Hillcrest Congregational Church

HILLCREST ~ NEWS ~

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

"A Stranger, A Body, A Kingdom, and You

Hmm. Something with a title like that--could it be some kind of novel? A poem? It doesn't sound like a Sunday School lesson, does it? Perhaps a song—from a Broadway play?

Each of those terms is a way that our spiritual ancestors used to talk about themselves and what they were all about. And each has a lot to do with us and our upcoming program year, which begins Sunday Sept 8 at 1030 a.m.

A Stranger, A Body, A Kingdom, and You are all about church. Us. Together:

***Stranger**: As the early churches were forming and followers of Jesus were trying to figure out what and who they are, they adopted the terminology of "sojourners" and "immigrants," "strangers in the land." They knew the time-honored sayings from Moses and from the prophets about how to welcome immigrants and strangers. They knew that in following Christ they were stepping away from typical Roman imperial ways of understanding others (think conquer; think exploit). They knew that as followers of Christ they were not unified by ethnicity or nationality or status. To quote St. Paul, "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, there is no male and female, for we are all one in Jesus Christ." It makes no sense; except it does.

***Body**: A bunch of Christians is all in one room. Count the number of bodies—60? 100? More? Nope, our spiritual forebears tell us. One. Again, St. Paul, here commenting on his experiences within the many churches he visited: "We were all baptized into one body….Now you (all together) are the body of Christ." It makes no sense; except it does.

***Kingdom**: Where and when Jesus lived, everybody lived under the Roman Empire. They had no choice. Or did they? Jesus kept speaking about this other Kingdom and about how citizens of that Kingdom lived and treated others (and BTW our words "kingdom" and "empire" translate one ancient word—Jesus' "Kingdom" stood in stark contrast to Rome's "Kingdom"). He said that everybody—no matter your status in the Roman kingdom—was a citizen of God's kingdom. We all have the same citizenship and the same status. It makes no sense; except it does.

***You**: We can't see it because of the limitations of our English language, but the vast majority of times that Jesus and Paul say "you" what they are saying is "you all." Think about it, "where two or three are gathered" Jesus says. Without a bunch (or at least two) individual you's, there is no You. You is Us. Together. Sharing out identity in Christ and sharing our actions on behalf of each other and the world.

A Stranger, A Body, A Kingdom, and You. Us. Together. I can't wait to see what we at Hillcrest are gonna cook up together this new program year. Some of it is listed inside. Some of it is already being planned in our committees and ministries. Some of it the Holy Spirit has yet to reveal to us. Don't miss out! Come and join us and share in the Good News.

Blessings,

Rev. Fred

SUMMER Vacation

USA
BEIJING 08

Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Groups
Fall 2019 Schedule

Have you (or someone you know) experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The work-book is $15. Please call the contact at the church where you would like to attend the group.

Brochures will be sent upon request.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
September 13 – November 15, 2019
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN LEANDRO
180 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro
CONTACT: MERRILEE MITCHELL 510-482-5296
merrileehm@sbcglobal.net

Sundays, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
September 15 – November 17, 2019
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BERKELEY
2407 Dana Street, Berkeley
CONTACT: MERRILEE MITCHELL 510-482-5296
merrileehm@sbcglobal.net

Tuesdays, 3 – 5 p.m.
September 17 – November 19, 2019
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette
CONTACT: BEV FELLOWS 925-949-7628
beverlyfellows@comcast.net

Saturdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Watch for Winter 2020 dates soon
VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
4455 Del Valle Pkwy, Pleasanton
CONTACT: LINDA HUSTED 925-833-9013
lihusted@sbcglobal.net

