

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!

Happy New Year to Our HHPC Family and Friends!



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.



Dear Past, thanks
for all the lessons.

Dear Future, I'm ready!

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Food for Thought: New Year Resolutions to Consider

For many, the New Year ushers in a variety of resolutions for change that will improve life in the coming year.

The following are some suggestions that you might consider in 2019 and perhaps beyond.

- **Engage with people more than texting them.**

Looking at a phone is quick and doesn't demand much at all. Texting is easier than talking—it gives you a form of intimacy without getting too close. This year, resolve to spend more time looking into someone's eyes when you communicate with them. Replace a text with a phone conversation or an invitation to meet for coffee.

- **Take your soul seriously.**

Slow down and be present and listen as your soul communicates with you through its wise inner voice. The more conscious you are of these moments through prayer and quiet meditation, the easier it will be to hear. Our soul's language is love and we can open our hearts to God's love and to our neighbors.

- **Increase your kindness.**

If you wish to feel kind, do something good. Even when you don't feel like it, be kind and the habit will grow and kindness will become a natural quality that shines through. Acts of kindness can be small or large such as a gentle word to someone, a lending hand or a listening ear to someone in need. Involvement in church missions or contributions to your favorite charity are other ways to show kindness.

- **Choose someone to forgive.**

We all certainly have legitimate grievances in our lives. Some people are very hard to forgive, but you need not begin with the toughest cases. Forgive the guy who cut you off in the street (keep in mind you may have cut someone off at some point too!). Forgive the person who made an unkind remark about you or whatever situation in your life is calling for forgiveness. The more you forgive, the less the world can injure you. Forgiveness is a soft shield for your soul.

- **In forgiving, include yourself.**

It's important to forgive yourself of the things you have done wrong and the times that you have hurt other people. You need forgiveness for the times that you have caused others pain. This will help you to be at peace with yourself. It will also improve your health and free you of any feelings caused by the wrong that has been done.

Remember that God is perfect, we are not. Don't beat yourself up for making a mistake.



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, JANUARY 6, 2019 – Epiphany of the Lord (Communion)

Readings: Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7; 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12

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, JANUARY 13 – Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

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, JANUARY 20 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

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, JANUARY 27 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

Note.-- Board of Deacons meeting time has changed to fourth Sunday of the month.



As we wrap up the month of December, here are some special events which brought faith, fun and fellowship to our HHPC family and friends who attended.

Christmas Program During this year's Christmas program held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 9, a slide show of past Christmas programs was presented and was accompanied by recorded music of Gabriella Ciametti as members of our church family hung the Chrismon's on the Sanctuary tree.

Family/Fellowship "Christmas Sunday" Following the Christmas program, a delicious pot luck lunch was served. Craft activities for Advent were also available for those interested. All in attendance enjoyed this special time together.

A Cup of Christmas Tea The 2018 Tea held on Sunday, December 16 was a delightful afternoon filled with music, fun and friendships--old and new. We thank the Madrigal Singers of Lincoln Way West for the beautiful sounds of the season which filled the room with Christmas spirit.

Special Christmas gifts for this year were having Eva Mason present with us, our tea served in elegant china tea cups, courtesy of Kim Ambrosat, beautiful gift baskets donated by Shirley Dragas which were used for the door prizes, and the dedication of all the individuals who helped make this afternoon possible.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

“Sharing at the Table”

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

(Hebrews 4:14-16 (RSV))

We ended our class for this year with the above verses. That Jesus, our Savior, was sinless is the united testimony of the Bible.

We will resume bible study on **Monday, January 7, 2019**, at 1:00 p.m. after celebrating Christ's birthday according to tradition.

From our hearts to yours... Come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Love and Hugs,
Arlene Pearson*

Kids Club will also resume on Monday, January 7th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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**; **Bob Noel** (Ar); **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; **Jeni V**; **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** (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**; **Debbie** Vaughn; son **Greg**; **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; **Chris** (Bernie); **Ciaron** Conway (REV); **Don**; **Cindy & Alexandria** (Debbie); **Dan** Ciamenti; **Dee** (Mel); **Donna** (Karen H); **Eva M**; **Evelyn G**; **Frankie** (Bernie); **Gene** (Grace); **Gina & grandson Brian** (Grace); **Jack M & June** (Maryann); **Jan** (Jeni); **Jeana** (Ar); **Justin** (Karen H); **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**; **Shirley B**; **Uncle Tony** (Maryann); **Vince** (Bernie)

We pray for groups.

