HCKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK



NOVEMBER 2021

Note: As we continue 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 60457

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



Feeling
gratitude
and not
expressing it
is like
wrapping a
present and
not giving it.

INSIDE:

Letter from Rev. Edie	2, 3
Worship, Readings, Reflections	4
Prayer Requests	5
Women's Bible Study	6
Ministry Updates:	
Discipleship	7
Missions	8
Upcoming Events	9
Birthdays, Contact Information	10
"Baskets of Blessings""	11
Church Musician's Corner	12
LOL Time	13
A Thanksgiving Ritual	14
Calendar	15

A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz *Pastor*

We are constantly bombarded by messages of fear, scarcity, limitation, anger, and hopelessness. Our culture is constantly reinforcing the message; all you need to do is turn on the tv, open your phone, turn on the radio, read an article, and you will find messages telling you: there is something to fear, you don't have enough, there isn't enough, you are powerless to change any of it, and you should be angry or at least frustrated about it.

We are constantly bombarded by a message of limit, scarcity, and fear. It is all around us, we are swimming in a culture of anxiety and fear. To be clear – this is not the fault of a political party, a sub-group of society, or the media in general. Look around you – it surrounds us. The people and outlets that are inviting us to be worried, afraid, and seeking more are reacting to the wider culture – iust like we are. We find ourselves immersed in a general anxiety, and then we

add to it, our own particular challenges, fears, pain, and circumstances. We find ourselves bombarded by messages but also living in our own lives with the particulars of our own journeys. The result of all of this is a general feeling of grief, despair, fear, or at minimum, a low-level buzz of anxiety in us; which is in itself exhausting. In the midst of all these messages, it can be hard to hear another voice. In the midst of the noise, it can be hard to hear the still small voice of the Spirit, speaking into all that surrounds us. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (I Thess. 5:16-18) Rejoice, pray, give thanks – always--this is the will of God for you. These simple commands lie at the heart of the gospel; literally good news and at the heart of who we are called to be as people of faith.

What does it mean to be a people rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks – in all circumstances?

Thanksgiving, rejoicing, and exercising gratitude is one of the most powerful counter-cultural antidotes to the messaging around us. Giving thanks, rejoicing even in the smallest of things can lower anxiety, diminish fear, and help us gain perspective. Over and over in the stories of the bible, in the lives of those we admire for their faith, we hear them say, "give thanks." This profound message of the church needs to be reclaimed in the face of a culture that struggles with basic human decency.

Give thanks – to God; give thanks to those around you, practice gratitude for even the smallest things in life. In this spiritual practice of gratitude is great power and faith. Give thanks, even when you are not sure what you are thankful for. Give thanks, even for the air you breathe, the rain that falls or the sun that shines.

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

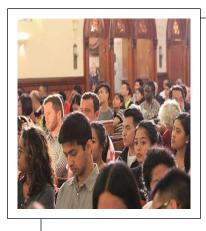
Give thanks for the people in your life, and for those who went before you. Give thanks to God for all that we have.

This practice of gratitude is commanded of us in the bible. This practice of gratitude is one of the ways followers of Jesus show the world who they are; it is one of the ways that we can share the good news with others. It is a way that we can impact the world around us for good. Practicing gratitude changes us, it changes the way we interact

with others, it changes how we see our lives and the people around us.

I want to challenge you, particularly in the month of November, to practice gratitude, keep a journal, write cards, make phone calls, say thank you to those strangers you meet. As God's faithful people, give thanks, rejoice, and pray—this is God's will for you and it is one of the most powerful tools you have for sharing the good news of Jesus.

Love and peace in Christ, Rev. Edie



Two Ways to Attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 14



The Congregational Meeting will be held **in person and on** *Zoom***, Sunday, November 14, 2021, following Morning Worship.** If you wish to join by Zoom, please use the link shown below. Following worship, we will give about 5 minutes to switch from *Facebook Live* to *Zoom* and begin the meeting.

