HILLCREST BOOK CLUB ANNUAL REPEORT for 2023

Hillcrest Book Club 2023 Hillcrest Book Club meets in the chapel monthly from September through June at 10 am usually on the third Wednesday. We consistently have ten or so members at our meetings. We discuss books from a variety of genres and the discussions are always lively and accompanied by snacks and beverages. Our members include people from Hillcrest congregation and a few from outside our church community.

In January we presented what each of us had been reading over the holiday season. In February we read a lovely little novel ‘**The Little Paris Book Shop’** by Nina George which took us on a scenic tour of the French countryside. In March we enjoyed ‘**A Man Called Ove’** by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman. Our April read was ‘**From Sword to Pen’** a biography written by our own member Kathleen MacMillan which explored the life of her relative the Honourable Cyrus J MacMillan, PEI author, academic, and national politician. Our May choice was **‘And My Name Is-Stories from the Quilt’** by local author, singer, and song writer Margie Carmichael who joined us for an enjoyable romp through poetry and short stories set primarily on PEI. In June we met at Anne White’s cottage and led by Judy Gaudet, one of our members, we played a **poetry game and exchanged books** from our own collections for summer reading. Our September gathering, led by Brenda Dewar, featured a **selection of books for youth written by Canadian Eric Walters**. In October, Hugh and Sandra MacDonald took us on a journey through ‘**Braiding Sweetgrass’** by Robin Kimerer, a wonderful nonfiction centering on gift and gratitude economy and reciprocity with our environment. Our November meet featured a novel entitled ‘**Anxious People’** by Fredrik Backman whose complicated plot was challenging and intriguing. We finished out our year with ‘**The Power of Story’** by Canadian author, lawyer and member of Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Harold Johnson, who explains the role of storytelling in every aspect of human life.

Many thanks to Brenda Dewar for accessing many of our reads this year. We welcome others to our lively group. **Please consider joining us in 2024 for fun and fellowship and great literary experiences**.

Anne White and Mary Martin, Coordinators