

THE SPIRE

July 2023



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Sundae SUNDAY

**Sunday, July 9,
2023**

Following Worship

Ice Cream &
All the Fixin's!





As we eagerly approach the launch of a fresh worship experience called *"The Blessing Bistro"* with a soft launch on October 11 at 6p, let us remember its profound purpose. This endeavor revolves around embodying the love of Jesus to a new generation of individuals, much like the travelers on the road to Emmaus. We have the fantastic opportunity to walk alongside newcomers, introducing them to the transformative power of Christ through the simple acts of sharing meals and fostering fellowship. Our calling is to demonstrate Christ's presence to this new generation and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us, touching the lives of those God brings into our path throughout the Bloomington area.

In 1 Peter 4:8, the epistle's writer emphasizes the significance of deep love among individuals, highlighting that love can cover many sins. This verse holds relevance for us today, urging us to explore its meaning and application. During the time of the Roman Empire, power and influence were primarily exercised through the patronage system. Since corporations and welfare programs were absent, individuals relied on the generosity of the wealthy and powerful to meet their needs. Unfortunately, those in power took advantage of this dynamic and manipulated the vulnerable through lavish banquets involving indulging in food, wine, and entertainment. Instead of expressing love, these acts were driven by the desire to assert control through their client's lust.

However, Jesus showed humanity a different path. Rather than feasting to gain influence or engage in debauchery, Jesus used meals to establish relationships and extend love towards others. The apostle Paul elaborates on the nature of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, highlighting its qualities: patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, forgiveness, and a commitment to truth. Paul was addressing the distortion of these principles within the prevailing culture. As Christians, we are called to rise above this prevailing culture and embrace the teachings of Scripture. James 2:8 emphasizes the importance of fulfilling the "royal law," which commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we choose to love without expecting anything in return, we experience true freedom. This freedom liberates us from the need to strive, envy, or be swayed by the opinions and emotions of others. Instead, it allows us to focus on actively listening to, serving, and healing those around us. Essentially, we become agents of God's love, spreading grace and love worldwide.

It is crucial for us to examine our lives and evaluate whether we are conforming to the world's values or aligning ourselves with God's principles. Do the opinions of others hold more weight than God's guidance in our lives? Do we depend on humanity to fulfill our needs instead of relying on God? Jesus offers an alternative way of living, one founded on love. This way of love entails being patient, kind, and humble, avoiding envy, boasting, arrogance, and rudeness. Love does not demand its way, nor does it keep track of the wrongs done to it. A loving person rejoices in truth and justice, and bears, believes, hopes, and endures in all circumstances, especially when others are involved. Love, unlike worldly things, never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8) Therefore, we are called to choose love over conformity to the world. I eagerly look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Church as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Blessings! Pastor Eric Pone

People Are the Church

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

Chris **Brinks'** 99 year old mother; Elinor **Colebank**; Bonnie **Dobratz**; The Family of Myron **Engel**; Carl **Ermisch**; Linda **Fleming**; Gary **Grant** (Marlin's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's); Don **Harrington**; Kathy **Hilken** (on hospice); Liesl **Klopp-Miller**; Dan **Knack**; Zoe **Koshir**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Steve **Kuyper**; Sandy **Miller** (daughter of Jan Holcomb); Ronin **Millette**; Alexandra **Pone**; Cindy **Probst** (niece of Jan Holcomb); Dale **Phelps** & Ruth **Sanford**; Ruth **Sanford**, and her daughter **Mary**, following the unexpected passing of Mary's husband **Mark Richardson** after a motorcycle accident. Marilyn **Sadloske**; Lynne **Scherer & Family**; Loryce **Sivertson**; Carol **Smith**; Marcia **Spring**; Ralph **Steward**; Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington** (great-grandson of Carol Herdt); Mark **Waters** (son of Barb Waters); Jim **Whiting**; Luella **Whiting**; **Braxton** (great-nephew of Bonnie Beyer); **Larry** (dad of Darcie Murdock); **Natalie** (niece of Becky Cahn); **Tom** (nephew of Jim & Darlyne Hins)



It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!

