



Message From the Pastor



It Is Time

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

In 1994 Walt Disney Pictures came out with the movie, “Lion King.” In this movie, after the death of his father, Mufasa, the cub, Simba, is forced to leave the kingdom of Pride Rock by his evil Uncle, Scar. Simba, of course, grows up into a Lion and through a series of circumstances he comes back to Pride Rock and challenges his evil Uncle, Scar, for the position of King. Simba wins, and in the midst of dark clouds and rain, Rafiki (the trusted advisor), tells Simba, “It is time.” It was time for Simba to take his rightful place as king, and he climbs to the pinnacle of Pride Rock and let’s out a huge roar and takes his place as King.

Much like Simba, the church has been forced leave the many ministries that we use to do because of the pandemic. No Vacation Bible School, no community events, no afterschool program, no Messy Church, no choir, no in-person small groups, and no in-person meetings. But in the midst of the darkness of the Pandemic that has begun to wane, we can hear the words, “It is time.”

It is time for us to get back to the ministries of the church! It is time for us to get back to fully participating in the Sunday morning worship service by being present in the sanctuary. It is time for us to get back to participating in small groups. It is time for us to get back to hosting community events. It is time to get back to having Vacation Bible School. It is time for us to get back to ALL the ministries of the church and for ALL of us to engage in ministry as disciples of Jesus. It is time!

And even though there is a resurgence in the pandemic, we must not let it force us to leave ministry again. It is time for us to claim our place as the church once again in our community. It is time!

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

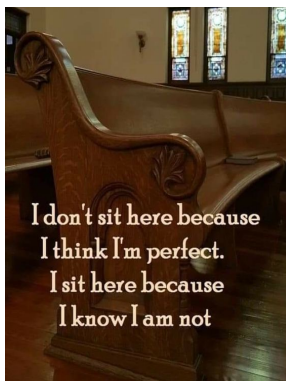
Our Purpose To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Our Mission To give Hope, create Community & bring Purpose to a world that is in desperate need of Christ’s Salvation.
Our Vision Be recognized as a pivotal point in the community where people want to be.



*"The Lord is my
light and my
salvation—
whom shall I
fear?"*

*The Lord is the
stronghold of
my life—of
whom shall I be
afraid?*

Psalm 27:1.



*I don't sit here because
I think I'm perfect.
I sit here because
I know I am not*

WHAT HAS THE PASTOR BEEN UP TO?

From May 2021-July 2021 Pastor Williams has done.

Hospital Visits – 8

In Home Visits- 7

Nursing Home Visits – 2

Funerals – 1

District Training - 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, and is the 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.



COMING IN:

September

FACING YOUR GIANTS

September 5	"Failures"	Joshua 6:1-20
September 19	"Hopelessness"	Exodus 14:10-31
September 26	"Discouragement"	Exodus 14:10-31
October 3	"Doubt"	Samuel 17:41-50

OCTOBER

DEFYING GRAVITY (Stewardship)

October 10	"Financial Gravity"	Luke 18:18-30
October 17	"Breaking Free"	Luke 15:11-32
October 24	"One Small Step"	Mark 12:41-44
October 31	"Tethered to God"	Matthew 6:19-21,24

FIANCE A Message from John Trowbridge, Finance Committee Chair

Hello Hillcrest UMC! I want to inform everyone about the financial state of HUMC, so that all can understand what we are able to do financially to build up the church as well as how we can continue to support missions throughout our amazing community. I cannot tell everyone how much it warms my heart to see how generous the congregation is with their giving, and we continue to be strongly rooted in our financial status. We are beginning to plan for 2022, and with the continue support of everyone, we will be able to continue supporting our community the way that Hillcrest has done for decades.

Below is a status of where we are currently, as of Aug 2, 2021:

- Current Income as of Aug 2, 2021 = \$126,105.36
- Current Expenses as of Aug 2, 2021 = \$111,645.06
- Net (Expenses vs Income) = \$14,460.30 under budget
 - o 11.46% surplus of Income needed to be on budget
- Total 2021 Budgeted Expenses = \$218,452.00
- Total 2021 Income vs Needed to meet Budgeted Expenses =
 - o Need \$4,201 weekly or \$126,030 as of Aug 2, 2021
 - o Currently we are \$9,081.85 short of our budgeted goal as of Aug 2, 2021
 - Equates to 8.13% shortage for budgeted expenses for 2021 thus far

As we discuss this information, we are healthy and able to do what we need to do, improve our Church in ways that have been needed, and start getting back to normal and worshiping in the ways that we have all done throughout our lives. To try and make everyone's giving just a little easier, I have been able to create a QR code for online giving.

