



2nd Quarter 2020

Hillcrest Cross Talk

Message From the Pastor



I Will Praise You In This Storm

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:1-4).

This Psalm was written by an Israelite who was in exile in Babylon. In exile, saddened by their situation, they wondered how they could sing praises to God since life was not going their way and they were captive in a foreign land.

The pandemic of the present Coronavirus (COVID-19) has forced us into observing social distancing and being confined to our homes. It feels as though we are in exile and out of touch with families and friends. Indeed, being unable to come to church and worship God together can make us feel that we are even exiled from God and out of touch with God.

And yet, God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah to remind his people that he was present with them in exile, "yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone" (Ezekiel 11:16b).

Yes, we have been forced into exile by the Coronavirus, but God is with us even in exile! It may feel as though we are alone, but we are not alone! And, in this exile we may find it hard to give thanks and praise to God, but that is exactly what we should be doing.

I really like the Contemporary Christian song by Casting Crowns, "I'll Praise You In This Storm." The refrain of the song is, "And I'll praise you in this storm, and I will lift my hands that you are who you are no matter where I am. And every tear I've cried You hold in your hand, You never left my side, and though my heart is torn I will praise you in this storm."

While we are in "exile," let us remember that God has not forgotten us, and indeed that God is with us. While we are in exile let us thank God for his presence and let us praise God "in this storm." And, while we are in exile let us be in prayer for all those who have been affected by this disease. Let us pray for those sick with the disease, those serving on the front lines against this disease, and for those whose jobs and businesses have been affected by this disease.

And let us keep the faith knowing that God will see us through and bring us out of exile!

Praising God In This Storm Together With You,

Pastor Justin



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Hillcrest sermons will be live-streamed on our Facebook page at "Hillcrest United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg Va" Sundays at 10:30 a.m. You can also view it later on our webpage.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
devotional.upperroom.org

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
vaumc.org

“What Has Pastor Williams Been Up To? ”



February 2020 – March 2020

Hospital Visits – 14

In Home Visits- 4

Nursing Home Visits – 2

District Meetings – 1

In addition Pastor Williams meets with the Worship Team to plan out worship services, meets with a Clergy Group for Breakfast on Tuesday Mornings, attends the monthly meetings of the Finance Committee and Administrative Council, attends the Bi-monthly meetings of the Trustees, attends the quarterly meetings with the Staff Pastor Parish

Relations Committee, works with the H.A.S.P. program every Thursday, and serves as Chair for the District Board of Trustees. Pastor Williams is in his office from 9am-12 pm Monday thru Thursday, and his day off is Friday.

Church Online
NOT CANCELED

Quiet Time With God
NOT CANCELED

Praying For The Sick
NOT CANCELED

Checking On A Friend
NOT CANCELED

Helping Others
NOT CANCELED

Being The Church
NOW MORE THAN EVER

United Methodist Church Closings

Bishop Sharma Lewis of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church has ordered that all worship services, meetings, and small groups will be cancelled for the month of April. We will continue to live-stream the sermons on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. You can go to the church Facebook page to watch the sermon live (or later), and you can go the church website page, click on “sermons,” to watch the sermon later or any past sermons you may have missed.

Since all worship services have been cancelled for the month of April, and since Easter is on April 12th , we will hold off celebrating Easter until we are back together again.

For the month of April we will be doing “Holy Week” sermons as follows:

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 12 – Jesus Turns Over Tables in the Temple

Sunday, April 19 – Holy Thursday Celebration

Sunday, April 26 – Good Friday Celebration



Holy Week & Easter

Messy Church

Welcome to Messy Church! What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is an intergenerational experience for people who are looking for an interactive form of church. The usual Messy Church experience includes relaxed welcome zone where people gather from their busy lives and reconnect with each other. At the monthly Messy Church gathering we gather first for a meal, afterwards we will explore a biblical theme through hands-on creative activities, and then conclude with a short worship celebration of story, song and prayer. It does not prioritize either the needs of children or adults but intentionally welcomes and provides for all ages.



Why are we beginning this type of service? Messy Church is for all people, however we hope to reach families that have never been to church, or maybe have left the church, and offer them an experience that is unlike Contemporary and Traditional worship services. Messy church will be an interactive form of church.

Messy Church will take place on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., and will resume once the church re-opens.

