

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



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.

**Spread the love of God
in your life, but only use
words when necessary.**



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Worship Services, Readings and Regular Sunday Meetings

Scripture is filled with many loving acts of kindness that we can do to bless, support and strengthen one another. The kind acts shown below don't take much time and there are no costs involved, just **love!**

- Look after others
- Pray for others
- Look for kindnesses that you can show
- Be friendly and supportive
- Be patient
- Bear the faults and weaknesses of others
- Give others the benefit of the doubt
- Encourage others
- Be loyal
- Be happy for others when they are blessed with joy in their lives
- Believe the best of one another

*In what ways
can you express love
to others today?*

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 3, 2019 – 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Communion)

Readings: Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship (No Youth Sunday School today)

11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on pastoral candidate
"Souper Sunday"

1:30 p.m. REV Planning Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5: 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 & Outreach/Comm/Website

5:00 p.m. REV Worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1; Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

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, FEBRUARY 24 – 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

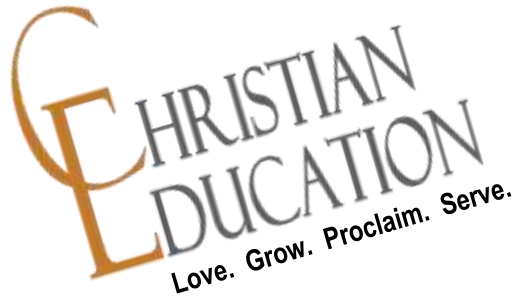
Readings: Gen. 45:3-11, 15; Ps. 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

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

5:00 p.m. REV Worship



January 20, 2019 Meeting Highlights

- Advent Sunday** held in December was a success! Thank you to everyone who provided the delicious food. It was such fun having fellowship and then creating such lovely gifts and decorations for the holidays. Thank you to our tireless workers who set up and took down the tables. Thank you to the people who planned the crafts for everyone to design and take home.
- The December **Christmas Tea** was an amazing event which witnessed its largest attendance in the history of the event. This is partially due to the large number of chaperones who brought the Madrigal singers.

What a special afternoon it was since Abby Rellinger was one of the singers and leaders of this very talented group. Oh, yes, we had plenty of hot water for the tea! Debbie made sure of that. We also had a variety of cookies. There were even enough treats to take home for later. All those who attended seemed to enjoy the table games provided by Dianne. There were spurts of laughter during the *Left-Right* game. Thank you to Debbie for doing the shopping so that each table had a set of prizes. A special raffle was held for some beautiful baskets created by Shirley Dragas. Shannon Bastien was the winner of the Cup of Christmas Tea.
- Souper Sunday will be held on February 3.** We thank all the volunteers who signed up to make soup for the event and have offered to help in any way. As always, your soup helps to warm the hearts of all who attend.
- Sunday classes on February 3 will be cancelled** so everyone will have the opportunity to hear the sermon of the pastoral candidate who we will be voting on.
- The Christian Education committee has planned programs and events for the next 5 months. So, get out your calendars and get ready to mark down some dates to remember.
- On Ash Wednesday, March 6**, the noon Bible Study and lunch begins and will continue for 6 weeks. Arlene Pearson will lead the bible study. Lunch is typically soup, salad, and dessert. This event will last about an hour with time for discussion and fellowship.
- Palm Sunday is April 14.** The children will be handing out palm branches t the end of the 10:00 a.m. worship service.
- Easter Sunday is April 21.** There will be breakfast served in the morning with Scott and Dan doing the work in the kitchen. Early drop off of food donations in Fellowship Hall will be handled by Debbie on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Look for the sign-up sheets outside the sanctuary and on the table outside Fellowship Hall. As always, we wish to thank the set up crew of Debbie, Jean and Mike.
- Are you wishing to enjoy delicious baked goods yet? Lucky for you because the **Bake Sale is scheduled for Sunday, May 12** (Mother's Day). Believe it or not, Mother's Day is a perfect day to celebrate with homemade bakery items. And, don't pastries taste better when you don't have to go through all the work of baking?

