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.



SEPTEMBER 2022

Worship with Us

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*.

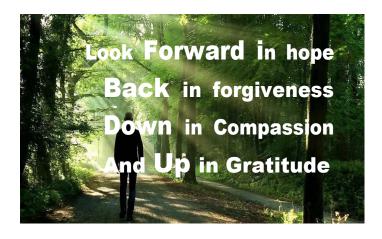
Contact Us

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457 Phone: 708-598-3100

Visit Us Online

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org **Website:** www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz Pastor

In the middle of July,

NASA revealed to the world the first glimpses of space being taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. Perhaps you paused to stare in wonder at the images, perhaps you missed them being revealed. If you have not yet taken the time to peek deeply into space, don't worry, we are going to be spending some time in September marveling at the world in which we live, the vastness of the universe, the connections between faith and science, and our place in the cosmos. What can we learn about our world and ourselves? What can we learn about God?

In recent generations there has been an assumed animosity between religion and science, that one cancelled or disproved the other. There have been in some areas of the globe a demand that if you are to

believe in God, you must deny, ignore, or avoid conversation about scientific discovery, the exploration of the universe, and evolution, specifically. But it was not always the case. The earliest scientists we think of as upending our religious understanding of the world were themselves deeply religious people.



Copernicus, who upended the teachings of the church, claiming that we orbit the sun rather than the sun orbiting the earth, was a deeply faithful teacher of the church who sought to understand the mysteries of God by studying mathematics and astronomy.

Galileo, who has been referred to as the father of modern science, spent much of his later life under house arrest having been convicted of heresy, was also a deeply religious and faithful man whose explorations and experiments were, he believed, furthering human understanding of God's world.

Charles Darwin, now held up as one who has done the most to divorce science and religion, was actually a deeply devout Christian. Darwin saw his work, the understanding of the origin of species, as a search for "centeres of creation." He wrote of the divergence of species and our ability to evolve and adapt as evidence of a divine hand being involved in the world. He was deeply troubled by the problem of evil which caused him to question much of the faith that originally inspired his work.

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

Throughout much of Christian history, it was the most religious who sought to relieve human suffering by understanding the world. It was monks and nuns who produced new discoveries about the world, medicine, and science. Science and religion were not opposites, but one and the same; to understand the world was to better understand the nature of God.

I encountered perceived animosity between religion and science as I sat in the NICU when Caleb was first born. As I held my tiny baby, I struck up a conversation with one of his nurses who asked, "What do you and your husband do for a living?" When I explained I was a pastor and Brian was a chemist, she looked startled and asked, "How does that work?" Looking down at Caleb – attached to wires, cords and machines I said, "Like this."

I know that it is the hard work of science that has given us the ability to care for preemies, but who gave those doctors and nurses the passion to explore and learn? Who gave them wisdom? Caleb was cared for by wise and trusted medical professionals, while also being surrounded by the community of God praying for him. It is not an

either-or proposition, but rather it is a both-and reality.

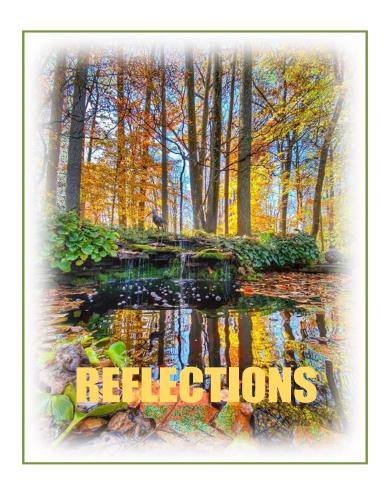
As people of faith, how do we begin to reclaim and recover a sense of wonder about God's creation as well as a reverence for the work of God in the world? How can we learn from all that science has to teach us AND reflect back the nuance of a faithful God who is still active in the world? How do we understand the wideness of creation and our unique and precious place in it as God's people? This is a mystery we will be exploring in the month of September.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Rev. Edie



Worship Readings, Sermons & Reflections



As you reflect on our readings this month, I invite you to spend some time wondering . . .

What is God asking of you? What does it mean for you to take up a cross and follow?

Reflect on the vastness of creation – your particular place in the world or the universe. God numbers the stars of the sky and the hairs on your head. Sit with this a while.

What do you understand to be our role in creation?

What are you doing to be a good steward of the gifts God has given you? How might you increase your faithfulness?



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.

