HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



FEBRUARY 2020

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.



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A LETTER FROM REV. EDIE

Throughout the months of January and February, we are walking through the book of James. James is a book that challenges people of faith to put their words into action. James assumes that if we have faith, it is a living, breathing, active faith. He does not teach us that we need to earn our way into the grace of God – this is a gift we are given. James also assumes that the gift of grace will provoke a response of gratitude in us. That if we are a people saved by grace it will make a difference in our lives: we will be different, the world will be able to see our faith in our actions. A reflection on our loving response to God's grace ought then to include the questions, so what? What difference does your faith make in your life? What do your actions, words or attitude tell someone who sees you about what you believe?

If we are truly honest with ourselves, we will have to admit that it can be hard to see a difference between our lives and the lives of those without faith. The rates of abuse, family breakups, mental health challenges, and addiction are not lower in Christian communities. We are as likely to experience these challenges in life as our neighbors with no faith. This repeats the question, if we are a people of faith, what difference is it making in our lives? Are we acting out of habit, obligation, or guilt or are we acting out of a living and vibrant faith? I believe that growing in our faith, not simply in our knowledge, but in our hearts, is a path that allows our faith to be more

visible; it is in going deeper and wider in our faith that we can become more and more the people God created us to be. How are you growing in your faith? What practices, learning, or serving are you engaging that allow you to take steps deeper into the pool of God's grace?

Taking a step deeper in faith is something we are, each of us, called to, over and over. There is always something more to learn. There is always something more God will show us, invite us into, or offer, if we are open to receiving it. What spiritual practice might you try? What have you sensed God calling you to do that you are resisting? What habits are no longer serving you well that you need to release or unlearn? Where do you feel pushed to dive deeper into understanding God's word?

"There is always something more God will show us, invite us into, or offer, if we are open to receiving it."

The joy of faith is that it is a journey, there is always someone further along the road we can look to and learn from, and there is always someone who has not come as far as we have that we can offer assistance This journey is both communal (we need one another) and very personal



(it is about you and your walk with Jesus). We are invited to move past merely believing in Jesus to a life lived in ministry with him.

For myself, I am learning to ask the question, "Why?" Why am I doing this thing? Why am I making the choices I am making? Why is this the thing I am giving my time and energy to rather than something else? Why do I think that this is something that needs to happen? Why does this bother me? Asking why is a spiritual practice I am working on in my own life because it causes me to pause, to wonder, to take a moment and reflect rather than simply react. This is one way that I am practicing going deeper in my faith this year. Wondering is a way of seeking clarity, and a way of asking God's input rather than just my own.

What is God calling you to engage, grow in, or learn? Where are you being called to or away from something? What would it look like to take one step deeper with God?

These are questions that no one can answer for you but God. These are questions that the community of believers together and separately should be asking again and again. These are the questions we need to be asking together.

> Grace and peace in Christ, Rev. Edie



February 2 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Readings:

James 3:1-8; Mark 7:14-23

Sermon TitleIt Is What You Say

February 23 Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Adult Education10:00 a.m. Morning Worship5:00 p.m. REV Worship

Readings:

James 5:13-20; Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon Title

Power of Community

February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Adult Education10:00 a.m. Morning Worship5:00 p.m. REV Worship

Readings:

James 4:1-17; Matthew 7:1-12

Sermon Title

Conflict and Judging One Another

February 26 Ash Wednesday

Noon Lenten Lunch Series at HHPC

Evening Worship with Faith United Presbyterian Church at their location:

6200 167th Street, Tinley Park, IL (time to be determined)

February 16 6th Sunday after Epiphany

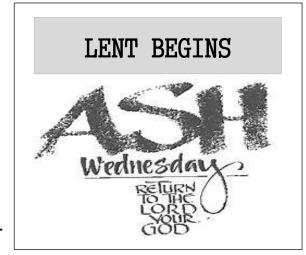
9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

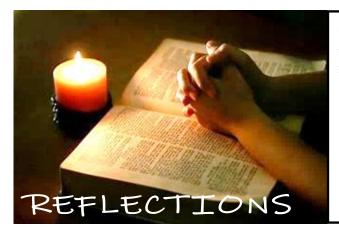
Readings:

James 5:1-12; Matthew 13:24-30

Sermon Title

Patience





This month we continue our walk through the book of James. As we walk through the second half of the book, we have the opportunity to reflect on the practical pieces of faith.

How hard is it to control your tongue?
Why are we so quick to speak and slow to listen?
What does it mean for you to be in the world but not of the world?
We are taught to be patient until the coming of Christ. In what ways are you practicing patience?

