



9100 Russell Ave South,
Bloomington, MN 55431
952-881-8601

Welcome back to the inside services at Hillcrest!



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Pastors and Leadership Team have revisited worship options on Sunday mornings. We continue to look for ways to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the last few months, our Sunday worship has been available via live streaming and online through YouTube. We are excited now to also be able to have worshipers in our building for worship in the sanctuary starting on **Sunday, May 9th at 9:30 a.m.** and we have been planning for many months to do so.

Two Options for Worship Starting May 9th

In Person (Sanctuary)

Live streaming at 9:30 a.m. (on YouTube)

Streamed worship services available anytime on YouTube.

In Person – 9:30am in Sanctuary


To ensure the safety and well-being of all those who gather in our building for worship, we will be following the UMC guidelines from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which are based on the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. These guidelines may feel awkward as we worship together onsite, but we ask everyone to honor them and love their neighbors in this way. Protocols are in place to ensure the continued safety of the congregation, and the sanctuary will be unoccupied and unused by any other groups during the week before our Sunday worship services.

Before you Come to Church: If you, or anyone worshipping with you, have had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days, please stay home and worship online. According to the CDC, symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting. COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. We encourage you to take your temperature and remain home if it is 100.4 degrees or higher.

When you Arrive at Church:

- Please enter any door other than the south door
- Please bring a mask, but if you forget one, masks and hand sanitizer will be located at sanitation stations within the church. Ushers will be on hand to remind you of our requirements to wear a face mask at all times including when singing and to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from non-household members.
- Ushers will direct you to your pew as you enter the sanctuary and only those pews that are not ribboned off can be used. The coat racks are closed at this time. Please bring your coats with you to your pew.

During Worship:

- We will Share the Peace from a distance. Be creative – a smile, a wave, etc.
- We recognize that weekly bulletins and our “Extra” insert are important to our church family. We will continue printing bulletins and Extras and they will be available at the doors of the sanctuary each week. Ushers will wear gloves when passing out bulletins, and we ask that you take your bulletin with you when you leave.
- We ask that you sit back and enjoy the music or sing along while still wearing a mask as health experts do not recommend singing without a mask due to Covid-19 virus concerns.
- Offerings can be placed in a new wooden offering box located outside  the center doors to the sanctuary. Online giving options are also listed on our website.



Changes to Children’s Ministry:

- Children have the option to go to worship with their family or to join Carm Tenhoff in the Fellowship Hall.
- In the Sanctuary: children are asked to remain with their families for the entirety of the service. There will be no Children’s Moment at the front of the sanctuary during worship, nor will they be excused to join Carm.
- Sunday School Class: Please drop your children off in the Fellowship Hall prior to worship. Sibling sets will share a table, and all family units and the teacher will be distanced by six feet. **Everyone is required to wear a mask in the Fellowship Hall and to use hand sanitizer prior to entering.** Carm will wear gloves when handling papers and each table/family set will have their own designated writing utensils to use. Children will be picked up by parents or grandparents from the Fellowship Hall at the end of worship. **The Fellowship Hall will be disinfected and closed for 24 hours after each Sunday School Class.**

After Worship:

- Exiting will be done differently; as you leave, we will start with the farthest back pew first, followed by the next pew in front of that. Please stay in your pew until your row is next. Before leaving your pew, please be sure that everything that you brought into the pew (including bulletins) are removed as you leave.
- You are always invited to greet one another outside or in the commons area while maintaining physical distancing (6 feet apart). Before and after worship, we ask that you not congregate in the entry areas.

Special Notes:

- On Communion Sundays, a pre-packaged wafer and cup of juice will be handed out upon entry to avoid the need to go to the altar and keep safe distancing.
- Refreshments will not be served at this time. Individual water bottles will be available at the water fountain and narthex area as the drinking fountain will be closed.
- Restrooms will be open for use. However, we recommend that they be occupied by one or two people maximum at a time. Please use the occupied sign upon entry and open sign when you leave.
- Prepackaged “Communion Kits” are available for those celebrating Communion at home, located inside Door #4 (south Entrance)
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People Are the Church

