

INSIDE

The Season of Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day



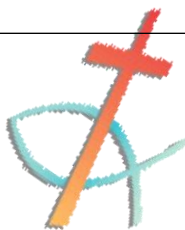
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The Connecting Link

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

FEBRUARY 2018

WORSHIP SERVICES AND REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS



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

The Scripture readings shown below are ones that many churches across the world will focus on during these upcoming Sundays. You are invited to use them as passages of study in your personal devotional time.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 (5TH Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Readings:	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education (CE)
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 (Transfiguration of the Lord)

Readings:	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (Ash Wednesday)

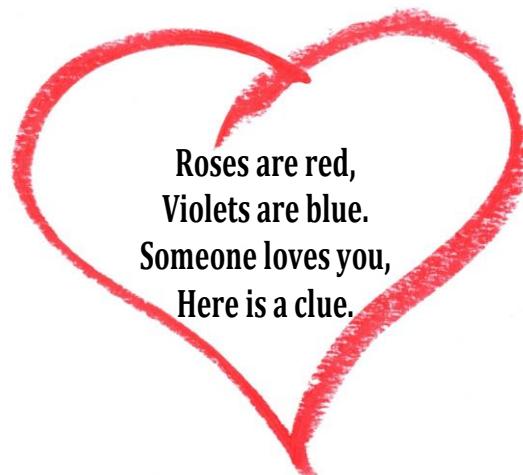
Readings:	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
12:00 Noon	Ash Wednesday Lenten Program & Luncheon

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 (1st Sunday in Lent)

Readings:	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Readings:	Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service



Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Someone loves you,
Here is a clue.

John 3:16

A WORD-BY-WORD LOOK AT JOHN 3:16

For God
so loved
the world
that He gave
His only Son
so that everyone who
believes
in Him
may not perish
but
may have
eternal life

the greatest lover
to the greatest degree
the greatest number
the greatest act
the greatest gift
the greatest invitation
the greatest simplicity
the greatest person
the greatest deliverance
the greatest difference
the greatest certainty
the greatest possession

2 REFLECTIONS



Reflecting on the Love of God in Scripture

Reflecting on Scripture in prayerful reflection is one way to draw close to God and meditate on his love for you. Each day take one of the “love passages” shown below and dwell with it.

- **John 3:16**
- **Mark 12:28-30**
- **John 14:21-24**
- **John 15:9-17**
- **Matthew 5:43-48**
- **Romans 5:8**

As you begin, ask God to receive the grace of both knowing and expressing his love in your life.

Read the passage slowly – perhaps more than once, dwelling on lines or phrases that seem to connect with you. Consider what they say and how this speaks to you. Share with God thoughts and questions that emerge. Then read the passage again and let it lead you into a time of simply resting in God’s presence.

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### A Prayer for Resting in God’s Love

**Father God**, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me. I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child. Amen. --*Anonymous*

### 5 Ways to Love God

**Be obedient.** Obedience is one of the ways we can actively show God that we love Him. Jesus tells us that if we love Him, we will obey Him. Is there an area of your life where you struggle and God is asking you to turn that difficulty over to Him? Is there something God is asking you to do, but you don’t want to do it? *Be obedient to God.*

**Be thankful.** We receive so many things from the Lord and should be thankful, but we struggle sometimes to see the good. Develop a thankful heart. Remind yourself that even though things may seem like they are going wrong, there are gifts to be found. *Thanks be to God.*

**Be generous.** Jesus tells us that how we treat others matters. If we see someone in need and we give to them, we are giving to Jesus. *Help somebody today.*

**Be creative.** God is a creative God and we are made in God’s image. We are designed to be creative beings and it pleases God when we use our creativity to glorify and praise Him. *I am creative because I am a child of God.*

**Be faithful.** God has given each of us a job to do and sometimes that job frustrates us and makes us want to quit. God asks us to walk faithfully in it until it’s time to move on. *Don’t give up!*



### ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

You can now send prayer requests online through our new website at [www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayer-request/](http://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.



*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.*

## WHAT'S NEW? AT KIDS CLUB

We welcomed everyone back from the holiday break. Even the cold and snow didn't keep the kids away from Monday afternoons at Kids Club. Thank you to the staff who braved it out on the cold January days.

Congratulations to our Snicker balance winner for the month of December who was once again Marietta F. We look forward to announcing who had perfect attendance in January and whose name we will draw next to play this game.

One of the highlights we share in February is the celebration of Valentine's Day. This year we will celebrate on February 12. It will be a day filled with fun and surprises. We encourage the kids to invite a friend along to enjoy this celebration.

