

INSIDE



Note: See page 7 for pulpit supply preachers who will conduct worship services in March.

Experience Lent



Prayer Reflection Sacrifice Love

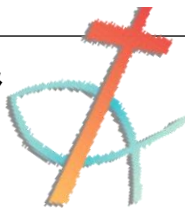
The Connecting Link

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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

MARCH 2018

WORSHIP SERVICES, READINGS & SUNDAY 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, MARCH 4 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Readings:	Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
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, MARCH 11 (4th Sunday in Lent)

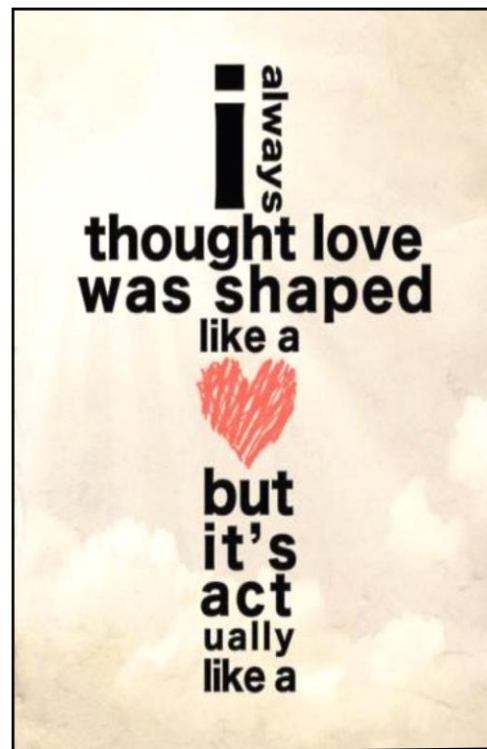
Readings:	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Outreach/Comm./Website
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 (5TH Sunday in Lent)

Readings:	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
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, MARCH 25 (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Readings:	Palm: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
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



HHPC Wednesday Lenten Series Continues

Join Rick Vogl and HHPC friends for soup, salad and scripture every Wednesday at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall through Wednesday, March 25.

Lent is an opportunity to reflect on your life in Christ.

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.

2 REFLECTIONS

Meditations on Jesus' Last Words

FIRST WORDS (FORGIVENESS)
*"Father, forgive them
for they know not what they do."*

Prayer:

Jesus, when You looked down from the cross and saw the terrible eyes of your enemies, those who had beaten You, laughed at You, cursed at You, watching and waiting for You to die, You still could see the love Your Father had for them, and You asked that they be forgiven. Lord, when I need to forgive someone, let me not be blinded by pain and anger so much that I can no longer love them.

Reflection: Is there someone in my life I need to forgive?

SECOND WORDS (REPENTANCE)
*"Today, you will be with me
in Paradise."*

Prayer:

Jesus, when those You loved wished to crush all hope from You, leaving You hanging on the cross in misery and despair, You offered hope to the one crucified beside You. Jesus, give me hope beyond all hope so that I may share it with those who are filled with misery, sadness, or loneliness. And one day when my time is near, let me take Your hand and enter into Paradise.

Reflection: Is there someone that I can share hope with today?

THIRD WORDS (INTERCESSION)
"Woman, here is your Son."

Prayer:

Jesus, I see Your mother at the foot of the cross and it engages my heart. I see that You are no longer only the Savior who died for my sins and the sins of the world, but You were also a man, fully human, a Son with a mother. Your unflinching love for Your mother is shown as you entrusted her to the care of your disciple John. And even as you were dying, Your mother was Your first intention.

Reflection: What feelings does Jesus' mother's presence under the cross stir up in my heart?

FOURTH WORDS (HEALING)
*"My God, My God,
why have You forsaken me?"*

Prayer:

Jesus, Your Father's love was Your only reason for living, for loving. As life poured out of You, You felt abandoned by that love. There was only silence, when once you heard a voice saying, "You are my beloved Son." And yet you prayed, You offered all that was left to You-- the emptiness that had gripped Your heart. Lord Jesus, let me enter more deeply into Your love. Let me understand that I cannot give without receiving nor receive without giving. Help me to understand that You were abandoned so that I might not be.

Reflection: Do I take time to consider that Jesus was abandoned by the Father so that I might not be abandoned?

FIFTH WORDS
"I am thirsty!"

