

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.



MARCH 2022

WORSHIP WITH US

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.

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

The ashes mean I'm a sinner; the shape of the cross means I have a Savior.

Fr. Mike Schmitz

Inside . . .

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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz
Pastor

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

Lent is a season for turning and returning. Lent is a season for release, a dying to ourselves and a letting go. Lent is a season of preparation for resurrection. We know, unless the seed falls to the earth and dies to its “seed-ness,” it will not grow. To prepare for the resurrection, we must be willing to die – to die to our old habits, attitudes, ways of being, and maybe even to ourselves. We must be willing to return to the God who knit us together and called us good. We must be willing to turn again towards the one who called us by name. We begin this season not with a litany of our sins, though they may be many, but with a confession of our belovedness. Together we acknowledge that we are loved beyond our understanding, beyond our earning or our deserving.

I want to begin with belovedness and to invite you on the Lenten journey. We are going to move on two parallel tracks this season and you are invited to join us. On Sundays (at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) we will be exploring

through word and visual representation the traditional 7 Deadly Sins and their corresponding Virtues. What does it mean that we acknowledge our sins before God? Doesn't God already know all of that; why do we still talk about it if we believe we are forgiven? What does it mean to live a more faith-full life with Jesus? This conversation about sin must be framed in our understanding of God's love for us and for creation, but Lent is a season for confession and truth telling too.

On Wednesday evenings we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for soup and salad and a time of reflection. On Wednesdays our theme will be “Enough.” Enough what? Well, that depends on where you find yourself on your journey. You are enough. You have enough. You have done enough. Faith is enough. These are just a few of the ways we will explore “Enough” this season. I would encourage you to bring a friend or a neighbor to join us on Wednesdays as we are able to sit together, share a meal, and pray.

I am excited for the beginning of this season. It has been two long years since we walked the road of Lent together in ways that feel familiar. I am prayerfully hoping that this will be a meaningful season for our congregation. As we walk this road, I invite you to take on practices that draw you nearer to God. Sometimes this looks like committing to a time of reflection, meditation, or prayer each day. For others of you, committing to read scripture or a devotional book might be the right thing. Lent often involves intentional “giving something up.” If that has been your practice, choose wisely what will be a sacrifice, and each time you miss what you have given up, offer a prayer or a moment of stillness to God. Maybe simply committing to being in worship each week, or coming for Wednesday nights is the Lenten commitment you need to make.

Whatever it is that seems wisest for your journey right now, I want to challenge you to make a

(cont'd on next page)

A Letter from Rev. Edie (cont'd)

commitment for this season of Lent. What is more, share that commitment with someone else. Often, we decide things, like giving up chocolate for Lent, but we don't then tell anyone about the commitment we make. This has a few consequences: If no one knows, no one will say anything if I have that Hershey's kiss. If no one knows, there is no one to encourage me, pray for me, or join me in my journey. If no one knows, no one can celebrate with me as Easter comes, and I am joyfully acknowledging the end of a journey.

I invite you then to be intentional about a practice, a commitment, a fast, or a way of being. Choose a way that God can walk with you throughout this season of

Lent, and share what you are doing with someone else. Allow others to join you on the journey, talk about what you are learning, where you struggle, and the joy you are finding.

Beloved of God, as we walk this Lenten road, let us walk in hope, dedication, and wonder for God is near.

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Edie

“Lenten Suppers” Schedule

*Every Wednesday during Lent at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
(Ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, March 2.)*

