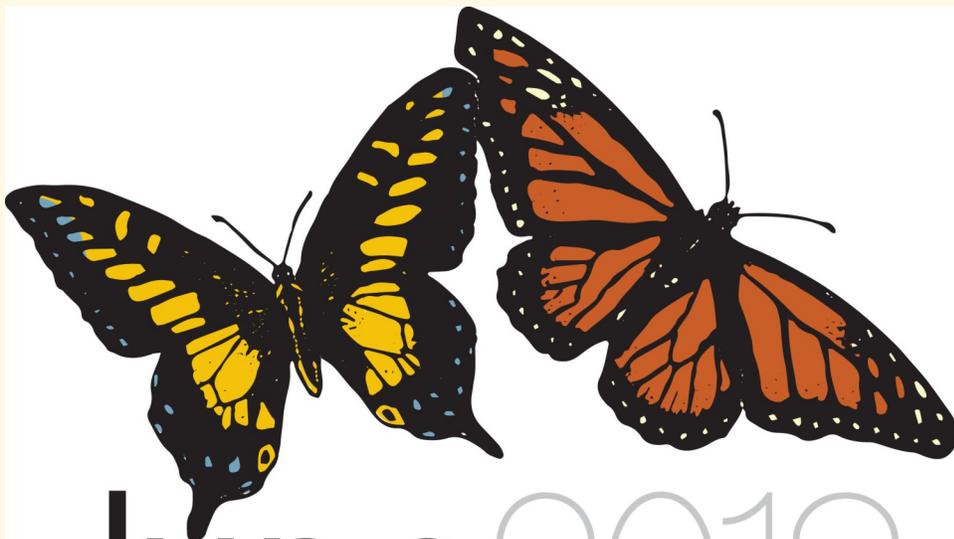


# Hillcrest Calling



# June 2019



## Swaddled in God's law of love

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she'd scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God's law, given so people can live in peace. "I know that I'm supposed to do the right thing, but I'm always wiggling out of it," he writes. "And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray."

We've all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: "That's too naïve for this day and age." But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we've done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God's law of love, only to flail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.

## June birthdays

### birthdays

Leah Keltner, 2nd  
Paul Anderson, 3rd  
Jimmy Smith, 6th  
Janel Eyraud, 12th  
Linda Selson, 14th  
Elijah Baker, 16th  
Lynne Poindexter, 16th  
Tyler Robertson, 21st  
Vi Brightwell, 22nd  
Skylyn Hill, 25th  
Sam Scott, 25th

## June anniversaries

Jim Downing & Nancy Hackett, 1st  
Jack & Scarlet Comack, 3rd  
Mike & Shannon Scott, 4th

### Our old tired van is to be sold.

After much deliberation, the Session has decided to sale the church van on August 31st. This decision was made due to van's current need for repair which would exceed its value, coupled with the cost of insurance and general maintenance. It is the hope that in the future when the church is on more stable financial footing that a newer van might be purchased.

If you have any questions please see Randy Zweerink or DeAnn Riggs.

### Angels along life's trail



Weary long-distance hikers sometimes encounter "trail angels" – people who offer food and drink, bandages, shoelaces and even a place to do laundry. Along the Pacific Crest Trail, one home, dubbed Hiker's Heaven, serves as a mail drop. Trail angels say they find great joy in offering kindness to strangers.

Unexpected kindnesses – and regular rest stops – make any journey less grueling and more enjoyable. That's also true on the journey of life as

we experience (and bestow) generosity and pause to spend time with God. After all, "It is God to whom and with whom we travel," said Elisabeth Elliot. "And while he is the end of our journey, he is also at every stopping place."

### A father's legacy

For Joseph Dodson, the pressures and responsibilities of parenthood felt compounded when he and his wife adopted a son. Dodson, a Bible professor, wonders if Jesus' earthly father also struggled with doubts and fears.



Scripture doesn't say much about Joseph, but he clearly left Jesus "a significant legacy," Dodson writes in *Bible Study Magazine*. Joseph obeyed God — despite the risk to his reputation — by marrying a pregnant woman. Joseph, a son of David, raised *the* Son of David as his very own. To protect his family he fled to Egypt, foreshadowing the "new exodus" of Jesus' saving ministry. And Joseph heard neighbors mock Jesus as "the carpenter's son."

"Joseph taught Jesus much more than woodworking," Dodson writes. "He modeled for his adopted son how, for God's glory, he must drink the Father's cup no matter the cost."

### Reasons to rejoice

Proverbs 11:10 (NIV) says, "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices." The Hebrew word for *righteous*, notes Timothy Keller, indicates people who, because they believe in God, "disadvantage themselves to advantage those around them." In other words, people living righteously "will be such a benefit to the public good of the whole city that the entire populace will exult."

