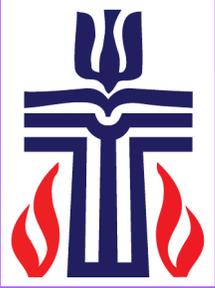


# Hillcrest Calling



**April 2020**

## Loosed from death



Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"



**Easter LILIES**

## **April** birthdays

Mary Wood, 8th  
Debbie Hill, 13th  
Lindsey Miller, 13th  
Kyle Miller, 13th  
Wayne Keltner, 20th  
Jim Downing, 24th  
Maddison Reynolds, 25th  
Brayden Scott, 29th

## **April** anniversaries

Fred & Rae Jean Palmerton,  
6th  
Brandon & Amanda Sigour-  
ney, 21st



On behalf of those we serve and The Kitchen team, thank you for your generous donation of \$118.00. Because of your support, a family, youth, an individual or a veteran will now have a place to call home thus fulfilling The Kitchen's mission to end homelessness by providing housing and stabilizing services. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of our miss to being stability and purpose to people who are homeless.

With gratitude,  
Meleah Spencer  
CEO

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### Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (The Cost of Discipleship)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (Letters and Papers from Prison)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (Life Together)

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### Pictorial Church Directory

We are working on a pictorial directory for the church. We've had to postpone our appointments for taking pictures because of the virus, As soon as we can, we start making new reservations for pictures to be taken. Everyone who has their picture taken will not only receive the directory, but also a free 8X10. You can have your entire family including pets in the picture. Also senior, veterans and first responders get a 20% discount on any picture packages they order. We want to include everyone in this directory...that means...we want you!

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### All things in common



Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...

Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

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### February Financials

Beginning Balance	\$3,283.46
Decrease	212/98
Ending Balance	\$3,070.48
Building Load Balance	
2/04/19	\$300,414.27
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 19,444.55

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**We don't have any dates this month...but we will have some as soon as we can.**

# Women of the Bible - Deborah

The situation in Israel was gloomy and desolate. Life had become nearly unbearable and unsettled. All trade was paralyzed as caravans stopped traveling through the valley of Jezreel to the south and east. Farming was limited to the minimum because farmers could be killed during a surprise enemy attack while he would be tilling the ground. For more than 20 years the land had been occupied and the conquerors had kept the people firmly under their thumbs. Young people knew the word “freedom” only from the mouths of their parents. For the older people, it was getting increasingly difficult to remember what that word really meant. The population was downhearted, fearful, and depressed.

King Jabin, who lived in the northern city of Hazor, dominated all of Israel. His dreaded right-hand man, General Sisera, commanded a large army which had 900 chariots. Everyone was afraid of him, for his forces could overrun and trample down the countryside swiftly and with deadly intent. Only the mountain people were relatively safe, for his chariots could not reach them. The cause of this misery, however, did not lie with the occupation forces but with the Israelite people themselves. After 80 years of prosperity under the previous rulers, Judges Ehud and Shamgar, the Israelites had shown no gratitude toward God. They fell away from Him and started worshipping idols. The ones who thought that they no longer needed God had to experience His distance. When He withdrew His protection, they became powerless against their enemies and peace disappeared.

In the hill country of Ephraim, on the road between Bethel and Ramah, more and more people were going to a palm tree which stood plainly above the surrounding shrubbery. Under that tree, their present leader—the prophet Deborah—held court, judge the people and gave direction to their lives. She was the only woman judge among the 12 judges who ruled between Joshua and Samuel. She held a two-fold position among her people. She was both their national and spiritual leader and carried out her duties capably and with good results. Like so many times before in their tumultuous history, distress in their lives was causing the Israelites to seek God. In this situation, Deborah had the privilege of being His instrument. Because of her faith, the events that happened changed history. Prophet Deborah was the mediator between God and His people. In her high position, she communicated insight, wisdom, and the knowledge of God with love to her people. With the fine-tuned intuition of a person who abides in the presence of God, she sensed that God’s time had come to throw off the yoke of oppression. She felt, and rightly so, that as a woman she was not the appointed person to fight this war, so the command went out to Barak, the son of Abinoam of Kedesh, “mobilize 10,000 men”. Deborah knew the one who had real and final authority was God. So, although she was first among her people, Deborah did not place herself over Barak. Instead she placed herself next to him and together with him placed herself under God’s leadership.

