

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



Worship With Us

SUNDAYS

10:00 A.M. (Traditional Worship) *with 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.

Don't tell God how
big your Storm is,
tell your storm how
big your God is.

Inside

<i>A Letter from Rev. Edie</i>	2
<i>Worship Services, Readings, Scripture Reflections</i>	3
<i>Women's Bible Study</i>	4
<i>We Lift in Prayer</i>	5
<i>HHPC Update</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	7
<i>Birthdays, Contact Information Changes</i>	8
<i>Visioning Retreat Highlights</i>	9
<i>Spotlight: Stewardship</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE

The month of October

has traditionally been set aside in the church as a month of Stewardship, in part, because practically speaking the year end is coming and we need to be sure we have accounted for all the commitments we have made as a congregation, including not just our bills but our commitments to support missions and ministries outside our doors. It is also the time of year that new budgets are created and pledges are taken so that wise decisions for the coming year can be made. But stewardship is not just about the monies taken in or used by the church. Stewardship is something that should be an ongoing conversation about our world and our place in it.

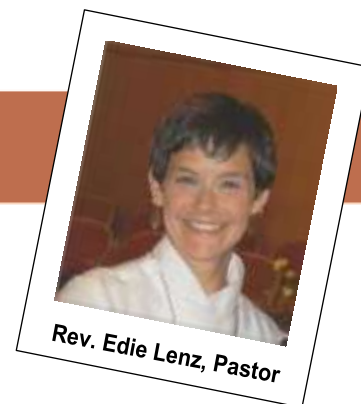
Stewardship is defined as the job of supervising or taking care of something; we steward the resources we have been given. Theologically speaking, we understand that all that we have belongs to God; that the world and all that is in it belongs to its Creator. This then means that you and I are stewards, caretakers of our corner of creation. We are stewards of the possessions we have, the time we have been given and the abilities and talents God has gifted to us.

Time, talent, and treasures are helpful ways to begin to think about our own resources and our own stewardship. Not everyone has or can give richly from the treasures they possess; the reality is that some have more than others. But in stewarding resources for God it is important to remember that it

is not the quantity that matters but what that quantity represents. Jesus gives us a remarkable story about the wealthy making the big show of their offerings in the temple and the widow who gives only two pennies. Of course, there were much larger gifts than hers in worldly terms, but in God's eyes, the sacrifice she made to give even this little bit is seen and known and more valuable to God than the giving of what is left over.

Time is another resource we can give back to God. The time spent serving others, sharing life with those in need of support, and volunteering are of deep value as well. Time is precious in our world as we seem to have less and less of it to give. The hours spent giving of yourself to the church or to others is something that cannot be valued in monetary equations, time is something we do not get back and yet we also know from experience that time is a gift that enriches us even as we give. How often have you learned more from those you served than they did from you?

The same can be said of our talents also known as spiritual gifts. Scripture tells us that every person, no matter who they are is gifted by the Holy Spirit in some way. The beauty of it is that we are not all gifted in the same ways, and while you may look with envy on the gifting or ability of another, that does not mean that God has not gifted you in unique and precious ways. I Corinthians 12



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

reminds us that we are all individually a part of the body and that we need all of the parts of the body in order to function. If you teach, we need you. If you pray, we need you. If you are gifted in finance, technology, creativity, or music, we need you. God chooses to gift us differently because God chooses to have us work together in community rather than alone in isolation.

You are a steward then of the time, talent, and treasures that God has given to you. How are you choosing to care for those resources? How are you stewarding all that you have been given? What lies hidden within you that has not yet been used or shared? What needs cultivation and care? How are we, as a congregation, using the talents, treasures and time we have been given?

Consecration Sunday will be October 20, 2019. Will you take the time to reflect on how you steward your resources and what you might give to God?

Peace and Love in Christ,
Rev. Edie



WORSHIP SERVICES, READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

We gather together in worship each week, sharing a common mission and a common faith. This month we will honor Consecration Sunday on October 20. This month is an opportunity to reflect on God's gifts and goodness as well as what we offer back to God from all we have been given.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 (*Communion*)

Sermon Title: *Mustard Seed Faith*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship**

5:00 p.m. **REV Worship**

Readings: Luke 17:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Sermon Title: *Gratitude*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship**

5:00 p.m. **REV Worship**

Readings: Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 66:1-12

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Sermon Title: *Perseverance*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship**

5:00 p.m. **REV Worship**

Readings: Luke 18:1-8; Jeremiah 31:27-34

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Sermon Title: *To be determined*