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

Barb **Berns**; Bob & Chris **Brink** (following the passing of sister, Donna Beerman); Ben & Gavin **Cahn** (relatives of Becky & Nathan, Ben recently donated his kidney to Gavin—15); Elinor **Colebank**;

Jean **DeMuth**; Barb **Ermisch**; Linda **Fleming**;

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

Gary **Grant** (Marlin’s brother, Agent Orange

Parkinson’s); Kathy **Hilken**; Frank **Kisch**; Rudy **Koshir**;

Marilyn **Kreutz**; Ronin **Millette**; Carol **Mundy** (Wiley &

Sue Smith’s daughter, recovering from recent

surgeries); David, Barb & Edith (David’s mom)

Ottinger; Steve **Scherer**; Sherri & Mike **Slobodnik**

(following passing of sister Cathi); Sharon **Smith**;

Ralph **Steward**; Rita & Teryl **Tepper**; Gordy **Thorold**

(Becky Cahn’s step-dad); Barbara **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; Mark **Waters** (son of Barb

Waters, colon cancer); Jim **Whiting** (Parkinson’s Disease); Alex (Pediatric Heart Issues)

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



May Birthday's

Wilma Grant (1st)	Shawn Berres (2nd)	Lee Thorn (4th)
Rita Tepper (5th)	Collin Murdock (6th)	Barbara Van Winkle (6th)
Mary Kate Foley (7th)	Darcie Murdock (7th)	Lynne Scherer (10th)
Bob LeClaire (12th)	Diane Darr (19th)	Travis Bistodeau (20th)
Lucy Thorn (22nd)	Patricia Griffith (24th)	Breanne Stromley (24th)
Ellen Morrison (25th)	Pastor Jill Meents (25th)	Becky Cahn (26th)
Dean Hilken (26th)	Kim Ledbetter (26th)	Ken Olson (27th)
Kaite Knack (27th)	Tyler Kuyper (29th)	Sloan Stromley (30th)

May Anniversaries

Ron & Judy Krei (9th)	Ken & Irene Olson (15th)	Lyman & Judi Demaray (27th)
Rudy & Zoe Koshir (28th)	Deb & Mike Engel (28th)	

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the cards and prayers during my surgery and unexpectedly long hospitalization. I am slowly adjusting to my new lifestyle. Continued prayers are very much appreciated. -Frank Kisch

Dear Hillcresters,

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and prayers surrounding my 100th birthday. Unfortunately my out of state family was unable to visit but all in all it was a very special birthday. -Marie Burton

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Valentine's Day surprise! Wow! Something for everyone—even delicious home-baked cookies! It was all so thoughtful and kind. It was so nice to be remembered. I miss all of you! Thanks again. -Phyllis Worley

Changes to Directory

For changes to the following entries, please call or email Kaite in the main office.

Bosacker, Dale

Tenhoff, Carm



Coming in Worship

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-19 & Ephesians 5:1-11

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Mother's Day & In-person worship

Scripture: Jon 19:24-27 & Joel 2:13-17

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 & Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Scripture: Psalm 133, 1 Corinthians:1-10

Committees & Small Groups

Hillcrest Church Office Hours

Starting the first week of May 2021, your Hillcrest Church office hours will be:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00a-2:00p; Friday 9:00a-12:00p.

Pastor Jill Meents: Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:00a-2:00p; Thursday 10:00a-12:00p

Pastor Jerry Jensen: in office Monday-Thursday, 9:00a-2:00p; Friday's 9:00a-12:00p

Kaite Knack (Communications/Outreach Coordinator): in office Sunday's 8:00a-2:00p, Tuesday-Thursday 9:00a-3:00p

Hillcrest Church Leadership Council

Respectfully Submitted by David Ottinger

The Leadership Council had its first meeting of 2021 in April. We had 3 items on our agenda; Return to Church Plan, Church's Annual Calendar and Operating Principles of the Leadership Council.

As we talked about Operating Principles, communication was a key topic. We decided that we would communicate all decisions to the Hillcrest family. In the spirit of that decision, I will be including an article in the monthly Spire documenting our decisions.