♥ *Dianne Flynn*



- In the month of February, Linda will lead us in discussion by helping us to understand that God has a plan for our lives.
- We will learn more about the Ten Commandments, Abraham following God's leadership and The Greatest Commandment of All.



# 4 MISSION COUNCIL 8

## MINUTES by Kim Ambrosat

**South Side Churches Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 13, 2018 – 11 AM**  
**Hickory Hills Hosting**

### News from Our Churches

- Calvary is hosting their monthly community meal tonight, January 13, 2018. They also report that they have joined with Faith United to schedule a monthly event to unit youth groups.
- Faith United will host their monthly community meal on Thursday, January 18, 2018. They have received approval to build a pavilion on their property. There is a baked potato bar fundraiser scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2018, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Their personnel committee is searching to hire a custodian.
- Pullman is gearing up to participate in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event.
- Morgan Park continues their discernment process to determine God's call on their congregation as well as learning more about their community. They will be hosting the meet and greet event at 10 AM on February 3, 2018, to meet the new Executive Presbyter for the Chicago Presbytery, Rev. Sue Krummel.
- Burbank reports that they are sharing their church with two other congregations. Careful scheduling has made this partnership a success.
- HHPC is ready to submit their Ministry Information Form for approval and begin their search for a Designated Pastor.

### Updates on Mission Projects

- Safe Gatherings Workshop on January 13, 2018, had 19 in attendance--1 Presbytery, 1 MC8, 3 HHPC, 2 Calvary, 3 Morgan Park, 6 Faith United, 2 Pullman, and 1 Burbank representative.
- Loretta Grati-Bremer presented an informative, thought-provoking, and question-provoking program. Calvary has a policy in place. It was decided that Ben Heimach-Snipes, Rachel Jones, and Fran (from Calvary) will work together to craft a policy template. This template could potentially be brought to Presbytery lawyers for review and ten individual congregations could personalize it as needed and present it to their insurance carriers as well. It was noted that the Glen Ellyn Church also has a policy that has been adopted by other churches across the Presbytery.
- One recommended resource to read is *Careful Grace* written by Simon Bass.
- Jones Breakfast with Santa.--We served 173 kids and 74 adults (not including volunteers).
- Rockport, TX.--Sally and Ben Bourque-Layscak and John Fyfe traveled to service. Every day they are given a different project to work on. ***What can we do here in our congregations to support this cause?*** Support Church World Service to create cleaning and hygiene kits and school supplies, too.
- Potential July 29<sup>th</sup> Church World Service Hands-on Mission Event at HHPC, 3 PM.  
Melanie to research the greatest need and ask about John giving a presentation on the Rockport mission experience.



## MC8 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next Meeting:**  
**March 17, 2018**  
**9 AM – 11 AM**

**Church Hosting:**  
**Pullman**  
**Arie Jones, Moderator**

**Meet and Greet at Morgan Park** for our new Presbytery Executive, Rev. Sue Krummel, and our MC8 churches on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 10 AM – 1 PM. There will be time for introductions and conversation, followed by lunch. The meal will be provided by the hosting church. Other churches are asked to bring dessert to share. Please RSVP by January 28 to be able to plan for lunch. **It was voted for MC8 to sponsor lunch from the general fund up to \$300.**

**Potential MC8 Gathering with Jan Edmiston and Denise Anderson** – John Fyfe, Lynn LaBine will follow up.

**Dakota Partnership** – begin to focus on our \$4,000 goal to help pay for a semi-truck full of fresh produce to distribute to local a Native-American community. Bring this goal to Sessions and report back what your commitment will be. Promote the collection of swim suits and towels for VBS.

### OTHER IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

Outdated Presbytery link for MC8 – Debbie Dennis and Arrie Jones to follow up with PCC & Mission Task Force.

*Meeting closed in prayer by Debbie Dennis.*



## Reflections by Arlene Pearson

*God will always give what is right to his people who cry to him day and night, and he will not be slow to answer them.*

Luke 18:7 (NCV)

Why does God wait to answer our prayers? We have been taught about the fruit of the Spirit, against such there is no law, found in Galatians 5:22-23. Sometimes we hear nothing. Is He speaking? Although we see nothing. Is He acting? With God there are no accidents. Could every incident be intended to bring us closer to Him?

**Please continue to pray for those listed on Prayer Requests from your home on Wednesday at 9:30 AM until further notice. Prayer is what disciples do.**



### Women's Bible Study "Sharing at the Table"

*And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. (Ephesians 4:11-14 (RSV))*

We are continuing to learn about the church. Once again, the above four verses are one sentence. And you thought you were a talker!

