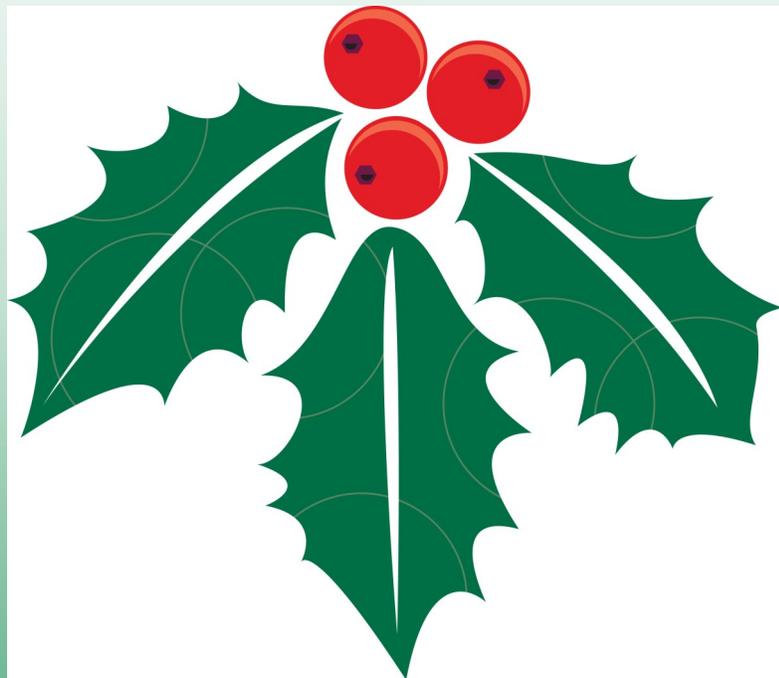


# Hillcrest Calling



## December 2021

### Who is this baby?



**Last month's picture...Diane Meester guessed right...it was Jan Zweerink. Good guess Diane!!!!**

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. **This is the last picture we have...send in some more so the fun won't end.**

Make sure you guess...this month we had no guesses. Your chances are great if you try it.

### December

#### Birthdays

Diane Meester, 1st  
Jennifer Jerreries, 2nd  
Amanda Sigourney, 4th  
Mary Morrissey, 6th  
Stephanie Baker, 18th  
Brandon Sigourney, 21st  
Sammy Miller, 30th  
Patricia Burton, 31st

### December

#### Anniversaries

Norm & Diane Meester, 6th  
Ronnie & DeAnn Riggs, 18th



Bring toys to the church from November 22 to December 12. Rae Jean Palmerton will take cash. If you want to write a check make it out to Hillcrest, note that it is for the toys and give checks to Sammy or Rae Jean. The toys this year are for all age groups, Infants to Teens.



It's that time again. We need all committee chairpersons to send in their annual report for the Annual Church meeting. You can email it, bring a flash drive or hand written copy to the church office. Sooner is better than later.



We will be having a Candle-light Communion on December 24th at 6pm.



Our bell ringing was a great success this year! Thanks to everyone who participated.

### 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.



### October Financials

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,440.03
Decrease	1,918.34
Ending Balance	\$ 4,521.69
Building Loan Balance	
10/04/21	\$272,771.46
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 24,996.59

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**Thursday, December 9th, the Shooting Fellowship will be meeting at 5:30pm**

**There will be no Session meeting this month.**

**There will be no Book Club this month.**

**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

## Mary

“I am the Lord’s servant and I will do whatever He desires,” she stammered, totally overwhelmed by the message the angel had just brought. In her thoughts she reviewed what he had said. She, Mary, would become the mother of the Messiah! The Redeemer who had been promised first to Adam, then more clearly to Abraham and was later foretold by various prophets, would be brought into the world by her.

