

INSIDE

Reflections	2
Kids Club	3
Christian Education	4
Prayer and Care	5
Mission / MC8	6
Special Events	7
Birthdays	8
What You Should Know	9
Regularly-scheduled Meetings	10
Calendar	11



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

APRIL 2018

READINGS, SUNDAY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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. Group meetings and special events being held on these Sundays are also shown below.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 (Easter Sunday)

Readings: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18, Mark 16:1-8

9:00 AM Easter Breakfast
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, APRIL 8 (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Readings: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 113, 1 John 1:1-2;2, John 20:19-31

9:00 AM Adult Class
10:00 AM Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Outreach/Comm./Website
5:00 PM REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Readings: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-48

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, APRIL 22 (4th Sunday of Easter)

Readings: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 (5th Sunday of Easter)

Readings: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

3:00 PM One Congregation, One Service and
"Get to Know Your Deacon"
4:00 PM Fellowship

**SPECIAL EVENT
SUNDAY, APRIL 29!**

**"One Congregation, One Service"
and "Get to Know Your Deacon"**

(See page 7 for details.)



**9:00 AM Adult Study
(all year round)**

**10:00 AM Traditional Worship with
Youth Sunday School
(for ages 3 through high
school)**

**5:00 PM REV Contemporary
Worship Service**

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 voicemail. Due to federal privacy regulations, the hospitals never call the church, even if they ask for your church membership information.

“SPRING CLEANING” OUR SPIRITS

While you're cleaning out closets and sweeping under the furniture this spring, think about this. Spring cleaning, while worth the effort, will only last for a season, but spiritual cleaning lasts forever. So, don't just dust behind those book shelves, get ready for a real spiritual spring cleanup.

CLEANSE YOUR HEART - GET SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY

Draw close to God and allow Him into your heart through prayer and meditation so that your cleaning can begin. This is the first step. Drawing near to God will help make the spring cleaning a lot easier.



CLEAN UP THE WORDS THAT YOU SAY - DEEP CLEAN INSIDE AND OUT

Spiritual cleaning requires deep cleaning, inside and out. It is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. Negative talk and pessimistic thoughts that are not pleasing to God or to others will be swept away. Include in this cleaning a desire to stop complaining—try to find the positive in everything as much as you can. As your heart gets clean, joy will fill your spirit and the words you speak internally to yourself and outwardly to others will be positive, gentle and kind.

RENEW YOUR MIND - TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE

This is one of the biggest areas of struggle for most of us--removing the garbage from our minds. Garbage “in” equals garbage “out.” We must feed our minds and spirits with the Word of God instead of the “garbage” that fills our thoughts and minds from the outside world.

FORGIVE - CLEAN OUT YOUR SPIRITUAL CLOSETS

Hidden issues that are in your heart can affect your joy, your peace of mind, and even your health. If you are dealing with a difficult situation which is causing you any anger, stress or resentment, talk to someone, reach out for help. When you do, God will speak to you through these people and, in turn, will help resolve the issue you are dealing with and bring back your joy and peace of mind. When your spiritual closets are clean, you will feel better spiritually and physically as the heaviness is lifted.

RELEASE UNFORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS - GET RID OF THE “OLD STUFF”

Any bad feelings will weigh you down, and long-kept grudges and bitterness are like the old, unused and unnecessary “stuff” in your attic that you just can't seem to part with. You may have become so familiar with the stuff being stashed away that you don't even realize how it is hindering your life.

INVOLVE JESUS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE - LET THE “SON” SHINE IN

What Jesus asks most from you is a relationship, a friendship. He wants to be involved in the big and small moments of your life. Open your life, let the light of His presence shine into every part, and you'll have no need for a yearly spiritual cleaning. Instead you'll now experience daily, moment-to-moment refreshing of your spirit.

LEARN TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF AND AT LIFE

Some of us take life too seriously, or we take ourselves too seriously. God wants you to enjoy yourself and learn to have some fun.



SPRING IS HERE!

NOTE: The last day of Kids Club for this school year is Monday, May 7. We hope you will be with us for the next few weeks and share the fun and learning at 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.

WHAT'S NEW AT KIDS CLUB



We know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him." (Romans 8:28)

As we look ahead, our learning time during April will center on the following topics:

- **Following Jesus' Example** – John baptizes Jesus.
- **Working Hard** – We take responsibility for our choices.
- **Feeling Anxious** – God cares for us.
- **Choosing Media Wisely** – While studying the story of Mary and Martha, we learn ways of choosing how to spend our time.
- **Feeling Lonely** – We learn to seek God's comfort through prayer.

