



1st Quarter 2022

Hillcrest Cross Talk



Message From the Pastor



Dirty House

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”

(Psalm 51:1– 2)

When our oldest son, Alex, was around four years old the phone in our home rang one day and he answered the phone. On the other end of the phone was his grandmother (my mother) who must have asked him about coming by for a visit to which Alex replied, “No, memaw, the house is dirty!”

As we come into the Season of Lent, that begins on Wednesday, March 2, this is the time we reflect on our spiritual house. Is it dirty? It is dirty with such things as bitterness, unforgiveness, gossip, or prejudice. What “sin” is causing your spiritual house to be dirty and what are you prepared to do to see that it gets cleansed from your spiritual house.

The truth is we cannot clean up the mess, only Jesus can! We cannot wash sin out of our lives, only Jesus can! We have to recognize that our spiritual house is dirty with sin, and then we have to call on the only One who can clean the mess up, Jesus our Savior and Lord!

And that is the direction that Lent points us in. Lent reminds us that sin not only exists in our lives, but in all the lives of humanity and there is no way for us to clean it up. Not through good behaviors, not by following all the 10 commandments, not by serving on committees in the local church, not by going to small groups, or attending all worship services. There is no good thing we can do to wash away our sin. If that were the case, we would not need Jesus! Yet, the truth is that Jesus has come to clean our spiritual house and restore us fully to God. He has done this through his death and resurrection.

Like you, when my home is clean I feel good about it being clean and it brings a sense of joy as well. How much more so when our spiritual house is clean, knowing that our sin is washed away, that we are restored completely to God, thus we know the joy of being in relationship with God, and that one day we will be in his presence for all eternity! All because Jesus has cleaned up our mess!

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Justin

Hillcrest United Methodist Church
2208 Lafayette Blvd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-898-2180
www.hillcrestumc.com

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

In person or online at

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

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

devotional.upperroom.org

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

vaumc.org

Our Purpose To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Our Mission To give Hope, create Community & bring Purpose to a world that is in desperate need of Christ's Salvation.
Our Vision Be recognized as a pivotal point in the community where people want to be.

What Has the Pastor Been Up To?

November 2021 – January 2022

Hospital Visits – 12

In Home Visits- 4

Nursing Home Visits – 1

Funerals – 2



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, serves as the Chair for the District Board of Trustees, and is on the District Realignment Team. Pastor Williams is in his office from 9am-12 pm Monday thru Thursday, and his day off is Friday.

What Is the Season of Lent?



Wednesday, March 2nd , begins the season of Lent, and ends on Holy Saturday, which is April 16th . But what exactly is the season of Lent? Simply put, it is the season of which prepares us to celebrate Easter. In the United Methodist Book of Worship we read, “The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.” Thus, Lent is a call to self-examination, to honestly and readily identify those sins in our lives. Thus, knowing the forgiveness that Jesus has brought to us by his death and resurrection, and being restored in our relationship with God.

Sermon Series

Lenten Sermon Series: What is Faith?

We have all heard someone say, or maybe even said it ourselves, “Have faith!” But have you ever stopped to fully reflect on what faith is? In this sermon series we will examine what faith is and thus when we tell people to “Have faith,” we will really know what we are asking them to do, and remind ourselves what faith means to our lives.

March 6 – Will Faith Still Be Found?

March 20 – Growth of Faith

March 13 – The Gift of Faith

March 27 – Tangible Faith

Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 10th – Passion/Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m.: We recall Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem in which he has come to this place to die on a cross for the sins of all humanity.

Holy Thursday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m. – This year Chosen People Ministries will come to help us have a clearer understanding of the last Passover meal that Jesus would share with his disciples. They will come and give a demonstration of the Passover Seder Meal followed by Holy Communion. Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same. At this service we will take up a love offering to help them cover their costs.

