

UN-HANGING  
OF THE  
GREENS



January 7th  
10am-noon

Come un-decorate the Sanctuary

Join us for 2nd Sundays Potluck. A time to eat together and spend some time in prayer and preparation for the call of a lead pastor/s. Bring a dish to share and join us in the family center right after service.

2nd Sundays Potluck

HILMAR GOVERNANT CHURCH



Photo: Women's Ministry Christmas dinner and ornament exchange

Council Connection – December 2022

Pastor Aaron led devotions on these verses to open the Council meeting in December. He had us consider the paradox of the Kingdom of God. It is where God reigns, but it is not a place. It is in the people that He reigns, but it is not an individual. The Kingdom of God is the people who step into a life and live together under the authority of God's will and way.

Each month we look at the Church calendar to be informed about activities that are scheduled and being planned. Starting in January plan on attending the Second Sunday Potluck. This will happen after church on the second Sunday of each month and will be a time to come together, share a meal, and talk about things in the church and pray together. Also, the Men's Ministry is in the planning stages of a trip to Dave and Buster's tentatively scheduled for January 14th. Be in prayer for Pastor Jacqui as she will be at the annual Midwinter conference in Jacksonville, FL, during the last full week in January, to go through some final steps in her journey to complete her ordination. Finally, on January 29th an event to appreciate the many volunteers of HCC is planned.

We also receive monthly reports from staff detailing what has recently been happening and what they are planning for the coming month. We have a tremendous staff and I was pleased to convey our gratitude to them at one of their staff meetings in December. The enthusiasm and care they all have for their programs and the people under their ministry is evident and covered. Praise God for these people!

We are awaiting approval of the new infant care center from the state. Leslie has worked hard on this endeavor. Please pray for approval and a smooth start up.

Wasn't the music worship with choir, handbells, and children's choir a blessing during December? Thank you to Marilyn and all the musicians for using their gifts for HCC.

The Council heard several stories of people who are being ministered to through the live stream the tech team provides each Sunday. We have people regularly virtually attend not only from the Hilmar area but also from other states. Through this avenue Hilmar Covenant is having an impact on the lives of people who would not attend church in person. It takes five volunteers each Sunday in order to run this production and these people all do this in the background. What a blessing!

The Pastor Search Team continues to meet, pray, and practice patience. We currently have several leads and we pray that these develop further. We are waiting on God's timing. As Connie said when we first got together, "God knows who our next pastor will be. We just have to find him." While reading through Chronicles in Bible study this fall I saw that several of the Godly kings would get in trouble when they would try to take care of things themselves and not rely on God. That's where patience comes in. We must be willing to wait until God has prepared our next pastor for Hilmar and has prepared Hilmar for our next pastor.

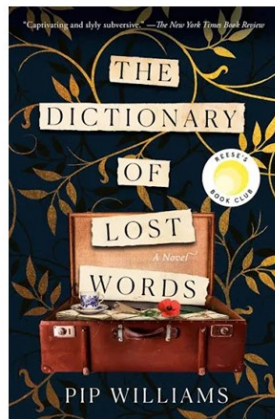
The Council and Pastors Aaron and Jacqui had a deep and meaningful conversation while conducting the annual pastor review. We are thankful to be blessed by Aaron and Jacqui's presence and ministering to us.

The Council reviewed the details for the then upcoming congregational meeting. We are blessed to welcome new members Mark & Patti Lindquist and Jackie Inman. I'd like to welcome to the newly elected Council members starting in the 2023 year Steve Barnes, Brandon McNeal, and Robert Vargas. Your willingness to serve on this body to guide the mission of the church is a Godsend. A first reading of modifications to bylaws regarding the number of Council members, how officers are elected, and directions to the nominating committee happened. Please prayerfully consider these suggested changes as we'll vote on the changes at the next congregational meeting. The suggested changes are below. Thank you to the church members who were able to attend the meeting to conduct the business component of the church.

The final action of the 2022 Council was to elect officers for the 2023 year. We were not able to fill the entire slate of officers as some ongoing members were not able to be in attendance at the December meeting. Congratulations to Andrew Postma who will fill the Chairman position and Jeff Strom who will continue on in the role of Trustee Chair. The positions of Vice Chair and Secretary will be filled in January.

