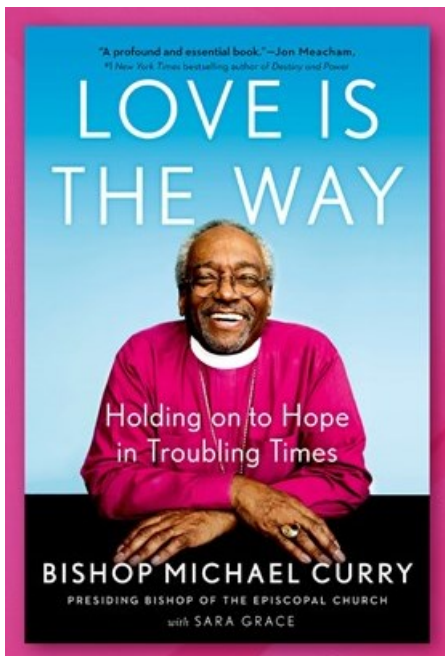




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Conference Wide Lenten Book Study



Sundays in Lent:

Hear a sermon on 2 chapters of the book

During that Week:

Visit: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2021-lenten-study>

Watch the corresponding video

Review the questions provided in the study guide

Discuss with your church friends what you have learned from this session.

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 4, 2021

9:30a Live Stream Worship

Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday Services have not been confirmed at this time. See Pastor Jill's article for more information.



From the Desk of Pastor Jill

Hello family and friends of Hillcrest,

Wow, can you believe we have been living in this world of COVID for one year. In some ways the time as flown by and in other ways, it has dragged on (especially when I see we have surpassed the 500,000 death toll). This is unbelievably sad!!

As a Christian community we are in the midst of the Season of Lent. A time of reflecting, a time of giving up something for Lent. I have chosen to give up my worry, and give it to God. God is much stronger and powerful than I am, so clearly God can handle my burden of worry. And what are you given up during this Season of Lent? I invite you to join me and give up your worry. That is so much more profound than giving up chocolate, or some other food.

During this Season of Lent, we are experiencing a series of messages, rooted in the book, Love is the Way, by Bishop Michael Curry. The Bishop has given us the gifts of a book and a bible study to help us think about love in new and expanded ways. You are also able to follow the bible study on the conference website, which includes videos and an outline (including discussion questions) for each chapter.

We are currently in discussions with Portland UMC and Pastor Carol to see how we might create a joint Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service (virtual of course) so please stay tuned for more information. We will be conducting our own Easter Service (again virtual) on Easter Sunday.

Blessings to all of you, and please go forth and love and bless others! -Pastor Jill

People Are the Church

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

It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!

Call: Elinor Colebank (952) 977-9114

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

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



Barb **Berns**; Gavin **Cahn** (Becky Cahn's nephew, 15, recovering from surgery); Elinor **Colebank** (recovering from pneumonia); Jean **DeMuth** (recovering from Shingles); Barb **Ermisch**; Linda **Fleming**; Dale **Grant** (Marlin Grant's brother, lung cancer); Gary **Grant** (Marlin Grant's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's); Bob & Pat **Griffith**; Frank **Kisch** (Ileostomy surgery); Dawn **Kreutz**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Ronin **Millette**; Marilyn & Dan **Sadloske** (following the passing of Pam, Dan's wife); Steve **Scherer**; Ralph **Steward** (Wilma Steward's nephew, stage 4 Melanoma Cancer); David **Tepper** (hospitalized following a possible stroke); Gordy **Thorold** (Becky Cahn's step-dad, recovering from Covid pneumonia); Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; Mark **Waters** (son of Barb Waters, colon cancer); Jim **Whiting**; **Joyce** (Sharon Smith's sister, recovering from carbon monoxide poisoning)

March Birthday's

Barb Waters (1st)

Nathan Cahn (3rd)

Jon Engel (3rd)

Ellie Engel (5th)

Marlin Grant (8th)

Deb Engel (14th)

Maddie Murdock (15th)

Will Bistodeau (18th)

Nancy Berres (22nd)

Marie Burton (22nd)

Bob Griffith (22nd)

Barb Masee (22nd)

*Marie Burton will be turning **100 years old** on March 22nd!

Glenis Hedegaard (24th)

David Tepper (26th)

Kathy Hilken (31st)

Directory Update

Griffith, Robert & Patricia A.

Call the church office for their new address & phone numbers

Thank You's!

