



Today's Gathering

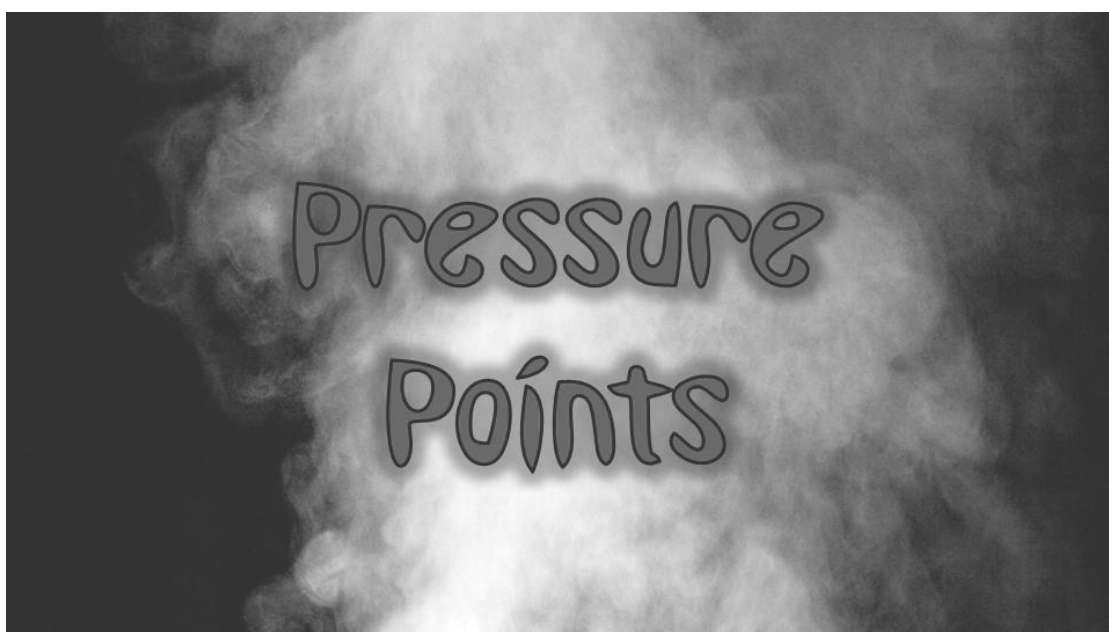
October 4th, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



When You Suffer

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north 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

We will be having a special baptism service on October 18th, because sometimes 5th Sundays don't work. If you are interested in baptism, mark your connection card or contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

BBQ at Bartels

After services today, Doug & Jenny will be serving lunch at their home (4804 S. Nathan Ave.) Please feel free to join us, even if you forgot to RSVP.

Corn Maze

On Wednesday, October 7th, Hillcresters are invited to meet at the Heartland Country Corn Maze at 6pm for a family friendly event. Cost is only \$5 per person (ages 4 and under are free). Sign-up & pre-pay at the Welcome Center.

Hillcrest Basketball

Like to play basketball? Join others for basketball at Hillcrest Thursday evenings, starting October 8th from 7-8:30 in the gym. Open to men and women, all skill levels! Must be high school age and older. Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested.

Sabbath Retreat

Pastor Doug will be leading a Sabbath Retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton on October 16-17. The retreat is designed for adults and mature students and will include times of instruction as well as times of solitude and prayer. We will leave Hillcrest at 5pm on Friday night and return Saturday by around 5pm. Cost will be \$75 for an individual or \$100 for a couple. Scholarships are available for those that request it. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in attending.

Men's Chili Cook-Off

The Men of Hillcrest are invited to participate in a chili cook-off, to be held in the Family Life Center (the gym), following services on October 18th. If you would like to participate, or if you just want to eat chili (everyone's invited) please sign up at the Welcome Center or register online.

Directory

Free 8x10's are in for anyone who got their photo taken for the directory. If you did not receive yours in the mail, please stop at the Welcome Center to pick yours up. Also, if you did not have your photo taken, please stop by to double check your name, address, and phone information for the directory. If you do not check it in the next couple of weeks, it will be printed as we have it in our database.

Holy Land Informational Meeting

On October 11th, after services, come hear about the Holy Land trip that Pastor Doug will be leading on March 1st, 2015. Pizza will be served. The whole family is invited to the meeting. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

Weekend to Remember

The Weekend to Remember getaway from FamilyLife is a time to be together as a couple to invest in and strengthen the foundation of your marriage, no matter how firm or fragile it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come.

The Getaway is held at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Friday, November 13th, starting at 7:30pm through Sunday, November 15th at 12:30pm. You can obviously stay at your home for the event but it is recommended that you get a hotel for Saturday night (date night). Many couples stay in a hotel for the whole event.

Cost is \$299. If you use the group code hillcrestsf, you will get a \$100 discount. Military families get in for free, just contact Family Life and tell them you're with hillcrestsf! Register online at <https://shop.familylife.com/p-3964-sioux-falls.aspx>

Serve

October Outreach Focus – Feeding South Dakota

Hillcrest's October Mission Focus is Feeding South Dakota. We'll be taking an offering for the Backpack Program during the services on Sunday, October 11th. It costs approximately \$150 to sponsor a backpack for the school year. Each Friday, Feeding South Dakota backpacks go out to under-resourced students throughout the region, ensuring students have food to make it through the weekend. A representative from Feeding South Dakota will also be here on Sunday, October 11th.

