

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



Happy New Year, Everyone!

JANUARY 2020

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.

2020

365 DAYS. 365 CHANCES.

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A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

Happy New Year! I hope you are as excited as I am about starting a new year here at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. In September, we named **three values** we want to lean into as a congregation this year:

- Multi-generational
- Missions
- Relationships

In order to lean into these values in a deeper way – we identified one experiment, one thing to try to move us in this direction. That is, regular, **free community meals**. The passions of the congregation include feeding people and caring for one another; we see this as something to build on as we reach out in a new way. We know that hunger is a real issue in our communities AND loneliness is a growing mental health issue for all ages.

The goals for this meal are:

- to work on mission in-house;
- to care for the lonely and the hungry in our own neighborhood;
- to connect with one another and with our neighbors;
- to strengthen relationships in the congregation; and,
- to provide a multi-generational space.

Notice that our goals do not include new church members or more people in worship. While this would be an added bonus, the goals of this ministry are broader than just our congregation. The goals of this ministry have to do with belonging, feeding the hungry and knowing our

neighbors. Mondays were chosen because we already have people in the building for Bible Study and for Kids Club. It is our hope that we can deepen our connections by building on what we are already doing.

This is an experiment; if it is successful, we can choose as a congregation to keep it going. If it is not successful, we are not required to just try harder; we can make adjustments, change plans or try something else. Hopefully, this will make us more open to the possibilities of changes, adjustments, or other ideas.

This leads to the next question: *How will we know if we are successful?* Measuring success is much harder when you don't want to just assign numbers, but look deeper. Here are a few of the *measures of success* we are working with:

- strengthening the church around a common goal/vision;
- excitement and enthusiasm;
- stories of connection or new relationships;
- congregation growing in understanding our mission as holistic;
- new faces each month;
- people returning month-to-month;
- knowing names and faces of guests; and,
- growing volunteer base to make this happen.

Hopefully by now you are wondering: *When is the first meal? What can I do to help?*

Our first meal is scheduled for **January 6**, the first Monday of the month. In order to connect with multiple generations, we will have one meal but two seatings: **12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

You can help in a variety of ways:

- come to eat and fellowship,
- get to know someone new;
- invite a friend to lunch/dinner;
- help spread the word--take a flier with you, hang it up on a community board;
- volunteer to set up, clean up, cook, or bake;
- volunteer to be a greeter; and
- give constructive feedback, share ideas you have for making the meal better.

On January 6 at 12:00 noon and again at 5:30 p.m., dinner is served! See you then!

Peace and love in Christ,
Rev. Edie



Worship Services, Readings and Reflections

January 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

Readings:
James 1:1-18; Matthew 7:7-12

Sermon Title
Doubt and Temptation

January 12 Baptism of the Lord

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

Readings:
James 1:19-27; Matthew 21:28-32

Sermon Title
Hearing and Doing

January 19 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

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

Readings:
James 2:1-13; Acts 10:34-43

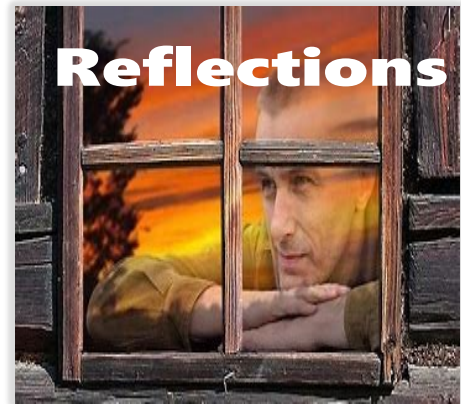
Sermon Title
God's Favoritism

January 26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

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

Readings:
James 2:14-26; John 15:1-8

Sermon Title
Living Faith



The book of James is often identified as the most practical of the books of the bible; giving clear directives on how to live a life of faith.

