

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



November 2019

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.



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A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE



This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Historically, Thanksgiving has been a holiday set aside for prayer and gratitude to God. We often conjure up images of Native Americans, Pilgrims, and outdoor wooden tables laden with good food when we think of the first Thanksgiving. This origin story is firmly planted in our minds, but for centuries before, people of faith gathered at the time of harvest to give thanks to God for another year of produce. The ancient Israelites celebrated Shavuot, known to us as the Feast of Pentecost which celebrated the first fruits of harvest; giving thanks to God for the gifts of the earth. People throughout history have celebrated and gave thanks to their God for the good things of this world.

In the United States, the first official day of Thanksgiving was declared by President Washington in 1789, but was not created a federal holiday until 1863 by then President Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the Civil War. It is ironic then to reflect that often the times we have been most grateful for what we have are times we have been enduring the most. As the Civil War raged, Lincoln set into law a day of prayer and thanks to be given to God. I wonder then what our ancestors would make of our celebrations these days? I wonder if a part of the reason that Thanksgiving has waned

in importance in recent generations is that we often take for granted all that we have to be thankful for?

It can be easy when things are busy but smooth, when things are going well or even okay to take for granted all that we have. It is easy to slip into a sense of self-assurance or comfort, forgetting the blessings, sacrifices, and gifts that have gotten us to where we are. It seems that we often need a hardship, a struggle or a loss to remind us of all that we have to be thankful for and just who it is that has provided so much for us. *Give thanks* is a command given to us throughout scripture, notice what you have, who has been faithful to you and rejoice, be thankful. *Give thanks* is one of the first lessons we teach our children when we insist that they learn to say thank you. *Give thanks* in all circumstances, Paul tells the church in Thessalonica. Remember, that all we have is a gift.

For some of you this has been a difficult year and it can be hard to be thankful. For others of you, it has been another year that seems to run into the rest and you may be giving thanks for some of the blessings you've received. No matter where you find yourself, two things are true above all else: God is faithful, even when we can't quite see it and we have much for which to give thanks. As for me, this has been a year of dramatic change and transition that actually began about a year ago in

my first few conversations with the search team. In this season, as I reflect on the ways that God has been faithful--in bringing my family together and providing what we needed when we needed it. As I reflect on God's call to this particular congregation and you as God's people, I am struck again with gratitude and the reminder that no matter what, God is faithful.

This season, I invite you to look around at all God has given you, all that has been provided and give thanks. Give thanks for the small steps of progress and the sweeping moments that change everything. Give thanks for the joys and the places God has met you in grief or sorrow. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.* (I Thess. 5:16-18)

I am thankful for you all!

Peace and love in Christ,
Rev. Edie

OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Edie keeps regular office hours
Monday - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday - Thursday
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Our secretary Bernie Roche is in the office on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM

WORSHIP SERVICES, READINGS AND REFLECTIONS



We gather together in worship each week, sharing a common mission and a common faith. This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. As we give thanks for the multitude of gifts we have received, we are also called to act in gratitude towards God and one another. What are you thankful for; how do you respond in gratitude?

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (*Communion*)

21st Sunday after Pentecost (**All Saints**)

Sermon Title: *Value of Turning*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

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

Readings: Isaiah 1:10-18; Luke 19:1-10

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: *Standing on the Promises*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

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

Readings: Job 19:23-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: *God's Intended Design*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

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

Readings: Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 (*Christ the King*)

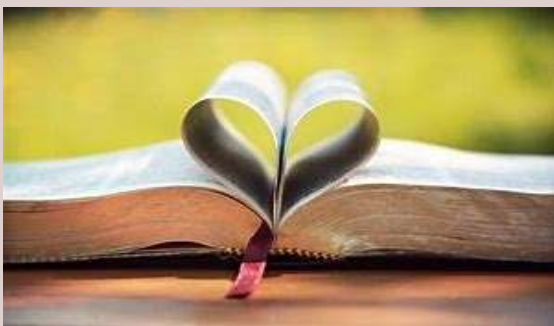
Sermon Title: *What Kind of King?*

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

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

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46;
Colossians 1:11-20



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Our scripture this month moves us to look; to see what God has already done for us, what God will do for us, and the coming of the Reign of God on this earth. As you read and reflect, I would invite you to wonder... how have these promises of God impacted my life? What do I want others to know about what God has done and what God will do?