The prayers of the faithful are powerful. Take some time to reflect on our prayer list; offer up those who are in need to the presence of God.

What is Per Capita?

Per capita is how Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per capita is:

- the major source of funding for the Presbytery;
- requested from every congregation;
- based on total active membership of each church; and.
- paid by the Presbytery to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and General Assembly regardless of what we actually collect.

What Does Per Capita Provide?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional church. Presbyterian congregations worship, service, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church. Together with the per capita contributions from churches throughout the country, they support the governance work of the presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly.

Presbyterian ministers and elected elders serve as representatives to each governing body. Commissioners to each Assembly represent their individual churches, or governing bodies, but their main purpose is to prayerfully and obediently seek to discern the will of Jesus Christ together. Per capita contributions support ministries such as:

- the work of Presbytery of Chicago's Commission on Ministry and Commission on Preparation for Ministry;
- the work of our staff and various committees; and,
- the official meeting of the governing bodies of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

How Do We Calculate Each Church's Share of Per Capita?

The Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly each set per capita based on their annual budgets and the number of active members in the churches of each organization.

It is important for churches to accurately report their membership annually. Each church's share of per capita is calculated with the membership figures reported by the Session and recorded in the most recent General Assembly minutes.

- The rate for 2020 is based on the total number of active members reported at the end of 2018.
- Each church is encouraged to give its full requested share of per capita, regardless of how it collects the funds.

Per Capita Helps Churches

Through per capita, the Presbytery of Chicago is able to:

- help congregations with pastoral transitions;
- train and support interim ministers;
- resolve congregational conflicts;
- care for ministers, Christian Educators, and their families;
- help prepare people for service as ordained ministers;
- organize and run Presbytery Assembly Meetings; and,
- provide staff to support congregations.

Presbytery of Chicago

2020 Per CapitaRate and Overview

Presbytery of Chicago	\$23.24		
Synod of Lincoln Trails	\$3.81		
General Assembly	\$8.95		
Total	\$36.00		

Together We Can Do More.



Women's Bible Study

"Sharing at the Table"

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophesy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:1-3)

The Revelation To John (the Apocalypse) is not the same as inspiration. Revelation means that disclosure of divine truth given to holy men by the holy spirit (according to the footnote).

We are so grateful that Pastor Edie is helping us with this Book which uses symbols and figures common to apocalyptic literature.

As we read a vision of hope, will you come and join us?

Love and Hugs, Arlene Pearson

Everyone has a love story. It's the Bible. It tells you how much God loves you and how far He went to win your heart.



WE LIFT IN PRAYER



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

If you are on this prayer list and wish to be <u>removed</u> or you would like to be <u>added</u> to the list, please call Rev. Edie or the office at 708-598-3100.

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

Albert; Alyssa (Deb); Aurora (Dave B); Barb B; Bob D; Bob K (Bernie); Bob Noel (Ar); Bobbi; Carol; Don & Carol (Ivy); Frankie (Bernie); Gert; Glenna (Angelina); Greg S (Gordon); Janice (Sue H); Jean (Joan): 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; Lisa (Debbie); 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; 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; 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; Craig M (Gert); Diana; Dick V; Don (Debbie); Doris (Diane C); Eva M; Jessica (Joan); Linda D (Ar); Lori (Debbie); Mary O'Connell (Grace); Mary Jo (Scott); Melissa; 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; Afghanistan; Pakistan (severe weather; 54 died); 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, mudslides, snow storms, volcanoes, cyclones, tornadoes); Australia; the crisis with Iran; Colorado Springs - 8 stabbed; LA storms, Manila lava spew; migrant boat sunk in Greece

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For family and friends of **Barbara Brown** who passed away January 25; for family and friends of **Darlene Kibort** who passed away January 19; for victims and their families affected by violence; New York stabbing at Rabbi's home; Puerto Rico quake; Ukrainian flight #752 shot down

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING MISCELLANEOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Addy for admission into a medical study on her eyes; Anthony in the Marines; Bill (Bernie); Members of Burbank Manor Presbyterian Church which has closed; Colin (Ar); Gerry, Olivia, Holly and Meghan (Toni); Karl Haack in the Marines; tensions with Iran; members of Lansing Presbyterian Church closing soon; Marissa (Theresa); Mark Gulotta in the Marines; Matt; Mike (Karen H); Rachel & Juan; Ron Savino (Deb); Ron for guidance (Debbie)

WE PRAISE GOD! GOD IS IN CONTROL!

Alyssa received a kidney transplant!

