



Hillcrest Baptist Church
3045 Deans Bridge Road
Augusta, GA 30909
706.793.3104

www.hillcrestbaptistaugusta.org

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." – Luke 7:47 (HCSB)

Dr. Bryan's Sunday Message - Listen UP! Series – "Why Can't I Forgive You?" - Luke 7:36-50

Anger, violence, and unforgiveness are a toxic combination that has led to national unrest. The scriptural source of such is sin. The solution is God's gift of grace triggered by our response through faith. God's Word speaks to our current condition and offers peace.



*The Power of
Forgiveness*

We invite you to join Dr. Bryan at 11:00 Sunday morning as he brings this message online and also for Bible Study online on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. You can watch the messages on our Website at this link -

www.hillcrestbaptistaugusta.org/sermons-and-bible-studies - or on our Facebook page on Sundays – www.facebook.com/HillcrestBaptistChurchAugusta. **You also have the option to listen to Sunday and Wednesday messages by phone. If you wish to use this option, please call this number – 706-230-6070 - a minute or so before 11:00 a.m. on Sunday and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Please mute your phone and wait for the message to begin.**

We hope you have had a good week. Please let us know if we can help you by sending us an email message to hillcrestbaptist@comcast.net. You may also call the church office at 706.793.3104 and leave us a voice mail message. Someone will respond to your request very soon.



Office Hours
during the
Pandemic

The church office continues to be closed. Our office staff are working virtually, phone

calls are transferred so they can be addressed, and any financial needs are also being addressed. Someone checks the mail daily to ensure any and all tithe checks or other critical mail is handled. Please continue to mail your tithes if that is your best way to submit them; if you prefer, you can tithe online at the Hillcrest Baptist Church website.

Stay well, stay safe, and we look forward to the day we are all together in worship!

Giving Your Tithes and Offerings

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving your tithes and offerings. Please continue to give by mailing your offering to the church, or donating online on our Website at www.hillcrestbaptistaugusta.org/give.

WORSHIP
in the SANCTUARY RESUMES

Sunday, June 14 – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday morning worship in the Sanctuary will resume on June 14! We will be practicing social distancing; more information can be found on the second page of the Sunday Morning News. Sunday School will not resume, and childcare will not be available at this time. The Wednesday evening Bible Study and other activities will not resume in the building for the foreseeable future. Wednesday evening Bible Study will continue online as outlined above.

If you are unable or uncomfortable returning on June 14, you can still worship with us online on our Website at www.hillcrestbaptistaugusta.org/sermons-and-bible-studies and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HillcrestBaptistChurchAugusta

Dear Hillcrest Family,

The past two and a half months have been challenging for our church family as well as our community, state, nation, and world. We have learned new terminology - social distancing, better techniques for hygiene - hand sanitization, proper methods of wearing the latest in facial fashions, and new ways to communicate through technology. We've also dealt with having to "shelter in place" and have grown accustomed to changing our habits which we take for granted.

Because our community is moving forward with reopening, our church leadership has decided it is time for us to begin resuming our worship services in our Sanctuary. Please read the ideas we have for returning through our **Reboot, Responsibility, and Respect** Agenda.

REBOOT

We will begin a "soft opening worship" on Sunday, June 14, at 11:00 AM. Your staff and leadership have worked hard to be certain that this is a safe and secure environment as we come together in our sanctuary to worship. There will be obvious differences from the past as we are seeking to follow CDC guidelines and use our common sense. We have asked God to give us spiritual discernment as we come together to celebrate once more.

When we return on June 14, we will meet only for the worship service in the Sanctuary. We will not meet for Sunday School or small groups at this time. In time, we believe we will be able to offer these activities. Wednesday evening Bible studies and fellowship meals will not resume until a later date.

RESPONSIBILITY

Each family and individual will need to take personal responsibility in determining their differing levels of comfort and care. Though we are not requiring that masks be worn, we are encouraging everyone to choose for themselves. We have taken the responsibility to thoroughly disinfect the worship areas that will be open and to have some airflow from the outdoors as well. Hand sanitizers will be at the entranceway and available for personal use. If you need a mask and did not bring one, we will provide one for you. Our focus is on God, and our fears can be better relieved as we interact in distanced seating and coordinated entrance and exiting practices without congregating.

We ask that you please DO NOT ATTEND church services if you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms, are running a fever, have tested positive for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), have been exposed to someone who has, or are awaiting test results for COVID-19. Also, if you have an underlying medical condition for which the COVID-19 virus could pose a serious risk to your health, you may want to consider delaying your return to the church building.

RESPECT

Proof of our love for one another must be shown as we respect each other. We must show our respect through spacing ourselves properly and refraining from hugs and handshakes at this time. A friendly, holy wave to one another is just as effective and will be taken as a sign of love and respect. The bathroom facilities will be available for "serious needs." However, we ask that you exercise a purposeful respect and restraint. An attendant will be available should you have a need. Children are welcome and encouraged to come with their families and sit accordingly. There will be no childcare available.

Pastor John and the leadership respect your time and will keep the service within a period of one hour. We respect the right of all people to make their own decision regarding participation. We will continue our online worship experiences and encourage those that are not ready to engage face-to-face at this time to stay home and view by way of our Hillcrest Website and Facebook presentations as they may be made available.

We appreciate your patience as we have journeyed through this time. Thank you for your cooperation and for the joy of celebrating our Savior. We look forward to our future together!

In Christ Victorious,

John Bryan, Interim Pastor
The Hillcrest Body of Deacons

Sermon Notes for Sunday, June 7, 2020

Listen UP! Series **"Why Can't I Forgive You?"** **Luke 7:36-50**

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:48 (HCSB)

The Parable of the Two Debtors

Anger, violence, and unforgiveness are a toxic combination that has led to national unrest. The scriptural source of such is sin. The solution is God's gift of grace triggered by our response through faith. God's Word speaks to our current condition and offers peace.

The guilt we carry - sin.

- Hypocrisy and pride, the Pharisee
- Immorality, the wayward woman
- Open sins vs. hidden sins

The grace God gives - forgiveness.

- It's free, but it must be requested.
- It's received one way, by faith. "For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) (KJV)
- It's certain for those who believe. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life." (I John 5:13) (KJV)
- It's costly, but worth it. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) (KJV)

The gift God provides - a changed life.

- a deepened love
- a freedom that does not
- peace that passes all human understanding (John 14:27)

Let's get personal:

- ❖ How would you react if an uninvited guest came to your party?
- ❖ How big is your debt to yourself, to others, or to God?
- ❖ Are you guilty of judging and condemning others?
- ❖ Are you willing to forgive to experience the freedom and peace from above?