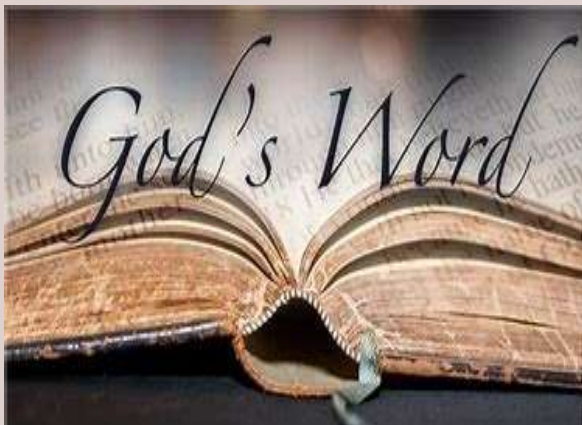
(*Rev. Jewel Willis Thomas will lead our service.*)

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship**

5:00 p.m. **REV Worship**

Readings: Psalm 65; Luke 18:9-14



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

October is Stewardship month in the church; a time to reflect on what you give to God in time, talent and treasures. As you reflect on the stories and texts for each week's service, I would invite you to wonder:

- Who are the people you have seen give of their gifts and how have they inspired you?



"Sharing at the Table"

Make a joyful voice to the Lord, all the lands. (Psalm 100:1 (RSV))

As we sat in the knitting room during our first Bible study, we heard the anticipated sound of hammers pounding above us. Can this be true? The new carpet is being installed upstairs!

There were 10 of us on September 9th after a long, hot and rainy summer. After our four habits: prayer, study, giving and fellowship, we reminded ourselves of our covenant:

***WHAT IS SAID HERE,
STAYS HERE.***

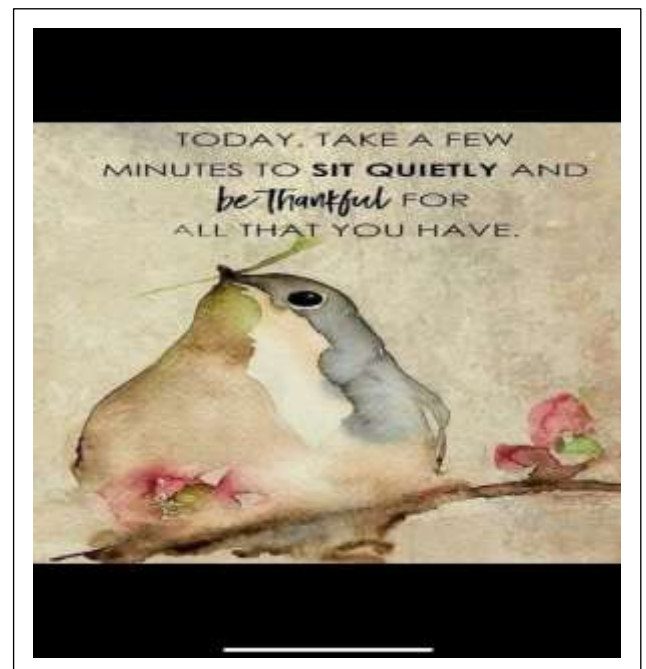
Since Peter's letters are simple to understand, our class wanted to repeat I Peter which we did.

Our lengthy newsletter's *Prayer Requests* were read and deletions were made after an hour of discussion. Time well spent!

For those of you who weren't here, we miss you.

*Wisdom is with the aged,
and understanding in length of days.*

Love and hugs, Arlene





The following is a complete list of those we are remembering in prayer.

NOTE: If you are on this prayer list and wish to be removed or you would like to be added to the list, please call Rev. Edie or the office. Prayer requests can also be sent 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.

Also, don't forget to bring pictures of any individual(s) for whom we are praying and the photo(s) will be posted on the bulletin board in the Knitting Room.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS.

Albert; Alyssa (Deb); **Aurora** (Dave B); **Barb B; Barb M; Bob D; Bob K; Bob Noel** (Ar); **Lieutenant Clint Sanders; Don & Carol** (Ivy); **Frankie** (Bernie); **Gert; Greg S; Hannah; Janice** (Sue H); **Jean Somerstorfer; Jeff Z** (Deb); **Jerry & Joan Panko; Jim W** (Andrew); **Judy; Julie Witek; Kailie** (Karen G); **Katey** (Shirley D & Karen G); **Kevin; Kyle W; Linda** (Marcia); **Linda L; Lucy D & Tom; Lynn & Greg** (Diane); **Michelle** (Mel); **Natalie** (Bernie); **Pat P** (Shirley D); **Patrick** (Sue H); **Peggy's sister** (Charlie); **Peggy S's Mom** (Andrew); **Phil; Richard** (Tom M); **Robbie** (Gert); **Ron** (Greg); **Ruth H** (Jeni); **Oliver** (Kim); **Ruth S** (Jeni); **Sawyer; Shannon B; Shirleen** (Shirley D); **Steve Z; Susie** (Karen G); **Toni K; Walter**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Alex T; Allison & children (Theresa); **Candy** (Bernie); **Dick V; Lori** (Debbie); **Norman and family; Patti** (Jeni); **Randy** (Susan); **Stephanie** (Debbie); **Steve** (Gordon); **Sue H; Wanda** (Jeni's mom)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

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 other natural disasters (floods, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, snow storms, volcanoes, cyclones, tornadoes)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH.