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

We pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances.

Anthony in the Marines; **Becky** (Karen G); **Bill** (Bernie); **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); **Janet & Jim** (Jean); **Jennifer** Del Prete; **Jimmie** for comfort and strength; **Karl** Haack in the Marines; **Lorre** (Evelyn); **Mark** Gulotta in the Marines; **Matt**; **Michelle** (Grace); **Mike** (Roy's brother); **Rachel & Juan**; **Rellinger family** (Karen); **Samera**; **Sylvia** (Sandy D); **Tanya** (Evelyn)

We pray for those who mourn.

For victims and their families affected by violence in Chicago

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

The new year might be God's way of saying:

**“No matter what you've been or what you've been through,
you can always start fresh.”**

UPCOMING EVENTS



7TH ANNUAL SOUP & BREAD EVENT BENEFITING BEDS PLUS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019
3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

HOLIDAY INN
WILLIAM TELL BANQUETS
6201 JOLIET ROAD
COUNTRYSIDE, IL

Live music – Craft beers - Local food

Tickets are available online.

For more information, call
708-354-0858 or visit www.beds-plus.org

Mental health first aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. This 8-hour training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance abuse problem and help connect them to appropriate care.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

ORLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
13401 WOLF ROAD, ORLAND PARK

*This course is sponsored by the Chicago
Presbytery and hosted by Mission Council 8.*

HHPC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019 FOLLOWING THE 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE



HHPC ANNUAL "SOUPER SUNDAY" SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019 AFTER THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

There will be a variety of soups available for you to taste and enjoy.

Sign-up sheets will be available prior to the event.

Free will donations accepted for the Fund for Human Need.

An excerpt from a letter from Lori Siegfried, MC 8 Communications

"Hello to our MC8 Family—well we've had another wonderful Breakfast! Thanks to all who came and worked, cooked, served, donated, "elved" and prayed for this mission! It is only through your love, care and service that this event runs as well as it does. Was lovely to visit with the old familiar faces and to welcome all the new faces that showed up! It is truly a joy when we all come together and work for the kingdom..."

Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you!



To those celebrating their birthdays in January, we ask God to bless each of them on their special day and bring love and happiness their way.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Hunter Treccani | 20 Emily Raschke |
| 1 Lee Lee Vryza | 20 Jennifer DelPrete |
| 1 Christopher Witek | 21 Andrew Witek |
| 2 Jean Somerstorf | 21 Matthew Witek |
| 4 Stan Flynn | 24 Bobby DeVries |
| 7 MacKenzie Netter | 25 Gwen Lopinski |
| 9 Theresa Leavitt | 29 Hailey Wreza |
| 17 Sue Orsic | 31 Audrey Sowa |

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEWS FOR THE HHPC NEWSLETTER



We need your input to make our newsletter an interesting and informative one for our HHPC family and friends.

Any content you would like published in the HHPC monthly newsletter, *The Connecting Link*, should be submitted by the 3rd Sunday of each 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 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



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.



2018 Annual Report Submissions

Content to be included in the *2018 Annual Report* should be sent via e-mail to [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhcp@hickoryhillspres.org) or dropped in the office no later than Sunday, January 6.

HHPC Pulpit Supply Preachers for the Month of January

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

January 6
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Liz Hulford

January 20
10:00 a.m.
Pastor Zach Pryor

January 13
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Emily Rosencrans

January 27
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Emily Rosencrans

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 2019 IS \$34.22 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

Fourth Sundays

Board of Deacons (*New meeting time*)
11:15 a.m. - Back Room, Downstairs

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

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



JANUARY 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| | | 1 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 7:00 PM Worship & Music | 2 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes | 3 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 P.M. REV | 7 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club | 8 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 9 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes | 10 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga | 11 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship | 12 |
| 13 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/ Website 5:00 P.M. REV | 14 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session | 15 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 16 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes | 17 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM REV DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT | 21 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club | 22 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 23 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes | 24 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga | 25 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship | 26 |
| 27 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Annual Congregational Meeting, Fellow- ship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Deacons 5:00 PM REV | 28 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club | 29 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 10:00 AM – NEWSLETTERS MAILED | 30 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes | 31 Office open: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga | | |

A monthly newsletter from the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



Connecting together to worship and praise our God!

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**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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