



How are you celebrating June?



Summer is a great time to reevaluate ones priorities!



2019 Summer Wednesday Night Dinner Gatherings



Family!

NEWS FROM THE HILL



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What's happening in June 2019?

June is the month for Weddings! And we have many June wedding anniversaries to celebrate at Hillcrest Covenant Church: **Mark & Kim Rasmussen, Greg & Sherri Howells, Rich & Jeanne Holly, Jeff & Mary Strohm, James & Cynthia Pakenas, Dave & Lynn Vogl, Michael & Diane York, Don & Lorna Code, Bill & Carole Minor and Bob & Linda Abel.** Congratulations! Here are a few more dates in June you might want to celebrate: National Egg Day June 3rd, World Environment Day June 5th, National Donut Day is June 7th (yum!), National Peanut Butter Cookie Day (Jim Little!), Flag Day June 14th, Father's Day June 16th, National Flip Flop Day June 21st, Take Your Dog to Work Day June 21st (Pastor Jen!)

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”
 --AL Bernstein

Perhaps I chose the wrong year to highlight this quote, as this Spring won't be a tough act to follow at all. Having said that, it is June and I know that we are more than ready for summer! Barbeques and sunshine, pool parties and vacations—there's nothing like summer!

I love the change of pace that summer affords us. It's nice to settle into a slower rhythm where it's more socially acceptable to rest, relax and vacation! We take a break from all kinds of things in the summer. We take breaks from school and all school-related events and sports. Here at church, we take breaks from our programs. Some of you take more breaks from work over the summer months.

Unfortunately, one of the things that we also tend to take a break from over the summer is our faith. When it's nice out and we can be in the yard, church seems a little harder to get to. When we have the time to be at vacation homes or visiting family, church isn't as much of a priority. When the sunshine is calling us, we don't want to spend time reading our bibles. “It's okay...it's just for a couple of months,” we tell ourselves. “I'll go back to church in a month or two.”

So how do we strike the balance? How do we keep our faith a priority throughout the summer months? What if we try this: Gather, Grow, Stop, Go. Catchy, isn't it?

Gather: We don't gather with our faith community because we *have* to, we do so because we were *created* to. Inevitably, there will be Sundays where you will miss church or weeks when you can't make it to Wednesday night dinners or other church events. That's okay. The encouragement is to come when you can. Make your community of faith a priority this summer—not out of guilt, but for the sake of your growth! Which brings me to my next point...

Gather



Grow



Stop



Go



Grow: Part of the reason we love summer is because we aren't as scheduled. Just because we don't keep the same schedule, doesn't mean we shouldn't live life intentionally. There are all kinds of ways to keep growing in your faith during the summer months. Join our co-ed Bible Study this summer. Think about doing summer lunch reads where you spend part of your lunch hour in God's Word. What about a summer memorization challenge? Bible verse memorization isn't just for kids, you know! When the Word of God is within us, it changes us. Challenge yourself to grow in your knowledge of God's Word this summer.

Stop: Rest is a requirement of the Christian life. Jesus went away to rest and pray because God created us for rhythms of rest. Summer is an easier time to force yourself to rest because everyone else is doing it! Consider taking an actual Sabbath each week of the summer! If you're not sure what that is or how to do it, ask Pastor Jen!

Go: What is it that brings you joy? GO DO IT! Summer is a great time to intentionally do the things that we love—the things that bring us joy. Get outside in God's creation. Go on adventures. Try something new. You were created for joy...so GO and fill your life with it this summer!

Summer is a great time to reevaluate one's priorities and to do the work of re-prioritizing our lives, if the need is there. Don't let the summer months go by without taking an honest look at where you want to be in your faith and what you are going to do to make it happen!

Gather.

Grow.

Stop.

Go...enjoy your summer!

Hello Hillcrest family.

Well, another school year has come and gone and summer has arrived. This Sunday we celebrate our high school graduates, Lizzie Eggerman, Caleb Ihm, and Edward Bobo. I could not be more proud of them. Although I will be sad to see them go, I am thrilled to see what God has in store for their next chapter of life!

Please don't forget to attend Caleb Ihm's Graduation Open House. Lynnae and Tom invite you to attend Caleb's graduation party Saturday, June 1st from 4-8pm. His address is 32 W. Pine Ave, Cortland. Caleb will be attending Kishwaukee Community College in the fall. Please bring your swimsuit because the pool will be open!