Keller then asks: "Are you the kind of person, and is your church the kind of church, about which others in your community might say, 'I don't share their beliefs, but I shudder to think about what this city would be like without them?'"

## April Financials

Beginning Balance	\$5,535.68
Decrease	- 1,482.54
Ending Balance	\$4,053.14

### Building Load Balance

4/30/19 \$316,372.36

### Building Fund Balance

\$ 17,238.84

2019 Offering Envelopes are available in the Northex

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Both of these things are available to help you in your giving.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**The Men's Breakfast is June 8th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral**

**Book Club** is changing from meeting on Tuesdays to Monday evenings. The next meeting will be on **June 17th at 7pm**. They will be discussing "The Tuscan Child" by Rhys Bowen.

**The Session meeting is Monday, June 10th at 6:00pm.**

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

# Women of the Bible - Jochebed

The cry of a newborn baby cut through the home. Mother Jochebed sunk into her pillows, tired. At the same time a feeling of new motherly happiness flowed through her. She had once again brought a child into the world. Jehovah! His Name be praised! This was the moment she had been waiting for with great expectation, for which she had hoped and also feared. "Is it a boy or a girl?" she asked anxiously. Before the answer came, Jochebed was distracted by sounds from outside. A whip cracked through the air and unmercifully cut the back of one of her fellow citizens. She heard a Hebrew screaming and the loud cursing of a furious Egyptian. Such sounds had become more familiar, and their penetration into the houses of the Hebrew colony resulted in fear and tension. The situation of the Israelites in the Egyptian province of Goshen had not been rosy for a long time and recently had become increasingly worse.

Four centuries had past since Joseph and the family of Jacob had grown and grown until the Egyptians were trying to suppress their growth through hard labor. Finally Pharaoh tried to approach the problem at its roots. To assist him, he called for the help of the two Hebrew midwives who help the Israelite mothers with their deliveries. "Watch carefully whether a boy or a girl is born" he order, anger rising in his voice. "If it is a boy you must kill him, but let the girls live."

That cruel order also failed to produce results, for the midwives showed more fear toward God than for their king. They waved aside his orders with an excuse, "The Hebrew women have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time," they said. "They are not slow like the Egyptian women." So the king now gave a new order, this time to the entire nation. "From now on," he decreed, "throw all Hebrew boys that are born in the Nile." "Crocodile food," shuddered Jochebed. Although only a few seconds had passed since her question, she sensed that the midwife was hesitant to answer. "It is a boy," she finally said with a sigh, compassion ringing through her voice. "Give me the child," was all Jochebed could utter, as she pressed the soft, pink little body to her heart. "What a beautiful child you are."

Jochebed and her husband were Levites and thus belonged to the tribe which would later be assigned to serve God in His temple. Day by day, by faith they hid the child who was to become one of the world's greatest leaders. Slowly a plan came into her mind. A God inspired plan. She transformed a simple box of reeds, maybe her shopping basket, into a little boat. The outside of papyrus reeds had to protect the baby against crocodiles that seemed to have little interest in eating reeds. She carefully coated the inside of the box with waterproof bitumen and tar. The water that was threatening the tiny boy with death must save his life. It must become the baby's ally and friend.

Calmly and carefully, Jochebed went to work. Every possibility was thought through. Gradually, as she developed her own good solutions, she fell in step with the plans God had formed in heaven for His servant on earth. Her part in His plan was vitally important, but she could only move in the directions He pointed out to her. Because of Jochebed's faith, problems didn't have a chance to develop. She had the courage to involve her young daughter in her plans. That also was a step of faith. When she placed the little boat in the waters of the Nile River, Jochebed took her hands off her son and placed him into the care of God. The future of her little boy now lay solely in His hands and those of little Miriam.

When Pharaoh's daughter noticed the box and had it picked up out of the Nile, Miriam conducted herself in an exceptionally mature manner. As soon as she saw that her brother was safe with the princess, she stepped forward to ask "Shall I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked. So during a time of terrible persecution, Jochebed was able to care for her son openly without feeling threatened. She was even being paid for her care by the daughter of the man who had tried to kill her child. That was divine humor.

Jochebed had received the meaning of her name, "Jehovah is her glory." She was convinced that her God was greater than the greatest difficulty, she courageously faced immense problems with faith in God.



