

# THE SPIRE



March 2023

9100 Russell Avenue So.,  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
952-881-8601

hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com  
www.hillcrestmethodist.org  
www.facebook.com/  
hillcrestmethodistchurch



## Easter Worship at Hillcrest UMC

### Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023—9:30a (Hillcrest UMC)

### Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023—7p (Portland Ave UMC)

### Tenebrae (Good Friday)

April 7, 2023—7p (Hillcrest UMC)

### Easter Sunday

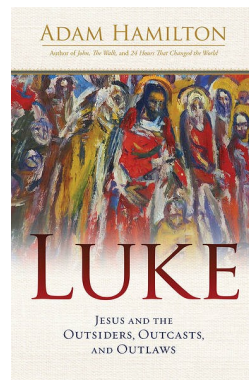
April 9, 2023—9:30a (Hillcrest UMC)

## LENT SOUP SUPPER & BOOK STUDY

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Soup Served at 6:00p, Book Study 6:30p-7:30p

Led by Kaite Knack, Outreach Coordinator



## COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:00a-11:00a

Inside: Breakfast, Spring Crafts, Easter Bunny  
Outside (weather permitting): Easter Egg Hunt



Grace and Peace from the Risen Christ,

Lent is a time of letting something die to connect with God. In Romans 14, Paul suggests letting go of judgement. "Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."

One would think that not judging would be simple, but it's not! It is baked into our culture to judge. It's in our media, our sports, and even COOKING! We love to judge. But where is the faith in this? Where is the hope in this? Where is the love in this? I would argue that judging has turned us against each other which is against what Christ wants for us.

This Lent, let judging go. It's a weight. Choose mercy, grace, faith, love, and hope. Jesus calls us to live opposite of the world. Is this easy? Heck no!!! To love your enemies, feed them, and forgive them is hard. Not judging people based on where they live, what they drive, or who they love is hard. People will judge you for not judging! Jesus doesn't ask us to do the easy things but the hard opposite stuff to bring the rule of God into the world.

This Lent, plant faith, hope, and love. Make room for the Spirit to come alive in your life! God still does supernatural things every day. God still heals and creates and restores! Look for these things, especially in those who annoy us and see if God doesn't pour joy into your soul!

Blessings to You! Pastor Eric Pone

## People Are the Church

*The following persons were lifted up in prayer during the month of February 2023:*

Friend (with detached retina) of Karen **Anderson**; Chris **Brink**; Betty **DeVinney**; Bonnie **Dobratz**; Myron **Engel**; The family of Sue **Evans** (mother of Linda Fleming's daughter-in-law); Linda **Fleming**; Gary **Grant**; Don **Harrington**; Kathy **Hilken**; The family of **Dianna Howard** (long time friend of Chris Brink); Esther **Kisch**; Frank **Kisch**; Dan **Knack**; Zoe **Koshir**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Steve **Kuyper**; Sandy **Miller** (daughter of Jan Holcomb); Ronin **Millette**; Dale **Phelps** & Ruth **Sanford**; Steve **Scherer**; Marcia **Spring**; Ralph **Steward**; Rita **Tepper**; Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; **Braxton** (great-nephew of Bonnie Beyer); **Cathy** (friend of Michelle Engel); **Katie** (friend of Sue Loughlin); **Larry** (Darcie Murdock's dad); **Natalie** (Becky Cahn's niece); **Nathaniel** (Jill & Mark Jungers' great-nephew); **Tom** (nephew of Jim & Darlyne Hins)

## Those We Have Lost:

**Barb Ermisch** (11/6/1933-2/14/2023)

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, March 3, 2023 at Hillcrest UMC. Visitation, 10:00a, Service 11:00a, Luncheon to follow.

## **March Birthdays**

Barb Waters (1st)

Ellie Engel (5th)

Maddie Murdock (15th)

Barb Masee (22nd)

Jeff Sha (30th)

Nathan Cahn (3rd)

Marlin Grant (8th)

Will Bistodeau (18th)

Glenis Hedegaard (24th)

Kathy Hilken (31st)

Jon Engel (3rd)

Deb Engel (14th)

Nancy Berres (22nd)

Orion Engel (28th)

*Was your birthday or anniversary missing or incorrect? Let Kaite Knack know!*

## **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

### **Staff/Parish Relations Committee**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023—6:00p (Fellowship Hall)

### **Trustees**

Monday, March 20, 2023—6:30p (Zoom)

### **Finance Team**

Tuesday, March 21, 2023—6:30p (Zoom)

### **Leadership Team**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023—6:00p (Zoom/Fellowship Hall)

### **Membership, Evangelism, Missions & Outreach (MEMO) Committee**

*Will not meet in March 2023*

### **Worship Team**

*Will not meet in March 2023*

## **Upcoming Small Groups**

### **Knitting Group**

Wednesday, March 1, 2022—12:00p (Gathering Room)

### **Bible Studies**

*The Wednesday Bible Study has merged with Thursday Evening on Zoom.*

Thursday's —7:00p (Zoom, Led by Pastor Eric Pone)

*Email the church office for the Zoom link. EVERYONE welcome to join.*

## Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday's, 11:00a (Choir Room)

EVERYONE with a passion to sing is welcome to join!