One of the highlights during March was celebrating St. Patrick's Day. One of Kids Club favorite and long-standing traditions is making "Shamrock Shakes." The adults and kids alike always enjoy making these shakes every year. But the best part is tasting their delicious creations!

*Peace and Joy,
Dianne*

Congratulations, McKenzie!

McKenzie is the winner of our Snicker Balance Contest for the month of March.

Have you tried this game? How many Snickers can you balance on a candy bar that is being held in your mouth? It is a challenge, but one that you might enjoy.

Praying for our children and grandchildren from head to toe

Pray for their Mind. —Pray that your children would earnestly seek wisdom and understanding; that they would value knowledge and judgment and that their thoughts would stay centered on God's Word.

Pray for their Eyes. —Ask God to guard your children's eyes and protect their innocence. Pray that they would focus their attention on doing what is right.

Pray for their Ears. —Pray that your children would be quick to hear and obey and that they would incline their ears to listen to instruction.

Pray for their Mouth. —Ask God to keep the words that come out of their mouth pleasing to God and others and their lips from telling lies. Pray that all their words would be pleasing to God and others.

Pray for their Heart. —Ask God to give your children a happy, cheerful heart. Pray that they would come to faith early and trust God easily and completely.

Pray for their Hands. —Pray that they would be diligent in their work and that their hands not be idle, but that God would bless and establish the work of their hands.

Pray for their Legs. — Pray that your children would walk in the right direction always and that they'd find wise and godly companions to walk with on their journey.

Pray for their Feet. —Ask God to direct their steps, and to protect them from stumbling.



4 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our **Souper Sunday** held in February was a great success with everyone enjoying a great afternoon of faith and fellowship.

We thank the 12 people who supplied soup for the event. There's only one way to describe the soups we enjoyed—DELICIOUS!

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, \$70 was collected for the scholarship fund.

And still another thanks to Debbie and Mike and their team for setting up and taking down the table and chairs.

Sunday, April 1 will be the Easter Breakfast. Look for the donation sign-up sheets on the tables in the foyer both upstairs and downstairs. Monetary donations are also being accepted.

Breakfast will be served at 9 AM just before the 10 AM worship service. Don't be late since this delicious breakfast will be served for one hour.

Thank you in advance to the cooks, Dan, Scott and Stan and to the students and young adults who have volunteered to be servers for the guests.

Also, be sure to stay for the worship service. Children will be asked to stay in the Sanctuary for worship.

On **May 20 at the 10 AM worship service**, we will recognize those who have helped organize, decorate, teach, etc. during the 2017-2018 programs.

The education programs here at HHPC would not be possible without these wonderful and caring people who dedicate their time and talents.

If you are not familiar with the extent of the participation within our congregation, this will be an eye opener.

After much debate, the **Mother's Day Bake Sale** will be held on Sunday, May 13 after the 10 AM worship service.

There will be cookies, cupcakes, whole cakes and cake slices for sale. Cookies will be \$6.00 a pound.

It's a great opportunity to present these delicious baked goods to your loved ones. And, of course, mom would probably enjoy something sweet on her special day too, especially if she didn't have to do the baking! Hope to see you there!



COMING SOON! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HHPC will once again offer Vacation Bible School, a wonderful summer learning and fun experience for kids in June. More information will be made available soon.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: "SHARING AT THE TABLE"

We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1Thessalonians 1:2-3 RSV)

We finished the letter of Paul to the Colossians written to counteract some erroneous and dangerous teaching. Paul proclaimed Jesus Christ as the only Savior of all things as He is the image of the invisible God.

After devotion and prayer, we began discussing heaven, hell, body and soul before our prayer requests and treat.

You don't even have to bring a Bible. We have enough of the Good Books for all!

**COME AND JOIN US
MONDAYS – 1:00 PM
BACK ROOM, DOWNSTAIRS**

**Please continue to pray for those listed on
"Prayer Requests" from your home on
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM until further notice.**

Prayer is what disciples do.