"Sharing at the Table"

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears, we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who does right is born of him.

I John 2:28-29 (RSV)

This general letter doesn't give the writer's name. It doesn't tell us to whom it was written. From earliest times it was attributed to the apostle John, son of Zebedee. Traditionally, this John has been identified with the Revelation to John as a prophet.

Come and join us as we pray, study, give and fellowship together to be inspired by those who wrote as eyewitnesses of the person and ministry of Jesus.

We love because he first loved us.

(I John 4:19 (RSV))





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

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 at 708-598-3100. 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, bring any pictures of those 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** (Bernie); **Bob Noel** (Ar); **Cal** (Diane); **Carol; Lieutenant Clint Sanders; Don & Carol** (Ivy); **Frankie** (Bernie); **Gert; Greg S** (Gordon); **Janice** (Sue H); **Jean** Somerstorfer; **Jeff Z** (Deb); **Jerry & Joan Panko; Jim W** (Andrew); **Judi** (Evelyn); **Judy; Kailie** (Karen G); **Katey** (Shirley D & Karen G); **Kevin; Kyle W; Linda** (Marcia); **Linda L; Lucy D & Tom; Lynn & Greg** (Diane); **Natalie** (Bernie); **Pat P** (Shirley D); **Patt and Cliff P** (Karen H); **Patrick** (Sue H); **Peggy S's Mom** (Andrew); **Phil; Richard** (Tom M); **Robbie** (Gert); **Ron** (Greg); **Ruth H** (Jeni); **Ruth S** (Jeni); **Sandy D** (Ar); **Sawyer; Shannon B; Shirleen** (Shirley D); **Steve Z; Sue** (Bernie); **Susie** (Karen G); **Toni K; Walter**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Six-year old **Addy & Grandma Barb** (Karen H); **Allison & two children** (Theresa); **Alex T; Ashley G** (Greg); **Carla Z** (Linda); **Cassiello family; Cindy & Alexandria; Debbie** (Shannon's mom); **Craig M** (Gert); **Dan Ciametti; Diana; Dick V; Don;** (Debbie); **Doris** (Diane C); **Eva M; Joan; Katie; Laurie; Liam; Linda; Linda D** (Ar); **Lori** (Debbie); **Mack B** (Lorrie); **Mary O'Connell** (Grace); **Melissa; Pat Z** (Shirley D); **Patti** (Jeni's sister); **Randy** (Susan); **Richie** (Ar); **Rindi** (Shirley D); **Shirley A; Stephanie** (Debbie); **Steve** (Gordon); **Sue H; Tom; Tristen; Theresa L; Tony** (Maryann); **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; those affected by other natural disasters (floods, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, snow storms, volcanoes, cyclones, tornadoes); the people of Syria and refugees

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

Family and friends of **Maryann Fellers; Marina** (Mel); **June and family** (Mel); **Norman'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; **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!

HHPC

UPDATES

Board of Deacons

As members of a board charged with compassion and service, your Board of Deacons has been working away at producing another devotional booklet to share with you all next month.

Following the Advent themes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love, we will be handing out these booklets on December 1 (the first Sunday of Advent). If you cannot make it to either worship service that Sunday, please reach out to your Deacon about getting one. If you are not sure who your deacon is, you can call or e-mail the church office. We will send out copies to those in our church family who are unable to easily make it to worship services with us.

It is our hope that these devotional booklets can help you make time to reflect on the Advent season in preparation and anticipation of celebrating the birth of our Messiah and Lord, Jesus. *--Andrew Witek*

Missions

As cold weather approaches, you'll see the *Tree of Warmth* in the Narthex. If you're able to knit or crochet hats, scarves and mittens, they would look lovely decorating the tree. Naturally, purchased hats, scarves, or mittens and gloves would be wonderful as well! The Kids Club and their families, and other local children will be warmer because of 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. Remember please, these gifts shouldn't be wrapped. Watch for the tags and instructions on the bulletin board.

In December, the Mission Committee has chosen to challenge the congregation! Soon, you will see an Advent list 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.

The *Feed My Starving Children* collection basket and M&M tubes are in the Narthex. Mark your calendars now for February 15. We would like to get a group together to pack at North Central College in Naperville. This is a *Feed the Need!* packing event. More information will follow.

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*

*As you grow older, you will
discover you have two hands,
one for helping yourself,
the other for helping others.*

(Maya Angelou)

JOIN US!