Good Friday, April 15th, 7:00 p.m.: A Service of Tenebrae – This service is a dramatic reading from the Gospel of John about the crucifixion and death of Christ. Sixteen different readers will read a portion of scripture from the Gospel of John and after each reading a candle is extinguished. When the last candle is extinguished, the sanctuary is left in darkness symbolizing the death of Jesus.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 17th, 6:30 a.m. – We come at dawn, like the women did on that first Easter morning, to gather and celebrate that Christ is risen! This service takes place outside (weather permitting) and then concludes inside the sanctuary. After this service the United Methodist Men will be providing breakfast.

Easter Sunday Service, April 17th, 10:00 a.m. – We continue the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!



Society of St. Andrew

The Society of St. Andrew's sole purpose is to feed the hungry. As such, each year we support them by collecting our spare change during the 40-day season of Lent and putting that change in coin banks to bring back to the church on Easter Sunday. The coin banks can be found on the table just outside the sanctuary. Also, on that same table, are Lenten Devotionals provided by the Society of St. Andrew. Please pick up a devotional booklet that contains daily scripture readings, reflections, and prayers as a part of your spiritual discipline during the season of Lent.

Society of St. Andrew





The Board of Trustees has been fairly busy the last few months. As you know from the Called Charge Conference, the trustees explored the idea of having Hillcrest incorporate and decided that it would be a good idea. The next step in the process was to recommend this to the Administrative Council, and they agreed with the idea. The Discipline of the United Methodist Church spells out what steps must be taken in order for a local church to incorporate, and the next step in the process was to hold the Called Charge Conference on January 30, 2022, at which time the members present for the Charge Conference voted unanimously to approve the recommendation and to direct the Board of Trustees to take the steps necessary to incorporate. We have now hired an attorney and are working with her to incorporate.

With Justin's announcement that he has requested to be appointed to another church beginning in June it also meant that the trustees needed to take steps regarding the parsonage.



For those of you unfamiliar with the parsonage, it is located directly across the street from the house that we use for storage, at 102 Gibson Street. It was built by Hillcrest in 1959. Because there is usually only about a week from the time one pastor vacates the house until the next pastor moves in, there has been only minimal work done on the interior of the house since it was built. It has three bedrooms and two full baths upstairs; a living room, large kitchen/dining area, pastor's study, a sitting room/fourth bedroom, a full bathroom and a laundry/utility room on the first floor. It has hardwood floors throughout the main living spaces.

The United Methodist Church requires that a local church provide housing for its appointed pastor. If a church has no suitable parsonage, it must pay a fair market housing allowance to the pastor. However, if a church has suitable housing and the pastor decides not to occupy the parsonage, the church has no obligation to provide a housing allowance.

When Justin was first appointed to Hillcrest, he and Anita made the decision that they would prefer to live in their own house rather than occupy the parsonage. Because we have a parsonage available for the pastor, and it was the pastor's decision not to live in the parsonage, Hillcrest had no obligation to pay a housing allowance. At that time the trustees made the decision to rent the parsonage. The lease for those tenants expired in November, and now that we would need to prepare it for the next pastor, the trustees chose not to renew the lease. The house has been vacant since the end of November.

During Justin's entire tenure at Hillcrest, we have rented the parsonage to the same group of tenants. The rent collected during this time has been put into a fund that has been used to cover repairs to the parsonage and saved for use by the church; a small portion of the money was used to help offset the cost of the modifications and addition done in 2018-2019. Because it was obvious that we would need to do repairs and renovations of the parsonage before we would want to use it as a parsonage again, this money has primarily been set aside for repairs and renovations of the parsonage.

con't

The trustees have now hired a contractor to do the work at the parsonage and initial work has begun. There will not be any major modifications to the house, however there will be substantial renovations done.

The kitchen and bathrooms will be updated with new cabinets, fixtures and appliances. The vinyl floors in the kitchen, laundry and baths will be replaced and the hardwood floors will be refinished. Heating and air conditioning systems will be reconditioned as necessary and all walls will be repaired and repainted. Additionally, the outside of the house will be power-washed and the yard cleaned up.

