

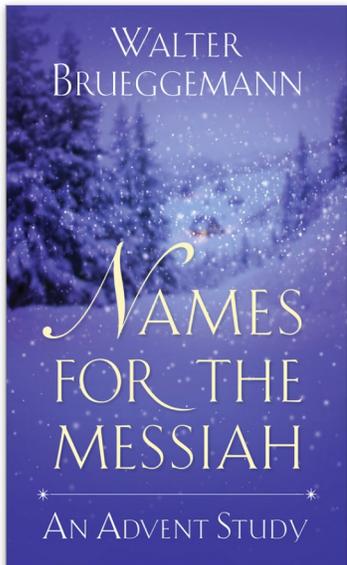
Hillcrest Calling

And a voice from heaven said
"This is my dearly loved son, who brings me great JOY.

Matthew 3:17



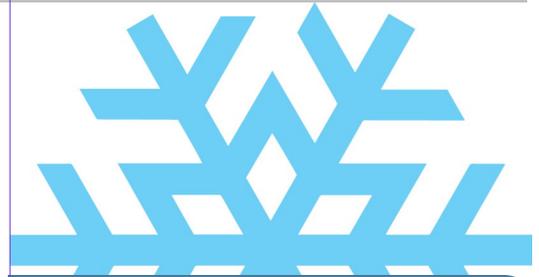
Hillcrest Calling—Holiday Edition



Advent Series
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
beginning November 28th

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles—Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians Interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackles the questions: What were these expectations? And Did Jesus fulfill them?



October Financials

Beginning Balance	\$7,894.76
Decrease	\$ -690.95
Ending Balance	\$7,203.81

Building Fund Loan Balance	
10/4/18	\$321,936.46

Please make sure you are up to date on your giving. You can drop off a check or go online to www.hillcrestpcs.com anytime to get up to date!

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.





The Journey's Class will host the Senior Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 8. Please gather for fellowship at 11:30am and dinner will be served at noon.



The choir will be caroling at Hulston Cancer center on December 5th at 2:00pm. All are welcome to come and make a joyful noise!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH 6:00PM

Featuring skits, refreshments, a visit from Santa, Joy, laughter and FUN!!!

This year we are doing a book exchange. Everyone that wants to participate should bring an adult book for themselves, and a children's book if they have children participating. Please put grown up books in a red bag, children's in green!

Please bring goodies to share with everyone!

Secretary Snippets



The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on December 2nd and at the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th.

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

The church will be serving dinner at the Mercy Ronald McDonald House on Monday, December 10th.

Book Club will meet Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00pm to review "Still Me" by JoJo Moyes.

We express our gratitude for the faithful service of our retiring Session Elders: Nancy Hackett, Garry Hill and Dianne Hutchins. Maddison Reynolds has graciously agreed to extend her term.

Jack will be out of the office December 25-29th.

Reminder: Our church premises is weapon free, carrying firearms is prohibited.



Christmas Eve
welcome to our service

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."



2018 CROSSLINES COAT DRIVE

Crosslines will again collect lightly to moderately used coats for both children and adults in need of protection against the cold this winter. We will take the coats to Glo cleaners for free cleaning prior to delivery to Crosslines. If you have any questions see Rae Jean

A Perfect Gift this Advent Season !

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot. As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-

related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

Please give generously:

- Through when we receive the Offering on December 23rd
- Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
- presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

Sunday,
December
23rd



An update from Jim & Nancy

Hello friends and family,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. Every time I'm here in Burma I am reminded of all the blessings we have been given. We got to spend Thanksgiving up in the Shan hills (mountains really) with 25 dedicated missionaries. It was great! Everyone pitched in and we had a real (almost) western style Thanksgiving - turkey and all the trimmings. The company was incredible, the food was incredible and the setting was incredible.

