

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE CONNECTING LINK

*Connecting together to worship and praise our God!*



## 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 Livestream on *Facebook* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org) by noon.

## 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)



**Someday we will look back on this time and it will forever remind us to never take the little things for granted. It will remind us to hug with all our hearts, to pause to appreciate holding someone's hand, and to live in the moments that we are surrounded by others.** ~ *Laura Jones*

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## A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz  
Pastor

This morning I had a conversation with someone working at a call center. As he assisted me in addressing the issue I called about, he asked how our church is managing with all that COVID-19 has brought about. When I shared that we are still worshiping online and that our building has remained closed, he spoke up about how frustrating it is that the church is “closed;” that we are “not allowed” to be open and worship together. It is not my habit to debate or argue with those in customer service, but I just couldn’t help myself.

“The church isn’t closed. We are simply not meeting together in person for worship.” We have not been told we **can’t** meet; we are choosing to meet online out of love and concern for one another. We are free to open the building when we choose, but when we do, it will be out of an abundance of caution. We believe that we are the church in all the places we go, not just when we get together in a building. Maybe I was a bit short with him, maybe I didn’t take the time to ask what he meant, maybe he wasn’t fishing for a political argument, but I absolutely meant what I said.

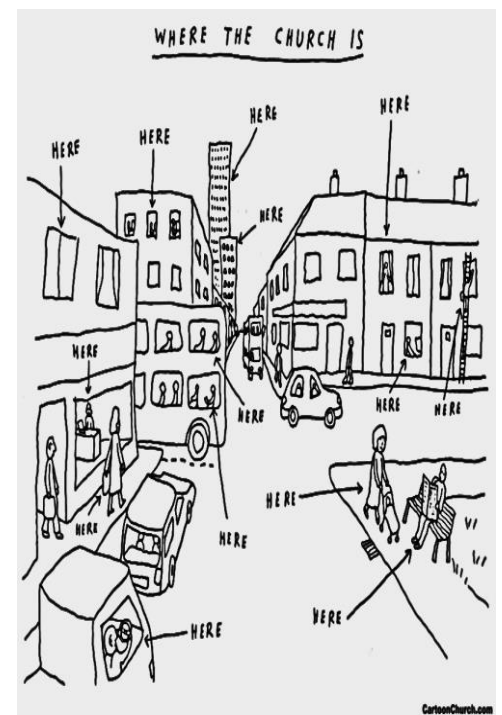
**WE ARE THE CHURCH.** The church, the body of believers, the Bride of Christ, the community of the faithful has never been a building. Yes, we have a building; the church has beautiful buildings. Our building is a convenient meeting place, a place many of us call home and find comfort. This building is a place of worship together, a place we nurture and bless one another, but the building itself is not the church.

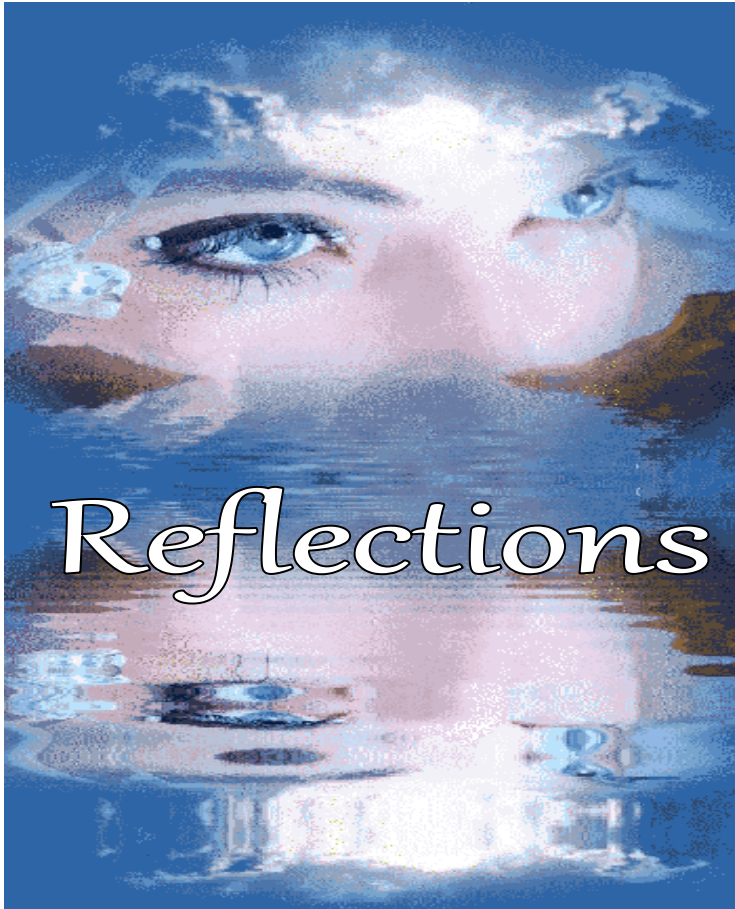
**WE** are the church. When you reach out to a neighbor who is in need, offer a hand to help, a listening ear, a voice of hope – you are the church. When you are in the grocery store and pick up extra items for the pantry – you are the church. When you take the time to sit quietly with God, listening for that still small voice – you are the church. When you seek dialogue over debate, understanding over argument; when you speak up for justice in a hard conversation – you are the church. When you set aside your preferences for the sake of another – you are the church. Whenever you choose to speak or act with God at the center and to love your neighbor as you love yourself, you are serving as the church.