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 11, 2023—8:00a (TENTATIVE, Hayden Grove Senior Living)

## Photography Group

The Photography Group continues to meet on a regular basis! For their upcoming photography sites or questions on joining the group on an outing, see Kay Young.

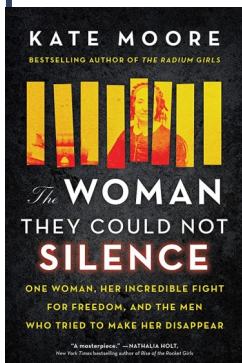
## "Holy Folders"

Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:00a (Fellowship Hall)

*Upcoming Dates: April 27th, May 25th, June 22*

## Book Club

### Monday, March 20, 2023—1:00p (Gathering Room)



1860: As the clash between the states rolls slowly to a boil, Elizabeth Packard, housewife and mother of six, is facing her own battle. The enemy sits across the table and sleeps in the next room. Her husband of twenty-one years is plotting against her because he feels increasingly threatened—by Elizabeth's intellect, independence, and unwillingness to stifle her own thoughts. So he makes a plan to put his wife back in her place. One summer morning, he has her committed to an insane asylum.

The horrific conditions inside the Illinois State Hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois, are overseen by Dr. Andrew McFarland, a man who will prove to be even more dangerous to Elizabeth than her traitorous husband.

But most disturbing is that Elizabeth is not the only sane woman confined to the institution. There are many rational women on her ward who tell the same story: they've been committed not because they need medical treatment, but to keep them in line—conveniently labeled "crazy" so their voices are ignored.

No one is willing to fight for their freedom and, disenfranchised both by gender and the stigma of their supposed madness, they cannot possibly fight for themselves. But Elizabeth is about to discover that the merit of losing everything is that you then have nothing to lose...

## Community Movie Day—Double Feature!

Saturday, March 18, 2023 (Fellowship Hall)

10:00a “Encanto” (2021, PG, 1 hr. 42 min)



Walt Disney Animation Studios’ “Encanto” tells the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia, in a magical house, in a vibrant town, in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift from super strength to the power to heal—every child except one, Mirabel. But when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is in danger, Mirabel decides that she, the only ordinary Madrigal, might just be her exceptional family’s last hope

12:15p “Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters (2022, 1 hr., 34 min.)

When a wealthy businessman learns of his daughter's sudden engagement to a missionary, he embarks on a quest to keep her closer to home, but when his efforts go awry he must reconsider what being a strong father really means.



**Sign up on the NEW BOARD in the Coat Room!**

## NEW SMALL GROUP—FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

Tuesday, March 14, 2023—11:30a

Lunch: Soup, Sandwiches, Salad & Dessert

Program: Trivia Contest—Jeopardy Style, 4-6 people per team, prize awarded to winning team.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Reservations: Call 952-881-8601, email [hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:hillcrestbloomington@gmail.com), or sign up on the board in the Coat Room. Lunch Scholarships Available. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 10, 2023.

**Everyone is welcome! You do not have to be a member or connected to Hillcrest UMC. Bring a neighbor or a friend!**

## 2023 Plant Sale

All Plant Sale orders are due to the church no later than Sunday, March 19th. An order form has been provided in this SPIRE or in the Narthex at Hillcrest UMC. If you have any questions about the upcoming plant sale, direct your questions to our Plant Sale Committee: Kay Young, Darcie Murdock and Mark Janco.

## Recent Blessings

- ♥ For EVERYONE who has picked up a shovel and scooped some ice melt, YOU have been instrumental in keeping our sidewalks and entry ways safer and clear of snow!
- ♥ For recently engaged extended family of Hillcrest UMC!
- ♥ For everyone who has offered up a name in prayer, supporting our friends and family in their times of need!



## Every Sunday:

Worship: 9:30a (In Person & Online)  
Communion First Sunday of Every Month

## Hillcrest Church Staff:

Pastor Eric Pone

Outreach & Communications Coordinator:  
Kaite Knack

Director of Music: Nancy Miller

Organist/Pianist: Loryce Sivertson

Child Care Center Director: Bonnie Beyer

Child Care Staff: Liz Clark, Dawn Froemel,  
Gabie Lane, Riley McGuinness, Jennifer Contreras  
Sanches, Jean Scott, Rosie Sola, Carla Sorensen,  
Carla Zenk, Kristin Zumberge