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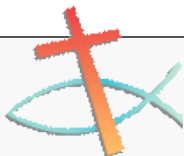


The Connecting Link

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457
Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org Phone: 708-598-3100

December 2017

WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS



DECEMBER 2017

9:00 A.M.	Adult Study all year round
10:00 A.M.	Worship with Youth Sunday School for ages 3 through high school
5:00 P.M.	REV Contemporary Worship Service



A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Our HHPC Family!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 (1st Sunday of Advent)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service
Readings:	Epistle: Corinthians 1:3-9; New Testament: Mark 13:24-37
Sermon:	Keep Awake

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
Readings:	Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11; New Testament; Mark 1:1-8
Sermon:	Is Repentance Important?
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Outreach/Comm/Website
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
Readings:	Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; New Testament: John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sermon:	Jesus is the Light!
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service (Traditional)
11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service (Contemporary)
Readings:	Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7; New Testament: Luke 2:1-20
Sermon:	The Prince of Peace is Born!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	One Congregation, One Service
Readings:	Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; New Testament: Luke 2:22-40
Sermon:	Simeon and Anna
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry



God sent a star to light the night for The Way, The Truth, The Life...His Son. He sent the Light of Life to prove His heart so we would invite His Son into our own. God has given us all the light we'll ever need to find peace on earth, goodwill to all.

If you or someone you love needs a hospital visit, please call the church office at 708-598-3100 and leave a message on the office mailbox. Due to federal privacy regulations, the hospitals never call the church, even if they ask for your church membership information.

A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER

This Christmas have everyone compose part of the Christmas family (and friends) dinner prayer. Make copies of the “starter” prayers below (or make up your own) and give one to each adult and child and have them fill in the blanks.

Before dinner, let each person read aloud their portion of the prayer. Everyone’s hearts will be filled with the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you, Lord, for _____.

I’m filled with joy because _____.

This year’s Christmas is special to me because _____.



Amen.



HHPC Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Bazaar a Success

The fundraising committee is pleased to announce that 40 tables were sold to crafters and vendors for our Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Bazaar on Saturday, November 5th. Total sales were \$3,900, including 111 holiday baskets donated by Shirley Dragas (\$1,146).

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who donated or attended. It was a great day for fellowship and community involvement.

Looking forward to the 2018 Holiday Craft and Vendor Bazaar. Don’t miss it!!

Peace,
Sue Frangella & Grace Muszynski



ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

You can now send prayer requests online through our new website at www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayer-request/

Requests made through this link will be sent to the church office who will forward it to Prayer and Care if designated as such.

Christian Education (CE) Updates

(by Linda Lavaretto)

A Christian Education (CE) meeting was held on November 5, 2017.)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

The Kids' Club has been given another year to advertise the work of our Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church throughout the neighborhood by an anonymous donor.

Look for the **Brookfield Christmas Tree** decorated by several families at #131. The ornaments have been designed and decorated by the children of Kids' Club and Sunday School. The tree was decorated by several families who spent a delightful day at the Brookfield Zoo on November 18. Come to see their work and enjoy the Holiday Magic at the Zoo.

Our annual collection of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks for the "**Warming Tree**" is in need of your help. Any donations will be sent to the Jones Center as well as given locally to children in the Hickory Hills area. Help fill the donation boxes located near the sanctuary before the middle of December. Keep the children warm this winter and help our church spread God's love this holiday season.

Did you hear about the "**All Church Christmas Party**" scheduled for Friday, December 1? It begins at 6:30 PM and will include a pot luck dinner. Everyone in attendance is asked to bring food for the dinner. After dinner, there will be a variety of crafts to make as household decorations or gifts. There will be tables in the gym with people to assist in the craft making. We hope to have a special treat after the craft-making time and maybe even a special visitor to share the beginning of the holiday season with everyone who attends. We hope you will mark your calendars to attend this special festive and fun night along with fellowship. Be sure to invite your friends and family to share in our celebration.