Prayer:

Jesus, besides this extraordinary physical pain, you also experienced extreme thirst. As I think of your words "I am thirsty," I hear the cry of my own heart, but not for a physical drink, but a spiritual one. I pray that You quench my thirst with Your Presence in my life.

Reflection: Reflect on your thirst for Jesus in your life.

SIXTH WORDS (TRUST)
"It is finished!"

Prayer:

Jesus, how can I ever find words to express my gratitude to You. You did it. You finished that for which You had been sent. You were faithful in life and faithful in death. You accomplished that which no other person could ever do-- taking the sin of the world upon Your

shoulders, taking my sin so that I might receive Your forgiveness. All praise to you, Lord Jesus, for finishing the work so that I might be saved.

Reflection: It is beyond comprehension to think that the crucifixion happened to somebody, and not just anybody, but to my Lord and Savior. Have I expressed my gratitude to Jesus for dying for me?

SEVENTH WORDS (PERSEVERANCE)
*"Father, into Your Hands
I commend my spirit!"*

Prayer:

Jesus, how good it is to know that the cross was not the end for You. As you entrusted Your spirit into Your Father's hands, You did so in anticipation of what was to come. So, I reflect upon Your death, not in despair, but in hope. Hope that one day I, too, shall commend my spirit into Your Hands.

Reflection: Have I put my life into God's hands?

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IT WAS
LOVE
NOT NAILS
THAT KEPT
JESUS
ON THE
CROSS





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?

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
John 13:34

The recent snow fall did not keep the kids away from our Kids Club Valentine's Party. It was a day of fun and learning. In addition to our regular activities in the gym and other games, the kids made cards for the residents at the Hickory Hills Nursing Pavilion, enjoyed making and eating personal-size pizza, and, of course, shared in our weekly lesson. All in attendance left with helium filled heart shape balloons, Valentine Cards, and candy.

The winner of the Snicker Balance for January was Tamera F. Congratulations on your perfect attendance for the month.

Thank you to our Kids Club staff - Debbie, Grace, Linda, Nancy, and Shirley for volunteering their time and talents to the kids and this program.

Students ages 4 through grade 6 are welcome to join us on Mondays at Kids Club.

❤️ Peace and Joy, Dianne

Kids Club Celebrates Valentine's Day



Kids enjoys a day of fun at the annual Kids Club Valentine's party.

STUDY TIME



IN MARCH

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

Serving God. We discover the importance of using our talents and abilities to honor God.

Caring for My Family and Others. God wants us to love and respect others.

Worshiping God. What does it mean to worship?

Learning to Give. We learn that giving is more than money; it also means sharing time and talents.

Reflections by Arlene Pearson

*The LORD is close to everyone who prays to him,
to all who truly pray to him. Psalm 145:18 (NCV)*

I like the New Century version above which uses *pray* to him instead of **call** upon him.

*The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth. Psalm 145:18 (RSV)*

Is there a difference between pray and call? I think of the Lord's Prayer we share together every Sunday morning in church. Heaven, Hallowed, Kingdom, Thy will be done, etc.

We come to HHPC to honor and give glory to God by our worship. We praise him through Greg's heartfelt movement on the piano keys. When we sing carefully-chosen hymns, we are touched by God's hands. We listen to the message from the Bible lessons. The sermon, prayer-filled and sought, gives us what we need to hear. Thank you, Rev. Susan. We are transformed.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Sharing at the Table"



Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4-7 (RSV)

Paul writes a letter that two thousand years later is still known as the treatise on joy--Philippians--while he is in prison in Rome.

The beautiful snow-covered roads kept us from class for two weeks. When we met on February 12th, we felt Paul's joy. How appropriate since February 14th was Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday.

We look forward to the Lenten Worship Series for soup, salad and scripture. Thank you, Rick Vogl, for providing us with REHAB. And thank you, Greg Rolla, for providing accompaniment.

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, 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 (Diane)

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, 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), Marge (Bernie's friend), John (Grace's son); Lisa (Bernie's friend), Pat (Sandy), Justin (Ar)

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

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, 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 Alvin Swearingen, Sr. (father-in-law of Jean Swearingen) who died February 5. For the victims of all violence, including those killed in Parkland, Florida, and their families. Family and friends of Miss Luby who died last week. Family and friends of Cmdr. Paul Bauer who died last week. Family and friends of Denise Dean who died last week (Shirley D)



**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.**



PLAN TO ATTEND!

