

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting Together to Worship and Praise Our God!



DECEMBER 2018

Worship With Us

SUNDAYS

10:00 A.M. (Traditional Worship) with
Youth Sunday School during the school year
for ages 3 through high school
5:00 P.M. (Contemporary Worship)

Contact Us

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

Visit Us Online

www.hickoryhillspres.org

Need a Hospital Visit?

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



A thousand times in history a baby becomes a king. But only once in history does a King become a baby.

Inside

<i>Worship Services, Readings for the Month,</i>	
<i>Regular Sunday Meetings</i>	2
<i>Kids Club</i>	3
<i>Christian Education</i>	4
<i>My Journey into the Cave: A Meditation</i>	5
<i>Prayer and Care, Women's Bible Study</i>	6
<i>Special Events</i>	7
<i>Birthdays</i>	8
<i>What You Should Know</i>	9
<i>List of Ongoing HPPC Meetings</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

2 The Connecting Link

Another Successful Year for HHPC Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Bazaar

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 3rd. Total sales were \$3,500, including 76 holiday baskets donated by Shirley Dragas (\$933).

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 2019 Holiday Craft and Vendor Bazaar.

Peace and Merry Christmas,
Sue Frangella & Grace Muszynski



NOTE:
Congregational Meeting Dec. 2 after 10:00 a.m. worship
See p. 9 for Christmas Eve worship times.

Worship Services, Readings and Regular Sunday Meetings

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, DECEMBER 2 (1st Sunday of Advent) - COMMUNION

Readings: Jer. 33:14-16; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:35-36

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship and Youth Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Readings: Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship and Youth Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/Website

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Readings: Zeph. 3:14-20; Isa. 12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship and Youth Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Readings: Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:47-55 or Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship and Youth Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 (1st Sunday After Christmas)

Readings: 1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; Ps. 148; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:00 p.m. REV Worship & Fellowship

Craft Bazaar Camera Roll





KIDS CLUB UPDATE

As always, November is a busy time for us here at Kids Club. Our younger kids were busy creating seasonal crafts, participating in games during gym time, cooking, lesson time with Linda, and preparing ornaments for our Christmas tree at Brookfield Zoo.

The Junior High kids enjoyed playing basketball during their gym time, followed by participation in small group activities such as computer games, checkers, Jenga, and more. Their discussion times continued upstairs in the Junior High classroom. This month their discussions and activities centered around team building and the importance of showing respect to everyone. This month the kids participated in the game, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, as they were treated to homemade chicken soup made by Debbie.

Thanks to Debbie and Nancy for their leadership.

Kids Club will not be in session on Monday, December 24 or Monday, December 31. We will resume on Monday, January 7.

To our Kids Club families, we wish you a blessed and happy holiday season.

Your Kids Club Staff,
Debbie, Grace, LeAnne, Linda, Mike,
Nancy, Shirley and Dianne

A CHRISTMAS “MADLIB” FOR KIDS

The *MadLibs* game has been around for years and is always a fun game to play with family and friends.

Shown below is a Christmas *MadLib* that you can print off and use for the kids this Christmas. (*Adults can also participate!*)

Directions: Have the kids choose a word for each part of speech stated and then have them fill in the blanks with their words. Afterwards, have them read their story out loud and enjoy the laughter that follows.



RUDOLPH

You know Dasher and _____ (*name*) and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and _____ (*name*) and Donner and Blitzen. But do you recall the most famous _____ (*animal*) of all?

Rudolph the _____ (*color*) nosed _____ (*animal*) had a very _____ (*adjective*) nose, and if you ever saw him you would even say it glows.

All of the other _____ (*animal-plural*) used to _____ (*verb*) and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph join in any _____ (*adjective*) games.

Then one _____ (*adjective, weather-related*) Christmas Eve, Santa came to say, Rudolph, with your _____ (*body part*) so bright—won't you guide my _____ (*noun*) tonight?

Then how the _____ (*animal-plural*) loved him, and they _____ (*verb, past tense*) out with glee. Rudolph the _____ (*color*) nosed _____ (*animal*), you'll go down in history.

Quick Tips

A **noun** is a person, place or thing (teacher, bag).