Sunday Services:

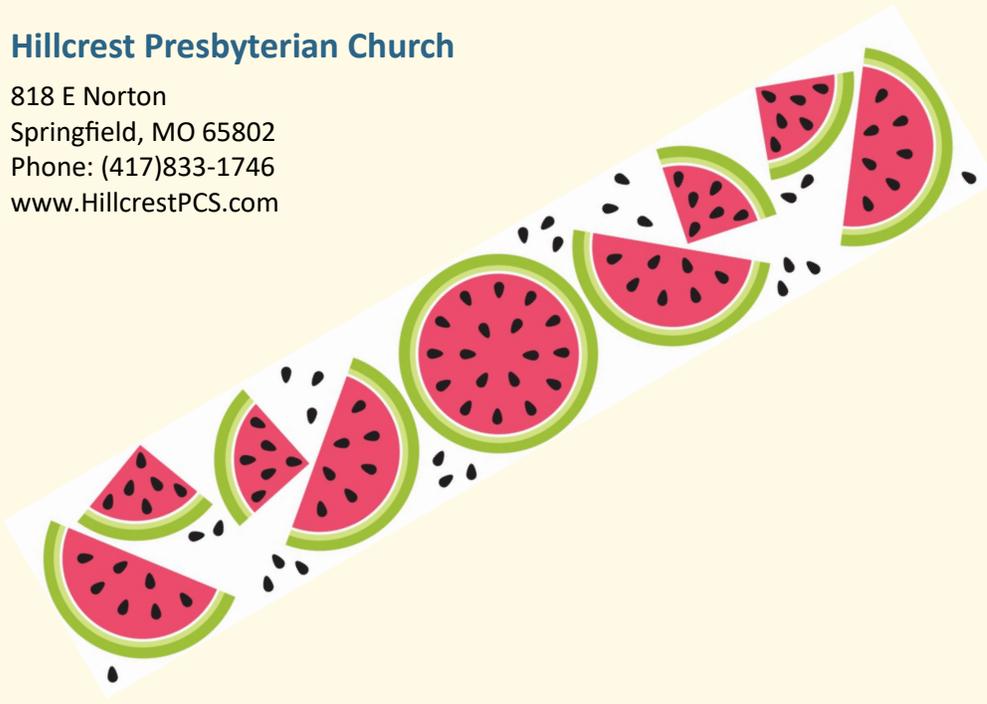
Worship Service 10am  
 Sunday School 9am

☘ birthdays  
 ♥ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion Peanut Butter, Jelly & Cracker Drive ☘ Leah Keltner	3 Boy Scout Spa- ghetti Dinner Fund Raiser ♥ Jack & Scarlet Cormack ☘ Paul Anderson	4 ♥ Mike & Shannon Scott	5 AA 8pm	6 Shooting fellowship 5:30pm MOW—the Hills ☘ Jimmy Smith	7 Men's Breakfast 8:00am Firearms Training 8am-4pm	8 Men's Breakfast 8:00am Firearms Training 8am-4pm
9 Communion Pentecost Sunday Peanut Butter, Jelly & Cracker Drive AA 7pm	10 Session meeting, 6pm	11 Noon Bible Study	12 Property, 6pm ☘ Janel Eyrand AA 8pm	13 MOW—the Meesters	14 Triennium Meeting, 10-11—8pm ☘ Linda Selsor	15 Triennium Meeting, 10-11—8pm
16 Father's Day Peanut Butter, Jelly & Cracker Drive Ends Trinity Sunday ☘ Elijah Baker ☘ Lynne Poindexter	17 Mission/ Outreach 5:30pm Book Club, 7pm "The Tuscan Child" ♥ Tim & Stephanie Baker	18 AA 8pm	19 AA 8pm	20 MOW—the Meesters ☘ Barbara Garten & Nancy Hackett	21 First Day of Summer ☘ Tyler Robertson	22 ☘ Vi Brightwell
23/30 Minute for Mission— School supplies	24 ☘ Skylyn Hill ☘ Sam Scott	25 ☘ Skylyn Hill ☘ Sam Scott	26 MOW—the Palmertons	27 MOW—the Palmertons	28 MOW—the Palmertons	29 MOW—the Palmertons

## Hillcrest Presbyterian Church

818 E Norton  
Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone: (417)833-1746  
www.HillcrestPCS.com



### An encouraging word

The Bible repeatedly “encourages” Christians to “encourage one another.” How can you tell when someone needs encouragement? The answer is easy, said Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy: if they’re breathing! He quipped, “I get a lot of encouragement, but I never got an overdose.”

Offering encouragement is an easy way to have a big impact. In fact, two esteemed Christian writers call encouragers angelic and godly. George MacDonald said, “If, instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give.” And G.K. Chesterton said, “If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God.”

Who in your life might need an encouraging word today?