We invite ladies to the annual **Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m.** (this year the Tea is changed to the afternoon instead of the evening). The afternoon will include special entertainment by Johnny Gray. Plan on bringing a batch of your favorite cookies for everyone to enjoy. We will provide the hot water and tea for you to share. We sincerely hope you will come and join the festivities. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this annual celebration.

With Dave Delaney away from the **Adult Sunday School**, we have been fortunate to have Tom Lane filling in as the discussion leader. There have been at least 9 people attending the discussions on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. There is still time for you to join the discussions and be an active part of this group. Join them to see why this group is such a vital part of learning about the Bible and how it can help an ordinary person find their way through the chaos they may experience in their life.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has been busy this month. We delivered 3 prayer shawls and 1 lap blanket this month. We are still creating more lap blankets and hope to have enough to share with Providence Rehabilitation and Healthcare in Crestwood before this Christmas.

Anyone who is interested in learning to knit or crochet is welcome to join us. There are several people in the group willing to help you get started. Anyone who just wants to enjoy some fellowship with the group can find us in the room near the piano in Fellowship Hall. You are always welcome.

The Stampers created over a dozen cards to help celebrate church members' birthdays in October. We have no meetings scheduled for November or December due to the busy times during these month

Check with Barb Brown for any scheduled dates in January 2018.



KIDS' CLUB

If you are interested in helping or would like more information on Kids' Club, please contact Dianne Flynn at the church office at 708-598-3100.

A Christmas Presentation

On December 3 during the 10 a.m. worship service, our children and young adults will present "The True Meaning of Christmas."

After the service, come downstairs for fellowship where you will be invited to create an Advent Wreath for your family to share during this Advent season. There will be supplies in the gym as well as guides to create your wreath. A supply of candles, a special reference list of Bible readings and prayers, and all the decorations for creating your wreath will be available.

Christmas Party for the Kids

The Kids' Club is planning a Christmas Party on December 18. It will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting time, 3:30- 5:00 p.m.

**There will not be any meetings on
December 25 or January 1.
Kids' Club will resume on January 8.**

**We wish everyone a very
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year and pray that this will be
a memorable holiday season.**

~ ~ ~



DECEMBER 3 - "The True Meaning of Christmas" will be presented by our kids and young adults during the 10 a.m. worship service. Afterwards, during fellowship downstairs, make an Advent Wreath for your family (one wreath per family).

**DECEMBER 18 - Kids' Club
Christmas Party, 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.**

**The Original
Special Delivery**



Reflections (by Arlene Pearson)

Thanks be to God for His gift that is too wonderful for words. (2 Corinthians 9:15 (NCV))

As we listen to the beautiful carols being sung, we join in singing. As we write out cards to our friends, we join in celebrating. As we bake those cookies, we join in sharing. As we go to church to worship, we join in praising. As this season of joy prevails, we are children of the King of Kings!

*Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!
(2 Corinthians 9:15 (RSV))*



Women's Bible Study "Sharing at the Table"

*But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."
(Galatians 4:4-5 (RSV))*

Adoption is a word used in the New Testament only by Paul, the privilege of sonship (sons of God and children of God) which God confers on His people. Adoptive sonship springs from the new birth through the redemption of Christ Jesus. Paul is urging the Galatians to remember Christ has set us free from the law, the curse of the law, from sin... But liberty must never be used as a cloak for sin.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE WOMEN OF OUR GROUP!

