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.



This fall, might I be like a tree and release the old to make way for the new?

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A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE

I have spent much of my first 4 months listening, observing and learning. I have spoken one on one with most of session, about half of the deacons and several other members of the church. I have listened to conversations around tables, events, and REV Gatherings. In my listening I have looked for common themes. things that come up over and over. I have listened to know not just individuals better, but Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church as a whole. I shared my learning with Session this week and I wanted to share a taste of what I learned with you.

What follows are a set of values – values I have heard you say are a core of who you are, they are deeply held, and they are imperfectly practiced.

Relationships. Close ties, family atmosphere, deep connections to one another. You are here because this is family, you have stuck it out and stayed together because you deeply love one another and you deeply love Hickory Hills Pres. You have created wide and broad relationships that extend beyond just church membership.

Shared leadership. The gifts and skills of the leaders are wide and varied. As needs have arisen, people have stepped into leadership. Very few of you report doing work you do not really want to be doing. While leadership is shared, there is a general sense of camaraderie and appreciation

for the work of others. This means that leaders are not siloed in an area refusing to interact with other leaders, but also do not hesitate to delegate work to appropriate places.

Mission/Service. Mission isn't just about sending money, though you are generous and intentional in your work. Mission is about getting hands dirty and serving others. There is a deeply-held passion for service; your history of mission trips and other events has deeply shaped who you are. Making an impact, not just showing up for worship is deeply important to many in the church.

Hard work. As you are very busy people (not just in the church), you work hard and that hard work extends to the hours you have spent in helping Hickory Hills Pres survive all it has been through in the past several years. The members of the church don't just stop working at retirement, almost everyone who is physically able is engaged in working for or with others, one way or another.

Multi-generational. Human beings are valued, regardless of age and ability. You have created safe spaces for those of varying abilities, ages, and gifts. You long to find new ways to increase that impact; particularly with children and youth.

Tenacity. You are a stubborn group whose survival and ability to thrive have been built on your determination to keep moving forward. You have endured much, experienced much, and still you



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

stand. The core of faithful members who are here show a passion and a resolve to move forward in life together.

I offer these to you as observations. I would encourage you to wonder, consider and push back if I am wrong or affirm where I might be right. None of these values is perfectly practiced, there is much room for improvement in any one; but my hope is that a clear snapshot of who we are will help us see what work we have to do in order to move forward into the future God is preparing for us.

Will you join us on September 21 for a Visioning Retreat here at Hickory Hills Pres as we look at more of what I have observed and seek to set goals and plans for the coming year?

> *Peace and love in Christ,* Rev. Edie



Worship Services and Readings for the Month of September

We gather together in worship each week, sharing a common mission and a common faith. This month we will reflect together on the mission statement of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, wonder together how we are living this mission and how we can put our mission into practice.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 (Communion)

Sermon Title: Seek God's Word

9:00 a.m.Adult Education10:00 a.m.Morning Worship5:00 p.m.REVReadings:Matthew 6:25-34; Isaiah 55:1-9;2 Chronicles 7:12-16

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Sermon Title: Share God's Love 9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 5:00 p.m. REV *Readings:* Luke 6:27-36; John 13:34-35; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 John 4:7-12

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Sermon Title: Celebrate God's Love

9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 5:00 p.m. REV

Readings: Psalm 126; Luke 14:15-24,15:22-24; Acts 2:43-47; Philippians 4:4-9

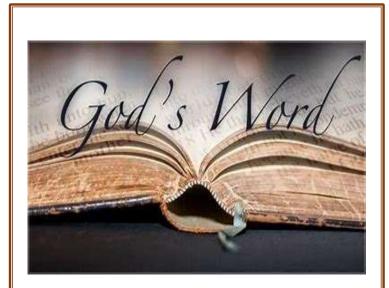
Worship Services and Readings (Cont'd.)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Sermon Title: Serve Jesus Christ in the World
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:00 p.m. REV
Readings: Jeremiah 29:4-7; Luke 6:37-38;
1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 13:1-7

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 - 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. **FALL FESTIVAL FOR ENTIRE CONGREGATION** (*Putting our mission into practice*)

Note: No 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. REV worship services will be held today.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

- How do these scripture lessons help you to understand about putting your faith into action?
- How are you living our mission statement this week?
- How might we be more faithful to our mission?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MISSION REPORTS

Learn. Grow. Proclaim. Serve.



