



2nd Quarter 2022

# Hillcrest Cross Talk

## Message From the Pastor



## GROWING TOGETHER

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20).



Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates, has discerned that we should stay together in ministry at Hillcrest! As I have shared this news I have been asked, "Are you disappointed?" My answer is an overwhelming, "NO!" Yes, I requested a change because I felt like that someone else could come in and move Hillcrest further along in its ministries, and maybe I could do the same for another church. However, great things are happening at Hillcrest and I am exceedingly glad to stay and be a part of what is taking place!

Indeed, I have felt a renewed sense of purpose in my ministry at Hillcrest and I look forward to what we can do together with Jesus in the church and in the community. In my prayers I have been praying four things for Hillcrest and these four things will become our goals this year:

- 1) That we would grow in faith together (Getting involved in small groups)
- 2) That we would grow in witnessing (Sharing our faith with others)
- 3) That we would grow in community service (Reaching out and serving in the community).
- 4) That we would grow in Professions of Faith (People coming to know Jesus as Savior and Lord and being baptized into that faith).

I am excited to stay at Hillcrest and I am excited to serve and grow together with you!

In Christ,  
Pastor Justin



Hillcrest United Methodist Church  
2208 Lafayette Blvd.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
540-898-2180  
[www.hillcrestumc.com](http://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](http://devotional.upperroom.org)

VIRGINIA  
CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
[vaumc.org](http://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?

What Has Pastor Williams Been Up To?

February 2022-April 2022

Hospital Visits – 15

In Home Visits – 12

Nursing Home Visits – 3

Funerals – 3

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.



## Administrative Council

The Administrative Council will be taking on the role as “Administrative Board” (or another designation they may choose) as we move towards incorporation. As such the members of this board will be: Administrative Board Chair (Michael Fields), Chairperson of Trustees (Greg Clayton), Chairperson of Finance (John Trowbridge), Chairperson of SPPR (Howie Wendt), Lay Leader (Kathleen Holladay), Lay Member to Annual Conference (Kathleen Holladay), Treasurer (Greg Clayton), UMM President (Chris Czubowicz), UMW President (Karen Snyder), Youth Ministry Coordinator (Melissa Czubowicz), Young Adult Representative (TBD), and the Pastor (Justin Williams). With this new structure this board will now meet every other month (odd months) on the second Tuesday. The first meeting of this new board will be on July 12, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Fields, Administrative Board Chair.



## Council on Ministries

We are excited to announce a NEW ministry of Hillcrest, the Council on Ministries. The Council on Ministries is made up of the leaders of each ministry area at Hillcrest. When this Council meets, we will NOT discuss budgets, church maintenance, building programs, or any other administrative/business functions of the church. This will be the sole responsibility of the Administrative Board.

The Council on Ministries will ONLY discuss ministry and what each ministry area is doing and how each ministry area can support other ministry areas in the church. Our discussions will center around the 4 goals of growth for Hillcrest UMC: 1) Growing in faith together, 2) Growing in witnessing our faith, 3) Growing in community service, and 4) Growing in Professions of Faith. The Council on Ministries will meet every other month (even months) on the second Tuesday. Our FIRST meeting will be in June. However, we will meet on the First Tuesday of June, due to VBS being the very next week. The meeting will be June 7th at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please see me.

~Pastor Justin Williams

## Confirmation Class 2022

On February 20, 2022 a 10-week confirmation class began with Melissa Doelfel, Elijah Saleem, and Sarah Snellings. During this 10 week journey we explored all the “seasons” of the church and how they inform us about Jesus. We also talked about spiritual gifts that God has given to us, and about how to live out the fruits of the Spirit. We talked about our relationship with Jesus and our response to his love for us by accepting him into our hearts and lives as Lord and Savior. It was a

great journey, and I was blessed to be a part of this journey with them. On Sunday, May 22nd, we will have Confirmation Sunday in which all three confirmands will lead the worship service. On that day, both Melissa and Elijah will make professions of faith in Jesus and join the membership of Hillcrest UMC. Sarah is still in the process of discernment, which is also a part of confirmation class, to begin discerning our relationship with Jesus. May God bless all three of them as they continue on in their journey of faith!

~ Pastor Justin Williams



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming our newest members, Mary & Fred Ouellette. They joined Hillcrest on Sunday, April 24th.



