

THE CONNECTING LINK

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are called to **SEEK** God's Word, to **SHARE** and **CELEBRATE** God's love, and to **SERVE** Jesus Christ in the world.



JUNE 2021

Worship with Us

Note: As we return for in-person worship, masks and social distancing practices are required. Should the COVID-19 situation change, preventing us from worshipping in person, you will be notified. Sunday worship continues to be livestreamed on our Facebook page at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church* and is also recorded and then available for viewing on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org on Sundays by noon.

10:00 a.m. (Traditional Worship)

5:00 p.m. (Contemporary Worship)

Pray with Us

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

Contact Us

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

Visit Us Online

www.hickoryhillspres.org

A FATHER IS
neither an anchor
to hold us back,
nor a sail to take us there,
BUT A GUIDING
LIGHT
WHOSE LOVE
shows us the way.



Inside

A Letter from Rev. Edie	2
Worship Services, Readings, Reflections	4
Prayer Requests	5
Ministry Updates:	
Discipleship	6
Mission	7
Women's Bible Study	8
Church Musician's Corner	9
LOL Time	10
<i>Fathers in Our Lives</i> , Birthdays, Contact Information	11
Current Events	12
Calendar	13

A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz
Pastor

HHPC VISIONING 2021 MEETING 2 SUMMARY

At our first set of meetings, we refocused on **WHY**--what brings us together and keeps us together.

We are at our strongest and most passionate when we are service-oriented, when we are working for and with others; we long to see our building used, our ministries, and our work together reflecting this service-oriented movement. Families matter to us – while we do not have many children right now, we are passionate about multi-generational ministry. We want to find ways to connect, support, and walk with families of all shapes and sizes. We are a people of worship and prayer; our worship together is central to who we are, as are our meals and gatherings around tables. Most of are here and continue to be here because HHPC is family. We want to grow, to strengthen but with a goal of connection and care for one another not just numbers and names on a list. We are called to

do life with one another and those who will join us. It takes time to build relationships and connections, but it is the kind of work we have valued most about our membership at HHPC. We envision a church on a mission to serve that is multi-generational and happening all week long, not just on Sunday morning.

We want to find ways to connect, support, and walk with families of all shapes and sizes.

- In conversation and in our silence, we affirm that **THIS** is our **WHY**:
 - It is who we believe God is calling us to be;
 - It is who God has created us to become.

Naming this is only a first step. There are some things in us that will need to change, there are priorities, learning, goals that will have to be set to move toward this future. But we as the leaders

of HHPC affirm that **THIS** is where we are called; this is where our efforts, energy and resources need to be directed.

Some emerging questions that we need to continue to unpack:

How will we balance the need for “keeping the lights on” (*the operational side of our work*) with the vision, imagination and desire to serve those who might not yet be committed to the church or might not have financial resources. In other words, we need operational and adaptive work - how do we find a balance? What does “outreach” look like in a changed world? What is the balance/connection between mission and outreach? How do we shift our thinking? How do we reframe our thinking about the church in the world and our role as Christ followers to be better able to follow Jesus?

(cont'd on next page)

Some starting points for these questions can be:

- Sermon series on our role in the world, mission, and the church today.
- Individual conversations that you have with one another and other members of the church.
- Stories being told in worship, newsletter, and other places of connection.
- More of these Visioning Meetings with committees and other groups in the church to share learning, wonder, and discern together.

We spent some time looking at the list of ministries, programs and committees in the church. Reality is that we are and have been a **VERY** active congregation, but that some of our efforts may not be matching our passions, some of our efforts maybe don't connect to our mission, and some of our efforts may need to be "retooled" or reset to better reflect our vision.

The questions each person answered about our list of activities from their perspective were:

- What of these are most important to you? Where are you spending energy and passion the most?

- Big picture – What are we doing now that aligns with the **WHY** that we identified?
- Big picture – Is there anything on this list that does not align with our why, or could be a distraction or contradiction?

This exercise revealed a wide variety of passions and energies spread across much of the life of the church. It was named that some of the things that we spend our time and energy on may not be the things we identify as being passionate about. This is worth paying attention to. This particular exercise is a place that I believe needs careful discernment and a willingness to be honest. I think that it is a great first step and a place to begin getting curious. This exercise was not intended to determine a future, but to begin wondering about alignment. Several of our committee and ministry heads have already asked for a copy of what emerged to share with their groups.

