

# The Spire

September 2020



A Publication of

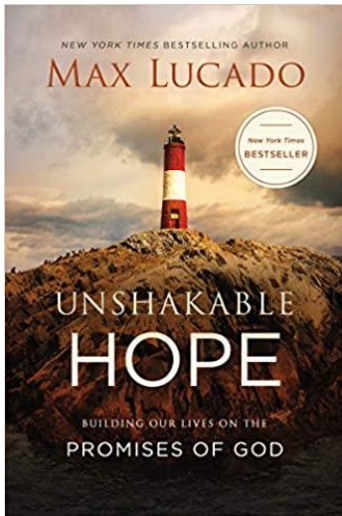
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## Twelve Week In-Depth Study Connecting the Bible to Life

### “Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God”



What feels shaky in your world? Maybe you feel hurt by the past, disappointed by the present, or worried about the future. If so, there is hope. For every problem in life, God has given you a promise. In the *New York Times* bestselling book, *Unshakable Hope*, Max Lucado unpacks 12 of the Bible’s most significant promises, equipping you to overcome difficult circumstances by keeping your focus on the hope found in the promises of Scripture. Whether it’s heart disease or cancer, job failure or addiction, natural disasters or family disasters, mass murders or mental illness, there are so many reasons to be overwhelmed and hope can feel hard to come by. Now more than ever, we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God. In this book, you will be reminded that God’s promises are irrevocable because:

\* God is unchanging   \* God is faithful   \* God is strong   \* God cannot lie

What is your life built on—the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. Join Max as he takes a closer look at Scripture’s unbreakable promises and shows you how to live with unshakable hope

#### 3 Session Options:

- Starting September 7, 2020 - Monday’s at 7:00p  
On Zoom led by  
Pastor Jerry Jensen
- Starting September 9, 2020 – Wednesday’s at 7:00p  
On Zoom led by  
Bonnie Beyer and Kaite Knack
- Starting September 10, 2020 – Thursday’s at 11:00a  
In Person—Masks Required—Physical Distancing

#### To Sign Up:

Visit: [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)  
Search using: hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com  
Select “Unshakable Hope”

(or)

Call the Church Office:  
952-881-8601

Classes Interchangeable each week  
No computer? No problem! You can use your  
phone to call into a Zoom meeting!

A limited supply of books (\$15.00) available at church. Call Kaite to claim one or order yours on Amazon.com

## People Are the Church

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

Barb **Berns**, surgery to remove a portion of her leg following an infection; Marlys **Drebenstedt**, recovering from surgery; **Schools & School Districts**, as they make difficult decisions regarding school in the fall; Barb **Ermisch**; Front Line **Essential Workers**; Linda **Fleming**; Dale **Grant**, Marlin Grant's brother, lung cancer; Gary **Grant**, Marlin Grant's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's; Pat **Griffith**, recent hospitalization due to Cellulitis; Claudia **Hicks**, ongoing prayers for healing—recent hospitalization; Lucy **Huppert**, surgery on her left Achilles tendon; Rudy **Koshir**; Dawn **Kreutz**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Judy **Liudahl**, recovering from recent surgery; Harlan **Mellem**; Ronin **Millette**; Ken **Olson**, diagnosed with TTR Cardiac Amyloidosis; Hillcrest **Church and Staff**; Hillcrest **Child Care and Staff**; Ralph **Steward**, Wilma Steward's nephew, stage 4 Melanoma cancer and recently tested positive for Covid-19; Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; Mark **Waters**, son of Barb Waters, Colon cancer; Jim **Whiting**; Healthcare **Workers**; **Alex**, recent heart issues, met with a pediatric cardiologist in late August; **Kathy**; friend of Wilma Steward, recent heart surgery, kidney transplant still needed.

### **Those We Have Lost:**

Eugene "Gene" Kretchmer (1/21/1931—7/11/2020)  
His Life was Celebrated on Saturday, August 15, 2020

Betty Thayer (7/05/1923—7/18/2020)  
Her life was Celebrated on Wednesday July 29, 2020.