Sunday, September 4, 2022 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Psalm 1; Luke 14: 25-33
Sermon: What Did Jesus Say?
Cost of Discipleship

Sunday, September 11

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings and Sermon will be selected
by Rev. Linda Wygant, Pulpit Supply Preacher

(Rev. Edie on vacation)

Sunday, September 18

15th Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Psalm 65: 1, 5-13; Genesis 1: 1-25

Sermon: The Wonder of Creation

Sunday, September 25

16th Sunday after Pentecost **Readings:** Psalm 8; Genesis 1:26 – 2:4 **Sermon:** Our Place in the World

The following is a complete list of those we are remembering in prayer. If you are on this prayer list and wish to be <u>removed</u> or you would like to be <u>added</u> to the list, please call the church office at 708-598-3100.

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

Addy; Ali (Susan); Bay (Rick); Benjamin (Kim A); Bob; Bob (Tom K); Bobby (Mel); Brad (Andrew); Bruce (Jeni); Craig (Bernie); Dan (Diane C.); Danny F (Jeni); David; Diana (Wilda); Doris (Diane's Mom); Esther (Grace); Francie (Karen G); Frankie (Bernie); 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 (Shirley D); Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Linda L); Katie & Joe B; Kim B (Jeni); Larry M (Karen G); Leanne; Linda L; Liz (Evelyn); Mark (Dianne); Matthew; Michael; Michael (Shirley); Michele (Katie); Neil S (Sandy B); Papa John (Jeni); Pat; Pete (Esther); Rae (Karen G); Randy (Susan); Rick W (Sandy B); Ryan; Ruth S (Jen); Sandi (Karen G); Sandy (Mel); Shannon; Sharon (Tom M); Sharon R (Sandy B); Sherry (Peggy); Sherry (Charlie); Shirley A (Karen G); Sonja (Nick); Suzanne (Bernie); Tammy (Gordon); Tierney (Shirley D); Tim (Charlie); Todd (Charlie); Tracy (Debbie Z); Victor M (Debbie Z); Wanda (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED

For those affected by flooding in Eastern Kentucky and those who have died; for Dali, Nafe and Yanko as they await immigration; for the people of Ukraine and all those who have been injured or who have died during this war; 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; those with mental health needs

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

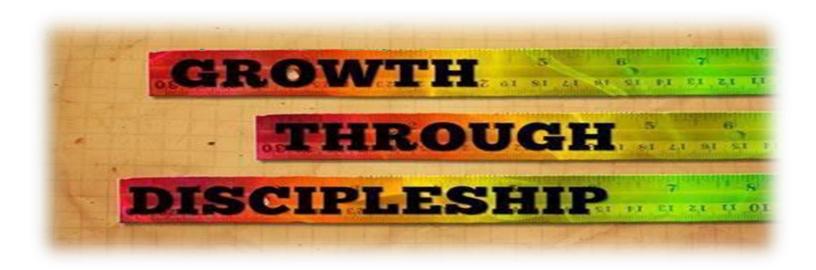
Angela (Katie); Bernie (Edie); Bill (Bernie); Brian K. (Debbie); Bob (Dave D); Bob (Grace); Bree's Mom (Evelyn); Carol S; Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma Family (Evelyn); Edward (Evelyn); Grace; Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Isaiah (Kim); Howard (Karen); Janet (Evelyn); Janice (Gert); Janis H (Sandy B); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; JoAnn (Cheryle R); Joellen (Mel); Joyce W (Sandy B); Kirsten (Kim); Lacy (Melanie S); Lee (Edie); Lisa, Lorrie (Debbie Z); Marj (Charlie); Michelle (Katie); Mike B (Jeni); Pam (Katie); Patrick (Susan); Patti (Jeni); Renee M; Robert (Gert); Sam (Debbie Z's dad); Sean (Kim); Shirley D; Slava (Katie); Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino; Sue (Grace); Susanne L (Sandy B); Tara (Mel); Tina (Evelyn); Yolanda (Bernie)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

For the Hoffman Family and friends on the recent death of Karen; for Lisa and family in the death of Bill (Diane C.); for victims of the Highland Park shooting and their families and friends; 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 churches who are struggling to reach members and care for people; for Darlene (Evelyn); for Elise; those who provide essential services we need; Ethiopia; Haiti; Holly (Evelyn); Jenni D (Dianne); Kaitlyn (Karen G); for Karl and Kevin and all who are serving in the military (Debbie Z); Michael (Scott); for Tanya who is deployed (Evelyn), for those who are struggling mentally and emotionally at this time; for students and teachers; violence against civilians and those living in fear



Schools will be in session by the time you are reading this newsletter. The Discipleship Committee of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) wishes all students, teachers and school employees a safe and healthy 2022-2023 school year.