"A huge thank you to everyone who sent cards following the passing of Pam Sadloske"
Marilyn & Dan Sadloske

"Dear Hillcrest Church, Thank you for all the cards and phone calls Marlin and I received for our 65th anniversary! We had a cruise scheduled but due to Covid 19 everything changed! The care and love from our friends at Hillcrest made our day & week special! Thanks again!"

Marlin & Wilma Grant

"Dear Pastor Jill, I write to thank you and the Hillcrest congregation for sending the February Spire and the 30-day devotional book, Come Alive, to me. I see Hillcrest has a full calendar of activities ahead. Please know I will be holding you in prayer as you host your congregational meeting on February 28. Also, I am glad to see you will be using the conference study, Love Is The Way, for your sermon series in Lent, and I know the Hillcrest family will be blessed by it. Sending the book of devotions is so gracious. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. I know the daily entries will be a witness of faith and inspiration through the weeks ahead. Please express my gratitude to all who had a part in sending it. May God's grace and peace be with you as we begin our Lenten journey together. "

Bishop David A. Bard.

"What a wonderful surprise to receive the box of Valentines from the Hillcrest United Methodist Church. I simply write to thank you for this and other special ways you reach out to share the love of Christ with others. The treats are being enjoyed and your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I am grateful for all you are doing to bring hope and encouragement to your

community and far beyond and am pleased to be a partner in ministry with you in the Minnesota Annual Conference. I pray God's grace and peace continue to be with you each day."

Bishop David A. Bard

"Dear Hillcrest Family, Thank you so much for the lovely Valentine package of cookies, candy, cards and booklet. Thanks to the children for decorating the card!" Edie Nallick

"To Hillcrest Staff and Others, What a surprise to get a box, which I found to contain quite a variety of Valentine treasures! Thanks for every one!" Barb Van Winkle

"Thank you so very much to the Ottinger's for the delicious cookies. Also, thank you to everyone else for all the Valentine goodies!!" Ruth Walker

"Dear Church, Thank you for the expression of "love" and thinking of us this Valentine's... so very thoughtful. Delicious cookies, yummy chocolates, adorable card! We appreciate all of you!"
Marlys and Ken Drebenstedt

"So many thanks for the Valentines box. It was so nice to be remembered. May God bless you all." Marjorie Nelson

"Hillcrest Friends, Thank you for my special Valentine box of goodies. I miss all of you very much and this was a real morale booster for me. Thanks again." Arlene Ellingson

"Dear Pastor Jill, Pastor Jerry, Bonnie, Kaite and everyone else who put our Valentine Boxes together, Thank you so much for the "valentine box" that I received in the mail. What a nice surprise! The games, the puzzles, the cookies, the candy, the little prayer book—all of it! Thank you so much! You really planned ahead for this project! Wow! Thanks again!" Sharon Smith

"Thank you Hillcrest Family for the Valentine's box. Each item was a delight whether it was inspirational, edible, or brain teasing. Thank you!" Yvonne Styrlund

"Thank you all for remembering me on Valentine's Day. It was a sweet treat. God Bless You all." Carl Ermisch

"Just a note to thank you for the cards and calls. This has been quite a learning experience, having never known anyone who had shingles. Well, I'm ready to stop learning. Hope to be back soon. God Bless!" Jean DeMuth

“Friends and Family of Hillcrest, Thank you so much for the Valentine surprise. Be sure to also thank Bonnie and her group of helpers who made the Valentines. Those kids are so good at making crafts—it brightens my breakfast table and put a smile on my face. I called Barb for the delicious cookies—thanks for the candy treat and extra items also. It was a nice surprise and I appreciate the thought. Thanks to all the people who volunteer to pull it off!” Bev Tschumper

Articles

Outreach Opportunity

The Membership, Evangelism, Missions & Outreach Committee met via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 20, 2021. While the meeting was short, we got much done! Over the coming weeks, the MEMO team will pray about and thoughtfully consider how we can bless our congregation and our neighborhood community. Through a period of discernment, we will evaluate the organizations that we have supported in the past and make decisions regarding who we will support in 2021. There are many questions to ask and many routes to ponder as we prepare our hearts and minds to serve our community in new (to us) ways. By the end of the meeting, it was very clear that the team would take an approach of INREACH and OUTREACH.

