

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 and on Facebook at
"Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church"

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019 - 3:00 P.M.
INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. EDIE LENZ

**A Mother is she who can
take the place of all
others, but whose place
no one else can take.**



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A LETTER FROM PASTOR EDIE



A lot can happen in a month. One month ago I was sitting at my kitchen table, in a different house, writing an article to introduce myself to you; it was cold and grey, nothing dare to bloom yet for fear of the return of winter. I was in transition, still navigating what it would mean to let go and to step into a new call. Today I sit in a new office, gazing out at the trees across the street beginning to bud, listening to the sounds of 95th Street with the window cracked. I am still navigating what it means to have entered a new call, I am still learning names, places, and faces, but I can see progress in myself and a growing familiarity with how things work. A lot can happen in a month.

We are in the season of spring—new life is found all around us. In the church, we have entered the season of Easter which the church chooses to mark the 40 days after the resurrection that Jesus continued to appear to his disciples, to encourage, challenge, teach, strengthen, and reassure them. What had been could never be again; the disciples were forever changed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. It took them awhile to understand it fully, but eventually this fearful group of followers will become emboldened. They will become preachers, teachers, servants of God; they will devote their lives not just talking about Jesus but living his message, sharing Jesus with all they met. Slowly but steadily this gathered and frightened group became the foundation for the church, a church that 2,000 years later stretches to every corner of the globe. A lot can happen in just over a month.

I wonder, have you noticed new life around you, new opportunities or new possibilities? What opportunities has God put in your way to blossom or to nurture the growth of someone else? So often the possibilities are all around us, we need only slow down long enough to notice. One of the things I believe strongly, that you will hear me talk about again and again, is that we are, each and every one of us, called by God to be the people of God in all of the regular places we go. You don't have to quit your job, move around the world or become someone other than who you are in order to serve Jesus. Rather, you have been planted in particular places where you spend your days. You have places you frequent, people you see daily, you have neighbors, co-workers, friends, strangers that God has put in your way. You are called to be a follower of Jesus in the ordinary places where you are already spending your time. You are the hands, feet and voice of Jesus in your world, today.

Each and every day you are given opportunities to be a part of God's mission for this world. There are signs of new life, opportunities to be kind, faithful or simply present with someone else all around you. I wonder if you have noticed the opportunities around you today. A lot can happen in a month.

What if you were to take on the practice of noticing the people around you, looking for opportunities to have a conversation, or to be kind? What if you were to take on the practice of praying for someone you know is in need every day for this month of May?

What if you were to take on gratitude for what you have, or wonder at the world God has made; the possibilities are all around us. I wonder, what might God be calling you to this month? What people has God already put in your life? What have you missed because you were too busy or hurried, what are you aware of but too afraid to try?

As we enter the busy month of May, I would invite you to spend some time thinking and praying what might you intentionally take on this month, not for the sake of something more to do, but for the sake of being faithful to God's call in your life. Where might God choose to use you if you were open to it? Where are you already spending a lot of your time; how might God use you there? If you are feeling very brave, I love to hear your story of what you tried, what happened, what you took on this month. One other thing I believe very strongly, we learn and grow from the stories of others; we are inspired, challenged and grown when we tell our stories to one another. How will God use you? Who will you tell? A lot can happen in a month.

Peace and Love in Christ,
Rev. Edie

Mothers' Day Reflections

Endless Love

As we reflect on this Mothers' Day, we recall the loving relationship Jesus had with his mother Mary.

As Jesus experienced his final moments of pain and agony on the cross, he selflessly paused to make sure that someone would take care of his mother after he had died. Scripture tells us that Jesus was deeply aware of his mother's anguish and did not want her to feel abandoned, so he made sure that she would be cared for by his beloved disciple John.

This unselfish act was a beautiful gesture about the personal nature of Jesus' love for his mother. May our hearts always be filled with the precious and endless love of our Savior.

A Mother's Unusual Find *(by Bernie Roche)*

A few years ago, my friend and I went to an outdoor flea market in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. Everything imaginable was for sale there with each table competing with the next to draw in prospective buyers.

As we walked along a row of tables, we came across an assortment of religious articles. Hoping to find something unusual, I perused the collections and came across something unusual indeed.

It was a wooden crucifix, but what made it different was that Jesus was not hanging on this cross, but instead, his mother Mary.

This shocked me to say the least, but I picked up the crucifix and as I looked at it and wondered what the artist might have hoped to project, my thoughts began to deepen. I became aware that as Jesus endured the excruciating pain of the cross, his mother, too, surely felt the intensity of his suffering as she watched him dying. As I continued to reflect, thoughts now revealed some motherly insight. Although nowhere in measure to Mary's horrible distress, I thought of my own personal sadness and pain as a mother during the serious illnesses in my daughter's life. The "I feel your pain" phrase now became unmistakably clear in my role as a mother.

