

# THE CONNECTING LINK

*Connecting together to worship and praise our God!*

See HHPC reopening guidelines inside this newsletter.



## Worship with Us

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic and the State of Illinois Stay at Home order, the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday worship services inside the church will **not** be held until further notice. You can participate in virtual Sunday worship with sermon and music (*prerecorded*) and posted on our website. Additionally, Sunday Prayer is on *Facebook Live* with Pastor Edie Lenz at 10:00 a.m.

## Pray with Us

Join us for Daily Devotions and Morning Prayer on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m. on *Facebook Live* at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*.

## Contact Us

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457  
Phone: 708-598-3100

## Visit Us Online

[www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)



### ADVICE FROM A DOLPHIN

- Have a playful spirit.
- Be curious.
- Find someone you really click with.
- Sound out new ideas.
- Glide through the day with ease.
- Find your life's porpoise.
- Consider the flip side! ~lam Shamir

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## A Letter from Rev. Edie

**We can't go back to the way it used to be.** I wonder if that has become clear for you yet? We can't go back to the way it has always been because what was will never be again. You can't go back... you are different, what was is no more. Everything has changed, nothing is the same. You can't unsee what you have seen, you can't put the genie back in the bottle. You can't go back to Eden, you have to move toward the coming reign of God.

I want to be clear as I can be about this, and you are likely to hear me say it a lot in the coming months. Everything has changed and because of the experience of everything changing, you have changed. Maybe it's hard to see. Maybe you feel completely the same, it's just everyone else and everything else that has changed. But if you look in the mirror, if you look deep inside you, you will begin to notice, you are different too.

We are thinking differently – we notice how close people stand to us, who is wearing a mask, we notice the crowds a lot more. We are learning to stand with more physical space between us. We check ourselves in how we greet people. We have had to make hard choices about who is in our “bubble” and who we are choosing

not to spend physical time with. We have learned to use technology in new and amazing ways. We have also seen the limits of technology exposed; maybe more clearly than ever before. The reality that we cannot replace human contact with machines is real. Some of you have learned new hobbies, some have dug deep into closets and found just how much stuff you have. Some of you have learned new things about yourself in the stillness; others have learned just how hard it is to be still. You have been creative and you have been frustrated and all sorts of other emotions. You have changed.

Our world is shifting around us. The culture that seemed so certain yet polarized in March has been revealed to be but a veneer, a façade that we have worn for years to function in society. If we are willing to listen, we are hearing voices that have been silent to us begin to speak. Voices that have a very different experience of this society. What do you do with those voices? Shut them out, dismiss them, wonder about them, listen and try to understand? Racism, sexism, and other sins have been revealed and we struggle not knowing what to think, what to say, or even to see. You have been changed by all of this – perhaps more than you realize. Some of you have experienced all of this as welcome release of burdens long held. Some of you have experienced this as a threat; symbols and statues are powerful. Some of



**Rev. Edie Lenz**  
Pastor

you have wondered why now, why in the middle of a pandemic and all the uncertainty? Can't we do one crisis at a time?

You see? You have changed. You are different than you were in March. We all are. As much as we want to open the church, restart all the programs and events and just go “back to normal” we can't. For the first point, it isn't safe to do it without an effective treatment or vaccine for this unpredictable disease. But also, because we are different, because we have been changed; we can't just go back to the way it used to be--what we need, what we desire, how we relate to God and one another. Church is different. This doesn't mean that we can't recover beloved traditions eventually, but rather, that we, as a body of believers, need to be willing to wonder, explore, dive deeper, be present and ask the hard questions of discernment. What needed to change? What are the things worth fighting for and what should be let go? What are the values that we hold most deeply, the values that will help us find a way forward?

Perhaps most importantly, I want to wonder together; why are we here. Why is the congregation of

*(cont'd. on p. 3.)*

# A NOTE FROM SESSION

## HHPC Family and Friends:

The Session is tasked with leadership as well as care for the congregation. Over the course of the last five months, we have met almost every other week to talk about the congregation, best ways forward, and the challenges we are facing. This past Monday we met to consider whether it is time to reopen the building. After an hour of discussion, prayer, and sharing concerns, it was determined that with rising cases of COVID-19 and the recommendation from the Presbytery that our buildings remain closed until September, the safest course of action is to continue worship online for now.