A **verb** is an action word (run, jump).

An **adverb** usually ends in “ly” and describes an action (quickly, slowly).

An **adjective** describes a person, place, or thing (fuzzy, silly).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Learn. Grow. Proclaim. Serve.

A Family Christmas Tree Blessing



Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises.

May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may joy and peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

Merry Christmas to our HHPC family from the Christian Education Ministry.



HHPC Tree at Brookfield Zoo

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit our decorated Christmas tree at Brookfield Zoo's *Holiday Magic*. The tree is #110 and located on the East Mall, between Roosevelt Fountain and BZ Red Hots Restaurant. **Holiday Magic is held Saturdays and Sundays, December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 and Wednesday - Monday, December 26-31.**

Special thanks to the generous person who sponsors this tree each year for our kids. We are blessed to have this opportunity.

~ ~ ~



MY JOURNEY INTO THE CAVE

The following is a meditation that can be done alone or with others. Go through it slowly, pause as needed, and let God's spirit lead you to a place of comfort and joy.

I am still and settle into prayer. I consciously take several deep breaths, each one slower and deeper than the one before.

As much as possible I lay aside the things that preoccupy my mind and distract me. I want to become aware of God, who is present to me at this very moment.

In my imagination I see a small Middle Eastern town on a hilltop, crowded with people who are bustling about and tending to important business. Some people are eating or drinking...others are talking on the streets...while others are buying or selling in the marketplace. I notice the seriousness with which these people are tending to their affairs. The rush of activity is obvious.

I allow my gaze to move outside the confines of the little town down a hillside, to a small grotto dug into the earth.

It is the kind of place created to shelter animals from the elements of weather, but in this shallow "cave" are a man and woman, along with several animals. I take a moment to let my mind shape this scene for me.

The young woman is in labor and the man is assisting her with childbirth. I let my imagination fill in the details of the scene...what happens as the baby is born...what is spoken ...where I am in the cave.

Perhaps I talk to this holy family, or just stand aside and watch, or maybe I take the place of one of the animals. I ask God to help me understand the significance of this event of which I am a part. I stay with this scene along with the family in the hillside cave as long as I am able.

At some point I realize that there is also a cave in my heart. It may seem as if I live most of my life on the streets of activity and in the marketplaces of busyness, but there is within my heart a cave.

This cave is an interior space where the really important things in my life are conceived and given birth. Conception and birth do not happen on busy street corners, but in the privacy and hiddenness of the cave. And now I notice where that cave is within me.

I may find that much of my life is spent on busy streets and in crowded marketplaces. How might I ask God to help me spend more time in the cave? If I can ask God for more "cave time," what might God say back to me?

Then I ask God to help me see what is being conceived in my heart ...what is being brought to birth within that cave of my heart. I ask God for the grace to find a life-giving rhythm that includes time in this quiet, interior cave...and time on the streets engaging in daily life, people and events. I talk to God about both the busy streets of my life and the hidden cave of my heart. I make this my prayer.

When I feel that my prayer is complete, I say *The Lord's Prayer* as a way of bringing this time to an end.



THE PRESENCE THE Promise THE POWER



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Sharing at the Table"

For I have derived much joy and comfort from our love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. --Philemon 1:7 (RSV)

The shortest of all Paul's letters is the most personal in tone. Philemon was converted under Paul's ministry. The church met in Philemon's home the same way our Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church began. Onesimus was a slave who ran away from Philemon and Paul writes his friend to receive him back, no longer merely as a slave, but as a brother in Christ. As this letter has but one chapter, may I suggest you read it.

Our next class will begin the letter to the Hebrews.

From Us to You, Merry Christmas and Blessings!



WE LIFT IN PRAYER

Please continue to pray for those listed below from your home on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. until further notice.

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns.

