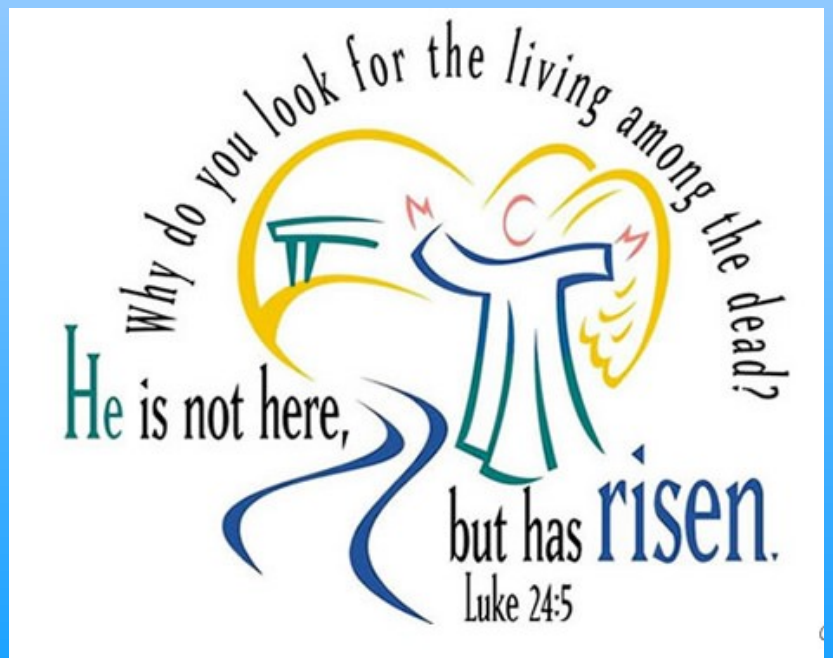


Hillcrest Calling



April 2021

Who is this baby?



Last month's picture...

DeAnn guessed it right...it was Jennifer!

Email your guesses to 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.

April birthdays

Margaret Fox, 1st
Alesa Jackson, 3rd
Mary Wood, 8th
Jason Clay, 9th
Debbie Hill, 13th
Lindsey Miller, 13th
Kyle Miller, 13th
Wayne Keltner, 20th
Jim Downing, 24th
Maddison Reynolds, 25th
Braydon Scott, 29th

April anniversaries

Fred & Rae Jean Palmerton, 6th
Brandon & Amanda Sigourney,
21st



Dear Hillcrest Church Family,
 Thank you for the card. The church was such a big part of Grandma's life for so long and she enjoyed it so. I really appreciate the kind thoughts and prayers,
 Krista Westfall

Dear Hillcrest family,
 Thank you for all your prayers, calls and the flowers. I so appreciate the scriptures sent for Lent and the Friday thoughts. I'm doing better and I hope to see you all soon.
 With love, Mary Morrissey

Dear Care Committee,
 What a lovely "Pansies" you brought to our house last week. You people are truly doing "The Lord's work". Mary Jo and I appreciate your effort and we hope to be able to make it back to Church in the near future. We take our final vaccine shots tomorrow.

Again, Thank you so very much, you have made our day. God bless each and everyone of you.
 Harold & Mary Joy Reynolds

"We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world."
 —Barbara Johnson

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*)

February Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,845.47
Decrease	2,508.69
Ending Balance	\$ 3,336.78
Building Load Balance	
2/04/21	\$284,036.01
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 25,139.81

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



Thursday, April 8th the Shooting Fellowship will be meeting at 5:30pm

Monday, April 5th Session will be meeting at 6pm.

Monday, April 19th, the Book Club will be meeting at Noon. This month's book is "The Only Woman in the Room".

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 - Nehemiah

Nehemiah was an exiled Jew living in a Persian palace in 445 B.C. He served as the cup bearer to the Persian king. When Nehemiah learned that the walls of Jerusalem had not been rebuilt after Jews were taken into exile in 586 B.C., he became concerned. Without strong walls, Jerusalem was in danger of being attacked and conquered. He asked God for favor with the king so that he might be allowed to return to Jerusalem. Nehemiah prayed for four months about the situation. He tried to avoid being sad in the king's presence, but his heavy heart showed anyway. When the king noticed and asked about it, Nehemiah told him his concerns. The king asked what he wanted to do. Nehemiah told him he wanted to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls and gates. The king approved and sent him with military protection. Once he arrived in Jerusalem, he secretly inspected the wall at night. The next day, he encouraged the people to rebuild. Although there was some opposition from those who were not Israelites, many people began working on rebuilding the walls.