### **It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!**

Call: Elinor Colebank (952) 977-9114

(OR) Email Lynne Scherer: [ImSchere@iphouse.com](mailto:ImSchere@iphouse.com)

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



## From the Desk of Pastor Jill

Hi Family and Friends of Hillcrest,

I hope this finds you all safe and well, however that looks for you. For us at church, we are busy! You can read Mark's article on equipment upgrades needed to allow us to live stream, new signage, remodeled bathrooms, etc. We are taking this church building "down-time" to spruce up and make our building more welcoming to people. We are creating a community where people can come and connect, to feel like insiders and not just guests.

We are also in the process of creating spiritual bible study programs that will be available online and in person. Typically in the summer we pause these studies due to vacations and cabin dwellers, and it is now time to gather together and grow spiritually. Please keep your eyes open on how to sign up for the classes. Pastor Jill and Jerry plus several other people will be facilitating them.

Additionally, a team of people including Nancy Miller, Mark Demaray, Jill Jungers, and I are working with our new worship service re-design coach on freshening up our worship service. We will be trying many different things over the next months trying to see what works best for us. Please have a sense of humor as we will make some mistakes; some will be funny, hopefully fewer will be offensive. We are looking to buy an electric piano, so Loryce has more options to play her beautiful music. We are purchasing new hymn music that respects the traditional hymns while updating their melodies. All in hopes of creating a worship space that is inviting and inclusive.

We will continue our vision of being the Blessing Place where people can come to be blessed so they in turn can be a blessing to others.

Blessings! Pastor Jill Meents

## Updating Worship Opportunities

By Mark Demaray

Hillcrest friends, we have been experimenting with other types of worship the past few months as we adapt due to changing times -- initially an online taped worship service, and more recently the drive-in worship services. When we return to the sanctuary, I would like to see us improve our capability to provide a quality live stream service for those who are unable to join in person, or who would prefer to watch the service from the safety of your home.

To do this well, requires adding remote controlled video cameras, switching and streaming equipment that is integrated into our existing audio / video system in the sanctuary. Jerry has already worked to upgrade our internet service to provide faster speed to support streaming. A quality live stream service will benefit Hillcrest in so many ways:

- Providing a way to stay connected with your church family when you're at home, traveling or can't physically attend for whatever reason so you do not miss out on the service
- Connect us with those in our community who may want to check us out but aren't quite ready to make the plunge to attend in person.
- Demonstrating to the sick, elderly and shut ins that they are an important part of our Hillcrest family and need to stay connected with Hillcrest and to the Holy Spirit.

We want everyone to be able to experience Hillcrest worship. To add a two camera system would cost around \$30K to be professionally installed. While this may sound like a significant investment, it would be a turnkey system similar to our existing Sanctuary sound system that is relatively easy for volunteers to learn - versus a system where you're pulling out all kinds of equipment and cables every week and praying to God everything works as expected. This would enable us to leverage a live streaming platform to share our services, and for those in-person, the cameras could reinforce the speakers/musicians on the large screen. Imagine being able to see an up close picture of the scripture reader, children's moments, or musicians sharing their gifts with us!

I would ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the streaming ministry, to enable us to bring the word of God out to more of our congregation, and spread the reach of Hillcrest further in our community as the blessing place. We have all benefited from the generosity that went into replacing the existing sound/video projector system, and the difference this has made in our worship experience. I know the Lord will provide – he always does, and Hillcrest has been blessed in so many ways by your generosity. Thank you in advance for any support you can give for this endeavor!

## Financial Update

### **Giving During Covid-19**

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](http://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! Any further questions can be directed to Kay Young or Treasurer, Lyman Demaray.

## Windows & Air Conditioner Project Updates

Thank you for your GENEROUS support in helping bring the debt of these projects to \$0! We are NOT there yet, but getting closer by the month! As of July 31, there is a remaining debt on the Air Conditioner project of \$1,405—which means we brought in \$1500 for the project in July! YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME! As of July 31st, there is a remaining debt on the windows of \$2,781.00—\$2,500 was brought in for our Windows—cutting our remaining bill in half in one month! God has answered our prayers and will continue to do so until we have \$0 debt in both projects! How can YOU help US bring these to \$0.00? See Lyman Demaray with any questions.