This also means that we will be again putting the Rummage Sale on hold. However, if you or anyone you know is in need of furniture, we are willing to allow single groups in to purchase furniture and other large items. We still hope to hold the sale this fall, but don't feel at all confident in setting a date.

We are not setting a date for reopening, nor are we setting a hard and fast "not before..." date. We can tell you for sure that we will not reopen before August 23 as Pastor Edie is set for a much-needed vacation on Sunday, August 16. We are committed to checking in on the science, the recommendations of the State and CDC, and with one another every two weeks to determine the best way forward for HHPC. Know that communication on an opening date will come at least one full week in advance to you. We will use e-mail, the website, Facebook, and the calling tree to notify you when it is time to return to the building. We know that some of you are anxious to be back worshipping in person and others have grave concerns. We are also anxious for a sense of normalcy as well as deeply concerned about the safety of our membership.

Please continue to check in on one another, pray for each other and please give one of us or the church a call if there is anything you need. Thank you for your faithfulness.

*Grace and peace, HHPC Session*

## Letter from Rev. Edie (*cont'd. from p. 2.*)

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church planted by God on this corner, at this particular moment in history? Why are we the people God has placed here? Who are we called to be? What are we called by God to do?

We can't go back to the way it was; we have been changed, forged and formed in new ways. We can no longer walk ourselves back. Like Adam and Eve after the fall, we can't just go backwards to the Garden of Eden. They were different, all they could do was move forward. The same is true for us. We must turn our gaze away from what was and begin to wonder about what God is doing now. We must begin to seek the vision God offers for the future; what does it mean to seek the coming reign of God? What does it mean to be a people of resurrection hope in the midst of all that has changed and is still changing? How do we remain anchored in what matters most – our faith and hope in Christ and begin to wonder: What is this new thing that Christ is doing?

*Peace and love in Christ,  
Rev. Edie*



## *You are invited to be a part of the Faith Walking process led by Rev. Edie*

**Faith Walking is a spiritual formation process** based on the belief that change begins with the individual and ripples out into the world. A process of engagement in personal, small group, and large group transformation, where individuals seek to go deeper in their faith, and join Christ on mission into the world. For any and all adults – we can all benefit from becoming more fully human and more fully alive.

*Faith Walking* is open to members and nonmembers of HHPC. If you have a friend you would like to invite to join you, please do not hesitate to bring them along.

### ***What is Faith Walking Foundations?***

- *Faith Walking Foundations* is a 6-module spiritual formation process with the end goal of joining God on mission in the world.
- *Faith Walking Foundations* is done in one-hour segments over 10 weeks (online or in-person meetings).

- Each *Faith Walking Foundations* module follows the same pattern of learning: you receive information, you receive time and opportunity to reflect on what you are learning, and you are invited to put your learning into practice.

## **FAITH WALKING FOUNDATIONS\***

**BEGINNING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

**(Dates and times will be set based on the needs of those signed up.)**

\*If you have completed Module 1, we are looking to begin Module 2 in this same timeframe.

### ***Next Step:***

*Committing to Faith Walking requires two things:*

#### **1. You need to sign up with Rev. Edie by September 7.**

In signing up you commit to the 10 sessions (missing no more than three sessions) and the associated work. These sessions include four smaller group coaching sessions that may happen at a different time. To get the most out of *Faith Walking*, you must be willing to be fully present and play “full-out.”

#### **2. Payment of \$50 for the class**

should be made payable to *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*. This will pay for materials and access to coaches.