In the midst of divisive political debates, challenges of justice, traumatic events raging, the world needs the church. The world needs

God’s people to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God.” The world needs people who love their neighbor as they love themselves, who are willing even to “take up their cross and follow.” We do this not in posturing and posting on social media, not by arguing and making our case. We do this in action, in the words we speak, in relationship and in community. Yes, the church building is currently closed, but the Church of Christ has never been closed.

People of God, you ARE the church – Go and be the church.





*Your soul needs time for solitude and self-reflection. In order to love, lead, head and create, you must nourish yourself first. --Louise Hay*

## Questions for Reflection

- What is the church? How do you define church?
- Jesus sets out for us high standards on forgiveness in community. What does it really mean to forgive? When have you experienced forgiveness? When have you extended it?
- We often get wrapped up in stories of what is “fair.” When we read scripture it becomes clear that our human standards and expectations are not God’s; how do we learn to see how Jesus sees?
- Faith in action is not only believing, but doing. When we “set intention” we make a conscious choice to move in a certain direction. Where are you feeling God is calling or pushing you? What intentions do you need to set?



The following 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 Livestream on *Facebook* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org) by noon on Sunday.

**Virtual communion will be celebrated Sunday,  
September 6 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Sunday, September 6, 2020**

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**Sermon Title:** *Life Together - Forgiveness*

### **Sunday, September 13**

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

**Sermon Title:** *Life Together – Stumbling Blocks*

### **Sunday, September 20**

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20: 1-16

**Sermon Title:** *Life Together - Fairness*

### **Sunday, September 27**

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

**Sermon Title:** *Life Together - Humility*



# Prayer Requests

John 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

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 or e-mail [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org).

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

Addy; (Karen H); Amanda and Angel; Angie (Grace); Bob F (Ar); Bob and Brian (Grace); Bob, Gary and Valarie (Kim); Christine (Esther); Dave (Karen H); David (Karen H); DeSean (Kim); Diane (Jeni); Dwayne (Diane); Frankie (Bernie); Gabriel (Katie); Jackson; Jerry (Joan); Kathy (Bernie); Kiley (Katie); Linda (Jeni); Lisa (Debbie); Lynn (Diane); Mackenzie (Bernie); Marj (Charlie); Michael (Karen H); Mike (Kim); Pat (Gert); Patty (Katie); Peter (Katie); Phyllis (Katie); Raymond (Diane C); Richard (Diane C); 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 (Jeni); Eva M; Guy K; Gwynn (Katie); Isaiah; Jessica (Joan); Joan; John (Debbie); Pam (Katie); Peggy (Katie); Russ (Jeni); Stephanie and Savino; Vance (Rev. Edie)

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

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; those in lockdown and isolation; 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 family and friends of Amy who recently passed away (Shannon); for family and friends of Nancy (Kim) who passed away; 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; for wildfires in California and those in need on the Gulf coast; 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.**

HHPC

# Updates

## *Mission Report* by Kim Ambrosat

It is so hard to believe it has been six months since we've seen one another. Life as we know it has changed. We look forward to seeing one another, yet we know we must keep our distance. Many things haven't changed. We still provide food in our micro-pantry, pray for those who need the food, and rejoice in those that share from their gardens, shelves, and pockets.

For those who brought school supplies to the church, thank you! I remember last year when we collected school supplies, we were worshipping in the gym!

In July and August, we asked you to sponsor a hygiene kit (or two). We collected \$810 which helped our MC8 partners to reach the goal of \$3,500 for Church World Service (CWS).

Our August Community Meal was well-received. We served outside, via drive-by or dine at a distance (*see pictures below*). Thanks to all those who planned, shopped, prepared, cooked, grilled, served, and cleaned up! We have decided to forego the September Community Meal in hopes October will allow us a true dinner time table talk with friends both

old and new. Watch and listen for upcoming details.