In April we were considering one topic that needed a decision, the Return to Church. Jeff Sha has led a team to develop the plan for our return to church safely and aligned with CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. Jeff shared the "COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Hillcrest United Methodist Church", which is required before we can open, with the Leadership Council. Jeff and his team answered questions we had, as well as sharing how it will be implemented. After discussion, we unanimously approved the plan, how it will be implemented and an opening date of May 9, 2021. **The next Leadership Council Meeting is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00p.**

Worship Redesign Team with Worship Survey Results

Respectfully Submitted by Pastor Jill Meents

Thank you to all of you who took the time and thoughts given to complete our survey. We received a total of 64 surveys. You will see the **top two answers** for each question. The total number of persons agreeing or disagreeing (whether strongly or somewhat) with each question is listed. This number will be represented in parenthesis for each question. This number will not equal the total number of surveys.

Individual comments are not printed in this report, but have been noted and will be taken into consideration by the Worship Team in future conversations. As the worship team continues to pray and reflect on this information, we will proceed with worship service enhancements.

Our church is a warm, accepting community of grace

1st: strongly agree (29) 2nd: somewhat agree (23)

Our identity is clearly reflected in the way we do our worship services

1st: somewhat agree (32) 2nd: somewhat disagree (11)

I have a clear sense of our church's identity; what we're called to do and be in our community

1st: somewhat agree (34) 2nd: somewhat disagree (11)

I have had a feeling of closeness with God because of an experience in one of our worship services in the last 3 years

1st: somewhat agree (3) 2nd: somewhat disagree (11)

Sermons have a clear message that help to deepen my faith

1st: somewhat agree (16) 2nd: Neutral (14)

Sermons have a clear call to action that motivate me to live out my faith

1st: somewhat agree (24) 2nd: somewhat disagree (15)

The musicians appear to be sincere in their worship and to be enjoying themselves

1st: strongly agree (34) 2nd: somewhat agree (18)

Changing our worship service would make it more appealing to new people

1st: neutral (22) 2nd: somewhat agree (14)

I would be excited to hear new songs and new music styles at church

1st: neutral (17) 2nd: somewhat agree (16)

I trust the leadership teams to make careful and strategic changes to the worship service as needed

1st: somewhat agree (22) 2nd: strongly agree (19)

I believe that our church has a lot to offer the broader community

1st: somewhat agree (26) 2nd: strongly agree (20)

It is worth it to let go of some of my preferences in order to make the worship service more effective in connecting with new people

1st: somewhat agree (21) 2nd: strongly agree (19)

Worship is interactive – I feel like I'm part of what's going on

1st: somewhat agree (21) 2nd: somewhat disagree (12)

I would feel comfortable approaching someone I don't recognize in church and introducing myself

1st: strongly agree (34) 2nd: somewhat agree (14)

I am engaged and curious during announcements in worship

1st: strongly agree (23) 2nd: somewhat agree (17)

I usually know what the next right step is to follow up on a church announcement

1st: somewhat agree (24) 2nd: strongly agree (19)

I am open to exploring ways of praying together in worship that could be meaningful in a new way

1st: neutral (20) 2nd: somewhat agree (17)

I would invite others to church because of the music

1st: somewhat agree (25) 2nd: neutral (17)

I would invite others to church because of the sermon

1st: somewhat disagree (15) 2nd: somewhat agree (15)

I would invite others to church because of the welcoming community we share

1st: strongly agree (23) 2nd: somewhat agree (21)

Our church tends to do worship in ways that are more often simple than elaborate

1st: somewhat agree (34) 2nd: strongly agree (15)

Our church tends to do things in ways that are more often traditional than modern

1st: strongly agree (26) 2nd: somewhat agree (24)

Our church tends to do things in ways that are more often spontaneous than intentional

1st: strongly disagree (20) 2nd: neutral (19)

The Membership, Evangelism, Missions & Outreach Committee (MEMO)

Membership: Our current membership is 197 following the passing of Dawn Kreutz.

Evangelism: An Easter Devotional was sent to all congregation members. A Mother’s Day devotional and small gift will be given during worship on May 9, 2021 or mailed to those who do not attend worship. The MEMO Team is also planning short term small groups starting mid-July. A “Small Group Survey” was sent out in late April. Please look over this survey and send yours back to the church office by **Sunday, May 9, 2021**. A complete list of requested small groups and possible meeting times will be printed in the June 2021 Spire.