"So what is a QR Code John?"

I am so glad that you asked. A QR code is a "quick response" code. This is a unique identifier that someone or an organization can use to allow anyone to bring information up on their personal device. You may have seen these at restaurants lately for paperless menus, or you may have seen them as informational information for a specific company. For Hillcrest, I jumped on the train, trying to make it even easier for the congregation to give their gifts. All you have to do is;

- 1) Open the camera on your phone, tablet, electronic device
- 2) Point your camera at the QR code that is in this article, on the announcement slide before service, or the bulletin each Sunday
- 3) Your device will automatically prompt you to open your internet browser
- 4) Voila, you are automatically sent to the VANCO page for Hillcrest UMC!!!



If you have any questions, please let me know. As always, I would like to ask that all of our Hillcrest family take a look at your 2021 spending and what you initially pledged to the church this year. Are you able to meet it still? Are you in a good financial place in your lives where you can give more? These are only questions that you can answer, however, to ensure that the church is able to do all of the great things that have been done before, and grow within our community, we have to ensure our financial security is intact as well.

If you have any questions on the finances of the Church, and would like to discuss anything further, feel free to reach out to me either by email (TrowbridgeFamily@ymail.com) or by phone at 619-335-0602. I can never thank everyone enough for the support you give to me, each other, and the church. We are truly blessed!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians, 9: 7-8, ESV)



STEWARDSHIP MONTH IS IN OCTOBER

What does it mean to be a good steward? Many ponder over this question day in and day out. Is it focused on financial stewardship? Is it focused on being a good steward throughout the community?

The United Methodist Church defines stewardship as, “The devout investment or use of money, time and ability. In biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God’s children, we deem God the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God and desire to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God; (1 Peter 4:10a).

Along with looking at the financial health of each of our families and how that can support the ministry of the Church, we must look together at time and ability, not only financial means. What have you been able to accomplish throughout 2021 to be a good steward? The most amazing part to this is that even if to date, you cannot think of a single thing, God is ok with that. He understands and forgives to a point that none of us can fathom.

1. God calls us to share from the abundance that we have received so that everyone will have enough. (2 Corinthians 9:8)
2. There is a relationship of complementarity between what we share with others and what we receive for ourselves. (Luke 6:38)
3. Generosity defines the life of a truly Christ-like community. (Acts 4:32-35)

As we continue to move forward throughout 2021, I want to challenge everyone no matter your age, no matter where you are in your faith journey, no matter your current desires.....to be the steward that God wants all of us to be.

What abilities and time do you have to serve God? Devote time to this and focus on the “within”. Now is the time to hone those skills and abilities as we prepare to press into 2022. This congregation has always been so generous with their gifts, and I ask that we all continue to do so to ensure the success of everything we do at Hillcrest. My family and I are so incredibly happy to be a part of this Church and are excited to see what the future holds. John Trowbridge, Finance Chair



1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ~ Psalm 100:1-3



Join the Hillcrest Choir

We are very excited to announce that the Choir is resuming and that rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning on September 8. Please help spread the word. All are welcome! No musical experience is necessary.

If you have any questions please see Matt Little, Music Director



USHERS

Greeters and Ushers and Communion Stewards,

Now that most restrictions regarding worship have relaxed it is time for us to start serving the church as volunteers on Sunday mornings.

Each Sunday we need 3 greeters to distribute bulletins at the sanctuary entrance the and side doors.

The third greeter is needed to assist visitors with orientation to the building and offer them "Welcome Packets."

We will need 2 ushers each Sunday to collect the offering and serve as outdoor greeters, weather permitting.



The first Sunday of each month we will continue to serve Holy Communion with 2 stewards to assist Pastor Williams in distributing the communion elements.

There are signup sheets for these positions on the bulletin board in the narthex for those who wish to serve.

If you have never filled any of these positions this is a good place to start.

Please feel free to contact either me or Pastor Williams if you have questions.