- What do you do with feelings of doubt? Do you push them away or do you wonder what they might be teaching you?
- We are to be doers not just hearers of the word. What does this mean for YOUR life?
- Does God “play favorites?” What favoritism are you guilty of showing?
- How do you define a “living faith?”
- What fruit are you bearing that shows your living faith?



“Sharing at the Table”

*Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James.
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father
and kept safe for Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:1)*

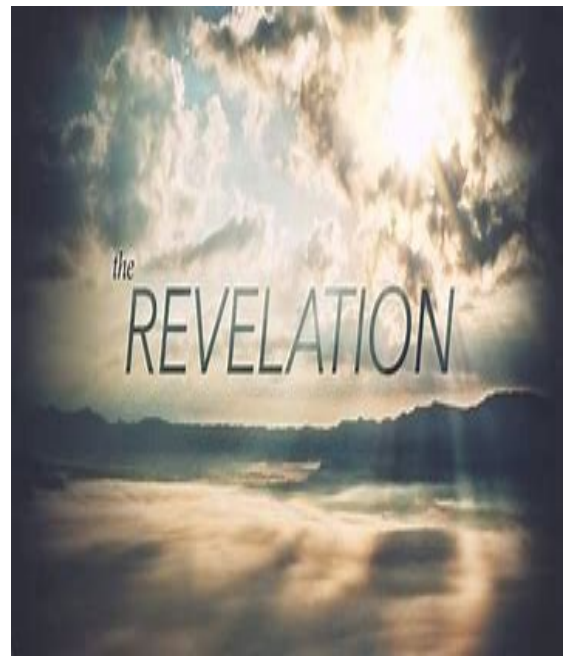
In this short letter it states that Jude was the brother of Christ as well as James. Or, was he?

The readers aren't identified. No particular locality, but Christians in general. False teachers had appeared who perverted the grace of God into looseness of moral standards and denied the lordship of Christ.

The author reminds us as to what will happen in the last time.

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

*A Blessed New Year to All!
Love and Hugs, Arlene Pearson*



Join us as we begin our study of Revelation on Monday, January 6.



WE LIFT IN PRAYER

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 at 708-598-3100. Also, if you have any pictures of any individual(s) for whom we are praying, please bring them to the office 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; Aurora (Dave B); Barb B; Barb M; Bob D; Bob Noel (Ar); Bobbi; Carol; Lieutenant Clint Sanders; Don & Carol (Ivy); Frankie (Bernie); Gail (Stacy B); Gert; Glenna (Angelina); Greg S (Gordon); Janice (Sue H); Jean (Joan's sister); Jeff Z (Deb); Jerry & Joan Panko; Jim W (Andrew); Judi (Evelyn); Judy; Kailie (Karen G); Karen (Toni); Katey (Shirley D & Karen G); Kevin; Kurt K; Kyle W; Linda (Marcia); Linda L; Lorrie C; 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; Raymond (Diane); Richard (Tom M); Richie V; Robbie (Gert); Ron (Greg); Ruth H (Jeni); Ruth S (Jeni); Sandy D (Ar); Shannon B; Shirleen (Shirley D); Steve Z; Sue (Bernie); Susie (Karen G); 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 (Carla); Doris (Diane C); Eva M; Glenda (Mel); Guy K; Jeanette (Rev. Edie); Jessica (Joan); Linda D (Ar); Lori (Debbie); Mary O'Connell (Grace); Mary Jo (Scott); Melissa; Nancy (Dianne F); Pat Z (Shirley D); Patti (Jeni's sister); Randy (Susan); Richie (Ar); 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; 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)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For family and friends of Mary Jo whose son died Thanksgiving Day (Scott); 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); Gerry, Olivia, Holly and Meghan (Toni); 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!

Alyssa received a kidney transplant!