## Outreach Update

### Calling All Helpers!

By Bonnie Beyer & Kaite Knack

Bonnie has been approached by child care parents wondering if the church was doing any special projects to reach out to the community during these challenging times. These questions sparked conversations that led to an outreach collaboration between Hillcrest Child Care and Hillcrest Church. [Please note, this is not an official MEMO Mission.] We are going to do a Food Giveaway. The child care center, children and parents, would like to invite their church family, and nearby neighbors to help achieve our food goal.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting food (see shopping list below), as well as taking financial contributions, from those that are not comfortable making a shopping trip but still would like to support this community outreach opportunity. We have options to order food online and have it delivered directly to the church. There will be a table outside of the church (by the kitchen door) where the food can be dropped off between 9a-5p Monday- Friday, as well as Sunday morning before and after worship. Special arrangements can be made by calling Kaite or Bonnie, also.



We will be distributing a bag of free groceries to those in need Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6p. Those receiving the food would enter the circle driveway, be given pre-bagged groceries and leave knowing that Hillcrest Church/Child Care cares about our community.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help our first free food give away! Please write “FOOD GIVEAWAY” in the memo line of your checks. Our **non-perishable** shopping list: 12-18oz jars of peanut butter, cans of fruit, cans of veggies, cans of soup, 13-15oz boxes of cereal, canned chicken, boxed chicken meal (such as Homestyle Bakes Chicken & Dumplings), boxes of mac and cheese, 9.6 oz canister or box of dry milk, and a box of crackers (any variety). [The reason we are being specific is so each bag is similar in content & foods can be paired together. For example, we are requesting canned chicken and Chicken Helper so they are able to complete a main dish.] If you have any questions, please see Bonnie or Kaite. We look forward to serving our community by providing some nourishments for their bodies and souls!

### Membership, Evangelism, Mission & Outreach (MEMO) Committee Update

MEMO continues to work remotely to accomplish great things along with your help! Projects and suggestions come our way and from there we consider requests, discuss, ask questions, clarify, and make a decision in a timely manner! Our collaborative process is working well! The MEMO Committee decided that June Communion Offering month was... “Let’s Give Locally and Make a Difference”. Well, we did and thanks to your generosity, here are the totals for the four local organizations we chose as recipients:

Bridging—\$285.00

Loaves and Fishes—\$285.00

“Children’s Food for Thought” (a program of the Education Foundation of Bloomington)——\$325.00  
VEAP——\$455.00

Grand Total for the June Communion Offering: \$1350.00

Amazing and generous giving to make a difference in our Bloomington Community! We are blessed and a blessing to others. Do not ever underestimate the great work we can accomplish together...from a distance! In addition, we thank Lyman for his time and talents as Hillcrest Treasurer. His patience and skill set...remarkable!

The financial update (final) on the 2020 Easter offering to support the work of the Graners (United Methodist missionaries that Hillcrest UMC has supported for many years) will be printed in the October Spire. As contributions are still arriving, please note that you can still designate giving to the Graners through mid-September. Then, the MEMO Team will finalize giving and in turn, let you know the outcome of your generous giving to support the work of the Graners.

Look forward to more information in the coming months to learn more about the recipient of Hillcrest’s 2020 Christmas Offering: “The Sheridan Story”. The MEMO Team made this unanimous decision and wanted you to know now in order to prepare. It will make a huge difference in food programs for local students who are experiencing food insecurity! We are blessed and remain a blessing to others,

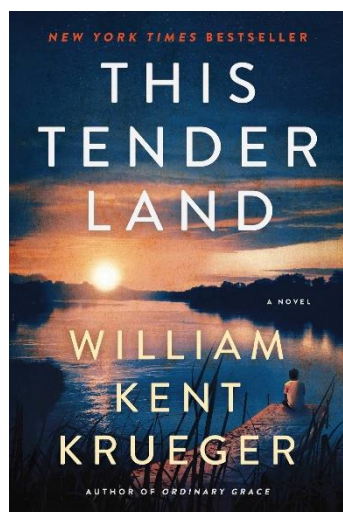
The MEMO Team: Arlene E., Zoe K., Irene O., Dale P., Sharla R., Lynne S., and Kaite

## Committee Meetings & Small Groups

### Book Club

Monday, September 21, 2020—1:00p

Hillcrest Church West Parking Lot



For fans of Before We Were Yours and Where the Crawdads Sing, "a gripping, poignant tale swathed in both mythical and mystical overtones" (Bob Drury, New York Times bestselling author) that follows four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression, from the New York Times bestselling author of Ordinary Grace.

