

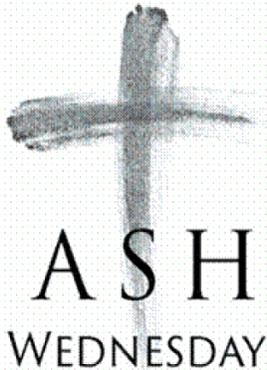
Hillcrest Calling

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This is love not that we loved God, but that he loved us and
sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

February, 2018

I John 4:10



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Its official name is “Day of Ashes,” so called because of the practice of rubbing ashes on one’s forehead in the sign of a cross. Since it is exactly 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday, it will always fall on a Wednesday—there cannot be an “Ash Thursday” or “Ash Monday.” The Bible never mentions Ash Wednesday—for that matter, it never mentions Lent.

Lent is intended to be a time of self-denial, moderation, fasting, and the forsaking of sinful activities and habits. Ash Wednesday commences this period of spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday and Lent are observed by most Catholics and many Protestant denominations. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not observe Ash Wednesday; instead, they start Lent on “Clean Monday.”

While the Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday, it does record accounts of people in the Old Testament using dust and ashes as symbols of repentance and/or mourning (2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3). The practice of Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th century. The modern practice which we observe today began to gain popularity in the 1970s.

Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for a multi-sensory way of connecting faith to the body, so many Christians choose to wear the ash mark of the cross on their forehead or back of the hand as an outward physical mark of their inward spiritual lives.

The ash dust calling us to remember that we are made from dust and to dust we will return. The sign of the cross is made to unite us with Christ and his 40 day journey through the desert of temptation. Therefore, the cross made of ashes invites us to explore an area of our life that we need to pay specific intentional attention to. Is there something that God is calling you to stop doing? Or is there something that God is calling you to start doing? May we use this time of Lent to let God move in us that we may grow more into the image God created us to be. So that when we arrive at Easter not only can we celebrate the resurrection of Christ anew but maybe ours as well.



Lenten Series Wednesday

**February 21 – March 21 at
6:00 in the Library**

For the Lenten season we will explore Contemplative Reflection. Contemplative Reflection is the intentional act of becoming more aware of

God’s presence. We will engage in specific reflective acts which you will be able to practice at home. Pastor Jack has been a Contemplative Reflection practitioner since 2009. All are welcome. Come and find out.



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 \$510 for Crosslines (Musgrave Match), 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 Hillcrest,
 Thank you for the invitation to the senior dinner. I remember when we first started having the Christmas Dinner for the "old folks". We considered 80 as old then and called it the Octogenarian Dinner for those 80 or older. But at sometime the session decided that was too restrictive and changed it to include all of senior age. I'm glad they did that. I'm glad I was able to attend and that is was able to visit with many "old timers". Thank you to all who worked so hard including the youth who did a mighty good job serving the dinner.
 John Tranbarger

Of Note

The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on February 4th and at the Ash Wednesday service, February 14th.

The stated session meeting will be held Thursday, February 8th at 6:00pm.

The Men's Breakfast is February 10th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral on North Kansas.

The church will be serving dinner at the Mercy Ronald McDonald House on Monday, February 12th.

A member of the Gideons will be giving the minute for mission on February 18th during worship

Book Club will meet on February 19th at 7:00pm. They will be reviewing the book "The Letter" by Kathryn Hughes.



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."



Hillcrest Presbyterian Church
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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



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.

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.



The dinner with the girls from Ashley House will be held on March 20h. We will be taking the girls to Jimm's Steakhouse. Please put this date on your calendar so you can join us!