All work should be completed well in advance of a new pastor potentially moving in late in June. If Justin is reappointed to Hillcrest, the parsonage will be rented out. Once the work has been completed the trustees will have an "open house" some Sunday after church for the congregation to see what our parsonage looks like.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to me or any of the members of the Board of Trustees.

Greg Clayton

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. " ~ Hebrews 12:1-3

Child Protection Policy and Procedures

We will be holding our Child Protection Policy and Procedures class on March 20th at 11:30 a.m.. We will go over the policies and procedures and watch some short videos. Everyone who is affiliated with children at the church must attend the meeting. That does include the parents of any children in our youth group since you will be acting as the second leader for the days you will be providing lunch. We will be providing lunch that day for the attendees of our meeting. Please sign-up on the sheet outside the sanctuary if you are planning on attending. If you have any questions, please see Gloria McArtor, Child Protection Policy Chair.



"loose knitters"

The "loose knitters" meets each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.. Fran's passion is to teach new knitters so all are welcome. There is nothing more exciting than to see a new knitter grasp one of the stitches and to be able to begin to unravel a written pattern. We knitters decided to share what we have been doing with the church. Experienced knitters are welcome. They serve as an example for new knitters.



"You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy."

~Nightbride: Jane Marzewski

<https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/count-me-among-the-friends-of-god-the-heart-behind-nightbirdes-golden-performance-on-americas-got-talent.html>

Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to meet every second Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's. The Men's Group is looking at organizing two upcoming events: trip to the Army Museum and trip to Fred Nat's Ballpark. For the first, we are looking to organize a trip up to the Army Museum on Tuesday, April 12th. We will meet at the church at 9:00 and travel/carpool to the museum. We will tour the museum at our own pace and meet up for lunch at the cafe at 12:30. The cost of the museum is free so all you'll need to pay for is lunch.

We are looking to take another trip out to the Fred Nat's Ballpark in May. We have reserved the 3rd base SkyDeck and tickets will be \$35.00 each which includes hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, potato salad, water, iced tea, and lemonade. The cost of the ticket includes your admission to the ballpark, access to the Skydeck and food/drinks. The sign up sheet for is located outside the Sanctuary. Our last trip to the ballpark and to the Marine Corps museum were huge successes and we look forward to both of these events again! The Men's Group will cover the cost of the ticket to the ballpark for anyone that cannot afford the ticket as we don't want anyone to not be able to go. The date is Sunday, May 29th with a game start at 1:35 p.m. If you want to pay for your ticket by check, please write a check made out to Hillcrest and put "Baseball Tickets" in the memo line and put it in the offering plate on Sunday. You must sign up by May 12th.

If you have any questions please contact Chris Czubowicz at chrisffe107@yahoo.com



Well this year seems to be flying by and before you know it, it will be the Summer. We are planning 2 events for this year, our Annual Back to School Event and a Fall Festival. For the back to School event, we wanted to make sure to get this event in before school starts and plan to hold the event on Saturday, July 30th from 1-4p.m.. We will be looking to supply 100 backpacks for the first 100 children this year and, as usual, have carnival games where the children will be able to "win" their school supplies. We will be looking for the congregation to once again donate school supplies to be given out at the event.

No date is set yet for the Fall Festival but we will be looking at a Saturday in October for the event. For both events, we will be looking to include other groups from the church to participate in the events. This way we can promote these groups at our Community Events so the community knows what Hillcrest has to offer and the groups that we have here at our church.

If you have any questions please contact Chris Czubowicz at chrisffe107@yahoo.com

Where do church terms like narthex and nave come from?



Aerial view of the Duke University Chapel in the center of the Duke campus in Durham, N.C. Completed in 1932, this gothic-style chapel seats over 1,800 people and stands 210 feet, making it one of the tallest buildings in Durham County. Photo by Estlin Haiss Photography. Haiss is a graduate of Duke University.