HHPC UPDATE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kids Club

Kids Club is a busy and amazing activity in which to participate. Several of our Kids Club leaders and participants travelled to Brookfield Zoo on

November 24 to decorate our Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church Tree #329 which is located near the carousel at the Zoo's north entrance. There is still time to visit the zoo and see our tree and all the other Christmas trees on display.

Kids Club members assisted with decorating the Christmas tree and nativity in Fellowship Hall. Kids Club continues to draw youth of all ages from our community. The Kids Club staff is working to meet the needs of all who seek our Monday afternoon programming. Also, **Kids Club will not be held on December 23 or December 30, 2019, but will resume on January 6, 2020.**

Advent Adventures

The Advent Season has certainly been exciting at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. We are celebrating

Hope – Peace – Joy - Love: Anticipating the Birth of Christ.

Our Sunday school children began the Advent season by decorating Chrismon ornaments on

December 1. HHPC's morning service on December 8 included our children's program, making our congregation aware of the history and meaning of the Chrismon ornaments on our sanctuary's tree. This program was followed by a potluck and the opportunity for all attendees to make their own Chrismons. About 60 people enjoyed the potluck and had the opportunity to decorate Chrismons; some took them home and others left them behind for our tree.

Christmas Tea

Our Tea was held December 15 and about 60 people enjoyed the afternoon. New and traditional decorations were beautiful. Entertainment was provided by Don Reitsma. Everyone enjoyed the delicious tea, cookies and finger sandwiches. Table games provided challenge and fun, and prizes were awarded. Thank you to our planners, workers, and helpers. It has been remarkable to see multiple generations participate in these Christmas traditions and Advent adventures!

Faith Formation in 2020

Formerly identified as Confirmation, Faith Formation is targeting youth in grades 6-12 who have the desire to increase their understanding of Christianity. Those who wish will be eligible to become members of our HHPC congregation. Please contact the church office at 708-598-3100 with any questions.

The Christian Education Committee will be meeting Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 11:45 a.m. We have already begun planning activities for 2020 including Faith Formation, Sunday School, Kids Club, Souper Sunday, and more.

God bless all in 2020! Jean Swearingen

MISSIONS

The Tree of Warmth has graced the Narthex, holding many hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. 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. Thanks to the Swearingen family for our new tree!

The December newsletter included an Advent list of pantry items. Similar to getting a special treat every day of Advent, we challenged you to bring a weekly bag or box of items for Elsie's Food Pantry. If you can't/don't want to shop, please mark an envelope made out to "Elsie's" with your donation, in the offering basket. We'll be happy to shop for you! A huge hug to Debbie Zimmerman and Mike Swearingen who have hauled 170 pounds of pantry items to Elsie's.

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. Plan on bringing one or more nonperishable food item(s) with you. Through Loaves & Fishes Community Services, you can double the impact, helping to feed local need. Coming soon is another John Gino's support day (see p. 7.).

For the Twelve Days of Christmas, we will be collecting needed items for the Beds program. Please see the printed list in this newsletter!

Blessings! --Kim Ambrosat

**May God's overflowing love
fill our hearts this coming year!**

Upcoming Events:

COMMUNITY MEAL MONDAY, JANUARY 6

(See p.9 for details)



**HHPC ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
AFTER 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

COMING SOON!

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

“FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN” FUNDRAISER JOHN GINO’S PIZZA

(Watch for details)

*On this day 15% of all pretax sales at John Gino’s will go to **Feed My Starving Children**, a nonprofit organization providing nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children around the globe.*

Call 708-839-0150 or dine in at John Gino’s at 8436 South 88th Avenue.



**HHPC ANNUAL
SOUPER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
AFTER 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

There will be a variety of soups available for you to taste and enjoy.

Sign-up sheets will be available prior to the event. Free will donations accepted for the Fund for Human Need.



UPDATE

your contact information

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.

No notifications received this month.

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



May God bless those who are celebrating their birthdays this month. Peace, love and joy always!

