

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.



April 2022

WORSHIP WITH US

MASK UPDATE!

Note: As of March 14, 2022, masks are optional in the HHPC building. If you are not vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to continue to wear a mask. If you are not feeling well, please stay at home. Changes to this policy may be made by The Session as numbers dictate. More information can be found at www.hickoryhillspres.org or contact the church office. 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 Morning Devotions and 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



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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz
Pastor

As we inch ever closer to spring, there is evidence all around us of the world beginning to emerge from its winter slumber. There are the earliest spring flowers poking through the ground, the rain that falls waters the earth and prepares it to grow. Even the massive temperature fluctuations point to the promise that the cold weather cannot last, spring will come and summer will follow on its heels. I have been thinking about this spring “emerging,” as we are also seeing faces emerge from masks, people emerging more and more from their isolation and the reclaiming and re-imagining of many of our events at the church.

As we “emerge” from the past two years, wary that things can change again, but hopeful that enough people have been vaccinated and enough has been learned to make it temporary, what

have we learned in the past two years? How are you a different person than you were in 2020? How has our congregation changed in the past two years; what have we learned? What priorities have changed or been reinforced? What has shifted and what is emerging? As we emerge further, what is different and what needs to remain the same?

I have been saying for two years now that there is no going back to *the way it used to be*, whatever that might be, we cannot go back to being the people we were. We are not the people we were in March of 2020. We have been through so much, have seen and experienced much change. It would be foolish to imagine that it has not left a mark upon us. But it is time we turned our attention to the future; where God is calling. If we believe that God is already

at work in our world, already active, present and moving, the question then becomes – how do we join God in the work? As we prayerfully and carefully restart some events and programs, as we experiment with new ideas, as we keep doing some of the work we have been doing, where is God inviting us to go? To be? To do?

When you take a little time to reflect, what have you missed most? Where are you most passionate when it comes to our community and our world?

These are big questions and some of them are not new – I have been asking you similar questions throughout the pandemic. It is time to begin to answer the questions and to pray for direction and discernment from God. It is time to stop wondering and be still to listen for God’s direction. It is time

A Letter from Rev. Edie (cont'd)

to gather and talk, to share the stirrings in our hearts and the wonderings in our minds. It is time that we, as a congregation, move into an experiment or two, trying on of what God might be calling us to. I say experiment intentionally. To experiment is to try, see how it goes, make adjustments and try again. Experiments are, by nature, not supposed to be perfect, but learning opportunities. It is time to test some ideas, try things out, see what we can learn about God's call for HHPC.

Our God is a God of creativity and wonder – just look at the diversity of spring. As those made in God's image, we are called to creativity and wonder. What are you most

energetic and passionate about when it comes to our world? What is on your heart? Where do you find the most energy and passion in the church?

There will be opportunities this spring and summer to share your best thinking, your dreaming, your curiosity. What is "emerging" in your heart and in the hearts of those around you? I am excited to experiment and wonder with you about the emerging of HHPC.

He is Risen!
Rev. Edie



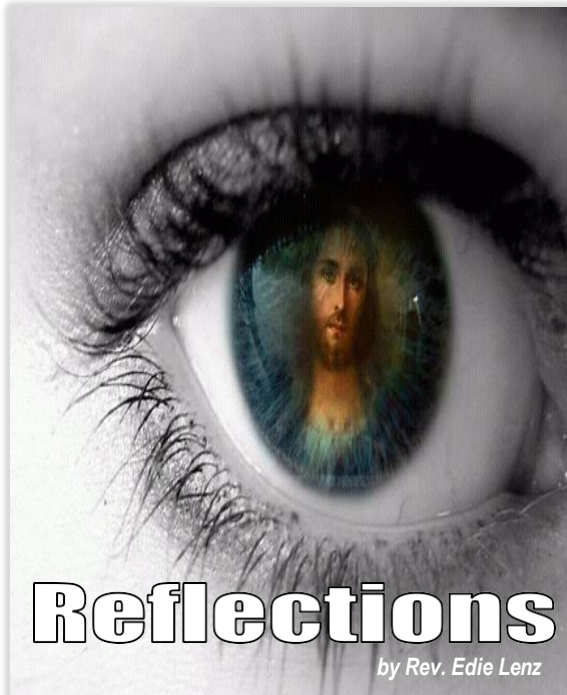
The following services will be held during Holy Week at HHPC:

Palm Sunday, April 10
10:00 AM Morning Worship
5:00 PM Rev Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 14
7:00 PM HHPC Service

Easter Sunday, April 17
9:00 AM Easter Morning Breakfast
10:00 AM Worship
(No REV)

Worship, Readings & Reflections



As you reflect back over the 7 deadly sins and the 7 virtues, what has surprised you? What have you learned? What has God shown you about your own faith journey? Where might God be inviting you to grow?