Before that we spent some time in Kayah state. Saturday was a beautiful day for our drive through the mountains to Loikaw. We stopped to pick up U Khaing at the coffee farm. (More about the coffee farm later.) We stopped to visit the old evangelist who lives by the lake in an old bamboo house. His deck was full of children fishing. Such a happy man. He was so pleased to see us again and really happy to pick out a pair of reading glasses so he could see the print in his Bible again. After a short visit we continued on to Loikaw. We were greeted by Rev. ThiHaOo who took us to eat a Sgaw style meal. All the food is served in a large round basket. There was 3 kinds of rice, several kinds of vegetables, pork & fish curries, and some other foods I couldn't name. It was very good.

Sunday was ECCD (Early Childhood Christian Development) Blessing Day at Loikaw Church. 175 children from around Kayah State (90% from non-Christian families) were in church that morning to sing bible songs and recite bible verses. They were adorable. The program was started in 2003 at the church and now has 4 centers. Great program - the families of all those kids were in church that morning...



Later that afternoon we met with the staff at the church for an update on the scholarship fund. We met 7 of the scholarship recipients. Great to see that they returned to work in their respective churches and villages. The fund raising to raise the endowment amount is going pretty good. Only a couple of thousand dollars to go. We were shocked to hear that they get 8% interest on their money! If I could trust the government, I'd move our endowment to Burma.



Monday we went to Demahsoe. We met with the staff. They accounted for every dollar they received from us. Nice to know that it's not being wasted. They are 3 years into a ten year plan that includes a rehab center, leadership training, a clinic, mission school... many good projects. The Bible school still needs books for the library. We gave them some money to connect to the internet. How can you have a school without internet? The orphanage has 36 kids. Both the director and his assistant grew up in that orphanage. God bless them! The hostel has 160 children from the countryside staying there so they can go to school.

The highlight of our day was that we were allowed to visit Hackett Farm. Uncle Bill started it many years ago and Eddie Loo has been working it for

years. It originally had 40 acres, a hostel for kids going to school, a mission school, a church, and the farm. The school was taken over by the government. The rest is still there. U-Khaing was impressed with the farm and how innovative and forward thinking Eddie Loo has been. After all, he was trained by the best - Uncle Bill. Speaking of Eddie Loo, we went to see him and his wife. Eddie broke his leg and hip last year and had a bout with prostate cancer. He is now confined to a wheelchair, blind in one eye and pretty deaf. It was great to see him, but sad at the same time.

Tuesday we went back to the coffee farm. Jweet put us to work. Jim washed and spread beans for drying while I collected seeds from the flowers. Later that day we went to a remote village to pick up a load of beans. There are 500 Paoh farmers selling their beans to Behind the Leaf. The farmers bring the beans to a central place in the village where the middleman has a chance to share the gospel with them. Behind the Leaf is 2 years old and has won awards in international competition. It's in the top 10% of the world's best coffee. Jim is looking at an angle to sell the coffee for fundraising for the Legacy and for youth groups.



We had a little adventure yesterday leaving the coffee farm. About 100 feet from the paved road we hit a rock and crunched the cover of the drive shaft. We've driven that rocky, rutted dirt road many times without a problem. Not this time. We had to take the cantor (truck) loaded with coffee back to Naung Shwe. Jim laid out in the bags of beans wrapped in a blanket under a full moon watching the stars. The trip took 4 hours instead of 1 1/2. Thank God Jim's back survived. It was fun.

Anyway, we leave for Thailand tomorrow after a visit to Myanmar Institute of Theology to check out the site of the new building. Sunday we will have dinner with our missionary friends Ruth & Mehm. Monday we go to Phuket for a little R&R. I'm exhausted.

Love to everyone. God bless you all and thanks for your prayers and support!

Nancy & Jim





Dear Church Family:
 Thank you so much for the prayers, phone calls and cards I have received while in the hospital and recuperating at home. I appreciate each and every one of them.
 Wayne Keltner

ongoing work of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. Thanks to you and other compassionate partners like you, our work at the Council of Churches is a sign to our community and the world that God's dream of our oneness is not an impossible dream. Whether we are sheltering a homeless woman, reading with an at-risk child, coming along-side a family in crisis with groceries, or putting new shoes on the feet of a foster child, we are demonstrating our oneness together through compassionate service in the name of Jesus Christ. I give thanks for your compassion and generosity!
 In Joyful Service,
 Mark Struckhoff
 Executive Director

