

The Spire



A Publication of

October 2020

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What Should the Christian Citizen Do?

The New Testament does not speak about active political participation, for the very good reason that this was not an option for first-century believers. The Roman Empire was not a democracy, and many if not most Christians were not Roman citizens. They were a small minority from the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum and were viewed as eccentric deviants from the older eccentricity of Judaism. They had no political influence, nor any prospect of gaining any. So the only politically significant things they could do were pay their taxes (Matt. 17:24-27; 22:15-21; Rom 13:6-7) pray for their rulers (1 Tim. 2:1-4) and keep the peace (Rom. 12:17; 1 Thess. 5:13-15).

Present-day representative democracy, however, opens the door to a wider range of political possibilities and thereby requires of us more in the way of responsible commitment than circumstances required in New Testament times.



All should keep informed; otherwise we cannot judge well about issues, vote well for candidates, or pray well for leaders. Political ignorance is never a Christian virtue.

All should pray for those in power. The secret efficacy of prayer, as Scripture reveals it, is enormous.

All should vote in elections and referendums, whenever expressions of public opinion are called for (Matt. 5:13-16)



Some should seek political influence by debating, writing, and working within the political party with which they are in nearest agreement.

Some should accept a political vocation. Who should do this? Those in whom interest, ability and opportunity coincide, and on whom no rival career has a stronger claim; those with a vision for improving man's lot globally, advancing international peace, replacing unprincipled discrimination with justice, and furthering public decency; those, finally who are prepared to work hard with patience, humility, tolerance, and integrity, fleeing fanaticism, riding rebuffs, and putting the public interest before their own.

The Bible histories mentioned earlier show that God wants some of his servants as professional politicians, leading and shaping society well, and the discovery that one is fitted for the role is a *prima facie* summons from God to go ahead and embrace it.

Taken from the April 19, 1985 issue of Christianity Today

People Are the Church

The Following Persons were lifted in prayer during the month of September:

Barb **Berns**; Barb **Ermisch**; Linda **Fleming**; Dale **Grant** (Marlin's brother, lung cancer); Gary **Grant** (Marlin's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's); Claudia **Hicks**; Lucy **Huppert** (Achilles' Tendon surgery); Rudy **Koshir**; Dawn **Kreutz**; Harlan **Mellem**; Ronin **Millette**; Ken **Olson** (TTR Cardiac Amyloidosis); Steve **Scherer**; Sherri **Slobodnik** (knee replacement surgery); Ralph **Steward** (Wilma Steward's nephew, stage 4 Melanoma Cancer, had Covid-19); Barb **Van Winkle**; Adrian **Washington**; Mark **Waters** (son of Barb Waters, Colon Cancer); Jim **Whiting** (Parkinson's); **Alex** (grandson of Hillcrest connection, heart issues); Becky Cahn's **Mom** (emergency surgery to fix a bleeding ulcer)

Changes to Directory:

Call the Church Office (952-881-8601)

To update the following entries:

Berres, Steve & Nancy

Klopp-Miller, Liesl

Krueger, Rev. Delton

Mellem, Harlan

Murdock, Darcie

It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!

Call: Elinor Colebank (952) 977-9114

(OR) Email Lynne Scherer: lschere@iphouse.com

(OR) Call the church office (952) 881-8601



THANK YOU'S

A huge thank you to all our Hillcrest friends for all the best wishes and cards we received for our 50th anniversary. Since we were unable to have a large celebration due to Covid, all these good wishes were really appreciated by us. Thank you again.