## TRAINING DAY

On Sunday June 5th we will have a training day for Worship Leaders, Communion Stewards, Ushers, and Greeters. Here is the schedule:

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING	11:30 A.M.
COMMUNION STEWARD TRAINING	12:00 P.M.
USHER TRAINING	12:20 P.M.
GREETER TRAINING	12:30 P.M.
COUNTER TRAINING	12:45 P.M.



These are great ways to get involved in the life of, and service to, the church. If you have any questions, please see Kathleen Holladay (Lay Leader) or Abby Glasgow (Associate Lay Leader).



## Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to meet monthly at Denny's. We meet the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.. If you attend Hillcrest or are a member of Hillcrest, you are already part of this group! Please come out and support us in our ministry and fellowship with other men of the church.

We have had GREAT interest and sign up for the trip to the Fred Nat's game on Sunday, May 29th. So much so that we had to end sign up for the game early! It should be a great afternoon out at the park with time to fellowship and watch the game. If you are signed up to attend, please make sure to pay for your ticket (made out to Hillcrest UMC with "Baseball game" in the memo line) and either drop it off to the church or put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

~ Chris Czubowicz , UMM President



## GriefShare

Well, our third cycle of GriefShare just wrapped up and we had a good turn out. I'd like to thank Fran for helping to facilitate this Ministry of the church. We can't believe that we have completed 3 cycles already and will be looking to start up our 4th cycle this fall (end of August or beginning of September). If you or someone you know would be interested in attending the Fall session, please reach out to me! GriefShare is a Ministry for those who have lost loved ones or friends and are grieving their loss. This loss can be recent or it can be old. The GriefShare program is open to those 18 years or older and exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. ~ Chris Czubowicz



## Community Events

The 2021-2022 school year is rapidly approaching it's end and before we know it the new school year will be upon us. With that said, we will soon begin to plan our Annual Back to School event here at Hillcrest. We were unable to do this event last year due to COVID and are looking forward to this event this year. The community is always very appreciative of this event as we provide school supplies to all the children who attend the event.



This year, we are looking to provide free backpacks to the first 100 or so children that attend. We will have a Sunday before the event where we will bless the backpacks and attach a tag so they know their backpack was blessed! We will be looking for donations of school supplies and a list of these supplies will be available at the end of June. We will also be looking for volunteers to help run the games and cook/hand out the food. The date for the event is going to be Saturday, July 30th from 1:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m. so save the date!

~ Chris Czubowicz



From the original Hebrew, the word amen has been translated into multiple languages. Photo by Andrey Grinkevich, Unsplash.com; graphic by Laurens Glass, United Methodist Communications.

The word “amen” has ancient Semitic roots and is used in many languages and religions in the greater Middle East. The spread of Christianity and Islam, which both started in that region, expanded the use of the term worldwide.

“Amen” is spoken as a response to a prayer or blessing as a sign of affirmation, agreement and hope for fulfillment. The Hebrew words for “true,” “trustworthy” and “faithful” share ancient-Semitic roots with “amen.” Those praying respond “amen,” adding their affirmation and, in effect, saying, “Let this be true,” “We believe this is a trustworthy/truthful assertion or request” or “So be it.”

“Amen” is used this way throughout the Bible. “Amen and Amen” marks the end of several collections of Psalms within the Book of Psalms (Psalm 41:14, 72:19, 89:52). Paul often ends his epistles with “amen.” In Revelation, Jesus is called “the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation” (Revelation 3:14). And throughout history, Christians have responded to statements in sermons or testimonies, or upon receiving the elements of communion, with “amen.”

The word “amen” may also precede a statement as a means of emphasizing and calling attention to a declaration of truth. Jesus’ words “Verily, verily” or “truly, I say to you” in the Gospels — written in Greek as AMHN, AMHN (pronounced Ah-meen, Ah-meen) — indicate to the listeners that what follows is true and the one making the statement has authority to make that claim.

### Does the word “amen” refer to males?

No. Although it has a similar sound, the term is not related in any way to the English word “men” for adult males. Going back to Hebrew, the word for an adult male is “ish,” having neither letters nor sounds in common with “amen.”

