

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.



Father's Day is Sunday, June 19!

JUNE 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

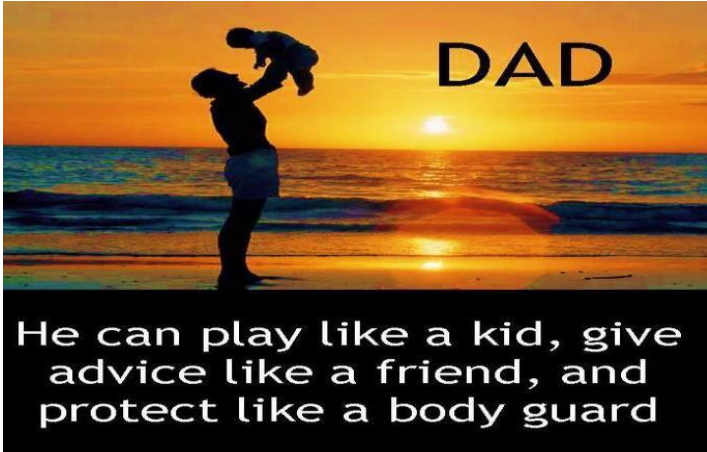
Join us for Daily Devotions and Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. on *Facebook Live* at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

CONTACT US

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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 I listened to our conversations on May 1 during our time of visioning, as I watched the rooms fill with items and people for the Rummage Sale, as I witnessed the celebration of all the volunteers and ministries of HHPC during Recognition Sunday, I have been convinced again and again – God is not finished with us. I have said before and say again HHPC is a tenacious congregation who love to work hard for a purpose, laugh, and eat together. While I know that there may be things we wish were different or that perhaps we would long to make better, the reality is that our God is faithful and we are a part of the Body of Christ. It is absolutely clear to me that God is not finished challenging, growing, and working with us yet.

I know that things are not always rosy or easy in this journey. It can be hard to look around on a Sunday and think of the many faces that are not with us any longer. It can be hard to think of ministries and missions of the past, their meaning and their vibrancy, and grieve that things have changed. It can be hard to look in the mirror and see a person who

has aged, who cannot always do the things they used to do, or who no longer has time to do some of the things you want to do. Things have changed, we have changed, you have changed – but God has not. I believe God’s call in our individual lives and in the life of this congregation is faithful.

In the past 2-1/2 years, we have walked slowly through a visioning process, in part, because of the pandemic, and because I believe it is often necessary to slow down if we want to hear the voice of God speak to us. We have affirmed our mission and our values, trying to be clear about who we are and who we believe God wants us to be. We have recognized the ministries and work of the church, while our work and activities have changed, and in some cases, altered, we certainly have not stopped. We also explored the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead of us. At our most recent meeting I asked – “Where do you believe God is calling us to lean in, to focus our energy going forward?” If we are going to lean in and experiment in one or two areas of the church life, where will we focus? On the next page you

will find the answers to those questions – Deeper Discipleship and the Community Meal. Our next steps include getting curious, wondering, imagining and praying as we seek to explore what is possible.

It is my prayer that these areas of focus will serve as places of experimentation and wonder, places of even deeper connection with our God, our own faith journeys, one another, and our community. While it may be true that the road ahead does not look like the road that got us here, while there is much that has changed in us and in our world, HHPC has work to do, work that we can best do together. We need your voice, ideas, and hands.

Would you consider adding your ideas, input, wisdom, and curiosity to the conversations around Community Meal or Deeper Discipleship (or both)? I will be scheduling the first of these conversations in June with the hopes that we will have some ideas ready to try by the time fall arrives. In the meantime, hold one another and our congregation in prayer as we continue to seek to walk faithfully with our God.

(Continued on next page.)

Summary of the Visioning Meetings of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

MISSION

We are called to SEEK God's word, to SHARE and CELEBRATE God's love, and to SERVE Jesus Christ in the world.

SHARED VALUES

Mission/Service Relationships

Multi-generational

Shared Leadership Hard Work

Tradition

Tenacity

AREAS OF FOCUSED MINISTRY FOR FALL

Deeper Discipleship: Growing as followers of Jesus and our ability to follow him in all areas of our lives.

Community Meal: *Currently* a monthly Drive-thru. What could we do?

QUESTIONS FOR EACH FOCUS

What impact do we want the focused areas of ministry to have? Why are we doing this?

How will we know that we are having the desired impact? What do we measure?

What – When – How – Who?