**LADIES MOVIE NIGHT AND DINNER
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 6:30 PM
AT THE MANSE**

Sign-up sheets are on the table
outside Fellowship Hall.



Watch the December newsletter for other upcoming holiday events.



**HICKORY HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**



**THANKSGIVING EVE
WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27
7:00 P.M.**

**SAVIOR DIVINE LUTHERAN CHURCH
10040 SOUTH 88TH AVENUE
PALOS HILLS**



**HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL
PLANNING MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
11:30 A.M.**



All women are invited to
A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
1:00 P.M.**

More details to follow in upcoming
bulletins and newsletter.



**BROOKFIELD ZOO TREE LIGHTS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
*(Watch bulletin for more details)***



CHANGE of ADDRESS

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 notification received:

- **Joseph Kowalcze has moved.**

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 November. May God bless them on their special day and always.

NOVEMBER			
1	Erik Meyer	12	Jessica Panko
2	Phil Elam	14	Ramon Villarreal
3	Michelle Krumpolc	15	Jacob Morrell
3	Caleb Lenz (Rev. Edie's son)	26	Alissa Raschke Janchenko
5	Katie Huenecke	26	Beth Ann Kommenich
6	Steve Porter	26	Linda Rys
6	Delorus Freiberg	27	Mandy Rodriguez
6	Jean Swearingen	28	Shaylin Rys
8	Brittany Maranto	30	Amanda Kowalcze
8	Renee Meyer	30	Gordon Home
8	Mitchell Huenecke		

L.O.L.



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 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.

FALL FEST FUN!

A great time was had by all at our Fall Festival on September 29. It was a great opportunity to connect Kids Club, the congregation, and the neighborhood. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a great day!

Plans are already in the works for next year's event!





What we've been doing

Our children's programming began on Sunday, September 8. Our Sunday School classes are being taught by a dedicated group who were recognized during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Kids Club

Kids Club began Monday, September 23. The turnout has been very nice. Our younger kids have been enjoying a traditional Kids Club setting. Several older kids have been attending Kids Club as well. This has led to some creative processes to meet the needs of all ages. We thank the Kids Club staff and Pastor Edie for their dedication and work.

Kid's Club Halloween Party is planned for Monday, October 28. It should be SPOOKTACULAR!

Fall Festival

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church held its first ever Fall Festival on Sunday, September 29. How wonderful it was that this event

coincided with a *Fifth Sunday* activity. Our Fall Festival was held from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Activities offered included face painting, balloon sculptures, bouncy house, Bingo, games, a cake walk, crafts and food.

Our *Guess How Many?* winners were:

Gold Fish. Natasha N. guessed 800; actual number 862.

Popcorn Kernels. Jaylen H. guessed 5,126; actual number 5,842.

Reese's Pieces and Pretzels. Melanie S. guessed 1,247; actual number 1,287.

While this activity is identified primarily as a Christian Education event, it was obviously an effort of the HHPC congregation. This event occurred due to the teamwork of many! People asked how they could help, were given assignments, and as a result, a wonderful Fall Festival occurred. Thank you!

Advent

Advent is approaching. Plans for events are being finalized and include adorning the Sanctuary's Christmas Tree with our traditional Chrismons on December 1 and an inter-generational program during the 10:00 a.m. service with potluck and Chrismon crafts to follow on December 8. These events are in the final stages of planning.

Christmas Tea

The Women's Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. Programming is being verified at this time. Stay tuned for finalized plans and sign-ups.


2020

Planning for next year is under construction and it will be another great year!

Some of the things to look forward to . . . Faith Formation Class (*formerly Confirmation*), Kids Club, Sunday School, Noon Lenten Series, Easter, and . . . you get the idea . . . we are busy planning!

--Jean Swearingen

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM HHPC Holiday Craft Bazaar
3 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM All Saints Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education 5:00 PM. REV Worship	4 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Kids Club	5 7:00 PM Worship & Music	6 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	7 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 & Community Meal Planning Meeting 5:00 PM. REV Worship	11 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session	12	13 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	14 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	15	16 10:00 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop
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 Worship <i>**Newsletter Content Due**</i>	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Kids Club **NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE**	19	20 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	21 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	22 4:00 - 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	23 Brookfield Zoo Lights
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 Gathering/Decorating	25 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Kids Club	26	27 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service (Savior Divine Lutheran Church (Palos))		29	30