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship	2 6-8pm Meditation (10)	3 1:00 Fellowship of Prayer 7:00 pm Trustees	4 7:00pm Zen (10)	5 9:00 am Upper Room	6	7 9:00 am Healing Touch ME
8 Rally Sunday 10:30 am worship 12:00 Book Group 1-4 pm Korean Church	9 6-8pm Meditation (10)	10 9:00 am Healing Touch ME 1:00 Fellowship of Prayer 7:00 pm Council	11 7:00pm Zen (10) 7:30 Choir Pract.	12 9:00 am Upper Room	13	14
15 10:30 am worship 11:45 Food Bank Presentation 1-4 pm Korean Chr 6pm Taize-St.Marks)	16 6-8pm Meditation (10)	17 1:00 Fellowship of Prayer	18 7:00pm Zen (10)	19 9:00 am Upper Room	20	21 9:00 am Healing Touch ME 9:00-11:45 am Food /Clothing Room Saturday
22 10:30 am worship 1-4 pm Korean Chr	23 6-8pm Meditation (10)	24 9:00 am Healing Touch ME 1:00 Fellowship of Prayer	25 7:00pm Zen (10)	26 9:00 am Upper Room	27	28
29 10:30 am worship	30					

RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 8 IS "WELCOME BACK-RALLY SUNDAY"
We will be *welcoming back* all who have been away as well as welcoming back our regular program year schedule of activities (below).

Worship at 10:30 with special music by the Extended Choir We will also be formally *welcoming* several New Members that Sunday as part of our worship service.

Following the worship service, we will have a special reception on the patio to welcome our new members and to welcome back everyone and everything that makes Hillcrest Hillcrest. There will be food, music, and activities for all.

Each committee will have the traditional 'rally day' booth with information about the work of their committee and ways—big and small—where we can each help out. As we all know, it takes a village to keep Hillcrest a vibrant church that works hard to walk in Jesus' footsteps through its service to others.

Please plan to attend to welcome each other back from summer vacation!

Hillcrest Regular Program Schedule

Education Hour (with children and adult programs) at 9:30:
Sunday School/Kidz Programs on upper campus, *and*
Adult Ed in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship at 10:30 including our Choirs—
The Extended Choir, which will be singing on Rally Sunday
The Chancel Choir's first Sunday will be Sept. 15

Be sure to be here on Sunday Sept. 8 for
*9:30 Education Hour
*10:30 Worship
*11:30 Special Reception and Activities

WHEAT
OE'S O's

EXIT

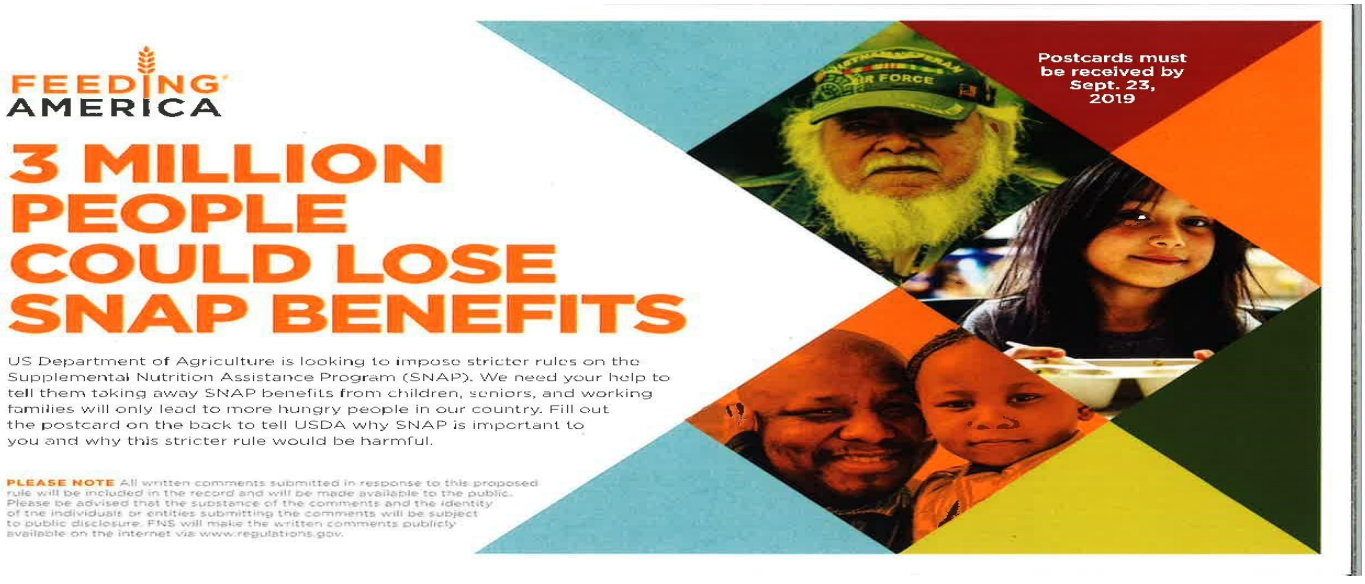
JOIN US FOR A FOOD BANK PRESENTATION SEPT 15TH 11:45 A.M.