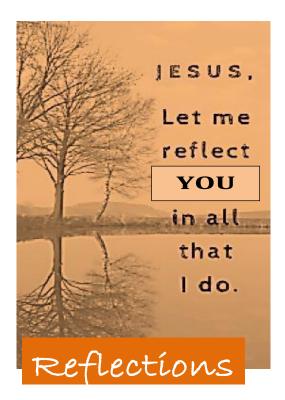
Topic: Congregational Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2021 - 11:00 AM Central Time

(US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82126876524?pwd=cTJkMytxdWdiMnBJdjNpZFYzNHB4dz09

Worship Services, Readings and Reflections



As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and prepare for Advent, I want to invite you to bestill with God and take on the practice of Gratitude this month. For the month of November, explore ways to express gratitudeand thankfulness to God and others. Here are a few ideas how:

- Create a gratitude journal at the end or beginning of each day and spend a few minutesthinking about what you are grateful for.
- **Send notes**. Write a thank-you note or an e-mail to someone. Express your gratitude for something specific.
- **Speak with God** about what it is you are thankful for.
- Call or talk with someone who you are thankful for. Tell them about the difference they have made in your life.
- **Perform a random act of kindness** as a way of thanking God and serving someone else.



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, November 7, 2021

(Communion)

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 12: 38-44; Hebrews 9: 24-28

Sermon Title: Giving It All

Sunday, November 14 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 13: 1-8; 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Sermon Title: The End of the World . . . As We Know It

Sunday, November 21

Christ the King

Readings: John 18: 33-37; Revelation 1: 4-8 Sermon Title: Christ Testifies to the Truth (Rev. Marge Vander Wagen will celebrate worship with us.)

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10

Sermon Title: Wait



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS

Addy; (Karen H); Angie and family (Debbie Z); Bay (Rick); 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); **Doris** (Diane's Mom); **Eric** (Ashley); **Francie** (Karen G); **Gabriel** (Katie); Gary and Valarie (Kim); Gene (Grace); Gert (Ar); Glenda (Melanie); Gordon (Diane); Gracie (Kim); Kathy (Scott); Hunter (Karen G); Jackson; Janet (Evelyn); Jay (Susan); Jenette L (Sandy B); Jim V (Bernie); Jim (Bernie); Joe (Shirley D); Julie W (Andrew); Justin (Karen H); Katie; Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Linda L); Katie B and her husband Joe; Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Jeni); Kyle W; Leanne (Karen H); Mackenzie (Bernie); Margie (Katie); 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); Rose (Katie); Ruth S (Jen); Sandi; 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); Tracy (Debbie Z); 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 Panko; 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); Shawn (Kim); Stan (Bernie); Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino; Sue (Grace); Susan (Katie); Yolanda (Molly)

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 us at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org.

Prayer requests may also be entered under "Prayer Requests" on our website at hickoryhillspres.org.

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 family and friends on the death of Julie Witek; for family and friends of Diane Ciametti's sister Lynn; for the Cherry family and friends on the loss of Donald, son and brother (Karen H); for the Jesernic family who lost two family members this week (Evelyn); 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 VARIOUS 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; 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); Thomas Harvey who is experiencing financial hardship; the injustice and violence around the country; Kaitlyn (Karen G); for those who are struggling mentally and emotionally at this time with the prolonged isolation; for Missionaries in Haiti; students and teachers



Women's Bible Study

Join Us on Mondays at 1:00 PM ~ Fellowship Hall

Women at Bible Study Sound An Alarm!

What did our Bible Study ladies do when they "smelled" trouble? They called the Roberts Park Fire Department!

On October 4th, our Bible Study ladies smelled gas in the building. As the smell was increasing, they wisely cleared the building and called 911. The Fire Department verified their concerns and a repairman was called and resolved the issue. Thank you, ladies!



On the way, at a place where they spent the night, the Lord met him and tried to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched Moses' feet with it, and said: Truly you are a bridegroom of blood to me! So he let him alone. It was then she said: A bridegroom of blood by circumcision. (Exodus 4:24-26)

Moses was dying! Circumcision was a sign of the covenant God had made with Abraham and his descendants. The Israelite Moses had to remember who he was. He should have circumcised his son after his birth. Living in Pharaoh's house made it easy to forget, but the Egyptian in him had to die.

Zipporah's actions evoked the covenant by demonstration so Moses would remember his roots. The flesh and blood in the hands of his wife would not let him forget.

Zipporah reminds us we are in Christ, our true identity as siblings of the flesh and blood of the Bridegroom.

We who are in Christ remember the sacrifice, the pain, the blood of Christ on the cross and His Resurrection.

May we remember this Thanksgiving who we are as his people. May we encourage one another as we dig deeper into the bible and our stories together.

Love, Hugs and A Blessed Thanksgiving, Debbie & Arlene



Fall has arrived! By the time you read this, Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) will have held it's first "Trunk or Treat!" on Sunday, October 31. As of this writing, there are 13 "Trunks" and 4 more volunteers signed up to participate.

