



### From Pastor Kerry

Greetings to you all in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ, with whom we are joint heirs to the gifts of plenty found in the kingdom of God.

Many of the Apostle Paul's letters begin in a similar fashion. He took every opportunity to remind the people to whom they belonged and from where their hope was rooted. When we think of being an heir, we quickly move to inheritance. Have you ever thought about what inheritance we receive as being an heir of God? Probably many of us quickly move to forgiveness, and that is an important facet of the kingdom of God. There are others too: eternal sustenance, mercy, peace, joy, comfort, perfect justice, being worthy of existence ... I could go on.

We could think that we have to wait for an inheritance to be received until the one giving the inheritance dies. In the case of the kingdom of God, God lives forever. God gives our inheritance now, for today. God desires that we have these gifts in our life for living and for sharing. During this time of Covid, political unrest, and societal disease, our inheritance is sitting there, waiting for us to claim it. It is not found in a vote, in a test, in a mask, or even in freedom from law and order. It is found when in a complete and total trust that God truly intends for us to experience his kingdom here on earth with the blessings of heaven today. It is not found in a politician, or a law, or war. It is found in you and me, reflecting God's kingdom and the treasure that is there.

*Pastor Kerry*



**REMEMBER! FALL BACK!**  
Time changes Sunday, November 1!



November 22 will be Stewardship Sunday. Be watching the mail for your pledge card and important information about the life of the church.



We are in the midst of a four week sermon series - "Messy: Loving Others Isn't Easy."

October 25: The command to "love your neighbor as yourself" dates back to God's social justice laws given through Moses to the Israelites. As easy as it is to put our desires above everyone else's, we must love others in the same way we love ourselves.

November 1: Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to the question: who is my neighbor? Jesus' answer is still the same: love the one in front of you in whatever way you can.

November 8: Jesus' message to the rich young ruler was not necessarily about his money, but about his love for himself. Real love denies self for the sake of others, just like Jesus did for us to be saved.

November 15: The law can be summed up in the single command to "love your neighbor as yourself." The only way to be able to fulfill this command is to place our trust in Jesus Christ.

I hope you will tune in online or join us for this foundational doctrine of Christianity. —Pastor Kerry

The Trustees have decided it is time to return to the sanctuary. With the careful attention to physical distancing, sanitization, mask wearing, health screening, temperature taking, and no congregational singing that we are adhering to, they feel that we can safely worship in the sanctuary. If numbers should exceed the safe confines of the sanctuary, it will be reevaluated at that time. We at Hillcrest seek to do no harm, and we thank the congregation for their dedication to that cause.

November 1, All Saints Day, will be the first Sunday back in the sanctuary. We will be celebrating Holy Communion as well as the lives of those who have joined the Cloud of Witnesses since last November. We will also be blessed with the handbell choir playing during worship.

An eccentric blind man nicknamed Joybubbles reportedly loved Mr. Rogers so much he listened to 10 hours of the TV show daily until he'd heard them all. One night, when Joybubbles was in a kind of awake dream state, he said Mr. Rogers visited him and offered to teach him how to pray.

Joybubbles protested that he couldn't pray because he always forgot the words. To which Mr. Rogers said not to worry; the prayer he'd teach had only three words. "What kind of prayer has only three words?" Joybubbles asked.

"Thank you, God," Mr. Rogers replied.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Hillcrest Community Childcare Ministry is having a fundraiser. We are selling Texas Roadhouse gift cards which will be available in time for Christmas (delivered December 15)! You can purchase any denomination between \$5 and \$100. They are valid at any location and never expire. 10% of every card purchased will go to HCCM to buy gym equipment.

An exclusive offer is available for this fundraiser only: you'll received a \$5 off coupon for Texas Roadhouse for every \$25 gift card purchase.

When paying for your card(s), please pay with either cash or check. Checks should be made out to Hillcrest United Methodist Church (HUMC).

Due to Covid restrictions, we will help you with your order at the church's front door. Deadline is November 30.

Thank you for your continued support!



We are in awe of God's provisions for us! We've recently added a few more children, bringing our total to 90!

Again, we're 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 for your patience and cooperation with this matter.

