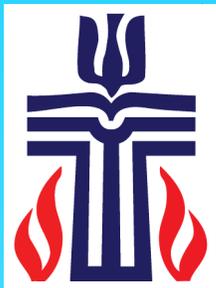


# Hillcrest Calling



## May 2020

### A prayer for Memorial Day



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### May

#### birthdays

Pat Keltner, 3rd  
Pearl Adams, 3rd  
Kristofer Clay, 4th  
Maurice Johnson, 6th  
George Culp, 6th  
Alma Clay, 15th  
Connie DeGeere, 16th  
Sheila Burton, 16th  
Sally Hosiner, 18th  
Isabelle Riggs, 18th  
Steve Strum, 18th  
Bob Hosiner, 21st  
Alex Miller, 21st  
Dalton Hill, 25th  
Garrett Hill, 26th  
Brandon Scott, 27th

### May

#### anniversaries

Lynn & Cheryl Clay, 5th  
Tim & Stephanie Baker, 20th  
Jim & Regina Ice, 26th  
Harold & Mary Jo Reynolds,  
27th



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the wonderful cards,  
phone calls and concerns for Wayne during his  
recent illness. We appreciated them so much.  
Wayne & Pat Keltner

Joanne Throne would like to thank everyone for  
their cards, calls, and prayers during her recovery.

Joyce Goodell is doing so much better and she  
wants to thank everyone for their calls, cards and  
prayers.

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## Of patience and pruning

In many parts of America, Mother's Day is the recommended date for planting flowers outdoors. Subjecting blooms to the elements any sooner is risky, though sunny spring days sure make waiting tough. Perhaps that's why poet May Sarton calls gardening "an instrument of grace," for it "slows us down and forces patience."

Courage is also required. Gardeners "must be brave enough to cut back the old and sit with bare branches, awaiting new growth," writes Cheryl Richardson (*Waking Up in Winter*). "And we must trust that it will come." When God prunes us, we too must trust that new growth and new life are in store ... and then patiently wait.



We are in a time of flux but from what came out today from the Governors Office, we will be gathering on the May 10th. We have prepared for everyone's protection. Pastor Jack and Dan Wood made these hand sanitizer stations at the entrance of the office and to the entrance of the sanctuary. Please use them as you enter. Also we will be practicing social distancing and if you wish to use a mask please do so. We understand some of you may want to still stay home, so until we see you, may God bless and keep you!

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## Adopted by God

Anecdotes abound of couples who become pregnant soon after finalizing a long-awaited adoption. A *Reader's Digest* contributor recounts how one such mother later handled well-meaning inquiries about which child was "hers" (biologically). She replied: "I've forgotten."

That mindset, perhaps, is why John Piper calls adoption "a picture of the Gospel." God, through his Son Jesus, makes us his very own eternally beloved children.

Max Lucado writes: "If anybody understands God's ardor for his children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home."

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## March Financials

Beginning Balance	\$3,319.20
Increase	1,638.80
Ending Balance	\$4,958.00
Building Load Balance	
2/04/19	\$299,072.11
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 22,686.00

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**We will be gathering on May 10th. The two churches**

**will be meeting at their regular times. We will be practicing social distancing as far as we can. Family groups may sit together. There are hand sanitizers at both entrances to the office and to the sanctuary. And feel free to wear a face mask if you wish to do so.**

# Women of the Bible - The Shunammite Woman

With a few strong lines, the Bible draws her portrait—a great woman, very rich, married to an older man, childless. Her name is not mentioned. She was called the Shunammite after the name of her city. Shunem was situated a little north of Jezreel near Nain, a city which became well known nearly 900 years later because Jesus raised a widow's son from death there.

The Bible leaves no doubt that the husband was the head of the family. This did not mean, however, that the woman was a drudge who could only give her assent—a person who displayed no personal initiative. The Shunammite woman was the most energetic, since she was the younger of the pair. She offered ideas, but only carried them out after discussing them with her husband. She shared her plans with him, and decision-making was a joint effort.

