

THE SPIRE



September 2023

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www.facebook.com/
hillcrestmethodistchurch

9:30am
Worship

Breakfast
After
Worship

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 17,
2023

Communion
Sunday

Bring a
Friend!





Grace and Peace!

We are approaching the end of summer, and time has flown by! We are now nearing the time of pumpkin spice lattes, holidays, and a return to church life from cabin life! It's a time of change, and the changes can be beautiful as we move from a tapestry of verdant greens to yellows, reds, and oranges. Hillcrest, too is about to go through many wonderful changes! We are expecting this fall to have our roof repaired, and many have given generously to this project! No more leaks! We are about to relaunch our Sunday School program and are finishing preparations for a confirmation class to be offered.

Our most critical initiative though will be our Blessing Bistro, which is a Dinner Church that will occur once a month starting this fall. What is a Dinner Church? It is a worship expression geared towards busy families, the unchurched, and people who have been harmed by the institutional church and for whom the Sanctuary is a place of harm. It centers around a common meal and then a short Jesus Story is told. There is a time of discussion around a common question, and then people are dismissed with prayer. It is simple, it meets the needs of feeding the body and the soul, which are two of the marks of Methodism. God has truly been good to Hillcrest Church. We are planted in good soil, and hope abounds all over our community! Pray, fast, and seek God's face for where you may be called in this vision of becoming The Blessing Place. See you in Church!

Pastor Eric Pone

People Are the Church

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

Friends of Chris & Bob **Brink** (following the sudden passing of their friend's son & grandson in an accident); Bonnie **Dobratz**; Carl **Ermisch**; The **Engel** Family; Renee & Family (lost husband of 55 years, friend of Linda **Fleming**) Linda **Fleming**; Gary **Grant**; Don **Harrington**; Kathy **Hilken**; Melissa **Jungers**; Liesl **Klopp-Miller**; Dan **Knack**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Steve **Kuyper**; Bill & Sue **Loughlin**; the People of **Maui**; Sandy **Miller** (daughter of Jan Holcomb); Ronin **Millette**; Dale **Phelps**; Alexandra **Pone**; Cindy **Probst** (niece of Jan Holcomb); Marilyn **Sadloske**; Ruth **Sanford**; Loryce **Sivertson**; Carol **Smith**; Sue **Smith**; Marcia **Spring**; Ralph **Steward**; Wilma **Steward**; Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington** (great-grandson of Carol Herdt); Mark **Waters**; John (son of Nancy Miller) & Annmarie **Weiser** (following sudden passing of Annmarie's mother); Jim **Whiting** (health concerns & passing of his mother, Luella); Kay **Wolfe** (friend of Kay Young, cancer); Kristin **Zumberge** (preschool teacher)

& Family (following the passing of her father); **Braxton** (great-nephew of Bonnie Beyer, cancer); **Gary** (uncle of Brenda Pone, health concerns); **Larry** (dad of Darcie Murdock, memory care in Iowa); **Natalie** (niece of Becky Cahn); **Tom** (nephew of Jim & Darlyne Hins)

Those We Have Lost

Luella Whiting (2/17/1926—8/19/2023)

Funeral Information: TBD, information will be shared electronically and via the Echo Calls when Luella's funeral is finalized and confirmed.



It's Easy to Submit a Request for Prayers!

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



September Birthdays

Sareth Phang (1st)

Carl Ermisch (7th)

Jan Kunkel (9th)

Hattie Engel (13th)

Alison Roberts (16th)

Ione Johnson (16th)

Michelle Klaers (16th)

Diane Christensen (22nd)

Audrey Fuhrman (24th)

Judy Krei (26th)

Nancy Miller (27th)

Loryce Sivertson (27th)

Sara Bingen (28th)

September Anniversaries

Sue & Wiley Smith (17th)

Mark & Jennifer Demaray (21st)

Kim & Kimberley Reagan (28th)

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

Financial Update

“Raise the Roof” Financial Campaign

Hillcrest Church needs more of your financial help in supporting our “Raise the Roof” Campaign. Repairs have been scheduled for the September 2023. We have over \$52,000 (which is ~40% of our projected total cost) either given or pledged to our project, but we do need more contributions or pledges from our supporters. We will continue to accept donations or pledges through the fall. “Raise the Roof” Offering Envelopes are available in the Coat Room. A very special THANK YOU to everyone who has given so far in donations or pledges for future giving. Questions related to the work being done on the roof can be directed to your Trustee Committee, and any financial questions can be directed to your Finance Committee. Thank you for being a blessing to the building of Hillcrest UMC so we may continue to grow into Being the Blessing Place!

Help Hillcrest and Reduce Your Taxes!

Give to Hillcrest from an IRA: IRA Owners, who are 70 1/2 or older, can make a donation **directly** to Hillcrest from their IRA, **tax free**. The amount of the charitable distribution can be excluded from your federal income **lowering** your overall tax liability. This option provides **tax savings**, even if you do not itemize deductions. These Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) which you must start taking out. Any questions about your IRA donations can be directed to Treasurer, Lyman Demaray.

Outreach Update

Special Advance: Maui

Hillcrest UMC will be collecting a special offering to send to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. *Taken from www.umcmmission.org/umcor-us-latest-responses/*

To give to Advance #901670, use the envelopes provided in the Narthex, call the main office to receive an envelope, or send your check to Hillcrest UMC with “ADVANCE #901670—Hawaii” written in the memo line. Any questions can be directed to your Outreach Team: Pastor Eric Pone, Irene Olson, Zoe Koshir, Judi Demaray, Karen Anderson or Chris Brink.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

MEMO Team

Tuesday, September 12, 2023—12:00a (Library)

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, September 12, 2023—6:00p (Fellowship Hall)

Leadership Team

Tuesday, September 26, 2023—6:00p (Zoom)

Upcoming Small Groups

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 9, 2023—8:00a (Perkins, Lyndale Ave S.)

Fellowship & Faith

Tuesday, September 19, 2023—11:30a (Fellowship Hall)

Bring your lunch. Short devotional/prayer & lots of Fellowship. See Rita Tepper with any questions.

“Holy Folders”

Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:00a (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Dates: October 26th, November 16th

Pastor Led Bible Study

Thursday's —7:00p (Zoom)

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

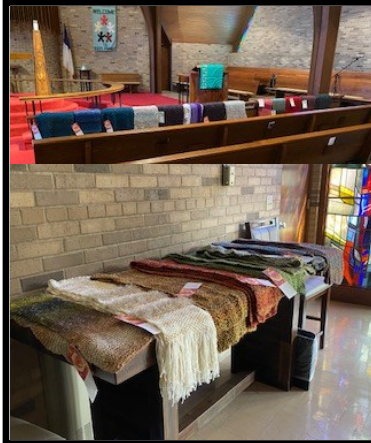
Photography Group

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 will not meet in September. See you October 1st for “Bell in the Lake”

World Communion Sunday—Oct 1st

Sign up to bring a food item (bread, butter, jam) that is significant to your culture or represents a culture around the world. These items will be sampled after worship.



Blessing our Prayer Shawls

Recent Blessings

- ♥ The marriage of Melissa & Nick!
- ♥ Return of children, and teachers, to school!
- ♥ Cancer in remission!
- ♥ The return of our cabin and lake house friends!

blessed 

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, Jennifer Contreras Sanches,
Jean Scott, Rosie Sola, Carla Sorensen,
Lady Vasquez; Carla Zenk, Kristin Zumberge