

Hillcrest Calling

JUNE

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June 2021

Who is this baby?



Last month's picture...

No one guessed it right...it was Diane Meester

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. Make sure you guess...this month we had six guesses. Your chances are great if you try it.

June

birthdays

Joe Tranbarger, 2nd
Lawrence Johnson, 4th
Emmet Jorden, 4th
Jimmy Smith, 6th
Linda Selsor, 14th
Lynne Poindexter, 16th
Eli Baker, 16th
Charles Ingram, 20th
Vi Brightwell, 22nd
Sam Scott, 25th
Skylyn Hill, 25th

June

anniversaries

Jim Downing & Nancy
Hackett, 1st
Jack & Scarlet Cormack,
3rd
Sheila & Matthew Burton,
30th



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

Angels along life's trail

Weary long-distance hikers sometimes encounter "trail angels" – people who offer food and drink, bandages, shoelaces and even a place to do laundry. Along the Pacific Crest Trail, one home, dubbed Hiker's Heaven, serves as a mail drop. Trail angels say they find great joy in offering kindness to strangers.

Unexpected kindnesses – and regular rest stops – make any journey less grueling and more enjoyable. That's also true on the journey of life as we experience (and bestow) generosity and pause to spend time with God. After all, "It is God to whom and with whom we travel," said Elisabeth Elliot. "And while he is the end of our journey, he is also at every stopping place."

A father's legacy

For Joseph Dodson, the pressures and responsibilities of parenthood felt compounded when he and his wife adopted a son. Dodson, a Bible professor, wonders if Jesus' earthly father also struggled with doubts and fears.

Scripture doesn't say much about Joseph, but he clearly left Jesus "a significant legacy," Dodson writes in *Bible Study Magazine*. Joseph obeyed God – despite the risk to his reputation – by marrying a pregnant woman. Joseph, a son of David, raised *the* Son of David as his very own. To protect his family he fled to Egypt, foreshadowing the "new exodus" of Jesus' saving ministry. And Joseph heard neighbors mock Jesus as "the carpenter's son."

"Joseph taught Jesus much more than woodworking," Dodson writes. "He modeled for his adopted son how, for God's glory, he must drink the Father's cup no matter the cost."

An encouraging word

The Bible repeatedly "encourages" Christians to "encourage one another." How can you tell when someone needs encouragement? The answer is easy, said Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy: if they're breathing! He quipped, "I get a lot of encouragement, but I never got an overdose."

Offering encouragement is an easy way to have a big impact. In fact, two esteemed Christian writers call encouragers angelic and godly. George MacDonald said, "If, instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give." And G.K. Chesterton said, "If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God."

Who in your life might need an encouraging word today?

April Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,870.46
Increase	1,615.98
Ending Balance	\$ 5,486.44

Building Load Balance

2/04/21 \$281,246.18

Building Fund Balance

\$ 25,750.77

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



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

Monday, June 28th Session will be meeting at 6pm.

Monday, June 21st, the Book Club will be meeting at Noon. This month's book is "The Victory Garden" by Rhys Bowen.

The new Springfield city regulations state that masks are optional.

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

Women of the Bible -

Miriam had been an intelligent child. Her mother had readily entrusted her with an assignment of such importance that the life of her youngest brother was dependent upon her success. She completed her task with courage and tact, bringing her mother, a Hebrew woman, and an Egyptian princess in contact with one another. Thus, her brother was rescued, benefiting both their family and God's people. The child was Moses, mediator of the old covenant, the prophet who spoke face- to- face with God.

