

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



Summer Edition (July-August 2019)

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. (REV Gathering – see p. 5)

Contact Us

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

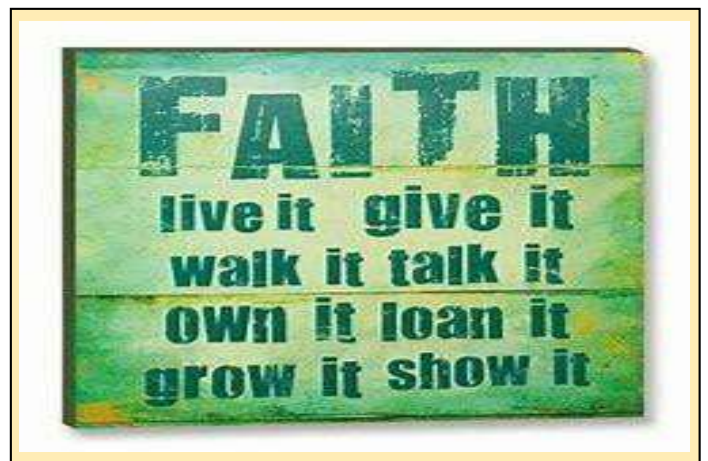
Visit Us Online

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.

NOTE: The Sanctuary will be painted and new carpeting will be installed in July. Beginning Sunday, July 21, worship will be held downstairs in the gym for approximately two to four Sundays.



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A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

I would like to thank you, Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church and the Chicago Presbytery, for your welcome and for the beautiful installation service and reception on June 9. I am excited to be here as your called pastor and look forward to the work God will do with all of us. – *Pastor Edie*

This month we celebrated together as you officially installed me as the pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. These first few months have been a whirlwind as I have worked to learn who you are and about the church.

As a family we are starting to settle in to a new normal, getting to be a family during the week as well as on the weekends. Caleb finished out the school year adjusting to a new community and has done really well. For me, it has been fun to be a part of ministries and to “see how things go” in this particular church. I have tried to be curious, ask a lot of questions, and observe. As a part of my early months at Hickory Hills Presbyterian I have been interviewing the Elders and Deacons of the church, with several goals in mind.

First and perhaps most important, I want to get to know people, not just names and faces. I have been learning about individuals and families. I also want to learn about Hickory Hills Presbyterian—your history, structure, patterns and habits. I want to learn about the “personality” of the congregation.

Finally, I am hoping that in learning more about the church I will begin to see where God is already at work in you and where God is calling us as a body. It is my hope that together we will learn to see more clearly the work of God and who God is calling Hickory Hills Presbyterian to be.

One of the questions I have been asking and I would like to ask you as well – why are you here? What brought you to Hickory Hills Presbyterian and what keeps you here? With all that has happened to this congregation in the past several years, with all of the time you have spent without a pastor – why have you stayed? What is it about THIS place that keeps you coming back?

If you are someone who has gone elsewhere but stayed on the mailing list, why did you leave and would you be brave enough to share those reasons with me? I want to understand as deeply as possible who you are and who you have been as a congregation. This is not because I have grand plans for you that I am going to impose, but because I am curious why you are here speaks to your experience and your vision of the church. Choosing to no longer be here also speaks to your experience and vision of the church. And both perspectives are helpful in learning.

A second question is actually two questions. What are you afraid of for Hickory Hills Presbyterian? And a second, what do you hope for Hickory Hills Presbyterian? I think this speaks to

where you believe the congregation needs to go, who we believe we are and who we are called to be. I also believe it is always important to tell the truth about who we are, where we are and to share our fears with one another. Often, fear loses some power when shared; when I realize I am not alone and that others share my fears. When fears are spoken, they begin to lose their power and fears can be more easily overcome when they are shared. I am not suggesting we dwell in our fears; however, I want to think about hope. I want to notice where God is already at work and imagine what God can do. I know that this congregation has been through a lot, but here you are. You gather, pray, work, serve and care for one another. God has been at work, God is at work and I believe God has plans for us.

