



Today's Gathering

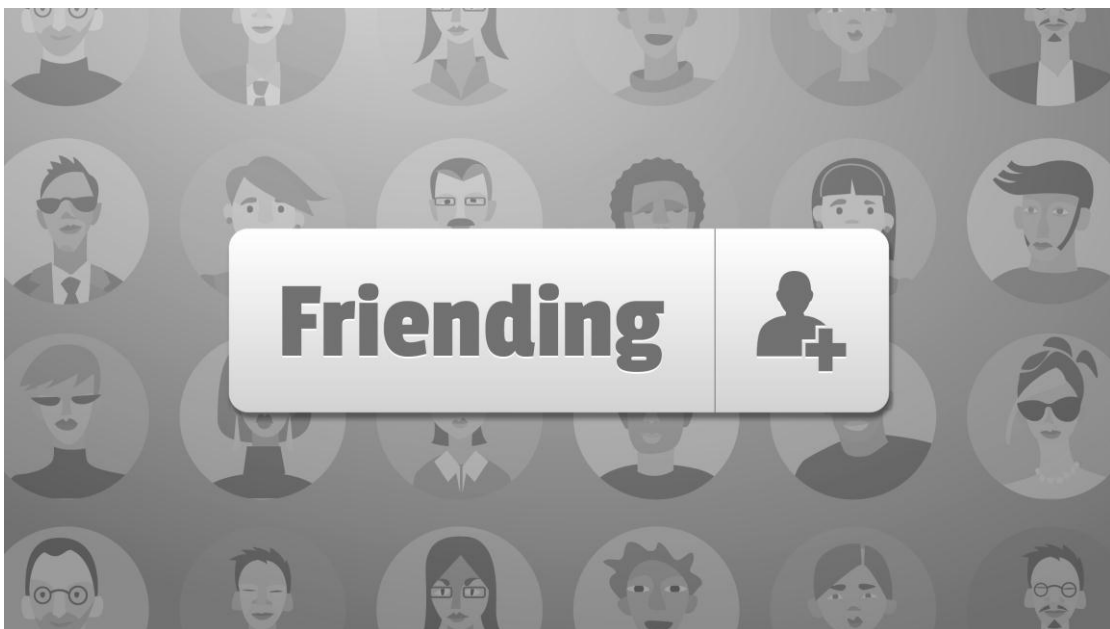
October 26th, 2014

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Cindy Cummins and Jesse VanderWeide



Unfriending

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

From 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Welcome Center to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Welcome Center is located on the east side of the main foyer.

See page 5 of the bulletin for more information about opportunities for Children and Students.

Welcome to Hillcrest

New to Hillcrest?

If you are new to Hillcrest, we'd like to say "Welcome!" We're glad you're here this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center, following the worship service to meet one of our pastors and receive a **free gift**.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Hillcrest provides many opportunities to get involved with others in the church and the community. If you would like to find out more about classes, Bible studies, and small groups that are offered, stop by the Welcome Center, check out the Ministries section on our web site at www.sioxfordchurch.com, or call the church office at 371-0546.

Our Weekly Bulletin and Devotional

Hillcrest provides this weekly bulletin/devotional to help you connect, serve others and study the Bible throughout the week.

On pages 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On page 6, you have a place to take notes from the message. Also on page 6 is a memory verse, selected each week by Hillcrest leaders.

On pages 7-12, you will find a short devotional for each day. You will read a new text, some commentary and consider some questions to further your growth, as well as a challenge to help you take what you have studied and start to live it!

On page 13, you will find a Prayer Page, where you can keep track of your daily prayers. On page 14, you will find staff contact info.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you as you study His Word and as a result, it will impact the people in your life.

Want information on even more events happening at Hillcrest? Sign up for our weekly e-mail by marking your connection card and turning it in. Don't forget to include your e-mail address!

Connect

Baptism & Membership

Our next baptism service will be on November 30th. Christ asked all of his followers to be baptized, in fact the Apostle Paul said, "Why wait? Get up and be baptized." Baptism is available for any person that has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian to reserve a spot.