How will you prepare your heart to welcome the risen Christ? When you reflect on the story of Easter morning, what thoughts and emotions stir in you?

Doubt is a natural part of faith. Questions are a necessary part of growing. Are there doubts that arise in you? What are the questions you wish you knew the answer to?



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Chrch has reopened for Sunday worship services (10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.). Shown below are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie will focus on during April worship services. If you are unable to join us in person at church, you may read and reflect on the Scripture passages shown below in your bible. You can also participate in virtual Sunday worship livestreamed on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org by noon on Sunday.



Sunday, April 3, 2022

5th Sunday in Lent

Readings: Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Sermon: Greed/Generosity

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

Readings: Luke 4:1-13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Sermon: Pride/Humility

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday/ Resurrection of the Lord

Readings: Luke 24:1-12; Isaiah 65:17-25

Sermon: Seeking Life

Sunday, April 24, 2022

2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: John 20:19-31; Psalm 118:14-29

Sermon: Doubts



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); **Gert**; **Glenda** (Melanie); **Gordon** (Diane); **Ira** (Scott); **Jane** (Jean); **Janet** (Evelyn); **Jay** (Susan); **Jenette L** (Sandy B); **Jill** (Jeni); **Joe** (Shirley D); **Joe** (Katie); **Justin** (Karen H); **Kathy** (Bernie); **Kathy** (Linda L); **Kim B** (Jeni); **Leanne** (Karen H); **Linda L**; **Liz** (Evelyn); **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); **Rick V** (Jeni); **Ryan** (Karen H); **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.

Angela (Katie); **Bill** (Bernie); **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); **Howard** (Karen); **Janet** (Evelyn); **Janice** (Gert); **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**; **Slava** (Katie); **Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino**; **Sue** (Grace); **Tara** (Mel); **Tina** (Evelyn)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

For the **people of Ukraine** and all those who have died during this crisis; for ongoing repair and cleanup in **Western Kentucky**; for firefighters injured in the line of duty; for 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 hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org. You can also send prayer requests online through our website at

www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayerrequest/

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

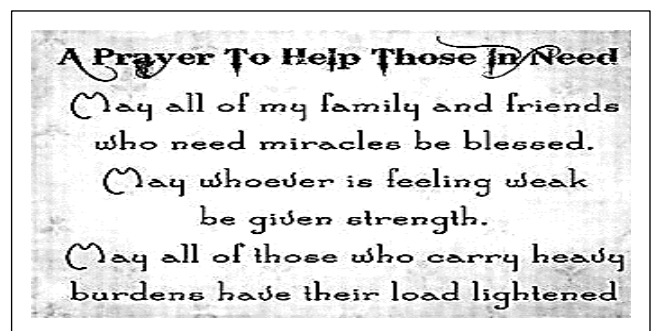
For family and friends of **Eugene Molenstra** (brother of Grace M) who passed away March 24; for family and Friends of **Stas Pakula** who passed away March 22 (Bernie); for **Donna and Tammy** who lost their father (Mel); for family and friends of **Ivan Nelsol** who passed away; for **victims and families affected by violence**; for those who are being impacted by **disasters and other environmental challenges**