In-reach will be ways that we reach those who are already a part of the Hillcrest Church Family. This includes the seasonal devotionals you receive, Covid-Safe social opportunities, and other small social groups. Outreach will be focused specifically on those in the neighborhood and community who are not a part of the Hillcrest Church Family.

In March 2021, we will be offering an “Easter Meal” to those who are having food insecurities during the pandemic. A bag containing a small ham, 2 sides, vegetables and dessert will be offered to the first 30 people who sign up through the church office or online. The approximate cost of each bag is \$20, giving us a goal of \$600 to purchase the food. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help us support the Easter Meal, using the enclosed envelope or writing OUTREACH on the memo line of your check. Anyone within our congregation, and anyone in our neighborhood or community who is in need of food for Easter Sunday is welcomed and encouraged to sign up for a meal! These meals will be picked up the week prior to Easter (April 4).

Any questions can be directed to Kaite Knack, Outreach Coordinator, or your MEMO Committee Zoe Koshir, Marcia Spring, Irene Olson, Arlene Ellingson & Dale Phelps. If **YOU** are interested in being a part of the MEMO team, let Kaite know! We are always looking for new members to join us!

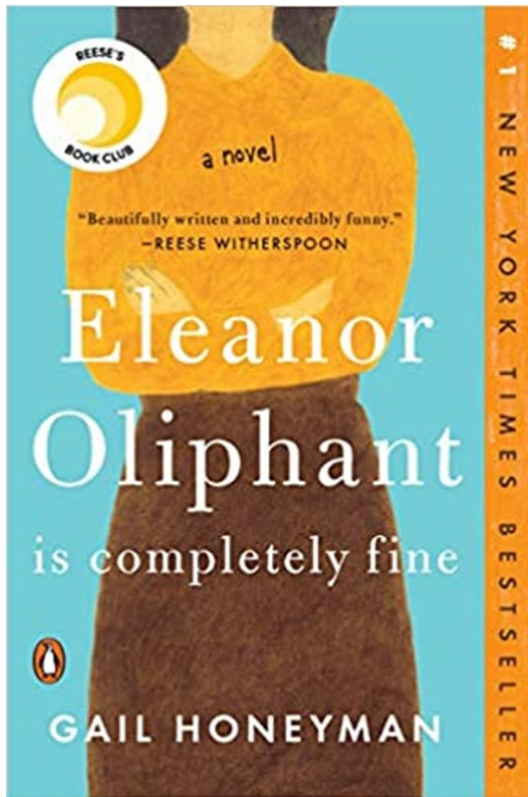
2021 Directory Update

A new 2021 phone directory will be mailed out the week after Easter. In the coming week, you will receive a post card in the mail with how your family entry will look in the new directory. Please have any final changes and corrections to Kaite Knack, in the main office, no later than

Friday, March 19, 2021. Any questions can be directed to Katie in the main office.

Committees & Small Groups

Book Club March 15, 2021 at 1:00p



“Beautifully written and incredibly funny, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!” —Reese Witherspoon

No one’s ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine. Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she’s thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office.

When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three

become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond’s big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one. Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes. . . **The only way to survive is to open your heart.**

MEMO Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7:00p ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID: 831 5850 0515

Passcode: 047063

March 2021 Calendar

March 4th 11:00a Bible Study (Library)
March 7th **3rd Sunday in Lent**
9:30a Live Stream Worship
March 10th 7:00p MEMO Meeting (Zoom)
March 11th 11:00a Bible Study (Library)
March 14th **4th Sunday in Lent**
9:30a Live Stream Worship
March 15th 1:00p Book Club (Online)
March 18th 11:00a Bible Study (Library)
March 21st **5th Sunday in Lent**
9:30a Live Stream Worship
March 25th 11:00a Bible Study (Library)
March 28th **Palm Sunday**
9:30a Live Stream Worship



Pastor Jerry
Jensen distributes
Ashes on
Wednesday,
February 17, 2021



2020 Easter Garden

Due to the pandemic, it has been decided that Hillcrest Church will not be purchasing Easter Lilies this year. There will be a small Easter Garden, financed by Hillcrest Church, to decorate our altar over the Season of Lent. If you would like to contribute a couple dollars to the “flower fund” to offset these flower costs, please put “Flower Fund” on your check or offering envelope.

It is still very important to us that we honor and remember our loved ones during this season. Please fill out, and return, the portion below to include your loved one’s during our April 4, 2021 Easter Worship Service!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



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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