Any donations of favorite cookies or cakes are welcome. The sale will include cookies sold by the pound, slices of cake, and whole cakes. Look for sign-up sheets around April 7. We are still looking for volunteers to weigh the cookies and take care of the cash. All proceeds will benefit the Fund for Human Need.
- Recognition Sunday is May 19.** We hope you will attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service to recognize all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the programs for the 2018-2019 year such a success. It would be such a great thing to see everyone standing when the names are called for the volunteers.
- Guess what we are looking forward to doing in June? Did you guess Vacation Bible School (VBS)? If you did, you'll be happy to know that plans are already underway **with June 10-14** as the likely VBS week. This year's theme is *In the Wild: Amazing Amazon*.

We are hoping that Trisha and company will return with their energy and vitality that make this a *don't-miss-week* at our church. We look forward to seeing them and all our returning children. Anyone who is interested in helping decorate the rooms is asked to talk to Linda for dates in May.

KIDS CLUB UPDATE



Happy Valentine's Day from Kids Club!

We welcomed everyone back from the holiday break. Our days have been cold and snowy but we continue to feel the warmth and joy inside the walls of this church during these chilly winter months. Thank you to the staff who braved it out during the January days to welcome the kids back to Kids Club.

One of the special events we enjoy in February is the celebration of Valentine's Day. **This year we will celebrate on Monday, February 11.** This will be a day filled with fun and surprises. We encourage the kids to invite a friend along to enjoy this fun day!

February Study Time

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

Be resourceful. We learn how to use our spiritual gifts.

Be excellent. We develop our abilities and use them in ways that honor God.

Be thrifty. We learn that we are responsible for the choices we make.

Be available. God has a plan for our lives.



A Prayer for Our Kids Club Children

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of the children in our Kids Club.

May their **ears** hear your voice.

May their **eyes** see your presence in all things.

May their **lips** proclaim your word.

May their **hearts** be your dwelling place.

May their **hands** do works of charity.

May their **feet** walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord. Amen.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Sharing at the Table"

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him; and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, and has neither beginnings of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he continues a priest forever.

(Hebrews 7:1-3 RSV)

If you were baffled by the above verses regarding Melchizedek and his mysterious Prototype of Christ, you are not alone. We, too, wondered about him. Because of the footnotes in my Study Bible, we were informed.

May the unconditional love of Jesus fill your hearts on Valentine's Day. *Love and Hugs, Arlene Pearson*

The Dimensions of God's Love

GOD'S LOVE IS WIDE. It stretches to a greater vastness and extent than we can ever imagine.

GOD'S LOVE IS LONG. It encompasses the length of our days, before and all beyond.

GOD'S LOVE IS HIGH. It reaches to the highest heavens.

GOD'S LOVE IS DEEP. It extends to the deepest valley.



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); Bob G (Bernie); Brian (Shirley D's friend's son); Bruce (Jeni); Colton (Diane's great nephew); Lieutenant Clint Sanders of Roberts Park Fire Protection District (Karen G); Don & Carol (Ivy); Eleanor Watson; Erik's son; Francine; Gail (Ar); Gert; Grace's child (Beth); Jean Somerstorfer; Jerry & Joan Panko; Julie Witek; Kailie (Karen G); Karen F (Ar); Katey (Shirley D & Karen G); Kevin; Kyle W; Leah (Karen); Linda (Marcia); Lucy D & Tom; Lynn & Greg (Diane); 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 G (Jen's friend); Danny; Debbie Vaughn; son Greg; Dick V; Grace F (Ar); Lori (Debbie); Patti (Jeni's sister); Randy (Susan's cousin); Rhiannon & Jim (Charley); Richard V (Gert); Sean (Ar); Shirley (Donna's sister); Sue H; Theresa; 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 Ciametti; Dee (Mel); Donna (Karen H); Doris (Diane C); Eva M; Evelyn G; Gina (Grace); Jack M & June (Maryann); Jan (Jeni); Jeana (Ar); Justin (Karen H); Linda D (Ar); Nicole O; Pat Z (Shirley D); Ramon & Laura; Ar's brother Richie & Gracie; Rindi (Shirley D); Robert, Hollie's grandpa (Evelyn); Shirley A; Shirley B; Uncle Tony (Maryann)

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, volcanoes)

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; Kyle for direction; Lorre (Evelyn); Mark Gulotta in the Marines; Matt; Mike (Roy's brother); Rachel & Juan; Rellinger family (Karen); Samera; Sylvia (Sandy D); Tanya (Evelyn)