How will we increase awareness of what we are doing and invite others to participate (advertising/marketing)?

ONGOING QUESTIONS

What does our community (Hickory Hills) need? What are the pain points in our neighborhood?

How might our building be used to help in the needs of the community and for God's wider purpose?

WHAT COMES NEXT?

A Task Force (NOT Committee) will gather to work on the questions we need to answer for each focus. This will allow us to clearly define the purpose, goals and plans for the focus area. Having a clear purpose and clear measures will help us know if what we are aiming to do is working or if there are adjustments or tweaks needed as things progress. These Task Forces will do their work over the summer, creating a plan for the Fall at HHPC. Once the Task Force has done its work, it will not continue to meet. It will be the work of the ministries and their volunteers to keep evaluating and working to meet the goals we set together.

If you have ideas, energy, or a passion for either of these two focus areas, would you please sign up to assist us on the Task Force? Again, you are asked to volunteer to help with planning and setting things up; we will ask for commitments to make things happen later.

We will have a fall launch sometime in September where we celebrate the work that has been done and invite people to participate in the ministries of HHPC - both the current and new.

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Edie

WORSHIP READINGS, SERMONS & REFLECTIONS



Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness.

The readings and sermons shown below are ones that Rev. Edie and Rev. Jewel (*pulpit supply preacher on June 26*) 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 hickoryhillspres.org by noon on Sunday.

JUNE 5, 2022

Day of Pentecost

Readings

Genesis 11: 1-9
Acts 2: 1-21

Sermon

Babble

JUNE 12

Trinity Sunday

Readings

Proverbs 8: 1-4; 22-31
Acts 2: 1-21
John 16: 12-15

Sermon

Eternal Delight

JUNE 19

2ND Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39
John 16: 12-15

Sermon

How Much Has God Done for You?

JUNE 26

3RD Sunday after Pentecost

Readings

Rev. Jewel will select readings.

Sermon

Rev. Jewel will prepare sermon.



A Time to Reflect . . .

As humans, we tend to choose to spend time with those who look like, think like, or believe as we do. At Pentecost, the Spirit broke down those divisions.

Who do you have regular contact with that challenges you or believes differently than you?

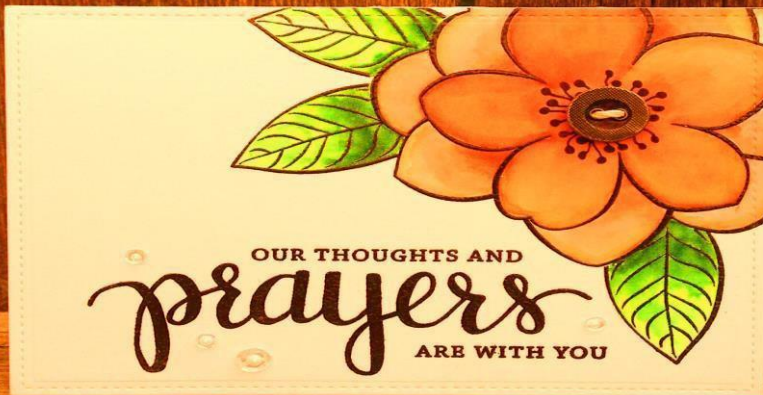
How often are you able to talk or discuss your differences?

Read, listen to, or have a conversation with someone who holds a different world view – how does this impact your own beliefs?

Our God is a God of relationship and deep connection.

How are you experiencing that connection to God? How about to others in your faith community? What about your neighbors?

What has God done for you? What are those experiences of grace, forgiveness or faith? Who knows the story? Who in your life might need to know the story?



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 IN NEED OF HEALING AND THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS.

Addy; (Karen H); Aunt Nellie (Sandy B); Bay (Rick); Benjamin (Kim A); Bob; Bob (Tom K); Bobby (Mel); Brad (Andrew); Bruce (Jeni); Danny F (Jeni); David (Karen H); Diana (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); Michele (Katie); Neil S (Sandy B); Pam (Darlene); Papa John (Jeni); Pat (Karen H); Pete (Esther); Rae (Karen G); Randy (Susan); Raquel (Shannon); Rick V (Jeni); Rick W (Sandy B); Ryan (Karen H); Ruth S (Jen); Sandi (Karen G); Sandy (Mel); Shannon; Sharon (Tom M); Sharon R (Sandy B); Sherry (Peggy); Shirley A (Karen G); Sonja (Nick); 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); Janice (Gert); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joellen (Mel); Joyce W (Sandy B); Family of David Jorgenson (Sue D); Kirsten (Kim); Lacy (Melanie S); Lisa, Lorrie (Debbie Z); Marj (Charlie); Marley & Bob (Dave D); Mike B (Jeni); Pam (Darlene); 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 Schwartz Family and friends on the death of Reid (Molly); 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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For family and friends of the victims and those injured in the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas; 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.