Amen and in Christ's Love,

David Ward  
Council Secretary



Our next book starting mid-January is historical fiction set in turn-of-the-century U.K. While the plot focuses on the creation of the first Oxford Dictionary we hope to see women's justice perspective as feminism growth is viewed from a young girl's eyes. "Inspired by actual events, author Pip Williams has delved into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary to tell this highly original story. The Dictionary of Lost Words is a **delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world.**"

Meetings continue via Zoom. First discussion Jan. 17 at 6:30pm. Contact Art DeRooy to join this enriching time together.



### ROOTED HIGH SCHOOL

Rooted High School meets Sunday Nights from 6:30-8pm in the Family Center gym. We will resume RHS after our Christmas break on Sunday, January 8th as we'll start our Bible study series "Healthy Boundaries with Unhealthy People." Doors open at 6:15pm. Bring your Bible! And bring a friend!

### ROOTED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rooted Middle School meets Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm in the Family Center gym. Our first week back from Christmas break will be Wednesday, January 11th, where we will be starting our January series "Why am I Here?" Doors open at 6:15pm. Bring your Bible! And bring a friend!

### BOWLING, JANUARY 16TH

Rooted's next activity will be bowling Bellevue Bowl on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16th. We will be leaving church at 12:47pm. Cost is \$5 per game, and no shoe rental fee. Please sign up by Thursday, January 12th so we can account for our transportation needs.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you on Instagram? Follow Rooted Youth @rootedyouthhilmarcov

Are you on Facebook? Like Rooted Youth at [www.facebook.com/rootedyouthhilmarcov/](https://www.facebook.com/rootedyouthhilmarcov/)

### WEEKLY EMAILS

A weekly Rooted parents' email is sent out every Tuesday. Want to get it? It's simple. All you have to do is go to [http://eepurl.com/c\\_Moq1](http://eepurl.com/c_Moq1) and fill out the brief form!

**Saturday, January 14**

**Men's Ministry**

**No-host lunch and games**

**Meet at church at Noon**

**We'll be back by 4:00 PM**

**To sign up contact  
Andrew Postma or David Ward**

Average Monthly Giving For **November:**

Weekly budget :: \$9,755

Avg. Offering per wk :: \$

Budget YTD :: **\$429,220** YTD giving :: **\$389,235**  
(**\$39,985**)

Monthly Avg. Attendance: IN PERSON: 69 KS: 18 ONLINE: 16

### Find Us on Social Media

Facebook: Hilmar Covenant Church

@ Hilmar Covenant

Instagram: hilmar\_cov

Website: [hilmarcovenant.org](http://hilmarcovenant.org)

YouTube: Hilmar Covenant Church



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1	Judy Honore
2	Layne Dickey
3	Kara Postma
4	Bev Strom-Wenstrand
10	Norma Avilla
11	Maddy Stehle
14	Richard Sargis
15	Rod Avilla
16	Art DeRooy
21	Johnny Labno
22	Gennesis Vargas
23	Carson Dickey
25	Harper Dickey
27	Lillian Dwight
29	Will Tate
31	Sheryl Noren
	Brandon McNeal
	Keira Birmingham
	Chris Barnes
	Karen Tate
	Ron Ross

ANNIVERSARIES

50th Anniversary  
14 Randy & Diane Peterson  
20 Mark & Peggy

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Chris Collier, Juanita Curtis, Magui  
Johnson, Bruce Johnson, Mark Johnson,  
Lynn Lea, Cindy Postma, Pat Wickstrom,  
Dave Wesley

Please remember if you would like to be included on  
our prayer list call the church office: (209) 668-0400.

HCC Prayer Teams



Looking to grow prayer in your discipleship?  
Want to pray with a partner?  
Come join our community of 11 pray-er teams.  
Contact Art DeRooy for more info.

FRONTLINE

Jan. 1st - TEAM #2  
Jan. 8th - TEAM #3 communion  
Jan. 15th - TEAM #4  
Jan. 22nd - TEAM #5  
Jan. 29th - TEAM #6

KIDSPACE

THINK TANK | PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

JANUARY'S

NEED TO KNOW'S

KidSPACE Team Members Needed  
Do you love Jesus? Do you love kids? Join the  
KidSPACE team! We need adults who love Jesus and  
are willing to share that love with kids! If you'd like  
more information, please talk to Ashley!

