



The Spire

A Publication of Hillcrest United Methodist Church
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February 2019



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**Sunday,
February 3, 2019**

10:45a

Fellowship Hall

*Led by District Superintendent
Dan Johnson*

*Come celebrate the
amazing year Hillcrest
UMC had in 2018!
Bring your favorite salad,
side dish or dessert
to share. Main dish
provided.*



People are the Church

Prayer Requests

The following persons have been raised in prayer during the month of January

Joanne A. (endometrial cancer); Marie Burton; Becky & Nathan Cahn; Elinor Colebank; Glen Ellingson; Barb Ermisch; Linda Fleming; Janet & Lyle Gesche; Glenyce Harrington; Lone Johnson; Ronald Johnson (lone's son, bypass surgery); Stacy Johnson (Ron's daughter); Dawn Kreutz; Melissa Kuyper & Kids; Maxine Mehlhoff; Ronin Millette; Edith Ottinger (David's mom in Tennessee); Marilyn Sadloske (following passing of dear friend Alice); Barb Van Winkle; Jim Van Winkle; Jim Whiting; Carole (breast cancer); Keith (brother of Judy Krei);

Those We Have Lost

Alice Purdham, wife of the late Pastor James Purdham who served Hillcrest in the 1980s.

Address Update

Barb Van Winkle

2301 Village Lane #225
Bloomington, MN 55431

It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!

- Call: Elinor Colebank (952) 977-9114
- (OR) Email Lynne Scherer: imscherer@iphouse.com
- (OR) Call the church office (952) 881-8601
- (OR) Fill out a Prayer Request Card on Sunday



From the Pastor's Desk

Life is Change – Growth is Optional

Jesus came to change the world. Throughout history, the influence Jesus has on the lives of people has never been surpassed. No other great leader has inspired so many positive changes in the lives of their followers. People who

encounter the risen Christ are totally transformed and their outlook on life is altered forever.

Christ changes individuals and nations by giving us the firm hope that through his death, resurrection, and ascension, we are offered the promise of eternal life. We are also claimed and called to spread this good news of salvation throughout the communities where we live, work, and play.

We at Hillcrest are also changing and transforming our spaces in God's church building. We are decluttering areas, updating, and repurposing areas so that our guests will be offered a more clear vision of the risen Christ. We are offering a clearer pathway to experience Christ through light, music, art, and spaces to gather. It is in these spaces that we pray more people will be introduced to Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior.

Jesus is the Son of God, sent on a mission to transform the world through changing individual lives. I encourage you to invite family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, or people you meet throughout your day to come and check us out. Life is change, growth is optional; let's live into our call to grow the kingdom.

-Pastor Jill Meents

Committee Meetings & Small Groups

Membership, Evangelism, Missions & Outreach

Tuesday, February 12th, 10:00a in the Library

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, February 12th, 6:00p in the Library

Trustees Committee

Tuesday, February 12th, 7:00p in the Gathering Room

Church Council

Tuesday, February 12th, 8:00p in the Gathering Room

United Methodist Women Circle Day

Tuesday, February 19th, 11:00a in the Fireside Room

Finance Team

Tuesday, February 19th, 7:00p in the Gathering Room

United Methodist Women Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 26th, 9:45a in the Fireside Room

Educational Opportunities

Religions of the world

Want to know more about them? Join us at 10:45a for a brief 45 minutes after the worship service, starting on February 10th, in the library. We will explore the beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and our own Christianity through short video presentations by leaders of these religions, followed by brief discussions. Plan now to bring your coffee to the library after the services for six Sundays, starting the second Sunday in February, to increase your understanding of today's more diverse world.

Pastor Jerry Jensen

Mission News

On behalf of the MEMO committee, please give yourselves a warm and cozy pat on the back for the wonderful donations to the "Feel the Warmth" November and December Collection of hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. The generous contributions were shared between Hillcrest Community School and Valley View Elementary. In total we collected: 23 pairs of mittens/gloves, 2 pair of socks, 3 scarves, and 89 hats—a total of **117 items!**

From Valley View Elementary: "The building secretary, Heather S. was in awe with our outpouring of kindness. She took time to look at the bag of goodies and then mentioned the school has a "clothes closet" and these would be a very welcome addition for the pre-school-5th graders who are students at the school...staff accesses that resource when students are in need. It was also mentioned that Hillcrest United Methodist is also one of the sponsors for the "Sheridan Story" at VVE and that is why we selected them to receive this donation. We were thanked several times for our generosity." From Hillcrest Community School: "Thank you! Thank you! We were just starting to run very low on these items! The children will be grateful to keep warm as the weather turns colder!"