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY . . .

Please keep the Netter children in your prayers on June 12 and June 13. A hearing for the children's visas will be held early morning (as in midnight) on June 13.

Discipleship Report

by Jean Swearingen

The Discipleship Committee met Sunday, May 8, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

The committee reviewed completed events for 2022 and verified events approaching.

LENT

HHPC hosted weekly *Lenten Suppers* in Fellowship Hall with reflections presented by Rev. Edie. Average attendance was between 24-28. Thank you to all our volunteers that helped with setup and food preparation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (YOUTH)

We had a dedicated group of intelligent youth. Thank you to Debbie for teaching. Thank you to Tasha and Leslie for substituting.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Breakfast was back after a two-year Covid hiatus! HHPC served 54 people. Thank you to our Cooks in the Kitchen! Thank you to all who came to assist. Thank you for all donations!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Recognition Sunday was held during Morning Worship on Sunday, May 15, 2022. HHPC had two graduates . . . Mackenzie Netter (8th grade) and Molly Netter (Doctorate of Nursing Practice). We used this opportunity to also recognize all who have given their time, donations and talents during the last year!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

VBS will be held June 13-16, 2022, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Four Words of a True Disciple:



REMINDER: Join us as we continue sorting bottle caps during the month of June. We are almost at our goal!

VBS (Cont'd): This year's theme is *FOOD TRUCK PARTY: On a Roll with God!*

Our thanks to Dianne Flynn for overseeing this event. Plans are well underway. *No cost for participants.*

FALL PROGRAMMING

At a meeting held in May, conversations focused on "What is Our "Big Picture?", "Programming with a Purpose" and "How Will We Know?" Rev. Edie shared thoughts on forming a Task Force.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.



Mission Report

by Jeni Vogl

HHPC MEMBERS TO "SHARE THEIR HARVEST"

First of all, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who asked for plants from the *Grace Seeds Ministry (GSM)* this month. GSM is a faith-based, non-profit ministry, a "greenhouse" encouraging our partners to grow in God's grace and share that grace in the world!

Share the Harvest, a transplant of GSM, grows fresh produce to share with hungry neighbors.

When the plants are put into the soil, our volunteers will watch them grow into beautiful tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. Their harvest will then be donated to our Micro-Pantry and/or Elsie's Pantry.



Vegetable and herb starter plants were picked up by HHPC volunteers offering to plant them in their home gardens and later share their harvest with others.

HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

Our June Drive-thru Community Meal will be held Monday, June 6 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. and will feature burgers, chips, beans, potato salad and dessert.

In May, we served a total of 63 meals. Thank you to Debbie Zimmerman, Evelyn Garlic, Mike Swearingen, Andrew Witek, Ashley Fiedor and Diane Ciametti. (*Diane made us some delicious cakes before leaving for vacation.*)

CARE PACKAGES FOR THE MILITARY

Collections will continue through June 26 and cash donations may also be made. A list of items in need will be shown in the bulletin as well. The goal is to get the packages mailed out by the end of June for arrival near the 4th of July.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEAL PACK SET

Meal pack will be held the weekend of August 27 (*keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet.*)

FUNDRAISING FOR JULY AND AUGUST

We will use the M&M containers and basket for our fundraising with a goal set of \$500. *More information to follow.*

Check out the Marketplace on the *Feed My Starving Children* website for some amazing handmade items.

<https://www.fmsc.org/the-feed/marketplace>

UPDATE HHPC MICRO-PANTRY: We thank our members and community friends who continue to donate food items to help stock HHPC's Micro-Pantry. This is a wonderful way in which to share these food items with those in need in our community.

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF CANNED VEGETABLES AND CANNED FRUITS.