Speaker Mary Ann Buggs is the Advocacy & Community Engagement Coordinator for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. Her background is in marketing communications, journalism and public relations. However, for the past 8 years, her 'real job' has been to launch and expand Faith Food Fridays, a free food pantry in south Vallejo. This program has grown to serve over 450 families weekly on two days of public distribution.

It was through that work that she was introduced to the Food Bank's advocacy efforts. Her work today at the Food Bank is really a dream come true, as it is her life's passion to end hunger and help those who struggle on a daily basis to make ends meet.

She will discuss how, we as a Congregation, can become advocates for policies that address food insecurity that exists everywhere, and how to take that message to our legislators in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

FOOD BANK of Contra Costa & Solano



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
Donna Rohr
Barbara Stallings
Kathy Flagstead

HOSPITALIZED
Ian Ewing

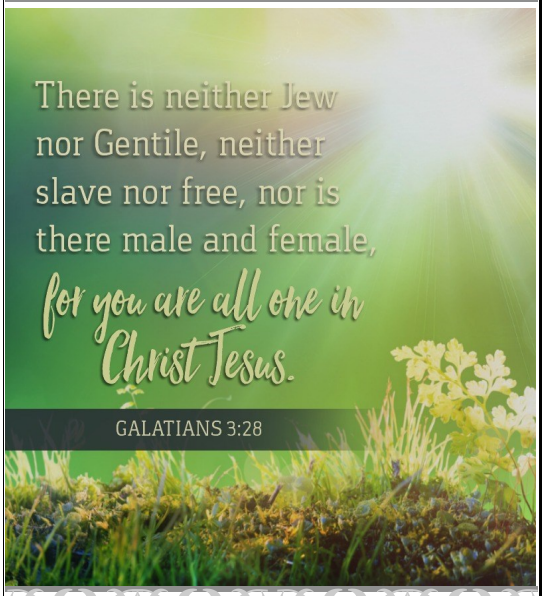
We remember friends and members in residential and continual care:

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.

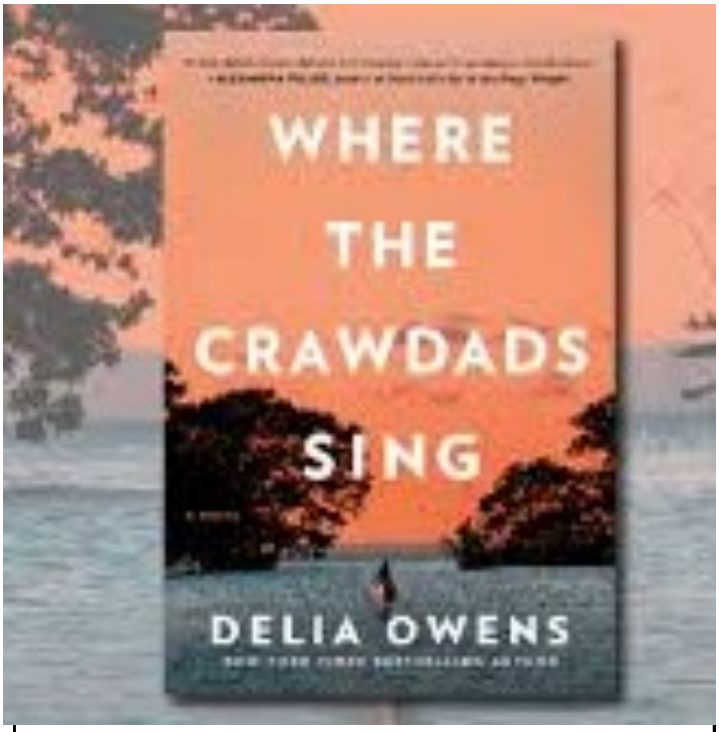
Christian Ed

It has been an exciting summer for Christian Ed, between the 4th of July parade and our Kidz camp, and now we are looking forward to the new program year. This month, we resume our 9am Sunday School, and I hope to see you, or your kids there. I'm sure it will be a year of learning and fun for all of us. It was good to see everybody at Rally Sunday, and I hope that we can get adult volunteers to bring snacks and help out in the Sunday School. Volunteers make our program run, and we had a lot of great energy last year that I hope continues into 2020.