1	Hunter Treccani	21	Andrew Witek
1	Le Lee Vryza	21	Matthew Witek
1	Christopher Witek	24	Bobby DeVries
4	Stan Flynn	25	Gwen Lopinski
7	MacKenzie Netter	24	Bobby DeVries
9	Theresa Leavitt	25	Gwen Lopinski
17	Sue Orsic	28	Rev. Edie Lenz
20	Emily Rasckhe	29	Haley Wreza
20	Jennifer DelPrete	31	Audrey Sowa

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

LOL FOR THE NEW YEAR

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



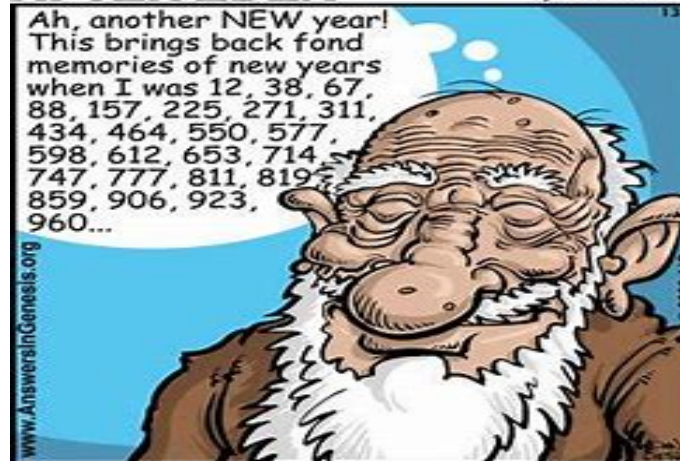
(See John 2:1-11)

12-31-1998

HEY JESUS, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ... I'M BRINGIN' LOTS OF WATER

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lieth



www.AnswersInGenesis.org

Ah, another NEW year! This brings back fond memories of new years when I was 12, 38, 67, 88, 157, 225, 271, 311, 434, 464, 550, 577, 598, 612, 653, 714, 747, 777, 811, 819, 859, 906, 923, 960...

Methuselah on New Year's Day.

FREE
COMMUNITY MEAL

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
invites you to enjoy
a community meal with us!**

JANUARY 6, 2020

Lunch @ 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

sloppy joes, tater tots, salad, desserts

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, IL

www.hickoryhillspres.org

708-598-3100

All are welcome!

We hope to see you there!



Deodorant



Toothpaste



Tissues



Socks



Toilet Paper



Feminine Hygiene Products or Wet Wipes



Chapstick



Lotion



Shampoo



Soap



Band-Aids



Toothbrush

Bringing our gifts to share with those in need.

BEDS PLUS
“12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

Traditionally, the 12 days of Christmas were celebrated between Christmas Day and Epiphany on January 6 which is the celebration of the coming of the Magi.

This year to honor the 12 days' celebration, we are collecting items for **BEDS PLUS**. Much like our Advent collection for Elsie's Pantry, this is an opportunity to celebrate the greatest gift of Christ.

Collections can be turned in at any time, but are **due by January 6**. If you would prefer to simply make a donation and have someone else do the shopping, the amount for all the 12 days is **\$24.75**.

*As Jesus was given to us,
 so we give to others.*

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 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 & Christian Education 5:00 PM REV	6 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club Bible Study 12 NOON - 1:00 PM 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Community Meal	7 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 7:00 PM Worship & Music	8 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	10 4:00 - 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	11 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Workshop
12 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM - REV	13 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session	14 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	15 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	16 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga	17	18
19 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5:00 PM - REV	20 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club	21 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	22 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	22 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM - TOPS 7:00 PM - Yoga John Gino's Fundraiser for "Feed My Starving Children"	24 4:00 - 6:00 PM - Arab Women's Fellowship	25 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Workshop
26 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Annual Congregational Meeting, Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons 5:00 PM - REV	27 Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club	28 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	29 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	30 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	31	