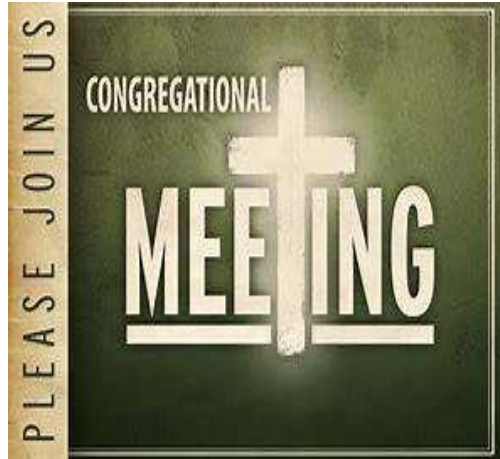
We pray for those who mourn.

Family and friends of Art Surges who died December 17, 2018 (Greg). For victims and their families affected by violence in Chicago; victims of the leaking gasoline explosion in Tlahuelilpan, Mexico; Mali peacekeepers who were killed.

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

Chris R, Rick V, and Susan C have jobs! We will hear a "Pastor" on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The HHPC Session is calling a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 3 following the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of the Pastoral Nominating Committee report and vote.



HHPC ANNUAL "SOUPER SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 3, 2019 FOLLOWING THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

Sign-up sheets are now available.

Free will donations accepted for the Fund for Human Need.



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019 - 2:00 P.M.
CWS HYGIENE KIT PACKING
CALVARY UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
425 NORTH ORCHARD DRIVE
PARK FOREST, IL**

We will be packing our set goal of 200 **CWS hygiene kits** as our first joint MC8 mission for this year. **Worship will follow the packing session.** Calvary United in Park Forest will be hosting this year. HHPC has been asked to donate wide-tooth combs, which Melanie Swindle has purchased in bulk. It is our goal to collect enough funds to ship the kits and to reimburse Melanie for her purchase. There is a basket near the double doors for donations. **Any questions, contact Kim Ambrosat.**



WANTED
LOOKING FOR
NEWS FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

Submit your content by the 3rd Sunday of each month to hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org or drop off your submissions in the church office. Thank you.

To those celebrating their birthdays in February, we ask God to bless each of them and shower them with love and happiness on their special day and all year through.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Josh Krueger | 20 Alyssia Kommenich |
| 5 Scott Zimmerman | 25 Austin McKinnney |
| 5 Mike Swearingen | 27 Shirley Dragas |
| 5 Sam Swearingen | 27 Rick Vogl |
| 7 Julie Witek | 28 Ryan Brandt |
| 12 Lorrie Cunningham | 28 Sandy Beal |
| 17 Barbara Brown | 28 Kevin Lorenz |
| 18 Amy Simone | |

We thank our "Newsletter Ladies" (Grace, Barb, Esther and Linda), who assemble and mail out "The Connecting Link" each month. May God bless them for their time and dedication in getting the news out to everyone!



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.



HHPC Pulpit Supply Preachers for the Month of February

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

February 3
10:00 a.m.
Pastoral Candidate

February 17
10:00 a.m.
Pastor Zach Pryor

February 10
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Emily Rosencrans

February 24
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 (*September-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
11:15 A.M.

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 – 7:30 PM (*New schedule*)

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 – 7:30 PM (*New schedule*)

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

HOLY VALENTINES!



Is your name Grace
because you are amazing!



I think one of
my ribs belongs
to you.



"You know, last night I was reading
from the Book of Numbers and
realized I didn't have yours."

You and me,
we're like loaves
and fishes:
We just might
be a miracle.



Is it a sin that you
stole my heart?



You had me at
"I prayed for you today."





FEBRUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting - Pastoral Nominating Comm. Report & Vote "SOUPER SUNDAY" 1:30 PM REV Planning Meeting	4 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club	5 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 7:00 PM Worship & Music	6 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	7 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	8 4:00 - 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	9
10 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	11 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session	12 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours)	13 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	14 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	15	16
17 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	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club	19 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours)	20 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	21 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	22	23 2:00 p.m. CWS Hygiene Kit Packing at Calvary United Protestant Church (Park Forest)
24 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons 5:00 PM REV	25 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30-5:00 PM Kids Club	26 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 10:00 AM - NEWSLETTERS MAILED	27 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	28 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM (New hours) 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!

THE CONNECTING LINK

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