Six-year old **Addy & Grandma Barb** (Karen H); **Ashley G** (Greg); **Carla Z** (Linda); **Cassiello family; Cheryl** (Mel); **Chris** (Bernie); **Craig M** (Gert); **Don; Cindy & Alexandria** (Debbie); **Dan Ciametti; Doris** (Diane C); **Eva M; Joan; Katie; Laurie; Liam; Linda; Linda D** (Ar); **Mack B** (Lorrie); **Mary O'Connell** (Grace); **Melissa; Pat Z** (Shirley D); **Richie** (Ar); **Rindi** (Shirley D); **Sara S** (Karen H); **Shirley A; Stephanie** (Debbie); **Tom; Tristen; Theresa L; Tony** (Maryann)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For **Brian's family**; for victims and their families affected by violence.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING MISCELLANEOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Anthony in the Marines; **Bill** (Bernie); **Colin** (Ar); **Evelyn; Gerry, Olivia, Holly and Meghan** (Toni); **Holly & Megan** (Toni); **Jimmie** for comfort and strength; **Karl Haack** in the Marines; **Lorre** (Evelyn); **Marissa** (Theresa); **Mark Gulotta** in the Marines; **Matt; Mike** (Karen H); **Rachel & Juan; Savino** (Deb)

WE PRAISE GOD FOR LEADING US! GOD IS IN CONTROL!



Kids Club

The kids are back! Kids Club started up again on Monday, September 24th. On our first day we had 24 children and youth who came to play, learn, and connect. The kids ranged in grade from kindergarten to juniors in high school. We are looking forward to a great year. You are always welcome to stop by on Mondays between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. and see what is happening; talk to Dianne Flynn or Pastor Edie if you would like to help out.

Mission

As of this writing, you'll have noticed the *Feed My Starving Children* collection basket and M&M tubes in the Narthex. Five people went to pack at the Aurora location on September 21st.

Mark your calendars now for **February 15th**. We will gather a group together to pack at North Central College in Naperville at *Feed the Need* packing event. More information will follow.

Looking ahead, you'll be seeing the *Tree of Warmth* pop up. If you'd like to knit or purchase hats, scarves, or mittens and gloves, the local children and those at Jones Center will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

As is our tradition, the *Jones Center children's Christmas gift tags* will be in the Narthex, awaiting your consideration for gift giving. More will follow on this loving tradition.

In December, the Mission Committee has chosen to challenge the congregation! Soon, you will see an *Advent calendar of pantry items*. Similar to getting a special treat every day of Advent, we'll challenge you to bring a weekly bag or box of items for Elsie's Food Pantry.

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.

Blessings, Kim Ambrosat

Session Shorts

Session met on September 9th. The following are some highlights of that meeting.

- Sunday School started on September 8th with 6 kids in attendance.
- The upstairs carpet installation began on September 9th and is now completed,
- Pastor Edie will be attending her first Presbytery meeting with *Boundary Training* on the agenda.
- Continued planning for the Fall Festival on September 29th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

We will be passing a basket to raise money for Church World Service and their response to aid the people of the Bahamas to clean up after Hurricane Dorian.



KIDS CLUB HALLOWEEN PARTY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:00 – 5:30 P.M.

***Volunteers needed
to help and treat donations
are welcome.***

(Sign up in the narthex)



***JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL
HOLIDAY CRAFTS EVENT!***

**HICKORY HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET
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.***



For HHPC Members & Friends

The *Connecting Link* will now publish only the names 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.

