



HILLCREST

~ NEWS ~

A Gathering Place for Faith and Action in the Community
www.hillcrestucc.org

JULY 2019

All Creatures Great and Small...

As I write (in mid-June) we are preparing for our Hillcrest Kidz Camp 2019 which will be held Monday July 29 – Friday August 2, followed by our Kidz Camp Sunday on August 4. Our theme this year is “All Creatures Great and Small.”

The little kid in me simply looks forward to all the fun we’ll have. The preacher in me is very excited about how our theme captures what Hillcrest is all about: All creatures great and small. You bet! “All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.” That’s what the hymn says, that’s what the bible’s creation stories say (starting with Genesis, and continuing with Psalm 104 and Proverbs 8 and lots of others), and that’s what we believe *and* act upon.

The early Christian church leader Pelagius writes,

When God pronounced that his creation was good, it was not only that his hand had fashioned every creature; it was that his breath had brought every creature to life. The presence of God’s spirit in all living beings is what makes them beautiful.

As many of you know Kerstin and I have just returned from a really awe-inspiring road trip to several national and state parks between here and Moab, UT. The more I see of our region, and the more I learn about the native peoples of our region and their connection to the land and the whole of creation the more it reminds of the wisdom of the bible and early Christianity. Native peoples are clear that “every creature” or even, as they say, the “ancestors,” include things like rocks. And why not? Have you seen the rock formations at Bryce Canyon and places like that? Have you seen the tufa formations at Mono lake? They’re surely inspired by something—and God is as good an explanation than any, better than most. Our God is a God of life; a God of creation and re-creation. As the very Wisdom of God says at the end of the creation story in Proverbs 8:

**For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD;
but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death.**

That’s profound. It’s an orientation toward God and the world that is profoundly needed in our time and place in which so many injure themselves and others and God’s great creation in so many ways.

All creatures great and small. You bet! And Hillcrest is leading the way in showing the next generation all the wisdom of recognizing that the Lord God made them all.

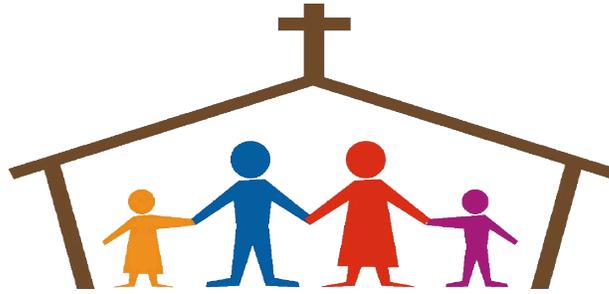
Blessings,

Rev. Fred



STEAK DINNER AT HILLCREST





YOUR HILLCREST MEMBER-AT-LARGE: I'm Listening!

Hello fellow Hillcresters. Did you know that the Church Council has a position dedicated to representing the opinions, suggestions, and concerns of Hillcrest members at monthly Council meetings?

The Member-At-Large job description lists the major function and duties as follows:

Major Function: In matters of business or policy which come before the Council, to represent all members of the Congregation, with particular attention to those who may not have access to Council through affiliations with any of the other ministries or committees.

The list of duties include:

1. Actively solicit the concerns, opinions, and other input of church members through word-of-mouth, newsletter articles or other means.
2. Actively represent all church members at Council meetings. Help to insure that an appropriately wide range of viewpoints are considered during business and policy discussions.

If you have an idea, suggestion, or concern that you would like to bring to the attention of the Church Council, please feel free to contact me by phone/text at 925-999-0012 or by email at susanlapat56@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you.

Sue LaPat

Member-At-Large



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS – AN OPTION TO CONSIDER

A new tax law in 2018 made Qualified Charitable Distributions an attractive option for some who want to make a charitable donation to Hillcrest Congregational Church. This option is available to those:

- Who are over 70.5 years of age,
- Who have an IRA account and are taking minimum distributions, and
- Who will be using the standard deduction on their income tax return.

This option can provide income tax savings while helping Hillcrest with your donation.

If you are unfamiliar with Qualified Charitable Distributions, discuss them with your financial advisor, or contact me at jim.flagstead@att.net and I can send you a notice that provides more detailed information.

Jim Flagstead
Financial Secretary

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A BIG THANK YOU!

In my Annual Report I wrote a big thank you note to all of you for the most wonderful day honoring my retirement. I think it was the most fun party I have ever attended. All my friends were there and I heard from those who could not there. The food was divine and the music was unforgettable! And then there is the Hillcrest generosity for my amazing gifts of cash (maybe gym membership or sewing machine) and a gift certificate for a night away to the East Brother Light Station.

