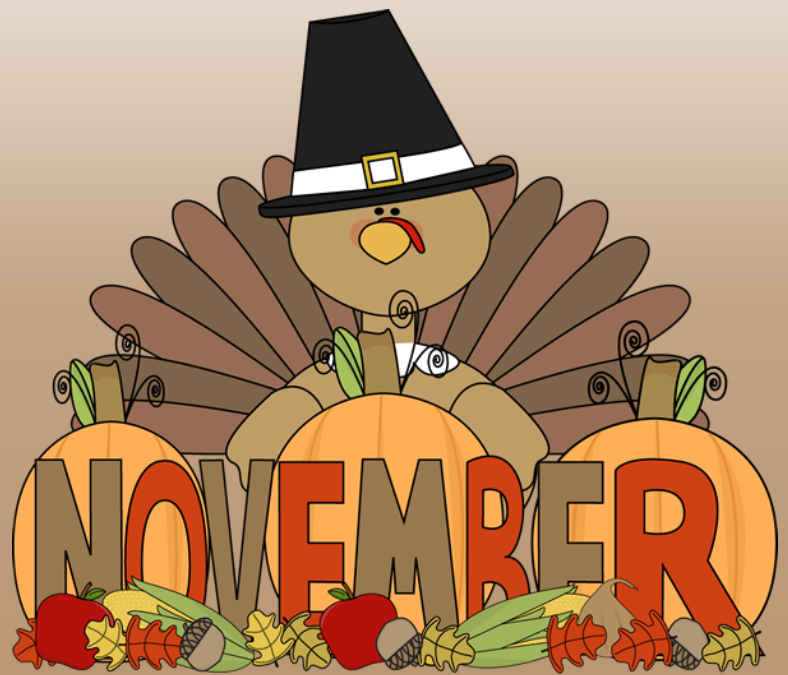


Hillcrest Calling



November 2021

Who is this baby?



**Last month's picture...Lynne Poindexter
guessed right...it was Norm Meester. Good
guess Lynne!!!!**

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 no guesses. Your chances are great if you try it.

November

Birthdays

Jan Zweerink, 6th
Elyana Baker, 8th
Katy Moore, 7th
Deanna Riggs, 9th
Tina Hartley, 12th
Susan Wilson, 15th
Ferba Lofton, 16th
Jennifer McCullough, 16th
Barbara Dean, 22nd
Norm Meester, 25th

November

Anniversaries

Kyle & Linsey Miller, 22nd

“A little child will lead them”

Isaiah 11 prophesies hope for the world: wisdom, understanding, righteousness, justice, faithfulness, peace. In the words “a little child will lead them” (v. 6), Christians hear a foretelling of God’s coming to earth as the child Jesus. Today, children – Jesus’ examples of fitness for God’s kingdom (Mark 10:14) – often lead in showing love.

At age 11, avid baker Michael Platt opened a pastry shop in Maryland to benefit homeless people; for desserts sold, he gives an equal number to shelter residents. Eric Schubert, 18, of New Jersey, uses his genealogy research skills to help strangers – more than 1,000 so far – find long-lost family. In Pennsylvania, Neijae Graham-Henries became a certified barber at age 7 to give free haircuts to kids who couldn’t afford them. (Stories shared on GoodNewsNetwork.org.)

May these children inspire us to use our passions and skills for good, in the name of the Christ-child, who grew up and taught us to serve others in love.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world.”—Bishop Desmond

Unimaginable impact

You don’t know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*

Sinners and saints

As sinners we may not be able to change the world, but as saints we may be able to change our communities.

As sinners we may not be able to change our communities, but as saints we may be able to change our neighborhoods.

As sinners we may not be able to change our neighborhoods, but as saints we may be able to change our homes.

As sinners we may not be able to change our homes, but as saints we may be able to change ourselves.

As sinners we may not be able to change ourselves, but as saints we may offer ourselves up to the grace of God and experience nothing less than a changed world.

—Homiletics



September Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,714.48
Decrease	1,274.45
Ending Balance	\$ 6,440.03

Building Loan Balance

9/04/21	\$274,194.95
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Building Fund Balance

	\$ 24,114.36
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The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



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

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

**Monday, November
15th, the Book Club will
be meeting at Noon.
This month’s book is
“American Dirt” by Ja-
nine Cummins.**

**The new Springfield city
regulations state that
masks are optional.**

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

Women of the Bible

Deborah

The situation in Israel was gloomy and desolate. Life had become nearly unbearable and unsettled. All trade was paralyzed as caravans stopped traveling through the valley of Jezreel to the south and east. Farming was limited to the minimum because farmers could be killed during a surprise enemy attack while he would be tilling the ground. For more than 20 years the land had been occupied and the conquerors had kept the people firmly under their thumbs. Young people knew the word “freedom” only from the mouths of their parents. For the older people, it was getting increasingly difficult to remember what that word really meant. The population was downhearted, fearful, and depressed.