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, Don & Carol (Ivy), Erik's son, Dave & Dar, Leah (Karen), Diane's great nephew Colton & sister Lynn, Cheryl H, Gail (Ar), Michelle (Mel), Stephanie (Katie), Kyle W, Adeline, Sean, Jackie (Ivy), Aunt Jane & Bob, Jr. (Gordon), Savannah (Dave and Darlene Delaney's granddaughter), Lieutenant Clint Sanders of Roberts Park Fire Protection District (Karen Golema), Lorrie Cunningham (Ar), Julie Witek, Ella (Lorrie), Marge (Bernie), Cindy T, David (Laura V's son), Scarlet (Deb), Cliff (Patt)

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

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, and Gracie, 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), John (Grace's son), Lisa (Bernie's friend), Pat (Sandy), Justin (Ar), Joanne (Barb), Baby Connor (Kim)

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, Eastern states in our country, fallen Miami Bridge victims, Manila Hotel Fire, Capsized boat in Athens, Nigerian women

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, 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), Salvino (Debbie)

We pray for those who mourn: For victims and their families affected by violence. Family and friends of Denise Dean who died recently (Shirley D). Friends and family in Austin, TX affected by the bomb explosion.

We praise God for Dar Delaney's grandson who now will go to Detroit, Michigan, for World Robotics Competition, and for Grace's 16-year-old grandson who is a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout.

6 MISSION / MC8

DAKOTA PARTNERSHIP

DAKOTA PARTNERSHIP 2018 "GO AND SERVE" SISSETON, SOUTH DAKOTA JUNE 23-29, 2018

For anyone considering serving on this mission trip, volunteer team members are needed for:

- VBS
- Cook Team
- Construction and repair work on churches on the reservations
- Work project teams

For more information, contact:

Mike Loftus
The Dakota Partnership Ltd.
PO Box 569
Naperville, IL 60566-0569
Tel: 630-294-1429
E-mail: Loftus51@comcast.net

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HHPC supports the goal of Mission Council 8 to raise \$4,000 to donate toward a semi-truck full of fresh produce that is distributed to the local Native American community.

Individual donations (checks written to Mission Council 8) can be given to Melanie Swindle, MC8 Treasurer.

SWIM SUITS AND TOWELS NEEDED

Donations of swim suits and towels are needed for Dakota Mission's Vacation Bible School (VBS) trips to the public pool. Swim suits are needed for youth of all ages and all sizes. Please bring these donations to church by Memorial Day weekend, May 27.

OTHER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** enables our church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Our congregation is blessed to take our OGH offering on Easter Sunday.

Thank you for your donations!

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BEDS PLUS PROGRAM

Faith United Presbyterian Church in Tinley Park has asked us to help support their BEDS Plus program. They are in need of toiletries in order to support homeless individuals and families to come in from the cold and get back on their feet. You will find a collection box in the Narthex.

**Thank you for saving your
bottle caps. We're on our way
to making a park bench!**





**EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST
APRIL 1, 2018
9:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

- Delicious food
- Activities
- Fellowship

3-WEEK SERMON SERIES

Charlie Smith will preach a 3-week sermon series at REV beginning Sunday, April 8.

Recommended reading is *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29 - 4:00 PM
CROP Hunger Walk at Olympia Fields
United Methodist Church**
(See HHPC bulletin board for details)



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!
HPPC ANNUAL YARD SALE
MAY 17-19, 2018**

Watch for further details in upcoming bulletins and the May newsletter.

**ONE CONGREGATION,
ONE SERVICE
SUNDAY, APRIL 29
3:00 PM**

As has been our growing tradition during months with five Sundays, both regular worship services will be canceled on April 29, and replaced with a time of joint worship at 3:00 p.m. Again this time, the structure/liturgy and music of the service will be a blend between the traditional Morning Worship and contemporary REV Worship services.

Following worship will be a special time of fellowship where you can Get To Know Your Deacon.



"GET TO KNOW YOUR DEACON"

Do you know who your deacon is? Whether or not you know who they are, if you're a member of the church or attend worship regularly, you have a deacon.

The Board of Deacons has planned a time of fellowship on April 29 (a fifth-Sunday) following the 3:00 p.m. blended worship service.

So whether you have no idea who your deacon is (or what a deacon even does) or talk with your deacon on a regular basis, or anywhere in between, we'd love to take this special time to get to know you better.

If you don't know who your deacon is, we'll help you find out. And if, by chance, you don't have a deacon, we'll make sure you get one that afternoon.

Light finger food will be provided. Families are welcome to bring a dessert to share.

We look forward to spending time with you in this way. Hope to see you all there!

WHAT: "Get to Know Your Deacon"
WHERE: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
WHEN: Sunday, April 29, 2018
3:00 PM Worship
4:00 PM Fellowship

8 BIRTHDAYS



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

April	6	Evelyn Garlic
	8	Grace Muszynski
	10	Josh Treccani
	10	Tucker Treccani
	12	Kyle Krueger
	14	Kelly Bredlau
	17	Eva Mason
	20	David Krueger
	24	Michael Dragas
	25	Stacy Flynn-Brenz

**“It takes
a long time
to grow young”
(Pablo Picasso)**

Enjoy the journey.



