

# THE CONNECTING LINK

*Connecting together to worship and praise our God!*



## Worship with Us

### SUNDAYS

#### 10:00 a.m. In-person Morning Worship

(Livestreamed on our Facebook page at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church* and also recorded and available for viewing on our website [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org) by noon on Sundays)

#### 5:00 p.m. In-person REV Worship

## Contact Us

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Phone: 708-598-3100

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

## Visit Us Online

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

## A Message of Gratitude

Gratitude is sometimes left unsaid, but this message from an anonymous recipient of food from our Micro-pantry reminds us that as Christians we are asked to help those in need.



*"Thank You!  
I lost my job  
in June.  
Times have  
been hard.  
I am grateful  
for this food.  
God bless you."*

## INSIDE:

A Letter from Rev. Edie	2
Worship Services, Readings, Reflections	3
Women's Bible Study	4
Prayer Requests	5
HHPC Fall Update: Discipleship/Mission	6
Missions: Our Involvement Areas; Rummage Sale	7, 8
Birthdays, Contact Information Changes, Fall Colors	9
LOL for Halloween	10
Calendar	11

## A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz  
Pastor

**Fall is upon us.** As I write this the calendar is shifting from summer to fall. The leaves have begun to turn on the edges and soon the oranges, reds, purples, and yellows will dominate. The cooler temperatures have allowed for open windows and have required finding shoes and jackets in our house. The seasons are predictable in their relentlessness; they always come around, the days grow shorter and will eventually grow longer again. Though we do not always pay attention, our lives also have rhythm and pattern to them. Some of these patterns are long-established habits, some are more recent, new things taken on. But whether you are paying attention or not, your patterns are as predicable in you as the seasons are for us.

I have been wondering about these patterns in life, about the ways we just do things. I have also been present to all that has changed this year. There are things that have “always been done that way” that have had to change. There are regular events, programs and patterns in the life of the church that have been interrupted, changed, shifted or outright canceled. Two things about this reality seem really important for us to wonder.

First, it is important to grieve our losses. There are ways of being together. People, events, and even

habits have changed. It doesn't do for us to pretend this is untrue. The grief and emotions attached are real; to pretend or push them away will not be helpful. We need to face the grief, walk through it, name it and allow our hearts to be sad. I mourn my son's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year and how different this milestone year will be. I grieve those we have lost and been unable to mourn the way we want. I grieve the changes in worship: the separation, masks, lack of song, the missing fellowship. I grieve the usual things that we do in the fall that have been postponed or cancelled. This grief is real and it is important to name it.

Second, grief does not have the final word. In addition to grief, I sense enormous opportunity. There is opportunity for creativity, wonder and imagination. If we need to change what we normally do, what COULD we do? What kind of new opportunities do we have? What new thing could God bring about in us and with us? What challenges can we meet head on because we have a blank slate with which to work? I wonder what we would do if we could do anything? I wonder what we have never imagined because we have been set in an old pattern or season? I wonder what we can reimagine, create, or build?

You see, just as we need to mourn our losses, we need to wonder, what new opportunities exist? Just as we

name our griefs, we also need to be able to wonder, what new thing might come into existence? Rather than waiting for the season to pass, rather than simply waiting for things to become “normal” again, what might we become or do together? I hope you will prayerfully wonder and share what you are seeing, learning, or wondering with the rest of the congregation.

This season is indeed a strange one, but it could be a season of new imagination and creativity.

*Peace and love in Christ,  
Rev. Edie*

**Consecration Sunday** is October 25th. Please prayerfully fill out the pledge card that you will soon receive in the mail, and either bring the pledge card to worship on October 25 or mail it to the church. Thank you.





# Worship Services, Readings, Reflections

## WORSHIP SERVICES

The following are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie will focus on during Sunday worship.

If you don't plan to attend in-person morning worship, it is being livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook and also available for viewing on our website at [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org) by noon on Sunday. REV 5:00 p.m. in-person worship is not livestreamed or recorded.

**Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4.**

### **Sunday, October 4, 2020 (World Communion Sunday)**

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

**Readings:** Matthew 21: 33-46; Philippians 3:4b-14

**Sermon Title:** *A Peek in the Mirror*

### **Sunday, October 11**

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

**Readings:** Matthew 22:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9

**Sermon Title:** *Life of a Disciple*

### **Sunday, October 18 (Confirmation Sunday)**

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

**Readings:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

**Sermon Title:** *Give to God What is God's*

### **Sunday, October 25**

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Matthew 22:34-46

**Sermon Title:** *The Greatest Commandment*



## REFLECTIONS

We are quick to notice the faults and flaws of others, but fail to notice our own. When have you looked clearly at your own behavior, attitude or words? What can you see about where you need to grow?

To be a disciple is to follow Jesus not just believe what he says. How are you actively working to follow Jesus? We ask, what would Jesus do, but maybe the better question is: How would Jesus live your life?

What are you able to give generously, what do you struggle to share? What are you able to see belongs to God and so give freely, and what are those things that you are keeping close or grasping tightly?

How are you doing with loving yourself? How does that impact your ability to love your neighbor? What would it mean to love God with your whole self--mind, body, and spirit?



# Women at the Table

**Join us at Women's Bible Study.**  
 Every Monday at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

*Women's Bible Study resumed on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> after a several months-long hiatus during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. During our first discussion we shared with one another what we have learned from this time of pandemic. We will continue wearing masks at our study until we are instructed otherwise by the Session of HHPC.*

## Poetry to Ponder

by Arlene Pearson

Of course, He will become my Rock.  
 as I seek Him during this shock.  
 A mighty fortress is my Lord,  
 His voice calls me, "Come, aboard."  
 Do not fear, I'm right here.  
 Grab my hand and take my sword.

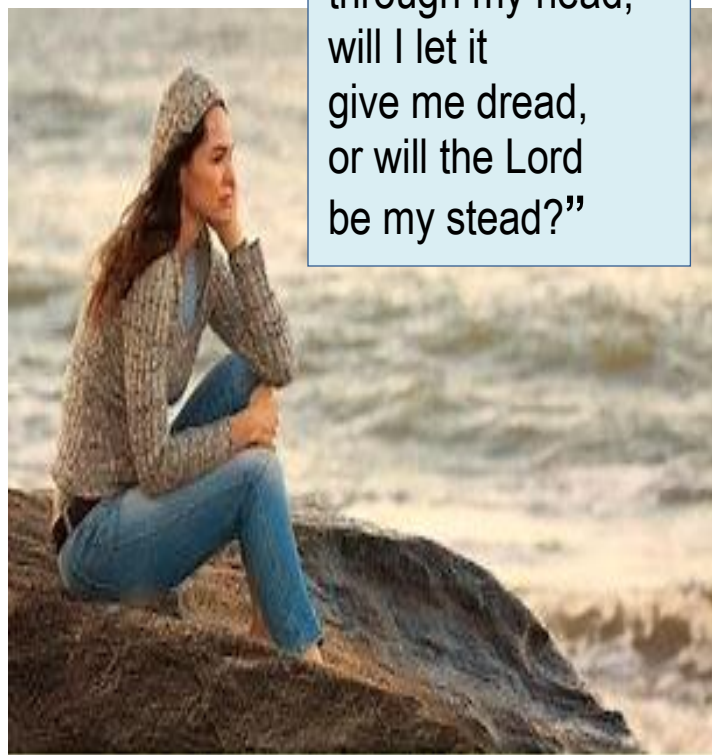
The sword of the Spirit—God's Word,  
 to some that may seem so absurd.  
 Do not fear, I'm right here.  
 Let my ears hear as others heard.

May your Divine Power sustain  
 a heavy heart that You maintain.  
 Do not fear, I'm right here.

A promise made by angels ordained  
 by having just faith to no end.

Even Judas you called a friend.  
 Do not fear, I'm right here.

"Peace on earth," Christ said. Amen.



"While it tosses through my head, will I let it give me dread, or will the Lord be my stead?"