In the article, I thanked a whole lot of people but I remembered leaving out some VIP's. First of all I want to thank Ryan Terry. He has done an amazing job as our maintenance and landscaping person. He does more than that though. With his cell phone with him he answers the calls from the office to help carry boxes from someone's car, come and help with a leak or broken window- all this and more. Thank you, Ryan, for being an unsung hero around Hillcrest. I also forgot to thank my wonderful family. They all know how much I cared about my job so they supported all my efforts. Thank you to my husband, Jim, for his patient and unending willingness to help me. I was always able to go to him when I wasn't sure about a problem with computer or room use fees or invoices, or anything else for that matter. We are all blessed that Jim is our Financial Secretary. I am certain that our new Office Manager, Carolyn Mueller-Ries, will do a marvelous job. Please give her a big welcome!

I will miss office life but I will still continue to be involved. You all are such a big part of my life and always will be. Everyone coming into the office has been a blessing even when I did not know their name but they needed help. May Hillcrest always be that church in our community to offer hope and help and treat each other with dignity and respect.

Love,
Kathy Flagstead



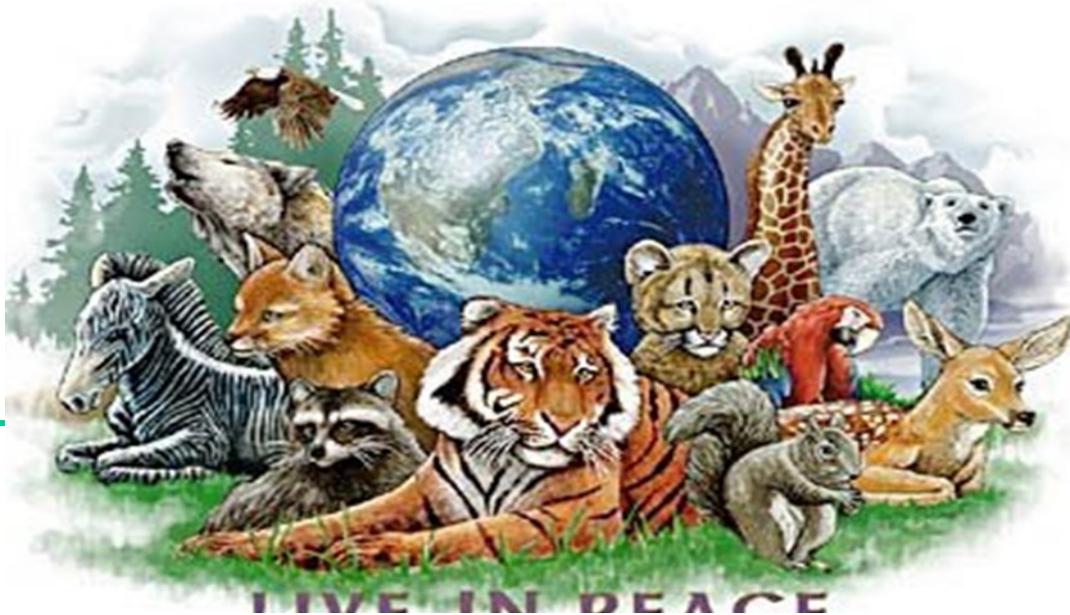
July 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p><i>Summer Worship Schedule 10 am</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 9:00 am Healing Touch 12:00 pm Prayer Group 7:00 Board of Trustees</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:30 Parade</p>	<p>5 Office Food and Clothing Closed</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 <i>Summer Worship Schedule 10 am</i></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 12:00 pm Prayer Group 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:00 am Upper Room</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 <i>Summer Worship Schedule 10 am</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:00 am Healing Touch 12:00 pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Upper Room</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Food and Clothing Open</p>
<p>21 <i>Summer Worship Schedule 10 am</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 12:00 pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:00 am Upper Room</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <i>Summer Worship Schedule 10 am</i></p>	<p>29 Kidz Camp 9-2:30</p>	<p>30 Kidz Camp 9-2:30 12:00 pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>31 Kidz Camp 9-2:30</p>			

Hillcrest Congregational Church NEWS July 2019



Kidz camp approaches! We are entering the home stretch of preparations for our camp, which begins the last week of July, and there is still much to do. Most of you know that I am stepping into a director role for camp for the first time this year, and I hope to live up to the standard set by Vicki Hackett, our award winning previous camp director. This year's camp theme will be "All Creatures Great and Small," and our kids will be putting on a performance in church on Sunday August 4th. Don't miss it! Also, if there are any elementary or middle schoolers in your life, be sure to sign them up today, spaces are limited!

The school year is over, and that means a return to our summer schedule. No 9:30 hour of Sunday School. But that does not mean that we won't still be having fun. Kids and adults alike are all looking forward to the upcoming 4th of July parade, where Hillcrest will represent ourselves and our ministries to the community. Bring your kids, bring your dogs... it will be fun for the whole family!

David Kuechle
Pastoral Associate

Monday July 29th-Friday August 2nd

9 am- 12:30 pm (\$60 for the week)

After camp care Monday-Friday 12:30-2 pm- addt'l \$15/wk.