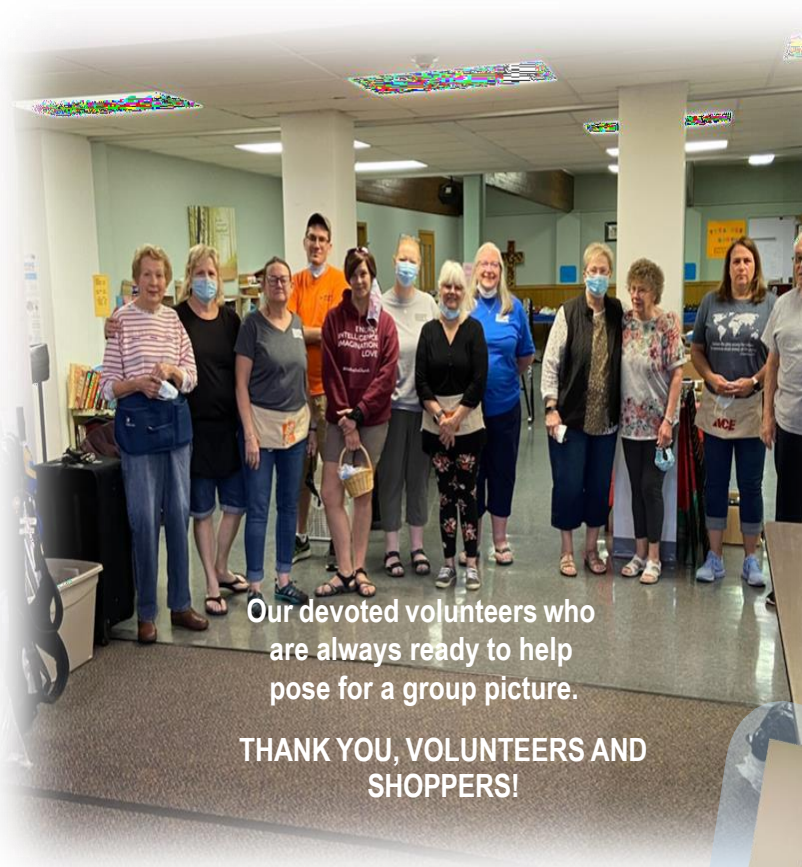
Many items

were on display for shoppers to choose from at HHPC's Annual Rummage Sale held from May 19-21, 2022.

Filling up the lower level areas in our building were some great items such as furniture, appliances, books, wall pictures, Christmas items and much more.

As the shoppers browsed through the many sale items, decisions had to be made whether or not items that "caught their eyes" would be ones going home with them that day.

HHPC 2022 ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE



Our devoted volunteers who are always ready to help pose for a group picture.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS AND SHOPPERS!

All proceeds from the HHPC's Rummage Sale will go to assist the Netter family.

This year we raised in sales \$4,950 and a further \$853 in donations for the Netter Family for a total of \$5,804.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible!



Dave Delaney takes a break to enjoy a delicious cake served at the sale and shows off the blue frosting that left its mark!

Hello, Summer!



Summer Puns

Enjoy these summer puns. They will sea-riously make you chuckle!

- Hey summer, long time no **sea**!
- I'm pretty **shore** that we're going to have the best summer ever.
- Summer went **swimmingly** this year.
- I have a serious **love-heat** relationship with summer.
- Anything is **popsicle** during summer!
- Summer is the perfect moment to **shellabrate** good times!
- Make your own decisions this summer; don't give in to **pier** pressure.
- Summer is my favorite **sea-sun** of the year.
- **Aboat** time for summer to start again.
- **Water** you doing this summer holiday?
- The best thing to watch during the summer holidays is "Game of **Cones**."
- Summer and ice cream **mermaid** for each other.
- We're **shorely** going to miss summer when it's over!
- **Seariously**, you prefer spring?

Try coming up with your own fun puns for summer!

Experience the Beauty of Summer

This summer, explore the beautiful outdoors. Take a stroll in an area where nature comes to life in full color. Jot down the things you see, hear, smell and feel. Bring your cell phone along and take pictures of the environment, such as flowers, rocks, trees, creeks, lakes and so on.

When you get home, label each photo with a sentence or two about what drew you into this awesome scene. You might even try writing a poem about one or more of your favorite pictures.

Just a reminder, too, that you can submit the photo(s) with captions to **The Connecting Link** for inclusion in the July-August newsletter for our readers to enjoy. Drop them in the office or e-mail them to the church office at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org.



COMING SOON



COMMUNITY MEAL

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

Monday, June 6, 2022

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Menu:

Hamburger, Potato Salad, Beans,
Chips & Dessert

Get Creative! ~ Have Fun!