The pronunciation with a short E in English has created the possibility for some confusion for English-speakers. The word “amen” in English can *sound* like a reference to adult males. In addition, for many generations, in public prayer among Christians, the only voices speaking were male. This may have contributed to an association, even if unintentionally, between the terms “amen” and “men.”

Although changed over time in written form and varying a bit in pronunciation, “amen” has remained for centuries across many cultures and religions an expression of truth, trustworthiness and hope for fulfillment of what has been said or prayed.

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

### *“Feed my sheep” ~ John 21:17*

*Loving One, May all that I do today nourish your beloved lambs. May all that I say feed souls hungry for grace. May all I do tend your beloved and show the way to green pastures. All that I meet are, like me, thirsting for love. Give me grace to feed your sheep. ~ Pastor Steve, Garnaas-Homes, Unfolding Light*

## Youth Group

I can't believe how fast this year has gone past! Our last Youth Group outing was to Braehead Farm where we enjoyed an afternoon in the outdoors. We will have a planning meeting for the upcoming year in August. Keep a look out for the date. We are currently in the discussion and planning phase to take a Mission trip out to Kentucky next summer to help out a local community. At the end of July we will be part of the Back to School event by hosting a bounce house and a couple of extra fun carnival games as

well. Please remember that this group is open to everyone in grades 6-12, so feel free to invite your friends to come one Sunday! For more information, contact Melissa Czubowicz @ Takmom1024@yahoo.com.



All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday nights from 6pm-8pm. This is a group for our older teens where they come together for a meal, a Bible study, and some fun times as well. When school is in session, bring your homework and work on it during the downtime part of the evening. There might even be someone there who can help you if your stuck on a subject. The Wednesday night group also supports one another by attending each other's school plays, sporting events, etc... So if

you're looking for something fun and different to do on a Wednesday night, come to T.O.W.N. For more information, contact Melissa Czubowicz @ Takmom1024@yahoo.com.

## VBS

Our very first in person VBS since COVID is right around the corner! If you would like to volunteer or even just come out on a certain day to be a floater, please contact Melissa Czubowicz. The more volunteers we have the better. We will be doing the final decorating for the event on Sunday, June 12 immediately following the worship service. VBS is for children in grades K-5 and will be June 13-17 from 6-8pm. Registration can be found on our website at hillcrestumc.com.

## Child Protection Policies

Hi, my name is Gloria McArtor. I am the chairperson for Child Protection Policies for the church. If anyone plans on helping with Vacation Bible School, Youth Group Events, transporting children other than your own, etc. The you will need to take the class and do a background check that is paid for by the church. Please let me know if you need to take this class and we will hold another class.

God Bless you all, Gloria McArtor, 540-295-3231.

## UMW

United Ministries of Women are having a community picnic on June 26, 2022. The time is 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. We are asking the congregation to help by donating side summer dishes. We will also need people to help serve. which will be done in shifts. We appreciate any help that can be given. For more information, please contact Karen Snyder at karensback68@outlook.com or 540-907-8912.





## A Prayer for Ukraine

God makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth. ...  
God breaks the bow and shatters  
the spear;  
God burns the shields with fire.  
God says, "Be still, and know  
that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the  
nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
Psalm 46:9-10 (NRSV)

God of peace,  
Russia has invaded the Ukraine and war seems inevitable.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of wisdom,  
Rain down your Spirit onto the leaders of the world  
That they might find a way where there is no way.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of comfort,  
Wrap the grieving ones in your cloak of consolation.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God of courage,  
Be present with all those who are in harm's way.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Amen

Written by Beth A. Richardson, Dean Emeritus of The Upper Room Chapel  
Photography by [Myriams-Fotos](#) / Pixabay

MAY I NEVER FORGET ON  
MY BEST DAY THAT I STILL NEED GOD AS  
DESPERATELY AS I DID ON MY WORST

Mike Epps



# 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)  
Arthena Baxley ( P)

(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](mailto:hillcrestunitedmethdist@gmail.com)

## CHURCH USE

To reserve the church or pavilion contact the church office at 540-898-2180 or email [hllcrestunitedmethdoist@gmail.com](mailto:hllcrestunitedmethdoist@gmail.com)

## FINANCE COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every other month (odd months) at 7:00 p.m.

## COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every other month (even months) at 7:00 p.m.

## TRUSTEES

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

## SPPR

Meets quarterly at 6:00 p.m.