Autumn officially begins September 22, 2022. This time of the year brings with it opportunities to enjoy the changing seasons. It also brings with it the opportunities for HHPC to reach out to our church family and our community. Discipleship plans will keep us busy! We hope you will be able to enjoy our plans and activities. We also ask that you let us know if you would like to help with any of our upcoming events.

Announcements will be made from the pulpit and sign-ups will begin to appear. Stay tuned!

Autumn Blessings, Jean Swearingen



The next Discipleship meeting will be held on Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Fall Celebration

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 2, 2022. HHPC will be recognizing the start of Sunday School which will then be held every Sunday during the school year. We are thankful to those who have agreed to be teachers.

Trunk or Treat

It's time to start planning for TRUNK OR TREAT 2022! This hauntingly-fun event will take place Sunday, October 30 from 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. There will be prizes for the Best Overall Entry and Best Costume.

Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 11, 2022, is the date for HHPC's Christmas Tea. It's been a couple of years and we are looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with the return of Christmas Tea. Discipleship continues to solidify plans.

Bottle Caps & Pop Tabs

Discipleship is pleased to work hand-in-hand with Mission for the ongoing collection of bottle caps. Look around to see what you have accomplished. HHPC continues to collect pop tabs. We endeavor to reach the One Million Club at Oak Lawn's Ronald McDonald House.



Our Mission meeting was held July 24 after worship. The following are plans for the months ahead.

SEPTEMBER

During the month of September, we will be collecting monetary donations for *Feed My Starving Children*.

Our next *Community Meal* will be held on Monday, September 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Participants will be given the opportunity of eating their meal indoors or taking it to go. All are welcome.

OCTOBER

We are looking to do a **Meal Packing Day** in Aurora, IL on Saturday, October 22. There is a sign-up sheet in the back in order to reserve spaces sooner rather than later. Please sign up with your name and your preferred times.

There was discussion on using a visual thermometer for a display or placing colored M&Ms in a container.

Eight-eight dollars (\$88) a year feeds one child. Our goal is to collect at least \$365, which will feed a family of four for a year.

NOVEMBER

As is HHPC's tradition, a *Warming Tree* will once again be set up in the narthex. Collected items will be distributed between The Center in Palos Heights, Beds Plus and the Jones Center.

Also, we will be doing the *Blessing Baskets* for Elsie's Pantry and our Micro-Pantry.

DECEMBER

We will again participate in Jones Center's **Christmas Gifts for the Children.**



A **BIG** Thank You goes out to **Mike Swearingen** for continuing to spearhead the plastic bottle caps project for us and setting up tables for sorting when the need is there.

We also want to thank **Scott Zimmerman** and his assistants, **Rick Vogl** and **Mike Swearingen**,
for driving to Evansville, Indiana,
on August 25 to drop off the bags
of bottle caps and pick up and deliver
our picnic tables.



COMMUNITY MEAL

In May, we served 50 plus Pasta and Chicken Casserole meals to our guests, including 13 to our volunteers.

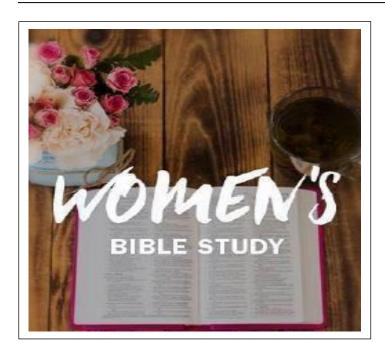
In June, we served 52 Grilled Hamburgers, Baked Beans, Veggies and Dip meals, plus 11 to volunteers. Our thanks to Diane Ciametti for dessert.

In July, meals were not served due to the 4th of July holiday.

In August, 43 meals were served, plus 19 to volunteers. The menu consisted of Grilled Hotdogs by Dan Ciametti, Baked Beans, Veggies and Dip, and Dessert by Diane Ciametti.

There was discussion about the "Collection of Caps" being a part of the Mission Committee.

Blessings, Jeni Vogl



Our Study resumes Monday, September 12 ~ 1:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall.

Back from a summer pause, we invite everyone to join our group of faith-filled women on **Monday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall** as we study the Word of God together and apply these biblical lessons in our daily lives.

Rev. Edie Lenz and Debbie Zimmerman lead the discussions each week, providing us with an opportunity to learn and share with one another.