Jim & Darlyne Hins

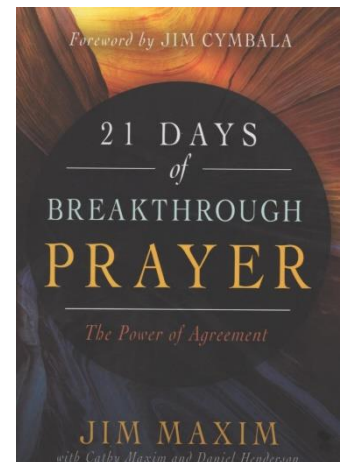
Hillcrest Church Family, thank you for the prayers, cards, notes and calls after my diagnosis of a rare heart disease called Cardiac Amyloidosis. Fortunately for me, a drug was developed and approved in 2018 that I am now on. This drug will not reverse damage already done, but will keep it from getting worse. –Ken Olson

From the Desks of Pastor Jill & Pastor Jerry

A Challenge from Pastor Jerry Jensen

What do you think about prayer? Have you ever had doubts that it is effective, that it really matters? I offer you a challenge to discover just how effective prayer might be in your life. Join a small number of us, doing an independent, 21-day study on the effect of prayer in our lives. Each day will have a short reading from a small booklet, an audio recording or written offering to be used as a prayer guide and a few suggestions for additional individual prayer. We will follow this program for 21 days, independently, and observe what effect that it may have on each of us. We all can decide if and how to share our observations (perhaps, 3 Zoom meetings or a parking lot gathering or perhaps anonymously contributing, as a group, our thoughts in an article in the Hillcrest Spire.

If you are willing to accept the challenge, contact pastor Jerry. We would like to start this about November first. Our Lord is just waiting for you to ask him to show you what He can do in your life!



Update on our building from Pastor Jill:

We have decided to put a hold on any additional building updates including the sanctuary and any artwork in the Fellowship Hall. Our friends and family are telling us they want to return to our building as it currently exists, a place where they can feel blessed.

Financial Update

Help Support Hillcrest Church during the pandemic! We are still ministering to those in need, even as we worship safely! We need your support now, more than ever! You can 1) Send your offering envelopes to the church, we will get them to the money counters for you! 2) Give Electronically – you can go to www.hillcrestmethodist.org and click the donate page to register. You can register to give as a one-time only gift, or schedule your offerings. See Kay Young with questions and to receive a complete copy of registration instructions or 3) Bring your offerings to the Drive-In Worship Services! Ushers will be there to collect all offerings! We thank you for remembering Hillcrest Church during the pandemic!

As we near the end of 2020, please check your pledge commitment. All offerings for the 2020 budget & operating costs must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2020. If your pledge needs to change for any reason, see Treasurer Lyman Demaray to adjust your giving pledge. Please prayerfully consider if you can go above and beyond what you have pledged, allowing us to continue the amazing work of Hillcrest Church into 2021!

Live Streaming Worship: A special Thank you to those who have given financial donations, or returned their “Live Stream Commitment Card” as we move forward upgrading our Live Streaming Equipment. Any questions about this financial campaign can be directed to Mark or Lyman Demaray.

Outreach Update

Grocery Give Away

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made our 1st Free Grocery Give Away such an amazing success! When planning this event, an initial goal was set of 25 bags. Your generosity blew that goal away, and with the food and finances donated we were able to create **100 bags!** Each bag included: 1 box of cereal, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 box of crackers, 1 canister of dry milk, 1 large can of tuna/chicken, 1 box of tuna/chicken dinner, 2 cans of fruit, 2 cans of veggies, 2 cans of soup and 2 boxes of mac & cheese. During the weeks of collection, the children of Hillcrest Child Care learned about giving and generosity. Pastor Jerry Jensen led them, and their teachers, in blessing the bags of food. On Tuesday, September 15th, Kelsey (Child Care) and Kaite delivered 20 bags to the apartment complex Knox Landing. On Wednesday, September 16th,



groceries were given! Some of these cars were large families, and a couple were also getting for their friends and neighbors who were unable to get there on their own. Bags have slowly been going out to more in need, but there are still some to give away! Do you know someone in need that might benefit from a bag of food? Stop in the church during office hours and grab a bag or two, or call Kaite in the main office for potential delivery options.

From one of the food recipients: "Thank you so much for offering this food! Some of my neighbors had no idea where their next meal will come from!"

From another: "Will you be offering this every Wednesday?"

