

The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of
Hillcrest United Methodist Church

June 2020

From Pastor Kerry

Psalm 46 begins "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!" NIV

I thank God today for peace in the midst of turmoil. There are always reasons for turmoil, some coming from nature like earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and pandemics, while others are more personal in nature, oppression of the weakest, greed, violence; the list goes on. "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." And so we will not fear.

In the funeral liturgy for the celebration of life services in the United Methodist Church, the pastor generally prays this line at some point during the prayer: "Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When I think of no fear, this is what I think about - living as one prepared to die. This sets us free from the fear of death so that we may live fully into love of life. I know if we watch the news, there are plenty of things that can seem to call us to fear. I do not see the pandemic as something to fear anymore than any of the other things in life that can come upon us and end our days here on earth. And so it should be treated as such—with caution because that is what is reasonable.

The Trustees at Hillcrest, along with Ministry Council and staff, have come up with a plan for resuming in-person worship. You are welcome to come back. But we must be reasonable—no one should feel pressured to return. If you are feeling ill, stay home. If you feel uneasy about coming out, stay home. If you have underlying health conditions, feel free to stay home if you wish. We have been awarded a technology grant for over \$4,000 so our technology is getting an upgrade. This will hopefully raise the quality of our streaming as we continue to stream every service so you may continue to worship at home in your pajamas if you so choose. (If you do come to church, I would encourage you to wear day clothing.)

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Sadly, singing is a cause for significantly increased risk of spread, so there will be no congregational singing unless we have an outdoor service. If you would be interested in attending an outdoor service (weather permitting) please let me know so we could look at the logistics of such an endeavor.

Finally, a word on masks. I know there is a big nationwide controversy over them. I also know that all medical personnel wear them. The evidence does seem to lean towards the masks being beneficial in lowering the likelihood of spread. This is the reason we are requesting that people please wear a mask. But, because we know there may be situations where people just cannot, we are not making them mandatory. If you can wear one, though, for the good of those around you, please do.

I have been pleased as punch as I've been visiting you all. It has been refreshing to hear your voice and see your smile. It is a reminder to me that although we have not been meeting, God is still working. If I haven't been to you, and you are reading this after May 31, please alert the church office because it is likely that I do not have you on my list for some reason.

I believe God has great work for Hillcrest in the near future. Know that God is with us.

Pastor Kerry

Please note: there is no "Serving in Worship" chart for June because the Trustees will be taking care of the necessary responsibilities during our reopening period. (See *Hillcrest United Methodist reopening plans* on page 3)

A Surprising Solution

The only solution for being broken is ... brokenness. By brokenness, I mean the acknowledgment of it, the full and unflinching acceptance that we are bankrupt, poor in spirit and have nothing to offer. In our culture, that's a hard sell. ... Brokenness is not trending on Twitter. It's not written on anyone's résumé, and it's no business strategy at all. It is, however, the one hope Jesus holds out for us, the inside-out, upside-down way that is somehow the only path that ultimately is right side up. Embrace the paradox: brokenness is the way to wholeness. —Kyle Idleman, *The End of Me*

"Rest time is not waste time; it is economy to gather fresh strength. ... In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less." —Charles Spurgeon

"Come to me, all you that are weary ... and I will give you rest. ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." —Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)

Hillcrest United Methodist reopening plans for June 14, 2020, concerning COVID 19

1. While no one will be turned away if they are not wearing a mask, masks are highly recommended by all attendees. Masks are a sign of care for the people with whom one is sharing space. Masks should be worn upon entering the building. There will be signage at the entrance asking congregational members to not enter if they are symptomatic or if they have tested positive for COVID 19.
2. We will have additional masks at the door if needed by anyone.
3. The Trustees will be the ushers/greeters at the service.
4. All Trustees will be wearing masks.
5. Sanitizer will be made available at the entrance to the church and each person will be required to use the sanitizer.
6. Each person will be required to have their temperature taken. Anyone at or above 100.4 degrees will be asked to return home.
7. The service will be in the gym.
8. The Trustees will show up at the church at 8:45 a.m. and spray down the tops of all seats in the gym.
9. The doors to the gym will be open at all times. No touch
10. The doors to the main entrance will be open. No touch
11. One half of the gym (the south side) will be designated and clearly marked as masks required.
12. The Trustees will seat the congregation, similar to a wedding, and there will be social distancing of six feet or more between individuals/families.
13. The Trustees will utilize every other row in seating.
14. There will be no bulletins or hand-out materials.
15. There will be no meet or greet or physical passing the sign of peace.
16. There will be no Sunday coffee service.
17. There will be no collection of donations via pass around plates. There will be an offering container placed at the rear of the gym as the congregation exits.
18. After the service the Trustees will spray down the seats again in preparation for the El Refugio service.

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. It is not a United Way member agency and receives 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! Any loose change in the offering will also go to Faith Mission.