As for this summer, I have fun activities planned, so keep an eye out for updates and times of outings to come. I'm looking forward to this summer and the adventures that lie ahead!



A special thanks to all those that attended and participated in the Congregational Meeting on May 19th and to those that helped prepare information for the meeting. Below are highlights:

- Pastor Jen highlighted the activities and events since our last meeting. This included the successful FMSC and Project Blue campaigns, the upcoming India Mission trip, the very successful first annual Trunk or Treat event and the facility improvements – fire pit, sign, front door and Anderson Room media center.
- Four new members were welcomed to Hillcrest Covenant Church!
- A motion was approved to replace the North Doors to match the front doors at a cost not to exceed \$6,500.
- A proposal was approved to hire a part time seminary intern for the upcoming school year.
- Michelle Foster and Jeff Strohm were nominated to serve as Members at Large on the Budget Committee.
- Bruce provided instructions on safely operating the new fire pit.
- The proposed church ballot was approved for the Boards and other Leadership positions.

Thanks to all those who have served on Boards or in Leadership positions in the past year. Thank you, also, to all who are joining Boards or serving in a Leadership position in the year ahead. A special thanks to Karen Lang (Vice Chair), Millie Kostrey (Member at Large) and Tim Suter (Secretary) for their help and service this past year.

We are abundantly blessed to have such a wonderful church -- great staff, well-maintained building and a prayerful and growing congregation. Thanks to everyone for doing their part!

Personally, it has been a great experience for me to serve as Church Chair the past three years. I have really enjoyed working with and supporting a strong spiritual leader in Pastor Jen and have learned from her in the process. I have appreciated everyone's love and support and look forward to continuing to serve and support in other areas. I am excited about those who have agreed to serve in leadership roles in the future and look forward to their leadership continuing to move us forward in new and exciting ways.

To God be the Glory,
Joe Bothe,
Church Chair

Financials:

April Financials were distributed at the recent congregational meeting. The following observations can be made about the first four months:

General Fund donations were approximately \$111,000, or about \$10,000 above budget.

General Fund disbursements were approximately \$88,000 or about \$13,000 below budget.

General Fund cash flow was about \$23,000, but it should be noted that there are seasonal aspects to both our donations and disbursements—so four month's results are not necessarily a reliable predictor of full-year results.

General Fund assets currently total about \$135,000. Of this amount, about \$45,000 is ear-marked for working capital; \$23,000 represents the year-to-date positive cash flow that may change over the balance of the year; leaving about \$67,000 available for program expansion or capital expenditures not covered by the sinking fund.

North Doors

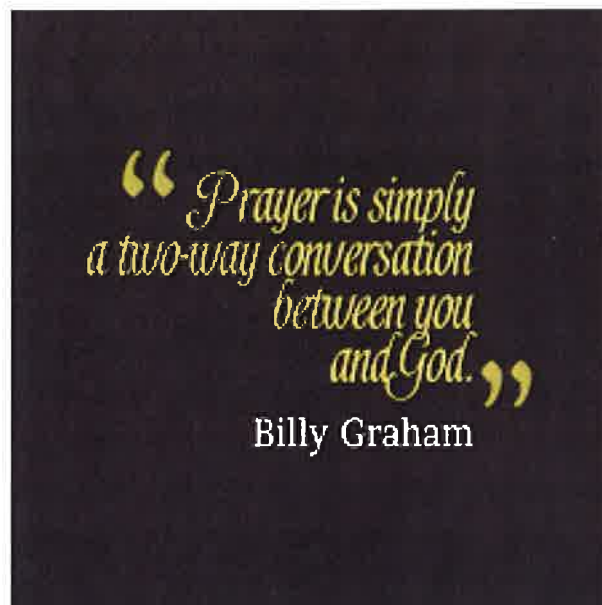
The congregational meeting approved replacing the north narthex doors. The replacements will match the new front doors, minus the side glass panels, as the door opening is not as wide. We expect installation in late June or early July. Funding will not exceed \$6,500 and come from unrestricted general funds.

Front Brick Sidewalk

The front brick sidewalk will be replaced in August with a concrete sidewalk. The pavement between the two islands will also be "shaved" to provide better drainage and thus prevent accumulation of water where the walkway meets the pavement. Funding will come from the sinking fund.

