pray and see what He wants for us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone! Happy Spring!

Hugs to all,  
Jane Hershberger



Thank you to all who have been so gracious regarding the guidelines we've had to put in place during this COVID-19 situation. We are committed to providing as safe and as healthy an environment as we can for those families we are servicing. They have expressed to us their appreciation.

Please pray for wisdom, health, and strength for us as we maneuver through this challenging time.  
—Lori Loucks, Director

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

### Scoutmaster Minute

by Ronn Foster

Wouldn't it be nice if we could trade this year in for another? Perhaps some sort of return counter. Let's face it, this year is not starting off to be the best. Or has it?

Yes, we are facing the Coronavirus pandemic. Yes, we are practicing "Social Distancing." Yes, some are afraid—very afraid. Yes, Scouting is facing new challenges. Yes, churches are changing. But remember, Max Lucado said, "No one can pray and worry at the same time."

If we turn to God during these times, what do we have to worry about? My favorite book in the Bible, Proverbs, provides this bit of wisdom: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

What if we do just that? Could there be a silver lining? Through social distancing, we have more time to ourselves rather than always rushing. (Did we need a break from the rat race?) Have we learned to appreciate our friends, jobs, and family a little more? (Did we need a lesson in what is important?) More and more churches are live-streaming now. (Did we need to improve the way we reach out to the unchurched?) Scouting now must find different ways to accomplish what we do. (Did we need to learn flexibility and embrace change?)

My point is to listen for God's voice. Though we may be struggling, He is with us.

## 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

Amid the worry and concern we are all going through, we are still stamping. Our group is small and I have left it up to each gal as to whether or not they feel comfortable about coming. We are doing our best to provide you with great new greeting cards for your summer events and celebrations. Please continue to pray for our small group and well as our entire country. God is good and we will get through this together.  
—Marilynn Anson

"The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but his goodness encourages us not to be afraid of him. To fear and not be afraid — that is the paradox of faith."  
—A.W. Tozer

### *Help Me Not Fear*

by MaryAnn Sundby

Father, dear Father, help me not fear,  
for you are my shield and great reward.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear,  
though briars and thorns are all around.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear.  
With you I stand firm. The battle is yours.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear.  
My heart is not troubled. I rest secure.

### The Mat Makers

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month

9:00-app.-11:00 a.m. in the HeBrew Café  
Martha Sims and Mary Herschberger, Co-Leaders

Our 31<sup>st</sup> sleeping mat was donated to Guidance Ministries in March, and our 32<sup>nd</sup> mat will be finished by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Thanks to each of you who have donated old belts for our use in this project. We now have enough belts on hand to roll up and strap our next few mats.

In our most recent batch of donations, there were quite a few strips cut from new bags. Though those were obviously easier to work with, we don't encourage using new bags as they were a costly expense for the store where they were obtained. It's also a part of our mission to keep several hundred used bags out of the landfill with each mat we make.

Due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, we will not hold a meeting in April. We look forward to getting together again in May.

In the meantime, our volunteers may continue to work at home on one or more parts of the process: trimming and flattening used plastic bags, cutting 2-1/2" strips, looping the strips together and loosely winding them into balls, or crocheting the strips into mats. Whenever Hillcrest is open, you may pick up and drop off supplies in the closet right next to the HeBrew Café. Per Family and Social Services COVID-19 guidelines, please do not walk farther than the church mailboxes into the childcare area.

Please call or email me if you have questions.

Martha Sims

(574) 264-9740 (home) or 596-4918 (mobile)  
simsville3537@comcast.net



### Hillcrest Women's Book Club

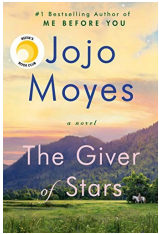
Thursday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.

Diane Lewandowski, Leader

*Because the group was unable to meet in February, this book selection was postponed for discussion until April.*

#### *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,

(continued in next column)

### *Women's Book Club, continued*

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 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).

### **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 March 3 with 14 ladies in attendance.

We have been collecting food for Church Community Services. This month we will be giving donations of money to Tracy Donati to help with the purchase of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt in April.

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 worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank.

—G.K. Chesterton

I always told the Lord, "I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me." And he always did. —Harriet Tubman

## Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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### STAFF

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Finance Chair:

*Charles Mwale*

Ministry Council Chair:

*Diane Lewandowski*

Staff Parish Chair:

*Patty Moore*

Trustee Co-Chairs:

*Gari Lewandowski, Harry Sims*

Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry:

*Lori Loucks, Director*

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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

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** *April 17*