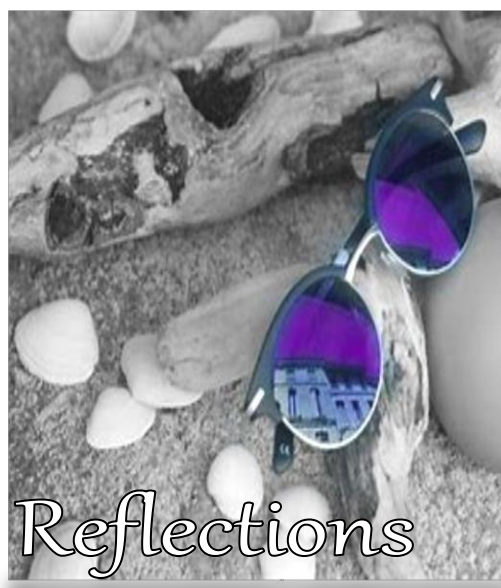
*\*\* If the cost of this is prohibitive, we will happily cover the cost of your experience--finances are never intended to get in the way of this process. \*\**

### ***Topics of the Faith Walking Foundations’ Modules:***

In **Module 1** you will get tools for building self-awareness and self-discovery. You will reflect on both the positive and the negative of your first formation. You will learn how your first formation wounded you and how those wounds are impacting your life. You will learn how to make positive declarations that move your life forward in a healthier direction.

In **Module 2** you will learn how shame and your own sense of self-worth are impacting you in negative ways. You will get tools for addressing your shame and for moving beyond it. You will learn that we all live out of three “selves.” You will learn how to increasingly live as one integrated self. You will be given tools for sharing your story in life-giving ways. You will learn how to put your negative vows behind you.

**Join us!**

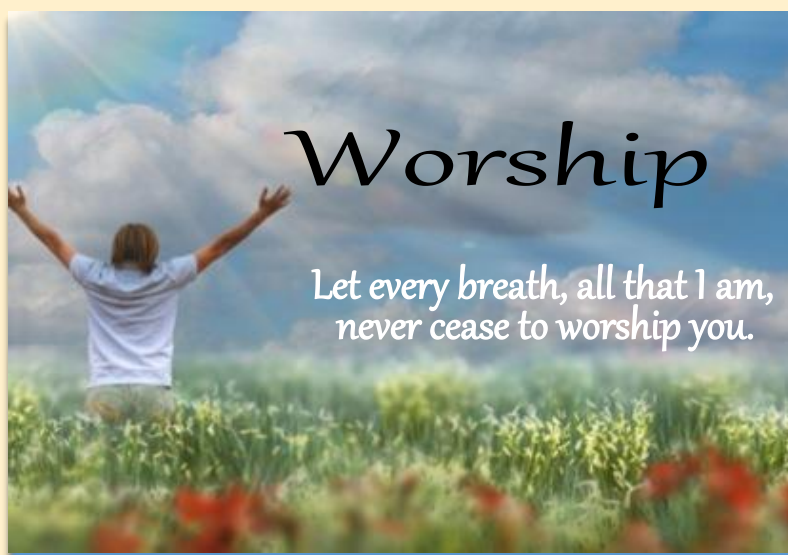


Faith is sometimes less about acceptance and more about struggle. When have you wrestled with God? When have you struggled in your faith or with a challenge you know God is calling you to? What have you learned about yourself?

Peter's step out of the boat and onto the water is a great metaphor for our journey as well. Where are you currently stuck? Where do you need to grow in courage? What would happen if you took a step outside your comfort zone?

To be changed by God, we must be open to God leading us, and shifting our lives around. Where are you resistant to God's intervention? Are there places in your life you are trying to lead God rather than allowing God to lead you?

One of the most human stories in scripture is that of Moses and the burning bush when he asks God to please just send someone else. Have you had the experience of knowing what you needed to do and just not wanting to do it? What was the result? Is there anything God is calling you to know that you are avoiding or resisting?



Below are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie will focus on during Sunday worship. If you don't have Internet access, you may read and reflect on these Scripture passages in your bible.

You can participate in virtual Sunday worship with sermon and music (*prerecorded*) on our website at [hickoryhillspres.org](http://hickoryhillspres.org). **Virtual communion** will be celebrated **Sunday, August 2** during **Facebook Live Prayer** at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church* at 10:00 a.m.