The Pleasant Hill Senior Center

Check out this wonderful resource just down the block. **The Pleasant Hill Senior Center**, at 233 Gregory Lane, provides activities, classes, special events, day trips, and services for **adults 50+**. Notary service and memory screening are just a few of the free services available. The C.C. Café offers daily lunches and Chef Lunches are served on Fridays. A computer lab and video library are open for **Senior Center Club members ($20.00 annually). Office hours are 9 to 4 (M-Th) and 9-3 (F). More information at www.phseniorcenter.com**



Book Club

This month our selection is "Where The Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Kya was abandoned as a young girl by her family to raise herself in the depths of an isolated marsh surrounded by nothing but the natural world. Mother Nature became Kya's caretaker.

Church members are invited to join us SEPTEMBER 8, in Room 16, following the worship service for our interesting and informative discussions.

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)

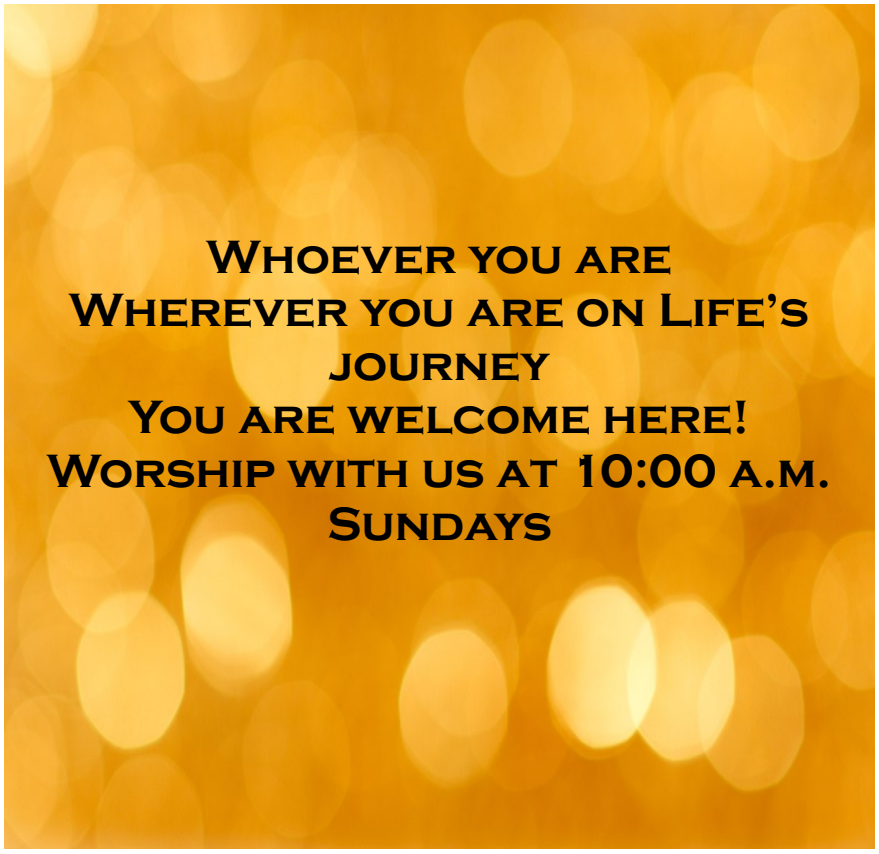
Jim Flagstead's Hours:
Financial Secretary
Mon. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

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: 8/28/19



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 begim at 10 a.m. Church School will also be at 10:00 a.m.

Deadline for the next ***NEWS*** is **Sunday, August 25th**
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**.**