Interested in joining Hillcrest as a member? Please check the box on the connection card on the back of the program or talk with Pastor Doug or Brian.

Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, November 9th after the second service. Food will be served. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students with a family max of \$12. Agendas and reports will be available the week before the meeting. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Pastor Brian.

Connection Group

This group meets solely to connect with other people at Hillcrest! We meet monthly at various homes and locations around Sioux Falls!

Join us in November, the 14th at Shane and Jessi Copeland's house at 6:30pm. We'll have a fire and smores, or play games and drink hot cider depending on the weather! All are welcome to join us! The address is 46206 Weis Circle, Hartford, SD. Let us know if you can make or email Jessi (JLCopeland85@gmail.com) if you have questions!

Women's Ministries

Ladies, would you like to take care of your holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas) baking early this year? You are invited to participate in Hillcrest's first annual Cookie Exchange to be held on Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Please sign-up early! Sign-up will begin on Sunday, October 26th in the front foyer at our cookie table. Sign-up will END on Sunday, November 9th. Once the sign-up closes, you will be notified as to the quantity of cookies you need to bring to the exchange. Complete details will come once we know the number of ladies participating.

Questions can be asked at the table when you sign-up or directed to Marti Lusk, Vicki Tigner or Deanna Moser.

Ask Anything

In November, we will be starting a series called "Ask Anything", in which Pastor Doug will answer any question that you have. To submit a question, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SKBQM6H> or write it on your comment card in the bulletin. You can submit it anonymously, or you can provide your name.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 41st Street Pizza Ranch following the 10:30 service. This is an informal event, so simply show up and enjoy lunch with other Hillcresters. There is no need to RSVP and each person/family will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

SCRIP

Great News! SCRIP now includes gift cards for **Pizza Ranch**! Now you can eat great pizza, earn money for Hillcrest events, and connect with other Hillcresters on the first Sunday of each month at the 41st street Pizza Ranch. If you have not yet signed up for SCRIP, contact Jennifer Simons to get started!

Serve

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation month, and at Hillcrest we have incredible pastors to show appreciation to. We will be creating "A Door of Thanks" on each of the pastors' office doors. There are some blank cards available at the Welcome Center, so stop by to jot them a quick note, prayer, or verse of encouragement. Leave it in the basket at the Welcome Center, and we will hang it on the door. You are also welcome to drop off your own cards. Thank you for helping us show our pastors and their families just a small fraction of how much we appreciate them.

October Mission Focus – Cleveland Elementary School

Hillcrest's mission for October is to supply Cleveland Elementary School with some of the items that the school has identified as needs for the children. If you took a card from the bulletin board, don't forget to return your items TODAY!

Facility Work Day

On Saturday, November 8th, starting at 9am, the Facility department will be doing some fall clean-up projects outside, as well as some interior projects. We need lots of volunteers to help get everything done. Please come any time you can on Saturday morning and stay for however long you are available. Any assistance you can give would be appreciated.

Children's Ministry

All children should stop at the Children's Check-In, located on the north side of the front foyer, before going to their classroom.

9 AM Children's Program

Building Blocks: Infants and 1 year olds
Bird House: 2-4 year olds

10:30 AM Children's Program

Building Blocks: Infants & 1 year olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Operation Christmas Child

This year, Hillcrest Children's Ministry is once again supporting Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which provides gifts for needy children around the world. Your child should be receiving an envelope with instructions on how they can help. Please be sure to return the envelopes by Sunday, November 2nd.

Family Game Night

CORRECTION! Children's Ministries will be hosting a Family Game Night on Sunday, November 9th from 3:30-5pm. Meet as a family at the Good Samaritan Society's Luther Manor on 37th & Lake for Christmas Carols and Bingo! Please sign up in the back foyer if you plan to attend.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Middle School and High School students are invited to meet in the Youth Room during the 10:30am service. Students will then break into small groups.