**Women's Bible Study meets every Monday
at 1:00 p.m. in the Knitting Room.**

We Lift in Prayer

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns: Jerry & Joan Panko, Cliff, Mary Orr, Francine, Shirley D's sister Shirleen, her friend's son Brian, her husband's cousin Karen, Kevin, Eleanor Watson, Jean Somerstorfer, Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy D & Tom, Barb M, Aunt Sherry, Don (Ivy), Erik's son, Dave and Dar, Leah (Karen), Diane's great nephew Colton, Cheryl H, Gail (Ar), Michelle (Mel), Stephanie (Katie), Jeni, Kyle W, Renee & Chris, Gracie & 3 gals (Gerry), Adeline, Sean, Jackie (Ivy), Jean (Peggy's mom), Aunt Jane (Gordon), Adam (from Faith United), Joe (Bernie's friend Martha's cousin)

We pray for those in need of strength: Susan's cousin Randy, Donna's sister Shirley, Billy, Jeni's mom, Wanda & Bob, Annette (Adeline), Theresa and her niece, Beth, Aunt & Carol, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen, Rick & his dad, Dick, George (Charley), Rhiannon & Jim (Charlie), Betty (Huenecke), Corey & Jordan (Grace), Rachel (Debbie Dennis)

We pray for those in need of strength and healing, or with health concerns: Lori and her mom, Judy, the entire Cassiello family, Donna's friend Ken, Grace's relative Edith, Laura A, Eva M, Ar's brother Richie and brother-in-law Howie and sister Gerry, Joann J, Ramon and Laura, Donna (Karen), Julie's brother (Evelyn), Uncle Tony (Mary Ann), Brother-in-law Bob (Susan), Ciaron Conway (REV), Kareem (Laura V), Alia (Laura V), Steven and Ted (Grace), Bernie's daughter Natalie

We pray for groups: Those attending to the Southwest fires, Hurricanes Maria, Irma and Harvey victims, Israel, our children & youth ministry, Christians in the Middle East for strength & protection; people of other faiths; our country's divisions; policemen and firemen, persecuted Christians, our enemies, Syria, Chapel Church, TN victims, Las Vegas victims and those affected by the massacre, Somalia bomb victims, New York City victims near World Trade Center Memorial, Baptist Church in Texas victims, Iran-Iraq quakes, Northern California school victims

We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances: Shirley D's friend Pat Z, Karl Haack and Mark Gulotta in the Marines, Shannon for peace & direction, Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt for comfort & strength, Laura V's friends Debi & Chris for direction, Lauren for seeing the light & strength, Joe for direction & strength, Joe, Jen DelPrete and family, Gloria (Laura V), Rachel and Juan, Karen for guidance and strength (Debbie), Cassie (Laura V), Larry (Ivy), Mike (Roy's brother), Dave & Debra, Gerry, Olivia, Holly, Megan (Toni), Toni

We pray for those who mourn: Family and friends of Larry, Lois Lamberth's son, who died November 6. Family and friends of Debi on the death of her dad.



HOLIDAY PARTY

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Pot Luck Dinner ~ Christmas Crafts ~ Fellowship

COST: Bring a dish to share for our meal and a free will donation for craft projects.

Sign up today for this All Church event!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
(AN MC8 EVENT AT JONES CENTER)



SERTOMA CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 23RD

HHPC EAST PARKING LOT

Enjoy Crocheting or Knitting?

Join the ladies of our Prayer Shawl Ministry for this prayerful and enjoyable experience.

SUNDAYS AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
KNITTING ROOM

**An Invitation to All Ladies
of our Church and Community**

Start a holiday tradition and fill your heart with love, laughter and joy. Invite a friend and share in the warmth and love that is Christmas.

“A Cup of Christmas Tea”



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
HICKORY HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1:00 P.M.

Holiday Entertainment provided by
JOHNNY GRAY

*(Multi-instrumental Musician,
Singer and Showman)*

Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies or sweets to share on our refreshment table.

**A free will donation will be accepted for the program.*

~ ~ ~

RSVP Requested

Questions? Call Dianne Flynn 708-598-3100

DONATIONS STILL NEEDED

“Warming Tree” donation items still needed for Jones Center and Hickory Hills neighborhood kids. Donation boxes located in the Sanctuary.