EVELYN GARLIC'S CARDMAKING CLASS

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022

10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Call Evelyn to register 708-752-1529

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 13-16, 2022

See details below.



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.



Questions you might ask yourself this birthday . . .

On or around your birthday, do you sometimes wonder where the past year has gone as it seems like “only yesterday” that you celebrated your last birthday? Do you also think about what you may or may not have accomplished this past birthday year?

Well, you’re not alone! We all know that time moves rather swiftly and sometimes there just isn’t enough time in a day to get all we had planned fully accomplished.

It might be wise to reflect on all that you have achieved in the past year. If you didn’t reach your goals for whatever reason, not to worry. Simply reset the goals or set new ones for this new birthday year.

To help you along in your thought process, consider asking yourself:

- ✚ What made me feel most alive over the last year?
When have I felt most like myself?
- ✚ What was the best advice I received in the past year?
- ✚ What gifts of myself have I given others this year?
- ✚ What do I want to be the most memorable about me?
- ✚ What’s something I want to do that seems impossible? What would I need to change to make it possible in the coming year?
- ✚ Who has inspired me most this year?
What qualities do they have that I admire?
- ✚ What’s something I accomplished in the last year that I’m proud of?
- ✚ What do I need to spark my creativity this year?



Name	Birthday
Ed Zabelka	June 2
Mark Gulotta	June 3
Brittany Brown	June 7
Barbara Monczynski	June 8
Katelin Wheeler	June 11
Amanda Swindle	June 12
Cheryl Huenecke	June 14
Alvin Swearingen	June 14
Karen Hoffman	June 16
Albert Netter	June 16
Megan Zimmerman	June 23
Linda Lavaretto	June 27
McKenzie Lorenz	June 28
Hanna Treccani	June 29
Tom Morrell	June 29



Update your contact info!

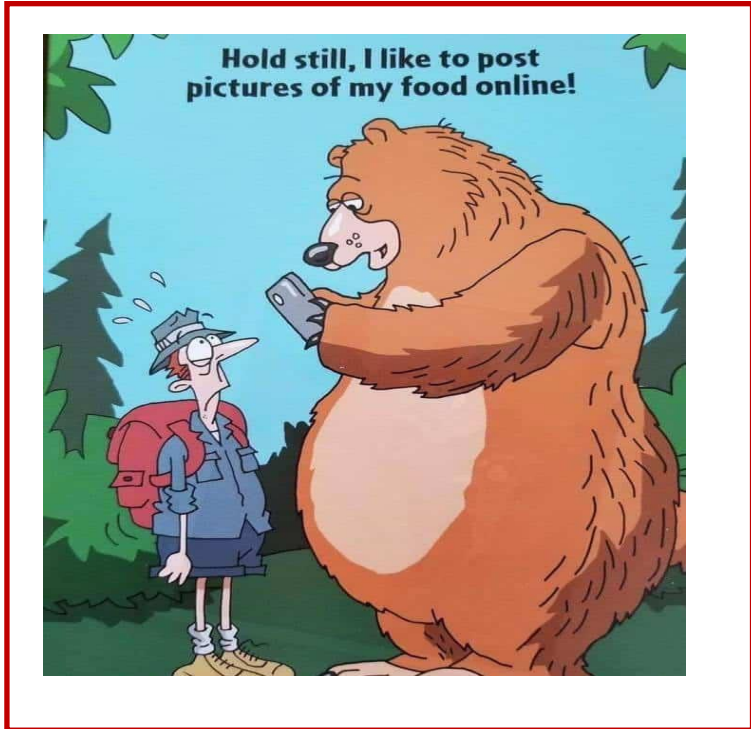
The Connecting Link publishes only the names of those members who have submitted a change in their contact information. However, more information can be provided upon request by calling the church office.
No notifications received this month. If you have a change to your personal contact information, please contact the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100



LOLTIME!

What's the best day to go to the beach?
SUNDAY



June 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	3	4
5 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Discipleship Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	6 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Community Meal	7 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	8	9 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	10	11
Bernie on vacation week of June 6; returns to office on Wednesday, June 15.						
12 10:00 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM REV Worship	13 The Session will not meet this month.	14 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	15	16 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	17	18 10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
Vacation Bible School June 13-16						
19 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Missions Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	20	21 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22	23 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	24	25
Rev. Edie out of town – Doctoral Class – Monday-Friday June 20-24; returns to office Monday, June 27.						
26 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:15 AM Board of Deacons Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	27	28 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	29	30 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live		

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

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT HOLD

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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