The Christian Education Committee met on August 4, 2019.

FALL PROGRAMS

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School will begin on **Sunday**, **September 8**. HHPC will be presenting a Bible to any of our children entering the 3rd grade. HHPC will also recognize those who have accepted the responsibility of teaching Sunday School. These recognitions will take place during our 10:00 a.m. service.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study begins Monday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Kids Club

Kids Club will begin **Monday, September 23**. The time will remain **3:30 p.m.** – **5:00 p.m**. Our programming remains faith-based, yet non-denominational. We look forward to those participants who will be returning and to meeting new faces. Our planning includes activities for a variety of ages. Please contact Dianne Flynn for if you have more detailed inquiries.

Fall Festival

HHPC will be having a Fall Festival from **2:00 p.m.** – **4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 29.** *This will be the Fifth Sunday activity for September.* This afternoon event is being planned to include fun, bouncy house, *fun*, games, *fun*, bingo, *fun*, face painting, *fun*, balloons, *fun*, and snacks. Planning remains in progress. Plan to attend and have a fun time! Activities will be available for all age groups.

Into the Future

The Christian Education committee will be working with other committees to plan for the Advent season. Stay tuned for updates.

HHPC will be having a Confirmation Class in early 2020. More information to follow.

The next Christian Education Meeting will be held on October 6, 2019, following the 10:00 a.m. service.

MISSION



Shirley Brunell had a great heart for Mission. Let's keep her hope and love alive!

Looking forward, we are planning a packing day with *Feed My Starving Children*. Watch for the collection basket and M&M tubes soon! Mana boxes can be found in the Narthex.

Currently, we are collecting school supplies for our local children. Thank you for your continuous generosity!

An ongoing project is the bottle cap collection. We have donated many pounds to other organizations in need – we may get to process our own bench one day! Please keep those caps coming in! A friendly reminder, please donate plastic only. Screw on caps (not the pop-off caps, such as margarine covers) are what the processing company collects. Please, no glass.

If you have an idea for a Mission project, something near and dear to your heart, please bring it to our attention. We would love to have fresh ideas. All are welcome to join us at our planning meetings – they're short and sweet on the third Sunday after worship.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY *"Sharing at the Table"*

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion and become partakers of the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (RSV)

Some doubt this second letter was written by Simon Peter. The letter is short but teaches us about true knowledge, false teachers and the Second Advent of Christ.

Come and join us as we begin our study on Monday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m. You won't be disappointed! But, we will be disappointed if you don't come.

Love & Hugs, Arlene Pearson



A TIME FOR PRAYER

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and gather my thoughts to you, I cannot do it alone. In me it is dark, but with you there is light; I am lonely but you do not desert me; my courage fails me, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace; in me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Father in Heaven, praise and thanks be to you for the night.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, A Prayer Written in Tegel Prison, Berlin)

PRAYER REQUEST PHOTOS

Photographs of those individuals on our prayer list are being displayed downstairs in the Knitting Room. If you have any pictures of individuals we are remembering in prayer and would like to share the photos, please email them to the church office at **hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org** or drop them in the church office.



