

Hillcrest Calling

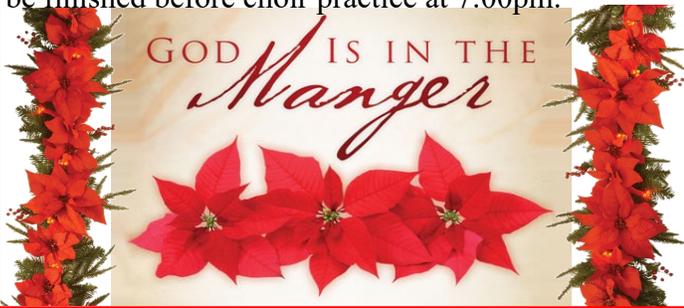
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Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the
Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
James 4:17

December, 2017

Advent Reflection Series

Advent season is quickly approaching. To help us grow deeper in our experience of God's presence during this very special time of the year, I am offering a series, Advent Reflections, around the book, "God Is In The Manger" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. You are welcome to purchase the book (Amazon has it for about \$10.00) or I will have a copy of each weeks devotional readings. We will meet in the Library on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm (November 29, December 6, 13, 20) and will be finished before choir practice at 7:00pm.



Inclement Weather Policy



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 6:00PM

Featuring skits, refreshments,
a visit from Santa,
joy, Laughter and FUN!!!!

White Elephant Gift exchange Each person needs to bring a "white elephant" gift (to be worth no more than \$5 if purchased, but white elephants can usually be found hanging around the house, right?) which will be used as we play a group circle game that includes the reading of a Christmas story.

Let's have fun with this!



Calling All Seniors!

The Journey's Class will host the Senior Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 9 at 12:30 p.m.



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$72.00 to help people affected by recent record-breaking storms. Hurricanes caused mass destruction, but your generosity has provided hope and critical relief supplies to tens of thousands of families in need. We believe kindness changes everything, and the kindness you have demonstrated during the aftermath of these disasters has enabled us to serve survivors in tangible ways. Because of your partnership, we have provided items like food, water, hygiene kits and cleaning supplies to people who have lost everything. Thank you for your support
God bless you,
Hal Donaldson
President
Convoy of Hope

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, thank you for your gift to support the Pentecost Offering. Your gift helps shape the faith formation of our young people through life-changing experiences which leads many of these young people to become future leaders in the church. We are tremendously grateful for your commitments to and support of the Young Adult Volunteer Program, child advocacy, and ministries with youth, both within your own community. Gifts to all our Special Offerings represent Presbyterians around the world who join together with a common purpose-sharing Christ's love. We invite you to learn more about how your gifts to each of the four churchwide Special Offerings are used, and how they are directly affecting the lives of others, by visiting our website (presbyterianmission.org/SpecialOfferings) or by following us on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/SpecialOfferings>). I look forward to our continued communication and partnership in the future.
With sincere gratitude,
Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings

2017 CROSSLINES CHRISTMAS TOYSTORE



This year the Crosslines Toystore will be held on Saturday December 15, 2017, at the E-Plex on the Springfield Empire Fair property. Hillcrest will again collect toys for distribution to the

eligible children.

The congregation may bring unwrapped new toys to church anytime until Sunday December 10. We will take the toys to the E-Plex on Monday, December 11, for the Saturday distribution.

Each child will receive 3 toys, a small, a medium, and a large and two other gifts (knit items, books, or games). Please do not remove the price tag to make the grouping easier.

A suggested list of toys will be included in the church bulletin early in November.

If shopping is not convenient you may give money to Sammy, Rae Jean or Fred to allow Crosslines to purchase toys in age or gender groupings that do not appear to have sufficient numbers.



Of Note

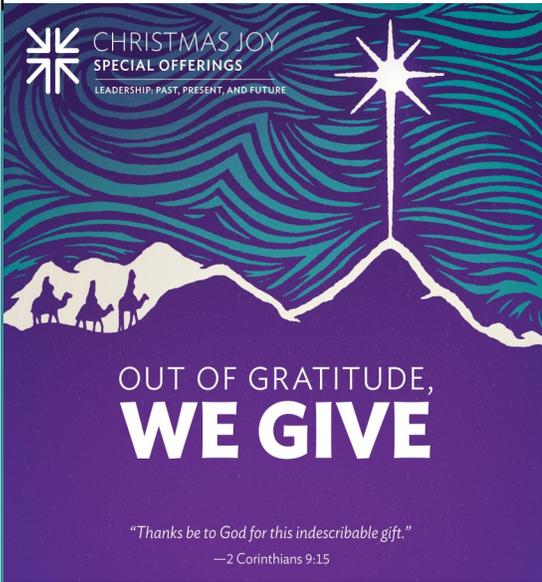
The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on December 3rd and again at the Christmas Eve service.

The Men's Breakfast is December 9th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral on North Kansas.

The church will be serving dinner at the Mercy Ronald McDonald House on Monday, December 11th.

Book Club will meet on December 11th at 6:00pm. We will be having a potluck at the home of Cathy Miller then watching the movie "All Creatures Great and Small" which was the book we discussed in November. No need to have read the book to enjoy the movie, especially you animal lovers! Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert and join us!!

We express our gratitude for the faithful service of our retiring Session Elders: Cathy Miller, Larry Butler and Fred Palmerton. Heather Heslin has graciously agreed to extend her term.



Follow Christ’s Lead This Advent Season

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before. This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it’s important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

**Please give generously:
Through your congregation
Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy**

To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit:

Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: www.pensions.org, click on Plans & Programs

Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/

From this page, you can also link to the institutions supported.

*For unto you is born this day
In the city of David a
Savior
Which is Christ the Lord
Luke 2:11*



December 24th, 5:00pm

The Christmas Eve Service is a quiet reflection for our final preparation for the birth of Jesus. The service closes with communion, the lighting of the candles, and “Silent Night.”



If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
 If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
 If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for almost 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!
 Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!
 Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

When you are about to forward this to others, the devil will discourage you.
 So go on! Forward this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.
 Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.

-Author Unknown



Hi All
 So many of you have asked me about shooting at Cherokee Firearms new indoor range, it looks like it is time to start a "Shooting/Dinner Club" at Hillcrest. No, you don't have to shoot your dinner but maybe go out for

dinner after shooting.

I am thinking the first week of each month starting Thursday Dec 7 at 5:30pm at Cherokee Firearms, 1500 West Collage St. at the SE corner of College and Kansas.

Your first time shooting you would have to fill out a waiver and watch a 5 minute safety video. After the first time, I was thinking of having a 15 minute group dealing with safety, shooting skills, cleaning, less than lethal devises, the law, security issues at home as well as out and about and any other topic you come up with. I work with and know a number of good trainers that might give us a little time. We will meet in the classroom to the right of the range at 5:30.

The shooting will cost \$12.50 each.

Children with parents are allowed.

You will need your own ear and eye protection.

(They have inexpensive items to purchase)

Bring your own guns, ammo and targets or buy what you need there.

They have a gun rental counter with most popular guns. For only \$12 you can try as many guns as you like but you must buy their ammo.

Bring your guns into the shop bagged, unloaded and opened. No touching guns till we hit the shooting line. SAFETY FIRST !! If you have never shot, I will be happy to make you familiar with the basics and get you going.

After shooting, if you like, we will go to a family friendly restaurant for dinner.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns just let me know. We will be trying both Thursdays and Tuesdays and see which works best.

If you are interested in coming, now or later, let me know and I will put an email list together with updates. Let others know about this and bring them along !

Thanks--Jim



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