Email Lynne Scherer: imschere@iphouse.com
(OR) Call the church office (952) 881-8601



July Birthdays

Dani Jungers 3rd
Jessica Reagan 14th
Janet Gesche 16th
Lois Odum 21st
Marcia Spring 30th
Ron Krei 31st

Dale Phelps 6th
Susan Grosklags 15th
Frank Kisch 17th
Kathy Roberts 23rd
Ford Engel 31st

Abner Fuhrman 14th
Irene Olson 16th
Mark Demaray 21st
Jacob Sniegowski 29th
Hannah Kuyper 31st

July Anniversaries

Dale Phelps & Ruth Sanford 19th
Bob & Jan Kunkel 24th
Stu & Marcia Spring 28th

George & Kathy Roberts 20th
Joel & Erica Sniegowski 26th

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

Thank You!

Thank you to my Hillcrest Church family for all the calls, cards and prayers during my recovery. -Loryce Sivertson

Our sincere thank you to the Hillcrest Community for the love and support you continue to give at the passing of Myron. Love, The Engel Family

Financial Update

Raise The Roof

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge card or given extra giving to our Raise the Roof campaign! So far, we have brought in over \$6,000 towards the cost of repair. Be sure to check outside the main office each week during July to see how our giving grows! You can continue to pledge or give at any time. Questions about giving can be directed to Lyman Demaray (Treasurer).

2nd Quarter Financial Statements will be available to pick up on Sunday, July 2nd. Any questions about your financial statements can be directed to Kay Young.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

MEMO Team

Tuesday, July 11, 2023—11:00a (Library)

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, July 11, 2023—6:00p (Fellowship Hall)

Leadership Team

Tuesday, July 25, 2023—6:00p (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Small Groups

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, July 8, 2023—8:00a (Perkins, Lyndale Ave S.)

"Holy Folders"

Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:00a (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Dates: August 24

Pastor Led Bible Study

Thursday's —7:00p (Zoom)

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

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.

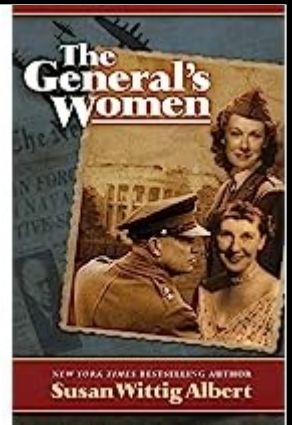
Book Club Monday, July 24, 2023—1:00p

A compelling story of love, betrayal, and ambition by New York Times bestselling author Susan Wittig Albert, *The General's Women* tells the story of two women--Kay Summersby and Mamie Eisenhower—in love with the same man: General Dwight

Eisenhower. Set during the chaotic years of World War II, *The General's Women* tells the story of the conflicted relationship between General Dwight Eisenhower and Kay Summersby, his Irish driver/aide, and the impact of that relationship on Mamie Eisenhower and her life in Washington during the war. Told from three alternating points of view (Kay's, Ike's, and Mamie's), the novel charts the deepening of the relationship as Ike and Kay move from England (1942) to North Africa (1942-43) to England, France, and Germany before and after the Normandy landing (1944-45). At the end of the war, Ike is faced with the heart-wrenching choice between marrying Kay and a political future. The story continues into the post-war years, as Ike (returning to Mamie) becomes Army Chief of Staff, president of Columbia University, Supreme Commander of NATO, and president of the United States.

Kay, meanwhile, struggles to create a life and work of her own, writing two memoirs: the first (*Eisenhower Was My Boss*, 1948) about her war work with Ike; the second (*Past Forgetting*, 1976) about their love affair. An author's note deals with the complicated question of the truth of Kay's story, as it finally appears in the posthumously-published *Past Forgetting*.

Taken from Amazon.com



Hillcrest Child Care Center

Summer has arrived! As I am typing this the kids are outside enjoying their first Water Day of summer. They are playing in the water tables, squirting each other with water bottles and running through the sprinklers. It a great way to cool off on these hot summer days. We are looking forward to more fun Water Days to come.

July will be a busy month for the children and their families. This is the month many children and their families plan their summer family vacations. The Fourth of July holiday “kicks it off”, and the adventures usually continue through Labor Day. These are the best months to be a child—lots of time outside, bike rides, beach days, and many cool treats. Freezie pops are a favorite of the Hillcrest kids.

The themes for the month are the Fourth of July, My Five Senses, Going to the Zoo, Summer Fun and Reptiles. It should be a FUN month! I look forward to seeing what fun activities the teachers will plan.

We hope you stay cool, have fun and enjoy the month of July!
Bonnie Beyer, Child Care Director





Every Sunday:

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

Hillcrest Church Staff:

Pastor Eric Pone

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,
Lady Vasquez; Carla Zenk, Kristin Zumberge