This woman had a wealth of interest in the world around her. She thought of others first, not of herself. She watched her environment attentively and had noticed among the many who passed her house daily that one individual was exceptional. Being hospitable, she invited him to a meal, for she realized that he was, indeed, an unusual person. He was the prophet Elisha.

While she, as a housewife, took care of her daily responsibilities, she asked herself the question, What can I do for this servant of God? She received what was, certainly for her time, an original idea—I'll make a guest room for him! Not a temporal, tent-like thing, but something which is solid and will last. With her husband's help, she built a guest room for Elisha on the upper level of the house.

So Elisha stayed with them. Everything had been arranged for prolonged and repeated usage. Undoubtedly, there was also room for his servant Ghazi. As a result, God rewarded her. Elisha had asked her through his servant Gehazi, "Since you have taken all this trouble for us, what can we do for you?" The grateful woman had replied that she had no request for she had everything she needed. The observant Gehazi later pointed out to his master, "She has no son, and her husband is old." But when she had received the promise that she would bear a son, she didn't dare believe it. "No, my lord, O man of God; please do not lie to your maidservant." But it had not been a deception. It was real. A godly reality! A year later she gave birth to a son.

One day with the little boy was three or four years old, he accompanied his father to the fields. There he became ill and died within a few hours. His mother put his dead body on the bed of the prophet in the room where he prayed and meditated. She saw only one possible solution—God! There was no time to waste. Though she informed her husband she was going to visit the prophet, she didn't waste time with further explanations. Elisha could see from a distance that something was wrong. He wanted to send his servant Gehazi back with her to help. But she was not satisfied with that. She told Elisha she would return only if he himself would go with her. Since she had totally dedicated herself to meeting Elisha's needs, she no expected him to return with her. Elisha was persuaded and went with her. When they arrived at her home, Elisha, just as Elijah had before him, stretched himself over the tiny corpse and raised him from the death. The Shunammite then received her son for the second time.

This was not the only blessing bestowed upon the Shunammite. When the country was threatened by a famine some years later, she was warned by the prophet in time to move away with her family and escape starvation. Not until seven years later did she return to her country. During her absence she had lost her home and fields. She asked the king to restore these to her. He not only did that; he also gave her all of its fruits. Why? Because she was the woman whose son Elisha had restored to life and because of her contribution to him and Kingdom of God.

The Shunammite was just a woman. But she was a woman who thought creatively. A woman who, by her unselfish dedication to someone else, opened the floodgate of blessing upon herself.

# May

# 2020

Sunday Services:

Worship Service 10am  
 Sunday School 9am

🌸 birthdays

♥ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>🌸 Pat Keltner 🌸 Pearl Adams</p>	<p>4</p> <p>🌸 Kristofer Clay Star Wars Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>♥ Lynn &amp; Cheryl Clay Cinco de Mayo Teacher Day</p>	<p>6</p> <p>🌸 Maurice Johnson 🌸 George Culp Nurses Day</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Have a Coke Day</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Brothers &amp; Sisters Day</p>
<p>10</p> <p>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!                      Church starts to gather again. See you then.                      Mother's Day</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Limerick Day</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Apple Pie Day</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Buttermilk Biscuit Day</p>	<p>14</p> <p>🌸 Alma Clay</p>	<p>15</p> <p>🌸 Connie DeGeere 🌸 Sheila Burton Armed Forces Day</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>  <p>Walnut Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>🌸 Sally Hosiner 🌸 Isabelle Riggs 🌸 Steve Shrum</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Chocolate Cake Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>♥ Tim &amp; Stephanie Baker</p>	<p>21</p> <p>🌸 Bob Hosiner 🌸 Alex Miller Ascension of the Lord</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>🌸 Dalton Hill</p>	<p>26</p> <p>🌸 Garrett Hill ♥ Jim &amp; Regina Ice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>🌸 Brandon Scott ♥ Harold &amp; Mary Jo Reynolds</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Hamburger Day</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Mint Julep Day</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Day of Pentecost No Tobacco Day</p>						

