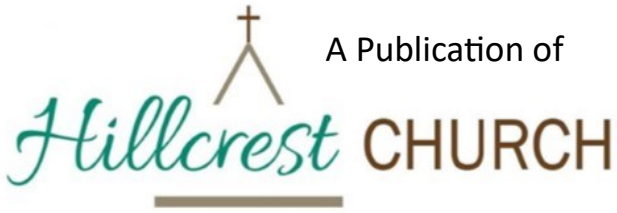


# THE SPIRE



## November 2023

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Thanksgiving is one of the central themes of the New Testament. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul advises them to “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” How do we thank God when things are not going well? How do we respond to God’s love, then? Because God is present and is loving us even when we can’t feel it.

I remember once, in the middle of hard times, I couldn’t feel God anywhere. I was advised by a family member to look around me and to find little things to be grateful for. I took my old 35mm camera and went for a walk. I took pictures of snow-kissed rocks in the

middle of a creek, graffiti on the garage wall, and the soaring towers in the financial district of downtown Minneapolis, all on black and white film because it fit what I felt inside. When I got the pictures back, I realized that instead of seeing my feelings, I saw the amazing Creation of God I had experienced. I felt this amazing sense of thankfulness even during depression.

If you seek God, you can be in a state that seems contrary to joy and still have glimmers of God’s blessings. God is everywhere doing something if we would but seek it out. If nothing else, put a bird feeder near a window and watch the gifts of color, shape, and size in the forms of birds that God brings to you. Thanksgiving is accepting all that life brings you, knowing that in all of it, God is present. That is, God is for you, not against you. That God is seeking to bring the resources, people, and opportunities into your life. God is always trying to find a way when there is no way. Our role is not to give up, to get up and walk, knowing that we never walk alone. Active living yields active loving, which yields thanksgiving towards God. This month, stoke your inner Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Pastor Eric Pone

## People Are the Church

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

Bonnie **Dobratz**; Linda **Fleming**; Linda & Dudley **Fleming's** son; Gary **Grant** (Marlin's brother, Agent Orange Parkinson's); Don **Harrington**; Pam **Haynes**; Mark **Jungers**; Liesl **Klopp-Miller**; Marilyn **Kreutz**; Steve **Kuyper**; Bill & Sue **Loughlin**; Blaine **Massee** (recent pacemaker); Ronin **Millette**; Marilyn **Sadloske**; Dale Phelps & Ruth **Sanford**; Loryce **Sivertson**; Sue **Smith**; Wiley **Smith**; Marcia **Spring**; Stu **Spring**; Ralph **Steward**; Barb **Van Winkle**; Ruth **Walker**; Adrian **Washington**; Jim **Whiting**; The Family of Mark **Waters**, following his recent passing on October 6, 2023, especially for his mother **Barb**; Kay **Wolfe** (friend of Kay Young, cancer); Jacob (cousin of Becky Cahn); Larry (Darcie Murdock's father, Memory Care in Iowa); Tiffany (daughter of Ron & Judy Krei, recent surgery); The people of Maui, Hawai'i following devastating fires; The people of Marrakesh, Morocco following a devastating earthquake; The people of Libya who recently experienced massive flooding; The people of Ukraine & Russia that the war may come to a peaceful end.

### **Those We Have Lost:**

Kathy Hilken (3/31/1936 -10/16/2023)

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday. November 9, 2023  
9:00a Visitation, 10:00a Service, Light Refreshments to Follow  
At Hillcrest Church

### **Change of Address:**

Ruth Walker, **HENNEPIN** Town Road #132, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

### **THANK YOU!**

Words cannot express the feelings I have in my heart for my friends at Hillcrest. Thank you for the Celebration Sunday you set aside for me. To let me choose the music and let me play the whole service again was so heart warming. I enjoyed every minute at the organ and piano. To all of you who planned the day for me, I can't thank you enough. Everything was just perfect. And to see and greet you all again was so fun. The cake was special and the smiles, hugs and cards were so welcoming. I just might pop in again to play if the opportunity arises. My years at Hillcrest have just sped by and they have been wonderful years for me. So many happy memories to carry with me as long as I live. God Bless you all and good-bye for now.

Love & Hugs, Loryce Sivertson

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and condolences following the passing of my dad, Dan Knack. He felt your prayers over his 18 month illness and appreciated all of them. We celebrated his life in his childhood church in Oakdale, MN on 10/31/23. He was an amazing man who will be missed by many. Thank you for your support and prayers through his entire illness.