What amazing enlightenment! I had to purchase this crucifix! As I approached the seller, I told him how touched and inspired I was by this crucifix and asked if he had more, but he told me he didn't.

As he placed the crucifix in a bag for me, I thanked him again, and I will never forget his response, a response as unusual as the item itself. He smiled and said, "Glad you liked the cross, lady, but to be honest, I had the cross and the Mary statue in my basement and decided to get a little creative and glued them together. No deep meaning intended."

As I walked away, I felt blessed. I also hoped that the seller realized his unconscious artistry deeply affected someone. I also realized that the one dollar I paid for this unusual and precious find was one of the best purchases of my life.



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, MAY 5, 2019 – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Communion)

Readings: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps. 30, Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

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, MAY 12 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

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, MAY 19 – 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148; Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
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, MAY 26 – 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10; 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

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

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SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

Kids Club's last day for this school year is **Monday, May 6**. As we wish all of our kids a great summer, we look forward to seeing them return in September for another exciting school year of friendships, faith-filled activities and fun!

In the meantime, register your kids for our week-long Vacation Bible School in June (*see below*).



Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

If you would like to know more about Kids Club, please call Dianne Flynn at the church office at 708-598-3100 or e-mail us at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org.

This year's theme:



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Sharing at the Table"

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (I Peter 1:3-5)

We have received four benefits because of Jesus' sacrifice: (1) we are justified; (2) we have the seal of God's covenant promises; (3) we are cleansed from all sin; and (4) we are admitted into the citizenship of heaven. What a Savior!

The First Letter of Peter was written to Christians reminding us of who we should be since Christ is our example.

We welcomed our new pastor, Rev. Edie, to our class. For the women who have not been able to join us—you are not forgotten! We miss you. We uplift you in our prayers. Our class will end for the summer on **Monday, May 6, 2019**. Happy Mothers' Day! *Love & Hugs, Arlene Pearson*

Thank You!

We thank all those who participated in this year's Lenten study and . . .

for your prayers;
for your answers;
for your soups, salads, desserts, breads
and beverages;
for setting up and taking down;
for help with kitchen chores;
for your monetary gifts;
for your music;
for your singing;
for your typing, and,
for being family!

"Above all, hold unfailing your love for one another..." (I Peter 4:8)



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); Alyssa (Deb); Aurora (Dave B); Barb B; Barb M; Bob D; Bob Noel (Ar); Bob G (Bernie); Brian (Shirley D's friend's son); Bruce (Jeni); Lieutenant Clint Sanders of Roberts Park Fire Protection District (Karen G); Colton (Diane's great nephew); Dave B; Don & Carol (Ivy); 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); Michael; Michelle (Mel); Natalie (Bernie); Pat P (Shirley D); Pete (Angie); Robbie (Gert); Ron (Greg); Rosie (Dave B); Roy; Sawyer; Shannon; Shirleen (Shirley D's sister); Stephanie (Katie); Susie (Karen G); Trae (Rev. Edie) 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); Laura L and her family (Bernie); Lori (Debbie); Patti (Jeni's sister); Randy (Susan's cousin); Rhiannon & Jim (Charley); Rick V; Sean (Ar); Shirley (Donna's sister); Sue H; 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); Ashley G (Greg); Carol S (Ar); Carla Z (Linda); the entire Cassiello family; Cheryl (Mel); Chris (Bernie); Ciaron Conway (REV); Craig M (Gert); Don; Cindy & Alexandria (Debbie); Dan Ciametti; Dee (Mel); Donna (Karen H); Doris (Diane C); Eva M; Evelyn G; June (Maryann); Jan (Jeni); Jeana (Ar); Joan (Karen G); Justin (Karen H); Linda D (Ar); Mack B (Lorrie); Nicole O; Pat Z (Shirley D); Ramon & Laura; Ar's brother Richie & Gracie; Rindi (Shirley D); Ruth S; Shirley A; Shirley B; Terry & son Nick (Laura V); Theresa L; Uncle Ron, (Charlie); 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, cyclones, tornadoes)

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); Dear friends of Charlie and Peggy Smith; Debi & Chris for direction (Laura V); the congregation at First Reformed Church in Fulton, Illinois, as they deal with upcoming changes; Gerry, Olivia, Holly & Megan (Toni); Gloria (Laura V); Janet & Jim (Jean); Jennifer Del Prete; Jimmie for comfort and strength; Karl Haack in the Marines; the Lenz family in their upcoming transitions; Lorre (Evelyn); Mark Gulotta in the Marines; Matt; Mike (Roy's brother); Rachel & Juan; Rellinger family (Karen); Samera; Savino (Deb); Sylvia (Sandy D); Tanya (Evelyn)

We pray for those who mourn.