She was young and she came from a very insignificant village. And—how could she give birth to a baby? Why she wasn’t even married! She was only engaged. It is no wonder she replied, “But I am a virgin and not even married. How can this happen?” The angel had begun with, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, for God has chosen to bless you.” The he had told her how the Holy Spirit would work this miracle in her. Her Child would be called the Son of God.

After the birth and all the shepherds and learned men from the East had left, Mary sat quietly, not knowing quite what to say, her heart absorbed in all these precious memories. When they brought their Son into the Temple a very old man approached them and took the Child from them. The old man was Simeon, a devout man, who had been waiting for the coming of the Messiah for a long time. “You have kept Your promise, Lord. Now you may let your servant go in peace,” The heard him say, much to their amazement. He continued, “For I have seen Him as You promised I would. I have seen the Savior You have given to the world.” Then Simeon said something remarkable to Mary, “Listen carefully, this Child shall be rejected by many in Israel, but He will be of the greatest joy to many others. The deepest thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed, but a sword shall pierce your soul.”

That sword pierced through her soul with all of its sharpness when she stood at the foot of the Cross on which her Son hung like a common criminal. Mary was willing to sacrifice herself to become His lowliest servant. “May everything you said come true,” she said simply, gazing at the departing angel. It was not an ill-considered answer. Her Son, the One who had just been announced, would utter practically the same words in Gethsemane, “Not My will, but Your will be done.” In the future she would have ample opportunity to prove that she meant just what she said.

Here Mary’s suffering found its climax. She didn’t try to ignore it or try to make it easy for herself. Like Him she also drank the bitter cup of suffering to the final drop. She was with Him till His final moment. She saw His agony and heard Him scoffed at and mocked. The hours passed slowly in the scorching sun, and Someone—the most beloved of all—suffered as no other man can ever suffer. Mary stood beneath the Cross and suffered with Him. This was part of motherhood. The words still echoed in her mind, “May everything you said come true.” She held on only because she had made herself totally available to the Lord. How she felt was secondary. Jesus saw her, and though in agony of death, He did not forget to take care of her. “Woman, there is your son,” she heard Him say. And then He said to John, the man He loved most on earth, “There is your mother.” Jesus hadn’t left His earthly life without taking good care of His mother. The man and the woman who on earth were the nearest to Him would best be able to understand and help one another after He was gone. From then on Mary lived in John’s home.

The Cross is not Mary’s last appearance in Scripture. She appears again with Jesus’ disciples, several other women and her other sons after Christ’s ascension. In the upper room in Jerusalem, Mary dedicated herself, like the others, to consistent prayer. Though she had lost her Son, she did not concern herself with her personal loss, but accepted that her task regarding Him had been fulfilled.

Mary, the woman most blessed and most privileged of all women, whose name was more greatly honored than that of any other mortal, dedicated herself anew to God. Again, she had no claim. Inconspicuously, she took her place among the others. Mary knew that she could overlook personal interests and dedicated herself wholly to the honor of God.

Mary had become a mature woman. In the thirty years of her life, she had reached unknown pinnacles of happiness. At the same time, she had experienced deep heart sorrows which no other woman ever has or ever will encounter. But her attitude toward God hadn’t changed. She had proven with her life that she meant the words she spoke when the Messiah was announced, “I am the Lord’s servant, and I will do whatever He desires.”



# December

Sunday Services:

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

birthdays  
 anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Communion 	6 Mary Morrissey & Diane Meester	7 Presbytery Mtg 4pm	8 Praise Team, 7pm	9 Shooting Fellowship, 5:30pm	10	11
12	13 No Session	14	15 Praise Team, 7pm	16	17	18 Stephanie Baker & Ronnie & DeAnn Riggs
19 Gibson Candlelight Service & Dinner	20 No Book Club	21 Brandon Sigourney	22 Praise Team 7pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 6pm	25  Christmas Day
26	27	28	29 Praise Team, 7pm	30 Sammy Miller	31 Patricia Burton	