Date	Reading(s)	Sermon Title
<b>Sunday, August 2</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 32:22-31	<i>Wrestling with God</i>
<b>Sunday, August 9</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Matthew 14:22-33	<i>Get Out of the Boat</i>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Edie will be on vacation and Rev. Liz Hulford will substitute with personally-selected scripture and sermon.	
<b>Sunday, August 23</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Romans 12: 1-8; Matthew 16:13-20	<i>Transformed</i>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 3:1-15	<i>Burning Bush</i>



## WE LIFT IN PRAYER

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 the church office at 708-598-3100.

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

**Addy**; (Karen H); **Amanda and Angel**; **Angie** (Grace); **Ashley A** (Noelle L); **Bob F** (Ar); **Bob and Brian** (Grace); **Bob, Gary and Valarie** (Kim); **Christiana H** (Shannon); **Dave** (Karen H); **David** (Karen H); **DeSean** (Kim); **Diane** (Jeni); **Dwayne** (Diane); **Frankie** (Bernie); **Gabriel** (Katie); **Jackson**; **Jerry** (Joan); **Kathy** (Bernie); **Kiley** (Katie); **Lee** (Rev. Edie); **Leida S** (Noelle L); **Linda** (Jeni); **Lisa** (Debbie); **Lynn** (Diane); **Mackenzie** (Bernie); **Michael** (Karen H); **Mike** (Kim); **Pat** (Gert); **Patty** (Katie); **Phyllis** (Katie); **Rose** (Katie); **Russ** (Mel); **Shannon**; **Shavon** (Joan P); **Suzanne** (Bernie); **TJ** (Katie); **Tracy** (Noelle L); **Trevor** (Donna); **Wanda** (Jeni)

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

**Aiden** (Debbie); **Bob** (Dave D); **Brad and Julie** (Andrew); **Dick** (Rick); **Eva M**; **Guy K**; **Isaiah**; **Jessica** (Joan); **Joan**; **John** (Debbie); **Pam** (Katie); **Peggy** (Katie); **Russ** (Jeni); **Stephanie and Savino**

### WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

Those in lockdown and isolation; healthcare providers and others in harm's way, especially **Jean, Kaitlyn, K, and Mollie**; those in hospitals and facilities with other health needs besides COVID-19 who cannot have loved ones with them; **staff of Pointe Kilpatrick** and other care facilities; teachers, students, and parents challenged with e-learning;

those living in domestic violence situations; all who are coping with being furloughed from their jobs or who have lost their jobs; those battling addiction; fire and police departments tasked with keeping the peace; the systemic racism and social challenges in our country

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For the Beal and Frangella families on the recent deaths of **Steven Beal**, Sandy Beal's son and Susan Frangella's brother and Sandy's mother, Dorothy; for the families who have lost loved ones in this time and cannot mourn for them as we normally would; for victims and families affected by violence

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING MISCELLANEOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Coronavirus spreading throughout the world; **Jenny D** (Andrew); those who provide essential services we need; the hotspots around the world deeply impacted by the virus; churches who are struggling to reach members and care for people; the injustice and violence around the country; wisdom for the states that are opening up in different ways; for administrators and teachers making important decisions about the education and safety of children in schools around the country

### WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

For neighbors and families who are willing to help one another; our micro-pantry; for the return of work for some; for the guidance to find ways to share our hope with the world.

**We cling to the promises that God is always with us;  
that there is NOTHING that separates us from the love of God in Christ.**

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# UPDATES

## Discipleship Report

*(previously Christian Education)*

*by Jean Swearingen*

HHPC's Discipleship Committee met in person on July 14, 2020. We practiced social distancing and wore masks. Our "in-person" meeting gave Discipleship the opportunity to experience what activities/events at HHPC might look like in the future.

We discussed many activities/events that would routinely occur September 2020 through May 2021. Discipleship continues to work closely with our Session regarding reactivation as allowed within the State of Illinois and our denominational guidelines. Some very difficult decisions were made.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL** *(Children and Adults)*

Sunday School **will not** be held through the end of the 2020 calendar year. Determination of the 2021 calendar year will be made as world and local events evolve. If HHPC is able to resume in-person Sunday services and a child is in attendance, they will sit with their family. They will receive an activity packet for the service.

### **KIDS CLUB**

Kids Club **will not** be held during the 2020-2021 school year.