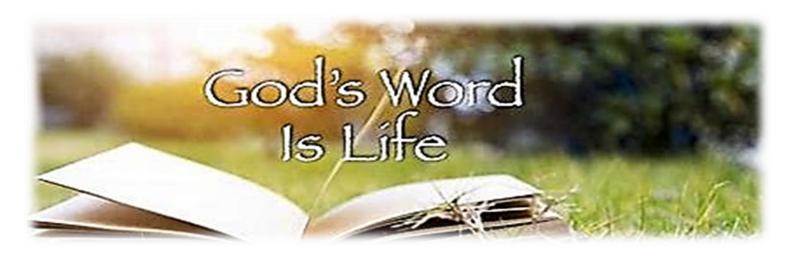
A STUDY OF DAVID



Join us as Women's Bible Study returns with a study of David.

David, king of Judah and Israel, is one of the most significant people in the entire Bible. His reign shaped the entire nation of Israel, and Jesus himself is known as the 'Son of David.' His story occupies the majority of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel in the Old Testament.

Please join us at bible study as we explore the remarkable life of David.



How do trees sign on to the Internet? They just LOG ON.





Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

Who Was St. Cecilia?

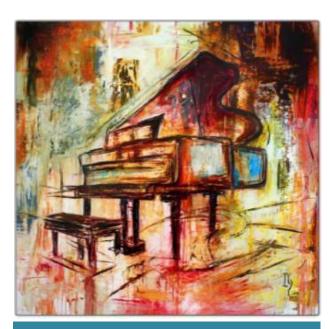
Although Christianity has a rich history of saints, one that has always interested me is **Cecilia**, virgin and martyr, and who became "patroness of church music."

There is some history that indicates she came from a Christian family. Her father was a wealthy Roman senator and Cecilia ministered to the blind, and the Latin origin of her name—Caecitas—means "blindness," although she wasn't blind.

Cecilia's connection to music didn't happen until the Middle Ages when various artists began painting her likeness with musical instruments. By 1570, the first St. Cecilia festival took place in Normandy (*sort of a "Renaissance Fair"*).

After that date, musical festivals were held all over Europe, particularly in England. In the United States, the first St. Cecilia Society was founded in 1795, and spread across the states thereafter. These were private musical societies that raised money for the musical arts and held concerts and balls, including the chamber concerts, orchestral works, and vocal music.

Some are still in existence today.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship and Music Committee is comprised of Pastor Edie, Melanie Swindle, Andrew Witek and Greg Rolla.

The committee met on August 23, 2022, to discuss plans for the rest of this year.

All Saints Day and Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 6 with recognition of the lives lost during Covid-19 when we were unable to use the church. Plans for fellowship/luncheon are in the process.

Christmas Day Service and Breakfast will be held in Fellowship Hall. Watch for more details.

On January 1 service will include a **Hymn** and Carol Sing. Start thinking about your suggestions.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about worship, let us know.



Women's Bible Study

Resumes Monday, September 12 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

HHPC Community Meal

Monday, September 19 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Fall Celebration

Sunday, October 2 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Details coming soon!

Join us as we study the Word of God with Rev. Edie and our wonderful faith-filled

Pastor Edie guiding us through our study

Meal participants can now enjoy their meal

indoors or take the meal to go. See Debbie Zimmerman should you be interested in

women. Every Monday we reflect on specific readings from the bible with

of these sacred writings.

assisting at these meals.

Feed My Starving Children

(Food Packing Event)
Saturday, October 22 ~ Aurora

Join us for a truly gratifying experience as we pack meals for those in need. We will carpool from HHPC or individuals can drive to Aurora on their own. Sign-up sheets and times available are in the narthex.

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 30
12 Noon – 2:00 PM ~ East Parking Lot

Join in the celebration of Halloween by decorating your car trunk with a creative theme for all to see. Later, kids will enjoy viewing all the trunks and getting their Halloween treats. Prizes will be awarded for best overall entry and best costume.





The Connecting Link publishes only the names of those members who have recently 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: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



May God bless our birthday friends with abundant joy and happiness on their birthdays and in the year ahead.

Noelle Larson	September 7		
Terri Lorenz	September 8		
Sarah Sizemore	September 8		
Evan Grisko	September 12		
K Zimmerman	September 13		
Stacey Lorenz	September 15		
Cheryl Nirtaut	September 15		
Kyle Wheeler	September 17		
Stephanie Lorenz	September 18		
Dawn Rellinger	September 18		
Charles Huenecke	September 19		
Dave Delaney	September 20		
Debbie Zimmerman	September 22		
Ryan Brenz	September 23		
Greg Rolla	September 27		



'Round Our Church



CELEBRATING GERT!