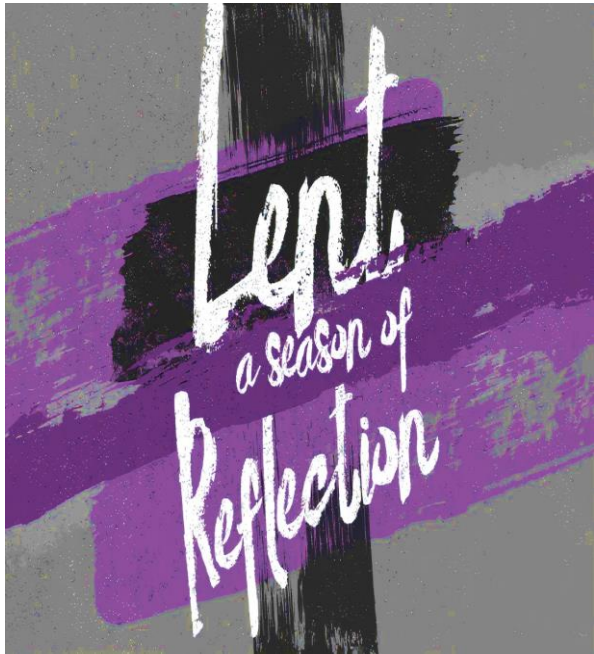
Framework of Each Evening:

Prayer . Song . Dinner . Scripture . Reflection
. Practices . Song . Prayer of Blessing



March 2 (Ash Wednesday)	Gluttony/Temperance	Exodus 16: 13-20; Matthew 6: 25-34 Practices of "Enough"
March 9	Simplicity	Matthew 6: 25-34
March 16	Fasting	Isaiah 58: 6-14
March 23	Silence	Ecclesiastes 3: 1-14
March 30	Sabbath	Matthew 11: 28-30
April 6	Belovedness	Psalms 139: 1-18

Worship, Readings & Reflections



The following are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie will focus on during devotions on Ash Wednesday and at worship services on Sundays during Lent. If you don't have Internet access, you may read and reflect on these Scripture passages in your bible. You can participate in virtual Sunday worship livestreamed on *Facebook* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org by noon on Sunday.

In this season of Lent, we are exploring what are commonly known as the “Seven Deadly Sins” and the “Seven Virtues.”

As you reflect on your sins, where do you see them active your life? What do you need to turn over to God and repent?

As you reflect on the virtues, where do you see these active in your life? How can you lean in or grow in your pursuit of God's good gifts?

Some of these words are easier to understand than others. How do you define or understand these sins or virtues?



READINGS

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Readings: Exodus 16: 13-20; Matthew 6: 25-34

Sermon: *Gluttony/Temperance*

Sunday, March 6 (Communion at Morning Worship)

1st Sunday in Lent

Readings: Genesis 4: 1-15; James 3: 13-18

Sermon: *Envy/Kindness*

Sunday, March 13

2nd Sunday in Lent

Readings: Romans 12: 9-21; Matthew 25: 14-29

Sermon: *Sloth/Diligence*

Sunday, March 20

3rd Sunday in Lent

Readings: Deuteronomy 5: 6-21; Samuel 11: 1-15

Sermon: *Lust/Chastity*

Sunday, March 27 (Rev. Marge Vander Wagen will celebrate worship)

4th Sunday in Lent

Readings: Matthew 5: 6-21; 1 Samuel 11: 1-15

Sermon: *Wrath/Meekness*



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

Addy; (Karen H); Bay (Rick); Bob; Bobby (Mel); Brad (Andrew); Bruce (Jeni); Danny F (Jeni); David (Karen H); Diane (Wilda); Doris (Diane's Mom); Elliot (Darlene); Esther (Grace); Francie (Karen G); Gary and Valarie (Kim); Gene (Grace); Gert; Glenda (Melanie); Gordon (Diane); Ira (Scott); Jane (Jean); Janet (Evelyn); Jay (Susan); Janine (Jeni); Jenette L (Sandy B); Jill (Jeni); Jim V (Bernie); Joe (Shirley D); Justin (Karen H); Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Linda L); Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Jeni); Leanne (Karen H); Linda; Liz (Evelyn); Mackenzie (Bernie); Mark (Dianne); Matthew (Karen H); Michael (Karen H); Michael (Shirley); Pam (Darlene); Papa John (Jeni); Pat (Karen H); Pete (Esther); Rae (Karen G); Raquel (Shannon); Ruth S (Jen); Sandy (Mel); Shannon; Sharon (Tom M); Sharon R (Sandy B); Sherry (Peggy); Shirley A (Karen G); Sonja (Nick); Stan P (Bernie); Suzanne (Bernie); Tierney (Shirley D); Tim (Charlie); Todd (Charlie); Tracy (Debbie Z); Wanda (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Brian K. (Debbie); Bob (Dave D); Bob (Grace); Bree's Mom (Evelyn); Carol S; Cathy N (Sandy B); David (Bernie); Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma family (Evelyn); Edward (Evelyn); Elizabeth (Darlene); Erin Beal and children; Frankie (Bernie); Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Isaiah (Kim); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joellen (Mel); Kirsten (Kim); Lacy (Melanie S); Larry (Karen G); Lisa, Lorrie (Debbie Z); Marj (Charlie); Marley & Bob (Dave D); Michelle (Katie); Mike B (Jeni); Pam (Katie); Patti (Jeni); Renee M; Robert (Gert); Sean (Kim); Shirley D; Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino; Sue (Grace)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

