

The Spire

A Publication of Hillcrest United Methodist Church
9100 Russell Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431
952-881-8601 occ@hillcrestmethodist.org
www.hillcrestmethodist.org
www.facebook.com/hillcrestmethodistchurch

August 2019



Vacation Bible School

August 5th—August 9th

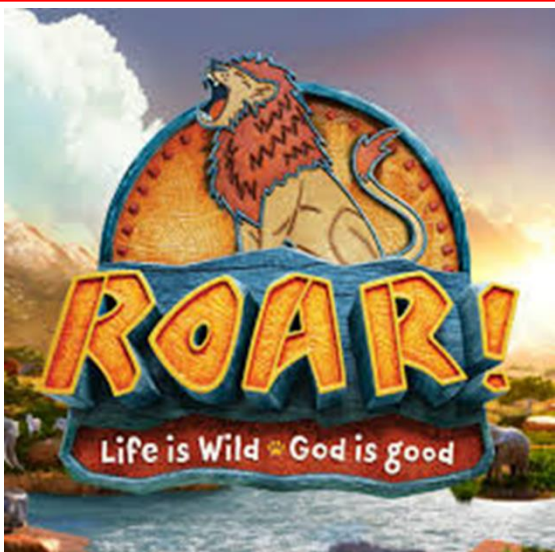
5:00p Family Dinner

5:30p-7:30p Programming

Ages 3 years—11 years old

Sign up online at

<https://vbspro.events/p/hillcrest2019>



What We Did This Summer....

Share Your Summer Memories!

Your Worship Work Team is looking for fun, candid pictures of your summer 2019 adventures! These pictures will be used during worship in early September. Please send all digital pictures to occ@hillcrestmethodist.org. If you have non-digital pictures to share, please bring them to the church office where they will be scanned and returned. All pictures due to the office no later than August 21st.

People are the Church

Prayer Requests

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

Arlene **Axelson**; Becky & Nathan **Cahn**; Bruce **Colebank**, gall bladder surgery with complications following; **Jim Easton**, Steve & Nancy Berres' daughter-in-law Emily's dad, passed away from cancer of the spine; Barb **Ermisch**; Linda **Fleming**; Kim **Fuhrman**; Dale **Grant**, brother of Marlin Grant, lung cancer in both lungs; Gary **Grant**, brother of Marlin Grant, Agent Orange Parkinson's; Betty **Gunderson**, following the passing of her brother George Woldridge; Don **Harrington**, recent pace maker surgery; Claudia **Hicks**, chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer; Melissa **Jungers** and kids; Dawn **Kreutz**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Mary Jo **Micelli**, friend of Linda Fleming, battling cancer; Ronin **Millette**; Ellen **Morrison**, recent bout with pneumonia; Dale **Phelps**; Ralph **Steward**, Wilma Steward's nephew, battling stage 4 Melanoma cancer and had recent surgery; Jim & Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**, great-grandson of Carol Herdt, recent Lupus diagnosis; Louis **Waters**; Jim **Whiting**

It's Easy to Submit a Request fo

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



Directory Update

Engel, Myron

Havenwood Apartments

245 76th Street W

Apt 324

Richfield, MN 55423

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Welcome to our church family Lee & Lucy Thorn, and Bud Burt!
They have recently transferred their membership to Hillcrest UMC!

Thank you for the birthday cards! ~Marjorie Nelson



Thank you for your commitment to Koronis Ministries. Your recent gift of \$1,000.00 is truly appreciated and will help continue the vision and build a new Tabernacle at Koronis. For 93 years, the Tabernacle has been a place where countless persons have seen Christ and experienced the power of Christian community in profound ways. The vision for the Tabernacle has not changed and our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has never been greater. Again, thank you for helping Koronis grow. I'm proud to call you a friend of Koronis.

Blessings, Keith Shew, Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries, Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

How do we help people have a personal experience with the Living God?

This is the question the pastors, including Jerry and me, wrestled with during our most recent pastors' training for our Healthy Church Initiative Program (HCI). Many of us have experienced "God moments". These are the times in our lives when we feel a living encounter between ourselves and the heart of God. These moments might come as a:

- New learning: New, life changing, and prompting information from scripture
- New insight: New, recognition that has to do with faith, God or Jesus – sometimes happens in the midst of grappling with a decision, crisis, or a challenge
- New heart belief: New awareness of a belief at an emotional level that changes our choices or behaviors
- New spiritual nudge: A brief moment when we experience an awareness of God's tangible presence and call to action

These are the God created encounters that need to be additionally fueled in order to continue moving us along our path of spiritual maturity. We were reminded that God is ceaselessly looking for opportunities to enter and connect our spirit with the miraculous and transforming activity of the Holy Spirit.

