

Hillcrest Calling



May 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.

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
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



Thank you so much for the sweet valentine! Can't believe how the kids have grown. Also, thank you for the Easter plant. That was so nice of you to remember us.

Love, Wayne & Pat

Dear Congregational Care Committee,
The flowers are so pretty and looking to seeing them grow outside.

Randy and Jan

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, thank you for your congregation's commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of people here in the United States and abroad in over 70 different countries. We are encouraged by God's faithfulness, signaled by the recent support we have received from you. Because of you, the world is waking up to new possibilities in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your commitment and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McConnell
Office of Mission Engagement & Support

Dear Hillcrest Family,

Thank you for the prayers and cards. It means a lot during this difficult time. My family appreciates everyone of you.

Jimmy Smith

Dear Jack,

Thanks to generous partners like you, the Council of Churches of the Ozarks offers outstanding levels of service and outreach to Southwest Missouri. Your giving multiplies the work of the nine outreach services of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. During the pandemic, your generosity made it possible to quickly respond to a 40% increase in need for food assistance, house more homeless women, support more vulnerable children and seniors, and continue to serve the "least of these" in entirely new ways. We are grateful for your partnership, support and prayers throughout 2020. Blessings, Jaimie Trussel

Chief Executive Officer

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- A hug for no reason.
 - Belly laughs.
 - The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
 - Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
 - Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
 - Quiet moments on the couch.
 - Reading aloud together.
 - A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
 - Watching your children be kind to one another.
 - Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
 - A child's look of surprise and joy.
 - A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
 - The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

These are some of the joys of motherhood & grandmotherhood

March Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,336.79
Increase	533.67
Ending Balance	\$ 3,870.46
Building Load Balance	
2/04/21	\$282,643.27
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 26,500.19

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**Thursday,
May 13th
the Shooting
Fellowship
will be
meeting at
5:30pm**

Monday, May 10th Session will be meeting at 6pm.

Monday, May 17th, the Book Club will be meeting at Noon. This month's book is "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah.

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 - Elijah

After the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon, the ten northern tribes of Israel revolted against the reign of David's throne. Jeroboam, the first king of the northern tribes, posted two calf images near the borders for his people to worship. After he died, six more kings came to power over the course of forty years. None of them did anything to return the people of the Lord. King Ahab came to power. He married a woman from a nearby kingdom. Her name was Jezebel, and she was a committed worshipper of Baal, the foreign god who was a weather god associated with thunderstorms and fertility. Once she felt secure in her position as queen, it became clear she was the real power behind the throne. She influenced Ahab to set up an altar for Baal in Samaria, the capital of Israel. Then she began killing the prophets of Jehovah to rid the land of any godly influences.

It was time for an extraordinary man to enter the picture. His name was Elijah. Imagine walking into the palace and uttering God's judgment to the king. The likelihood of surviving such an event was remote. Through doing this Elijah revealed his enormous courage. Courage is always rooted in three things: 1) purpose, 2) justice and 3) duty. Elijah had all three. He was God's prophet. His authority came from his relationship with God and his calling compelled him to act. Elijah also possessed a divine sense of justice. As one who knew God and his commands, it was clear to Elijah that the Kingdom of Israel's idolatry was breaking God's heart. Finally, Elijah acted from duty. He was a prophet of God. It was his role and job to stand for God's righteousness. He hurled a challenge in Ahab's face because God sent him there. Elijah was just doing his job. After Elijah made his powerful pronouncement, the Lord told Elijah to leave Samaria. Elijah obeyed and stayed in a cave where ravens brought him bread and meat for him to eat every morning and evening. Elijah drank water from a nearby brook. When the brook dried up, God sent him to a widow's house where God miraculously reproduced for their provision.