-Kaite Knack

## **November Birthdays**

Darlyne Hins 3rd

Fern Tenpas 11th

Sarah Trowbridge 15th

Laurie Boseck 21st

Marion Bagley 25th

Jerry Jensen 5th

Pam Haynes 13th

Blaine Masee 16th

Lyle Gesche 21st

Josh Engel 29th

Evan Demaray 10th

Jean DeMuth 14th

Nancy Jensen 18th

Chris Brink 24th

## **November Anniversaries**

David & Barb Ottinger 18th

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

## **Financial Update**

### **2023 Stewardship Campaign**

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their 2024 Stewardship Cards! We have received 47 pledges towards our 2024 budget. If you have not returned your card and plan to, please send it to the church. If you are in need of another card, please reach out to the main office and one will be sent to you. Any questions about your Stewardship Pledge can be directed to Lyman Demaray, Treasurer, or your Finance Committee.

## **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

### **Church Meeting to Present Pastoral Compensation Package**

Sunday, November 12, 2023—10:45a (Fellowship Hall)

*Open to Congregation, No official vote taken*

### **Worship Team Meeting**

Monday, November 13, 2023 —6:30p (Zoom)

## **MEMO Team**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023—11:00am (Library)

## **Adult Faith Formation Team**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023—1:00p (Library)

## **Leadership Team**

Tuesday, November 28, 2023—6:00p (Fellowship Hall, TENTATIVE)

## **Charge Conference to Approve Pastoral Compensation**

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 —6:-0p (Zoom)

*Open to Congregation, Only Professing Members may vote*

## **Staff/Parish Relations Committee with DS Cynthia Williams**

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 —6:30p (Zoom)

## **Trustee & Finance Teams**

*Will not meet in November. See you in December!*

## **Upcoming Small Groups**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, November 11, 2023—8:00a (Perkins, Lyndale Ave S.)

### **"Holy Folders"**

Thursday, November 16      10:00a (Fellowship Hall)

### **Pastor Led Bible Study**

3rd Wednesday of Every Month—2:30pm

November 15 —Hybrid: In person (Library) or Zoom

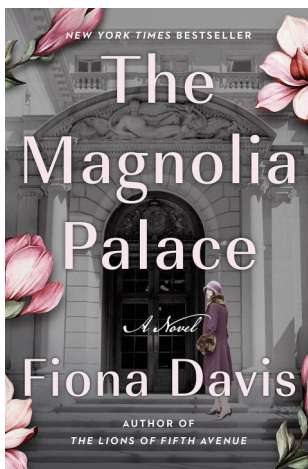
*Email Pastor Eric for the Zoom link*

### **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, November 6, 2023—1:00p (Gathering Room)



Eight months since losing her mother in the Spanish flu outbreak of 1919, twenty-one-year-old Lillian Carter's life has completely fallen apart. For the past six years, under the moniker Angelica, Lillian was one of the most sought-after artists' models in New York City, with statues based on her figure gracing landmarks from the Plaza Hotel to the Brooklyn Bridge. But with her mother gone, a grieving Lillian is rudderless and desperate—the work has dried up and a looming scandal has left her entirely without a safe haven. So when she stumbles upon an employment opportunity at the Frick mansion—a building that, ironically, bears her own visage—Lillian jumps at the chance. But the longer she works as a private secretary to the imperious and demanding Helen Frick, the daughter and heiress of industrialist and art patron Henry Clay Frick, the more deeply her life gets intertwined with that of the family—pulling her into a tangled web of romantic trysts, stolen jewels, and family drama that runs so deep, the stakes just may be life or death.

Nearly fifty years later, mod English model Veronica Weber has her own chance to make her career—and with it, earn the money she needs to support her family back home—within the walls of the former Frick residence, now converted into one of New York City's most impressive museums. But when she—along with a charming intern/budding art curator named Joshua—is dismissed from the *Vogue* shoot taking place at the Frick Collection, she chances upon a series of hidden messages in the museum: messages that will lead her and Joshua on a hunt that could not only solve Veronica's financial woes, but could finally reveal the truth behind a decades-old murder in the infamous Frick family.

**Church Office &  
Child Care Center**

**CLOSED**

**Thursday, November 23rd  
Friday, November 24th  
For Thanksgiving**

**Thanksgiving Sunday & Pie Social  
Sunday, November 19th**

Bring your favorite pie to share!  
Drop your pie off in the kitchen on your way  
into worship & taste a variety of pies during  
Fellowship! Sign up on the clipboard on the Info  
board in the coat room so we know  
how many pies to expect.

**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

Guest Pianist: Sue Quist

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