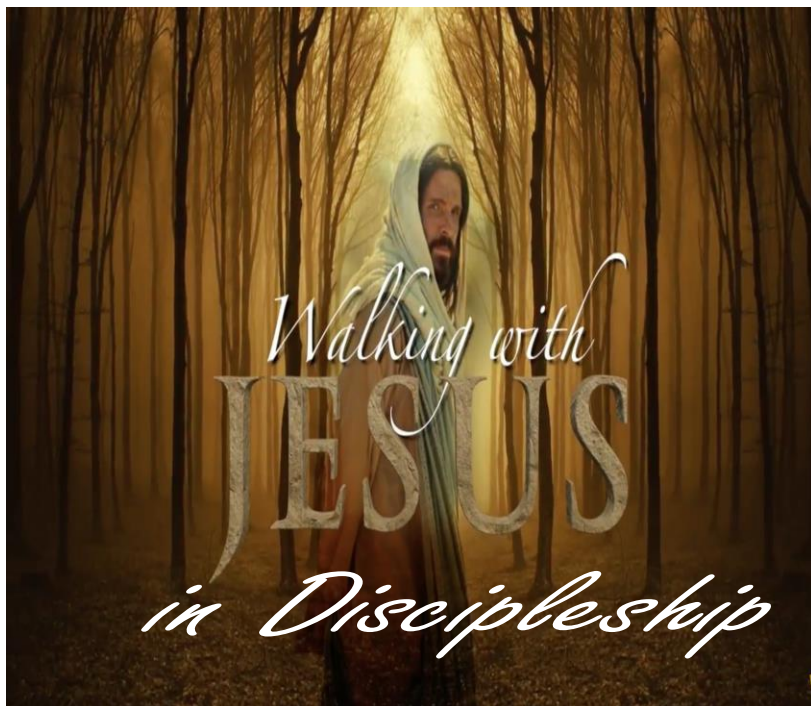
WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

For the current situation in **Afghanistan**; for **Dali, Nafe, and Yanko** during the immigration process; for **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); for **Tanya** who is being deployed (Evelyn); 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 rejoice with **Molly Netter** on the great news that **Dali, Nafe and Yanko** who will now begin their immigration process.





Discipleship Report

by Jean Swearingen

WOW!!! This is already the April newsletter!

Your Discipleship Committee met on Sunday, March 13, 2022. We held conversations regarding spring/ summer activities . . . and beyond!

LENT

HHPC's Lenten Series began on Ash Wednesday, March 2 and continues through April 6, 2022. We meet at 6:00 p.m.. We have enjoyed increasing numbers of attendees during our first three weeks. Attendees have had delectable soups, salads and desserts. We enjoy the beautiful and uplifting music played by Greg Rolla.

Our theme is "Enough." A freewill offering continues to support the Netter Family. An additional freewill offering will be divided between support for tornado damage throughout Southern Illinois/Western Kentucky and for support to Ukraine. *Sign-ups for Lent continue to be found upstairs and downstairs during HHPC events.*

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Plans are for HHPC to hold Easter Morning Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 17, 2022. It's been two years! We are excited! Our HHPC Easter Chefs will be busy! A sign-up sheet for donations to our Easter Morning Breakfast can be found upstairs on Sunday mornings and downstairs during other church events. It's filling up fast, and opportunities to donate still exist. The last date to sign-up will be Palm Sunday, April 10.

We ask that Easter Breakfast donations be delivered to HHPC on Maundy Thursday, April 14 (there is an evening service at 7:00 p.m.) or between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 16. *If you require unique times, please contact the church office.*

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

HHPC will recognize members of our church family who are celebrating the completion of eighth grade, high school, college, and/or certifications. We will celebrate graduates during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 15, 2022. This service will be followed by fellowship downstairs.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Reserve the week of June 13 – 16, 2022! VBS will be happening! **The theme is "Food Truck Party – On A Roll with God."** Plans are underway! Stay tuned as this event evolves.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Christmas Tea is returning in December! Discipleship is planning! We will follow HHPC's guidelines regarding COVID-19 for all events. All of our plans will be made with safety in mind.

Wishing you a Blessed and Holy Easter, Jean

HHPC MISSIONS:



We're in This Together!

Missions Report

by Jeni Vogl

As of March 27th, we have collected \$1,269 for humanitarian aid to Ukraine and tornado cleanup assistance throughout Southern Illinois/Western Kentucky.

We have 971 lbs. of clean and sorted plastic bottle caps as of March 23rd. Our thanks to Michael Swearingen for the wonderful job he continues to do. Keep the bottle caps coming!

