

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

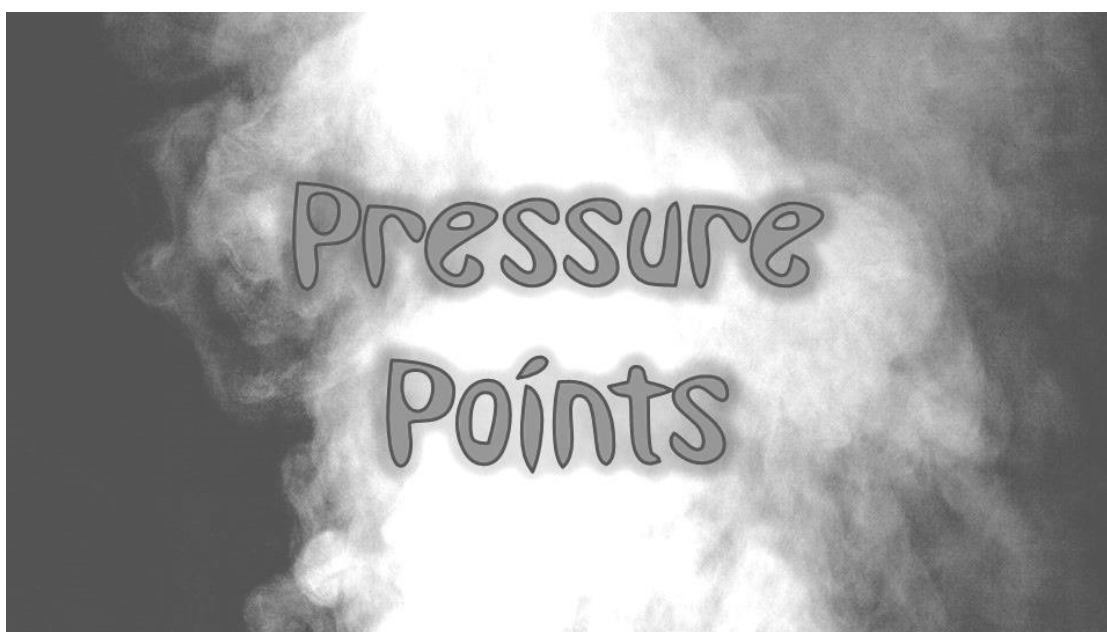
November 22nd, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



Retaliation or Rescue

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

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.siouxfallschurch.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

Right Now Media

This week, Hillcrest is launching Right Now Media, which is a digital library that includes over 10,000 videos that you can instantly stream for your Sunday school class, small group, Bible study, or individual study. Resources are available from over 150 leading Christian publishers and ministries. Videos are available for men, women, youth, and children. Anyone who is signed up to receive the weekly info email should have automatically received an invitation to join on Friday, November 20th. If you did not receive an invitation, but would like to have access to this content, please contact Pastor Brian or Jennifer Simons.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Starting December 6th, this group will start *True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian* by Chip Ingram. They meet in the upstairs classroom every Sunday 10:30am-11:30am. Taught by Mark & Sonya Lietha and Vicki Tigner. Cost for study guide is \$7. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Deck the Halls

Ladies! Please join us for our annual Festival of Tables event, "Deck the Halls" which will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Tickets are on sale for 2 weeks, beginning Sunday, November 22nd and ending Sunday, November 29th. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at the table in the front foyer. This has become an annual tradition for kicking off the Christmas season, and this year is a celebration you won't want to miss. Come to visit with your friends and enjoy a full meal (including dessert!), coffee/hot cocoa bar, special music, a devotion and a Christmas decorating demonstration by our own, Helen Bartel. And of course, it is always a treat to see the beautiful table settings decorated by our table hostesses. Bring a friend, your mom or daughter - this is an event meant to be shared! Any questions can be directed to Deanna Moser at moser@sio.midco.net or 359-7203 or any of our Womens Ministry team (Vicki Tigner, Rhonda Gramstad, Karen Reade, Nancy Matson, Jessi Copeland or Deena Perry)

Serve

November Outreach Focus – Food to You

Hillcrest is excited to start a new mission focus with Food to You, which is a Mobile Food Pantry for individuals and families in need of food. They offer government commodities, produce, bread, pastries, and assorted frozen food. It is a grocery-style distribution, with the families taking the food home to be cooked and consumed. Hillcrest's own Nick Welder is the Executive Director of Food to You.

Food to You also offers a Food of the Month every month. For November, they need Peanut Butter collected and donated for the distribution. Please drop off donations near the outreach bulletin board in the front foyer by Sunday, November 29th.

December Mission Focus – Angel Tree

The mission focus for December is Angel Tree, a ministry that provides Christmas gifts to local children whose parents are in prison. Next Sunday, November 29th, we will have the Angel Tree up with tags attached. If you plan to participate, please note that we usually run out of tags early.

SCRIP Program

Don't forget to order your SCRIP cards by December 13th to be sure they are delivered before Christmas!

Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Hillcrest Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit <http://www.siouxfallschurch.com/> or contact the church office for more information.

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

Aloha Christmas

On Sunday, December 13th, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Aloha Christmas." All children in pre-school through 5th grade will participate. Children should be bringing home a note that has more information and a rehearsal schedule.

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

Middle School meets at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School meets from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, & games!

Message Notes:

Title: Retaliation or Rescue

Scripture: James 5:1-11

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

2 Thessalonians 1:6 (NLT) In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you.

Monday

Subject: Suffering in a wealthy land

Scripture: James 5:1-3

Commentary:

In these verses, we read of wealthy people who, even though materially blessed, are told that their "wealth has rotted," and that "their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire." (V.3). They have literally **hoarded** (kept apart unlawfully) their material blessings, and despite all of that, James condemns them in the harshest terms.

Questions for further thought:

1. Why is James condemning wealthy people at all?
2. Do we ever, even a little, "hoard" our material wealth from God and others whom God commands us to **not** forget?

Challenge:

Material wealth and riches are absolutely a blessing, and from God Himself, but we must treat them that way, and act in accordance with His will on it so that our blessings can help alleviate burdens and bless others who have a great need. And, there will always be a great need.

Tuesday

Subject: Indulgence, Fraud and Suffering

Scripture: James 5:4-6

Commentary:

In this set of verses, we read of "The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you." (V. 4). We also read of people "fattening yourselves in the day of slaughter." (V.5), and condoning the destruction of the innocent. Clearly, both indulgence and fraud are on display here, and God is not pleased with this theft and lack of truth in dealing with others.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have we not compensated others, fairly, for services rendered, in our pasts (or present)?
2. Has restitution been **really** made back with that person or group of persons?

Challenge:

Let us remember to deal **fairly** with people who work for us in any capacity. We expect to be treated fairly in our daily lives, and even if unthinking or unknowing, we must strive to be fair and prompt in all of our dealings with other people (this includes the church body, also) every day of our lives.

Wednesday

Subject: Patience in times of suffering

Scripture: James 5:7-9

Commentary:

Patience is a virtue. Here we read of the patience of the farmer, who "waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." (V.7). We are also to "stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." (V.8) We also should not "grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged." (V.9)

Questions for further thought:

1. Are we patient with our days and nights, or beset with endless frets and worries? If so, why?
2. Does any of this worry actually solve any problems, or do we think that God does not hear us unless we're ultra-worried?

Challenge:

We should remember that patience is a virtue all by itself, and we're commanded to be so, and given examples of where we are to be strong and steadfast. The Lord knows our worries **already** and hears them every day, even before we voice or pray them to Him. Let us cultivate patience so that He can work His will **in** us every day and we can be His blessings to others and be satisfied in our daily lives.

Thursday

Subject: The Patience of the Prophets

Scripture: James 5:10

Commentary:

To be patient, it helps to learn what patience the prophets of old had. Jeremiah was attacked by his own brothers, beaten, put in prison, and watched Israel be defeated by the Babylonians because of their sin. Still, he kept faith in God. Ezekiel lost his own wife, as God told him the night before; still, he was patient, and was faithful to God. Elijah prophesied against the worship of Baal in his day; he kept patient amid recurring, and horrible, sin. So, too, must we do the same.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do we have the patience of the prophets of the Old Testament?
2. Have we **asked** for that kind of patience from God?

Challenge:

Let us ask God for patience of the prophets of old. Horrible, terrible things happen to us and others each and every day, but it will, someday, all end with Christ's second coming. Until then, let us ask for this patience until His glorious return for ourselves and for others suffering under the daily miseries of this life.

Friday

Subject: Patience for our lifetimes

Scripture: James 5:11

Commentary:

Here, we read in this verse of "we count as blessed those who have persevered." We're reminded of Job, who suffered greatly, but reminding of us "what the Lord finally brought about." He had blessings beyond what he had had **previously**. God does not wish **any** of His children to suffer, but He recognizes this as the result of sin from our beginning. Even so, He blesses us **in the midst of**, and **out of** our own suffering, and beyond what we would've expected **prior** to it. Why? Because "The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." Amen.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do we recognize our suffering as a way station on the way to possibly greater blessings?
2. Are we patient **enough** with God to realize that He has **never** let us down?

Challenge:

Let us pray earnestly to God for patience, even in the midst of great suffering we may be experiencing. He will never forget us and our suffering, and He will bless us beyond what we ourselves could want or hope for. Amen.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Baptism & Communion
Message Title: Jesus, Me, & the Christmas Tree
Scripture: Psalm 119:36-37
Speaker: Tarina Stroh

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.

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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Power House Director
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Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.co



Bill Lewis
Custodian

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.
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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 Hillcrest? _____
- 2nd Visit _____
- Returning Guest
- Regular Attender
- Members

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

I am interested in:

- beginning a relationship with Jesus being baptized
- receiving the Hillcrest Informational E-mail.
- joining a small group becoming a member of Hillcrest
- volunteering praying for my Hillcrest 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