Ongoing repair/cleanup in Western Kentucky; for firefighters injured in the line of duty; Healthcare providers and others in harm's way, especially Jean, Kaitlyn, K, and Molly; for those in hospitals and facilities with health needs; those unemployed, under-employed and those seeking workers; those in isolation; those living in domestic violence situations; those battling addiction; fire and police departments tasked with keeping the peace; systemic racism and social challenges in our country; victims of abuse and their abusers; mental health

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.

You can also send prayer requests online through our website at

www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayerrequest/

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For family and friends of Ivan Nelsol who passed away; for the Dessecker family; for the Yalaska family and friends on the deaths of Helen and Tony (Jeni); for family and friends of John M on the loss of his wife Sue (Debbie); for the Nellie Zinkel family on the death of Bob (from MC8); for Virginia who lost her mother (Melanie); for the Benedict family on the death of Rose (Jeni); for the Walsh family on the death of their mother; for the Nickalaou family on the death of Chris Nickalaou (Sandy & Susan); for victims and families affected by violence; for those who are being impacted by disasters and other environmental challenges

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

For the present situation in Ukraine; for Afghanistan; for Dali, Nafe, and Yanko during the immigration process; for Bill (Bernie); churches who are struggling to reach members and care for people; all those who tested positive for COVID-19 even without symptoms; for Elise (Karen H); those who provide essential services we need; Ethiopia; Haiti; Holly (Evelyn); Kaitlyn (Karen G); for those who are struggling mentally and emotionally at this time; for students and teachers for all those affected by the multi-state tornadoes and for those who died in these tragedies; violence against civilians and those living in fear