Five-year old **Abigail** (Bob N); **Aurora** (Dave B); **Barb M**; **Bob D**; **Brian** (Shirley D's friend's son); **Bruce** (Jeni); **Cliff** (Patt); **Colton** (Diane's great nephew); **Lieutenant Clint Sanders** of Roberts Park Fire Protection District (Karen G); **Don & Carol** (Ivy); **Eleanor Watson**; **Ella** (Lorrie); **Erik's son**; **Francine**; **Gail** (Ar); **Gert**; **Grace's child** (Beth); **Jean Somerstorfer**; **Jerry & Joan Panko**; **Julie Witek**; **Kailie** (Karen G); **Katey** (Shirley D & Karen G); **Kevin**; **Kyle W**; **Leah** (Karen); **Linda** (Marcia); **Lori T** (Grace); **Lorrie Cunningham**; **Lucy D & Tom**; **Lynn** (Diane's sister); **Mary Orr**; **Michael**; **Michelle** (Mel); **Natalie** (Bernie); **Pat P** (Shirley D); **Pete** (Angie); **Robbie** (Gert); **Ron** (Greg); **Rosie** (Dave B); **Roy**; **Sawyer**; **Sean**; **Shannon**; **Shirleen** (Shirley D's sister); **Stephanie** (Katie); **Susie** (Karen G); **Virginia** (Karen G)

We pray for those in need of strength.

Allison & two children (Theresa); **Annette & Kristina** (Adeline); **Billy**; **Bob** (Jen's friend); **Danny**; **Dave** Johnsen; **Debbie** Vaughn; son **Greg**; **Janet** (Barb); **Lori** (Debbie); **Patti** (Jeni's sister); **Randy** (Susan's cousin); **Raymond** (Diane); **Rhiannon & Jim** (Charley); **Rick & his dad, Dick**; **Sean** (Ar); **Shirley** (Donna's sister); **Theresa & her niece Beth**; **Tom**; **Wanda** (Jeni's mom)

We pray for those in need of strength and healing or with health concerns.

Six-year old **Addy & Grandma Barb** (Karen H); **Carol S** (Ar); the entire **Cassiello** family; **Ciaron** Conway (REV); **Don**; **Cindy & Alexandria** (Debbie); **Dan** Ciametti; **Donna** (Karen H); **Eva M**; **Gene** (Grace); **Gina & grandson Brian** (Grace); **Jack M & wife**; **Jan** (Jeni); **Jeana** (Ar); **Judy** (Bernie); **Kathy** (Bernie); Donna's friend **Ken**; **Laura A**; **Lori & her mom**; **Judy**; **Mato**; **Michelle**; **Pat Z** (Shirley D); **Ramon & Laura**; Ar's brother **Richie**, brother-in-law **Howie & sister Gerry & Gracie**; **Rindi** (Shirley D); **Robert**, Hollie's grandpa (Evelyn); **Shirley A**; **Uncle Tony** (Mary Ann); **Vince** (Bernie)

We pray for groups.

All leaders in authority; 82 kidnapped from school; Israel; Nigerian women; our children and youth ministry; our country's divisions; our enemies; people of other faiths; fires in Paradise, CA and other affected areas; persecuted Christians; policemen and firemen; Syria; those affected by natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes)

We pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances.

Becky (Karen G); **Bob & family** (Jeni); **Darlene K**; **Dave & Debra**; **David & Kiera** for direction (Laura V); **Debi & Chris** for direction (Laura V); **Gerry, Olivia, Holly & Megan** (Toni); **Gloria** (Laura V); **Jennifer Del Prete**; **Jimmie** for comfort and strength; **Karen** for guidance and strength (Debbie); **Karl** Haack in the Marines; **Lorre** (Evelyn); **Mark** Gulotta in the Marines; **Matt**; **Michelle** (Grace); **Mike** (Roy's brother); **Rachel & Juan**; **Rellinger family** (Karen); **Salvino** (Debbie); **Samera**; **Tanya** (Evelyn)

We pray for those who mourn.

Family and friends of **Julie Lakus** who died October 29; for victims and their families affected by violence in Chicago

We praise God for leading us. God is in control!



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 16, 2018

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1:00 P.M.

Holiday entertainment will be provided.

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

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

~ ~ ~

RSVP Requested Questions? Call Dianne Flynn 708-598-3100



MORGAN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS THEIR 16TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF

HANDEL'S MESSIAH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 3:30 PM

2017 WEST 110TH PLACE, CHICAGO

Adults \$20, Seniors & Students \$15, Children under 10 free

For tickets, call the church office at 773-779-3355 or purchase online at morganparkpres.org/messiah

(See HHPC bulletin board for additional information.)