1932, Minnesota--the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will fly into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds.

With the feel of a modern classic, This Tender Land is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that is "more than a simple journey; it is a deeply satisfying odyssey, a quest in search of self and home. *Taken from [thriftbooks.com](http://thriftbooks.com)*

### Community Groups Using Hillcrest Church Space

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

**Business Networking Group:** postponed their start day until September. At the printing of this newsletter, a new confirmed start date has not been given. They will meet alternating Wednesday’s and will be in charge of cleaning and sanitizing the space they use when they are finished.

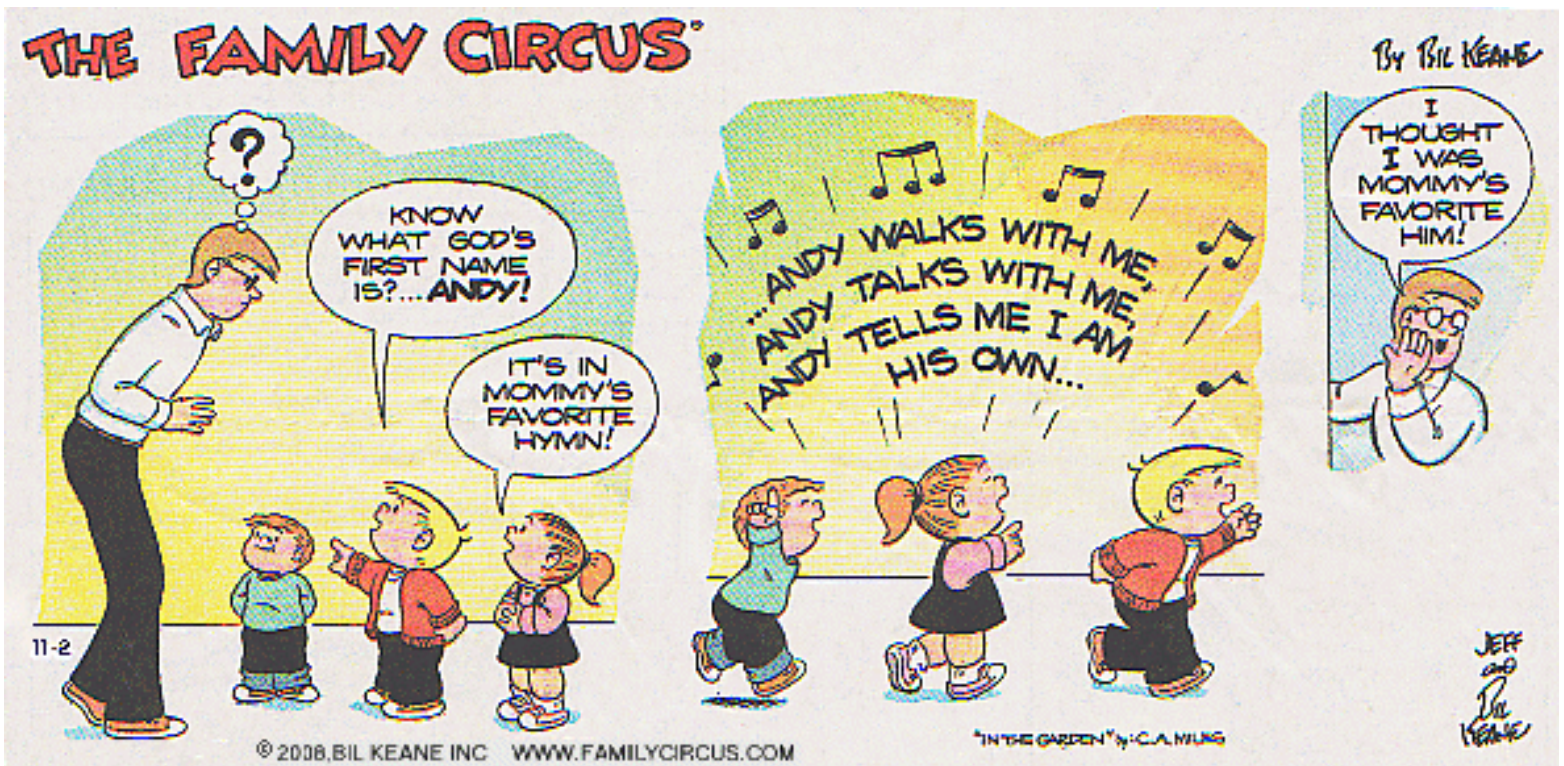
**Bloomington Federated Women’s Club Book Group:** has reserved space starting in September. This reservation was made pre-Covid-19, so official restart date has not been solidified. They will use the Library, upstairs, on the 4th Wednesday of every month (through May 2021) from 2:00p-3:30p. At the printing of this