Please stay tuned to HHPC's next monthly newsletter for a report and some pictures of our October "Trunk or Treat!"

We hope everyone will report they had a **hauntingly Spooktacular** time!!!



Discipleship Report

by Jean Swearingen

HHPC will be decorating a Christmas tree for **Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo**. We thank everyone who makes this tradition possible. Our tree will represent some of the missions of HHPC. It will be a part of over 2 million lights which illuminate Brookfield Zoo's 40th Holiday Magic celebration.

The dates for Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo are:

Friday – Sunday
November 26-28

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Sunday
December 1-5

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Sunday
December 8-12

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Sunday
December 15-19

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 7, 2021at 11:00 a.m. Please pay close attention to announcements and the December newsletter.

Planning for the Christmas holiday is underway. We make plans with hope for the future. We will proceed with the knowledge that all human plans are fluid!

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Jean



3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday – Friday December 26-31





PLASTIC CAPS UPDATE

Our goal is 1,250 pounds of caps. This will be enough for 2 picnic tables and a smaller bench. We are well on our way with over 700 pounds at this time. A huge thank you to Michael Swearingen for taking the lead on this. A friendly reminder that we can only take clean caps that are on the list of approved plastics.

Prescription bottles and syringe caps are <u>not</u> acceptable.

Mission Report

by Kim Ambrosat

Our Tree of Warmth collection of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves has been wonderful! This year we will be donating to various ministries. Thank you for your generosity!

For the month of November, we will collect items (Blessing Baskets) for Elsie's Pantry. Please consider bringing a "basket" or two. (See p. 11 for the items we are collecting.)

Stay tuned for opportunities to support the ministry of the Jones Center. As we have details, we will share them with you.

Our next Community Meal is scheduled for November 1st from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. As usual, the meals will be served in drive-thru fashion. Stop by for chili, corn muffins, and oatmeal squares. **Want to help? Contact Evelyn or Debbie.**

FYI: In October, 56 meals were served.

OUR REMAINING MISSIONS FOR 2021

November

"Baskets of Blessings" Elsie's Pantry

December

Children's Gifts Jones Center

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 him – 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!

We will meet in person (masked) on November 21st after worship, in the narthex.

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

Happy Thanksgiving, Kim



UPCOMING EVENTS 'Round Our Church



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY MEAL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Menu:

Chili, Cornbread, Oatmeal Squares



NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Please bring or mail in your pledge cards for 2022. Your support is greatly appreciated.



PLANNING MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021 Following Morning Worship in Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to come and join in our planning for this coming Advent season.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021 Following 10:00 AM Morning Worship(On Zoom and in person)

~ AGENDA ~

- . Election of Elders and Deacons to begin serving in 2022
- . Requesting permission to sell manse



EVELYN'S CARD WORKSHOP SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021 10:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021 AFTER 5:00 PM REV WORSHIP





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 e-mail us at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org.



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	Date of Birth
Phil Elam	November 2
Michelle Krumpolc	November 3
Caleb Lenz	November 3
Katie Huenecke	November 5
Steve Porter	November 6
Jean Swearingen	November 6
Mitchell Huenecke	November 8
Jessica Panko	November 12
Ramon Villarreal	November 14
Jacob Morrell	November 15
Beth Ann Kommenich	November 26
Amanda Kowalcze	November 30
Gordon Home	November 30

Share some memories with us!

The Connecting Link is looking for pictures and/or stories of our members' and friends' celebrations during these holiday seasons, whether it be a picture of your family, holiday decorations, your holiday table or maybe even an awesome outdoor scene. Send them to hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org or drop them in the church office.

From November 1 through November 28, 2021, we will be gathering and delivering food for Elsie's Pantry's "Basket of Blessings."

We will give thanks to God for the blessings we have received each day by gathering an item to give to another who is in need.

If you prefer not to do the actual shopping, a donation of \$40 can be made to cover the cost of a Blessing Basket.

Day 1	Box of Macaroni and Cheese
Day 2	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Day 3	Gravy Mix
Day 4	Can of Green Beans
Day 5	Can of Peas
Day 6	Can of Mixed Fruit
Day 7	Dry Dog or Cat Food
Day 8	Box of Cereal
Day 9	Can of Tomatoes
Day 10	Can of Tuna
Day 11	Can of Soup
Day 12	Powdered Milk
Day 13	Toothpaste
Day 14	Box of Rice
Day 15	Feminine Hygiene Products
Day 16	Applesauce
Day 17	Peanut Butter
Day 18	Jar of Jelly
Day 19	Dog or Cat Treats
Day 21	Can of Soup
Day 22	Can of Corn
Day 23	Shampoo
Day 24	Box of Stuffing
Day 25	Box of Pasta
Day 26	Can of Mixed Vegetables
Day 27	Can of Pears

Spaghetti Sauce

Day 28



Elsie's Pantry "Baskets of Blessings"

November 1 – November 28, 2021

Information and a list of items needed are shown at left.