Your Board of Trustees

Sunday Morning Prayer Update - "Begin with Prayer" is the first elements of the BLESS initiative that was adopted by the Deacons for the year. As an added time for our congregation to meet in prayer, we have been joining together from 9:30 to 9:45 each Sunday morning. You are still invited to stop by the library at this time; however, beginning June 2nd and throughout the summer, there will not be a formal leader for this time.





We are sharing a dream moment with our son, Skye, and family. Over the past few years, Skye had mentioned often to us that he would like to come home to Colombia and do his work from here for a few weeks or months. Currently, that is what we are enjoying and what we are incorporating into our ministry experience.



As our children were growing up in Colombia, especially in Bogota when we were a part of Church planting teams, they were often a part of our ministry. They accompanied us every weekend as we traveled to the church plant locations and, when old enough to do so, they participated in the Church planting effort as volunteers in the children's ministry. Some of these weekend trips proved to be quite long, yet they hung in there and speak favorably of these memories. When the children were not studying, and had time to do so, Mary Lou or Gary would include them in an errand around the city of Bogota or Medellin. It was great for Mary Lou and Gary to have the whole family together on these weekends. In fact, part of the reason that the Colombia Covenant Church leadership asked us to move to Medellin was because of our family. There were not any missionary families in Medellin at the time and they asked us to spend part of our ministry focus on mentoring the young pastoral families.

Our three daughters have been able to return to Colombia and spend some extended time with us with mission teams or on extended breaks from their studies or work. Skye's schedule and work did not permit him to return like that, yet we kept up a conversation about him sometime coming and working from Colombia. This spring, for almost eight weeks, Skye and his family have made that happen. And we, especially Mary Lou, have incorporated them in some moments of ministry. Our daughter in law, Kasey, and our two granddaughters, Isla and Vera, have accompanied Mary Lou to minister in the Hands With Hope Foundation sewing classes. And since Skye was here on Mother's Day (a very rare occurrence anymore for Mary Lou to be with one of our children on that day), he was asked to give a tribute to Mothers, and he spoke for a few minutes on being Mary Lou's son.

While it is different to have one of our adult children living with us for these eight weeks, it has proven to be a time of making memories, of reliving memories, and being blessed to be able to live together, once again, under the same roof. We are sure happy that it has worked out.

Blessings,
Mary Lou and Gary

We thank God for you and for your being a part of our larger family. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf. We ask you to pray with us this month for the following:



We praise God for Couples, Marriage and Mentoring! The last few weeks of April we have been blessed to participate in performing a wedding (for Pastor Porfirio), a renewal of vows celebrating 25 years of marriage for Pastors Oscar and Magdalena, and a Couples Ministry Marriage Mentoring workshop with local leadership.





Pray with us as we have three mentoring retreats planned this month of June. As we continue our theme of The Condition of our Life, the State of our Heart, we are beginning our focus on the role of our mind and how, and whether, it is the “Mind of Christ”, (1 Corinthians 2:16).



We praise God for the commitment of the “Be Peace, Make Peace” Covenant Youth project that initiated in El Bagre and continues to impact that town. Pray with them as they plan to bring “Shalom Peace” through Youth Peacemakers to the town of San Marcos, (where the Covenant is making a strong Church planting emphasis).



We praise God that the Initial Phase of the Covenant Wayuu Project, working with Child nutrition/education, water issues, and sustainable economic investment, has been completed. Pray with Gary as he will be traveling with Jader Ochoa (Atlantico Covenant Schools Director) and Claudia Patiño (Serve Globally Intern) to the Guajira and to the Epiayu Ranchería to further conversations on the next phases of the Covenant Wayuu project.

Blessings,
Mary Lou and Gary



The missions board is getting prepared to send a team to India for project blue on June 7th which is going to be a amazing experience. If you are interested in praying over the India Mission Team, please be at the Church by 10am on Thursday, June 6th. If you can attend, please do. As we continue to pray for the members going to India for a safe and rewarding trip, we can look forward to "Celebration Sunday," July 14th. The India team will share slides and stories of their mission trip and after the service we will be having a BBQ. So, stick around and enjoy lunch and listen to the awesome work our mission team did in India.

Another Missions project is Meals on Wheels, beginning in July. This amazing church has been delivering meals for over 30 years. Susan Kauffman's grandmother delivered meals when Susan was in high school. The church delivers meals on two routes. We have many volunteers so we are able to handle two routes. Susan mentioned, the routes are in our neighborhood and some of the people on those routes have been receiving meals for many years and we feel like we "know" them. It's like seeing an old friend!