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 & Candy G (Bernie); Brian (Shirley D's friend's son); Bruce (Jeni); Carol; 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; Frankie (Bernie); Gail (Ar); Gert ; Grace's child (Beth); Janice (Sue H); Jean Somerstorfer; Jeff Z (Deb); Jerry & Joan Panko; Jim W (Andrew); Julie Witek; Justin (Charlie & Peggy); Kailie (Karen G); Katey (Shirley D & Karen G); Kevin ; Kyle W; Leah (Karen); Linda (Marcia); Linda L (Grace); Lucy D & Tom; Lynn & Greg (Diane); Michael ; Michelle (Mel); Natalie (Bernie); Nelson (Deb); Norman and family; Pat P (Shirley D); Patrick (Sue H); Peggy S's Mom and Peggy (Andrew); Pete (Angie); Richard (Tom M); Robbie (Gert); Ron (Greg); Roy ; Ruth H (Jeni); Ruth S (Jeni); Sawyer; Shannon B; Sharon S (Deb); Shirleen (Shirley D's sister); Stephanie (Katie); Steve Z (Barbara M); 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; Tristen; 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; Jan (Jeni); Jeana (Ar); Justin (Karen H); Linda D (Ar); Mack B (Lorrie); Mary O'Connell (Grace); Nicole O; Pat Z (Shirley D); Ramon & Laura; Ar's brother Richie & Gracie; Rindi (Shirley D); Ron (Evelyn); 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); Sholanda; Sylvia (Sandy D); Tanya (Evelyn)

We pray for those who mourn.

For family and friends of **Shirley Brunell** who passed away August 14, 2019. For victims and their families affected by violence.

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





SUMMER HAPPENINGS

Groups and ministries here at HHPC are always hard at work to provide assistance where it is needed, love to where it needs to be shared, and peace and joy to others for the glory of God.

The following is an update of how members joined together to bring about some faith-filled memories.

- On Sunday, July 14 we had an Outreach brainstorming session during fellowship. Members offered many good suggestions, many of which we will have further conversations around.
- On Sunday, July 21 at 3:00 p.m. four members from HHPC attended the CWS Hygiene Kit Packing held at Calvary United Protestant Church in Park Forest.
- **During July and August** REV has been hosting gatherings at members' homes and here at HHPC. After some light refreshments, we have conversations about a particular topic and discussions have been excellent.
- During the month of August, our church received a "paint-lift" with the sanctuary and other areas in the church being painted, giving it all a bright and fresh, clean look. Carpeting will be replaced soon.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Refreshed and renewed from their summer sabbaticals, HHPC committees and ministries will begin another year of serving those in our church family, our community and those in need.

- Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. Adult Education
- Sunday, September 8 at 10:15 a.m. Youth Sunday School
- Monday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. Visioning Retreat at HHPC
- Sunday, September 22 at 11:15 a.m. Board of Deacons
- Monday, September 23 from 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Kids Club
- Sunday, September 29 from 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Fall Fest at HHPC

See calendar on p. 11 for other group meetings being held during September.

SESSION SHORTS

Session met on August 12. The following are some highlights of that meeting.

- Jeni Vogl agreed to serve as temporary Clerk after the loss of Shirley Brunell.
- Rev. Edie handed out a summary of her meetings with Session, Deacons and members which will also be shared at the Visioning Retreat on September 21 where we will work to identify 2-4 goals for the coming year.
- Fall Festival will combine Kids Club, Youth Sunday School, Sunday morning and REV together in one celebration on September 29. There will be a planning meeting for this event on September 1 after worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The most up-to-date schedule can be found on our website at hickoryhillspres.org/REV or printed in the weekly bulletin.



HHPC VISIONING RETREAT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Session will be hosting the retreat with Pastor Edie leading.

All members are invited to participate in this time of visioning. All members of Session, Deacons and committee members are strongly encouraged to come as we seek God's plans for our future.

"Our vision, God's provision"



It's just around the corner!

HHPC HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

For more information or to sign up as a crafter, call Grace 708-423-6378.



The Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church invites you to join us at our Fall Festival

8426 West 95th Street (in the parking lot and basement)

> Sunday, September 29 2:00 PM to 4:00 P.M.

(Inside and outside seating available.)

We'll be serving a snack buffet and drinks.

Bouncy House ~ Games for All Ages ~ Arts and Crafts ~ Face Painting ~ Balloon Twisting ~ Bingo ~ Scavenger Hunt

For more information, contact the church office at 708-598-3100.

