

# Hillcrest Calling

Volume XXXXVI, No. 1

May he give you the desire of your heart  
And make all your plans succeed.

January, 2018

Psalm 20:4

## Missions

The food pantry, Meals on Wheels, Rare Breed meals, and Ronald McDonald House meals are some of our ongoing missions that regularly need volunteer help. If you feel called to help with any of these please speak with the pastor and your talents will be utilized.



## Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Goran Persson



Monday – Saturday: Church events will be canceled on any day when the Springfield schools are closed due to inclement weather. If school is not in session, cancellation will at the discretion of the coordinator.

Sunday Morning: The pastor, and two members of session will make a decision no later than 8:00 am .

Notification will be made by means of email, phone calls, Facebook and texts.



## Winter gift

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann

Dear Members and Friends,  
I thank you for a most wonderful and generous Christmas gift. You are a gracious and wonderful congregation full of wonder and honest faith. May God bless us with wisdom, vision and strength as we move forward into the exciting future of 2018.  
Peace & Grace,  
Jack

# Thank You!

Dear Hillcrest,

On behalf of all those we serve, I'm writing to say thank you for your generous donation in support of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. Your special gift in the amount of \$260 for Crosslines and \$600 for all our Outreach Services, will be put to work immediately in service to our mission.

The Christmas season is a time of great joy as we celebrate the gift of God's loving presence among us with the birth of Jesus Christ. Your partnership in serving our most vulnerable neighbors is a sign to us of God's love, alive and well in our community. Thanks to you and compassionate partners like you, we aim to make our work a source of hope for thousands in the Ozarks. In this spirit, I pray that your home is blessed with God's peace, hope, and joy that attends this special season.

Thank you again for believing in our work through your special gift!

Peace to you & yours,

Mark Struckhoff, Executive Director  
Council of Churches of the Ozarks

Dear Friends with Hillcrest Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for the use of your van to transport our guests for this year's Homes tour. Your willingness to help in this way helped make this event a success and we appreciate it so much!

All our best

Kim Booth

Ronald McDonald House

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world—through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

Thank you for the following support to Special Offerings: On November 20, 2017, we received \$216.60 for the Pentecost Offering.

Again, thank you for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ.

You are a valued partner in mission.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission,

Bryce Wiebe

Director, Special Offerings

### From the correct perspective

A child sat at his grandmother's feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. "Nana," he said with concern, "that's not very pretty."

"Come up here," Grandma invited, "and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective."

"Oh!" the boy exclaimed then. "It's beautiful!"

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can't grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we'll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won't be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God's side!



### Of Note

The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on January 7th.

The Men's Breakfast is January 13th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral on North Kansas.

The church will be serving dinner at the Cox Ronald McDonald House on Monday, January 8th.

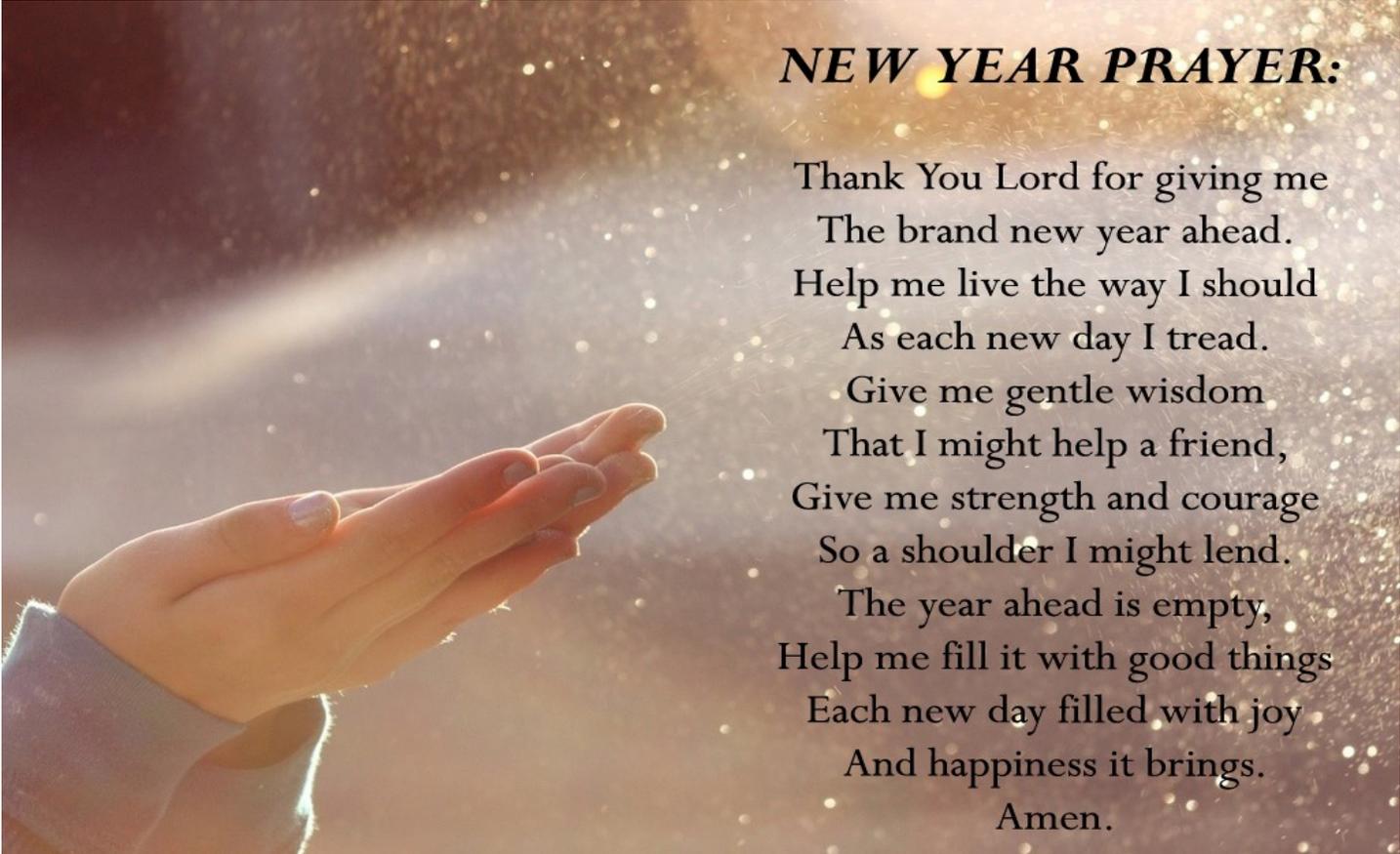
Book Club will meet on January 15th at 7:00pm. They will be reviewing the book "The Letter" by Kathryn Hughes.

The stated session meeting will be held Thursday, January 11th at 6:00pm.

We will be "de-hanging the greens" after worship on January 7th. Please stay and help take down the Christmas decorations.

The annual meeting and lunch will be held Sunday, January 28th following worship.

Hillcrest Presbyterian Church  
818 East Norton Rd.  
Springfield, MO 65803-3646

A hand is shown in the lower-left corner, reaching out towards the right. The background is a soft, golden glow with many small, sparkling particles, creating a warm and hopeful atmosphere.

***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.