Featured Article  
22 Things Parent Cue Learned in 2022s  
by Parent Cue

Happy New Year!  
Another rotation around the sun and I just want to  
take a minute to thank you! Thank you to the  
KidSPACE families! Thank you for your continued  
support of kids ministry at HCC!



"The Lord gives wisdom,  
knowledge and  
understanding come  
from His mouth."  
Proverbs 2:6 NIV

God is the author of knowledge. Everything we know to be  
true about the world is because of God. And while we  
may never know all there is to know ABOUT God, there are  
lots of ways we can get to KNOW God. We can know God  
best through Jesus, who showed us how much God loves  
us and showed why knowledge is so important. The more  
we know God, the better we can live God's way each day.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year! The  
preschoolers will be  
continuing from their study  
of Christmas last month to  
now learn about the visit of  
the wise men. Through this  
story they will learn  
that **Jesus is the best**  
**gift** and that **The wise men**  
**followed a star to find**  
**Jesus.**

Women's Ministry will be keeping it  
simple this month with a low-key time to  
hang out at "Mugs in the Morning"! This  
will be Saturday, 1/28 at 9am. Bring a  
mug from home and come enjoy a nice  
time of fellowship and warm drinks.

<p>Aaron Crumrine aaron@hilmarcovenant.org</p> <p>Jacqui Crumrine jacqui@hilmarcovenant.org</p> <p>Co-Transitional Pastors</p>	<p>Theo Wilson Youth Pastor theo@hilmarcovenant.org</p>
<p>Ashley Vargas KidSpace Coordinator, K-5th grade ashley@hilmarcovenant.org</p>	<p>Megan McNeal KidSpace Coordinator, Nursery/Preschool megan@hilmarcovenant.org</p>
<p>Kaitlin Moore Office Manager kaitlin@hilmarcovenant.org</p>	<p>Leslie Oliveira Children's Center Director loliveia@hlimarcovenant.org</p>

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday  
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Connect

**Hilmar Covenant Church**  
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PO Box 340  
Hilmar, CA 95324  
209 668-0400  
[info@hilmarcovenant.org](mailto:info@hilmarcovenant.org)

Place Stamp Here



“I’m not the Artist, I’m the canvas.” *Propaganda*

It’s no secret that I love art and creativity. I think that it is one of the many ways that we can worship. Creating, though, is a fairly new adventure for me that has grown over the last 8 years. I would say that ‘the spark’ as always been there, but it has grown as I’ve discovered that God IS creative. Most often we put that in the past tense because we know that God created in Genesis and we leave it there... In the past. But God doesn’t change, so if He created then, He’s still creating now. (And if He’s creative, and we’re made in His image, then we should be creating as well! But that’s a whole other blog.)

But what is God creating? We see His creativity in obvious ways: in new life, the sunrises and sunsets, growing trees and plants. But there is an even greater creativity that is happening that may not be as obvious. It’s inside of you. God is creating something in you. He has been since the moment he created you in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). His brushstrokes are very intentional and unique to you, as he continues to give you each breath and partners with you as you create in this world. He has a final picture in mind and is always working. Sometimes, his creativity is more restorative. He is taking something that is broken and repurposing it. Perhaps there’s a pain or trauma that has been unhealed; or a relationship that has suffered. Yes! God is at work in those areas. He is the God of restoration. His brushstrokes still present from His original design, but now He’s taking the pieces and making something new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Maybe you’ve seen some of those news stories about experts that restore art? The painting has existed for hundreds of years, and over time, the grime has adhered itself to the image. To the average eye, it just looks like the artist intended to paint using dull, faded colors. But to the expert restorer, there’s some different hidden underneath. Meticulously, the years of grime buildup is removed to reveal the artwork that the artist had intended for us to see! It’s vibrant and bold, now cleared of its years and layers of dirt. Restored to its original design.

God is at work doing so much more than just removing a little bit of grime from our lives. God is still creating. So, if God is creative, the question for us is: will we let Him create something in us? We have to be willing to let Him create in us something new. He is the artist. We are the canvas.

*‘And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.’ Philippians 1:6*