For now, our Micro-pantry has enough peanut butter and macaroni and cheese, but is in need of more cereal and pasta sauce.

Love and Peace at Easter!
Jeni



Worship and Music Report

by Darlene Delaney

A decision was made to meet as necessary rather than monthly since plans have been completed for several months in advance.

Ash Wednesday Supper and service and continuing Wednesday Lenten Suppers have been going well with good attendance. A Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The Bell Choir, directed by Greg Rolla, resumed practice on March 6th following worship, and will play at the Easter service. The practice went pretty well for a first practice.

Anybody who would like to join the Bell Choir would be very welcome.

Blessings, Love and Peace at Easter!
Darlene



Get inspired by the "Word."
Join Us at Women's Bible Study!
Mondays at 1:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

Handel's *Messiah*

If you get a chance the next few weeks, check out a recording of Handel's *Messiah*. It's probably one of his most famous musical works. He structured it as an oratorio, with text from the King James Bible, the Coverdale Psalter and the Book of Common Prayer. An oratorio is a story narrative set to music (as in *oral*) and is basically an opera without costuming or action.

Messiah was first performed in Dublin in 1741 and then in London in 1743. The *Messiah*, of course, is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the work describes His life in music and song.

The oratorio is divided into three parts: Part 1 begins with prophecies of Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds. In Part 2, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the *Hallelujah* chorus. In Part 3, he covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in Heaven.



After 281 years, it still inspires the listener to reflect and contemplate the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and in music – and English!

**A blessed Easter to one and all.
Hallelujah! Greg**



George Frideric Handel
1685 –1759



Draped over our cross in the Sanctuary each week are different colored cloths, visually representing each of the 7 deadly sins.

Walking Our Lenten Journey Together

As part of our Lenten journey, Rev. Edie's Sunday sermons have focused on the 7 deadly sins and their corresponding virtues.

As a visual representation of the sin being focused on at Sunday worship, a different colored cloth is draped on the sanctuary cross each week.

Over the last several weeks, members and friends have gathered on Wednesday evenings for **Lenten Suppers** in Fellowship Hall where we prayed, enjoyed delicious soups, salad and desserts made by our dedicated volunteers. Following supper, we listen to a reflection by Rev. Edie.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Final
Wednesday!



**HHPC DRIVE-THRU
COMMUNITY MEAL
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

Menu

- Pulled Pork
- Green Beans
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Dessert

Contact Debbie Z. or Evelyn G. to help.

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.



Happy
Easter

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022
9:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL**

See sign-up sheet to donate items for the breakfast.



May 8

Mother's Day

May 15

Recognition Sunday

May 19-21

HHPC Rummage Sale

June 13-16

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

This Year's Theme:

Food Truck Party

Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for more details.

Prayers for Ukraine At Your Fingertips

During this vicious attack on the country of Ukraine and its people, generous donations of money and supplies have been pouring in from around the world as well as praying for an end to this brutal and undeserved war. While we are far away from the people of Ukraine, we can draw them close with this unique form of prayer. Simply trace your finger around the map of Ukraine and its cities as you lift the people in thought and prayer.



Spiritual Lifts



Everything I need shall be provided today. Everything. Say it, until you believe it. Say it at the beginning of the day. Say it throughout the day. Sometimes, it helps to know what we want and need. But if we don't, we can trust that God does.

When we ask, trust, and believe that our needs will be met, our needs will be met. Sometimes God cares about the silliest little things, if we do.

Excerpt from the book, Language of Letting Go by Melody Beattie



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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Evelyn Garlic	April 6
Grace Muszynski	April 8
Josh Treccani	April 10
Tucker Treccani	April 10
Kelly Bredlau	April 14
Ramiro Ramos	April 15
Veronica Swindle	April 23
Michael Dragas	April 24
Stacy Flynn-Brenz	April 25
Kirsten Elam	April 28