Dear Friends at Hillcrest Presbyterian,
 How can I thank you adequately? Your \$500 donation for this year gives us a generous start as October is the start of our new fiscal year! In the face of daily being with women facing health problems, family disfunction, loss of job and home, we are able to encourage hope and new beginnings. Our presence in a church sets a tone of love and dignity. We consistently search for those overnight volunteers who will live out Jesus' love for the poor. Thank you for supporting Safe to Sleep.
 Ramona

Jack & all the Helpers,
 Thanks to Jack and the Hillcrest Bucket Brigade for your help with this year's disaster bucket drive. Providing us with storage and helping with the loading and unloading was invaluable.
 On behalf of PDA,
 Todd & Kathy

Dear Hillcrest:
 Thank you for your special gift of \$600 in support of the



Toy Wish List

This year the Crosslines Toy store will be held on Saturday December 15, 2018, at the E-Plex on the Springfield Empire Fair property. The congregation may bring unwrapped new toys to church anytime until Sunday **December 9th.**

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 small gift is less than \$10, a medium gift is around \$15 and a large gift is around \$25. If shopping is not convenient you may give money to Sammy, Rae Jean or Fred to allow Crosslines to purchase the needed toys.

0 – 23 Months

Diapers/wipes
 Activity cubes
 Sorting blocks
 Pull toys
 Walkers
 Crib toys
 Bath toys
 Board books

2 – 4 Years

Books
 Building blocks
 Dolls
 Push toys
 See N' Say
 Trucks
 Trains

5 – 7 Years

Barbies
 Books
 Doc McStuffins
 Legos
 Musical Instruments
 Star Wars

8 – 10 Years

Action figures
 Barbies & dolls
 Books
 Craft kits
 Cars, trucks, race tracks
 Headphones
 Lego sets
 Sports Equipment
 Star Wars

11-13 Years

Books
 Bluetooth Speakers
 Nerf Toys & Balls
 Musical Instruments
 Sports Balls & Equipment
 Wallets & Purses
 Headphones
 Minecraft
 Water bottles

Teens

Books
 Blow dryers
 Bluetooth Speakers
 Coloring books
(age appropriate)
 Hair Straighteners
 Headphones
 Curling Irons
 Watches
 MP3 players
 Sports Equipment
 Water bottles

DECEMBER 2018

Worship, 10:00 am
 S. S. Classes, 9:00 am
 Classes for all ages
 * Birthdays
 ■ Anniversary

Sound Technicians
 2—Maddi Reynolds
 9—Jeremy Heslin
 16—Garry Hill
 23—Brian Hill
 30—

Nursery Attendants
 2—Dianne Hutchins
 9—Mary Wood
 16—Heather & Jeremy Heslin
 23—Cindy Covey
 30—

Security Greeters
 2—Scarlet Cormack
 9—Jim Downing
 16—Bill Covey
 23—Dan Wood
 30—Norm Meester

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Responsibilities: Van Driver: —Sammy Miller Monitor: —Leonard Throne	3 Make a Gift day 	4 National Cookie Day 	5 Choir Caroling at Hulston Cancer Center 2pm Advent Series 6:00pm Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	6 Shooting Fellowship, 5:30pm	7	1 Youth Movie Matinee 3pm
2 Hanging of the Greens Service Communion	10 Noon Bible Study Dinner at Mercy Ronald McDonald	11 	12 Advent Series 6:00pm Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	13 Advent Series 6:00pm Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	14 Monkey Day 	8 Men's Breakfast 8am at Golden Corral Senior Dinner 11:30am
16 Choir Contata Sunday School Christmas Program, 6:00pm	17 Re-gifting Day 	18 Book Club, 7:00pm "Still Me" JoJo Moyes	19 Advent Series 6:00pm Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	20 Advent Series 6:00pm Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	21	22
23 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm	24 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm	25 	26 Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	27 Choir, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	28	29
30	31					

Hillcrest Presbyterian Church

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Phone: (417)833-1746
www.hillcrestpcs.com



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The Gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

Merry Christmas

Blessings for a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Staff

Hillcrest Presbyterian Church