180 Wednesday Nights/Events

- ❖ On Wednesday, October 29th, Middle School students are invited to our 4th annual Halloween Skating Party. Dress up in an obscure biblical costume and meet at Carousel Skate from 7-8:30pm. Prizes will be awarded. High School students will meet for appetizers at Applebee's on 10th Street at 9pm. This will replace our regular Wednesday activities.
- ❖ On Saturday, November 15th, High School and Middle School Girls are invited to the 4th annual Girls Sleepover at Hillcrest. There will be games, crafts, snacks, and movies. Invite your friends! Cost is only \$8. Pick up a registration form at the Student Ministries table in the back foyer.

Message Notes:

Title: Unfriending

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20; 12:26; 1 Corinthians 15:33;
Matthew 6:23; Genesis 39:12; John 13:34-35

Notes

*Show me your _____ and I will show you your _____

*It is impossible to live the _____ life when you have the _____ friends.

*I never let anyone in my inner circle of friends who:

- Distracts me from God's _____
- Continually _____ me to _____

Never stop loving people with the _____ love of _____

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT) There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Monday

Subject: A Good Friend Defined

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

Commentary:

This passage is a favorite at weddings for good reason, but it is first and foremost a statement about strong friendships. Whether you see God as the third strand that runs through the center of the friendship, or the cord that wraps around the outside to bind the friends together, the God strand is crucial to a good friendship.

Yes, we can have good, positive friends that don't know the Lord. But when both of you have a common focus on Christ, it gives you a common ground and language for positive conversation and support. We need to have acquaintances, and even friends, who are not believers. Otherwise, our impact in the world for Christ will be minimal. But our best friends should share that third strand.

Questions for further thought:

1. Think about your best friends. What role does Christ play in their lives?
2. What can you do to make God a more active part of your best friendships?

Challenge:

Best friends have conversations about the weather, their children, and what they are having for supper. When was the last time you asked your friend where their relationship with Christ stands? Do that with at least one friend this week.

Tuesday

Subject: Lounging With Losers

Scripture: Proverbs 12:26, 22:24–25

Commentary:

Proverbs speaks of the virtues of wisdom more than any other book in Scripture. As a result, it also has a lot to say about relationships as well—both the good and the bad. In both of these verses, the emphasis is on the wisdom of choosing our companions carefully and the consequences of unwisely associating with fools, hotheads, and the like.

Professional sports may provide some of the most compelling case histories of the impact that poor associates can have on a life. We've all heard the stories of disciplined athletes who had everything—success, fame, and more money than they knew what to do with—but made terrible decisions because they were unable to break loose from unwise childhood friends.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you find you act differently around one group of friends than another?
2. Think about your circle of friends. Which pull you toward Jesus and which push you away?

Challenge:

Try this at home at your own risk: Have the strongest, biggest person in the family stand on a chair and the weakest, smallest person stand on the floor (adult to adult, child to child). Now, as an illustration, have the person on the chair try to pull the person on the floor up and the person on the floor pull the person on the chair down. Point? As much as we would like to think that we can change a person and bring them "up," more than likely they will pull us down.

Wednesday

Subject: More Bad Advice, Please

Scripture: 1 Kings 12:6-12

Commentary:

One of the real downsides of choosing poor friends is that they also tend to give horrible advice. King Rehoboam had the opportunity to rule Israel. But at a critical moment, he chose to take advice from the young fools who he had grown up with, rather than the time-tested advisors who had been schooled by the wisest king in history—Solomon. That decision cost him the majority of his potential subjects and split the nation. Clearly, it makes a difference to whom we choose to listen on a daily basis.

Questions for further thought:

1. If you had to name a “most trusted advisor” among your friends, who would that be?
2. How would you describe the relationship between the person you listed above and God?

Challenge:

I have heard it said that we have two ears and one mouth for a reason. It is so that we can listen more than we talk. Do you do this? Once a day this week, try listening when you are sure you have something really important to say. Then, think about what you wanted to say. If it is still as important, say it. Your friend needs to hear. If not, hold your tongue until you have something wiser to say.