Gratefully, The MEMO Committee

February Mission Opportunity

For the month of February 2019, the MEMO Committee has selected our partner school, Hillcrest Community School as our financial recipient. (There will not be any other type of collection during this month.) During the month of February we will learn more about Hillcrest Community School. We are hoping that Principal Calvin Keasling will be able to visit us. We want you to know, our February MEMO financial contribution will be given to the school to be used to help them support the Arts, such as a special presentation such as the Climb Theatre. Feel free to use the special offering envelope or simply write on the memo line: Hillcrest Community School.

Looking Ahead

March 2019---we will be collecting a financial contribution to support MN Adult & Teen Challenge. Enjoy and invite your friends and neighbors to a concert by its choir on March 10, 2019 during the worship service. (For the month of March...financial collection only.)

April 2019----financial collection will support the Koronis Tabernacle. Full information on Koronis Tabernacle will be in the March 2019 Edition of the SPIRE. For more information now, visit www.minnesotaumc.org and search "Koronis Tabernacle" or watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/260791177> featuring Matt & Julie Sipe! This will also be our Easter offering.

April 2019---begin to collect books, etc. for "Book'Em" to support the Bloomington Crime Prevention. Watch for more information to come. (We thank Hillcrest member Judi Demaray for her countless hours and dedication to this project.)

Financial News

2019 Electronic Giving

On January 1, 2019, Hillcrest UMC set into motion their new electronic contribution system. Once you register into the system, you can set up automatic payments to go right to Hillcrest UMC. There are several people who have already

implemented the process for their 2019 giving. If you have any interest in giving electronically, see Kay Young with any questions or to get a copy of the set-up instructions.

2019 Flower Chart

Thank you to everyone who has started filling up our 2019 Flower Chart! However, there are still opportunities in March and April to sign up for 2019 Flowers! Please note that as of February 3, 2019, flowers are now \$30.00 per bouquet.

One Time Giving Gift

During the year of 2019, Hillcrest UMC is encouraging everyone to consider giving a **One Time Gift**, in addition to your 2019 pledge. Do you have a significant birthday or anniversary coming up? Consider donating the same amount as the event (i.e., turning 80? Give an \$80 One Time Gift!). Have you had a significant event happen in your family, such as the birth of a grandchild? Consider a One Time Gift to the Hillcrest Children's Ministry in their honor. The possibilities are endless! How can YOU give Hillcrest UMC the little boost it needs?

Articles

Book Club—"Never Caught" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Monday, February 11, 2019 at 1:00p in the Library

A startling and eye-opening look into America's First Family, *Never Caught* is the powerful story about a daring woman of "extraordinary grit" (The Philadelphia Inquirer).

When George Washington was elected president, he reluctantly left behind his beloved Mount Vernon to serve in Philadelphia, the temporary seat of the nation's capital. In setting up his household he brought along nine slaves, including Ona Judge. As the President grew accustomed to Northern ways, there was one change he couldn't abide: Pennsylvania law required enslaved people be set free after six months of residency in the state. Rather than comply, Washington decided to circumvent the law. Every six months he sent the slaves

back down south just as the clock was about to expire. Though Ona Judge lived a life of relative comfort, she was denied freedom. So, when the opportunity presented itself one clear and pleasant spring day in Philadelphia, Judge left everything she knew to escape to New England. At just twenty-two-years-old, Ona became the subject of an intense manhunt led by George Washington, who used his political and personal contacts to recapture his property.

<https://www.simonandschuster.com>

M&M Event

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 12:00p Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$10.00 per person

Menu: pizza, salad, valentines cookies and strawberry ice cream.

Program: David Jones will present a program on Abraham Lincoln.

Last day to sign-up, Sunday, February 10, 2019. Be sure to invite a friend!

Looking Forward: Tuesday, March 12th – the Edina Singing Seniors will be here singing yesteryear's hits!