If you have any questions please see Theresa Trowbridge, Messy Church Coordinator; or Pastor Justin Williams

Fifth Sunday Worship

Due to the Coronavirus closing the church for an extended period of time, and in order to instill a sense of normalcy once we return, we will NOT be holding 5th Sunday worship services for 2020. We will explore this again at the beginning of 2021.

**Someone suggested
when this
Is over, let's party! I say
when
This is over let's kneel
in prayer
And give thanks!**



Susan Morgan Retirement

After a cumulative 30 years of being the Director of Music Ministries at Hillcrest United Methodist Church, Susan Morgan will officially retire on Sunday, April 12th. We thank Susan for sharing her musical gifts with us, for her leadership with the Choir, and for proclaiming God's Word through music and song! May God bless Susan in her retirement. Susan has offered to come back and play for our Easter Service when the church re-opens, for which we THANK her greatly!



Hillcrest Live Every Sunday

Audio/Visual Technicians - John and Theresa Trowbridge

As many are aware Hillcrest Live Streams the Traditional 10:30 Worship Service every Sunday. Do you know where to go to view this if the demands of your lives do not allow you to attend? Do you know that you no longer need to go to YouTube anymore? Are you aware that you can view past sermons on either Facebook or the Hillcrest Website?

Over the last few months, we have worked hard at identifying audio and visual problems associated with our streaming, and all have been corrected to provide the best possible experience for everyone watching the service from home or abroad. If you are unaware, our Sunday 10:30 service is streamed directly to the Hillcrest Facebook page. Each week you can tune in and feel as though you are sitting in the pew, listening and worshipping along with others.

***If watching on Facebook, we ask that you comment on the video with your families last name, and number in your family so that an accurate worship attendance can be taken.

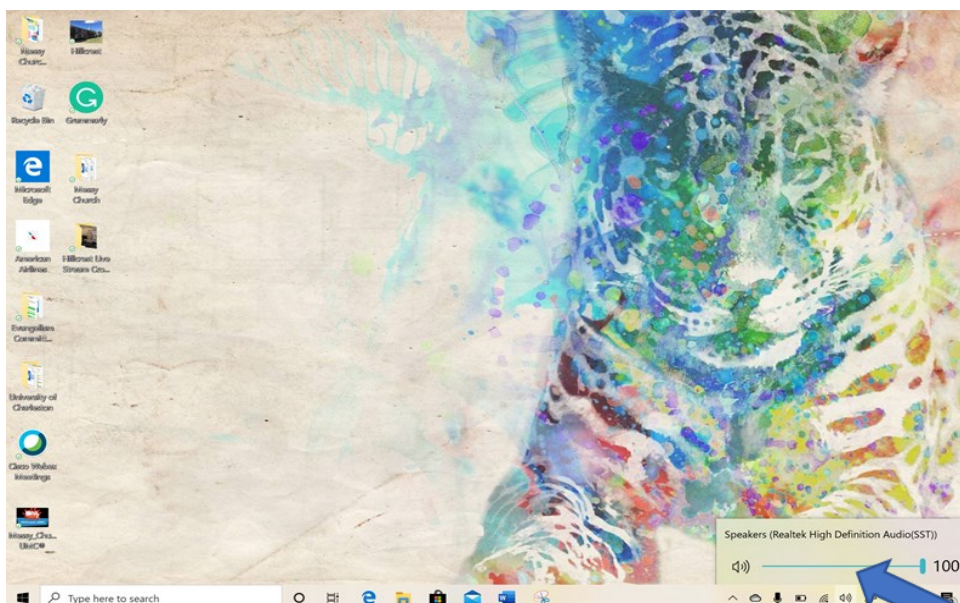
In the event that you miss the service because life happens, you can go to the Hillcrest Facebook Page or the Hillcrest Website, and recordings will be stored there to watch over and over again. The websites to directly go to Facebook or the Hillcrest Website are:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hillcrestumc.fredericksburg/>