If you have been reading this and answering the questions as you go, would you be willing to share your thoughts with me? My office door is almost always open, my hours are varying a bit this summer, but I would love to sit down and hear from you. If you are not able or if you would prefer to communicate via e-mail or phone, you are welcome to call the church or e-mail me at pastor@hickoryhillspres.org. I would appreciate your insight, your perspective, your thoughts. I believe it will help us move forward, together.

*Peace and love in Christ,
Rev. Edie*



Did you miss any sermons or want to hear them again?

Sermon recordings can be found on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org.



Worship Services, Readings and Regular Sunday Meetings for July and August 2019

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.

JULY

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019 – 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Communion)

Readings: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20; Galatians 6:1-10

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (Karyn's Home (Lansing))

SUNDAY, JULY 14 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 10:25-37; Colossians 1:9-14

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/Website
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (Swindle Home)

SUNDAY, JULY 21 – 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 10:38-42; Psalm 1

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry
3:00 p.m. CWS Hygiene Kit Packing with MC8 followed by REV service

SUNDAY, JULY 28 – 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 11:1-13; Genesis 18:20-33

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (Lenz Home)

AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019 – 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Communion)

Readings: Luke 12:13-21; Colossians 3:1-4, 8-17

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (Vogl Home)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 – 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 12:32-40; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/Website
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (location to be determined)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 – 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 12:49-56; Hebrews 11:29-12:2

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:00 p.m. REV Worship (location to be determined)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 – 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Luke 13: 10-17; Isaiah 58:9-14

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons
5:00 p.m. REV Gathering (location to be determined)

SUMMER SABBATICALS

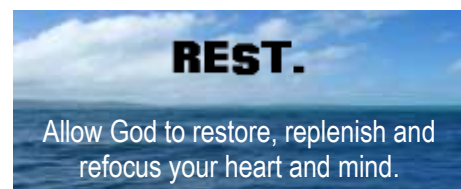
Adult Education classes will not be held in July and August, but will resume **Sunday, September 8.**

Deacons and Elders will not meet in July.

Session will not be meeting in July.

Women's Bible Study and **Kids Club** will resume on **Monday, September 9.**

Worship and Music will not meet in July or August, and will now meet quarterly beginning in September (date to be determined).





Nourishing My Soul This Summer

While the Women's Bible Study takes the summer off to refresh and renew for the fall, let's look at some ways each of us can incorporate prayerful moments into our summer days to nourish our souls and become aware of how God is leading us and how we might respond to his call.

Think in small bits while reading scripture. Let one verse roll around in your mind instead of reading five more verses. Give God room to surprise you with insight.

Write a prayer that expresses your heartfelt desire to follow God in this season of your life. Keep it close so you have a starting point for your daily time with God.

Read a Psalm each day. There are many heartfelt prayers that perhaps we can relate to as we praise God and make our needs known to him.

Using a journal, **write your prayers to God** instead of saying them in your heart. List your concerns or what you are grateful for. Write down the first thing that comes to your mind when you consider what God is doing in your life.

Stop and listen. Too often we feel we aren't doing anything if we aren't doing anything. That's not true. Sit before God in silence, inviting Him to recalibrate your soul.

Practice a prayer posture. Let your body reflect your heart by getting on your knees in prayer or hold your hands out in acknowledgement that anything you receive comes from God.

God, draw me close to you
this summer. Teach me how
I can pray no matter where I am
or what I am doing.

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.

Alyssa (Deb); Aurora (Dave B); Barb B; Barb M; Beth (Shirley D); 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); Janice (Sue H); Jean Somerstorfer; Jeff Z (Deb); Jerry & Joan Panko; Jim W (Andrew); Julie Witek; Kailie (Karen G); Katey (Shirley D & Karen G); Kevin; Kyle W; Leah (Karen); Linda (Marcia); Lucy D & Tom; Lynn & Greg (Diane); Michael; Michelle (Mel); Nancy (Bernie); Natalie (Bernie); Pat P (Shirley D); Patrick (Sue H); Pete (Angie); Richard (Tom M); Robbie (Gert); Ron (Greg); Roy; Ruth H (Jeni); Ruth S (Jeni); Sawyer; Shannon; Shannon S (Deb); Shirleen (Shirley D's sister); Stephanie (Katie); Susie (Karen G); Toni K; Virginia (Karen G)

We pray for those in need of strength.