newsletter, an official start date has not been confirmed.

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

### Builders &/or Handypersons Needed!

Aligned with recommendations of Bishop Ough, on how to give safely during the pandemic, Hillcrest Church is hoping to build locked offering boxes to place at the back of our sanctuary. This would allow persons to drop their offerings as they come in and out of worship, thus eliminating a touch-point and possible cross contamination. Pictured is an example of a box to use. The original sketches and building plans (not sold in stores) will be emailed to the church soon, and we are hoping to find someone who could build this (or something similar). Do you have the skill set and the desire to build this for our use? Let the main office know by emailing Kaite at hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com or calling the church office at 952-881-8601. Thank you!

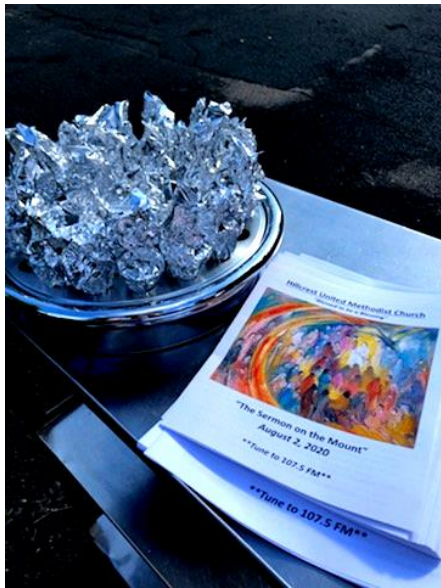


# Our Church in Pictures



***We start young  
when training  
our future AV techs***

Evan helping dad,  
Mark, set up for  
Drive-In Worship  
on August 16, 2020!



***Serving  
Communion  
"Covid-Style"***

Our first  
Communion  
Together since  
March 2020!



***"Neither snow nor rain  
nor heat nor gloom of night...."***

Your Healthy Church Initiative Team met on  
Sunday, August 9th to continue to learn how  
Hillcrest Church can become The Blessing Place!  
Not even the rain could stop their discussion!



***Supporting our Friends in Care Homes***

Pastor Jerry, with the help of some volunteers, has  
purchased these items to gift to Presbyterian Homes!  
These items are not designated only for Hillcrest Church  
members, but for anyone in the facility who is in need  
of extra cuddles or needs something to fill their time!



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### **How We Share our Gifts...**

You will find us 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, 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.

### **Every Sunday:**

Worship, 9:30a Fellowship, 10:30a

Communion First Sunday of Every Monday

### **Hillcrest Church Staff:**

Pastor Jill Meents Certified Lay Minister Jerry Jensen

Communications Coordinator: Kaite Knack

Director of Music: Nancy Miller

Organist/Pianist: Loryce Sivertson

Sunday School Teacher: Carm Tenhoff

Child Care Center Director: Bonnie Beyer

Child Care Staff: Kelsey Cornell, Riley McGuinness, Jennifer Contreras Sanchez, Jean Scott, Rosie Sola, Carla Sorensen, Lady Vasquez, Carla Zenk, Kristin Zumberge