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

**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

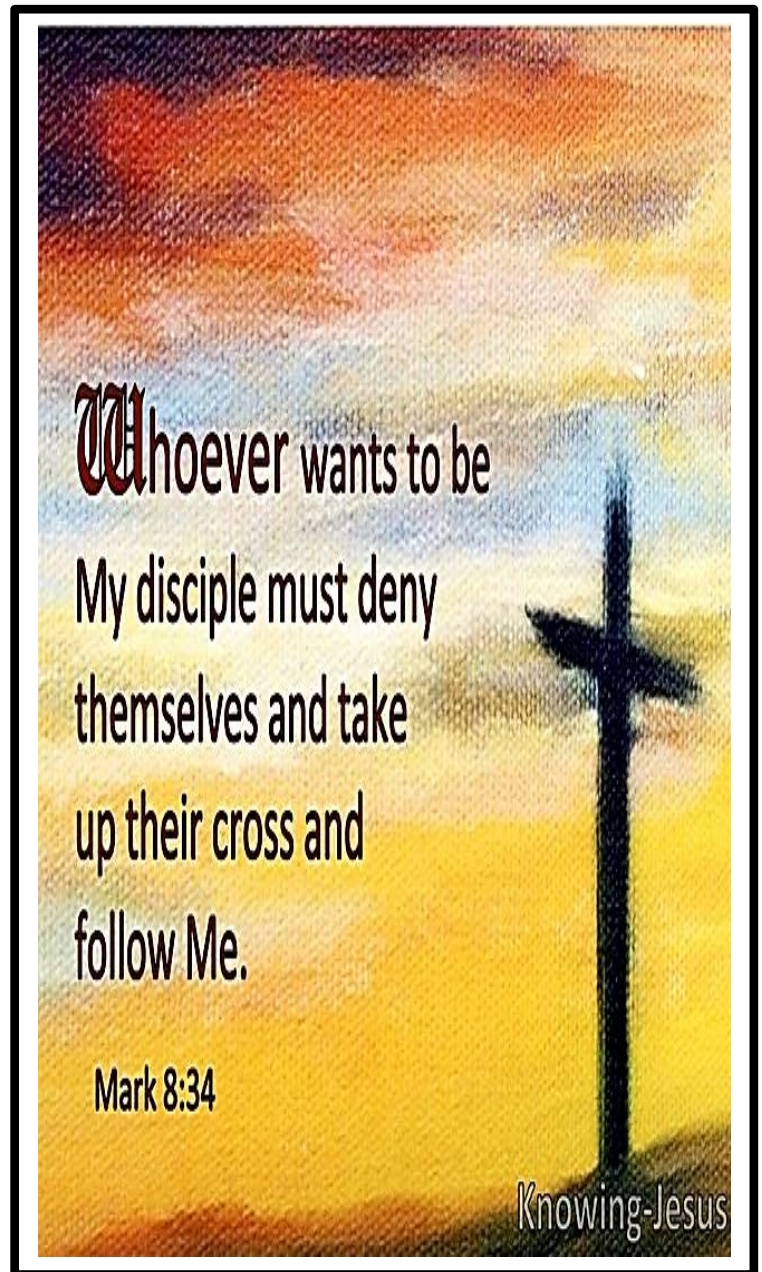
by Jean Swearingen

The Discipleship Committee of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) meets every other month. We did not meet in February. **We did celebrate Souper Sunday!**

SOUPER SUNDAY – Souper Sunday was held Sunday, February 13, 2022! We had Fun, Food, Family, Friends, Football, Football, Football, and Fellowship!!! Friends and family able to attend enjoyed a variety of soups and stew. The lunch was complimented with bread/butter and Valentine’s Day-themed snacks available at each place setting. Coffee, water, and lemonade were at each table. Our freewill offering will be placed into funds available for the Netter Family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Our youth continue to meet every other Sunday.

LENT 2022 – HHPC’s Lenten Series begins Ash Wednesday which is March 2, 2022. Discipleship has worked with Pastor Edie, Mission, and Worship and Music to prepare for a beautiful Lent season. In 2022, HHPC’s Lenten Suppers are returning to the evening. Our serving techniques will reflect our desire to keep everyone safe. Sign-up for this event is now available; let HHPC know how you will help. **We hope to see you at 6:00 p.m. on March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30 and April 6 at our HHPC Lenten Supper series.**



EASTER BREAKFAST – Sign up and join HHPC as we celebrate Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 17, 2022. We are EXCITED to be able to be back after a two-year COVID hiatus! Our “Tried and True” cooks will be in the kitchen. We’re in the process of organization for set-up, serving, and clean-up. Let us know how you would like to help! A sign-up for Easter Breakfast donations will be available March 9. A freewill offering will be requested with proceeds going to the Netter Family!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – We are planning for VBS! Curriculum is being chosen and dates being verified. Stay tuned!

The Discipleship Committee will be meeting March 13, 2022, following 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship. We will be discussing final plans for our Spring and early Summer activities. We will be discussing the future in hopes of continued growth and change. We will continue to complete our planning with the desire to maintain safety at all times.



Mission Report

by Jeni Vogl

COMMUNITY MEAL

The February drive-thru Community Meal reached 58 families! Thank you to Debbie Z and Evelyn G for making the delicious Hamburger Vegetable Soup and Diane Ciametti for the delicious variety of cake slices. It takes a “small” village to get these meals planned, prepared and packaged to be given out in a timely manner. Most of the time they are done within the first 10-15 minutes of opening the doors. The menu for March is Chicken, Rice, Carrots, Broccoli and Dessert. You are invited to pick up dinner for yourself or a neighbor.