The term narthex, Greek for “scourge,” refers to a porch or gathering space outside the main worship space (or nave). Early Christians used this term to refer to the outer portico where penitents (those who had committed serious sins) and catechumens (converts preparing for baptism) gathered for worship. Penitents and catechumens were not permitted to worship with other Christians in the main worship space until they had completed their orientation or reorientation to Christian life. Today, this gathering place functions as an interface between the church and the world, a space for welcoming.



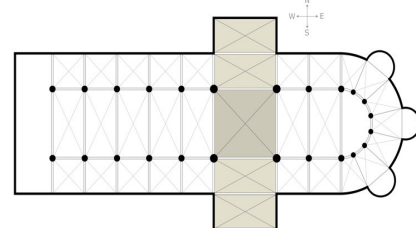
A view down the nave or principal longitudinal area of a church in Wesley's Chapel in the London Borough of Islington. Originally City Road Chapel, the Methodist church was built in 1778 under the direction of John Wesley. Photo by Bob Johnson, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



The Neo-Gothic styling of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, built in the late 1920s, features a cruciform plan on a steel-frame structure with limestone cladding. Stained glass windows are from the original structure, and the tower's bells were brought from the church's original sanctuary. Photo by James "Jim" Evans, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Many church architecture terms come from Latin and Greek origins.

For many centuries, one common plan of church architecture has been to build the worship space in the shape of a cross. The cruciform structure included the narthex and nave on one end, cross arms, and the sanctuary at the other end. The nave area usually extended west from the crossing, the choir and sanctuary toward the east.



A transept (with two semi-transepts) is a transverse part of any building, which lies across the main body of the edifice. In churches, a transept is an area set crosswise to the nave in a cruciform ("cross-shaped") building within the Romanesque and Gothic Christian church architectural traditions. Definition courtesy of Wikipedia Commons; diagram by Lusitana, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Why don't we call this space the lobby? Lobby is another term for the same kind of covered walk or portico near the entrance of a larger main space, but one that was adapted from political use, rather than Christian use. The lobby (lobium in Latin) is where the “lobbyists” would gather to seek to influence the votes of lawmakers and others admitted to the space where decisions were made.

The term nave comes from the Latin word, *navis*, meaning “ship.” The main worship space of many churches was intentionally built to resemble a ship, or more specifically, Noah's Ark. This points to the role of the church as an ark of salvation. From this area, the congregation can see and hear the pastor and the choir.

Sanctuary, from Latin *sanctus* for holy or sacred, refers specifically to the area around the Lord's table where the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered. Often in Western churches, the choir is also seated in the sanctuary. It is the holiest space within the worship area. In Eastern Christianity, the sanctuary is separated by a wall of icons (iconostasis). Icons are signs and reminders of the holiness encountered as Christians gather in the space. Some Western churches have a screen (rood screen) separating the sanctuary, where the clergy preside, from the nave, where the lay people worship. Many Protestant churches distinguish this space by an altar rail. Often Protestants today refer to the whole worship space as the sanctuary.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

HOMEBOUND



Cards and letters always welcome to help those at home remember they are still a part of our Hillcrest Family and that we miss them!

Phyllis Weaver (BM)
Albert Traylor(A)
Eileen Delewski (M)
Thelma Rankins (A)
Anita Alsop (B)
Pattie Chandler (A)
Ivy Hedge (A)
Ralph & Marie Adams (P)
Sandra Melick (A)
Martha McDyson (P)
Jill Czubowicz (E)

(A)At Home (BM) Brookdale Midlothian (M) Morningside Richmond
(B) Bickford (P) Paramount Senior Living (E) Enoch George Manor
(If you need anyone's address, please contact the church office.)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Send to hillcrestunitedmethdist@gmail.com

CHURCH USE

To reserve the church or pavilion contact the church office at 540-898-2180 or email hllcrestunitedmethdoist@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES

Meets the 4th Tuesday every 2 months at 7:00 p.m.

SPPR

Meets on the 4th Tuesday quarterly at 6:00 p.m.