God bless you for your generosity in helping those in need.

9 Am Blessed... To Be A Blessing

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

The Story Behind the Hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

This year has passed so quickly. The holidays are fast approaching. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness always comes to mind when the Thanksgiving season is upon us.

The hymn titled above is one of the most well-known and joyful songs ever written. It was composed by Henry Alford in 1844. He was a clergyman in the Church of England and came from a long line of clergy in his family.

In the fall of 1844, while the vicar of Wymeswold, England, the people of this small hamlet decided to have a festival to celebrate the abundant harvest they had. For this occasion, Alfred composed the now famous hymn,

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.

When we sing this song, let us rededicate ourselves to a life of gratitude and thankfulness. We so often overlook appreciating the little things in our lives.



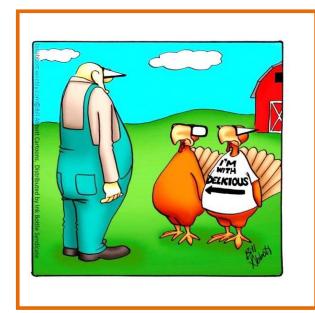
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 5:21)

LOL TIME

For Thanksgiving







... Jokes to Gobble Up ...

Why can't you take turkeys to church? They use fowl language!

What sound does a turkey's phone make? Wing! Wing!

Why did Mom's turkey seasoning taste a little off last year?

She ran out of thyme.

Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?

The turkey. . . because he's already stuffed!

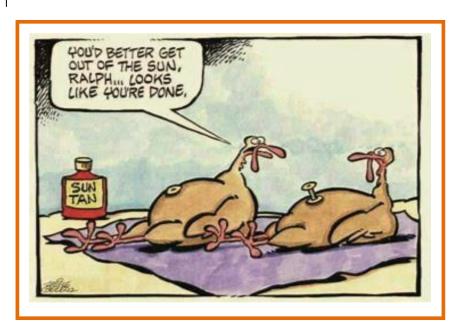
"Knock Knock."

"Who's there?"

"Norma Lee."

"Norma Lee who?"

"Norma Lee I don't eat this much!"





Gratitude Stones: A Family Ritual for Thanksgiving

Needed

- One stone for each guest who will be attending your Thanksgiving meal
- Enough Sharpie pens to hand out to each guest

Ritual

- Place each stone on either a plate setting or next to it.
- Place a large candle in the center of the table.
- When all guests have arrived and are seated, light the candle.

- Pass out the Sharpie pens and ask everyone to write their name on the stone, and then turn it over and write one word on it which tells what they are grateful for this year.
- Ask each guest to say aloud what their thankful word is and why.
- After everyone has spoken, tell the guests to hold the stone in their hand as the host recites a prayer of gratitude.
- Eat and enjoy the company of your loved ones and friends.
- Everyone keeps their stone as a remembrance of this Thanksgiving Day with family and friends.



A Gratitude Prayer

For Food

in a world where many walk in hunger;

For Faith

in a world where many walk in fear

For Friends

in a world where many walk alone

We give you thanks, Lord, Amen.



NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:00 PM Worship & Music Meeting	3 9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS	5	6
7 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Advent Planning Meeting 5:00 P.M. REV Worship	8 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session Meeting	9 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 4:00 PM TOPS	12	13
14 10:00 AM Morning Worship followed by Congregational Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	15 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	16 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 4:00 PM TOPS	19	20 10:00 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop
21 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:15 AM Mission Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship followed by Decorating our Church DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER	22 1:00 PM No Women's Bible Study today	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9:30 AM Prayer and Care in our homes		26 / worship continues to be age at Hickory Hills Pres	
28 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:15 AM Deacons Meeting 5:00 PM REV In-person Worship	29 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	30 9:00 AM Morning Devotion onFacebook Live		and is also recorded and then available for viewing on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org on Sundays by noon. STAY SAFE, EVERYONE!		

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

THE CONNECTING LINK



A monthly newsletter from the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church