The Warming Tree scarves, hats, gloves and socks were split and

delivered to *The Center* in Palos Heights where they helped many people in Joliet at shelters and to *Faith United Church in Tinley Park* which were taken to downtown Chicago and handed out to the homeless. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this mission.

HHPC MICRO-PANTRY

The Micro-Pantry is being stocked daily. On the very cold days, it seems to be stocked more. Thank you to Debbie Zimmerman, Michael Swearingen, Jean Swearingen and Pastor Edie for assisting with keeping it stocked. Also, thank you to all who have contributed boxed and canned goods. After checking the “best if used by” dates, we are now in need of a few specific items that seem to be stocked regularly. . . Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter (creamy and crunchy), Mac ‘n Cheese, and assorted Cereals. At the moment,

we do NOT need canned fruits or vegetables, beans (canned or dried), tuna fish or chicken. I have put out the “expired” items on the inside pew in the narthex for anyone to take. HHPC cannot and will not put expired food in the Micro-Pantry.

MISSION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

A Meal Pack for Nigeria at Jones Center in Chicago Heights is planned for Saturday, April 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping, contact the Jones Center. This is being done along with the organization, “A Boy and His Dream.”

If you are interested in checking out our committee, we meet on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. **Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 20th.**



Worship and Music Report
by Darlene Delaney

The Worship and Music Committee includes Pastor Edie, Greg Rolla, Andrew Witek, Melanie Swindle and Darlene Delaney, Chair. Many, many thanks to Melanie Swindle for her leadership as chair of this committee for the past 6 years. She has done an outstanding job, and I value her input as a member of the committee. Thank you also to Pastor Edie for her leadership, Andrew Witek, Scott Zimmerman, Ashley Fiedor, Rick Vogl and Caleb Lenz for all their technical support and to Greg Rolla for his beautiful music.

These past couple of years have been challenging because of COVID, but we are a strong congregation and even though we haven't always been able to

worship together, we pray we are now beginning to return to being our "normal" church family and worshipping together for the glory of God. We hope to see some of our *Facebook* and *Zoom* members in person as well.

The Committee met on January 17, 2022, and discussed the upcoming plans leading up to Easter. Ash Wednesday is March 2nd which will begin with a soup and salad meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a devotional service, including the placement of ashes. These meals and Wednesday services will be held for 6 weeks. There will be a Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:00 p.m. on April 14th. Our cross will be draped with pieces of fabric, which Pastor Edie will explain fully in the weeks to come.

The Bell Choir will begin practicing again in March to prepare for an Easter presentation.

Please think about joining us. You do not have to be able to read music, but we do require that you are able to count to 4! We have a great group, and under the leadership of Greg (who helps us count to 4!), we are learning how to become better. Some of us have played bells previously, and some of us are beginners, but we are all having fun. We practice for about an hour following worship on Sundays and look forward to making beautiful music for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord.

If you have any thoughts or ideas and would like to join the Worship and Music Committee, we would love to hear from you.

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

O for the Love of Heaven!

Ash Wednesday, March 2, begins the most solemn period of the Christian year: Lent. It culminates in Holy Week that includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and, finally, Christ's Resurrection.

Many composers down through the ages have taken great inspiration from these events and have created magnificent musical works that have last for hundreds of years. George Frederick Handel wrote *The Messiah* (1741) which is performed yearly throughout the world. Johann Sebastian Bach wrote his *St. Matthew Passion* (based on that gospel) in 1727 and his *St. John Passion* in 1724. Both are still widely popular today. Haydn wrote an orchestral piece on *The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross* (1787). Theodore Dubois followed a similar format in 1867. In 1966, Penderecki composed the *St. Luke Passion*.

Our hymnal is filled with Lenten hymns and we will be singing them during this time.



Did you know that you can pray a hymn each day of the Lent as a special devotion? Choose a Lenten hymn and sing it with God's blessing every day. It's just another way to praise and give glory to God.



