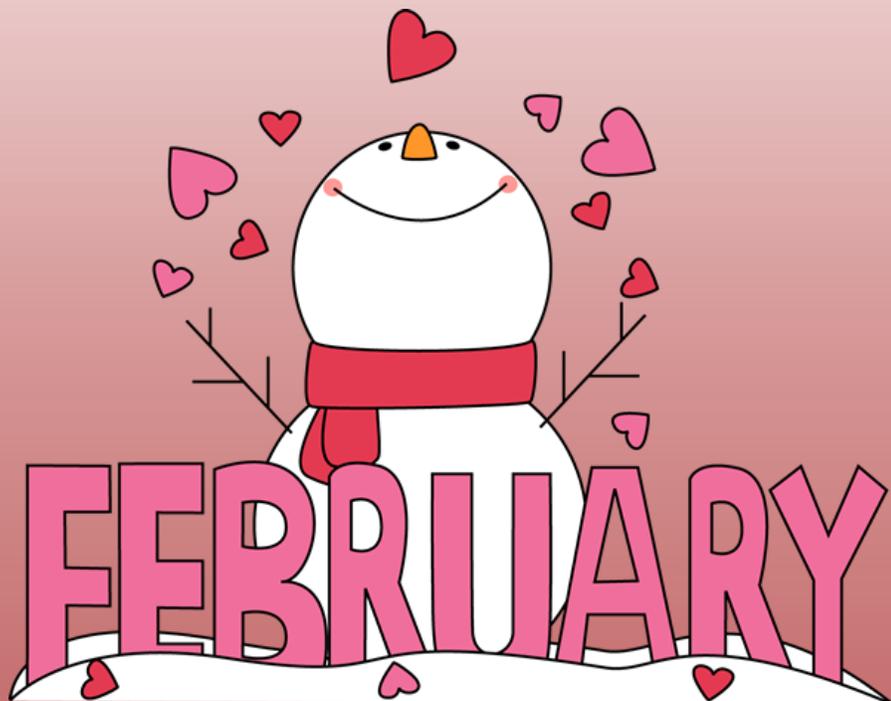


# Hillcrest Calling



**February 2022**

## **Who is this baby?**



**Last month's picture...Nancy Hackett. No one guessed.**

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. Your chances are great if you try it.

## **February** Birthdays

Sue Balliet, 1st  
Dianne Hutchins, 1st  
Harold Reynolds, 5th  
Ruth Poindexter, 6th  
Brandon Sigourney, Jr., 7th  
Nancy Hackett, 8th  
Mitch Morrissey, 8th  
Macy Scott, 17th  
Jo Lynne Palmerton, 18th

## **February** Anniversaries

Katy and John Moore, 14th



Thank you all for the beautiful gift! I love looking at the snow globe. It brightens my day every time I look at it.

Thanks again,  
Joyce Goodell

Thank you so very much for the gift! It will live forever, the grand-kids have seen it and they all want it, to keep for a "Keep-sake" to remember the church and us. God bless all of you for your wonderful work you do to further glorify the kingdom of our Lord.

We love all of you,  
Harold and Mary Jo Reynolds

Thank you for the Christmas gift  
Leonard & Joanne



Diane Meester is recovering from Knee replacement

Please pray for her quick recovery

Fellowship had been temporarily suspended due to Covid issues. Session will look at this monthly and let us know when we can resume



Congratulations to our newest grandparents—Jack & Scarlet

Little Vincente E. Carrasquillo was born January 10th He was 9lbs 7,5oz and was 21.25 inches long.

### 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.



### December Financials

Beginning Balance \$ 3,909.81

Increase 6,324.39

Ending Balance \$10,234.20

Building Loan Balance

12/04/21 \$ 269,911.12

Building Fund Balance

\$ 24,883.63

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful



**Thursday, February 10th, the Shooting Fellowship will be meet-**

**ing at 5:30pm**

**Session will be meeting at 6pm, February 14th.**

**Book Club will meet February 21st at noon. Our book this month is "Indigo Girl" by Natasha Boyd.**

**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 rules, Judges Ehud and Shamgar, the Israelites had shown no gratitude toward God. They fell away from Him and started worshipping idols. The people thought that they no longer needed God and 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.

# FEBRUARY



Sunday Services:

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

birthdays  
 anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Communion Greeter: Norm Ruth Poindexter	7 Brandon Sigourney, Jr.	8 Dianne Hutchins Sue Balliet Nancy Hackett Mitch Morrissey	9	10 Cong Care 4pm MOW—Miller	11	12 Harold Reynolds
13 Greeter: Brandon	14 Katy & John Moore Valentine's Day	15 Worship 5:30pm	16	17 Macy Scott MOW—Palmerton	18 Jo Lynne Palmerton	19
20 Greeter: Jim	21 Book Club—noon President's Day	22 Worship 5:30pm	23	24 MOW—Meester	25	26
27 Greeter: Jason	28					