**Let us pray for others.**

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

Addy; (Karen H); Amanda and Angel; Bob F (Ar); Bob and Brian (Grace); Bob, Gary and Valarie (Kim); Cindy (Katie); Dave (Karen H); David (Karen H); DeSean (Kim); Dwayne (Diane); Frankie (Bernie); Gabriel (Katie); Gene (Grace); Jackson; Jerry (Joan); Kathy (Bernie); Kiley (Katie); 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); Shannon; Shavon (Joan P); Suzanne (Bernie); TJ (Katie); Tracy (Noelle L); Trevor (Donna); Wanda (Jeni); Willa (Diane)

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

Aiden (Debbie); Bob (Dave D); Brad and Julie (Andrew); Charmaine (Gert); Dick (Jeni); Eva M; Guy K; Gwynn (Katie); Isaiah; Jessica (Joan); Joan; John (Debbie); Pam (Katie); Patti (Jeni); Peggy (Katie); 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; 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 **Cliff Pilgrim** who passed away September 20; for family and friends of **Ruth Hill** who passed away September 23; for family and friends of the **Fiore family** as they mourn the loss of their son; for 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 out west 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; and 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.***



### ***DISCIPLESHIP REPORT***

*by Jean Swearingen*

**The Discipleship Committee met in person on September 13, 2020.** This was also the first Sunday in six months that Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) celebrated our Sunday Services “in-person.” It was a glorious day!

#### **Women’s Bible Study**

Women’s Bible Study began meeting on Monday, September 14. The group meets every Monday at 1:00 p.m. This group is currently reading and studying the Book of Revelation. The group is following the guidelines of reactivation until we are instructed otherwise by the Session.

#### **Faith Formation** *(formerly known as Confirmation)*

Two of our youth began this journey in early 2020. They are looking forward to finishing the classwork, meeting with the Session and being presented to our congregation. **Plans are for our Confirmands to be presented to the HHPC congregation on Sunday, October 18, 2020, during our 10:00 a.m. service.**

**Pop Tabs** - - - Keep saving!

#### **Confirmation**

The Discipleship Committee is saddened that a traditional fellowship hour to honor our Confirmands cannot be held after service on October 18. However, we are hard at work, and working with the Mission committee, to provide an “On the Go” alternative.

### ***MISSION REPORT***

*by Kim Ambrosat*

Blessings abound! It was wonderful seeing so many of you in the place we love to worship in! We are as busy as ever in Mission. We were able to meet mask-to-mask, for the first time in over seven months! So much catching up!

#### **School Supplies**

Two months ago we collected school supplies. Debbie graciously took all the items to Glen Oaks. Thank you for your support in the community.

#### **HHPC Community Meal**

**Our next Community Meal is planned for Monday, October 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** We will serve in the same fashion as we did in August. Thanks to Evelyn Garlic and Debbie Zimmerman who are co-chairing the planning committee, and to all those who plan, shop, prepare, cook, serve, and clean up! We plan on serving in November, yet we don’t know what will be allowed. Questions? Want to help? Contact Evelyn or Debbie. Join us and visit with friends both old and new.

#### **Feed My Starving Children**

Look forward to a packing date for *Feed My Starving Children*. We are diligently looking and planning for a time when we can pack. Since we all 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?

#### **Micro-pantry**

Our Micro-pantry is still being *shopped and stocked* on a daily basis. Thank you for your generous support in this caring mission.

#### **Planning Ahead**

Planning ahead for our Christmas season has made us think of Elsie’s Food Pantry. We would like to collect our reverse Advent Calendar of canned goods, in November, for delivery in December. Watch for news on the Jones Center - we would still like to collect gifts for the children. Our beloved *Tree of Warmth* will make its annual appearance, and we hope to collect hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for those who have none.

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

Looking forward to seeing (more of) you again!



## MISSION COUNCIL 8

Thank you to all who participated in CWS Hygiene Sponsor A Kit Challenge.

Covid-19 has prevented us from doing many things but could not prevent us from serving God's people. Each hygiene kit is estimated to cost about \$15 + \$2 shipping and handling. Our congregations joined together to raise \$1,860 (enough to pack and ship 110 kits).



HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**INDOOR/OUTDOOR  
 ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9  
 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10  
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Please contact Grace or Susan if you would like to volunteer.



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

We seek to continually support *Feed My Starving Children* (FMSC) year-round. FMSC believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential.

***Each meal costs less than 25 cents.***

***\$22 feeds one child for 3 months.***

***\$88 feeds one child for a year.***

Please search your heart and determine how you can positively impact the life of a child through nutrition.

Donations to support FMSC are accepted at church all year. We pray we will once again be able to personally pack these meals in the future.