MEMO Committee Update

Around 2013/2014, the "Mission Committee" (now part of MEMO) decided to reach out and do Hillcrest's part to support this missional new outreach project "The Sheridan Story"... food sustainability for children. This past summer, when the MEMO Committee met remotely, we felt so strongly about continuing this giving, there was unanimous support to focus our Hillcrest UMC 2020 Christmas Offering exclusively to "The Sheridan Story". We are excited about the Hillcrest 2020 Christmas Offering which will be collected and donated to The Sheridan Story. Between now and then, we would like to provide you with some helpful information.



Please take time to read about the good work of The Sheridan Story. In addition, please check out the website: thesheridanstory.org

From the website: MISSION of The Sheridan Story: Fighting Child Hunger

More than 200,000 children in Minnesota live with food insecurity. Without reliable access to food – such as free and reduced meal programs at school – the risk of hunger is very real. The Sheridan Story works to fight hunger in our community by filling the gaps to food access that children face during weekends, summers and extended breaks.

Then in March, 2020, a sudden pivot in programming in response to the Coronavirus:

Coronavirus Response:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly disrupt all aspects of our community, especially for our children. Our network is responding! We've provided over 2,200,000 meals to children and families in the community since March 13. This spring, we increased our food output by 400%, delivering 100,000 meals a week to 31 school districts in Minnesota (including right here in our community) and western Wisconsin and other community partners on a weekly basis, reaching over 37% of all K-12 children in Minnesota.

This summer, we continued to provide 100,000 meals a week to 140+ school and

community locations. Food insecurity amongst children is expected to increase by more than 50 percent through December. This is one of the highest rates for child hunger in Minnesota in decades. The goal is...to provide another two million meals (or 100,000 meals per week) to children across Minnesota through Fall 2020. Together, we can continue to be a source of nutritious food and hope for children and families in our community.

“This is uncharted territory for all of us, but Minnesota’s and our organization’s strongest asset is our ability to work together to serve the children. Thank you for your partnership now and always.” Rob Williams, Executive Director

Watch for more information and between now and December and begin to think about what Hillcrest Members and Friends can do to continue this partnership with "The Sheridan Story" as we give generously to feed our children. In gratitude for YOU, Your MEMO Team, Arlene E., Zoe K., Irene O., Dale P., Sharla R., Lynne S. (Current Chair), and Kaite K. (Consultant)

Operation: Warmth

Because of the amazing



response for our first ever food give away, Hillcrest Church and Hillcrest Child Care will partner again to bring warmth to those in need! Starting immediately, Hillcrest Church will be a drop off site for: hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks. As the items are collected, they will be distributed to: Hillcrest Community School, Valley View Elementary School, neighboring homeless encampments, and VEAP.

There is yarn available at the church for those who might want to knit some items—you can come and get some during office hours or call the church to arrange for a delivery to your home! We also recognize that many might want to help, but do not want to actually shop for the items. Never fear! Bonnie has already been keeping an eye on sales across many stores and would be delighted to purchase some for you. Special “Operation: Warmth” Envelopes are available by request, or put “Operation: Warmth” in the Memo line of your check.

“Operation: Warmth” Collection will be an ongoing collection through December 2020. Please note: At this time we are not accepting new or used jackets. If you have any questions, please direct them to Bonnie Beyer in the Day Care or Kaite Knack in the main office.

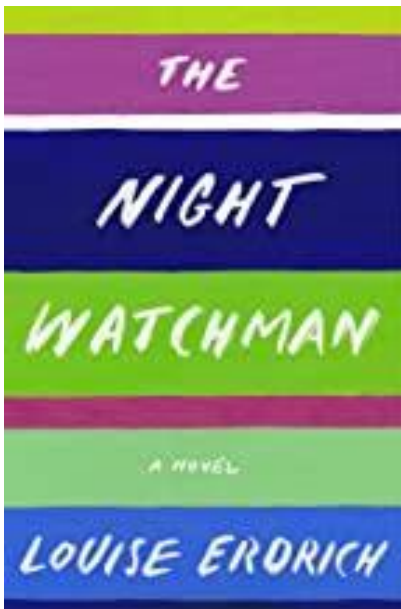
Halloween Event 2020

At this time, Hillcrest Church will not be hosting a “Trunk or Treat” event on October 31, 2020. While we hope to do something for the Hillcrest Child Care children & Siblings, as well as our neighborhood friends in our community, we have not finalized plans. We are open to suggestions, please send them to Kaite Knack!