Everyone is invited to deliver a meal. If you haven't delivered before, it would be a good idea to ride with someone. It should only take about an hour once you start your route. If you are interested please contact Susan Kauffman at 815-761-1122 or email her at susankauffman18@gmail.com.



Missing Community Night already? No Worries! Everyone is invited to join us for Wednesday night summer dinner gatherings. No program, no agenda, just a great chance to eat together! Each week we will meet at a different local restaurant. Come once. Come whenever you're in town and don't want to cook. Come every Wednesday, June 5th at 6:00pm. 1670 Sycamore Rd, Sycamore, IL. Please contact the office to RSVP by Tuesday at 2:00pm.

Here is the Summer 2019 Wednesday Dinner Schedule:

- 5/29 Pho N Grill 913 S. Annie Glidden, DeKalb (Vietnamese next to Schnucks)
- 6/5 Tom and Jerry's Sycamore 1670, Sycamore Rd
- 6/12 Fanaticos Italian 1215 Blackhawk Rd, DeKalb
- 6/19 Slow Smoke BBQ 265 W Peace Rd #102, Sycamore
- 6/26 Hillside 121 N. Second St., DeKalb
- 7/3
- 7/10 Picnic at Ellwood House lawn (bring your own food)
- 7/17 Yen Chings 810 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb
- 7/24 Betty Jean's Soul Food 630 Plaza Drive #5, Sycamore (across from Farm and Fleet
- 7/31 Twin Tavern 1028 S. Fourth St, DeKalb
- 8/7 Rositas 642 East Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb
- 8/14 Pizza Villa 824 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb
- 8/21 Maria's Little Italy 1969B DeKalb Ave, Sycamore
- 8/28 Nat's on Maple 112 S. Maple, Sycamore
- 9/4 Portillos 1780 DeKalb Ave, Sycamore





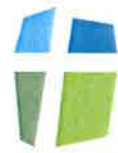
CPBC Triathlon Fundraiser: August 4, 2019

Come join our ministry and race for a cause! The CPBC Triathlon is an exciting opportunity to raise funds for our [Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Family Camp](#). You can participate in the full triathlon, sprint triathlon, or a walk (see distances & details [here](#)). Competitors can choose to participate as either individuals or as a team made up of 2 or 3 people competing in separate legs of the race. Start is at 7:30am!

Non-competitors love to cheer on the athletes and enjoy great meals and great people.

JUNE 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00am Co-ed Bible Study
2 Graduation Sunday 10amWorship	3 7:00pm Prayer	4	5 6:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner At Tom and Jerry's	6 8:00am Church Garage Sale 10:00am Send-off for India Mission Trip	7 India Mission Trip 8:00am Church Garage Sale	8 India Mission Trip 8:00am Church Garage Sale
9 India Mission Trip 10:00am Worship 11:00am Connect Class	10 India Mission Trip 7:00pm Prayer 7:00pm. Jt. Board Meeting	11 India Mission Trip 5:30pm Yoga	12 India Mission Trip 6:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner At Fanaticos	13 India Mission Trip	14 India Mission Trip	15 India Mission Trip 8:00am Co-ed Bible Study
16 10:00am Worship	17 7:00pm Prayer	18 5:30pm Yoga	19 6:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner at Slow Smoke BBQ	20 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting	21	22 8:00am Co-ed Bible Study
23 10:00am Worship	24 7:00pm Prayer	25 5:30pm yoga	26 6:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner At Hillside	27 Covenant Annual Meeting	28 Covenant Annual Meeting	29 Covenant Annual Meeting 8:00am Co-ed Bible Study
30 10:00 Worship						



hillcrest

COVENANT CHURCH

Love God • Love others • Make disciples

1515 N. First Street
DeKalb, IL 600115
8150756-5508
hccdekalb@gmail.com
www.hccdekalb.org

We believe the Bible is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. We affirm the historical confessions of the Christian Church, especially the Apostle's Creed. We emphasize a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. And we stress the need to follow Him in a life of committed discipleship and growth. We desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and friends, and we participate in the fellowship and service of the worldwide Church. We value the freedom we have in Christ to differ in our understanding of Scripture and to practice our faith uniquely. Yet our unique calling is to live by the Holy Spirit's leading and with responsibility before God to love, serve and steward gifts, resources, talents and relationships He has given to us, as well as, all of His creation.

Worship: 10:00am

Childcare Provided

Jen Zerby, Pastor