***To learn more about this organization, please visit [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org).***

**HHPC DRIVE-THRU  
 COMMUNITY MEAL  
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020  
 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

# FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN (FMSC) EXPANDS ALTERNATIVE PACKING SOLUTIONS

May 7, 2020 Tim Krueger

On March 16, for the safety of our volunteers and staff, and in accordance with government guidelines, we made the difficult decision to pause volunteer packing at all FMSC sites and MobilePack™ events. In the weeks since, we have worked diligently to implement alternative packing solutions to allow some meals to continue to be shipped to partners in urgent need.

.....

## Bulk Machine Packing

Only nine days after pausing volunteer packing, we launched our first alternative packing solution—a partnership with our vitamin supplier, Karlsburger Foods, Inc., to machine pack meals in bulk. To date, Karlsburger Foods has produced about 6 million meals. Shipments are on their way to Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso and El Salvador.

Only 51 days after stopping volunteer packing, meals have been packed, shipped, cleared customs, and arrived at FMSC food partner Love A Child's warehouse in Haiti. This is a miracle!



## Hand Packing

On April 23, we completed our first day of packing meals at Minnesota Correctional Facility-Fairbault. In the first day and a half, 34,128 meals were packed. Moving forward, offenders housed at the facility will take part in 9 shifts each week, using a special linear packing setup that allows for social distancing.

For several years, FMSC has been partnering with correctional facilities to feed God's kids and feed the spirits of incarcerated individuals.



.....

## New Machine Packing

We've reached agreements with two companies, one in Minnesota and one in Utah, to pack one-kilogram (2.2 lb.) bags. Each of these bags holds about 15 meals, compared to 6 meals for each of our stand hand-packed bags. These meals will go into production in the coming weeks.

.....

## We celebrate progress, but challenges remain.

We have committed to using these alternative methods to pack about 15 meals per month for the next three months. This is about half of what our volunteers pack each month. And each of these meals costs about five cents more per meal than volunteer-packed meals. This will cost an additional \$2.2 million more than volunteer-packed meals over the next three months.

At the same time, the World Food Programme estimates that COVID-19's global impact will double the number of people experiencing severe hunger to 265 million in 2020.

We have seen God's faithfulness through this difficult season and we are humbled by the generosity of FMSC's community of supporters. We continue to ask for your partnership.

~ ~ ~





### What Fall Colors Do I Display?

Fall, with its fiery brilliance of color, is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. Stunning leaves of yellow, orange, red and brown colors adorn the trees and carpet the ground.

Much has been written about these colors and what their meanings might be. Look at each of the meanings and see which colors you may be displaying in your daily life.

**Yellow represents joy and happiness.**

If we have God in our lives, we should have joy in our hearts and that joy should reflect out through us. *Am I happy and full of joy and are others drawn to me because they see that joy and happiness in me?*

**Orange represents warmth and symbolizes thoughtfulness and sincerity.**

As Christians, we are asked to be that warm and inviting person that cares about others. *Do I portray an image of warmth, thoughtfulness and sincerity and can others see that in me?*

**Red represents love, passion and desire.**

Red is a color you can't help but notice. *What makes me feel passionate in my life and how passionate am I about my faith?*

**Brown represents stability and it anchors all the beautiful colors of fall.**

We also have Christ who is our anchor and we can depend on Him throughout our lives for strength and security. *Do I feel stable and secure in my life, especially when I am anchored in Christ?*



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

1	Leslie Ambrosat	26	Chris Rellinger
1	Haley Netter	28	Lori Haack
3	Michael Pettis	28	Scott Flynn
6	Larry Haack	28	Karen Korzeniewski
8	LeAnne Kommenich	29	Daniel Ciametti
8	Sarah Swearingen	31	Susan Cunningham
16	Arlene Pearson		

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



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.