We shared our personal "God moments" with each other, stories of where and how we felt God's presence moving us forward on our journeys of spiritual growth. We all agreed that as leaders of our respective churches it is our responsibility to help our people recognize, share, and continue moving along the path of spiritual maturity. One of the primary ways we can help our congregations along the path of spiritual growth is during our worship services.

Next we evaluated our own worship services, church activities, committee meetings and other occasions to see if we are creating a culture to share, acknowledge, and celebrate these "God moments". Although we are all providing and cultivating "some space" we also have room for improvement. We contemplated the question, "Is God glorified by mediocrity?" We resoundingly decided NO, and made a commitment to "open up more space" for the Spirit to help people have a personal experience with the Living God. Stay tuned on how we "open up more space" here at Hillcrest. -Pastor Jill Meents

Healthy Church Initiative

Breakthrough Prayer Answered at Hillcrest!

“Countdown to Cool-Down”

Every summer, from mid-June until early September, Hillcrest UMC holds their worship in the Fellowship Hall. Where our sanctuary does not have air conditioning, the Fellowship Hall does and enables us to worship comfortably. While we are comfortable, this is not the ideal place to worship and we look forward to returning to the sanctuary to worship.

This summer, we have had the privilege to receive \$40,000 from an estate – which went directly to our Air Conditioner fund! With this money, your Trustee Committee went forward with bidding out and choosing air conditioners for our Sanctuary!

As nothing can be without a few bumps, during this process we discovered that to support the 4 (four) units being installed in the sanctuary, we would have to update some electricity panels. An additional \$13,000 was added to our total bill.

Because God answers our prayers, soon after learning of these added expenses, we received an unexpected undesignated memorial check for \$5,000! Pastor Jill spoke with the family, who readily agreed that this money could be used for our air conditioning (the family member clearly remembers being married in the Hillcrest UMC Sanctuary at the end of August years ago- and how hot it was - she was more than delighted to help in that regard!).

With an estimated total bill of \$53,000 to purchase and install the air conditioning system in the sanctuary, God has blessed us with persons who have covered \$45,000 (that’s almost **85%** of the total bill!) right off the bat!

With our air conditioners installed, and electrical updates taking place, we are asking our congregation to help cover the remaining \$8,000 of the total bill. There are offering envelopes available called “Countdown to Cooldown”. Use these to help us finish raising that final 15%!

Any questions can be directed to Mike Engel, Chair of Trustee Committee.

Breakthrough Prayer Challenge

During the month of August, we are asking the friends and families of Hillcrest Church to pray our Hillcrest Breakthrough Prayer “with intention”. Your challenge is as follows:

- * EVERY DAY in August, at 9:10a or 9:10p, pray the Breakthrough prayer aloud or in your head.
- * Spend a couple moments in quiet reflection, allowing God to work in you and through you
- Using the provided insert, jot down any thoughts, ideas or reflections that come to you during this time.
- At the end of August, should you feel compelled to, you are welcome to share your reflections with the Hillcrest Healthy Church Initiative Vision Team.

By praying our Breakthrough Prayer with intention every day, we are increasing our chances to hear what God has planned for Hillcrest UMC. Thank you to everyone for your participation in this new prayer ministry! Your HCI Vision Team is excited for the new adventures we have in store!

Committee Meetings & Small Groups

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

6:00p in the Library

Membership, Evangelism, Missions & Outreach

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

10:00a in the Library

Trustees Committee

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

7:00p in the Gathering Room

Church Council

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

8:00p in the Gathering Room

Worship Work Team Committee

Worship Work Team will meet next on Thursday, September 12th.

United Methodist Women Executive Committee Meeting

UMW Executive Board will start meeting again in September.

Finance Team

Will *NOT* meet in August. See Lyman Demaray or Kay Young with any questions.