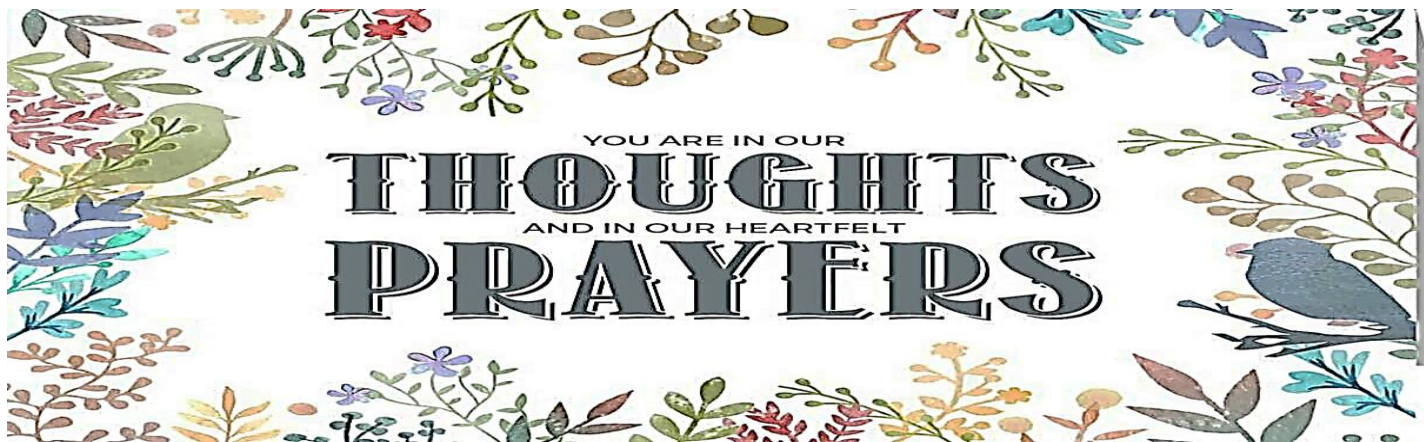
Framing and Next Steps

We have a clear picture of our current reality. We have looked and need to continue to look honestly at where we are now. There are some things to grieve, some things to recover, and some

energy to harness. We have a very clear "Emerging Future" together; we have crafted a vision of where we believe God is calling us. What happens next is the hard work of discerning, setting goals, and making decisions about **HOW** we go about moving towards that future. This is what I would call, "building the bridge while we walk on it." Reality is that we need to keep our eyes on where we are going while taking faithful small steps to get us there; it will take time to build our bridge toward God's emerging future.

In the coming months, you will be invited to join this conversation. I want to encourage everyone, when asked, to be a part of this time of discerning the work of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church in the future.

*Peace and love in Christ,
Rev. Edie*



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); **Bob**; **Bob F** (Ar); **Brad** (Andrew); **Cindy** (Katie); **Chris** (Bernie); **Chloe** (Kim); **Dave D** (Ar); **David** (Karen H); **DeSean** (Kim); **Francie** (Karen G); **Gabriel** (Katie); **Gary and Valarie** (Kim); **Gene** (Grace); **Glenda** (Melanie); **Heidi** (Diane C); **Gracie** (Kim); **Ira and Kathy** (Scott); **Jackie** (Karen G); **Jackson**; **Janet** (Evelyn); **Jay** (Susan); **Jerry** (Joan); **Jerry** (Sandy B); **Joe** (Katie); **Joe** (Shirley D); **Joyce** (Sandy B); **Julie W** (Andrew); **Justin** (Karen H); **Kathy** (Bernie); **Kathy** (Linda L); **Katie**; **Katie B and her husband Joe**; **Kim B** (Jeni); **Kyle W**; **Leanne** (Karen H); **Lynn** (Diane); **Lisa** (Bernie); **Mackenzie** (Bernie); **Marj** (Charlie); **Michael** (Karen H); **Michael** (Shirley); **Mike** (Karen H); **Mike** (Kim); **Pat** (Karen H); **Patty** (Katie); **Paula** (Bernie); **Pete** (Esther); **Peter** (Katie); **Phyllis** (Katie); **Rae** (Karen G); **Rich** (Ar); **Roger** (Sandy B); **Rose** (Katie); **Sandi**; **Sandy** (Mel); **Sandy J** (Bernie); **Shannon**; **Sharon** (Tom M); **Suzanne** (Bernie); **Tierney** (Shirley D); **TJ** (Katie); **Tim** (Charlie); **Tracy** (Noelle L); **Yvette** (Kim); **Wanda** (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Bob (Dave D); **Carol S** (Ar); **Dali, Nafe and Yankho**; **Dina and Al** (Cindy); **Edward** (Evelyn); **Erin Beal and children**; **Frankie** (Bernie); **Guy K**; **Gwynn** (Katie); **Harry** (Katie); **Irene and Tiffany** (Katie B); **Isaiah** (Kim); **Jessica** (Joan); **Joan**; **Joellen** (Mel); **Karen K** (Ar); **Kirsten** (Kim); **Marj and Dar** (Melanie); **Michelle** (Katie); **Mike B** (Jeni); **Nancy** (Jeni); **Tabby, Grace and Christy** (Kim); **Tammy** (Gordon); **Natalie** (Bernie); **Pam** (Katie); **Patti** (Jeni); **Sandy D** (Ar); **Stephanie**; **Mackenzie and Savino**; **Susan** (Katie)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

Healthcare providers and others in harm's way, especially **Jean**,

GROUPS IN NEED (cont'd)

Kaitlyn, K, and Molly; those in hospitals and facilities with other health needs besides COVID-19 who cannot have loved ones with them; 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; for the conflict with Israel and Palestine

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For family and friends of the DeMarco family on the death of **Barbara** on May 11, 2021; for family friends of **Beth Rogala** who passed away May 15 (Shannon B); for family and friends of **Willie** (Ar); 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.

For those who are struggling mentally and emotionally at this time; Coronavirus upsurge throughout the world; **Gina** (Bernie); **Dimmick family**; **Jenny D** (Andrew); **Sue D** and family (Bernie); those who provide essential services we need; **Ziarko family**; churches who are struggling to reach members and care for people; the injustice and violence around the country

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

For **Wanda** (returning home to the Pointe); for the gift of our Savior and the hopes of a new year; for neighbors and families helping 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.***

Discipleship Update

by Jean Swearingen

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)



RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 23 we recognized and celebrated the members of our church family who have completed milestones in their pursuit of education during the last year. We know these graduates have experienced both the frustrations and celebrations of education. We also know great adventures await as some

continue to the next phase of education and others who may be headed to the workforce.

We are proud of our graduates and pray that God's blessings are always a part of their lives.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.
--Aristotle

Vacation Bible School is coming in June (*see p. 12*).



EIGHTH GRADE

Caleb Lenz, Homer Jr. High

HIGH SCHOOL

Brittany Brown, Stagg High School
Hollie Fox, Highland High School
Evan Grisko, Argo High School
Kevin Lorenz, Stagg High School

COLLEGE

Kaitlyn Ambrosat, Rasmussen University
Brian Haack, University of Illinois
LeAnne Kommenich, Grand Canyon University
Riley McKinney, Illinois State University

HHPC T-SHIRTS NOW ON SALE! (*Pick-up date will be announced.*)

T-shirts with a beautifully-designed image printed on the back reading *Seek, Share, Celebrate and Serve* and the HHPC logo printed on the front.

Complete this order form by June 30th and enclose cash or check for T-shirts (\$15/each) and place in the box on the table in the narthex by June 30th.

Make checks payable to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

****Proceeds from T-shirt sales will go toward funding for a new elevator at HHPC.****

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Type and Colors available:

Sizes available:

Crew Neck: Grey, Sapphire Blue, Grey/Purple
Women's V-neck: Grey, Royal Blue, Heather Purple

Men's: S M L XL 2X 3X
Women's: S M L XL 2X 3X

<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Type</u> (Crew or V-neck)	<u>Color</u>	<u>Size</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



FRONT

(printed at left near shoulder)



BACK



Missions Update

by Kim Ambrosat

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:38)

You have most likely heard or read something about the Visioning meetings Rev. Edie has been guiding the Elders and Deacons through. These meetings are opening our eyes to where our church family feels God is moving us.

The Mission committee is revamping our thoughts on the places we want to serve, where we want to focus our attention. We want to continue to serve our world in places that are connecting and meaningful. **In June and July**, we will set out *M&M* containers for you to take, enjoy and return filled with quarters for our August *Feed My Starving Children* collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We will search for a Mobile Pack or head out to Aurora for packing.

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for June 7th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Meals will be served in drive-thru fashion, as in previous months.

In May, our fabulous planners and cooks served chicken fajitas, along with beans and rice – 64 meals were served! Join us on June 7th for hot dogs, baked beans, chips and dessert.

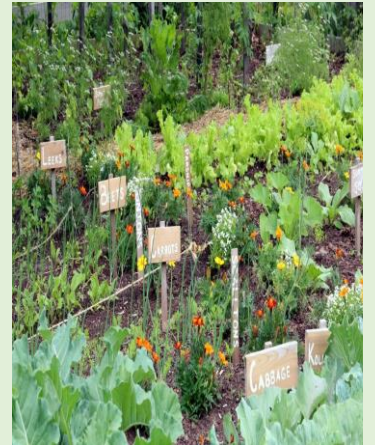
A huge shout-out to Jean for taking all the K-cups to the Ronald McDonald House, and Debbie and Michael for taking the baby items to the Crisis Center of South Suburbia.

Want to help? Contact Evelyn or Debbie.

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

UPCOMING MISSIONS

- August – *Feed My Starving Children*
 - September – Hygiene Kits – Church World Service
 - October – Tree of Warmth
 - November – Reverse Advent Calendar – Elsie's Pantry
 - December – Jones Center – Children's Gifts
-



PLANT A ROW!

As you plant your garden this year, consider planting a row of veggies to donate to our Micro-pantry.

Women's Bible Study

Mondays at 1:00 p.m. ~ East Room

Connect with other women of faith.



Receive wisdom from God's Word.



Grow closer to God.



Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

--Ephesians 4:15

Notes from Our Bible Study

Our class has a new member, Angelica, for whom we are thankful because she fits right in with us!

Chapter 6 – Learning to live without lying was quite conversational.

Chapter 7 – Learning to bless those who curse us is a reminder of Matthew 5:43-48 from the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus practiced what he preached. He calls his people to be extraordinary. There are many extraordinary people listed in the book we are researching at this time.

Love and Hugs, Arlene Pearson

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

What's a hymn without words? Not much! When we sing, it is the lyrics that emotionally connect us to life experiences. When we sing hymns, they lift us up as prayer to invoke God's grace and love. I cannot think of praising the Lord without song and music.

Frances Jane Van Alstyne (*nee Crosby, 1820-1915*), more affectionally known as Fanny Crosby, was one of the most prolific hymn writers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. She wrote over 8,000 hymns and gospel songs during her lifetime that have appeared in hymnals of all denominations. In addition, she composed hundreds of poems (*published in 4 volumes*), scores of songs, and 5 cantatas on biblical and patriotic themes.

Fanny's work among the poor and rescue missions was well-known, and she was an avid public speaker on behalf of the less fortunate and the blind. In fact, she was blind herself since early childhood. Fanny was the first woman to address a joint session of Congress in 1846 as a lobbyist in support of education for the blind. She also performed her own musical compositions in the music room of the White House for President Polk and his wife.

And, yes, she was an ancestor to the Crosby brothers, Bing and Bob!

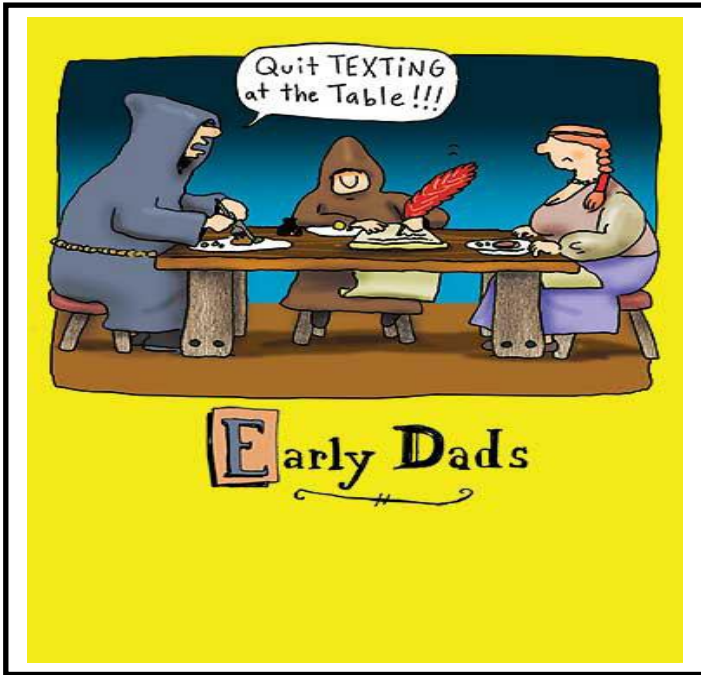
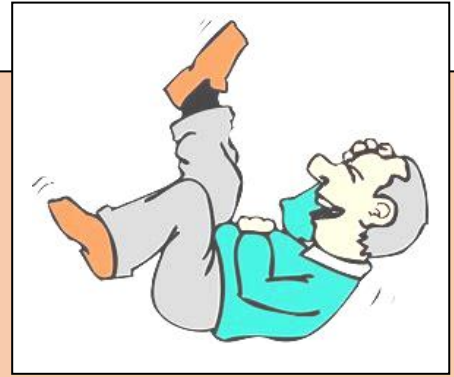


During June, I will perform several of Crosby's most endearing hymns, arranged by composer/arranger Lloyd Larson. It is my hope that the selections will encourage our hearts to express the truths of our faith in our lives and the lives of others.



LOLtime

For Father's Day





Fathers in Our Lives

by Rev. Chuck Currie

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent--grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.



The following are our friends who are celebrating their birthdays in June. God bless them on their special day and always.

Ed Zabelka	June 2
Mark Gulotta	June 3
Brittany Brown	June 7
Barbara Monczynski	June 8
Katelin Wheeler	June 11
Amanda Swindle	June 12
Cheryl Huenecke	June 14
Alvin Swearingen	June 14
Karen Hoffman	June 16
Albert Netter	June 16
Megan Zimmerman	June 23
Linda Lavaretto	June 27
MacKenzie Lorenz	June 28
Hanna Treccani	June 29
Tom Morrell	June 29



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.

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



HHPC
EVENTS
Coming Soon!



**DRIVE-THRU
 COMMUNITY
 MEAL**

**MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021
 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

This month's menu:

**Hot Dogs
 Baked Beans
 Chips
 Dessert**

*Want to help?
 Contact Debbie or Evelyn*



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
**VACATION BIBLE
 SCHOOL (VBS)**

“Concrete & Cranes”

*Kids will learn about the foundation of
 Jesus' love and how they can become
 wise builders, continuing in what they
 will learn and believe.*

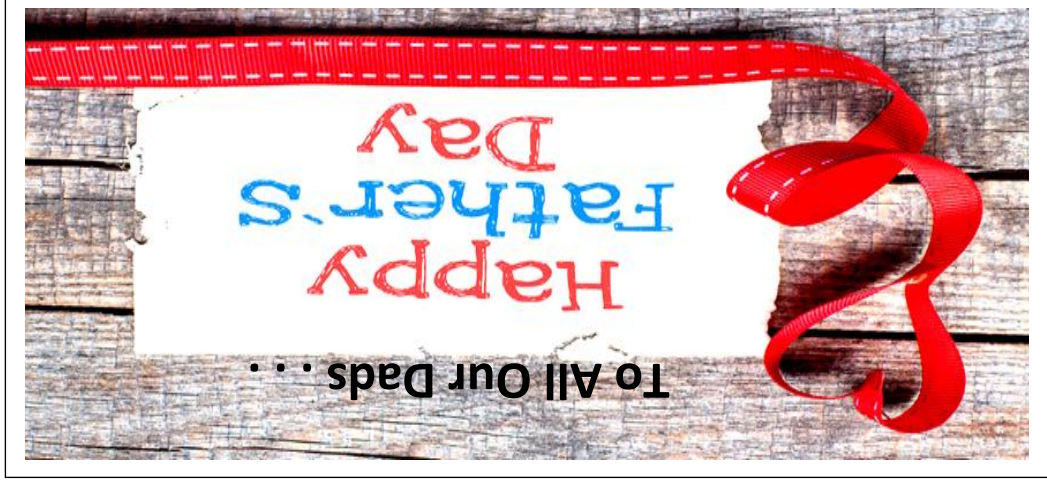
**MONDAY – THURSDAY
 JUNE 14 – 17, 2021
 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

*Interested in helping at VBS?
 Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.*

JUNE 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:00 PM Worship & Music meets on Zoom	2 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	3 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	4	5
Rev. Edie on vacation through June 6; returns to office on Monday, June 7.						
6 10:00 AM In-person Worship 11:15 AM Discipleship meets 5:00 PM REV In-person Worship	7 1:00 PM In-person Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session meets	8 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	10 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11	12
13 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM REV In-person Worship	14 1:00 PM In-person Women's Bible Study	15 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	16 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	17 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	18	19 10:00 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop (Fellowship Hall –masks required)
Vacation Bible School June 14-17 – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM						
20 10:00 AM In-person Worship 11:15 AM Missions meet 5:00 PM REV In-person Worship CONTENT FOR NEWSLETTER DUE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER!!	21 1:00 PM In-person Women's Bible Study	22 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	23 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	24 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	25	26
27 10:00 AM In-person Worship 11:15 AM Board of Deacons meet 5:00 PM REV In-person Worship	28 1:00 PM In-person Women's Bible Study	29 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	30 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes			

JUNE 2021



HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE CONNECTING LINK

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457