Upcoming Events

LENT

JOIN US!

FOR A LENTEN SERIES:

“ENOUGH”

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
THROUGH APRIL 6, 2022
6:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall**

- Lessons by Rev. Edie with Music by Greg Rolla
- Enjoy Soup, Salad and Dessert
- Any free will donations for the Netter Family are welcomed and appreciated.

Watch the bulletin for announcements and sign-ups!

NOTE: HHPC and the Discipleship Committee are closely watching world health events and plan to proceed with this event. We will monitor health statistics. Any changes impacting this event will be announced from the pulpit, and appropriate notifications will be made.



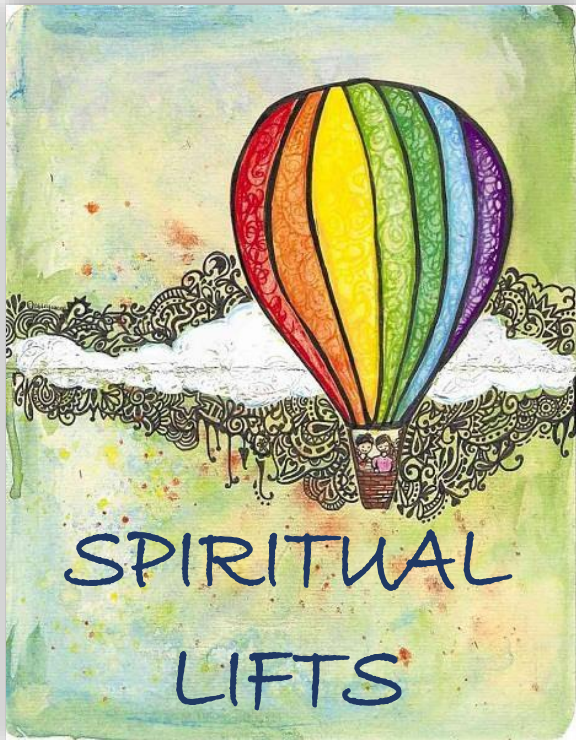
**HHPC DRIVE-THRU
COMMUNITY MEAL
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**MENU:
Chicken, Rice,
Broccoli, Carrots &
Dessert**

Happy
Easter



 **OUR EASTER
MORNING BREAKFAST
IS COMING BACK!
SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022
9:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOLLOWED BY WORSHIP**



10 WAYS TO GROW IN OUR SPIRITUALITY

Desire Change. Develop a Sense of Gratitude. Spend Time in Nature. Start Every Day with Prayer. Ask God to Make You a Blessing. Choose a Book of the Bible to Read and Study. Pause and Reflect. Don't Fear Mistakes. Give Your Burdens to God. Start Small.

THIS HIT HOME FOR ME!

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries. When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not, you help them change their batteries!

Some need AA - attention and affection. **Some need AAA** - attention, affection and acceptance. **Some need C** – compassion. **Some need D** - direction. And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light. --Victory Today (Submitted by Jeni Vogl)



March BIRTHDAYS

May God bless our friends who are celebrating their birthdays in March with good health and happiness on their special day and always!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Hollie Fox	March 1
Cooper Huenecke	March 2
Mike Monczynski	March 2
Donna Bredlau	March 5
Mary Fellers	March 7
Michael E. Dragas	March 11
Lucy Manyenje	March 12
Kim Ambrosat	March 15
Lizbeth Ramos	March 16
Pat Lorenz	March 16
Roy Hoffman	March 16
Frank Esparza	March 22



Moved address?
New email address?
Have a new mobile phone?

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.