HHPC UPDATE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Teach me knowledge and good judgement, for I believe in your commands. (Psalm 119:66)

Kids Club

HHPC welcomed back our kids from Kids Club on Monday, January 20, 2020. We have a dedicated group of adults who lead this activity.

Our Kids Club is a very important participant in HHPC's mission of collecting bottle caps. They can be found sorting through and preparing the plastic caps for processing every week. Kids Club and HHPC are working toward the goal of collecting enough plastic caps to create a park bench to add to HHPC's landscape. For a better understanding of our goal, check out greentreeplastics.com.

Our kids continue to participate in collecting school supplies and pull tabs as other missions (1,267 pull tabs = 1 pound).

Sunday School

Adults.--This group of adults meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in our church library. This adult class is taught by Pastor Edie Lenz with a solid group of attendees. The group always welcomes new attendees.

Children.--HHPC welcomes Tasha Swindle as Sunday School teacher for our younger children who meet weekly. Jean Swearingen is filling teacher responsibilities for our older youth, who meet every other Sunday.

Souper Sunday

Souper Sunday will be held on February 2. Yes, it is Super Bowl Sunday and we will be serving soup! A free will donation will be taken. The donations received are targeted toward the Faith Formation class (formerly Confirmation) for their retreat.

Soup-to-go will be available at \$3 for a 16 oz. container. Please stay after the 10:00 a.m. service to enjoy soup and fellowship with our HHPC family.

Faith Formation

HHPC's Faith Formation class will begin February 16. Classes will be on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. This class is open to youth in 6th thru 12th grades who are interested in strengthening their level of understanding and participation within the Presbyterian Church. The Faith Formation class will participate in a Confirmation retreat at Stronghold Castle in Oregon, IL the weekend of February 22-23, 2020. HHPC hopes all who participate will end the Faith Formation class by becoming a confirmed member of our HHPC family.

We also respect that in the absence of choosing confirmation into our congregation, some may wish to participate in order to increase their knowledge of Christianity. Those who choose will be confirmed by our congregation on Sunday, April 5 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Please contact Pastor Edie if you, or someone you know, might be interested in this opportunity.

Lent Lunch

Ash Wednesday is February 26. HHPC will again hold a noon *Soup*, *Salad and Study* during Lent. Pastor Edie and Arlene Pearson have a great experience ready for all those who can attend. Sign-ups will be available. Free will donations will be accepted.

Upcoming Events

Easter Breakfast - Bake Sale - Recognition Sunday

The next Christian Education meeting will be held Sunday, March 1 following the 10:00 a.m. service. --Jean Swearingen

MISSIONS

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

Happy New Year! We were a very busy congregation last year, and we're gearing up to be just as busy this year!

The December Advent List of pantry items was a huge success! Over 340 pounds of pantry items were delivered to Elsie's Pantry. Your generosity was truly appreciated.

HHPC is hosting our second *Community Meal* on Monday, February 3. Lunch will be served from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. and dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The Feed My Starving Children collection basket, the manna boxes, and M&M tubes are in the Narthex. Mark your calendars now for February 15th or 16th. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex as well. This is a Feed the Need! packing event being held at North Central College in Naperville. 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. Blessings! --Kim Ambrosat





We at HHPC continue to come together as a church family involved in our faith through our ministries, missions, fundraisers and fellowship. Some living in and around our community continue to participate in the events we host.

Join us at these upcoming events.



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

A variety of delicious soups will be available for you to enjoy. Free will donations will be accepted for the Fund for Human Need. Proceeds will be used for the Faith Formation class (formerly Confirmation).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL 12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M. AND 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. (See p. 10 for more details.)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PAK 12:00 NOON – 2:00 P.M.

'NAPERVILLE, IL

AND

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

(Same location as shown above.)

NOTE: Carpooling will be available.)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 HHPC FAITH FORMATION BEGINS (FORMERLY CONFIRMATON) 11:30 A M WITH LUNCH

11:30 A.M. WITH LUNCH (SUNDAYS THROUGH MARCH 22)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 10:30 A.M. A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF LANSING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join the congregation for its final worship together with a luncheon afterwards.

LANSING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2625 RIDGE ROAD LANSING, IL

If you plan to attend, contact Lori Siegfried @ missioncouncil8@gmail.com or call (708) 474-2710.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 LIFELINE SCREENING AT HHPC 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.



NOTE

Our secretary Bernie will have knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, February 26. She will return to the office after rehab in approximately 6 weeks. Announcements, issues, etc. should be given directly to Pastor Edie, in an e-mail to revedielenz@gmail.com or a call to the church office at 708-598-3100 during Rev. Edie's regular office hours.