***Come and join us!***

**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, Mary Orr, Francine**, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen**, her friend's son **Brian, Kevin, Eleanor** Watson, **Jean** Somerstorfer, **Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy D & Tom, Barb M, Aunt Sherry, Don & Carol** (Ivy), Erik's son, **Dave & Dar, Leah** (Karen), Diane's great nephew **Colton, Cheryl H, Gail** (Ar), **Michelle** (Mel), **Stephanie** (Katie), **Kyle W, Adeline, Sean, Jackie** (Ivy), **Jean** (Peggy's mom), **Aunt Jane & Bob, Jr.** (Gordon), **Adam** (from Faith United), **Savannah** (Dave and Darlene Delaney's granddaughter), **Lieutenant Clint Sanders** of Roberts Park Fire Protection District (Karen Golema), **Lorrie** Cunningham (Ar); **Julie** Witek

***We pray for those in need of strength:***

Susan's cousin **Randy**, Donna's sister **Shirley, Billy**, Jeni's mom, **Wanda & Bob, Annette & Kristina** (Adeline), **Theresa** and her niece, **Beth, Aunt & Danny, Debbie** Vaughn, **Dave** Johnsen, **Rick & his dad, Dick, George** (Charley), **Rhiannon & Jim** (Charlie), **Betty** (Huenecke), **Corey & Jordan** (Grace), **Rachel** (Debbie Dennis), **Carol S.** (Ar), **Miss Luby** (Kim)

***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, John** (Grace's son); **Lisa H.** (Bernie's friend), **Pat** (Sandy)

***We pray for groups:***

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; Iran-Iraq quakes; South California mud slides, Peru quakes; Philippine's lava flow

***We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances:***

**Karl** Haack and **Mark** Gulotta in the Marines in Okinawa, **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), **Mike** (Roy's brother), **Dave & Debra, Gerry, Olivia, Holly, Megan** (Toni)

***We pray for those who mourn:***

Family and friends of **Michael Krueger**, son of Bob and Patty Krueger, who died suddenly (Cheryl Huenecke)



## **6 SPECIAL EVENTS**

***Saturday, February 3, 2018***

***10 AM – 1 PM***

Meet and greet at Morgan Park our new  
Presbytery Executive, Rev. Sue Krummel,  
and our MC8 churches

***Sunday, February 4, 2018***

***(following the 10 AM Worship Service)***

***Souper Bowl Sunday***

***Fellowship Hall***

Come enjoy soup and fellowship with  
our HHPC Family!

***COST:***

***Eat-in . . . Donations accepted  
for scholarship fund***

***Take-out . . . \$2***

***Monday, February 12, 2018***

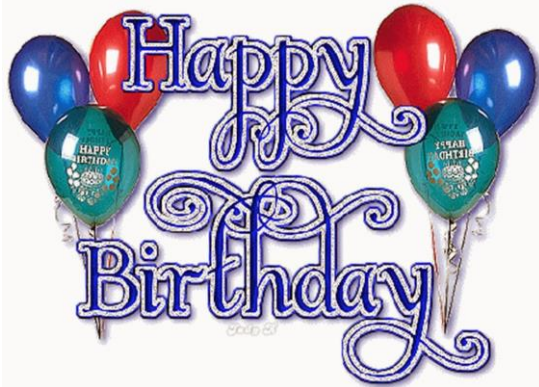
***Kids Club Valentine's Day Party***

***3:30 PM – 5 PM***

***Lenten luncheon starting Wednesday,  
February 14 at 12 noon.***

***There will be soup, salad and dessert  
for all to enjoy. Rick Vogl is leading.***





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

- February**
- 1 Josh Krueger
  - 5 Scott Zimmerman
  - 5 Sam Swearingen
  - 5 Mike Swearingen
  - 7 Julie Witek
  - 17 Barbara Brown
  - 18 Amy Simone
  - 20 Alyssia Kommenich
  - 22 Chris Pilgrim
  - 25 Austin McKinney
  - 27 Shirley Dragas
  - 27 Rick Vogl
  - 28 Ryan Brandt
  - 28 Sandy Beal
  - 28 Kevin Lorenz

**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](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)**

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

**Phone: 708-598-3100  
E-mail: [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)**



## **A BIRTHDAY WISH FOR YOU**

May your spirit reach new heights  
As freely as a butterfly's wings.  
May your heart be filled with joy  
The profound joy of simple things.

May your journey continue in peace,  
As serene as morning dew.  
May only roses line your path  
This is a birthday wish for you.