Kathleen K. Holladay
804-994-1384/ kholladay322@gmail.com



USHERS & GREETERS

GREETINGS FROM YOU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

At our last meeting, it was decided all members of the Finance Committee would become voting members of the Administrative Council. This change was made to allow the members of each body to participate in broader and more detailed discussions concerning important issues facing our church. Many important issues were being discussed in the Finance Committee and then being discussed again before the Administrative Council. In addition to being more informative for all members, it will be a much more efficient use of our meeting. On July 13th, the Administrative Council started meeting at their new time of 7:00 PM with financial issues leading the agenda.

Blessings, Michael Fields
Administrative Council Chair



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

We are in need of a chair for the Evangelism Committee. What does the evangelism committee do? "The aim of the ministry of evangelism, simply stated, is to relate people to God so that they will begin a relationship with Jesus Christ...[and] leads new Christians into a process of ongoing discipleship and spiritual for-

mation" (Guidelines: Evangelism, 2016, p.6). The evangelism committee explores, and implements, creative ways to bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you feel that God is leading you in this direction, please reach out to Pastor Justin Williams. We would like to have this position filled by October, before Charge Conference in November. The Evangelism Chair would begin their duties January 2022.



EVANGELISM

CONGRATULATIONS VINCE!!

Join us in Congratulating Vince McArtor on his first promotion to Petty Officer 3rd class in the United States Navy!



**“ I alone
cannot
change the
world, but I
can cast a
stone across
the waters to
create many
ripples.”**

~
Mother Teresa

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

God, You know I carry You with me, each and every day
But, You also see how busy life can be, so sometimes I push You away
Life, as You know, can often be complicated, at best
There just doesn't even seem to be the time to find a place to rest
There are workplaces and jobs, that many people have to go and do
With so much on their plate, there isn't much time for You
And then, children have events and activities that keep us on the go
So we put off our time listening to You, that helps our faith to grow
Many of us do volunteering and have charities that we put our time into
Surely, that's as important as that time we used to spend with You
Then in an unannounced moment, in the quiet; I clearly hear Your voice
My child, I know life makes demands, but remember you also have a choice
You mean to tell me, in all that running around and places to be
Nowhere in all that time, is even a moment; you could spend with Me?
I take a second to look at all the things that I am involved in
And realize that by not taking time to listen to God, I am missing that joy within
Father, I am sorry; it seems I have forgotten Your promise to be with me everyday
Surely, there is no greater gift to give back; than making time each day to pray.

~ Susan Welsh

HAPPENING NOW

PRAISE MOVES



Feeling sluggish? Come on out and join us as Melody Newton leads us as we focus on stretching and scriptures. We meet on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!! And yes, that includes men. Pastor Justin joins in too! He is hiding behind the camera.



WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings the women meet for Bible study.

WOMEN'S GROUP KICK-OFF

We are looking to re-start the women's group at Hillcrest and are inviting ALL women to join us in this endeavor. In the past we have had two women's groups (daytime and evening) but would like to turn this into one vibrant and active group. Some of the things we would like to do are:

- 1) Come up with a new name for the women's group
- 2) Come up with a meeting time that is the most convenient for ALL women
- 3) Talk about women's spiritual retreats
- 4) Talk about how to be involved in missions
- 5) Talk about fundraisers to support our work
- 6) Talk about what you think are the important elements for a successful, fun, and vibrant women's group

We would like to invite ALL the women of Hillcrest to meet, for breakfast or lunch, on Saturday Sept. 4th, to this women's group kick-off! The women's group will cover the cost of your meal. The place of this kick-off will be determined. Please respond to Karen Snyder by August 29th with your preference for either a breakfast meeting or lunch meeting, at karensback68@outlook.com.

KNITTING GROUP



Thursdays at 10:00 am Frank Slaterbeck leads a group of 8 or so ladies in scripture and knitting. Please feel free to join in anytime. There is a lot love and laughter going on.



The United Methodist Men at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. If you have any questions, please see Chris Czubowicz.



Why You Need to Try to Understand Other People's Perspectives

by Wes | Sep 21, 2016 | [Christian Living](#)

If someone's behavior or opinion seems completely absurd to you, you could tell them they are wrong or even idiotic. You could tell them they should stop thinking that way and see things your way. Or, on the other hand, you could start by trying to understand their perspective. You could ask them friendly questions about their point of view. Actually, this is not only good advice, it is an imperative for Christian living. Here is why you need to try to understand other people's perspectives.