On Sunday, August 7, 2022, HHPC friends celebrated Gertrude (Gert) Vickers, a long-time HHPC member, on her 99th birthday. Memories were shared, hugs were given and a beautiful and delicious cake in her honor was enjoyed by all.

We wish Gert much happiness and joy in the years ahead and thank God for the blessing of her friendship.



Our birthday girl Gert Vickers with a lovely smile and a delicious birthday cake from her friends.



Celebrating with Gert are front row, left to right, Gert Vickers and Darlene Delaney, back row, left to right, Grace Muszynski and Karen Golema.

REV SUMMER WORSHIP: A LABYRINTH WALK

On Sunday, July 31, REV worship was celebrated in a unique and reflective way. REV participants walked through a beautiful labyrinth located on the grounds of the Center in Palos Heights.

The labyrinth with its circular paths represents a journey or path to our own center and back again out into the world.

Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools.



FAITHWALKING PROGRAM RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

Our Faithwalking participants have come back refreshed from summer break to continue their spiritual formation process of following the way of Jesus, experiencing ongoing transformation, and developing effective practices for mission.

Rev. Edie has led these groups in spiritual format since 2020. Anyone interested in more information about Faithwalking is asked to contact Rev. Edie.

Please keep our Faithwalkers in your prayers.

Fall Inspiratio

Falling Leaves Meditation

Here's a meditation exercise that can be a powerful tool for sharpening your intentions and life goals during Autumn.

Materials needed: Printed copy of the tree (at right), pen or pencil

- 1. Place the image of the tree in your lap or on a table in front of you where you can see it.
 - 2. Sit still and upright, relaxed and alert.
- 3. Focus on your breathing. With each exhale let your body relax more deeply.
- 4. When you are ready, take a look at the tree. Focus your attention on the TRUNK of the tree. This represents a GOAL you'd like to accomplish in this season of your life. When a goal comes to mind, write it next to the tree trunk. Don't force a goal to materialize. Spend some time in silence listening to your heart and spirit until it emerges with absolute clarity.
- 5. When you have a goal in mind, turn your attention to the LEAVES on the tree. Think about the THINGS YOU NEED TO LET GO OF in order to make room in your life for this goal to be accomplished. This is a time to think about the things that may no longer serve a useful purpose in your life. When these things come to mind, write them next to the leaves on the tree. If you have trouble letting go of things, remember that they will become the fertilizer that provides nourishment for the tree. (Some people might find it helpful to close their eyes during this part of the meditation.)
- 6. Finally, turn your attention to the ROOTS of the tree. Think about the PEOPLE AND RESOURCES you will need to bring into your life in order to accomplish your goal. What kinds of things will feed and nourish your goal as well as yourself? When these things come to mind, write them next to the roots of the tree. (Some people might again find it helpful to close their eyes during this part of the meditation.)
- 7. As a last step, close your eyes and take the image of this tree into your mind's eye. Sit with it for a while and see if any additional insights arise. If they do, write them down on the page after you open your eyes. Keep this image with you and refer to it on a daily basis until you achieve your goal. Continue to write insights on the leaves and roots as they come to you.



Fall Colors and Associated Emotions

Fall provides a time for warm, rich colors to be clearly seen in full display as the leaves begin to change. From cinnamon red to chocolatey brown. the following are the autumn hues and what emotions they may provoke.

Red is an emotionally intense color. It evokes feelings of passion and desire and stimulates people to make quick decisions.

Reddish-brown is the shade most often associated with the fall season.

Orange is a bright and warm color and represents positive emotions, such as joy and happiness, as it combines the stimulation of red and the cheerfulness of yellow.

A dark, rich shade of Orange is considered the color of fall and harvest (which we can probably thank pumpkins for).

Yellow is most often associated with happiness. The color of the sun is used to evoke pleasant, cheerful and optimistic feelings.

Brown is a natural, bring-you-down-to-earth kind of color. It's also one that gives people a strong sense of comfort and calmness. In color psychology, brown is known as an honest, sincere and healthy color.

What are your favorite colors of Autumn?



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	2	3
4 10:00 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM REV Worship	5 HAPPY LABOR DAY!	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	7	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	9	10
10:00 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study resumes 6:30 PM Discipleship meets 7:30 PM Session meets	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:30 PM Mission meets	14	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	16	17
10:00 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM REV Worship	1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Community Meal	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	21	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	23	24
10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:15 AM Board of Deacons meet 5:00 PM REV Worship	26 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	28	9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	30	

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

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



SEPTEMBER 2022