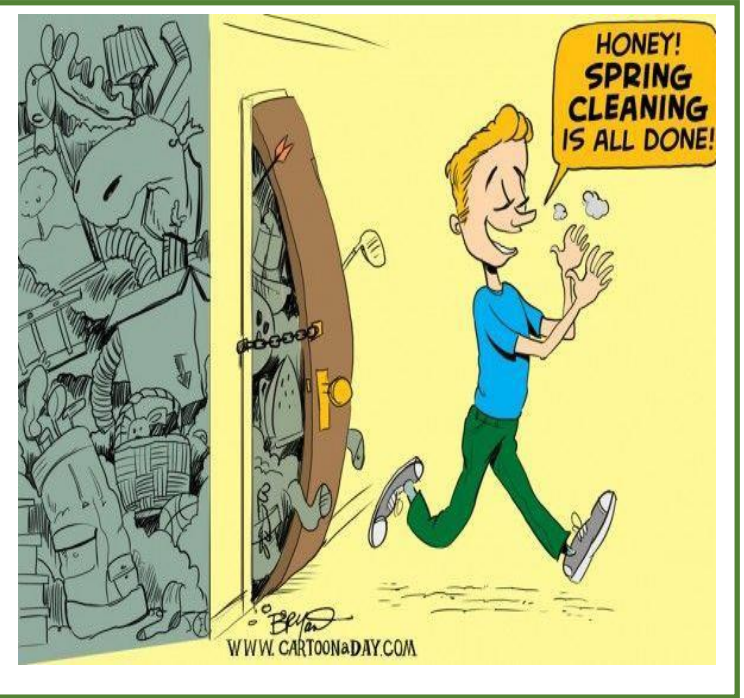
No notifications received this month.

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

LOL TIME!

SPRING IS ON THE WAY . . . BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 20!



Two worms are staring at the sky one Spring night. One turns to the other and says, "Don't you wish we could explore outer space like the humans?" The other looks down and says, "No, I'm an earthworm at heart."

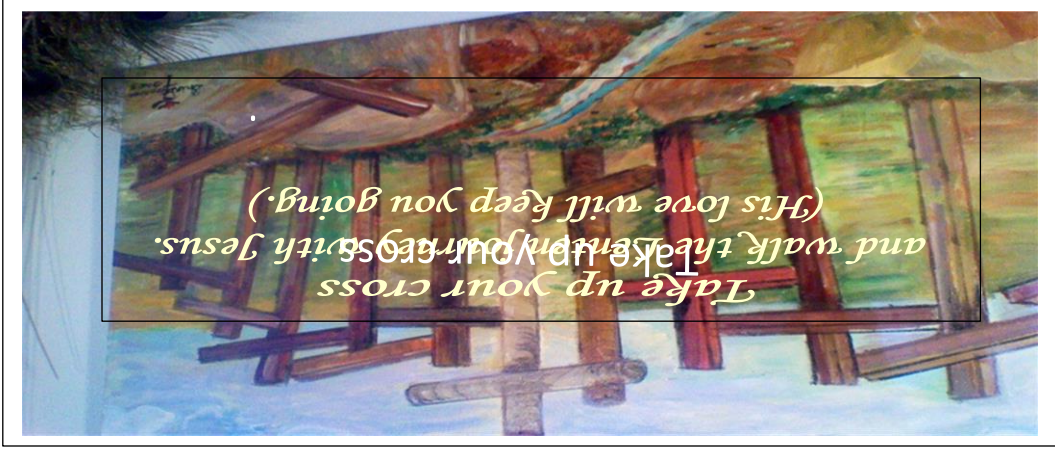


Q: Why are oak trees so forgiving?
A: Every Spring they "turn over a new leaf."

MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5		
		9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 7:00 PM Worship & Music Meeting	6:00 PM Lenten Supper  <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 4:00 PM TOPS		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Sunday School 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i>	6:00 PM Lenten Supper	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 4:00 PM TOPS		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:15 AM Discipleship Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i>	6:00 PM Lenten Supper	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 4:00 PM TOPS		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Sunday School 10:15 AM Mission Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i>	6:00 PM Lenten Supper	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 4:00 PM TOPS		
27	28	29	30	31	 Stay safe & healthy!	
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:15 AM Board of Deacons 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i>	6:00 PM Lenten Supper	9:00 AM Morning Devotions on <i>Facebook Live</i> 4:00 PM TOPS		

MARCH 2022



A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457