As an adult, Miriam was a woman of stature. Her character had been formed in a family where faith was a daily reality. Her parents had the courage, the love, and the ingenuity to defy the commands of a tyrannical king in order to save the life of their youngest son. The family of Amram and Jochebed was unique in Israel's existence, for it brought forth three great leaders — Moses, Aaron, and Miriam— who all served the nation at the same time. "I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam," God later declared through the prophet Micah. When Moses led his troublesome people out of Egypt to Canaan, he was assisted by his brother Aaron, the high priest, and his sister Miriam, the prophetess. She was not just a tagalong sister. She was his co laborer, with leadership responsibilities. God called Miriam, an unmarried woman, to an exceptional task. She had the privilege of being the first female prophet—a spokeswoman for God. In deeds and words, she proclaimed the greatness of God. Her life was totally centered on loving God and His people. Her gifts and interests were too great to be used exclusively for the small family circle. Israel had many wives and mothers, but only one Miriam. God entrusted her with a high position. An entire nation was dependent upon her. She received supreme satisfaction in life, as she dedicated herself wholly to the task.

She was nearing the age of one hundred when the miracle of the Red Sea astounded the masses. The water that brought salvation to God's people confirmed the fall of His enemies. "I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously," cried Moses afterward. "He has hurled both horse and rider into the sea." After the men had started the joyous singing, the women continued it. From that day forth, Israel would always sing about exceptional victories because of Miriam. She was first in line— energetic and youthful in spirit despite her age. With a timbral in her hand, she took over the song from Moses. She encouraged the women to dance to the honor of God while shouting for joy: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously."

Miriam, who had ascended to the highest post ever held by a woman, and who was named by God in the same breath as the two great male leaders, had simply surpassed her boundaries. She overestimated herself. She considered herself to be on the same level as Moses. And in her pride, she undermined his authority. "Is he, indeed, the leader of the three of us?" she asked. "Are not Aaron and I his equals?"

Moses remained calm. He showed no desire to defend himself. There was, however, another who defended Moses' rights, and this became a frightful experience for Miriam and Aaron. For God in heaven heard, knew, and saw what was happening on earth. He took immediate steps to stop the rebellion against Moses' leadership and to punish the guilty ones. Shattered and with shaky knees, Aaron and Miriam appeared before God. They heard how He judged the situation. Moses, they heard, was not only the undisputed leader; he was also given a position higher than all the prophets.

When God left them in His anger, Miriam became a leper. Leprosy was the most dreaded of diseases, for it sapped the strength of the person who had it, degrading her with a walking death. And God had stained Miriam with the curse of leprosy.

Moses didn't indicate that he approved of God's judgment, nor did he rebuke Miriam and Aaron. He simply prayed to God, and his prayer reduced Miriam's sentence from one of lifelong suffering to only seven days. Miriam's attitude had brought harm not only to herself but also to her people. Their journey had been delayed because of her sin. The entire nation was kept from moving forward until Miriam was among them again. The seven days she spent as an out-cast must have given Miriam much food for thought. Did she then understand that God Himself appoints His leaders? That in His godly order He entrusts leadership to those who are humble enough to be willing to serve? Had she come out a better person? Had she been purified? The Bible doesn't record any further rebellion. Had the experience destroyed Miriam's strength and usefulness? Did she lose her gift of prophecy? The Bible doesn't say, but it does state that she died before her people entered the Promised Land.



JUNE

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 #Jim Downing & Nancy Hackett CS 5pm	2 Lifeline screening 9am #Joe Tranbarger AA 8pm	3 Gibson choir 6pm MOW Nancy & Barb #Jack & Scarlet	4 #Lawrence Johnson #Emmet Jordan	5
6 Communion #Jimmy Smith	7 #BS 5pm	8 CS 5pm Doling Neighborhood 5:30pm	9 AA 8pm	10 Shooting fellowship 5:30pm Gibson choir 6pm MOW Meesters	11	12
13 AA 2pm	14 #Linda Selsor #BS 5pm	15 CS 5pm	16 #Lynne Poindexter #Eli Baker	17 Gibson choir 6pm MOW Millers	18	19
20 #Charles Ingram	21 Book Club noon "The Victory Garden" by Rhys Bowen #BS 5pm	22 #Vi Brightwell CS 5pm	23 AA 8pm	24 Gibson choir 6pm MOW Palmerton	25 #Sam Scott #Skylyn Hill	26
27	28 Session 6pm #BS 5pm	29 CS 5pm	30 #Sheila & Matthew Burton			