Webpage: <https://hillcrestumc.com/sermons/>

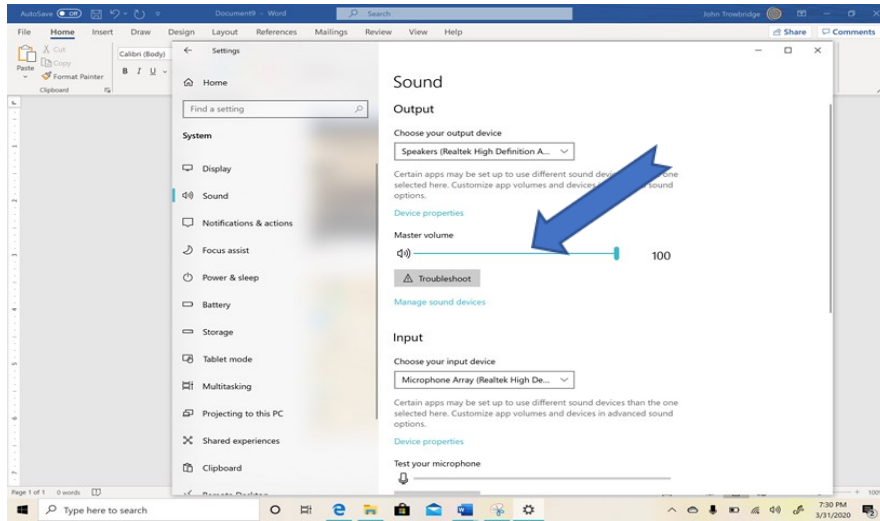
Each week the streams are tested on desktop PCs, laptops, and mobile devices to ensure that audio and video are functioning properly. However, in the event that you encounter any issues with the stream, I encourage you to reach out to Theresa or John Trowbridge so that we can help you work through whatever the issue may be. Recently we have been told of sound problems that some are having. Below are common fixes to this if you have problems. Please check both if you are having trouble hearing the live feed, If you continue to have sound issues, please reach out to us so that we can help out.

ADJUSTING SOUND ON CPU ITSELF

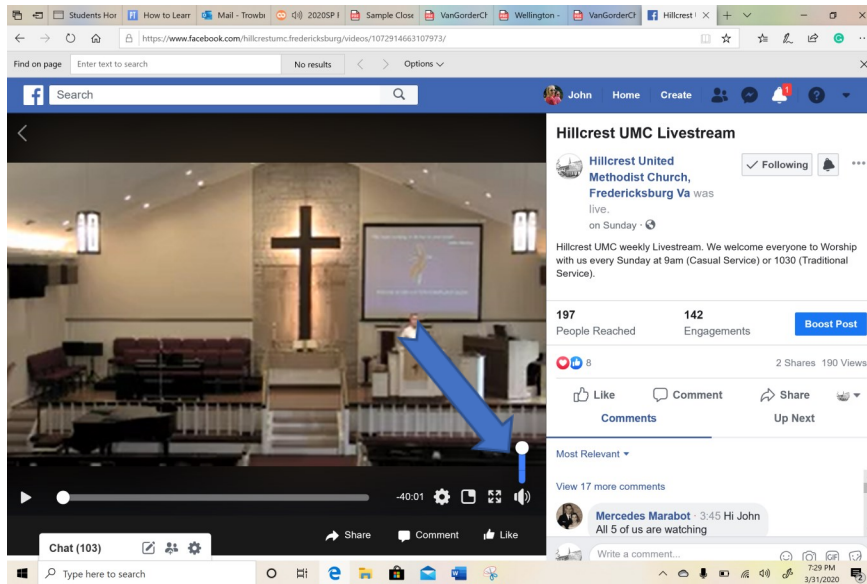


ADJUSTING SOUND WITHING CPU SETTINGS

START -> SETTINGS -> SYSTEM (TOP LEFT SELECTION) -> SOUND (LEFT SIDE)



ADJUSTING THE SOUND WITHIN FACEBOOK



We are excited to continue moving forward by providing a means for anyone to worship wherever they are in the world. If you have any issues please let us know and we will work together to make this the best experience for everyone.

John and Theresa Trowbridge

Answer key to the Holy Week Word Scramble on last page:

betrayal, crucifixion, disciples, empty tomb, Good Friday, Jesus, Judas Iscariot, Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, Passion of Christ, Passover, Resurrection

FOOD INSECURITY

If you or anyone you know is battling food insecurity this announcement is for you. There is a Store Front Ministry located on Olde William St. behind Mike's Glass & Mirror near the intersection of US 1 and US 3 in Fredericksburg. They are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00. Here is how it works:

