

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.



MAY 2022

WORSHIP WITH US

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 and 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 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 2 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, seen

and experienced such 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, and as we keep doing some of the work we have been doing, where is God inviting us to go? To be? To do?

(cont'd on next page)

A Letter from Rev. Edie (cont'd)

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; 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 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.

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Edie

*Thank
you*

A huge thank you to everyone who stepped in and stepped up in the past few weeks, particularly Easter Sunday, when I was out sick. Thank you for your prayers, calls, texts, and cards as well; it means a lot. While Easter certainly was not at all what I had intended, I am deeply appreciative of your love, flexibility, and determination. *Thank you, Rev. Edie*



May Readings

The following are readings and sermons that Rev. Edie will focus on during Sunday worship. 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.

A Time to Reflect

Jesus commands Peter to feed and tend his sheep. What do you make of this command? How might Jesus use you to feed and tend his sheep?

.....

Jesus often spoke using stories and parables. Why do you think he did this? Do you suppose it helped people understand or made it harder? Do you find it easier to remember stories or facts?

.....

Read John 5:1-9. Why do you suppose Jesus asks the man "Do you want to be well?" Isn't the answer obvious? What lesson might we learn from how Jesus approaches this man?

.....

Forty days after the resurrection at Easter, Jesus in taken up to heaven. What did the disciples expect to happen? What happened?

.....

May 1, 2022

3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: John 21: 1-19; 61: 1-4

Sermon: *Feed My Sheep*

May 8, 2022

4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: John 10: 22-30; Acts 9: 36-43

Sermon: *Tell Us Plainly*

May 15, 2022

5th Sunday of Easter

Readings: John 13: 31-35; Acts 11: 1-18

Sermon: *Love One Another*

May 22, 2022

6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: John 5: 1-9; Psalm 67

Sermon: *Do You Want to Be Well?*

May 29, 2022

7th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 15-23

Sermon: *Is It Time Yet?*



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

Addy; (Karen H); Aunt Nellie (Sandy B); 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); Jim V (Bernie); Joe (Katie); Joe (Shirley D); Justin (Karen H); 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); Rich W (Sandy B); 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); Tammy (Gordon); 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; David (Bernie); Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma family (Evelyn); Edward (Evelyn); Elizabeth (Darlene); Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Isaiah (Kim); Howard (Karen); Janet (Evelyn); Janet (Evelyn); Janice (Gert); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joellen (Mel); Kirsten (Kim); Lacy (Melanie S); 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 been injured or who have died during this war; for ongoing repair and cleanup in Western Kentucky; for firefighters injured in the line of duty; for healthcare providers; for those in hospitals and facilities with health needs; for 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 Eugene Molenstra (brother of Grace M) who passed away March 24; 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 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 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 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.

**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

HE IS RISEN!

There were Easter activities . . .
Breakfast and Service!

HHPC was creative
to make this happen!

LENT

HHPC's Wednesday evening Lenten Series has been declared a success! Discipleship hopes several of you were able to join us for a wonderful variety of soups, salads, and desserts. We enjoyed music, lessons, and friends. The monies collected have been dispersed into funds for our Netter family, victims of continued storm clean-up in Southern Illinois/Western Kentucky, and for support of Ukraine.

