

# Hillcrest Calling



## September 2020

### Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!



### September birthdays

Leonard Throne, 1st  
Cathy Miller, 4th  
Jossie Hutchins, 6th  
Ethan Hartman, 7th  
Denise Lofton, 9th  
Kayla Miller, 11th  
Elizabeth Sigourney, 13th  
Krista Westfall, 15th  
Karen Tureaud, 16th  
Everly Miller, 18th  
Jack Cormack, 19th  
Cooper Cummins, 20th  
Patricia Ducan, 22nd  
Cheryl Clay, 24th  
Jason Hill, 24th

### September anniversaries



**Thank you for your participation in the School Supplies drive.** Because of you we raised \$1,315.00 and were able to fill 50 backpacks with:

- 672—pencils
- 672—pens
- 102—folders
- 51—packs of notebook paper
- 51—1" binders
- 51—boxes of Kleenex
- 112—glue sticks
- 180—highlighters
- 50—pencil pouches
- 275—reusable cloth masks



We are planning to start **Sunday School** on **September 13th at 9am.** **Sammy's class** (all adults welcome) **will be meeting in the Sanctuary.** Please wear a mask and social distance. **All children & youth who are coming to Sunday school need to in the downstairs door.** They will have their temperatures taken as they enter the building. They will also need to wear a mask and social distance. They will meet in their normal classrooms. Parents/guardians will need to pick their children up at their classrooms at 9:45am.

**Life Line Screening**, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at **Hillcrest Presbyterian Church on 9/10/2020.**

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979

There is a \$10 coupon on the back page of the newsletter.

## July Financials

Beginning Balance	\$11,405.24
Decrease	1,272.86
Ending Balance	\$10,132.38
Building Load Balance	
7/04/19	\$293,664.44
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 19,667.43

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**Thursday, September 10th the Shooting Fellowship will be meeting at 5:30pm**

**Monday, September 14th Session will be meeting at 6pm.**

**Monday, September 21st, the Book Club will be meeting at 7pm. This month's book is "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides.**

**Please remember, you must wear a mask whenever you are in the church and please use our hand sanitizer whenever you enter the church. We do this to protect each other and in so doing show the love of Jesus.**

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

# Men of the Bible - Jacob

Isaac grows up, marries Rebecca and they have twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, but Jacob grabbed his brother's heel at birth and by the time he left home, he had also grabbed his brother's birthright and blessing. The name Jacob means "he deceives" and he does that and then God allows him to be deceived as well.

While Rebecca was pregnant with the twins God told her that there were two nations in her womb and that the older will serve the younger (Genesis 25). Jacob was favored by his mother because he was quiet and stayed by the tents. Isaac favored Esau because he was a skillful hunter, a man of the open country (Genesis 25). One day many years later, Esau had been out hunting and he was so hungry. Jacob had been waiting for him and he had a wonderful stew already made and ready. Jacob offered to feed him in exchange for his birthright. Esau was so hungry, he rationalized, saying his birthright would be no good if he were dead. So he agreed.

Isaac was getting up in years and he was preparing to die. The birthright was the right of the first-born male to be head of the clan. In Esau and Jacob's case, it also included being in the family line of Christ as God had promised their grandfather, Abraham, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (Genesis 29:14). Obviously, This birthright had great spiritual importance. When Esau treated it so cheaply, it showed the awful condition of his heart. We should be careful lest something temporal take away our desire for spiritual blessings.

Rebecca hatched a conspiracy to ensure Jacob received the birthright. Even though God had promised this blessing to Jacob, she intervened and made it happen herself. Her willingness to deceive gives us a clue as to how Jacob sharpened his slick-tongues skills. The only thing he was worried about was getting caught...not the immorality of it. The blessing Jacob received was: 1. He would receive the dew of heaven, the fatness of the earth and an abundance of grain and new wine; 2. People would serve him; 3. Those who cursed him would be cursed; and 4. Those who blessed him would be blessed. Jacob got the blessing and the riches it brought, but he paid a huge price for carrying out this dishonest plan. He got caught and he had to run away and never see his mother again.

Rebecca told him to go to Haran, his mother's hometown and so he set out. On the way he had a dream that changed his life. God unveiled his majesty to Jacob in this dream. He showed him a ladder that reached between the earth and heaven. Angels went up and down on it. God was revealing the spiritual realm that he wanted Jacob to experience. Jacob's early life lacked faith, goodness, and grace. Many have wondered how he could be the one to receive promises and blessing. Throughout the Bible, God uses broken, imperfect and selfish people and in spite of Jacob's past, God awakened a personal knowledge of himself within this deceiver. Jacob had been raised on stories of how his grandfather Abraham was delivered by God from difficult circumstances. He also heard about the personal relationship his father had with God. With this encounter with God, Jacob made his own commitment. God is not in a hurry to work in someone's life, and he never gives up trying to do that.