Missions & Outreach: in March 2021, we collected **\$785** to go towards “Easter Meals”, for those who are experiencing food insecurity. We spent a total of \$796.51, which filled 36 bags with a small ham, potatoes, vegetable, bread and dessert. Over 20 families were blessed with these “Easter Meal” bags. They also received an Easter Devotional in each bag of food. These meals were distributed during Holy Week 2021. Plans are being discussed to host a “Community Event” later in the summer. More information on this event coming soon!

Next MEMO Meeting: Saturday, May 15, 2021. 11:00a in the Front Lawn at church (Fellowship Hall if inclement weather).

Respectfully Submitted by Kaite Knack

Staff-Parish Relations Committee has not scheduled a meeting for May, as of the printing of this newsletter. SPRC Chairperson, Kathy Roberts, will contact all committee members if a meeting is scheduled in May.

Adult Faith Formation Team

As of the printing of this newsletter, a May meeting has not been scheduled.

Healthy Church Initiative Vision Team

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:00a

As of printing of this newsletter, HCI will meet on Zoom. Discussions are in the works to invite those who are comfortable to meet in person at Hillcrest Church for this meeting. A final decision has not been made.

Thursday Morning Bible Study led by Pastor Jill Meents

Thursdays 11:00a in Library at Church

Topic for May: The book of Malachai

Finance Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:30p

Plant Sale Pick Up

Pick Up Outside of the Gym (West Parking Lot)

Friday, May 7, 2021: 1:00p-6:00p

Saturday, May 8, 2021: 9:00a-12:00p

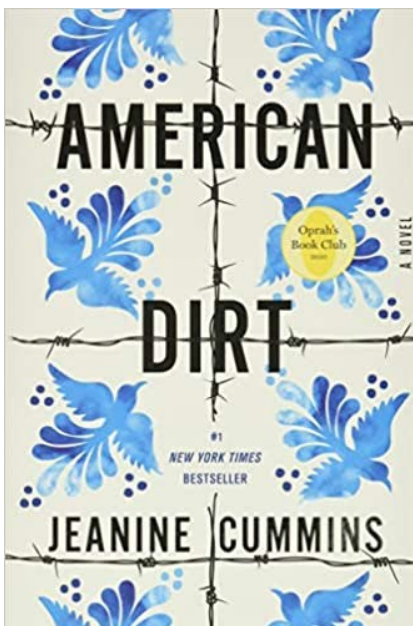
See Kay Young with any questions or concerns

Book Club

Monday, May 17, 2021 1:00p

Book review taken from www.amazon.com

“This book is not simply the great American novel; it’s the great novel of *las Americas*. It’s the great world novel! This is the international story of our times. Masterful.” —Sandra Cisneros



Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. Even though she knows they’ll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the *jefe* of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia’s husband’s tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia*—trains that make their way north toward the United States,

which is the only place Javier’s reach doesn’t extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach *el norte*, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to? *American Dirt* will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times. Already being hailed as "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our times" and "a new American classic," it is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 12, 2021

8:00a Perkins on Lyndale Avenue

If you have any questions, or plan to attend, let Pastor Jerry Jensen know!

Penn Avenue Construction

CenterPoint Energy will be starting a construction project on Penn Avenue this summer. The "Belt line Project" runs from April to November 2021 and will be doing work along Penn Avenue N from 98th Street W to Interstate 494. The work will be done in segments. One or two blocks will be closed at a time, for a few weeks each time. When the crews cross an intersection, each crossing will take a few business days. Lane and parking restrictions are anticipated in areas where active construction is occurring. This project has the potential to affect traffic to and from Hillcrest Church this summer. For more information, or to sign up for updates, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Construction and click "project sites" and "Bloomington"

2021 Preschool Graduation

Hillcrest Child Care will be celebrating their 2021 Preschool Graduates on Thursday, May 27, 2021. This year, the graduation ceremony will be by invitation only. To show support, we encourage everyone to pray for the Child Care Center, the staff, the students and their families throughout the day on May 27.





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(952) 881-8601
www.hillcrestmethodist.org
www.facebook.com/hillcrestmethodistchurch

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