Please continue to pray for wisdom, health, and strength for us.

—Lori Loucks, Director

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the Christian Post, "Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, 'If you cut off someone's nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.' If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener's nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child's head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love."

## November's Mission of the Month

### The Salvation Army

When you are faced with a crisis, the Salvation Army of Goshen and Elkhart County may be able to help. They administer several emergency assistance programs and will also direct low income and struggling residents to self-sufficiency type programs. Hundreds of people receive some form of support every year. Most of them never had to ask for help in the past and due to a crisis, job loss, or some other hardship, they are struggling for the first time. The Salvation Army will do its best to be there when you need it.

Several social services are administered, including financial aid, employment counseling, basic health care/medications, and more. The non-profit also supports towns and cities across the region, including Jefferson, Olive, Harrison, Elkhart, Goshen, Jackson, Clinton, Locke, Union, and Benton. Of course, resources are available for the low income and working poor in Goshen. Some examples of what may be provided is below; however, call them for information and referrals.

Prescription medication assistance and vouchers may be offered. The Salvation Army of Elkhart may provide cash assistance or vouchers that can be used to pay for needed prescription medications. This program is usually only offered in an emergency or life-threatening condition. While terms and funding vary, in general it can pay for one-time prescriptions of up to \$100. This is not for ongoing medications or care.

Food pantries and meals are another form of assistance. This is offered in an emergency situation and may help prevent hunger in Goshen. Qualified families can use the food pantry at most once every sixty (60) days. Special Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving meals may be offered as well during the proper seasons.

Heating and utility bill assistance is offered. Any applicants to this Salvation Army program need to have visited their local township Trustee first. They need to have proof of this and whether assistance was given or denied to them. In addition, the applicant for help paying utilities must live in the residence of a township that is within Elkhart County Salvation Army's service area.

Any financial assistance is very limited. The Salvation Army may be able to provide qualified clients with up to \$200 on one month's assistance for energy bills. Other conditions of the program include the applicant's utility must be in their legal name, the applicant must have received a notification of a disconnection of their account, and their service needs to already be shut off or they may need to have an upcoming disconnection notice. As indicated, any grants paid out will be one time only.

Other assistance may be available as resources allow, and this can include rent, housing, shelter, and more. Anyone from the county who is seeking assistance needs to bring with them proper identification as well as Social Security numbers for all members of the household.

The main goal of the non-profit is to provide short-term emergency assistance for some of the needs above. This will usually be offered with case management and job training. They will not continuously give help to the same people as the Salvation Army is not a government subsidy program.



## Scoutmaster Minute

by Ronn Foster

One of the things we all face everyday is outside interference, especially now that we have so many forms of communication. A recent Scoutmaster Minute I gave to the troop addressed this. I find it fitting for this newsletter article as well.

From the time we wake, until the time we retire for the day, we are bombarded with the opinions of others who are trying to persuade us to like them, join them, vote for them, hate their enemies, support their cause, buy their product(s), etc. The list goes on and on. They are trying to fill our hearts with their beliefs. It can be overwhelming. Need proof? How many "stories," "wives' tales," "expert opinions," and such have been found to be based on inaccurate information, or outright lies?

As always, the Bible gives us direction on this. Proverbs chapter 6 goes into detail, but verse 19 tells the story. There are six things God hates. The last ones include "A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Wow! If God hates this, why would we ever choose to be part of it?

Here is the answer when facing outside interference. Follow your heart. It sounds overly simplistic, but we, as Scouts, have spent our entire Scouting careers learning about the Scout Oath and Law. We see examples every day about how to live out these guiding principles. We must ask ourselves continuously then, does this make sense or does it violate the principles I have chosen to follow? We as Christians, followers, of Christ our Savior, are no different. We, too, have a set of principles we follow.

Perhaps if we look at our teachings, whether it is the Scout Oath/Law, or the Bible, we will find the outside interferences have been muted. Maybe our eyes will be opened, and the lies exposed.

## Greet God!

A Facebook acquaintance who's in the ministry shared an interesting bit of culture from his time in Germany. By way of greeting, instead of "Guten Morgen" or "Hallo," locals often said "Grüße Gott" — literally, "Greet God." My friend took it to be a vestige of old, much as the English "goodbye" emerged from "God be with ye."