EASTER BREAKFAST

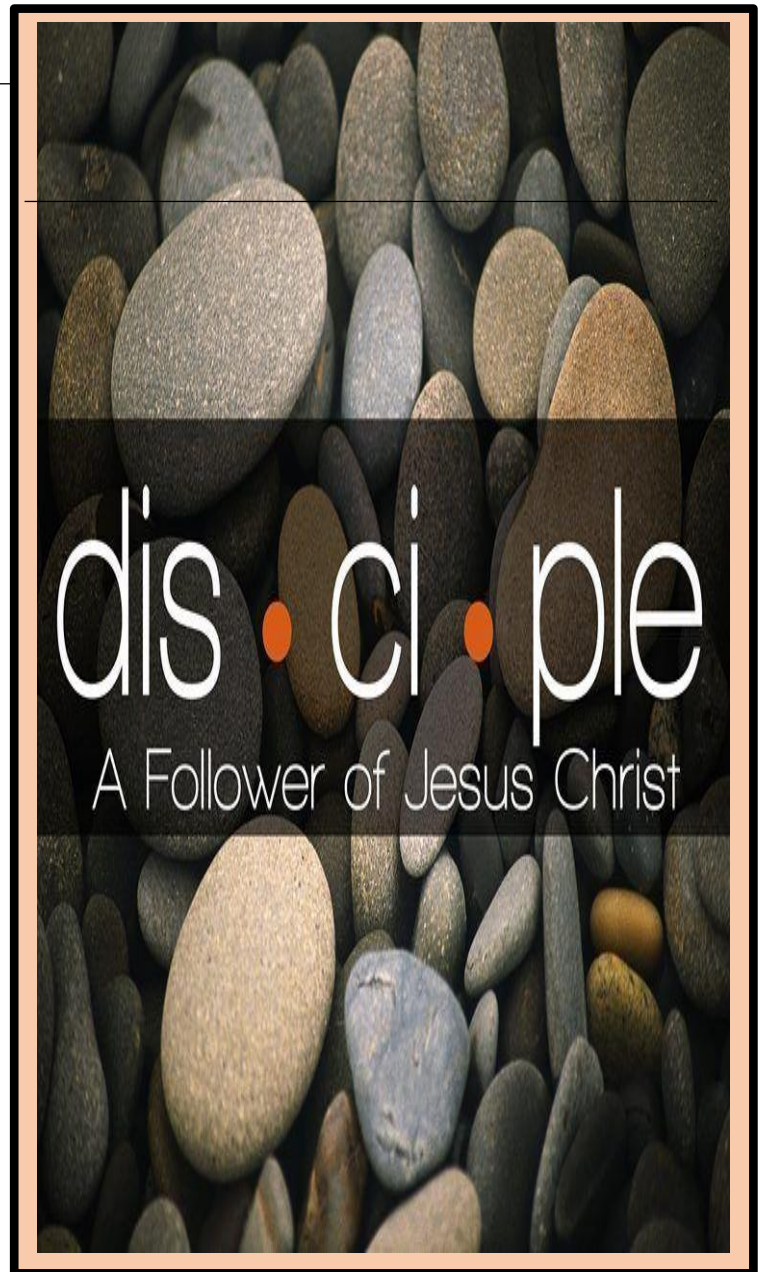
HHPC served 54 people for Easter Breakfast! The freewill donations have gone to our Netter family. We had a wonderful breakfast! THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to make this event a success!!!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, HHPC will be celebrating our "Class of 2022." Our graduates will be recognized during the 10:00 a.m. service. This service will be followed by Fellowship downstairs.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On June 13-16, 2022, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 p.m., Tricia and family will be returning to HHPC for VBS! Our theme is "FOOD TRUCK PARTY – On a Roll with God!" (See the flyer on page 10.) Make plans now to attend! Come see how much fun we have! Invite your friends and your friend's friends, too!



FALL PLANS - Under Construction. Stay Tuned!

TRUNK or TREAT

This event will be held Sunday, October 30, 2022.
Stay tuned!

CHRISTMAS TEA

Returning in December. Stay tuned!

The next Discipleship meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 8, 2022, following the 10:00 a.m. service.



Jean



MISSION REPORT

by Jeni Vogl

No April meeting was held.

I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter.

We will be partnering with **Grace Seeds Ministry (GSM)** this growing season.

What is **GSM**? It's a way to give back to your local food pantries and the community. GSM will provide **FREE** tomatoes, peppers (green or jalapeno), cucumbers, swiss chard, kale, parsley, Greek oregano, basil, dill, bush beans (seeds) and collard plants to anyone willing to grow them this summer. One tomato plant can help feed several families each week! Once the plant starts producing, you will bring them to HHPC for distributing to Elsie's Pantry, our own Micro-Pantry or we will get

them to GSM for the Chicago Food Pantries. Great way to get some *DIRT THERAPY* and give back to the community as well.

If you interested in receiving a plant or a few plants, please contact Jeni Vogl at 708-525-4920 or javogl@yahoo.com. **Orders need to be in hand by May 8th.** Thank you.

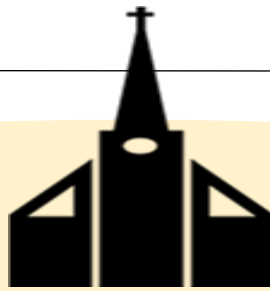
Also, we will be collecting some items to send to our Troops--Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard--while they are deployed around the world. Evelyn Garlic's daughter Tanya was deployed April 3. She is in the Air Force. Our first package will be directed to her unit. If you know of anyone else who is deployed, please let Evelyn or myself know. Get their address and we will send them a package as well. You can contact us as to what they need or

make a donation marked "troops package" and we will purchase the items.

GREAT PEOPLE do GREAT THINGS...and You're GREAT!

A Blessed Mother's Day!
Jeni





'Round Our Church

After a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HHPC members gathered together for Easter Morning Breakfast. Afterwards, we celebrated this joyous occasion at worship.

Thank You to All Our Volunteers!

Here are a few pictures taken in the Sanctuary and some of the lovely and creative centerpieces at breakfast.



At-A-Glance



Monday

May 2

COMMUNITY MEAL – 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Menu: Hot Dogs, Macaroni & Cheese, Dessert

Sunday

May 15

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

During Morning Worship at 10:00 AM

**Thursday –
Saturday**

May 19-21

HHPC ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

(See flyer on next page for more details.)