### **CHRISTMAS TEA**

December's Christmas Tea **will not be held in 2020.**

### **POP TABS**

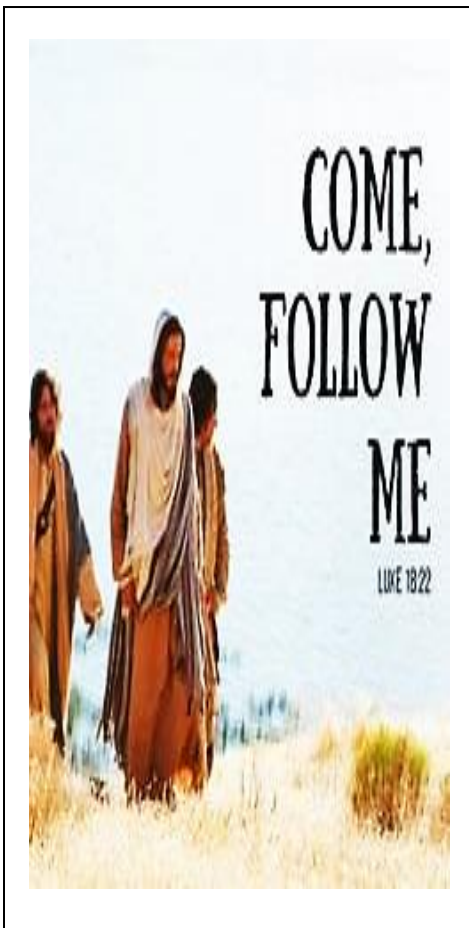
Keep saving! Please continue saving pop tabs. HHPC does ask that you do not bring pop tabs into the building at this time. Please continue saving in your homes.

### **PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS**

HHPC has **great news** to share regarding collecting plastic bottle caps. The Discipleship Committee has worked closely with our Mission Committee for this project. Please see the Mission Committee report for a wonderful story.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

Vacation Bible School 2020 was cancelled. We hold great hope that 2021 will allow for VBS to occur. Stay tuned and keep your fingers crossed!



*(cont'd on p. 8.)*

**HHPC Updates**  
(cont'd from p. 7.)

## Missions Report

by Kim Ambrosat



Give your hands to

serve  
and your hearts to  
love.

~Mother Teresa

It is with high hopes we will see each other once again, soon! In the meantime, our Missions are still running strong. Hoping schools will be opening in the Fall, we are asking our members to bring school items when you come to our August 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Meal Barbeque (sign up on our website or give any one of us a call).

We will continue stocking our Micro Pantry. Your donations, whether monetary or actual items, are much appreciated. The outpouring of anonymous donations continues, but still, the need is great. If you have extra items from your garden, those are welcome as well.

Working with MC8 in the month of July, we asked you to sponsor a \$15 hygiene kit (or two). In the past we have packed the kits. With our new norm, we have come to learn that if we pack actual items, they will sit in quarantine for 60-90 days. MC8 would like to raise \$3,500 or more for Church World Service. We will collect donations through August 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you haven't done so already, please watch Rev. Edie's August 26<sup>th</sup> sermon on YouTube (you can find the link on our website). Along with a

wonderful sermon, Rev. Edie tells another story which all of you are included in. Rev. Edie highlights one of the small things we continue to work on.

Continue to pray for one another and the work HHPC continues to do. We are truly blessed!

*Looking forward to seeing you again!*

We pray for our  
Missions here at  
HHPC so that  
we may continue  
to serve with love.





## From Bottle Caps to a Bench

Before you try to figure out how the “Before” became the “After” in the pictures shown above, don’t rack your brain, just continue reading.

Green Tree Plastics Company-ABC Partnership, a recycling company and manufacturer of various plastic products located in Evansville, Indiana, is doing a great service for the environment by recycling plastic bottle caps. These bottle caps are grinded, melted and set into different kinds of molds, some of which are the molds used to make benches. The material is then sent to the finishing department where they are cut and assembled into sturdy 6-foot plastic benches.