Mission News

A Special **THANK YOU** to everyone who gave to the School Supply drive during the month of June! As of the printing of this newsletter, you have provided \$200.00 to purchase new supplies for Bloomington School District Students. With the addition of the supplies that were donated, Hillcrest Church has shown amazing support for the students of Bloomington.

On Tuesday, August 20th, from 4:00p-7:00p, all Bloomington Residents are invited to the "Jumpstart 2 School" event at St. Bonaventure Activity Center. Food, Games, Sports Physicals, and School Supplies will be available to all persons who bring proof of Bloomington

Residency.

Volunteers Needed for this event! There are many different areas, for persons of all ability levels, that are in need of volunteers to make The “Jumpstart 2 School” Event a success! There is a sign-up sheet (with times and descriptions) on the bulletin board near the bathrooms.

August Mission Moment

During the month of August, we will be collecting money to support Gordon and Ardell Graner. The Graner’s are missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. They have served in Bolivia for 23 years and are presently serving in the Dominican Republic with the Dominican Evangelical Church. They are currently working with community members to write an anti-violence Faith Curriculum to address the raising violence in society and in homes in the Dominican Republic. More information about their mission and ministries can be found on their website: www.granerfamily.org. Hillcrest Church is on their visitation schedule for the summer of 2020. More details will be provided as they are confirmed. Please help Hillcrest Church reach their goal of \$1,000.00 to support Gordon and Ardell’s very important work.

Hillcrest Child Care

August is a bittersweet month for us in the childcare center. It is during this month that we say goodbye to our friends advancing to kindergarten. Although we are excited for them to continue on their educational adventure, we will miss them. We are confident they will do well at their new schools.

We have really been enjoying our summer. The warm weather has provided us with opportunities to be outside having fun. The children have enjoyed popsicles, playing in the water, riding bikes, and other fun outdoor activities. We are hoping August continues to present many more days of outside fun and learning.

Our programs are currently full. We will have some infant openings in the fall. If you know of anyone looking for infant care, please let them know about us.

Bonnie Beyer, Director

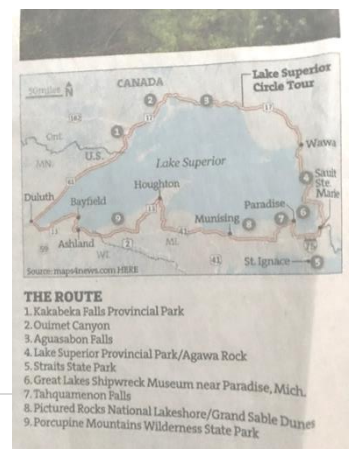
Looking Ahead

Methodist & Mature (M&M) Senior Activity

Tuesday, September 10, 2019—12:00p in the Fellowship Hall

Welcome back to M & M’s! Kelly Smith from the Star Tribune will share her 1,300 round mile trip around Lake Superior - the world’s largest fresh water lake. Lunch will be wild rice soup with chicken, home grown tomatoes, apple crisp and ice cream. Invite friends to join us.

Look forward to 8 new programs and lunches in 2019 and 2020.



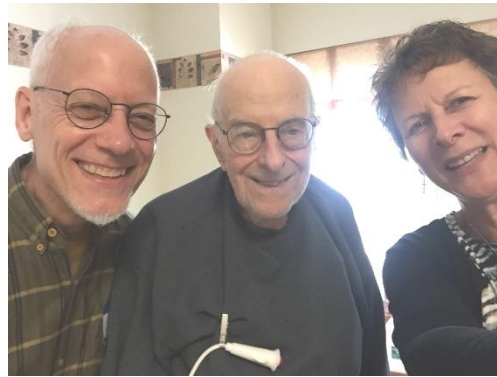
Book Club

Book Club will *NOT* meet in August. The next Book Club meeting will be in September with the book "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi, on Thursday at 10:30a in the Fellowship Hall, will start a new session in September. Final details are being worked out and will be advertised as they become known. If you have any questions about Tai Chi at Hillcrest Church, see Kay Young.

Our Church in Pictures...



Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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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: Nathalie Morales Altamirano, Kelsey Cornell, Jasmine Tapia Garcia, Maribi Sanchez Omana, Jessica Ronnei, Jennifer Contreras Sanchez, Jean Scott, Rosie Sola, Carla Sorensen, Monsy Valdepena, Lady Vasquez, Carla Zenk 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