Join us . . . you'll be glad you did!

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.



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

Submit your content by the 3rd Sunday of the month to hhpc@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.





THERE'S STILL TIME!

If you have still not yet turned in your e-mail address, we're 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 occurring.

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.



Eloise Snow recently celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and neighbors in Shawnee, Kansas. We wish Eloise a healthy and happy birthday year.



For HHPC Members & Friends

The Connecting Link will now publish <u>only</u> <u>the names</u> of those members who have submitted a change in their contact information. However, more information can be provided upon request by calling the church office.

> If you have a change to your personal contact information, please contact the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100 E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Love and happiness to all who are celebrating their birthdays in September. May God bless them on their special day and always.

SEPTEMBER							
3	Mark Maranto	18	Dawn Rellinger				
7	Noelle Larson	19	Charlie Huenecke				
8	Terri Lorenz	20	Dave Delaney				
8	Sarah Sizemore	21	Colleen Petkus				
10	Frances Nelson	22	Laura Villarreal				
11	Debbie Raschke	22	Debbie Zimmerman				
12	Evan Grisko	23	Ryan Brenz				
13	Kyle Zimmerman	26	Cathie Wheeler				
15	Stacey Lorenz	27	Greg Rolla				
15	Cheryl Nirtaut	29	Eileen Freeman				
17	Kyle Wheeler	30	Barbara Hepburn				
18	Stephanie Lorenz	30	Doug McKinney				

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





SPOTLIGHT: OUTREACH MINISTRY

Upcoming newsletters will focus on the various ministries at HHPC.

The following article written by Gordon Home spotlights the Outreach ministry.

Outreach is an intentional stepping out of our usual patterns and activities to make connections with others. Sometimes this is providing assistance or services to those in need. Sometimes it is in making connections and seeking to build relationships with our neighbors. Outreach can be summed up by breaking down the word, it is simply how we reach out to one another and to our community. When I think about some of the events the Outreach Team at HHPC has done in the past, it makes me think that we need to continue to keep it simple, with our focus on God which has always been our primary focus.

We are looking for some new creative ideas that the congregation has for having some outreach events. If you have some ideas for outreach events, please share them with us. You do not need to become a member of the Outreach committee to share your ideas. You can drop by one of the meetings that is on every second Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m. after worship or talk to Tom Morrell or Gordon Home. We look forward to hearing from you.

Peace in Christ, Gordon

The Benefits of Serving in Ministry

- Serving allows you to discover and develop your spiritual gifts.
- Serving allows you to experience miracles.
- Serving allows you to experience the joy and peace that comes from helping others.
- Serving helps you to follow the example of Jesus.
- Serving allows you to be surrounded by other faithful servants who will help you to follow Jesus.
- Serving increases your faith.
- Serving allows you to encounter God's presence in new ways.
- Serving is good for your soul.

SEPTEMBER 2019

11

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fr	Sat
1 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship, Fall Fest Planning & Prayer Shawl Ministry (No CE) 5:00 PM. REV	2 HAPPY LABOR DAY!	3 7:00 PM Worship & Music	4 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	5 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	6	7 9:00 AM MC8 Meeting - Morgan Park Pres.
8 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach 5:00 PM. REV	9 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	10	11 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	12 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	4:00-6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	14
15 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawt Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM. REV	16 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	17 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM Presbytery Meeting (Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago)	18 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	19 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	20	21 9:00AM – 3:00 PM Visioning Retreat at HHPC
22 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 **Newsletter Content Due**	23 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Kids Club FALL BEGINS!	24	25 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	26 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga **Newsletters prepared for mailing**	27 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	28
29 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM FALL FEST AT HHPC Note: No morning worship; no REV	30 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Kids Club	through The secretary B	ursday, fror ernie Roch	s regular offic n 8:00 a.m. to e is in the offi a.m. to 7:30 p	o 3:00 p.m. (ce on Tuesd	Dur