1. You show up with a valid photo I.D. that indicates you live within the general Tri-County area.
2. The customers wait outside of the building either in their cars or in chairs provided and only five at a time are allow to shop. As those five leave five additional customers proceed indoors to shop.
3. Once you are called you are given a shopping cart with a large box in it. You proceed through the store selecting those items you desire. Certain limits are placed on selected items i.e. on a given shelf you may be limited to one item on another you might be limited to two items, on yet another you may not limited at all. The limits are plainly posted.
4. There is produce, meats, can goods, snacks, pastries, breads, sodas, ect, ect.
5. Once your cart is full you roll it out to your car and drive away.
6. You receive entry only day of the week (Tuesday/Thursday) If you shop on a Tuesday you cannot shop again on Thursday or vice versa. Once a week only.
7. If you need assistance a volunteer will assist you - not only with shopping but also to your vehicle to load the items.
8. NOTE: If there are multiple adults in your household they may accompany you in which case you would be issued a shopping cart for each adult.
9. NOTE: There are no public restroom on the premises. If while waiting you need to make a restroom break you let the Number Issuer know you are leaving the premises for a break. Upon your return you will be worked back into the que. i.e. If your number was 20 and when you get back they are on number 26 you would be inserted prior to them continuing with number 27.
10. NOTE: Once the vast majority is seated a short devotional is performed followed by a brief prayer. No more numbers are issued after 1:15 p.m.. However anyone already shopping continues until everyone is out the door. Typically 40 to 50 numbers are issued each day with some of them being multiple family members. If you have small children they can ride in the cart, however, they must remain under the adults control at all times.
11. Situation: If you do not have transportation but a friend or neighbor does you may both come, both show I.D.s, and both be given a cart for shopping. If this sounds like something you could benefit from - please contact me and I will endeavor to get you (see my numbers below).

R.F. "Doc" Holladay, (540) 538-9177, doc.holladay73@gmail.com, Hillcrest UMC

Luke 3:11

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

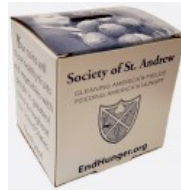
Hallelujah Sighting!

Hallelujah HALLELUJAH *Hallelujah*

It is great to hear stories about how church members are serving others during this time of crisis no matter how old you are. Chuck Ogden, a member of Hillcrest UMC, and now a resident of Bickford of Spotsylvania (an Assisted Living Home) has been asked to lead and preach worship services at Bickford. Due to the Coronavirus the chaplain, or any other religious organization, cannot enter the Bickford. Chuck was approached by the Administrator at Bickford and asked if he could step in during this time, and Chuck, of course, agreed! Chuck is 91 years old and continues to serve as a disciple of Jesus Christ!

Society of St. Andrew Boxes

Many of you took home the coin collection boxes from the Society of St. Andrew to collect loose change during the season of Lent. Please keep these boxes until we return back to church to worship together.



THANK YOU

Dear Congregation,

I hope this finds all of you doing well. I wanted to THANK all of you for your hosting, helping, and your participation with the Sunday morning Gathering Time! I am looking forward to our coming back together again and for the Gathering Time to start back up. I will host the first gathering time when the church re-opens for worship, and the new sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Snyder

VBS

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

The next Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 3, at 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Czubowicz or Jenn Bumbrey, VBS Coordinators.



H.A.S.P. HASP is not in session, as you know. But this does not mean that we have stopped serving our HASP families. We started providing the same take-home bags for the children and their families. They pick them up at the church and then some are delivered. It is very difficult not to hug them as they come to pick up their bags, but it is fun seeing the creative ways they are sending them through the air and online. Some of these families are in great need, as many of them are now out of work or their hours have been cut. If you feel led, here are some items that they could use: toilet paper, paper towels, rice, dried beans, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, cereal, fruits and vegetables, canned goods of any kind, protein of some sort, one family is in need of "dye free" laundry detergent. If you can help in anyway, even if it is one canned good, it would be greatly appreciated.

You can leave the items in the box marked H.A.S.P. by the kitchen and if you have something that needs to be refrigerated (chicken, hamburger meat, eggs, etc.) please place it in the HASP refrigerator in the room connected to the Gathering Hall. Everyone can help in some way and while the material things are important our prayers are even more so.

'and you will be blessed, since they do have the means to repay you: for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'" Luke 14:14

God's blessings, Debbie



HOLY WEEK WORD SCRAMBLE

ETABYALR _____

XCRCUONIIF _____

ILISSPEC D _____

OTPB YEMMT _____

RDOFOGIADY _____

EUSJS _____

TDIAORCSUAJIS _____

EPATRS LPUS _____

DUUTAY YARDSMHN _____

PFSAITCOISONSRH _____

VPARSSEO _____

TCRURNSIOERE _____

*answer key on page 5
** 4 are 2 words and 1 is 3 words