Working for his uncle Laban, Jacob's change in spiritual growth was put to the test. After being deceived himself, Jacob worked for 14 years to have Rachel and Leah as his wives. So at the end of that season, he left Laban and went the extra mile by ensuring the Laban had the flock he felt he deserved. In the end, God bless Jacob for his kindness and multiplied his flocks even more. As he left Haran, he knew that the next step was taking towards home was bringing him even closer to encounter with Esau. He sent his servants ahead with a gift of 550 animals as a present to his brother. He wasn't just scared, he was terrified. The night before he was to meet Esau, Jacob had another dream. Through out the night he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord and as daylight started to come, Jacob recognized him, so that he would give him a blessing. The Angel crippled his hip but changed Jacob's name to Israel. A changed man with a changed name. When he met with Esau, he was surprised to find that Esau no longer wanted to kill him. They met, Jacob prayer for deliverance from Esau's revenge was answered. Jacob spoke humbly to his brother and made sure his generous gifts were seen as sharing a portion of the blessing Jacob took from Esau originally.

Many other things happened to Jacob and in the end, he had many blessings from God. God had delivered him from a family model of deceit and manipulation. When Esau threatened him, God protected him. When Laban tried to destroy him, God prospered him. God delivered his wife Rachel, and family from idolatry. God saved his family from famine. God promised that his sons would be the patriarchs of a future land and leaders over their own tribes. God had kept his every word to Jacob.



# September

Sunday Services:

Sunday School 9am  
 Worship Service 10am  
 Hillcrest  
 Worship Service 11:30am  
 Gibson Chapel

☼ birthdays  
 ♥ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ☼ Leonard Throne	2	3	4 ☼ Cathy Miller	5
6 Communion ☼ Jossie Hutchins	7 LABOR DAY ☼ Ethan Hartman	8	9 ☼ Denise Loffon	10 Shooting Fellowship 5:30pm LifeLine 8am-5pm	11 ☼ Kayla Miller	12
13 Sunday School Starts ☼ Elizabeth Sigourney	14 Session 6pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 ☼ Cooper Cummins	21 Book Club 7pm "The Silent Patient" Alex Michaelides	22 ☼ Krista Westfall ☼ Patricia Duncan	23 ☼ Karen Tureaud	24 ☼ Cheryl Clay ☼ Jason Hill	25 ☼ Everly Miller	26 ☼ Jack Cormack
27	28	29	30			

**“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.**

**I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.**

**In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.”**

**Romans 12: 1-4**

# Preparations on the day of your screening

## All ultrasound and heart rhythm screenings:

- Wear a short sleeved shirt that is open at the collar – no turtlenecks
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit consisting of loose clothing
- Do not wear pantyhose

## Additional preparations:

### Abdominal aortic aneurysm

- Fast for 4 hours prior to your screening.
- Make sure the meal you eat 4 hours prior to your screening is a light one (less than 1/2 of what you normally eat of non-gassy food).
- If you are thirsty during your fasting period, you may have 1/2 cup of coffee or tea and a moderate amount of water.
- If you take medication, take it as prescribed.
- If you are diabetic and are not comfortable fasting for 4 hours, limit yourself to a "diabetic meal" (piece of toast, 1 cup of any juice and 1/2 cup coffee or tea). If you are in doubt, please follow your diabetic care plan.

### Complete lipid panel (cholesterol)

- Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.

### Atrial fibrillation (stroke)

- Do not wear pantyhose.
- Do not wear a watch.
- Keep your cell phone turned off.
- Do not wear lotion or oil.

### Glucose (type 2 diabetes)

- Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.



**\$10 Off**  
Friends & Family  
Savings Coupon



Call to register at  
1-888-653-6450

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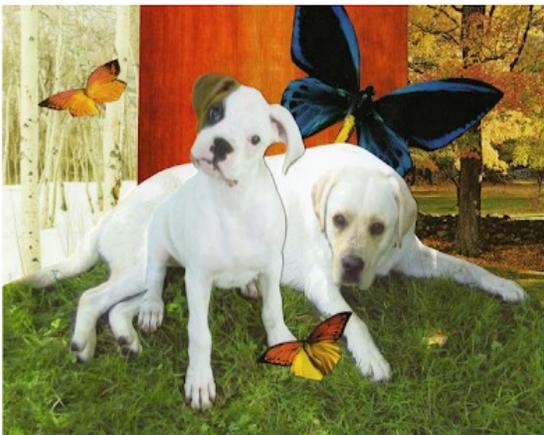


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What's going on?  
Why are all the humans wearing  
muzzles?

Joke submitted by Linda Selsor (if  
you have a joke, give it to Sue for  
next month's newsletter)