Family and friends of **John Kolpak** who recently died (Gordon); for victims and those injured in the Sri Lanka attacks and their families; for victims and their families affected by violence in Chicago, for those killed in the Mali massacre and their families and friends; family and friends of **Nicole**; for the parishioners of the Cathedral of Notre Dame and the people of Paris after the devastating Cathedral fire

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

Congrats to **Megan Z** and **Kyle Z** on their jobs and **Ryan Nevada** who won 5 medals! Praise God for all the support given to **Alyssa Munoz** at a recent fundraiser.

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HHPC invites you to join together for a prayer service in the Sanctuary to commemorate the

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019
12:00 NOON**



**COOKIES AND BAKED GOODS SALE
MOTHERS' DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019
AFTER 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**



Start hauling out all those unneeded items from your attics, basements, and closets and donate them to the

**HHPC Annual Rummage Sale
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
May 16, 17, & 18, 2019**

RUMMAGE SALE HOURS

Thursday, May 16	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Friday, May 17	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday, May 18	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

DONATION DROP-OFF TIMES*

Sunday, May 12	After 10:00 AM Worship
Monday, May 13	10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 14	10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Wednesday, May 15	10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Note: Items such as old tube TV's and computer monitors cannot be accepted.

In addition to donations, we need volunteers to assist with the sale. We appreciate your help! Sign up now!



Join us as we thank our HHPC volunteers and recognize our graduates.

**RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MAY 19, 2019
DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**



**HHPC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 17-20, 2019 (MON.-THURS.)
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

Open to kids ages 4 through completion of grade 6.

COST: \$6 and a donation of one package of cookies for snack time.

For more information, call 708-598-3100.



For HHPC Members & Friends

Note.--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



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

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | John Kemp | 10 | Francine Costello |
| 3 | Courtney Freiberg | 11 | Wilda Duncan |
| 3 | Myrnalyn Delalamon | 15 | Ginger Mercer |
| 5 | Ken Dritz | 25 | Terry Brock |
| 6 | Mildred Neil | 26 | Greg Majersky |
| 10 | Luz Korzeniewski | 27 | Darlene Kibort |
| 10 | Carol Sack | 29 | Karen Golema |

LOL TIME!



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



Special thanks to our lovely and dedicated ladies who assemble and distribute our newsletter each month:

- Barbara Brown
- Linda Lavaretto
- Esther Escalona
- Grace Muszynski

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“CAUGHT” ON CAMERA



Eva Mason, long-time member of HHPC, enjoys her recent 95th birthday celebration. Pictured with Eva are from left, Rev. Edie Lenz and her church gal friends, from top left Gert Vickers, Ivy Taebel and Darlene Delaney.

Love and happiness
to you always, Eva!



Chris Pearson, Arlene Pearson's grandson, is pictured at right with other local high school students at the Illinois Institute of Technology after winning first place in Carl Sandburg's High School bridge competition. Participants had to build a bridge that would not collapse under pressure. Congratulations, Chris!

If anyone would like to have pictures published in the “Connecting Link,” please drop them off in the church office or via e-mail at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org. Also, please identify the occasion and those individuals in the photograph.

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.



NEW AT HHPC



To match faces to the names of those on our prayer list, the bulletin board in the Knitting Room is now displaying photographs of those individuals.

If you have any photos to share of those we are remembering in prayer, please drop them off in the church office or e-mail them to hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

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.

GOT SOME NEWS? SHARE THE NEWS!

The Connecting Link, HHPC’s monthly newsletter, is always looking for interesting articles, stories or pictures from our HHPC members and friends. Submit your content by the 3rd Sunday of each month to: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org or drop off your submissions in the church office.



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. – Junior High Classroom

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 Classroom

TUESDAYS

Office Open
11:30 AM – 7:30 PM

First Tuesdays

Worship and Music
7:00 PM – Library

Fourth Tuesdays

Newsletters prepared for mailing
10:00 AM - Junior High Classroom

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

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

MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	2 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 12:00 NOON National Day of Prayer Service 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	3	4
						
5 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	6 1:00 PM Last Women's Bible Study until Sep. 3:30-5:00 PM Last Kids Club until Sep. 7:00 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group 7:30 PM Session	7 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	8 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	10 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	11 11:30 AM Memorial Service for Bob Nordstrom
12 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM - Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Mothers' Day Bake Sale Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/ Website 5:00 P.M. REV DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT	13 7:00 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group	14 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	15 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	16 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	17	18
	DROP OFF DONATIONS FOR HHPC RUMMAGE SALE May 12-15			HHPC RUMMAGE SALE May 16-18		
19 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship, Recognition Sunday & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM REV	20 7:00 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group	21 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	22 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	23 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	24 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	25
26 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	27 10:00 AM NEWSLETTERS PREPARED FOR MAILING 7:00 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group MEMORIAL DAY	28 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	29 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	30 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	31	

A monthly newsletter from the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



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