Thursday

Subject: A Bad Wife = A Bad Life

Scripture: Judges 16:4-8

Commentary:

There is no more important friendship choice in life than that of a spouse. While there are many components of a good marriage relationship, it's a really good thing when your spouse is also your best friend.

Samson was almost as notorious for his poor choices in women as he was for his great strength. Although his parents wanted him to choose a wife from among his own people, he showed a stubborn inclination toward pagan women of questionable character. Ultimately, his choice of a mate cost him his hair, his strength, his sight, and his life. If you're dating someone who doesn't have God as a top priority, carefully consider the long-term consequences.

Questions for further thought:

1. For those who are dating, or may date one day, what is the primary characteristic that attracts you to the person you're dating or want to date? Where is God in the equation?
2. If you're already married, what can you do to deepen your friendship with your spouse?

Challenge:

"Do not date a person you cannot marry. You will fall in love easily son". This was advice we gave to our boys. Good advice we think. How are you advising your friends and family on the subject of dating? Have you had this conversation? If not, do it now or at least talk through it in your head so it is ready to go before they are.

Friday

Subject: To Have Good Friends, Be One

Scripture: Ruth 1:8-18

Commentary:

Sometimes we find ourselves not so much hanging out with bad friends as not having any really good, positive friends. How do we develop quality friendships that will impact our lives in a positive way? In most cases, we have to work at it.

Ruth found herself in a difficult position. Without a husband and traveling the countryside with her mother-in-law, she was a woman without a home or a people. Her best option was probably to return to her own country. But she had found a person of quality in Naomi, and she made the hard choice to stay with her and adopt a new life and a new people. In so doing, she earned Naomi's gratitude and started down a road that led to some unexpectedly positive results.

Questions for further thought:

1. What sort of person are you looking for in a friend?
2. Why do you think this story is told at weddings?

Challenge:

We are all on a journey. That journey, our story, is not one of independence but community. Sketch out your journey. Who was beside you? Who still is? Who came in and went out as quickly? What impact has this had on your story?

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Ask Anything
Message Title: Ask Like Gideon
Scripture: Judges 6:13-14
Speaker: Pastor Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

Prayer Page:

Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

If you would like to receive the email prayer chain, check the box on the Connection Card. You can also submit prayer requests through the church web site or by calling the church office.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Staff Contact Information



Doug Bartel

Lead Pastor

dougbartel@siouxfallschurch.com



Brian Stroh

Ministry Pastor

brianstroh@siouxfallschurch.com



Jesse VanderWeide

Worship Ministries Coordinator

jessev@siouxfallschurch.com



Meriah VanderWeide

Student Ministries Coordinator

mvanderweide@siouxfallschurch.c



Tarina Stroh

Children's Ministries Coordinator

tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com

Jennifer Simons

Administrative Assistant

jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com

Connection Card

Please fill out, tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

PRAYER REQUESTS ☐ Keep confidential (Pastoral staff) or ☐ Put on the Prayer Chain

☐ I would like to sign up for Hillcrest’s upcoming event. (Please specify.)

My next step today is to:

- ☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- ☐ Attend Business Meeting on Sunday, November 9th.
- ☐ Volunteer to help with the Facility Work Day on Saturday, November 8th.
- ☐ Find out more information about baptism and/or membership.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

www.sioxfordschurch.com

Connection Card

Please fill out and tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

Name _____ Address _____

E-Mail _____ City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Check all that apply:

☐ 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? _____

☐ 2nd Visit _____
(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

☐ Returning Guest

☐ Regular Attender

☐ Members

I am interested in:

☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus ☐ being baptized

☐ receiving the Hilcrest Informational E-mail.

☐ joining a small group ☐ becoming a member of Hilcrest

☐ volunteering ☐ praying for my Hilcrest family (received via e-mail)

One of the pastors will contact you with information on these subjects.

Your Age Group:

☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-35

☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55

☐ 56-65 ☐ over 65

☐ Single ☐ Married

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Other: _____

**Names & Birthdays of
members of your
household**