Children & Youth News

Welcome Back to Bonnie Beyer, who will be running the Sunday School program from February-June 2019! Bonnie has lots in store for the coming months! The Lesson Themes for February are: Love, Friendship, Respect and Manners. Two fun projects for the week include "HILLCREST IS SUPER" and a "HEART TREE". On February 3rd, our kids will be sharing what makes HILLCREST SUPER! There will be a goalpost in the Fellowship Hall, along with paper footballs, for everyone to have the chance to share what makes HILLCREST SUPER! On February 10th, keep an eye out for our HEART TREE. We are asking the congregation to take a heart off the tree and pray for the name written on it during the month of February. It may be a child, or it may be someone closely connected with the Children's Ministry.

Despite welcoming Bonnie back as our Sunday School Teacher, we are still on the search to hire someone to run the Children's Ministry Program, with Bonnie and Kaite supporting that person. Do YOU know someone interested in making a little extra money, while making AWESOME memories with some

AWESOME kids? Please share our job description with them by taking a copy from the Literature Rack in the coat room or having them call the church office at 952-881-8601.

We love visitors! Everyone is welcome! If you know that you will be bringing children that don't usually attend Hillcrest Sunday School, please be sure to send Bonnie a quick note (bonnie@hillcrestchildcare.com)! She wants to be ready to meet and greet your special little people! Similarly, if you know that your grand/child will not be attending, please let Bonnie know for planning purposes—work phone: (952) 881-5330.

The Hillcrest Children's Ministry is always looking for ways to include our adults! There will be many opportunities to volunteer for Sunday School, or a special activity. Be sure to check here for volunteering needs! However—if you have a special gift you want to share with the children, be sure to let Bonnie know! She would LOVE to include your activity in her lesson planning!

Hillcrest Child Care Center

"Love, Love, Love that's what it is all about. 'Caus God loves us we love each other. Mother, father, sister, brother. Everybody sing and shout 'caus that's what it's all about! It's about love, love, love!" With Valentine's Day in February, this little tune written by Herbert Brokering always come to mind. I think it really has a great message about how love begins with God loving us.

Although February is the shortest month of the year, in many ways it seems very long. [I believe that may have to do more with Minnesota winters than anything else.] Valentine's Day always helps to add excitement to the month. The kids really enjoy sharing valentines with each other—it is fun to celebrate their friendship. We don't let the celebrating stop on the 14th. The following week, February 18th-22nd, it will be Spring Fever Week. We will do fun activities all week, and be inviting the parents to join us for a special performer and pizza luncheon on Wednesday the 20th. Hopefully, we will have some warm sunny days in the month too. The children like to get outside and play. As much as I (Bonnie) could live without snow (and winter overall) the kids love it. So I hope we have a bit more snow so they can enjoy all

the winter activities.

We are happy to report that our programs are full! Our next opening will be in July in our infant program. We appreciate any and all referrals!

Have a Fabulous February!

Bonnie Beyer, Child Care Director

PH: 952-881-5330 E-mail: bonnie@hillcrestchildcare.com

Planning Ahead

Annual Plant Sale

The Annual Plant Sale has been set for Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th, 2019. A full order form will be available in the *March or April SPIRE*. Questions can be directed to Kay Young or Darcie Murdock.

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How We Share Our Gifts

You will find our members out in the community serving meals at Loaves and Fishes...

There will be knitters working on prayer shawls or preemie hats while volunteering in the church office...

Others will be making blankets for a battered women's shelter. We will be found making sandwiches for homeless shelters in the church kitchen, making t-shirts into diapers...or simply caring for our neighbors in countless little ways.

People need care... we try to provide that care in the name of Jesus.

Share your gifts—Join us!

MISSION STATEMENT

*“Living the Ultimate Challenge —
To Make a Difference in God's World”*

Every Sunday:

Worship, 9:30a Fellowship, 10:30a
Communion First Sunday of Every Month

Hillcrest UMC Staff:

Pastor Jill Meents Certified Lay Minister Jerry Jensen
Communications Coordinator: Kaite Knack
Director of Music: Nancy Miller
Organist/Pianist: Loryce Sivertson
Child Care Center Director: Bonnie Beyer
Child Care Staff: Jasmine Tapia Garcia, Bishara Haji, Samira Hashi, Pam LaMotte, Christine Merchant, Savannah Reineccius, Jessica Ronnei, Jennifer Contreras Sanchez, Becky Seaman, Jean Scott, Carla Sorensen and Kristin Zumberge

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00a-3:00p & Friday, 9:00a-12:00p

Church Office: 952-881-8601

Child Care Center Hours:

Monday—Friday, 6:30a-6:00p

Child Care Center: 952-881-5330