The Connecting Link publishes 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 celebrating their birthdays this month. Peace, love and joy always! 1 Josh Krueger 20 Alyssia Kommenich 5 Scott Zimmerman 25 Austin McKinney 5 Sam Swearingen 27 Shirley Dragas 5 27 Mike Swearingen Rick Vogl 7 Julie Witek 28 Ryan Brandt 12 Lori Cunningham 28 Sandy Beal

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

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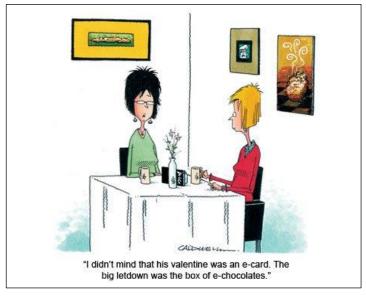
Kevin Lorenz

LOL TIME

18

Amy Simone







Free Community Meal

Every First Monday

Lunch @ Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dinner @ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Homemade food, dessert and fellowship

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church 8426 W. 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL www.hickoryhillspres.org 708-598-3100

All are welcome!

ALL THINGS VALENTINE



"GARDEN OF LOVE"

Cabbage always has a heart; Green beans string along. You're such a Tomato, Will you Peas to me belong?

You've been the Apple of my eye, You know how much I care; So Lettuce get together, We'd make a perfect Pear.

Now, something's sure to Turnip, To prove you can't be Beet; So, if you Carrot all for me Let's let our Tulips meet.

Don't Squash my hopes and dreams now, Bee my Honey, dear; Or tears will fill Potato's eyes, While Sweet Corn lends an ear.

I'll Cauliflower shop and say Your dreams are Parsley mine. I'll work and share my Celery, So be my Valentine!



God's Conversation Hearts

BE MINE (John 3:16)
ALL MINE (John 10:27-30)
LOVE ME (Luke 10:27)
CALL ME (Jeremiah 33:3)
LOVE YOU ALWAYS (Jeremiah 31:3)





A LOVE LETTER TO GOD

Have you ever written a love letter to God? What would you tell God if you did?

WRITING A LOVE LETTER TO GOD SERVES AS A REMINDER OF MY LOVE FOR GOD.

Love is not something we can hold in our hands. It's more than an emotion we hold in our hearts. Love is giving part of ourselves to another. When you choose to take thoughts from your head and give visible structure to them on paper, then those thoughts become more real. Not only will you experience them in your mind and heart, but your eyes can take them in as well. This act is a gift to you; it helps you understand and feel your love for God.

WRITING A LOVE LETTER TO GOD PROVIDES A MEANS OF FOCUSED PRAYER.

Do you ever lose your words when you are praying? Sometimes our brain often tries to fly faster than we talk. Writing out our prayers not only keeps us focused on praying, but it's a beautiful way to remain focused on praising God!

WRITING A LOVE LETTER TO GOD SERVES AS A LOVE GIFT TO GOD.

God does know our thoughts of love. But God enjoys seeing us take steps to a stronger relationship with him. Writing down our thoughts of love toward God is a love offering to him. We lift up our words, and the very act of writing it draws our hearts closer to God, giving God our love.

WRITING A LOVE LETTER TO GOD ENCOURAGES MY TRUST IN GOD.

No one wants a love that grows distant over time. The stronger the love grows, the stronger the relationship trust builds. The more intimate the relationship, the deeper the trust. The practice of writing love letters to God encourages our hearts to trust God fully, through all circumstances.

Writing a letter to God strengthens our relationship.

♥ FEBRUARY 2020 ♥

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Souper Sunday, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education 5:00 PM REV	3 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club 12 NOON - 1:00 PM HHPC Community Meal AND 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM HHPC Community Meal	4 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 7:00 PM Worship & Music	5 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	6 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	7 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	8
9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 PM REV	10 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club 7:30 PM Session	11 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	13 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY M	15 12:00 NOON - 2:00 PM FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PAK NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE NAPERVILLE, IL (Also on Sun, Feb 16)
9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 11:30 AM Faith Formation begins (with lunch) 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PAK NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE NAPERVILLE, IL	17 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club **NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE**	18 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	20 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	21 4:00 – 6:00 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Workshop Confirmation Retreat Feb. 22 & 23 Stronghold Castle Oregon, IL
9:00 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Lansing Pres. Final Service & Lunch 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Board of Deacons 11:30 AM FAITH FORMATION 5:00 PM REV	24 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 - 5:00 PM Kids Club	25 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM Office open	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	27 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	28	8:30 AM - 5:30 PM Lifeline Screening at HHPC