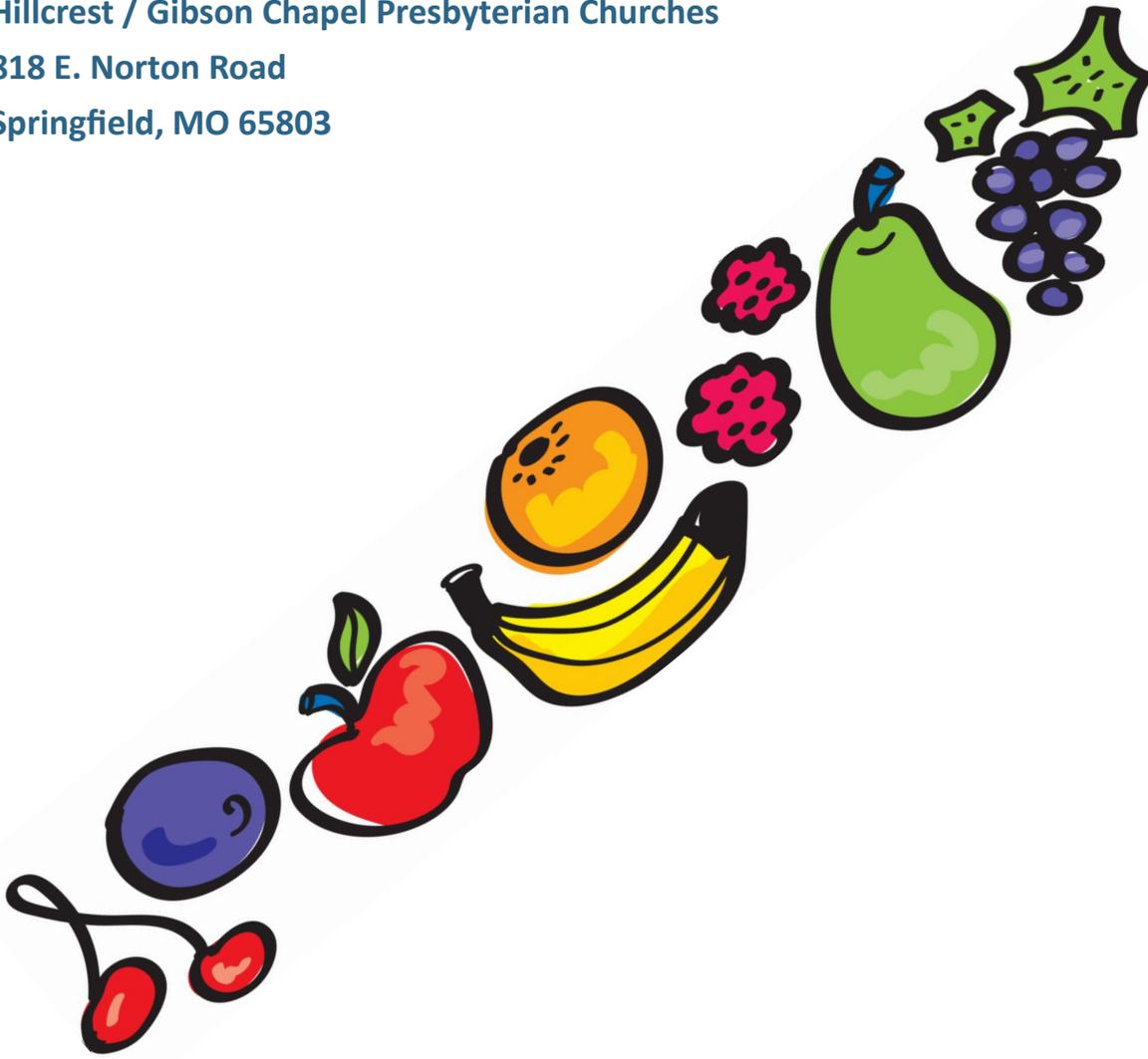
“So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to Him, for He cares about you....

Remember that your family of believers all around the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

In His kindness God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support, and strengthen you, and He will place you on a firm foundation. All power to Him forever! Amen.

1 Peter 5: 6-7, 9-11 NLT

Hillcrest / Gibson Chapel Presbyterian Churches  
818 E. Norton Road  
Springfield, MO 65803



## Trust the Artist



We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade