HCKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!

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.



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.

WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAYS

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* or at another time later in the day.

CONTACT US

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



INSIDE

Letter from Rev. Edie, Consecration Sunday	2, 3
An Invite to REV Worship	4
Worship, Readings, Reflections	5
Prayer Requests	6
Women's Bible Study	7
Ministry Updates:	
Discipleship	8
Missions	9
Church Musician's Corner	10
Spiritual Lifts	11
Birthdays, Contact Information	12
LOL	13
Current Events	14
Calendar	15

A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz
Pastor

As promised, I want to take a little time to share with you some of the conversation and the results of the Visioning that the congregation has been engaged with over the course of the last 6 months. What follows is a summary of wonderings, a couple action steps, and a wider call to learn, wonder, imagine and grow together.

I wonder if what we mean when we say "HHPC is a family church" do we really mean – HHPC IS a family?

What if the church is a place that we feel we belong, a place we have found support, encouragement, challenge, connection; a place we have found what a family could/should be? This idea was deeply affirmed, both in the good and the bad--families are unique and have their own sets of challenges and baggage, but families are also beautiful. Life together can be messy but overwhelmingly, yes. HHPC IS an (imperfect) extended family. Many of us are here because we have found a home, a support system, a place of belonging.

IF this is true, if this is who God calls us to be, what would it look like to become a people of deep welcoming and belonging?

Are we called to be a congregation of belonging, a body who seeks people out, invites them in, seeks to be a place where people feel deeply welcomed and valued – however they engage in our life together? What will have to change in us to be more welcoming? How do we move outside our doors and welcome people who have not yet come to us? What are the barriers to belonging?

In our time of visioning, I offered very little in terms of practical action, in part, because I do not have the answers. I am keenly aware that we are not alone, every mainline congregation in North America is (or will be) asking these kinds of questions. The world has changed – we are living in a world where we can no longer assume that people know who the church is, who Jesus is, or have any knowledge of the Christian (or any other) faith. We cannot assume that people are looking for a church or even know HOW TO look for a church. In all the reading I have been doing for my doctoral on change, what is very

clear, over and over again: Change is HARD; it is exceptionally difficult to change our ways of being and the assumptions we make about the world AND there are no cookiecutter answers. There is no program that is guaranteed to work; the shifts that are required need to be tailored to each unique context and must be done by the people of God, not just by leadership. I believe that there is plenty we can learn from Jesus, the early church, and others, but we cannot assume that what works for anyone else is what God is calling us to be doing.

We need to hold in tension enough urgency that we keep asking hard questions, learning and wondering together, AND I believe that we have time, space, and opportunity to take our time, not panic or rush, particularly in the current state of the pandemic. I believe that there is a level of urgency needed to move the congregation from where we are into a future AND I do not

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

believe that we need to induce panic. There is time to wonder, learn, engage, grow, and try on new things.

Going forward:

Given the circumstances of fall in the pandemic, my highest priority continues to be keeping the building open for worship, bible study, and other events. I would like to spend intentional time dwelling in God's word, wondering about what Jesus has to teach us about belonging and continuing to press the family metaphor as a way of thinking more widely about HOW we want to be.

In the September meeting, Session identified a few immediate action items that they believe will help to move us forward, and provide the connection that so many need.

1. Growing Connection. Fellowship time will be restarting in October. It is time to sit together at the table, drink coffee and connect after worship. We will be gathering in the gym on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month. Masks are still required when you are not actively eating, and tables will be spread out, and snacks will be pre-packaged but we feel strongly that it is time to be together more.

- 2. Widening Our Reach. Our building is a wonderful asset that is underutilized. We are going to start looking into groups that are searching for a home and ministry partners who might need a space that we could provide and share.
- **3. Trying It On/Learning Together**. In the coming months, I want to explore welcome and hospitality in our life together. How do we work on our relationships and connections so that HHPC is a healthier extended family? AND how do we open our arms, connect with others and widen the family circle?

As we journey this fall, I invite you to wonder with me: Where is God at work and how do we join in?

Love and peace in Christ,

Rev. Edie



Consecration Sunday (*Stewardship Sunday*) is November 7 this year. Each year, we take time in the fall to consider the ways and means that we have to support the work and ministry of HHPC. We ask for pledge cards to assist in setting the budget for the church in the coming year, your responses help us in our planning. Pledges can be brought to the church on Sunday, November 7 and offered to the church in a formal way or pledges can be mailed in to the church (*Attn: Susan Frangella*). We invite you to take some time in the coming month to prayerfully consider your time, talents, and gifts that you are currently offering to the church and what you will offer in the coming year.

Letters for Consecration Sunday will be mailed out along with the pledge cards in mid-October. Thank you again for your faithful support.

An Invitation



Come join us in October and November at REV Worship!

In the bible and in the history of the church, God has provided tools and practices to help us on our faith journey. The bible is full of spiritual practices that God's people use to grow closer to God. This fall, REV Worship will be focused on learning and trying out some of these practices.

We are going to be learning about and putting into practice some of these tools to see what we can learn from God. You are invited to join us in October and November as we "try on" some of these practices and worship God together. Even if you have never been to a REV service, you are invited to come and worship and learn with us.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church REV Worship Service 5:00 PM



We believe that Jesus is both a reflection of God and a reflection of humanity. In the coming weeks we are going to spend some time unpacking what that means for how we understand and live our faith in practice.

- How do you see Jesus reflecting God?How do you know God better in Jesus?
- What assumptions do you bring to Jesus about who he is, how he acts? What stories of Jesus affirm these assumptions? What stories frustrate your assumptions?
- Humility is a hallmark of Jesus' ministry and death. How do you understand this humility in how you live your faith?
- How do you understand the word "sacrifice?" What sorts of sacrifices did Jesus make? What does he ask of us?



The following are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie Lenz will focus on during Sunday in-person worship. You can participate in virtual Sunday worship livestreamed on *Facebook Live* at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings and recorded and posted on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org by noon on Sunday. If you are worshipping from home, and don't have Internet access, you may read and reflect on these scripture passages in your bible.

Sunday, October 3, 2021 (Communion) 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 10: 2-16; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12 Sermon Title: Who is Jesus: God and Human - Reflection of God

Sunday, October 10 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 10: 17-31; Hebrews 4: 12-16 Sermon Title: Who is Jesus: God and Human - Word of God

Sunday, October 17 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 10: 35-45; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Isaiah 53: 4-12 **Sermon Title:** *Who is Jesus: God and Human - High Priest*

Sunday, October 24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 10: 46-52; Hebrews 7: 23-28 Sermon Title: Who is Jesus: God and Human – High Priest

Sunday, October 31 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 12: 28-34; Hebrews 9: 11-14 Sermon Title: Who is Jesus: God and Human – Sacrifice



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

Addy; (Karen H); Bob; Bob F (Ar); Brad (Andrew); Bruce (Jeni); Cindy (Katie); Chris (Bernie); Chloe (Kim); Danny F (Jeni); Dave D (Ar); David (Karen H); Dennis (Charlie); DeSean (Kim); Francie (Karen G); Gabriel (Katie); Gary and Valarie (Kim); Gene (Grace); Gert (Ar); Glenda (Melanie); Gordon (Diane); Gracie (Kim); Kathy (Scott); Heidi (Diane C); Jackson; Janet (Evelyn); Jay (Susan); Jenette L (Sandy B); Jim V (Bernie); Joe (Shirley D); Julie W (Andrew); Justin (Karen H); Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Linda L); Katie B and her husband Joe; Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Jeni); Kyle W; Leanne (Karen H); Lynn (Diane); Lisa (Bernie); Mackenzie (Bernie); Marj (Charlie); Mark (Dianne); Michael (Karen H); Michael (Shirley); Mike (Karen H); Mike (Kim); Mike B (Jeni); Papa John (Jeni); Pat (Karen H); Patty (Katie); Pete (Esther); Peter (Katie); Phyllis (Katie); Rae (Karen G); Rich T (Sandy B); Roger (Sandy B); Rose (Katie); Ruth S (Jen); Sand; Sandy (Mel); Sandy J (Bernie); Shannon; Sharon (Tom M); Sherri (Peggy); Stan P (Bernie); Suzanne (Bernie); Tierney (Shirley D); TJ (Katie); Tim (Charlie); Todd (Charlie); Yvette (Kim); Wanda (Jeni)

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Billy (Grace); Bob (Dave D); Carol S (Ar); Dan and Sara (Rick); David (Bernie); Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma family (Evelyn); Edward (Evelyn); Elizabeth (Darlene); Erin Beal and children; Frankie (Bernie); Grace and Christy (Kim); Guy K; Gwynn (Katie); Harry (Katie); Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Isaiah (Kim); Jessica (Joan); Joan; Joellen (Mel); John (Grace); Karen K (Ar); Kirsten (Kim); Michelle (Katie); Mike B (Jeni); Natalie (Bernie); Pam (Katie); Patti (Jeni); Robert (Gert); Tabby; Tammy (Gordon); Sandy D (Ar); Sarah (Charlie); Russell (Rick); Stan (Bernie); Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino; Sue (Grace); Susan (Katie); Yolanda (Molly)

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.

FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

Healthcare providers and others in harm's way, especially **Jean**, **Kaitlyn**, **K**, and **Molly**; those in hospitals and facilities with health needs; those in isolation; 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 THOSE WHO MOURN.

For the McPartland family on the passing of their father; for the Standerfer family on the death of Jerry (Susan Frangella's uncle); for family and friends of Norine Roche who recently passed away (Bernie); 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; for those who are being impacted by disasters and other environmental challenges

FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING MISCELLANEOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

For those impacted by Hurricane Ida; for the current situation in Afghanistan after U.S. evacuations; for all those who tested positive for COVID-19 even without symptoms; violence against civilians and those living in fear; for Bill and Kathy after a house fire (Jean); churches who are struggling to reach members and care for people; Coronavirus upsurge throughout the world; for Dali, Nafe, and Yanko awaiting custody hearing; Dimmick family; those who provide essential services we need; Ethiopia; Gina (Bernie); Haiti; Holly (Evelyn); the injustice and violence around the country; Kaitlin (Karen G); for those who are struggling mentally and emotionally at this time with the prolonged isolation; students and teachers

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.



Mondays at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall



Phoebe and Paul

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. (Romans 16:1-2 (NIV)

The 9 chapters in the book *She Is Called* began with Phoebe as noted in the reference above. The Bible Study series was created to help us dig deeply into stories of biblical women (so much like our stories).

They are "inspired by God and (useful) for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good."
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, CEB)

Come and join us as we build God's church together.

Love and Hugs from God's builders,Debbie and Arlene

Add Women's Bible Study to the Top of Your To-do List

There are dozens of things that compete for our time and energy every day. Many are daily routine matters that must be done. Take the time to join our Women's Bible Study and add it to the top of your To-do list. God wants us to take care of our spiritual selves, to fellowship with other believers, to have accountability, and to share the good news of Jesus. Join us as we study and reflect on the Word of God together.



Discipleship Update

by Jean Swearingen

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church's (HHPC) Discipleship Committee met Sunday, September 12, 2021, following our 10:00 a.m. service. Our meeting was held in the East Room and followed current HHPC safety guidelines.

Our committee continued discussion and planning of who/what/when/where we can serve our congregation and community through what remains of 2021.



Children's/Youth Sunday School begins Sunday, October 10, 2021. This group will meet every other Sunday.

Adult Sunday School. —There are no solid plans yet for Adult Sunday School (Adult Education) to meet.

Discipleship welcomes both your thoughts regarding how to move forward, and how **you** can help!



TRUNK OR TREAT!

- A GREAT opportunity to serve our community!
- A GREAT family project or join forces with a group of friends!
- PRIZES will be awarded! (Decorating a trunk is encouraged, but not mandatory.)
- SIGN-UP SHEETS are available on the table in the narthex.



T-SHIRT SALES

HHPC awaits the final delivery of T-shirts ordered.

Thank you for your support!

Missions Update

by Kim Ambrosat

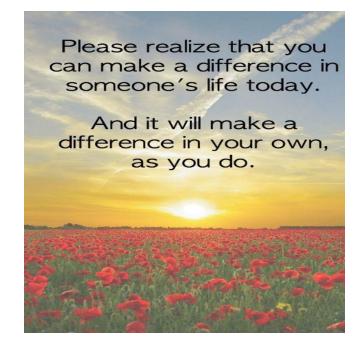
I don't know about you, but I can't believe Autumn is here already. I've not seen any of the trees turning colors yet, but it can't be far off! Don't be surprised when you see our Tree of Warmth in the narthex. Remember we are collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves in the month of October--handmade or store bought. All are appreciated!

For the month of September, our collection for the Church World Services (CWS) brought in many generous donations! Thank you for your kindness!

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for Monday, October 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The meals will still be served in drivethru fashion, as in the previous months. In September, 46 meals were served. There was an overabundance, so Jeni and Rick took the leftovers to our heroes in the North Palos Station #2 Fire Department.

This month, stop by for a ground beef casserole, green beans and a dessert.

Want to help? Contact Evelyn or Debbie.



Our Micro-pantry is still being used as a local source of staples. Thanks for your generous donations.

Keep your (clean) bottle caps coming in. Mike is busy weighing them. If you're interested in how many hundreds of pounds we have, ask Mike and thank him for overseeing this mission.

If you are willing/interested in joining us for our Mission meeting, we'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas after worship in the narthex.

Continue to pray for one another and the work HHPC continues to do in our corner of the world.

Namaste, Kim

HHPC UPCOMING MISSIONS

OCTOBER – Tree of Warmth

NOVEMBER – Reverse Advent Calendar – Elsie's Pantry

DECEMBER – Children's Gifts – Jones Center

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

Sing a Joyful Song

Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19)

I cannot imagine a Sunday worship service without music. If our hearts are Spirit-filled, songs and hymns of praise will also reside there. If the Holy Spirit is truly working in our lives, we will be blessed with song-filled hearts.

Many times when I awaken in the morning and even sometimes throughout the day, I will find myself singing or humming a hymn or worship song that just bubbles up from somewhere inside of me. I have always interpreted this experience as the Holy Spirit's prompting me to reply on His guidance during the day, and all the more so if there are words involved.

Although the Bible does not give us much detail in the use of music, there are enough references to show that it has been significant to God and the people. The Psalms are filled with

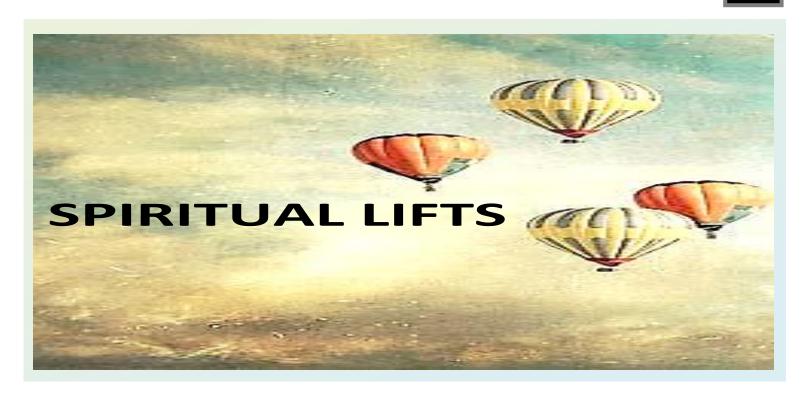


poems and are really songs of praise. In the New Testament, even Jesus and the disciples sing hymns (*Matthew 26:30*). Paul sang in prison (*Acts 16:25*) and a new song is sung by the angels and saints in *Revelation 5:8-9*.

This month let us become more aware of the Spirit's promptings during the day (and even in dreams) through the hymns and worship songs that come to mind.

It's humbling to realize the extent of God's love and guidance through these small inner experiences.





Meditation and prayer are important because they not only put you in touch with God, but in touch with yourself. Meditation and mindfulness become a beautiful opportunity for spiritual enrichment. When you receive guidance during meditation or prayer, it comes to your uncluttered and still mind with clearness.

A Prayer to Become More Spiritually Mature

Lord of All, life is a journey full of stumbling blocks and challenges. With each hurdle, there is growth. With each setback, a valuable lesson. Lord, I ask that You give me the wisdom and presence of mind to learn from my mistakes and pitfalls. Help me to approach these things with maturity, so that I can be closer to You. Amen.

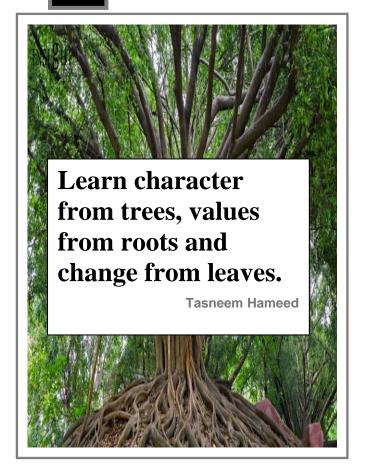
MAYBE WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS A SPIRITUAL DIET!

A spiritual diet will cut down on the excess weight you carry around in your soul. The weight of people who have disappointed you or hurt you. The weight of things you should have done, could have done, or wanted to do, but couldn't bring yourself to do. As a matter of fact, that weight around your middle could be those people you've been hanging around or allowing to hang onto you. The heaviness in your legs could be all those things you convinced yourself you were not smart enough, good enough or ready enough to do. That sluggish, heavy feeling you have in your heart might be your

dreams, goals, and fantasies. You haven't put them to use, so they've turned to weight, spiritual weight, which has your whole life weighed down.

Yes! I believe a **spiritual diet** is exactly what you need! You can start right now with a heaping portion of forgiveness smothered in surrender. You will also need a big helping of laughter three to four times a day. Next, you must begin each day with prayer, followed by a dose of gratitude. For the next six to eight weeks, sprinkle everything with faith, wash it down with courage, and let your dessert be a swig of confidence. If you follow these directions with all your heart, you will experience a miraculous weight loss.

Excerpt from Faith in the Valley, Lessons for Women on the Journey to Peace by Iyanla Vanzant





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 at **708-598-3100** or via e-mail at hhbc.ghickoryhillspres.org.

Brian Ambrosat - Kim Ambrosat - Kara Fitzgerald

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



May God bless each of our friends on their birthdays and shower them with love, peace and happiness on their special day and always!

Name	Birthday		
Leslie Ambrosat	October 1		
Haley Netter	October 1		
LeAnne Kommenich	October 8		
Sarah Swearingen	October 8		
Arlene Pearson	October 16		
Scott Flynn	October 28		
Karen Korzeniewski	October 28		
Daniel Ciametti	October 29		
Susan Cunningham	October 31		



The Connecting Link is always looking for articles, pictures and stories to publish in the newsletter. If you have any to share, we welcome them! Drop them in the office or e-mail them to hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org.

LOL TIME

Laugh away!















HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH "TRUNK OR TREAT"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 8426 WEST 95TH STREET 12:00 NOON - 2:00 PM (In the East Parking Lot of the Church)

- Participate with your family and/or friends or just join in the fun after Morning worship.
- Decorate your trunk and car (encouraged but optional).
- Prizes will be awarded for best theme, best decorated car and best costume!
- Trick or Treating with fun time for the whole family!
- Sign-up sheets available in the narthex.



Monday, October 4, 2021 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM HHPC East Parking Lot

Menu

Ground Beef and Noodle Casserole with Green Beans, Dessert

Contact Evelyn G. or Debbie Z. or call the church office if you would like to help at the meal.



OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Juli	WOII	Tues	vveu	Tiluis	1 REV. EDIE IN OFFICE TODAY	2
10:00 AM Morning Worship followed by Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Community Meal	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:00 PM Worship & Music	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	8	9
10:00 AM Morning Worship (Youth Sunday School starts today.) 5:00 PM REV Worship	11:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session Meeting (in person)	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	15	16
17 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Youth Sunday School followed by Fellowship 11:15 AM	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	week; returns next V 21 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	Vednesday, October 20	10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
Mission Meeting 5:00 P.M. REV Worship 24 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Board of Deacons Meeting	25 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	28 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	29	30
31 9:00 AM Morning Worship & Youth Sunday School 12:00 NOON – 2:00 PM HHPC TRUNK OR TREAT 5:00 P.M. REV Worship	and is also reco	orded and then availab	le for viewing on our w r Morning Worship will r, REV Worship at 5:00	vebsite at www.hickory be held on the 1st and		s by noon.

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

THE CONNECTING LINK

Connecting together to worship and praise our God!



A monthly newsletter from the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church