Allison & two children (Theresa); Billy; Danny; Debbie Vaughn; son Greg; Dick V; Lori (Debbie); Patti (Jeni's sister); Peggy (Bernie); Randy (Susan's cousin); Rhiannon & Jim (Charley); Rick V; Sean (Ar); Shirley (Donna's sister); Sue H; 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); Allison (Charlie S); 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; Donna (Karen H); Doris (Diane C); Eva M; Evelyn G; June (Maryann); Jan (Jeni); Jeana (Ar); Justin (Karen H); Larry (Ivy); Linda D (Ar); Mack B (Lorrie); Nicole O; Pat Z (Shirley D); Ramon & Laura; Ar's brother Richie & Gracie; Rindi (Shirley D); Ruth S; Sara S (Karen H); Shirley A; Shirley B; Stephanie (Debbie); Terry & son; Nick (Laura V); Theresa L; 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); Colin (Ar); 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); Marissa (Theresa); 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.

For the family of Uncle Ron, who passed away comfortably this week (Cheryl and Mel); for victims and their families affected by violence in Chicago

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

Andrew Witek has passed his certification exams and awaits his license as an architect after 8 years of study! Barb Brown has returned home!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July and August



Changes for Summer REV

REV is doing something a little different this summer taking Acts 2:46-47 as our inspiration:

Day by day as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Week by week we will be gathering at 5:00 p.m., sometimes at the church, sometimes in someone's home. We will be gathering to pray, eat together and fellowship around a particular theme each week. The first Sunday of the month we will have a meal together and communion. The third Sundays of both July and August will be spent in service projects, so that we are not merely fellowshiping, but putting our faith into action.

All are welcome to join us this summer whether you regularly come to REV or if you have never come before. If you have a friend you have always wanted to invite, bring them along as well.

On Sunday, July 14 after 10:00 a.m. worship and during fellowship we will have an Outreach brainstorming session to gather some new ideas from our congregation. Join us—your input is valuable!

On Sunday, July 21 at 3:00 p.m. the CWS Hygiene Kit Packing will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church, 425 North Orchard Drive in Park Forest, IL. (Monetary donations are still being accepted. See Melanie.)

On Sunday, August 18 in place of 5:00 p.m. REV we will participate in a service project together. More information to follow when plans are finalized.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. HHPC will host a Visioning Retreat here at our church. Session will be hosting the retreat with Pastor Edie leading. Deacons, committee members, and others in leadership are strongly encouraged to attend, but all of your voices are welcome and appreciated. More information to follow.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019 ANOTHER AMAZING ADVENTURE

In the Wild - Amazing Encounters with Jesus was this year's theme for HHPC's Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Kids participating in the program enjoyed a four-day, fun-filled wilderness adventure as they listened to Bible stories, made colorful sun catchers and other crafts to take home, played games in the gym and were entertained by *Tricia and Company*, who have performed at VBS over the past few years.

Both the kids and our talented and dedicated volunteers enjoyed the great fun they had together and are looking forward to another exciting summer adventure next year.

Here are some pictures taken at VBS with great memories of our time together.

**Until next year...
Have an amazing
and adventurous
summer!**



May the God of summer give you joy.

May your eyes see the wonders of summer's colors. May these colors delight you and entice you into contemplation and joy. -Joyce Rupp



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthdays in July and August.

May God bless each of you on your special day and bring you love and happiness all year through.

CHANGE ADDRESS of ADDRESS

For HNPC Members & Friends

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: hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org



The Connecting Link is always looking for interesting articles, stories or pictures from our HNPC members and friends.

Submit your content by the 3rd Sunday of the month to hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org or drop your submission(s) in the church office. If you are submitting pictures, please identify the individuals in the photos and provide a short description of the event.

