

# Hillcrest Calling



## March 2021

### Who is this baby?



Email your guesses to [hillcrestchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hillcrestchurch@gmail.com) or call them in. We will honor you next newsletter and have a new picture for new guesses. By the way, we still need more pictures.

### March birthdays

Harold Heiser, 1st  
Justin Hutchins, 1st  
Walter Clay, 2nd  
Logan Hill, 2nd  
David Reynolds, 3rd  
Scarlet Cormack, 3rd  
Mary Jo Reynolds, 9th  
Ronnie Riggs, 9th  
Fred Palmerton, 10th  
DC Dean, 18th  
Regina Ice, 19  
Randy Zweerink, 19th

### March anniversaries

David & Lisa Reynolds, 21st



Please pray for the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit to be present with the Smith and the Lofton families during this time of bereavement.

### Of rocks and repentance

Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers. Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck. So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

We are opening the church for those who would want to come and have some time in the sanctuary, but do not want to be with other people just yet. Jack is also willing to serve communion if you wish. If this sounds like something that you would like, please call Regina and she will set it up for you.

**The Book Club** is changing the time of day we will meet in the hope that it will be a time which is more convenient and allow more people to join us! We will still meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, but the time will change to 12 noon in the library. Bring your lunch if you choose and we'll eat and talk. Our book this month is "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict. This story explores the mystery of what happened when the famous writer disappeared for 11 days in 1929 and then reappeared Apparently suffering from amnesia....a mystery never solved. Until now...maybe.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Monday – Saturday: Church events will be canceled on any day when the Springfield schools are closed due to inclement weather.

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 phone calls, emails, text messages and on Facebook.



### January Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,549.89
Increase	295.58
Ending Balance	\$ 5,845.47
Building Load Balance	
1/04/21	\$285,424.41
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 26,197.81

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**Thursday, March 11th the Shooting Fellowship will be meeting at 5:30pm**

**Monday, March 8th Session will be meeting at 6pm.**

**Monday, March 15th, the Book Club will be meeting at Noon. This month's book is "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie".**

**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 - Ezra

The Israelites were still in Persia as captives. They had been there for 70 years. A first group of Israelites were able to return with the permission of Zerubbabel. They started rebuilding the foundation of the temple which had been flattened during the siege of Jerusalem. That group arrived in 538 BC and finished their work on the temple in 516 BC. Then in 458 BC King Artaxerxes gave permission for Ezra to return to Jerusalem and further gave support for any Jew that wanted to return to Jerusalem. Why would he do that? Artaxerxes or Xerxes was the son of Queen Esther who was a Jew. Xerxes not only sent Ezra to Jerusalem but gave him the utensils that had been stolen previously from Solomon's temple and money for his return. He did this that the peace should prevail in Judah.

Ezra was a scribe, and the king recognized the wisdom had given him. When we apply what we learn in the Bible to our lives, then others will see the impact that God has on us. The Bible is a source of teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. When Ezra began assembling the returnees and he recognized that no one from the tribe of Levi was there. Ezra sent some of the leaders to go recruit Levites with a specially prepared message. It worked and 38 Levites joined the group along with 220 temple servants. Ezra proclaimed a fast, asking for God's help and protection, especially since he had turned down military protection from the government. After a four-month trip, Ezra and the group arrived safely in Jerusalem.

On their return, Ezra gave credit to God on their safe return. Unfortunately on their arrival, Ezra also found that some of the Israelites had intermarried with non-Jews. Upon hearing this he was cut to the core, tore his clothes in grief and prayed to God on their behalf, asking for God's forgiveness and mercy. When others heard of Ezra's response to their sin they gathered and wept along with him. It wasn't Ezra's sin, but he repented like it was...because of grief, the people's hearts were broken for the sin they had committed. The leaders there decided that the foreign women and children be put away (divorce)...they had all the Israelites come to Jerusalem to tell all of them what the plan was. It took 3 months to take place. It may seem severe, but it was what God had commanded. If any of the foreign wives converted to Judaism, they became acceptable to God and divorce was unnecessary.

Ezra was a tremendous leader because of his clear dedication to God. He led the Israelites from example and not by strong words of correction. Because of the grief he showed, the local leaders also felt compelled to do all they could to follow his example and get close to God through repentance and actions of righteousness.

# MARCH

## 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 ✿ Harold Heiser ✿ Justin Hutchins	2 ✿ Walter Clay ✿ Logan Hill	3 Worship 5:30pm ✿ David Reynolds ✿ Scarlet Cormack	4	5	6
7 Communion 	8 Session, 6pm	9 ✿ Mary Jo Reynolds ✿ Ronnie Riggs	10 ✿ Fred Palmerton	11 Shooting Fellowship 5-30pm	12	13
14	15 Book Club, noon "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie"	16	17	18 ✿ DC Dean	19 ✿ Regina Ice ✿ Randy Zweerink	20
21 ♥ David & Lisa Reynolds	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			