Look forward to a packing date for *Feed My Starving Children*. We are diligently watching for a time when we can pack. Since we can't put our loose change in a basket at church, how about keeping your own jar or basket at home? Since there is a supposed coin shortage, dollar bills work. When the time comes, wouldn't it be great to have a huge donation ready?

Continue to pray for one another and the work HHPC continues to do. We are truly blessed! Looking forward to seeing you again, *Kim*



Friendly staff at your service.



HHPC volunteers serve up meals.



Pick-up meals are quick and easy!

## HHPC Updates (cont'd)

### EMERGENCY BIBLE NUMBERS

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance necessary. Lines open to Heaven 24 hours a day! Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death.

—Author Unknown

When in sorrow, call John 14

When persons fail you, call Psalm 27

If you want to be fruitful, call John 15

When you have sinned, call Psalm 51

When you worry, call Matt. 6:19-34

When you are in danger, call Psalm 91

When your faith needs stirring,  
call Hebrews 11

When you are lonely and fearful,  
call Psalm 23

When you grow bitter and critical,  
call 1 Cor. 13

For Paul's secret to happiness,  
call Col. 3:21-27

When you feel down and out,  
call Romans 8:31-39

When you want peace and rest,  
call Matt. 11:25-30

When you leave home for labor or travel,  
call Psalm 121

When you want Christian assurance,  
call Romans 8:1-30

When the world seems bigger than God,  
call Psalm 90

When your prayers grow narrow or selfish,  
call Psalm 67

For a great invention/opportunity,  
call Isaiah 55

When you think of investments,  
call Mark 10

If you are depressed, call Psalm 37

If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37

If you are losing confidence in people,  
call 1 Cor. 13

If people seem unkind, call John 15

If discouraged about your work,  
call Psalm 126

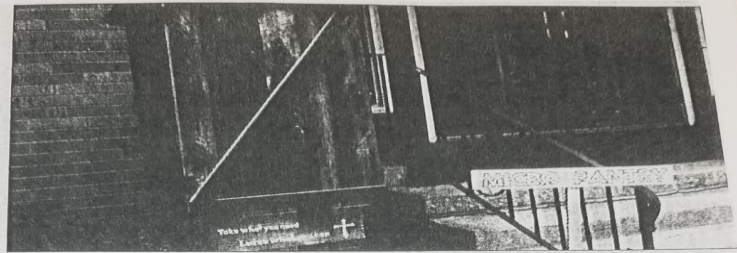
If you find the world growing small and  
yourself great, call Psalm 19



## Women's Bible Study Resumes Monday, September 14, 2020 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

It's been quite some time since we gathered together and we are ready to resume our *Women's Bible Study*. Let us join together with our faith sisters as we open our minds and hearts to what scripture will reveal to each of us. Hope to see you there!

*The following article written by Joe Boyle appeared in the Regional News on Thursday, June 18, 2020.*



Edie Lenz, the pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church in Hickory Hills, said that she is gratified by the large amount of donations for the micro food pantry that is located in front of the church. Photo by Joe Boyle

## Hickory Hills pastor is thrilled with food donations

By Joe Boyle

Edie Lenz, the pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church in Hickory Hills, said while COVID-19 has brought uneasiness and misfortune, this is also a time to open up our hearts.

Providing food for those in need while in the midst of the virus can help, the pastor said. That was how the idea of the micro food pantry was created and is located in front of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, 8246 W. 95th St.

The idea began during an email committee meeting held on March 28 after the stay-at-home order came from Gov. Pritzker. "I was aware of micro pantries in other communities," said Lenz, who is in her second year as pastor at the church. "During the email meeting, members of the church discussed the idea and agreed to do it."

The only obstacle now was how is this going to be done? During the meeting, it was learned that a son of one of the members is a carpenter.

"He agreed to do it and said he could have it up soon," Lenz recalled. "He started working on

it right away and it was up by the end of that Friday."

The wooden cabinet stands just over eight feet and has several shelves to place non-perishable items. A sign appears just to the left of the structure that indicates it is a micro food pantry. A phrase appears just below the cabinet that reads "Take what you need...Leave what you can."

Lenz said the structure resembles a large kitchen cabinet, a welcoming sign for those who come by. The cabinet is filled with many food products. Anyone in need can simply stop by and take what they need, the pastor said.

The pastor added that all that is asked is that if someone takes food that they can also put something in the pantry if they are able.

This is free to anyone who is in need, she said. Lenz added that personal hygiene items are also available.

The pastor was not initially sure how the idea would progress. However, she found out the answer to that question rather quickly.

"The response has been phenomenal," Lenz said. "We have enough food right now to last a long time. We opened it one day and it was overflowing. So, we

took some items out to put in later. Many community organizations have also been donating."