Next the Lord directed Elijah to meet with Ahab on Mount Carmel and propose a test between Baal and Israel's one true God, Jehovah. Ahab and his team of 450 priests of Baal tried to cajole their impotent god to burn up the sacrifice, but they couldn't make it happen. Mount Carmel was considered as a Baal sacred place. Thousands of Israelites showed up for this contest like some sport's event. Elijah challenged them to make up their minds: "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him, but if Baal is God, follow him." Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to place a bull on their altar and call on the name of their god to send fire to burn it up. The priests called on Baal for six hours, and during that time Elijah trash talked them with helpful suggestions, such as, "Shout louder! Your god can't hear you. Maybe it's his nap time!" Nothing happened. The Elijah took his turn. He called the people to gather around. He set up twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel and he dug a trench around the altar. After the bull was slain and laid on the wood, Elijah asked the crowd to drench the entire altar with water from four large containers. Once that was completed, Elijah told them to repeat the soaking two more times. The water ran down the altar and even filled the trench. The stage was set. Then Elijah stepped forward and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things as your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." The hushed crowd waited. After he finished praying, fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and the water in the trench. The people cried out, "The Lord he is God!". At Elijah's request, the crowd seized the prophets of Baal and kill them.

When Jezebel heard of this, she was furious. She sent word to Elijah that he would die the next day because of what he had done. Elijah, filled with fear, fled to Judea. How could a threat from Jezebel have overwhelmed him after that mountain-top experience? It just shows that Elijah was a man like us. We are all more vulnerable after a great victory. In the middle of the Negev Desert, Elijah stopped and prayed, "I have had enough, Lord. Take my life, I am no better than my ancestors". Then he fell asleep under a tree. God met with Elijah and gently allowed him to express his feelings of depression. Afterwards God met his physical needs with rest and nourishment and directed him to anoint two new kings and Elisha as his successor. Elijah obeyed and his depression lifted. God also revealed to him that there were actually seven thousand faithful believers in Israel. Elijah found Elisha in a field. He placed the prophet's robe on him and he was mentored by Elijah for the next 10 years. When Ahab died his son Ahaziah became king. Because he continued the worship of Baal in Israel, Elijah prophesied the new king's death. Arrogantly, Ahaziah sent fifty soldiers to seize Elijah. God sent fire from heaven and killed them. Ahaziah sent another fifty and they were also killed. Ahaziah sent another fifty not to kill but to plead for their lives. Elijah agreed to return with them. He told the king once again that he was going to die. Shortly after this, Elijah was taken up into heaven without actually dying. Elijah and Elisha were walking and then they needed to cross the Jordan river and God parted the river and they walked across. Soon after this, Elijah was taken to heaven in a flaming chariot leaving his position to Elisha. While this was happening, Elisha prayed for a double portion of God's anointing on Elijah and for Elijah's cloak, and it floated down to him as Elijah was being taken to heaven. Although the miracles that God performed through Elijah, the courage of challenging those who were promoting idolatry, the best work that Elijah did was mentoring Elisha. Because of that, Israel continued to have someone with courage, duty, a strong sense of justice and purpose to carry on the work of being a prophet of God.



MAY

Sunday Services:

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

☼ birthdays
 ☼ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 	3 ☼ Pat Keltner ☼ Pearl Adams	4 ☼ Kristofer Clay	5 ☼ Lynn & Cheryl Clay	6 ☼ Maurice Johnson ☼ George Culp	7	8
9 Mother's Day 	10 Session 6pm	11	12	13 Shooting Fellowship 5:30pm National Day of Prayer	14	15 ☼ Alma Clay
16 ☼ Connie DeGeere ☼ Sheila Burton	17 Book Club noon "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah	18 ☼ Sally Hosiner ☼ Isabelle Riggs	19	20 ☼ Tim & Stephanie Baker	21 ☼ Bob Hosiner ☼ Alex Miller	22
23	24	25 ☼ Dalton Hill	26 ☼ Garrett Hill ☼ Jim & Regina Ice	27 ☼ Brandon Scott ☼ Harold & Mary Jo Reynolds	28	29
30	31 memorial DAY 					