Hillcrest Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale

On Saturday, October 24th, 9am to 3pm, Hillcrest will be hosting a craft fair at the church. There will also be a huge bake sale and breakfast, lunch, and snack items for sale. This is a fundraising event for the Powerhouse Tutoring Center. We currently have 42 crafters and vendors registered, which will make it the biggest we've ever had! Hillcresters can help by making items for the bake sale and volunteering before, during, and after the event. Many different opportunities and shifts are available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in helping out.

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

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Music & Movement

Sunday, October 11th from 6-7pm. Children, infant thru pre-school, are invited to join Tarina for a fun-filled hour of listening to music, singing, and dancing. Please sign up in the back foyer if your child will be attending.

Trunk or Treat

This year's Trunk or Treat event will be held on Sunday, October 25th from 12:30 pm to 2pm at the parking lot behind the Powerhouse Tutoring Center (1708 E. 6th St.) Decorate your trunk and dress in costume with a theme, while handing out candy to the neighborhood kids. There will be food and games, provided by Wesley United Methodist Church, too! If you are unable to attend, you can also donate candy to hand out and give away as prizes on that day. Sign up for the event at the Kids Zone in the back foyer or drop off your candy donation near the Children's Check-In.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for snacks and games, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

180 Wednesday Nights

On Wednesday, October 7th, we will meet at the Heartland Country Corn Maze at 6pm. Families are invited. See pg. 3 for more info. This will take the place of our regular Wednesday night activities.

180 Events

Skate Party - On October 28th from 6-8pm we will meet at Skate City for a night of costumes and skating! All students welcome. There will be a costume contest for Obscure Biblical Characters with prizes awarded to the winners. Come have fun! Invite Friends!

Message Notes:

Title: When You Suffer

Scripture: James 1:1-18

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

1 Peter 3:14 (NLT) But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.

Monday

Subject: Lean in closer

Scripture: Hebrews 6:1-3

Commentary:

The Author of Hebrews is concerned for his readers spiritual maturity. They are spiritual lazy and he urges them to wake up, go beyond the elementary learning of the gospel. Not only to make themselves spiritually more mature but to be able to go and preach to others.

I find it interesting that the author is not saying the Christian should despise or abandon the elementary doctrines of Christianity. The fundamentals are always basic to every stage of spiritual growth. We never forget them, we grow on them.

Questions for further thought:

1. When you stop and take spiritual inventory of your relationship with God, do you see a pattern of change in your life?
2. What's the next "grade" you should be advancing to in your spiritual growth?

Challenge:

Re-read a favorite story in the bible and see if you can catch new things that you didn't before.

Tuesday

Subject: Warning

Scripture: Hebrews 6:7-8

Commentary:

The author gives a good illustration. The rain has fallen on the ground and produced a great harvest. A true believer will share and spread the gospel therefore bringing many to Christ. But if we do the opposite and plant thorns that take away from the kingdom of Heaven then we are no good to God here on this earth.

Questions for further thought:

1. What kind of spiritual fruit are you producing?
2. Is your daily life hurting or helping God's Kingdom?

Challenge:

Think about the past week and go over what has produced good fruit and try to recreate that again this week or better yet, add to it.

Wednesday

Subject: Adding to Faith

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-9

Commentary:

Peter is talking about how we should be growing in our faith. Once we have achieved a moral goodness to our lives we are to add knowledge and then self-control. When we achieve a goal in our Christian faith we are to go press forward, because if we don't we simply stand still and will never continue to grow.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you staying comfortable in a spiritual goal you have achieved or moving on to the next challenge?
2. What do you think happens if we no longer aim to add knowledge to our lives?

Challenge:

Pick one goal you want to move on to and take steps to achieve the knowledge you need.

Thursday

Subject: Pessimist vs. Optimists

Scripture: Romans 5:3-4

Commentary:

Paul is reminding us Christians that no matter what life throws at us that we are different from the rest. We have hope. Hope is what gets us from point A to point B. It lets us know that joy does come in the morning and our troubles are only for a short time. If we can be patient in our troubles our patience allows our faith to mature and produce hope.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do suffering and trials always cause a believer to mature?
2. Could suffering and trials have a negative effect on Christians?

Challenge:

Do people want to be around you when you are in the midst of a trial or obstacle in your life? Show them how your faith has produced hope in you so they too will mature in their faith.

Friday

Subject: Enduring Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 10:34-36

Commentary:

If you are discouraged because God has delayed in answering your prayers understand the delay is not a denial. It doesn't mean that God doesn't care about you or forgotten to answer your prayer.

Part of our spiritual maturity is learning the difference between God's "no's" and "not yet's". It's being patient for his answer. God does not test our patience so He can see how we grow. It's so we can see how we are growing. So we know our level of commitment to Him. God tests you so you see how faithful he is.

Questions for further thought:

1. In what area of your life do you need more patience?
2. Have you thought about those trials as a way to gain more patience and faith?

Challenge:

Review a trial in your past. Whether it took weeks or years to go through, how do you see God's faithfulness shine through on the other side?

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pressure Points
Message Title: You've Got to Do Something
Scripture: James 1:19-27
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

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Meriah VanderWeide

Student Ministries Coordinator

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Tarina Stroh

Children's Ministries Coordinator

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Jennifer Simons

Administrative Assistant

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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**

My next step today is to:

- ☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- ☐ Play basketball with other Hillcresters on Thursdays, starting October 9th.
- ☐ Connect at the Corn Maze on October 8th.
- ☐ Attend Men's Chili Cookoff on October 18th.
- ☐ Attend Holy Land Informational Meeting on October 11th.
- ☐ Volunteer for the Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale on October 23rd or 24th.

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**