1. You might be wrong and they might be right.

In Acts 17, Luke contrasted two groups of people, the Jews in Berea and the Jews in Thessalonica. I'm certain both groups of Jews were diligent students of Scripture, but what made the Jews in Berea "more noble" than those in Thessalonica was their willingness to listen to another perspective about Scripture. The apostle Paul came to each city and preached a brand new idea. One group disagreed and refused to even listen to Paul's differing perspective. But the Bereans listened eagerly, comparing what Paul said to Scripture "to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

We ALL assume we are right about what we think. When we hear something that differs with our opinion, we say, "I disagree!" But we need to learn to say, "Tell me more; I want to understand where you're coming from," because it may turn out they are right and we are wrong.

If we are going to be people who learn and grow, we must stop looking to win arguments and start looking to discover truth.

2. You need to love your neighbor as yourself.

Loving your neighbor as yourself means "whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12).

- Don't you want others to take time to hear you out?
- Don't you want others to try to understand where you're coming from?
- Do you appreciate when people write you off before they understand what you're saying?

Let's treat our neighbor the way we want to be treated. Let's try to understand where they are coming from; if for no other reason than that's what we wish others would do for us.

This doesn't mean you have to accept their position as being correct. It doesn't even mean you can't try to change their mind. But it does mean you recognize it is NOT loving to try to persuade someone before you even understand them. Strive to *understand* before you strive to be *understood*.

3. You need to know what is (and isn't) honorable in their sight.

In Romans 12, the apostle Paul was explaining what it looks like to live in step with the gospel. He was explaining how Christians are to treat one another, their neighbors, and even their enemies. In verse 17 he says, "**give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**" That is a command that would totally transform our lives, if we would let it.

The phrase, "give thought" means to "consider in advance." It is forethought. Paul says we need to consider in advance "to do what is honorable in the sight of all." In other words, **give forethought to how our actions will be perceived by other people.** How in the world can we give forethought to that unless we first understand our neighbors' point of view?

In order to be a person of truly Christian conduct, you **MUST** find out how other people think. You must try to see things through their eyes. You must try to see yourself, your words, and your behavior through their eyes. This is the only way you can “live peaceably with all” (vs. 18).

Conclusion

It might be a cultural issue like “Black Lives Matter.” It might be a political issue like which party or candidate to support. It might be a religious issue like how to worship. The question is, do you *really* understand the other perspective? Have you sat down with people who hold that point of view? Have you just listened? Have you said, “Would you explain this to me? I really want to understand.”

I see Christians doing this all the time, trying to understand other perspectives. They seek to understand before they seek to be understood. But I also see a lot of people arguing without really understanding the other perspective. Unfortunately, I’ve participated in that and I’m sorry. I want to do better. How about you?

I love you and God loves you,

Wes McAdams

Do not be dismayed
by the brokenness
in the world.
All things break.
And all things
can be mended.
Not with time,
as they say, but
with intention.
So go. Love
intentionally,
extravagantly,
unconditionally.
The broken
world waits
in darkness
for the light
that is you.

—L.R. Knost

PERSPECTIVE



This photo is real and was not edited. The stone is real, the trees are real, the soil is real and the sky is real.

Now, the only thing you have to do is change your point of view. Look at the photo, upside down!

Methodist Now: The United Methodist Church ~ The faith of a sports icon

With baseball season in full swing, enjoy this story about the legendary Jackie Robinson and his grounding Methodist faith.



Baseball great Jackie Robinson, who helped integrate Major League Baseball, held on to his Methodist faith throughout his legendary career. Canva collage by Crystal Caviness, United Methodist Communications

Baseball icon Jackie Robinson's Methodist faith

By Jim Patterson

Besieged by death threats, racial abuse and physical danger, somehow Jackie Robinson never publicly lost his composure during the 1947 Major League Baseball season, when he integrated the league.

It was an amazing achievement, given Robinson's reputation in the Negro baseball league as having a "temper like a rattlesnake," said Michael G. Long, co-author with Chris Lamb of "Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography."