As a challenge to local communities and schools, the company offers the opportunity to collect plastic bottle caps and, in return, receive one of these benches in a variety of colors.

Over the past year, HHPC has collected more than 250 pounds of bottle caps equivalent to 65,000 caps!

On Friday, July 24, our “Bottle Cap Team” delivered the caps to Green Tree Plastics and brought back the stunning 6-foot blue bench shown in the picture above that will eventually sit outside our church. Our sincere thanks to Bryan Ambrosat, his wife Kait, Kim Ambrosat and Mike Swearingen for making the trip to Indiana to pick up and deliver this beautiful bench to HHPC. We also want to thank all those who saved and turned in any plastic bottle caps.

Currently, we have 55-60 lbs. of caps on hand and are planning to save enough for another bench which we will donate to a chosen organization.

**Keep saving—every cap helps!**



The lovely ladies at Green Tree Plastics-ABC Partnership Company. Notice the map behind them--all the pins on the map represent where a bench has been placed.



Our amazing HHPC “Bottle Cap Team” (from left, Mike Swearingen, Bryan Ambrosat, Kait Ambrosat, Kim Ambrosat holding baby Lily Ambrosat).



Mike Swearingen, the first to sit on our new bench.

## CONNECT ONLINE WITH HHPC



***Until we're able to gather together, we continue to connect with our HHPC family while we are being asked to remain physically distanced. Shown below are some options you might consider.***

### ZOOM MEETINGS

**If you want to connect with other members of HHPC** for an hour or so while we are being asked to remain distanced, we will be using a program called *Zoom*.

Zoom is a great tool for two reasons. First, you do not have to have a computer to connect. You can either use a computer with Internet and a web camera OR download the free app on to your smart phone. If these are not an option, you can use the conference call phone number shown in the next column. You can be a part of the conversation with or without video.

Second, it is easy to use; you don't need to install a bunch of programs or know a lot. You can simply follow the instructions and get connected.

### ZOOM MEETING TIMES

**Wednesday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

“Social Time” on Zoom-Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/453079401>

Meeting ID: 453 079 401

Phone number: 1-312-626-6799

Code: 453079401 Password: 167828

### HHPC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK LIVE

**Sunday Worship with Sermon and Music** (*prerecorded*)

is available on our website at

*[hickoryhillspres.org](https://www.hickoryhillspres.org). Sunday Prayer is held on Facebook Live at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m.*

**Facebook Live Daily Devotions and Prayers**

Join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m. on *Facebook Live at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*.

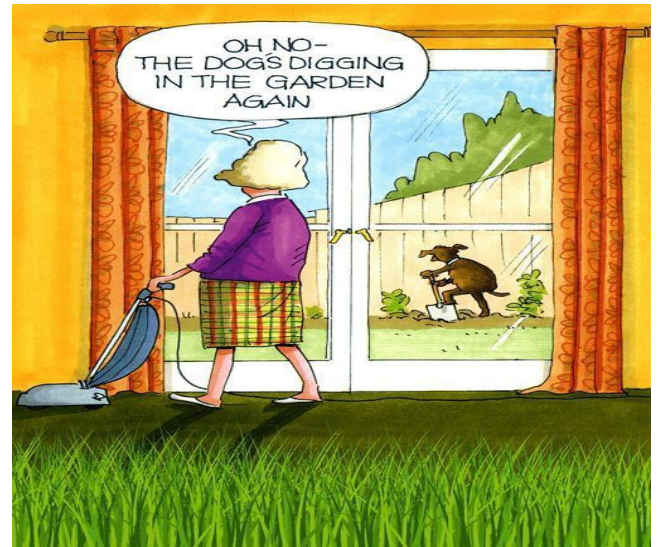
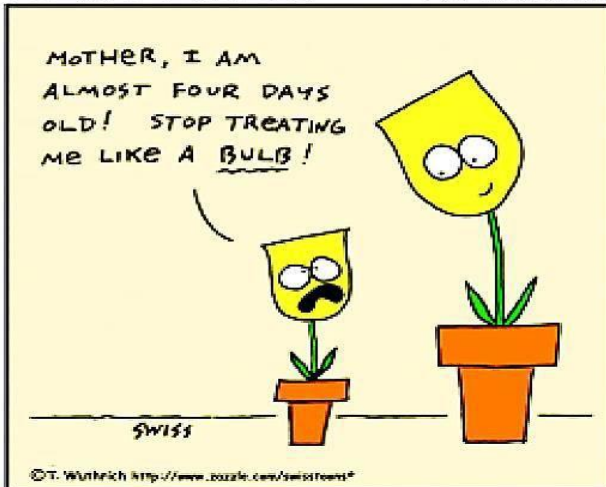
LOL