Snacks provided. If electing after camp care, please send your child with a sack lunch, as no lunch will be provided.

Family Camp Cookout Potluck (optional and free)

Friday August 2nd @6pm

Sunday August 4th (performance)

9 am-11:30 am

Contact our church office or visit our website for more information and to register: (925) 689-8260; hillcrestucc.org.



IN THE HILLCREST SPOTLIGHT



CONCERNS

Carol Albright
 Maureen Alison
 Ryan Anderson
 Stephen Baker
 Web Beadle
 Lynne Beller
 Mitsuka Bude
 Bob Cameron
 Debra Cass
 Kylie Chen
 Cara Clark
 Joy Davis
 Nancy Hammill
 Eldon Harwood
 Grant Hawkes
 Scarlett Henley
 Vicki Hernandez
 Norm Inkster
 Soonhee Kim
 Charley Lamb
 Frank Laemmlen
 Alix Sahlin
 Dana Sparks
 Jeanne Walker
 Shirley May
 Dennis Sasaki

We remember friends and members in residential and continual care:

Betty MacKenzie
 Mary Rinehart
 Betty Soreide

**Please help us keep these lists updated. If you do not see a name you expected to see, or an event that you would like us to post, let us know. please contact us at the Church office.

**Light up a Fire of Love In Thy Soul
 Jalaluddin Rumi
 1207-1273**

Next Month we are starting a new column in the Newsletter

**We want to celebrate you
 If you have an Event or Special happening in your life...let us know!**



HOSPITALIZED

Shirley May



Cathy and Bob Carlson, Children of Founding Minister visits for Remember When

LET'S HAVE A PARADE

Hillcrest Congregational Church will be an entrant in the July 4th, Pleasant Hill Parade. This will be our 9th year and each year more of you come to join in the festivities.

In the past, marching in the Hillcrest group have been Children in red wagons and on their bikes; pets on leashes; young, middle aged, and “more seasoned” adults in their cars or walking along; Rev. Fred on foot—usually talking too much, and having to run to catch up with us. We have had special, historical vehicles.

We pass out candy and other treats. We pass out a beautiful flyer which tells about our mission and ministries, our summer Kidz Camp, and affirms our commitment to “whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Hillcrest” and what we are doing to make our community a better place. Last year, Ray Welles had a special entry.

The parade route is less than 2 miles, has thousands of people and is charged up like a rock concert. To quote Uncle Sam, I “want you” and, especially if you have a sports car or historic car or other vehicle of interest, I’d love to have that in the parade as well. Please let me, Rev. Fred, (revfred.hillcrest@att.net) or the church office (689-8260) know of your interest.

There will be an email to all who let us know, about where to meet and what time.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9 a.m.-12 noon;
1 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

(Closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.)

Church Office Phone (925) 689-8260

Website: www.hillcrestucc.org

Food Room Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 - 11:45 a.m.

3rd Saturday of the month, 9 - 11:45 a.m.
(925) 686-3663

No appointment needed. I.D. required.

Clothing Room Hours:

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9 - 11:45 a.m.

3rd Saturday of the month, 9 - 11:45 a.m.
(no appointment needed)

Jim Flagstead's Hours:

Financial Secretary

Mon. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

We Have a New Phone System

Extensions are as follows

1001 Main Office

1002 Office Manager

1003 Senior Pastor

1004 Jim Flagstead

1005 Kitchen

1006 Narthex

Hillcrest Congregational Church *NEWS*
United Church of Christ
404 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAILED: 6/28/19

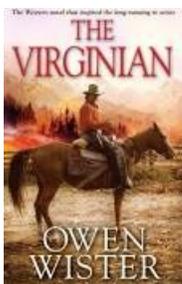
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July 2019

Hillcrest Book Group

Next Book Group

JULY



The selection for July is "**THE VIRGINIAN**" by **Owen Wister**. It stands not only as the first great novel of American Western literature but as a testament to the struggle between good and evil in humanity.

All church members are invited to join us the 2nd Sunday following worship service in Room 16 for our always interesting and informative discussions.

JULY 14 "THE VIRGINIAN" by Owen Wister

We are a low-key group that read a variety of books, we always have interesting and informative discussions.

For more information call Kay Baldwin, 944-9637.

Hillcrest Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
404 Gregory Lane Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone: 925-689-8260
Website: www.hillcrestucc.org
Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann
Pastoral Associate: David Kuechle
Accompanist & Choir Dir.: Joshua Feltman
Children & Youth Ministries: Mya Terry
Nursery Coordinator: Shelby Pickett

Worship Service schedule

10:00—Summer Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Education Hour

Beginning 6/19 Summer worship will begin at 10 a.m. Church School will also be at 10:00 a.m.

Deadline for the next *NEWS* is **Sunday, June**

Please e-mail all articles to: hillcrestucc@att.net or put them in the news folder in the "News" office box — include the source of the article and your phone number.