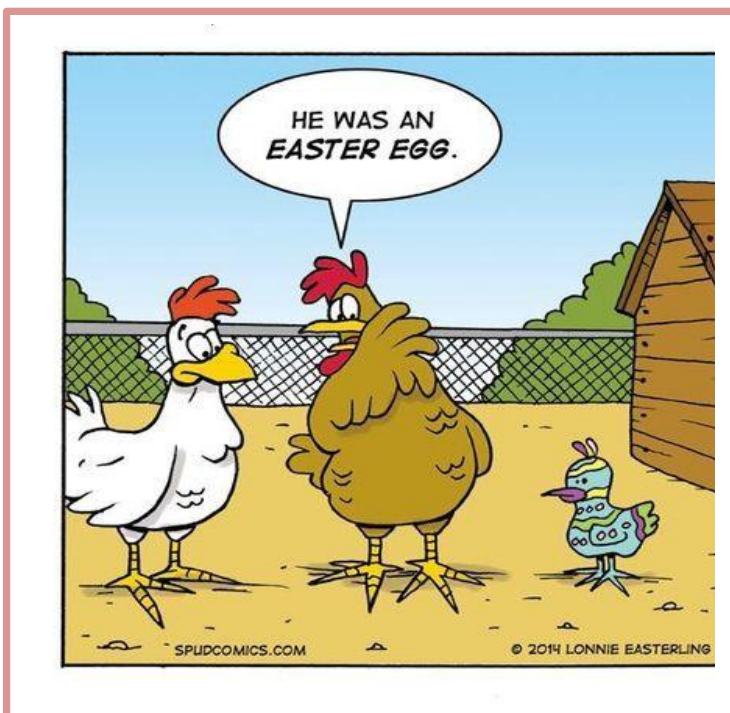
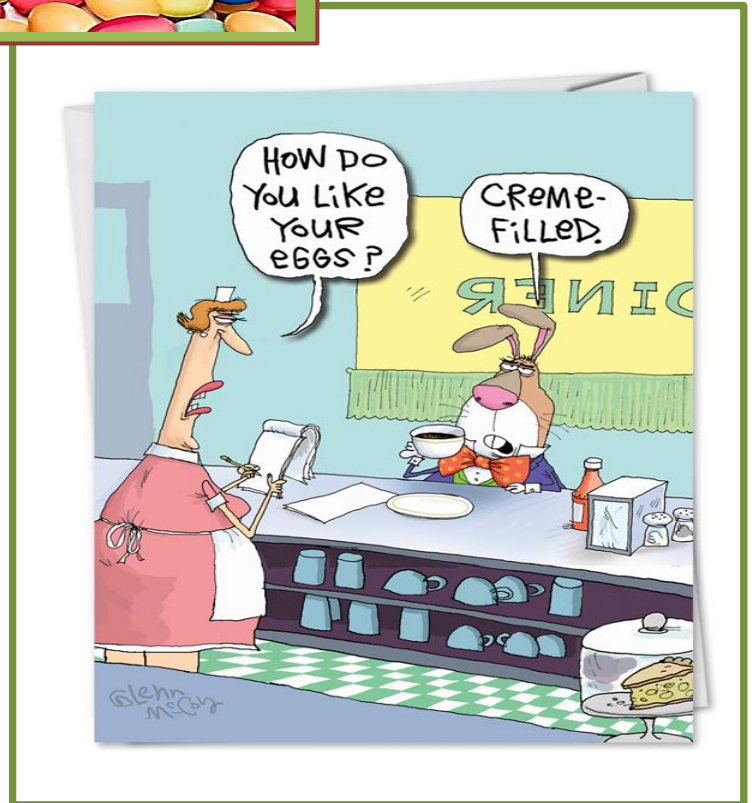
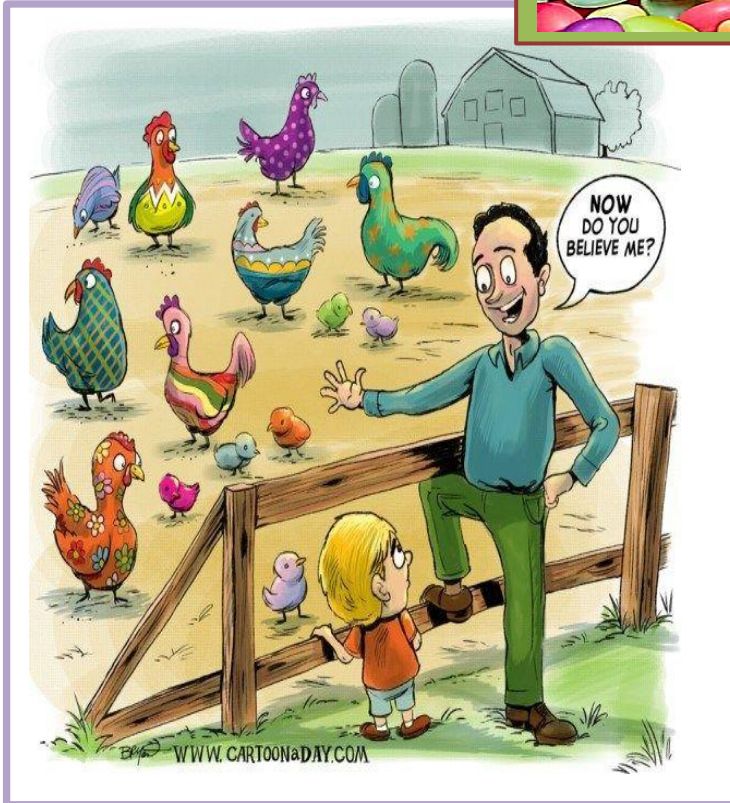
The Connecting Link publishes only the names of those members who have submitted a change in their contact information. However, more information can be provided upon request by calling the church office.