TIME



**BEST BUDS BY SWISS**



- Q. Why did the gardener bury all her money?
- Q. What do you call a gardener that has a beard?
- Q. What kind of socks does a gardener wear?

- A. To make her soil rich.
- A: Hairy Potter.
- A. Garden Hose.

Dear Lord,

I thank you for the gift of my life. I also thank you for the gift of the wonderful people I have met on my life journey. Some of them inspire me, stretch me, challenge me, love me and encourage me. All of them helped me to realize how meaningful and beautiful my life is.

Bless them, Lord, and thank you for bringing them into my life.

Love you always, Me



To all HHPC friends who are celebrating their birthdays in August, may God bless each of you on your special day and throughout the year.

Anthony Lavaretto	August 1
Patt Pilgrim	August 1
Susan Beal Frangella	August 2
Jeni Vogl	August 2
Shannon Bastien	August 3
Carolyn Watson	August 5
Molly Netter	August 9
Gertrude Vickers	August 11
Agnes Davidson	August 13
Jimmie Rehbock	August 18
Chris Maranto	August 21
Christine Fox	August 22
Abigail Rellinger	August 23
Marilyn Betterton	August 30

**Should you notice any omissions or inaccuracies on the birthday list, please report them to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.**



*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](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)**





## “My Sacred Space”

Your backyard, patio or balcony could be an ideal location to create a sacred space for yourself this summer, and you can be the interior designer of that space! A sacred place where you can pray, meditate or simply sit a spell and relax. No yard or balcony? A room inside your home would work as well.

This place should be in an area where you can spend some quiet time by yourself. If in your yard, it could be sitting under a tree or in the sun in your favorite chair, or on a blanket or cushion. If on your balcony or patio, find a comfy spot to sit. If inside your home, you might have a favorite chair in your bedroom or another room where you can enjoy this time alone.



Sit near or bring into this space your favorite plant or container of flowers that might “speak” to you in some way. You might also fill this space with other items that make you happy. For example, a favorite statue or figurine, a framed picture or photograph, a candle, a favorite meditation book or prayer, a special letter that you received from someone that you can re-read and enjoy in this special place. You might also consider filling a container with personal prayer intentions and pray over each of them.

A specific time each day or as often as you are able to spend time in here would be ideal.

Wherever you choose to have your quiet dwelling, may you enjoy all of its delightful offerings.



## Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church Plan for “Phase 4” of Illinois Re-opening

\*\*\*What follows is the plan created to allow Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church to comply with all State and Local Regulations and can be altered as necessary.

### Opening/Closing and Communication:

Session votes to open and close the building and has the right to make changes to this plan as issues or needs arise.

When the State of Illinois enters Phase 4, Session will meet and designate a date for the opening of the HHPC building. This and only this will determine when we begin to reopen the building. The current plan is to consider opening 30 days after the state moves to “Phase 4.”

The goal of this plan is to communicate clearly, minimize risk, and enable people to gather together for worship and ministry in the church building.

### Signs:

Signs giving instructions, safety measures, and plans will be posted throughout the building. This will include a notice on the outside door requiring a mask for movement through the building, choosing not to enter if you are sick or have been exposed, and recommending regular use of hand sanitizer.

### Entrances:

North Entrance – upper lot will be the primary entrance point for worship.

If you need the elevator, park in the lower lot (stairs by the offices will be closed). The East door will be unlocked and should be used ONLY by those needing the elevator. No other doors should be used.

