

# THE SPIRE

February 2021



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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday,  
February 28, 2021  
11:00a on ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 863 4853 0456

Passcode: 964753

An email will be sent with the reports—including a direct link to join. Or to join via the telephone, call: 1-312-626-6799\* (long distance charges may apply)  
\*you will be prompted to enter Meeting ID & Passcode

**Join us online as we celebrate (safely)  
all that Hillcrest Church has done in 2020!**

2020 Annual Reports will be sent electronically to those who have email, and paper copies will be sent to those who do not.

\*Reports due to Kaite in the main office no later than  
February 12, 2021 at 12:00p Noon.

## From the Desks of Pastor Jill & Pastor Jerry

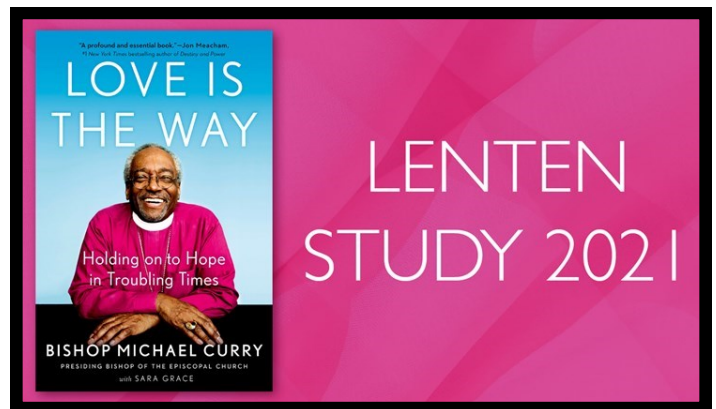
Dear Friends and Family of Hillcrest,

Here we find ourselves glued to our phones, computers, and phones awaiting the news, When will we receive the vaccination? Unlike many of you, I am still under age 65, so I suspect no go for me until this summer. Great news is that our Child Care Center won spaces in the first lottery, so they will be vaccinated in the first round of people, PRAISE GOD!!!!

Our “return to church” team has all the plans in place for us to safely return to church. Quite honestly we are just waiting for more of you to receive your vaccinations. When we do return, church as we know it will continue to look different for a while, as we social distance, sing our songs “in our heads” and continue to wear our masks.

The Annual Conference will be using the book *Love Is The Way* by Bishop Michael Curry for the Lenten bible study. We will be creating a Lenten Sermon Series using the book, as it also lends itself well to teaching and preaching.

During Lent, you will be able to access short messages on the Conference website in addition to following our sermon series. As we enter the Season of Lent, let our hearts be filled with love and may you be blessed.



Blessings to you, Pastor Jill

Usually, little notice is taken of what I am doing or its effects. Occasional though, there are events that I have been involved in that are rewarding and heartwarming. I would like to share one with you. Last summer, a Chaplin at a Fairmont retirement facility gave me an idea. I created a project, here at Hillcrest, centered at our local Presbyterian Homes campus, just down the street on Penn avenue. As the Hillcrest Community, we donated two robotic pets (a dog and a kitten) and two dozen adult coloring books, along with pencils and crayons for the residents. The only restriction to the donation was that I would like to know how it was received and worked out. Last month, I received the following email that I would like to share with you.

***“A few months ago, you donated some cyber pets, coloring books and crayons for our residents. I know this report is long overdue, but they have been appreciated and used by our Life Enrichment staff among our long term care and assisted living residents. I have personally heard reports and seen them in use. It’s primarily been with individuals since group events are not happening. One of our staff members who works with our Care Center residents has this to say.... ‘We love the donations in the Care Center! The residents love the coloring books.*”**



*The paper is a nice quality and it's one sided which is great. Our cyber-pet is very popular with the residents. They named him Chip and he sits in the common area. Thank you so much for the donations!!!' Our assisted living staff members have a similar perspective, so **THANK YOU** for providing ways to enhance the quality of life for our seniors." Pastor John Goertz, Director of Pastoral Care at Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington*

Our way to love one another is really so simple, we just have to keep our minds open and respond to the ideas that our Lord sends us through others.—Pastor Jerry

## People Are the Church

*The Following Persons were lifted in prayer during the month of January 2021:*

Barb **Berns**;

Gavin **Cahn** (Becky Cahn's nephew, 15, in Arizona, recovering from bladder reconstructive surgery, a precursor to his next surgery—kidney transplant);

Elinor **Colebank** (recently hospitalized with pneumonia);

Jean **DeMuth** (recovering from Shingles);

Barb **Ermisch**;

Linda **Fleming**;

Dale **Grant** (Marlin Grant's brother, lung cancer);

Gary **Grant** (Marlin's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's);

Bob & Pat **Griffith**; Dawn **Kreutz**;

Marilyn **Kreutz**; Ronin **Millette**;

Steve **Scherer**; Alex;

Ralph **Steward** (Wilma Steward's nephew, Colon cancer);

Gordy **Thorold** (Becky Cahn's step-dad, recently hospitalized with COVID Pneumonia, now home recovering);

Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; Jim **Whiting**

### **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



## February Birthday's

Nicole Loughlin (8th)

Luella Whiting (11th)

Jill Bistodeau (13th)

Sue Smith (19th)

Joan Seha (20th)

Ashley Fuhrman (27th)

Marilyn Sadloske (8th)

Rev. Delton Krueger (11th)

Melissa Jungers (16th)

Myron Engel (19th)

Les Liudahl (24th)

Don Harrington (29th)



Liesl Klopp-Miller (20th)

JoAnne Salzl (24th)

John Weiser (29th)

## February Anniversary



Marlin & Wilma Grant— Celebrating their **65th** Wedding Anniversary on February 10, 2021!