King Jabin, who lived in the northern city of Hazor, dominated all of Israel. His dreaded right-hand man, General Sisera, commanded a large army which had 900 chariots. Everyone was afraid of him, for his forces could overrun and trample down the countryside swiftly and with deadly intent. Only the mountain people were relatively safe, for his chariots could not reach them. The cause of this misery, however, did not lie with the occupation forces but with the Israelite people themselves. After 80 years of prosperity under the previous rulers, Judges Ehud and Shamgar, the Israelites had shown no gratitude toward God. They fell away from Him and started worshipping idols. The people who thought that they no longer needed God had to experience His distance. When He withdrew His protection, they became powerless against their enemies and peace disappeared.

In the hill country of Ephraim, on the road between Bethel and Ramah, more and more people were going to a palm tree which stood plainly above the surrounding shrubbery. Under that tree, their present leader—the prophet Deborah—held court, judge the people and gave direction to their lives. She was the only woman judge among the 12 judges who ruled between Joshua and Samuel. She held a two-fold position among her people. She was both their national and spiritual leader and carried out her duties capably and with good results. Like so many times before in their tumultuous history, distress in their lives was causing the Israelites to seek God. In this situation, Deborah had the privilege of being His instrument. Because of her faith, the events that happened changed history. Prophet Deborah was the mediator between God and His people. In her high position, she communicated insight, wisdom, and the knowledge of God with love to her people. With the fine-tuned intuition of a person who abides in the presence of God, she sensed that God’s time had come to throw off the yoke of oppression. She felt, and rightly so, that as a woman she was not the appointed person to fight this war, so the command went out to Barak, the son of Abinoam of Kedesh, “mobilize 10,000 men”. Deborah knew the one who had real and final authority was God. So, although she was first among her people, Deborah did not place herself over Barak. Instead she placed herself next to him and together with him placed herself under God’s leadership.

Her command to Barak was at the same time an encouragement. “Don’t be afraid because of their number,” she said confidently. “Looking at it from God’s point of view, our enemy is defeated already. The chariots and forces of Jabin are nothing in the sight of God. The only thing He expects from you is faith.” Deborah & Barak, with his 10,000-man force behind him, stormed down the steep flank of Mount Tabor. Next to the Kishon River, he met Sisera’s army arrayed behind grim and armored chariots. The enemy expected an easy victory. But gray thunderclouds moved together, rumbling ominously. The storm broke in all its ferocity precisely at the moment the Israelites reached the plain. Heavy rain and hailstones beat into the faces of the enemy soldiers. Before long the Kishon River overflowed its banks and became a wide stream. Wildly moving water churned the ground under the warriors’ feet into a muddy mess. The chariots of the enemy stuck fast, bringing defeat instead of victory. The routed enemy was unable to make a quick escape because of the pileup of chariots. The Israelites were able to kill every last man, including Sisera.

Deborah’s victory song, which belongs to some of the oldest and most beautiful of Hebrew poetry, proved that her strength was in God. Her deepest joy came from God. “Listen, O you kings and princes, for I shall sing about the Lord, the God of Israel,” the song of Deborah and Barak began. It ended with these words: “but may those who love the Lord shine as the sun when he goes forth in his might.” (Judges 5:31) Deborah is one of the outstanding women in biblical history because of her leadership, her character, and her beautiful poetry. But her priorities were not based on her accomplishments. The open secret of her life was God. More than anything else, she showed what a woman can do when God is in complete control of her life.



November

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	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion ☞Katy Moore	8 Session, 6pm ☞Elyana Baker	9 ☞Deanna Riggs	10 Worship, 5:30pm Praise Team, 7pm	11 Crosslines Network Meeting, 10am	12 Shooting Fellowship 5:30pm ☞Tina Hartley	13 Presbytery, 9am ☞Jan Zweerink
14 Congregational Meeting for Electing Church Officers, right after Worship	15 Book Club, noon "American Dirt" by Janine Cummins ☞Susan Wilson	16 ☞Jennifer McCullough ☞Erba Lofton	17 Praise Team, 7pm	18	19	20
21	22 ☞Barbara Dean ☞Kyle & Lindsey Miller	23	24 Praise Team, 7pm	25 ☞Norm Meester	26	27
28 Hanging of the Greens after Worship	29	30				