Though most people probably say "Grüße Gott" without much thought, my friend pondered: How might our encounters change if we heard in our greetings an invitation to "greet God" in the other person and in our shared interactions? What if we truly believed God was present in others and in the space between us? Jesus said when we welcome another, we welcome him. If Jesus came physically to our door, how would we welcome him? Can we treat the person before us that very way?

—Heidi Mann

## HILLCREST WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry

Looks like our group will not be meeting during the last couple of months of 2020. Hopefully things will improve for us to again get together and stamp starting in January, weather permitting. I will be putting out Christmas cards in our rack for you to view. You can call me if you want more of any of the designs.

Thank you for your prayers and support during this time. Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season.  
—Marilynn Anson

### 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

Hillcrest's Mat Makers donated sleeping mats #42 and #43 to Guidance Ministries in October.

Here are some requests for all of you who are working on this project at home:

-Please cut the flattened bags into 2-1/2" circular strips. They can be just slightly narrower if the plastic is very thick. We received some 1" strips last month which we were able to use by pairing them with 1-1/2" strips, but that took a lot of extra work.

-Please work loosely if you're looping strips and winding balls. If you pull the strips really tight, you make them too narrow, and the crocheted mat is less "cushiony."

If you're working at home and not getting out, I'll be glad to bring you supplies or pick up what you've finished (flattened bags, strips, or balls). Just call or email me. (I promise to keep my distance and wear a mask.)

Thanks to everyone for all your help. If you've ever seen the smile on the face of a grateful recipient, you know your contribution is appreciated.

God bless all of you.

Martha Sims

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"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for."  
—Epicurus

**Hillcrest Women's Book Club**

4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Diane Lewandowski, Leader

We are taking a break for the holidays, but we'll "see" you in a few months!

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

1st Tuesday of each month – 9:00 a.m.

Perkins Restaurant (107 N. Pointe Blvd., Elkhart)

Since COVID-19 doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon, we will not be having breakfasts at Perkins until at least Spring. At that time we will reassess the situation. —Gloria Griffith

**Lifestyles Class**

November means "Thanksgiving" and we rejoice in the blessings God has given us. Although this has been a challenging year, God still continues to hear our prayers and encourage us through His Holy Spirit. Let's all continue to give thanks for Hillcrest, our church family, and our church staff in guiding us through this unprecedented year.

In case you didn't receive my e-mail, I made a decision not to move forward with in-person meeting for our Lifestyles class. Since there were just a couple people who wanted to participate in the Zoom meetings, and due to the uptick in Covid cases, it is probably best to postpone our Lifestyles class until next Spring. Everyone misses the fellowship and worship of our class; however, we must do what's safest for all.

It is more important than ever for all of us to communicate with each other during the upcoming winter months. Being more difficult for many to get out in the wintry weather, isolation and loneliness will be more prevalent. We must trust in our most loving and caring God and keep the faith! Let others know you're thinking of them by a note, text, or phone call. Let's show God's love by passing it on to others!

Please continue to pray for a successful vaccine for Covid that can be distributed expediently. If we continue to trust in God for His guidance and wisdom, we can look forward to meeting again in Spring 2021! Continue to count your blessings and remember: If you're worrying, you're not praying; if you're praying, you're not worrying!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings to all,  
Patty Moore

## Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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Trustee Chair:

*Ryan Wireman*

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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. - 4:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: *November 20***

### *Looking Ahead:*

#### **Trustees**

Monday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Ministry Council**

Monday, November 16, 5:00 p.m.

#### **Stewardship Sunday**

Sunday, November 22

#### **Brentwood Service**

Weekly on Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

### **November Birthdays**

4 Helen Hemund

6 Kelsey Clear

9 Jan Sharkey

18 Andrea Franks

22 Bernice Simms

23 Gloria Griffith

24 Abby Clear

25 Kasey Clear

26 Karen Devore

Linda Vredingburgh

30 Mike Shafer

### **November Anniversaries**

13 Beth and Ron Laughman

17 Tracy and Rick Donati

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