### Safety Protocols:

If you are not feeling well, have been exposed to COVID, or are undergoing testing; do not come to the church building. If you have recently traveled please see the Cook County travel guidance before visiting. <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance/>

Masks MUST be worn entering and leaving the building as well as when you are moving about in the building. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. **If there are more than 4 people in the building, no matter the reason for gathering together you need to be wearing masks; even if you are able to be seated or stand 6ft apart.**

Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances, and throughout the building, please use it regularly. Sanitizer will be placed at both entrances to the elevator for those who need to use it.

Bathrooms are limited to one person at a time, refrain from gathering near the doors. You are encouraged to wash your hands and use a paper towel when you exit the bathroom. A garbage can will be located in the hallway.

Smaller rooms are closed until further notice: this includes kitchen, classrooms, and the nursery. During worship and meetings offices are closed as well.

The drinking fountains are closed.

Windows and doors will be opened whenever possible to allow for fresh air to enter the building.

**Worship:**

North doors will be propped open for touch-free access to the building. Sanctuary doors will remain propped open during service.

Windows and doors will be opened whenever possible to allow for fresh air to enter the building.

While the north doors are preferred for entrance, if you MUST use the elevator, please use the hand sanitizer before entering and upon exiting the elevator. The elevator will be sanitized between services.

Guest book will be removed, ushers will take down names and a contact number for any guests that come.

Seating is 6ft measured out and pre-set. You are asked to arrive as a household and sit together for worship.

Occupancy will be limited to 50 or less. This is in compliance with the State of Illinois as required by our insurance provider.

Bulletins will be used to mark seating. If you cannot share your bulletin with your household, extras will be available from the usher.

Once seated, please do not move around. If you must get up please make sure you are masked.

Greet one another from afar (wave, bow, peace sign, etc.)

Greg will provide music, there will be no congregational singing. Congregational responses and reading in unison will be minimized.

No food or beverages will be served, fellowship can occur in the parking lot before or after service.

Communion – will be served in seats, prepackaged; single serve cup with wafer will be utilized.

All bibles, hymnals, friendship pads, and other handouts will be removed from the sanctuary and the narthex. This includes children's activities.

Lay readers will be seated 10ft from the pastor and will only use a hand-held microphone being sure to maintain distance from congregation and pastor. Children's message may be used but children will remain in their seats.

Offering will be placed in the wooden box as you enter or leave the sanctuary. While we understand many prefer to use envelopes, you will need to bring your envelope from home. Loose envelopes will not be left out for use.

Congregation will be asked to exit the sanctuary gradually. In general, dismiss from the back, by rows using all three of the exit doors to the sanctuary. Congregation is encouraged to exit the building after service and socialize in the parking lot, not in the building.

**Ushers:** Ushers will be assigned each week. Ushers will:

- encourage people to move into the sanctuary and not gather in groups in the back
- remind people to sit only where seating is designated
- take attendance (record names of those attending for contact tracing) this includes guests providing a name and contact information

**Other rooms:**

All classrooms and nursery and kitchen are closed until further notice, including for meetings. Meetings are encouraged to take place outside (weather permitting). If you must meet inside you can use the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or the gym. Full ventilation is not really available in many other rooms.

\*where possible close off or lock the rooms that are not to be used (including the library)

**Groups and Ministries:**

Use of the building is restricted to worship, day to day operations, and specifically designated ministries until September. This will allow ample opportunity to work out kinks in this plan and do our best to ensure safety of groups.

Groups are invited to gather in the parking lot at any point, we ask that you still maintain a 6ft distance from one another.

Committees, groups, and ministries are encouraged to continue meeting online when possible.

Individual groups and ministries will be evaluated and may have specific plans created for those particular ministries. This includes Discipleship (kids, youth and adults), Missions, as well as all individual ministries that use the HHPC building.



**Duration of the plan:**

If someone attending worship, meetings, or a ministry tests positive for COVID-19 the church will immediately be closed for 2 weeks for a full cleaning. Those exposed will be notified by the church staff or elders.

This plan and the safety protocols in it will remain in place until the State of Illinois enters Phase 5 of recovery. If infection rates rise and the State of Illinois moves back to Phase 1,2 or 3, the church building will immediately close and all activities will move online.

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