Thank you for your generosity.



*We celebrate those who are
having birthdays in December
May God shower them
with blessings!*

December	1	Darlene Delaney
	1	Melanie Swindle
	4	Scott Hoffman
	5	Dawn Morgucz
	5	Tristan Grisko
	12	Tom Trecanni
	12	Bryan Ambrosat
	15	Gabriel Meyer
	16	Jayden Kenealy
	16	Gina Ciametti
	18	Riley McKinney
	19	Steven Beal
	20	Natasha Swindle
	25	Natalie Orsic
	29	Laverne Mocarski
	31	Carla Zabelka

**Please report any omissions or errors
on the birthday list to the church office.**

**Phone: 708-598-3100
E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org**



**If you have a change to your
personal contact information,
please call the church office
at 708-598-3100 or send an
e-mail to:**

hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



The Magic of Christmas

The joy of brightening other lives,
bearing each other's burdens, easing
others' loads and replacing empty
hearts and lives with generous gifts
of peace, love, and hope becomes
for us the magic of Christmas.

~ ~ ~

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE AND DECEMBER 31, 2017, SERVICES



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

4:00 P.M. - Traditional Service

- Lighting the Advent Candles
- Christmas Carols
- Piano, Gregory Rolla, and directing HHPC Choir
- Reflection by Rev. Susan Herman (*children included*)
- Candle lighting from the Christ candle
- "Silent Night"

11:00 P.M. - Contemporary Service

- Lighting the Advent Candles
- REV Praise Band, Matt Witek, leader
- Lessons and Carols
- Candle lighting from the Christ candle
- "Silent Night"

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 (*1st Sunday After Christmas Day*)
ONE CONGREGATION, ONE SERVICE
10:00 A.M.**

Note.--Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, the worship committee and the session canceled all regular Sunday services. They also scheduled one service for December 31.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERTOMA CHRISTMAS TREE SALE - THROUGH DECEMBER 23RD HHPC EAST PARKING LOT • The most updated calendar of events at HHPC can be found on our new website at: www.hickoryhills.pres.org/news-events/ 					1 6:30 PM HHPC All Church Christmas Party	2 9 AM – 3PM Presbytery Assembly (Second Pres. Church 1936 South Michigan, Chicago, IL)
3 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM - Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, CE & Choir Practice 5 PM – REV 7 PM - REV Planning	4 Office Closed 1 PM Women’s Bible Study 3:30-5 PM - Kids’ Club 7 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group	5 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 7 PM - Worship & Music	6 Office Closed 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care	7 Office Open 11:30-5:30 PM 4 PM - TOPS 7 PM - Yoga	8 Office Closed 4 - 6 PM - Arab Women’s Fellowship 6:30 PM HHPC All Church Christmas Party	9 9 AM Breakfast with Santa (Jones Center)
10 9 AM- Adult Class 10 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM - Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Outreach/Comm./Website & Choir Practice 1 PM Christmas Tea 5 PM - REV	11 Office Closed 1 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30-5 PM - Kids’ Club 7 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group 7:30 PM Session	12 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	13 Office Closed 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care	14 Office Open 11:30-5:30 PM 4 PM - TOPS 7 PM - Yoga	15 Office Closed	16
17 9 AM- Adult Class 10 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM - Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Missions & Choir Practice 5 PM - REV **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT**	18 1 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30-5 PM - Kids’ Club 7 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group	19 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	20 Office Open 11:30-5:30 PM 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care	21 Office Open 11:30-5:30 PM 4 PM - TOPS 7 PM - Yoga	22 Office Closed 4 - 6 PM - Arab Women’s Fellowship	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 4 PM (Traditional) 11 PM (Contemporary)	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 10 AM – News-letters mailed	27 Office Closed 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care	28 Office Open 11:30-5:30 PM 4 PM - TOPS 7 PM - Yoga	29	30
31 10 AM One Congregation, One Service						

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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