Robinson had a little-known ally helping him stay stoic and perform well through the ordeal. He had faith.

After a tense day at the ballpark, Robinson would head to his bedroom, get on his knees and pray for strength and courage, his wife Rachel Robinson told Long.

"His faith acted as a source of comfort, but also a challenge," Long said. "(He was) comforted when he felt tension. It also challenged him to ... not fight back."

[Learn more](#)

Read "Shaped by Methodism, Jackie Robinson continues to inspire" a commentary by Chris Lamb on UMNews.org. Lamb is co-author of Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography.

['God's a Methodist'](#)

Robinson grew up attending Scott Methodist Church in Pasadena, California. But his Methodism and relationship with the Rev. Karl Everette Downs have been downplayed or ignored in many stories and biographies.

There's one scene in "42," the film about Robinson starring Chadwick Boseman, that mentions the connection.

But it's a good one.

Branch Rickey, the Brooklyn Dodgers executive responsible for recruiting Robinson to break the color barrier, is played by Harrison Ford. In one scene, he declares: "Robinson's a Methodist. I'm a Methodist. God's a Methodist. We can't go wrong."

There's no confirmation that Rickey actually said that, but it's clear that their shared Methodist heritage was a factor in Robinson's selection.

Grace under pressure

Robinson had a .311 lifetime average, won rookie of the year and most valuable player and helped the Dodgers to a World Series victory in 1955. He's in the Baseball Hall of Fame and his number 42 was retired by MLB in 1997.

"What's most remarkable to me is that Robinson put those stats up while he was under death threats," Long said.

Robinson played much of his career under death threats, as well as experiencing abuse from racist fans and other players. Even some of his Dodgers teammates signed a petition to Rickey in 1947 protesting the hiring of a Black player.

Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman famously hurled the N-word and other racist epithets at Robinson, and encouraged his players to do so, during a game in Brooklyn on April 22, 1947.

"Those (incidents were) really psychologically damaging," Long said. "I don't want to downplay that. But going out onto the field thinking that somebody in the stands might shoot you is on a different level."

But Robinson held his desire to retaliate in check in the interests of the greater good. If he had failed, many Black baseball players wouldn't have gotten a shot in the big leagues.

Robinson's Methodist roots

Robinson attended Scott Methodist Church as a boy at the insistence of his mother, Mallie Robinson. The arrival of Downs in 1938 to the church was a game-changer for Robinson, who was already a local sports hero as a youth.

"What he did was to inject some of the Black social gospel into Scott Methodist Church," Long said. "And he began to envision the church as having an important role in the community, and Robinson was really attracted to that."

Mallie Robinson had already instilled racial pride in her son. She had an interpretation of the Adam and Eve story that Jackie took to heart.

"Mallie taught Jackie that Adam and Eve were originally Black," Long recounted. "And then they were scared white when God caught them eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

The moral of the lesson was that Jackie's black skin was a gift from God in which to take pride. His mother also taught him that it was God's will to fight for freedom in the present, rather than await a better world in the afterlife.

Robinson continued that fight after his baseball career, as an associate of the Rev. Martin Luther King during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s.

Robinson died in 1972, of complications from heart disease and diabetes, at 53. He was nearly blind from the latter disease.

A paper released in April by three California researchers speculates that the real cause of Robinson's death was racism.

"When a person repeatedly experiences the stress of racism, high levels of the stress hormone cortisol are released in the body," wrote researchers Tamra Burns Loeb, Alicia Morehead-Gee and Derek Novacek in a story released by the University of California. "Elevated cortisol can lead to high levels of blood sugar, as seen in diabetes and high blood pressure."

Jim Patterson is a Nashville freelance writer. Contact him by email.
This content was published July 14, 2021.

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!

Lois Turner(C),
Phyllis Weaver (BM)
Albert Traylor(A),
Eileen Delewski (M),
Thelma Rankins (A),
Anita Alsop (B)
Pattie Chandler (A)
Lloyd Gould (A)
Jeanne Tracy (A)
Henry Nash (A)
Ivy Hedge (A)
Ralph & Marie Adams (A)

(A)At Home (C) Commonwealth Senior Living (HF) HeartFields (BM)
Brookdale Midlothian (M) Morningside Richmond (B) Bickford
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
hillcrestunitedmethdoist@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.