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

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org

LOL Time for Easter



Make Your Table Stand Out This Easter

Want to spruce up your table this Easter? Try making one of these lovely centerpieces which will surely brighten up the center of your table and be enjoyed by your guests.

*Happy
Easter,
Everyone!*

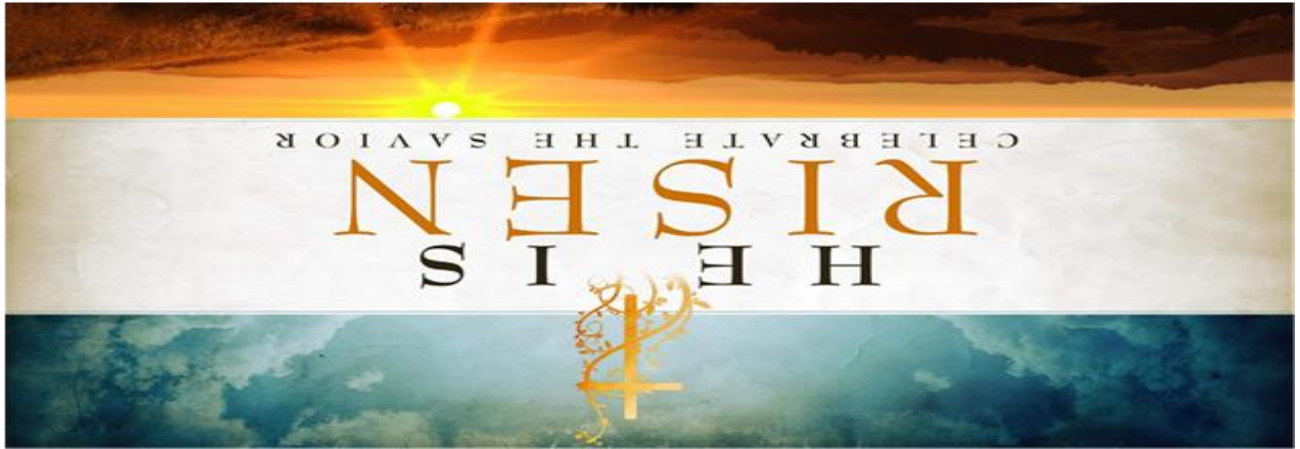




APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship 11:15 AM Bell Choir Practice 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	6:00 PM Final Lenten Supper	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:15 AM Bell Choir Practice 5:00 PM REV Worship	11 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session meets	12 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	13	14 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:00 PM Manudy Thursday Service	15 GOOD FRIDAY	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:00 AM Morning Worship, , Sunday School & Fellowship 11:15 AM Missions meet <i>(No REV today)</i>	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	19 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	20	21 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS	22	23 10:00 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop
24 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:15 or 11:45 AM Board of Deacons meet 5:00 PM REV Worship	25 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	26 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	27	28 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS	29	30

APRIL 2022



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DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

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