Thank you,
Missions Committee

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."
—J.M. Barrie



We're open! It's been an interesting first few days with the extra guidelines we're to follow, but we're doing our best. We're still asking that the general public ages 65 and over stay out of the building while the children are here, per guidelines given to us by the Family and Social Services Agency. Thank you again for your patience and cooperation as we strive to serve the families needing our help.

Please pray for wisdom, health, and strength for us as we continue to maneuver through this challenging time.

—Lori Loucks, Director

Scoutmaster Minute

by Ronn Foster

We are all different in many ways. That is what makes us who we are. Diversity is a wonderful thing. On the other hand, we are remarkably similar.

For example, we have all been given the power to communicate. Our words can build up another person, or they can be used to tear down. How we choose to say words, and in which order, can alter the meaning of our message.

How we choose to communicate, then, is up to us. We can choose to tear people down, or we can choose to build one another up. The Scout law is clear on this subject. In fact, how we treat others is mentioned in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth points of the Scout Law. " A Scout is . . . Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind."

We, as Christians, follow the same guidelines, do we not? Ephesians 4:29 tells us "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

When speaking with others we must ask ourselves this question: Is what I am about to say going to help another person, or will it bring harm? If our words are not going to build up, we may have to either choose different words, or say nothing at all.

June Birthdays

12 Brandi Foster
 13 Mary Herschberger
 14 Norm Salo
 15 Kay Kentgen
 Freeman Lambright
 19 Nelda Schalliol
 22 Ronn Foster
 25 Gerald Huntington
 Jackie Squires
 26 Lee Lehman
 29 Jim Hensley
 Karen Quarandillo

June Anniversaries

4 Linda and Chuck Vredingburgh
 12 Jami and Mike Franks
 16 Jane and Mike Hershberger
 28 Diane and Gari Lewandowski
 Lorraine and Bob Whitmer

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

HILLCREST WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry

I have been busy designing lots of new greeting cards, but we are still not meeting. I do not have the room to ensure we are safely distancing from each other, so I've not asked the group to come back. I have one lady that is coming because we can sit six feet apart, but that is all. Hopefully we can soon be back getting new cards ready for you.

We are still asking for prayers for our group. We value your prayers and support. Thank you.

—Marilynn Anson

"Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine."

—Lord Byron

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

Our 34th sleeping mat was donated to Guidance Ministries in May. Sincere thanks to all who have contributed!

If you have supplies that you have completed at home in the last few weeks (flattened and trimmed bags, 2-1/2" strips, or strips that have been looped together and rolled into balls), let me know if you want me to pick them up and pass them on to the next person working on the process. Also let me know if you need additional materials to work on.

I'm sorry that we can't be sure when we'll be able to meet again, but let's be grateful that we have a valuable project to keep us busy during this "down time," however long it may last.

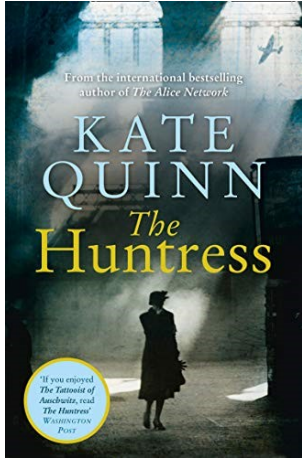
Stay safe and stay healthy, everyone.

Martha Sims

(574) 264-9740 (home) or 596-4918 (mobile)

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Hillcrest Women's Book Club
 Thursday, June 25, 6:00 p.m.
 Diane Lewandowski, Leader



The Huntress
 by Kate Quinn

In the aftermath of war, the hunter becomes the hunted...

In this heart-wrenching story, Kate Quinn illuminates the consequences of war on individual lives, and the price we pay to seek justice and truth.

When the Nazis attack the Soviet Union, Nina Markova risks everything to join the legendary Night Witches, an all-female night bomber regiment wreaking havoc on the invading Germans. Then stranded behind enemy lines, Nina becomes the prey of a lethal Nazi murderess known as the Huntress. Only Nina's bravery and cunning will keep her alive.

Transformed by the horrors he witnessed from Omaha Beach to the Nuremberg Trials, British war correspondent Ian Graham has become a Nazi hunter. Yet one target eludes him: a vicious predator known as the Huntress. To find her, he joins forces with the only witness to escape the Huntress alive: the brazen, cocksure Nina.

Growing up in post-war Boston, 17-year-old Jordan McBride is pleased when her long-widowed father unexpectedly comes home with a new fiancée. But there is something disconcerting about the soft-spoken German widow. Certain that danger is lurking, Jordan begins to delve into her new stepmother's past, finding secrets that may threaten all she holds dear.

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). (While that statement is usually true, in these times we are "talking" by email. Join us by checking out our email addresses with Diane.)

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

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

As you know, L.I.F.T. is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will let you know when we're able to meet again in person.

—Gloria Griffith

Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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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.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: *June 19*