Recent notifications received:

- **Eloise Snow has moved.**

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hpsc@hickoryhillspres.org



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

OCTOBER			
1	Leslie Ambrosat	26	Chris Rellinger
1	Haley Netter	28	Lori Haack
3	Michael Pettis	28	Scott Flynn
6	Larry Haack	28	Karen Korzeniewski
8	LeAnne Kommenich	29	Daniel Ciametti
8	Sarah Swearingen	31	Susan Cunningham
16	Arlene Pearson		

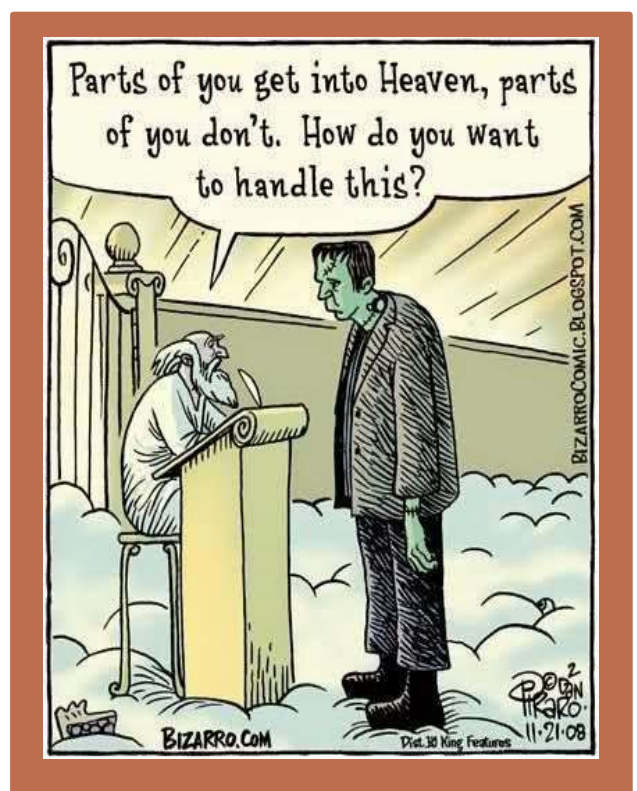
Note: If you should notice any omissions or errors on the birthday list, please report them to the church office.

Got News?

Share it with us.

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 hpsc@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.



“FOLLOWING GOD’S LEAD”

A Visioning Retreat was held at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 21st. Below is a brief summary of the retreat.

As a body, our values include: Shared leadership, Mission/Service, Tenacity, Relationships, Hard Work, Tradition, and Multi-generational ministry. During the visioning retreat, the group was asked to reflect on those values that seemed most important to lean into and give focus in the coming year. What arose were **Relationships, Mission/Service, and Multi-generational Ministry.**

In the coming year we will lean into these values as a means of becoming more fully the people we believe God has called Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church to be.

The Mission of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church is:

We are called

to SEEK God’s Word,

to SHARE and

CELEBRATE God’s Love

and to SERVE Jesus Christ

in the world.

During the retreat we reflected on our current ministries, the work of the church and were surprised by just how much we are doing as a body of believers. As the day progressed, we sought to focus on one or two goals that we believe will move us forward faithfully. Out of our conversations arose two objectives. The first is operational – **increased formal communication.**

This communication needs to be both to the congregation and to the community. Communication can be improved for our members and for those in our neighborhood; including our web-presence, bulletin, newsletter, calling tree, and social media.

We identified one new ministry to take on that we believe will allow us to work on our values, a **community meal.** We believe this to be an opportunity for multi-generational service while building connections and relationships. There are some who have already signed up to assist in the launch of this new ministry.

If you would be interested in helping to make a community meal happen, please see Pastor Edie. A planning meeting will be set soon and advertised in the bulletin.

Visioning Work for HHPC





SPOTLIGHT: Stewardship

Upcoming newsletters will focus on the various ministries at HHPC.

Spotlighted this month is the Stewardship Campaign.


Fall is upon us. With the season comes the 2019 Stewardship Campaign. *Time, Talent and Treasures* will be the theme for this year's campaign.

This is time when we ask our congregation and friends to pray and consider your commitments to the future and to the creation of exciting new programs and activities here at HHPC.

The committee will be sending out information to family and friends soon. Please pray over your decision and support HHPC in the coming year. **Consecration Sunday will be on October 20.**



*What are you doing with the time,
talent and treasure God has
entrusted to you?*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Worship & Music	2 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	3 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	4	5
6 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education 5:00 PM. REV Worship	7 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Kids Club	8	9 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	10 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	11 4:00–6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	12
13 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach 5:00 PM. REV Worship	14 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session	15	16 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	17 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	18	19 10:00 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop
20 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM REV Worship <i>**Newsletter Content Due**</i>	21 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Kids Club	22	23 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	24 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	25 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	26
27 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons 5:00 PM REV	28 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Kids Club Halloween Party	29 <i>**Newsletters prepared for mailing**</i>	30 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	31 	OFFICE HOURS Rev. Edie keeps regular office hours Monday, 11AM-3:30PM; Tuesday through Thursday, from 8:00AM to 3:00PM Our secretary Bernie Roche is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30AM to 7:30PM	