Suggested items to donate include canned fruits and vegetables, bags of beans, pastas, and snacks for kids. Toothpaste and toiletries have also been donated.

"It's been a light for us," Lenz said. "We have not had any church services or have been meeting in person for well over a month. But this is wonderful. It is so nice that this is being utilized and that so many people are contributing."

Lenz just marked her second anniversary at the church. Her last assignment was in Fulton in rural Illinois. While these are difficult times, the response of the church and surrounding community has been heartwarming, she said.

The first micro food pantries began to appear in Will County in and near Joliet. As many as 20 pantries can be found in the far southwest suburbs.

"It's been a dramatic year," Lenz said. "With food pantries being over-run with many new clients, this is a small way of helping relieve some of their burden and help community residents."

# CONNECT ONLINE WITH HHPC.



## 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 webcam OR download the free app onto 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.

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 MEETING TIMES

You can participate in virtual Sunday worship Livestream on *Facebook* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org) by noon on Sunday.

**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** Livestream is available on *Facebook* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday and recorded on our website at [hickoryhillspres.org](http://hickoryhillspres.org) by noon.

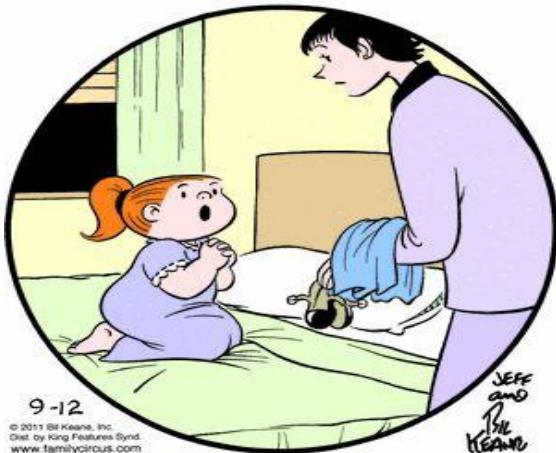
**Sunday Prayer** is held on Facebook Live at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church* at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**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



9-12

© 2011 by Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.comJEFF  
AND  
THE  
KEANE

**"How many 'Talk to God' minutes  
does our family plan allow?"**



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K.Spear

**"I want to thank you. Ever since you've been in my class,  
my prayer life has skyrocketed."**

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www.glasbergen.com

GLASBERGEN

**"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"**



How cool is that  
 THE **GOD** WHO  
 SAME CREATED  
 MOUNTAINS, & OCEANS, & GALAXIES  
 looked at *you*  
 & thought the  
**WORLD**  
 needed one of *you*  
 too.



*May God bless all of our friends with his boundless love, calming peace and heavenly joy on their special day and throughout the coming year.*

Noelle Larson	September 7
Terri Lorenz	September 8
Sarah Sizemore	September 8
Frances Nelson	September 10
Debbie Raschke	September 11
Evan Grisko	September 12
K Zimmerman	September 13
Stacey Lorenz	September 15
Cheryl Nirtaut	September 15
Kyle Wheeler	September 17
Stephanie Lorenz	September 18
Dawn Rellinger	September 18
Charles Huenecke	September 19
Dave Delaney	September 20
Colleen Petkus	September 21
Laura Villarreal	September 22
Debbie Zimmerman	September 22
Ryan Brenz	September 23
Cathie Wheeler	September 26
Greg Rolla	September 27
Eileen Freeman	September 29
Barbara Hepburn	September 30
Doug McKinney	September 30

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

 Update  
Contact Info



*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)



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

**FAITH WALKING FOUNDATIONS  
BEGINNING THE WEEK OF  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

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

**Deadline for Registration: September 9**

**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.

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

***Next Step:  
Committing to Faith Walking  
requires two things:***

**1. You need to sign up with Rev. Edie by September 9.**

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. +

## AN AUTUMN PRAYER

**Creator God,** You have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of Your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is You who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of Your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise You for your goodness forever and ever. --*Author Unknown*



### PSALM 96:12 SPEAKS OF AUTUMN

*... let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy...*

*Take a look at the photograph and imagine yourself in the following environment:*



**Visualize yourself walking through this forest along a dirt trail.** The air smells like warm spices, and the sound of birds chirping fills your ears.

Leaves crunch underneath your feet and your eyes absorb the vivid autumn colors all around you.

As you continue on, what else do you sense?

Sit and contemplate this scene and focus as you take relaxing breaths.

*As you go throughout your day (or if you find yourself up at night), come back to this photograph and the scene you created in your mind.*



How many words can you make out of **AUTUMN LEAVES?**

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*Connecting together to worship and praise our God!*

**HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**THE CONNECTING LINK**

**DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD**

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church**  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457