## Directory Update

Have you moved recently, or updated your phone and email information? Be sure to let the church know! This helps us stay in touch with you! Call Kaite in the office (952-881-8601) or email ([hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com)) your up to date information!

## Communion Supplies

In need of Communion Elements? We have a small basket in the entry way inside the South Door. Stop by between 8:00a and 4:00p to grab your elements! There are 5 cups per bag—feel free to take one per person in your household and be prepared for 5 months, or share! Do you know someone who has not been able to leave the house due to the pandemic or bad weather? Consider grabbing a bag and dropping it off to them!



## Articles

### "Live Stream" Update by Mark Demaray

Things have progressed quickly since the January Spire article where the equipment had just been installed, and we began live streaming worship on January 10th. I hope you've been able to catch the services on YouTube - either live at 9:30am on Sunday's, or another time that is convenient for you.

Thanks to Kaite for the help running the cameras during the service. We're both continuing to learn and improve the audio / video aspects of the service, we have been blessed that our first few weeks have been relatively smooth! You may notice the picture looks a bit "grainy" - this is due to the lighting in the worship space. The cameras are compensating for the low light to make the images as bright as possible but this compromises some of the quality.



*Our new Video Set up*

I would encourage you to subscribe to the Hillcrest YouTube channel, setup notifications to be informed when updates are made. To do this, log into YouTube typically with a gmail address and click "subscribe" while on the Hillcrest page. This will make it easier to find the page. There are a number of Hillcrest Methodist Churches around the country, so look for our logo!.

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFn\\_xEChrbRYucgLCCaJzma](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFn_xEChrbRYucgLCCaJzma)**

You'll find a direct link to this page on our website also that will make it easier to jump to our page.

For those of you with Xfinity voice remotes, you can hold the microphone button and say

"You Tube Hillcrest UMC" and then arrow to our logo and press the enter button. You'll be able to watch the service from your TV!

If you're watching live (or even later), please send us comments -- we'd love to hear from you and know you're watching! We will continue to live-stream even after we resume in-person worship, we're also broadcasting the audio to the south parking lot on FM 107.3.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this project, we spent \$32,730 on the equipment and installation, and so far have pledges or contributions of \$21,812 leaving a balance of \$10,918. If you are able to financially support these improvements, please indicate "live stream" on your check.

Blessings to you, Mark Demaray

(M\_demaray@comcast.net, Call/text 952-237-8537)



*Connor & Tyler testing our new equipment*



## Committees & Small Groups

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

4:00p-5:00p Imposition of Ashes in Circle Drive

Join Pastor Jerry in the Circle Driveway (outside of Door 2) to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. Please remain in your car as Pastor Jerry blesses you through the car window. Precautions for Covid-19 will be present. Masks are required.

5:30p Online Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday Morning Bible Study led by Pastor Jill Meents

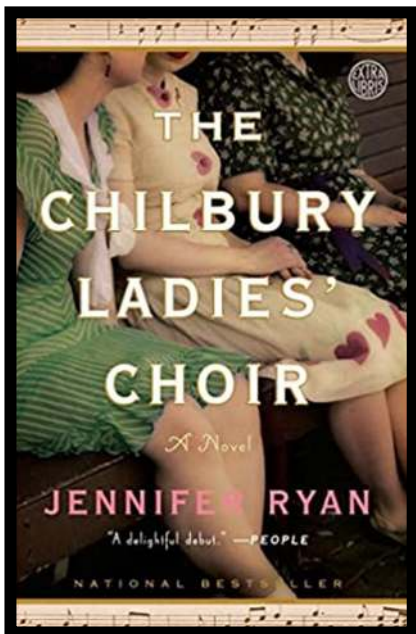
Thursdays 11:00a in Library at Church

Topic for February: The Book of Revelations

*Masks required*

### Book Club—Monday, February 8, 2021 1:00p on Zoom

For readers of *Lilac Girls* and *The Nightingale*, *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* unfolds the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of a village choir during World War II.



As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to close the choir and instead "carry on singing," resurrecting themselves as the Chilbury Ladies' Choir. We come to know the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of a local scion drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a con-ning midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past. An enchanting ensemble story that shuttles from village intrigue to romance to the heartbreaking matters of life and death, Jennifer Ryan's debut novel

thrillingly illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

## 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2021

11:00a on ZOOM

*All 2020 Committee reports are due to the church office by 12:00p Noon on February 12, 2021. Any questions, see Kaite in the office (hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com, 952-881-8601)*

## Financial Update

**As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act**, lawmakers created special one-time deduction to encourage Americans who still have mans, to support others. Taxpayers may take both the federal standard deduction AND a charitable deduction of up to **\$300** for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations.

## February 2021 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:00a Bible Study (Library)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30a Livestream Worship	<b>8</b> 1:00p Book Club (Zoom)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00a Bible Study (Library)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30a Livestream Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 4:00p Imposition of Ashes (Circle Driveway)	<b>18</b> 11:00a Bible Study (Library)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30a Livestream Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00a Bible Study (Library)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30a Livestream Worship 11:00a Annual Meeting (Zoom)						



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9100 Russell Ave South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**February 2021 Edition**



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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.

**Share Your Gifts – Join us!**

### **Every Sunday:**

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

### **Hillcrest Church Staff:**

Pastor Jill Meents Pastor 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