Nehemiah's enemies tried everything to stop the rebuilding of the walls. Sanballat, a Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab may have had plans to take control of Jerusalem. When Nehemiah arrived to rebuild the walls, he threatened their plans. Nehemiah even had enemies within the Jewish people he was trying to help. They accused him of doing faulty work, that Nehemiah was trying to set himself up as King, at every point Nehemiah reminded the people of what God was doing. Nehemiah got angry at the injustices of his fellow Jews, but he didn't sin. Nehemiah gave us the process for dealing with anger.

- Recognized he was angry and didn't deny it (5:6)
- Pondered over his anger until he found the real cause of it (5:7)
- Confronted those who were sinning (5:7)
- Called a meeting to bring the issue to the attention of everyone involved (5:7)
- Suggested a solution (5:11)

So the wall was completed in fifty-two days. When all their enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. Then God told Nehemiah to assemble the nobles, the officials, and the common people for registration by families.


Nehemiah called everyone together at the Water Gate, one of the gates of Jerusalem, and Ezra, the priest, read from the Law. As he read, the people began weeping because they were convicted about their sin and their former negligence in following the Law. But Nehemiah, along with Ezra and the Levites, encouraged them not to grieve but to rejoice. They celebrated for seven days in a festival called the Feast of Tabernacles. Then after one day of rest, they assembled for a time of confession and reviewing God's works from the past. Finally, they renewed their covenant with God. Commentators estimate that there were thirty to fifty thousand people gathered.

Nehemiah served as governor of Judah for twelve years and then returned to serve King Artaxerxes. After fulfilling his obligations to King Artaxerxes, he returned to Jerusalem. He found a number of disappointing or sinful things occurring. He took measures to prevent them from continuing. Tobiah, a Gentile, was given a room in the Temple. It was wrong because he was not only a gentile, but he had opposed the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah threw Tobiah's things out and had the room purified. He discovered that the Levites hadn't been given their portions of the sacrifices and therefore abandoned their positions. He reprimanded the officials and restored the Levites' position. He reinstated the tithe and appointed reliable men to distribute the tithe money. He found Jews working on the Sabbath. He rebuked the nobles and made sure the gates were closed during the Sabbath. The merchants weren't allowed into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. He also found that Jews had married foreign women and their children weren't able to speak the language of Judah. He forcefully contended with those men and convinced them to not give their daughters to foreign men or let their sons marry foreign women. As a good leader Nehemiah didn't merely scold people for their sin, he always had a solution that included action to correct the problem. Nehemiah was a man who prayed and listened to God about what to do. Then hearing from God, Nehemiah had the faith to take action even when faced by opposition. He was willing to say the things that were difficult to help the Jews reestablish the covenant with God.

APRIL

Sunday Services:

- Sunday School 9am
- Worship Service 10am
Hillcrest
- Worship Service 11:30am
Gibson Chapel
- * birthdays
- * anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4  Communion Easter Sunday	5 Session, 6pm	6 * Fred & Rae Jean Palmerston	7	1 Maundy Thursday 6pm * Margaret Fox MOW Millers	2 Good Friday	3 * Alesa Jackson
11	12 Session, 6pm	13 * Debbie Hill * Lindsey Miller * Kyle Miller	14	8 Shooting Fel- lowship 5:30pm * Mary Wood MOW Meesters	9 * Jason Clay	10
18	19 Book Club, noon "The Only Woman in the Room."	20 * Wayne Keltner Property, 5:30pm	21 * Brandon E Amanda Sigourney	15 MOW Barb & Nancy	16	17
25 * Maddison Reynolds	26	27	28	22 MOW Palmerstons	23	24 * Jim Downing Worship, 10am
				29 * Braydon Scott MOW DeAnn & Nancy	30	