JULY		AUGUST	
1	Amelia Huenecke	1	Anthony Lavaretto
3	Mike Korzeniewski	1	Patt Pilgrim
4	Robert Swindle	2	Susan Beal Frangella
6	Toni Kenealy	2	Jeni Vogl
7	Gabriella Ciametti	3	Shannon Bastien
8	Joann Jackson	5	Carolyn Watson
8	Becky Kusina	9	Molly Netter
9	Bernie Roche	11	Gertrude Vickers
13	Kaylee Knox	13	Agnes Davidson
19	Andy Betterton	18	Jimmie Rehbock
21	Kyle Ambrosat	21	Chris Maranto
21	Jarett Ambrosat	22	Christine Fox
22	Dianne Flynn	23	Abigail Rellinger
22	Lucy Dumke	30	Marilyn Betterton
23	Diane Ciametti		
23	Justin Rellinger		
24	Steve Zabelka		
27	Cindy Treccani		
28	Eleanor Watson		
29	Carri McKinney		

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

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.



Thanks so much!

Thank you to everyone who is now receiving their *Connecting Link* newsletter via e-mail or picking it up at the church. E-mailing the newsletters will help reduce our postage expenses.

If you have not yet turned in your e-mail address, we are still able to add you to the database and begin e-mailing the newsletter to you.

If there are issues with receiving or opening the newsletter in your e-mail, please be sure to let the church office know so that we can take steps to fix any glitches that are happening.

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

Youth Sunday School *(Sept-May)*

10:15 AM - Downstairs Classroom
next to Nursery

Prayer Shawl Ministry *(Year-round)*

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

Mission

11:15 AM - Fellowship Hall

Deadline for Newsletter Content

Fourth Sundays

Board of Deacons

11:15 AM – Junior High Classroom

MONDAYS

Women’s Bible Study *(Sep–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

Our pastor, Rev. Edie Lenz, keeps regular office hours Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our secretary Bernie Roche is in the office from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

First Tuesdays

Worship and Music

7:00 PM – Library *(meets quarterly)*

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

(See note under “TUESDAYS.”)

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)

4:00 PM – Back Room, Downstairs

Gentle Yoga

7:00 PM – Gym

FRIDAYS

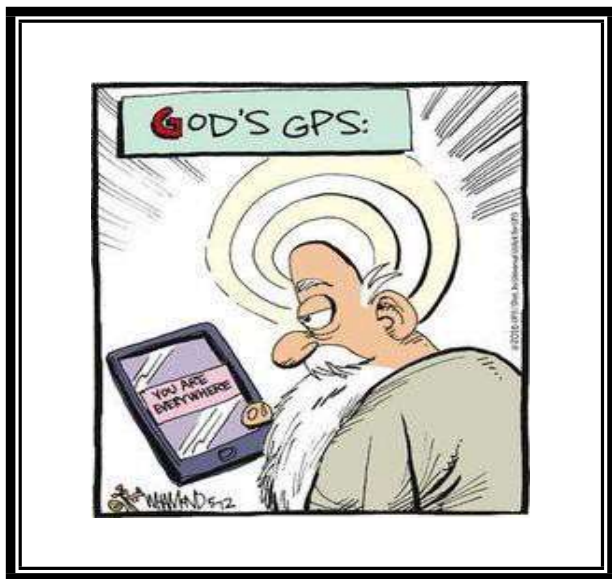
Second and Fourth Fridays

Arab Women’s Fellowship

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

Time for





JULY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	3 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	4 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	5	6
7 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 P.M. REV Gathering Karyn's Home (Lansing)	8	9 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	10 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	11 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	12 4:00-6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	13
14 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Outreach Brainstorming Session, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/ Website 5:00 P.M. REV Gathering Swindle Home	15	16 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	17 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	18 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Mission 3:00 PM CWS Kit Packing (Calvary United)	22	23 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	24 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	25 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	26 4:00-6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	27
28 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM REV Gathering Lenz Home	29	30 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 10:00 AM	31 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes			

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AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	2	3
4 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 5:00 P.M. REV Gathering (Vogl Home)	5	6 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	7 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	8 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	9 4:00 - 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	10
11 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/ Website 5:00 P.M. REV Gathering TBD	12 7:30 PM Session	13 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	14 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	15 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	16	17
18 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Mission 5:00 P.M. REV Group Service Mission TBD DEADLINE FOR SEPT NEWSLETTER CONTENT	19	20 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM	21 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	22 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	23 4:00 - 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	24
25 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Deacons 5:00 PM REV Gathering TBD	26	27 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 10:00 AM NEWSLETTERS SENT	28 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	29 Office open: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	30	31

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