**Monday -
Thursday**

June 13-16

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God”

(See flyer on next page for more details.)

HHPC Rummage Sale Vacation Bible School



You're Invited!



RUMMAGE SALE

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET

Sale Hours

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 20 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 21 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Shop for Great Items at Great Prices!



We invite all children
ages 4 - 12
to Hickory Hills Presbyterian
Church Vacation Bible School.

Your Child Will:

- . Listen to Bible Stories*
- . Make Crafts*
- . Play Games*
- . Enjoy Music*
- . Make New Friends*
- . Eat a Great Snack!*

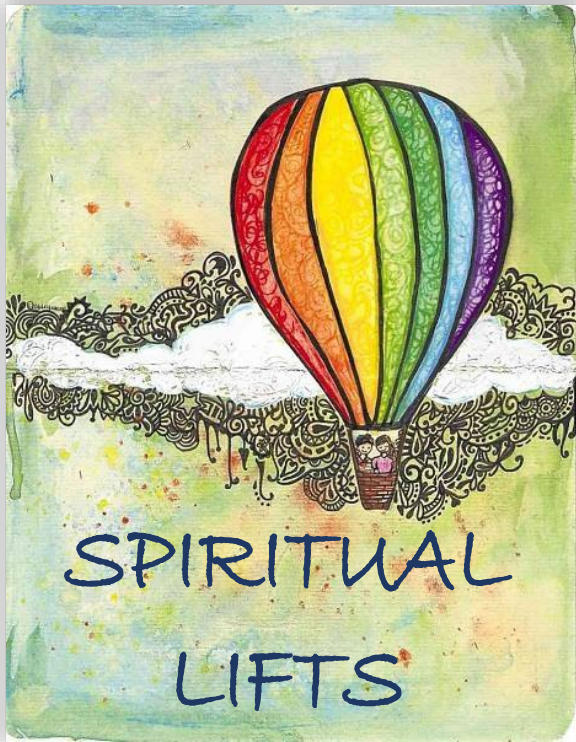
This year's theme:
**"FOOD TRUCK PARTY:
On A Roll with God"**

MONDAY - THURSDAY
JUNE 13 - 16, 2022
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

HICKORY HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET
(PROGRAM IS FREE.)

Pre-registration available.

Call the church office at 708-598-3100
or "message us" online at
www.hickoryhillspres.org/contact/
on or before June 13.



Good spiritual health is a key to living a healthy and happy life.

Start Giving. Working for others without expecting anything in return will significantly impact your spiritual health. By giving selflessly to others, you will get a positive outlook on life, making you feel more optimistic.

Stay Positive. Every one of us has some desires and goals. During your struggle to accomplish those goals, staying positive and never losing hope is essential, making you feel more optimistic.

Practice Meditation. Practice meditation to ensure that your spiritual health is in good shape and you remain full of energy. It also helps you reduce your stress level, which positively affects your physical health.

Focus on One Thing at a Time. Multi-tasking is known as the best skill that allows you to handle different types of tasks at a time. But in reality, multi-tasking does not positively impact your spiritual health. Try to focus on one thing at a time to maintain calmness and mental peace.

Know Your Limitations. Knowing your limits will help you achieve your goals that greatly impact your spiritual health. It gives you a reality check on where you stand as an individual and which areas you need improvement. It enables you to avoid burnout and boost your self-esteem.



May God bless our friends celebrating their birthdays in May with joy and peace on their special day and always.

John Kemp	May 2
Myrnalyn Delalamon	May 3
Luz Korzeniewski	May 10
Carol Sack	May 10
Francine Costello	May 10
Wilda Duncan	May 11
Greg Majersky	May 26
Karen Golema	May 29



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

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!



Mother, *noun*. A person with the ability to detect a lie, hear the smallest noises and see out of the back of their head.



MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>10:00 AM Morning Worship & Sunday School 5:00 PM REV Worship</p>	<p>1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Community Meal</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:00 PM Worship & Music on Zoom</p>		<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Discipleship Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</p> </div>	<p>1:00 PM Women's Bible Study <i>(Final Study; will resume in the fall.)</i></p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Recognition Sunday 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Missions Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning devotion on Facebook Live 7:30 PM Session</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		
<p>Setup for Rummage Sale 5/16-5/18</p>				<p>Rummage Sale Open to the Public 5/19-5/21 Thurs-Friday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Sat – 9:00 AM-1 PM</p>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship</p>		<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>		
29	30	31			<div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 2em;"> <p>Stay Healthy Be Happy</p> </div>	
<p>10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship <i>(No REV Worship)</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live</p>				

MAY 2022



A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

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