# 8

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

### WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

It is a way Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (USA), no matter the size of their churches.

Per capita contributions are:

- requested from every congregation; and,
- based on each church's total active membership.

### PER CAPITA HELPS CHURCHES

Through per capita, Presbytery of Chicago churches:

- help congregations with pastoral transitions;
- train and support interim ministers;
- resolve congregational conflicts;
- care for ministers, Christian educators, and their families; and,
- help prepare people for service as ordained ministers.

**The per capita for 2018 is \$33.61 per member.**



# FEBRUARY 2018



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                            | Monday                                                                                                                                                       | Tuesday                                                              | Wednesday                                                                                         | Thursday                                                                               | Friday                                                              | Saturday                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |                                                                                                   | 1<br>Office Open<br>11:30 – 5:30 PM<br>4 PM TOPS<br>7 PM Yoga                          | 2<br>Office Closed                                                  | 3<br>10 AM – 1 PM<br>Meet & Greet at<br>Morgan Park |
| 4<br>9 AM Adult Class<br>10 AM Worship &<br>Youth Sunday<br>School followed by<br>Souper Bowl<br>Sunday<br>5 PM REV                                               | 5<br>Office closed<br>1 PM Women's<br>Bible Study<br>3:30 PM – 5 PM<br>Kids Club<br>7 PM Arab Men's<br>Prayer Group                                          | 6<br>Office open<br>11:30 AM – 5:30 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>Worship & Music | 7<br>Office Closed<br>9:30 AM<br>Prayer & Care                                                    | 8<br>Office Open<br>11:30 – 5:30 PM<br>4 PM TOPS<br>7 PM Yoga                          | 9<br>Office Closed<br>4 PM – 6 PM<br>Arab<br>Women's<br>Fellowship  | 10                                                  |
| 11<br>9 AM Adult Class<br>10 AM Worship &<br>Youth Sunday<br>School<br>11:15 AM<br>Fellowship & Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry<br>5 PM REV<br>NEWSLETTER<br>CONTENT DUE | 12<br>Office closed<br>1 PM Women's<br>Bible Study<br>3:30 PM - 5 PM<br>Kids Club<br>Valentine's Party<br>7 PM Arab Men's<br>Prayer Group<br>7:30 PM Session | 13<br>Office open<br>11:30 AM – 5:30 PM                              | 14<br>Office Closed<br>9:30 AM<br>Prayer & Care<br>12 Noon<br>ASH<br>WEDNESDAY<br>LENT<br>PROGRAM | 15<br>Office Open<br>11:30 – 5 30 PM<br>4 PM TOPS<br>7 PM Yoga                         | 16<br>Office Closed                                                 | 17                                                  |
| 18<br>9 AM Adult Class<br>10 AM Worship &<br>Youth Sunday<br>School<br>11:15 AM<br>Fellowship, Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry &<br>Missions<br>5 PM REV                 | 19<br>Office closed<br>1 PM Women's<br>Bible Study<br>3:30 PM - 5:00 PM<br>Kids Club<br>7 PM Arab Men's<br>Prayer Group                                      | 20<br>Office open<br>11:30 AM – 5:30 PM                              | 21<br>Office Closed<br>9:30 AM<br>Prayer & Care<br>12 NOON<br>LENT<br>PROGRAM                     | 22<br>Office Open<br>11:30 – 5:30 PM<br>4 PM TOPS<br>7 PM Yoga<br>NEWSLETTER<br>MAILED | 23<br>Office Closed<br>4 PM – 6 PM<br>Arab<br>Women's<br>Fellowship | 24<br>10 AM<br>Evelyn's Card<br>Workshop            |
| 25<br>9 AM Adult Class<br>10 AM Worship &<br>Youth Sunday<br>School<br>11:15 AM<br>Fellowship & Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry<br>5 PM REV                              | 26<br>Office closed<br>1 PM Women's<br>Bible Study<br>3:30 PM – 5 PM<br>Kids Club<br>7 PM Arab Men's<br>Prayer Group<br>7:30 PM Deacons                      | 27<br>Office open<br>11:30 AM – 5:30 PM                              | 28<br>Office Closed<br>9:30 AM<br>Prayer & Care<br>12 NOON<br>LENT<br>PROGRAM                     |                                                                                        |                                                                     |                                                     |

NOTE: The most updated calendar of events at HHC can be found on our new website at [www.hickoryhills.pres.org/news-events/](http://www.hickoryhills.pres.org/news-events/)

# “The Connecting Link”

Here's the February 2018 issue of



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