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

**Delicious food
Intergenerational activities
Fellowship**



**Wednesday Lenten
Worship Series**

Lent can be a time to seek restoration for our lives. It is a time to reflect, take stock of our spiritual condition, and realign our lives. There is much to mine from considering our Lenten journey this year within the frame of rehab, much to explore, much to learn.

Our mid-day Lenten series will start on Wednesday, February 14, at Noon and continue through Wednesday, March 21.

*Please join us for some soup, salad
and scripture.*



**CHECK OUT OUR
BULLETIN BOARD
FOR OTHER
CHURCH AND
COMMUNITY
EVENTS.**

- **Sat. 3/17/18 MC8 Meeting @ Pullman Pres.**
9 am-11 am 550 E 103rd St, Chicago, IL
- **Sat. 3/17/18 Dakota Partnership Dinner @ PCOP—Presbyterian Church of Orland Park**
13401 Wolf Rd, Orland Park, IL
- **Sat. 3/24/18 Recruiter Rally for Crop Walk**
10 AM to 11:15 AM @ Olympia Fields
United Methodist Church; corner of Joe Orr Rd. and Western Avenue, Olympia Fields

(See bulletin board for more details)

6 BIRTHDAYS



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

March	1	Hollie Fox
	2	Cooper Hueneke
	2	Jean DeForest
	2	Mike Monczynski
	2	Christopher Pearson
	4	Joyce McKinney
	5	Dave Barker
	5	Donna Bredlau
	11	Michael E. Dragas
	12	Lucy Manyenje
	14	Karl Haack
	14	Amanda Gulotta
	15	Danny Orsic
	16	Lizabeth Ramos
	16	Pat Lorenz
	16	Roy Hoffman
	18	Darlene Krueger
	22	Frank Esparza
	23	Victoria Pettis
	28	Jeanette Grisko

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

Ways to Have a Great Birthday

Be yourself.
Invoke new challenges.
Recall past triumphs.
Trust your instincts.
Have faith in your abilities.
Desire only the best.
Affirm your strengths.
You've got what it takes!



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW 7

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.



HHPC Pulpit Supply Preachers for the Month of March

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

March 4 and REV	Rev. Liz Hulford
March 11	Rev. Liz Hulford
March 18	(To be determined)
March 25	Rev. Emily Rosencrans

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.

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

First Tuesday in April

Polling Place (by arrangement)
Open 5:00 AM on election days;
close at 7:00 PM - Gym

Second Tuesday in November

Polling Place (by arrangement)
Open 5:00 AM on election days;
close at 7:00 PM - Gym

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



HHPC Ministries
at work for the
glory of God.

MARCH 2018

Experience Lent

Prayer Reflection Sacrifice Love

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11:30 AM Office Open 4:00 PM Tops 7:00 PM - Yoga	2	3
4 9:00 AM Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 PM – REV	5 1:00 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM - Kids Club 7:00 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group	6 11:30 AM - Office open 7:00 PM- Worship + Music	7 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care (in our homes) 12:00 Noon - Lenten Program	8 11:30 AM - Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	9 4:00 PM Arab Women’s Fellowship	10
11 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/Website 5:00 PM – REV	12 1:00 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM - Kids Club 7:00 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group 7:30 PM - Session	13 11:30 AM - Office open	14 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care (in our homes) 12:00 Noon - Lenten Program	15 11:30 AM - Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	16	17 9:00 AM MC8 Meeting Pullman Presbyterian 4:30 PM Dakota Partnership Dinner @ Pres. Church of Orland Park <i>(see bulletin for details)</i>
18 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM – REV	19 1:00 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM - Kids Club 7:00 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group	20 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Election Polling 11:30 AM - Office open	21 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care (in our homes) 12:00 Noon - Lenten Program	22 11:30 AM - Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	23 4:00 PM Arab Women’s Fellowship	24 10:00 AM – Evelyn’s Card Workshop 10 AM - Recruiter Rally for Drop Walk Olympia Fields Methodist Church <i>(see bulletin for details)</i>
25 9:00 AM Adult Education 10 AM – Traditional Worship 11:15 AM – Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM – REV	26 1:00 PM - Women’s Bible Study 3:30 PM - Kids Club 7:00 PM - Arab Men’s Prayer Group 7:00 PM - Board of Deacons	27 10 AM Newsletters prepared for mailing 11:30 AM - Office open	28 9:30 AM - Prayer & Care (in our homes)	29 11:30 AM - Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	30	31

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

“The Connecting Link”

Here's the March 2018 issue of



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