Committee Meetings & Small Groups

Book Club

Monday, October 26, 2020 at 1:00p



Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at the jewel bearing plant, the first factory located near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member who is trying to understand the consequences

of a new "emancipation" bill on its way to the floor of the United States Congress. It is 1953 and he and the other council members know the bill isn't about freedom; Congress is fed up with Indians. The bill is a "termination" that threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land and their very identity. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with Native Americans "for as long as the grasses shall grow, and the rivers run"?

Since graduating high school, Pixie Paranteau has insisted that everyone call her Patrice. Unlike most of the girls on the reservation, Patrice, the class valedictorian, has no desire to wear herself down with a husband and kids. She makes jewel bearings at the plant, a job that barely pays her enough to support her mother and brother.

Patrice's shameful alcoholic father returns home sporadically to terrorize his wife and children and bully her for money. But Patrice needs every penny to follow her beloved older sister, Vera, who moved to the big city of Minneapolis. Vera may have disappeared; she hasn't been in touch in months, and is rumored to have had a baby. Determined to find Vera and her child, Patrice makes a fateful trip to Minnesota that introduces her to unexpected forms of exploitation and violence, and endangers her life.

Thomas and Patrice live in this impoverished reservation community along with young Chippewa boxer Wood Mountain and his mother Juggie Blue, her niece and Patrice's best friend Valentine, and Stack Barnes, the white high school math teacher and boxing coach who is hopelessly in love with Patrice.

In the *Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich creates a fictional world populated with memorable characters who are forced to grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature. Illuminating the loves and lives, the desires and ambitions of these characters with

compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is a majestic work of fiction from this revered cultural treasure.

Taken From Amazon.com

Community Groups Using Hillcrest Church Space

Community Groups will start using the upstairs of Hillcrest Church starting in October.

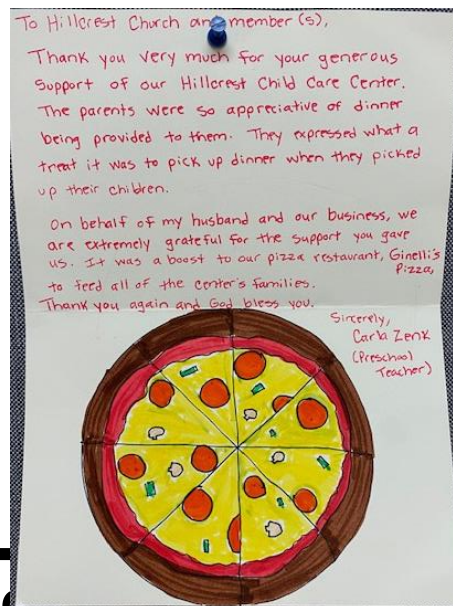
Business Networking Group: has postponed their start until the end of October. There is the possibility, based on Bishop Ough's updated recommendations, that the BNG may be too large to meet at the church. The Covid Response team will make a final decision based on the safety of our child care and church family based on the current stats of our community.

Bloomington Federated Women's Club Book Group: will resume using the church Fellowship Hall starting Wednesday, October 28, 2020. They will meet from 2:00p-3:30p and will be in charge of sanitizing their space after use.

Gamblers Anonymous: We anticipate they will return to meet in the Library, every Monday at 11:00a, but have not heard confirmation either way.

Blessed to Be a Blessing!

Thanks to an anonymous donation, Hillcrest Church was able to bless Child Care teacher Carla Zenk, and her husband, by purchasing pizzas through their family business "Ginelli's Pizza". These Take and Bake pizzas were given to the Hillcrest Child Care staff and families for their continued support during the pandemic.



Hillcrest United Methodist Church

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