"BREAKFAST WITH SANTA"



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

JONES CENTER

220 EAST 15TH STREET

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

708-757-5395



HHPC FAMILY/FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

10:00 AM - Worship Service/Program

11:00 AM - Potluck (sign up available)

11:30 AM - Crafts

Please join us for some fun, food and fellowship!



SERTOMA CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 23 HHPC EAST PARKING LOT

CHRISTMAS GIGGLES



happy birthday

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthdays in December. We ask God's blessings on each of them on their special day and all year through.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Darlene Delaney | 16 Gina Ciametti |
| 1 Melanie Swindle | 16 Greg Nirtaut |
| 5 Dawn Morgucz | 18 Riley McKinney |
| 5 Tristan Grisko | 19 Steven Beal |
| 12 Tom Trecanni | 20 Natasha Swindle |
| 12 Bryan Ambrosat | 25 Natalie Orsci |
| 15 Gabriel Meyer | 29 Laverne MocarSKI |
| 16 Jayden Kenealy | 31 Carla Zabelka |



If you should notice any omissions or errors on the birthday list, please report them to the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Any content you would like published in the HNPC monthly newsletter should be submitted by the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Please e-mail your submissions to: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org or drop them at the church office.

**IF YOU HAVE SOME NEWS TO SHARE,
SHARE IT IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!**



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

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



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 them to “Prayer and Care” if designated as such.



HHPC Pulpit Supply Preachers for the Month of December

Shown below are the pulpit supply preachers who will conduct our worship services during the month of December.

Sunday, December 2
Rev. Emily Rosencrans (10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, December 9
Rev. Emily Rosencrans (10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, December 16
Rev. Zach Pryor (10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, December 23 (10:00 a.m.)
Rev. Emily Rosencrans

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.)
Rev. Emily Rosencrans (4:00 p.m. only)

Sunday, December 30 - 5th Sunday – (5:00 p.m. only)
One Congregation, One Service

WHAT IS PER CAPITA AND HOW DOES IT HELP CHURCHES?

Per capita 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.

Through per capita, Presbytery of Chicago churches:

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

PER CAPITA FOR 2018 IS \$33.61 PER MEMBER



HHPC Ministries and Groups at Work for the Glory of God

Shown below are the ministries and groups that currently meet at HHPC.

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
Deadline for Newsletter Content

MONDAYS

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

Kids Club (During the school year)
3:30 PM – 5:00 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

Board of 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
(Currently from our homes at 9:30 AM)

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 AM - Presbyterian Assembly Arlington Heights
2 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School <i>After Worship:</i> CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:15 AM - Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 P.M. REV	3 1:00 PM - Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM - Kids Club	4 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 7:00 PM - Worship & Music	5 9:30 AM - Prayer and Care in our homes	6 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	7	8 Breakfast With Santa Jones Center 9:00 AM – 11 AM
9 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School followed by Family/Fellowship Christmas Sunday 5:00 P.M. REV	10 1:00 PM - Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM - Kids Club 7:30 PM - Session	11 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	12 9:30 AM - Prayer and Care in our homes	13 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	14 Lifeline Stroke Prevention at HHPC 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM 4:00 – 6:00 PM - Arab Women's Fellowship	15
16 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM - Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 1:00 PM – Christmas Tea 5:00 PM - REV News. Content Due	17 1:00 PM - Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM - Kids Club	18 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	19 9:30 AM - Prayer and Care in our homes	20 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	21	22
23 9:00 AM - Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM - Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM - REV	24 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. - Worship No WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY NO KIDS CLUB NO BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING	25 	26 9:30 AM - Prayer and Care in our homes	27 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 10:00 AM – NEWSLETTERS MAILED 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM – Yoga	28 4:00 – 6:00 PM - Arab Women's Fellowship	29
30 9:00 AM - Adult Education NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM - REV	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE! NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY NO KIDS CLUB					

A monthly newsletter from the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 2018



Connecting Together to Worship and Praise Our God!

THE CONNECTING LINK

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455**

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457**