Her command to Barak was at the same time an encouragement. “Don’t be afraid because of their number,” she said confidently. “Looking at it from God’s point of view, our enemy is defeated already. The chariots and forces of Jabin are nothing in the sight of God. The only thing He expects from you is faith.” Deborah & Barak, with his 10,000-man force behind him, stormed down the steep flank of Mount Tabor. Next to the Kishon River, he met Sisera’s army arrayed behind grim and armored chariots. The enemy expected an easy victory. But gray thunderclouds moved together, rumbling ominously. The storm broke in all its ferocity precisely at the moment the Israelites reached the plain. Heavy rain and hailstones beat into the faces of the enemy soldiers. Before long the Kishon River overflowed its banks and became a wide stream. Wildly moving water churned the ground under the warriors’ feet into a muddy mess. The chariots of the enemy stuck fast, bringing defeat instead of victory. The routed enemy was unable to make a quick escape because of the pileup of chariots. The Israelites were able to kill every last man, including Sisera.

Deborah’s victory song, which belongs to some of the oldest and most beautiful of Hebrew poetry, proved that her strength was in God. Her deepest joy came from God. “Listen, O you kings and princes, for I shall sing about the Lord, the God of Israel,” the song of Deborah and Barak began. It ended with these words: “but may those who love the Lord shine as the sun when he goes forth in his might.” (Judges 5:31) Deborah is one of the outstanding women in biblical history because of her leadership, her character, and her beautiful poetry. But her priorities were not based on her accomplishments. The open secret of her life was God. More than anything else, she showed what a woman can do when God is in complete control of her life.

From “Her Name is Woman” by Gien Karssen

# APRIL

Sunday Services:

- ☞ birthdays
- ♥ anniversaries

Worship Service 10am  
Sunday School 9am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 Palm Sunday</p>	<p>6 Siamese Cat Day</p> <p>♥ Fred &amp; Rae Jean Palmerton</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 April Fool's Day</p>	<p>2 Peanut &amp; Jelly Day</p>	<p>3 Find a Rainbow Day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>☞ Mary Wood</p>
<p>12 Easter</p>	<p>13 Scrabble Day</p> <p>☞ Debbie Hill</p> <p>☞ Lindsey Miller</p> <p>☞ Kyle Miller</p>	<p>8 Passover</p>	<p>15 Laundry Day</p>	<p>9 Mandy Thursday</p>	<p>10 Good Friday</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>19 Garlic Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>☞ Wayne Keltner</p>	<p>21 Bulldog Day</p> <p>♥ Brandon &amp; Amanda Sigourney</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>17 Cheese Ball Day</p>	<p>18 Husband Appreciation Day</p>
<p>26 Pretzel Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Superhero Day</p>	<p>29 Guide Dog Day</p> <p>☞ Brayden Scott</p>	<p>30 Honesty Day</p>	<p>24 Arbor Day</p> <p>☞ Jim Downing</p>	<p>25 World Malaria Day</p> <p>☞ Maddison Reynolds</p>

"Do not worry about anything  
instead pray about everything  
Tell God what you need and  
thank Him for all He had done

Then you will experience God's peace  
which exceed anything that we can understand  
His peace will guard your hearts and minds  
as you live in Christ Jesus

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing  
Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable,  
and right and pure, and lovely and admirable.

Think about things that are excellent  
and worthy of praise

Keep putting into practice all you learned  
and received from me

Everything you heard from me and saw me doing  
Then the God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4: 6-9 NLT

Hillcrest Presbyterian Church  
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Springfield, MO 65803



## A reason to laugh

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday – a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term “*risus paschalis*,” or “the Easter laugh,” saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan’s defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that “we are fools for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.