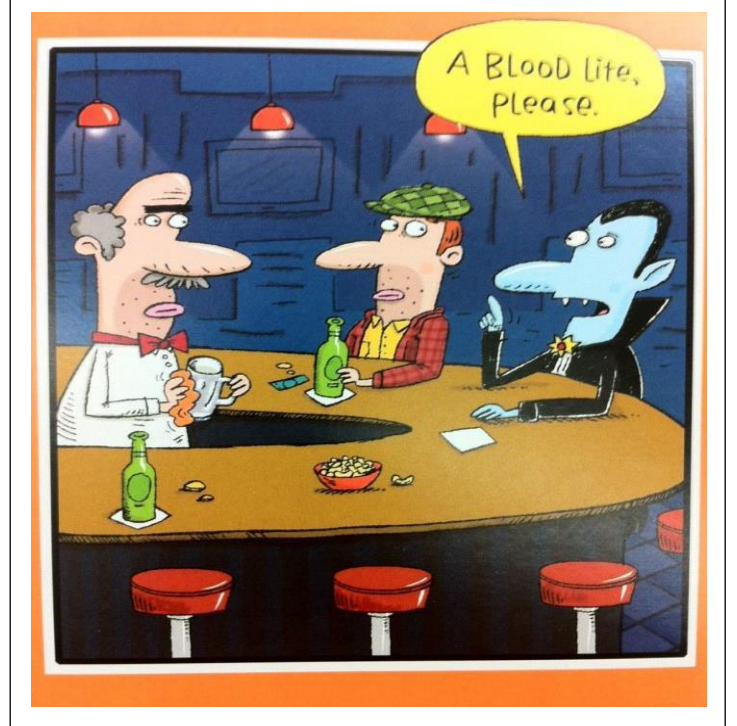
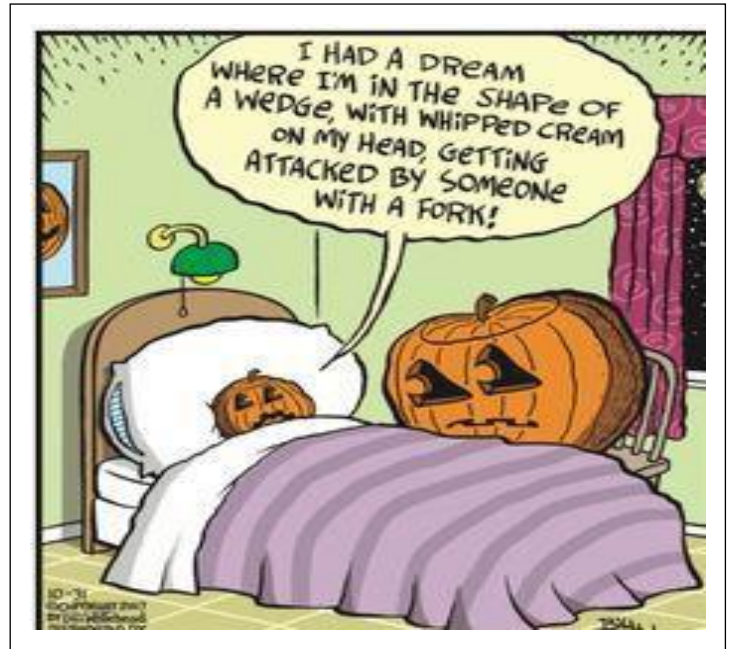
**No notifications received this month.**

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

**Phone: 708-598-3100**

**E-mail: [hhcp@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhcp@hickoryhillspres.org)**

# LOL FOR HALLOWEEN



# OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  4:30 PM TOPS	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  12:00 Noon Decorating for wedding  4:00 PM Rehearsal for wedding	3:30 PM  Wedding at HHPC
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>  10:00 AM Morning Worship  11:15 AM Session meets with Confirmands  5:00 PM REV Worship	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  1:00 PM Women's Bible Study  5:30 - 6:30 PM Community Meal	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  Worship meets on Zoom at 7:00 PM	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  4:30 PM TOPS	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM Annual Rummage Sale	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Annual Rummage Sale
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
10:00 AM Morning Worship  11:15 AM Discipleship meets  5:00 PM REV Worship	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  1:00 PM Women's Bible Study  7:30 PM Session on Zoom	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  4:30 PM TOPS	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship (Confirmation Sunday; reception follows Mission on Zoom 5:00 PM REV Worship	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  4:30 PM TOPS	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CONSECRATION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship Deacons on Zoom 5:00PM Rev Worship	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live  4:30 PM TOPS	9:00 AM Morning Devotion Facebook Live	<b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN!</b>