**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**

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

**Phone:
708-598-3100**

**E-mail:
hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org**

ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

Send prayer requests online through our 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.



HHPC Pulpit Supply Preachers for the Month of April

Shown below are the pulpit supply preachers who will conduct our morning worship services for the month of April, unless noted otherwise:

April 1 and REV	Rev. Liz Hulford
April 8	Rev. Liz Hulford
April 15	(To be determined)
April 22	Rev. Kathleen McKenzie
April 29, 3:00 PM	(To be determined)
<i>(One Congregation, One Service)</i>	

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.



HICKORY HILLS SERTOMA CLUB: A community connection

They are men and women just like you. From all walks of life, occupations, religious backgrounds, as well as ethnic backgrounds. Good people working hard to support disadvantaged individuals and giving back to the community. We have meetings twice a month, pay some dues, go to dinners and dances, golf outings, and conventions, just to name a few.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month for dinner at Mama Luigi's on 74th and Harlem. We have our business meeting at the Hickory Hills Senior Center on the third Tuesday of each month.

The club is always looking for interested individuals 18 years and older to help us service our community.

If you are interested in helping out with our fundraisers or joining our club, please contact us at info@hickoryhillssertoma.com or call Jerry at 630-215-3250.

10 REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

Adult Education (Year-round)
9:00 AM - Library

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Sept-May)
11:15 AM – Back Room, Downstairs

First Sundays
Christian Education
11:15 AM – Library

Second Sundays
Outreach/Communications/Website
11:15 AM – Junior High Classroom

Third Sundays
Missions
11:15 AM – Fellowship Hall

MONDAYS

Women's Bible Study (September–May)
1:00 PM – Back Room, Downstairs

Kids Club (during the school year)
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM - Whole Lower Level

Arab Men's Prayer Group
7:00 PM - Library
Meets most weeks

Second Mondays
Session
7:30 PM - Junior/Senior High Room

Fourth Mondays
Deacons
7:30 PM - Back Room, Downstairs

TUESDAYS

Office Open
11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

First Tuesdays
Worship and Music
7:00 PM – Library

Fourth Tuesdays
Newsletters prepared for mailing
10:00 AM - Junior High Room

WEDNESDAYS

Prayer and Care
9:30 AM – Library

Stampers
10:00 AM – Downstairs Knitting Room
(Dates scheduled by participants)

THURSDAYS

Office Open
11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)
4:00 PM – Back Room, Downstairs

Gentle Yoga
7:00 PM – Gym

FRIDAYS

Second and Fourth Fridays
Arab Women's Fellowship
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

APRIL 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:00 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 PM – REV HAPPY EASTER!	2 1:00 PM – Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Kids Club	3 11:30 AM – Office open 7:00 PM - Worship + Music	4 9:30 AM – Prayer & Care (in our homes)	5 11:30 AM - Office Open 4:00 PM Tops 7:00 PM - Yoga	6	7
8 9:00 AM – Adult Education 10:00 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Comm/Website	9 1:00 PM – Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Kids Club 7:30 PM – Session	10 11:30 AM – Office open	11 9:30 AM – Prayer & Care (in our homes)	12 11:30 AM – Office open 4:00 PM – TOPS 7:00 PM – Yoga	13 4:00 PM Arab Women’s Fellowship	14
15 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions	16 1:00 PM – Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Kids Club NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	17 11:30 AM – Office open	18 9:30 AM – Prayer & Care (in our homes)	19 11:30 AM – Office open 4:00 PM – TOPS 7:00 PM – Yoga	20	21
22 9:00 AM Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM – REV	23 1:00 PM – Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Kids Club 7:00 PM –Deacons	24 11:30 AM – Office open 10 AM NEWSLETTERS MAILED	25 9:30 AM – Prayer & Care (in our homes)	26 11:30 AM – Office open 4:00 PM – TOPS 7:00 PM – Yoga	27 4:00 PM Arab Women’s Fellowship	28
29 3:00 PM – One Congregation, One Service 4:00 PM – “Get to Know Your Deacon” & Fellowship 4:00 PM – CROP Hunger Walk (Olympia Fields)	30 1:00 PM – Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Kids Club					

NOTE: The most updated calendar of events at HHPC can be found on our new website at www.hickoryhills.pres.org/news-events/

“The Connecting Link”

Here's the April 2018 issue of



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