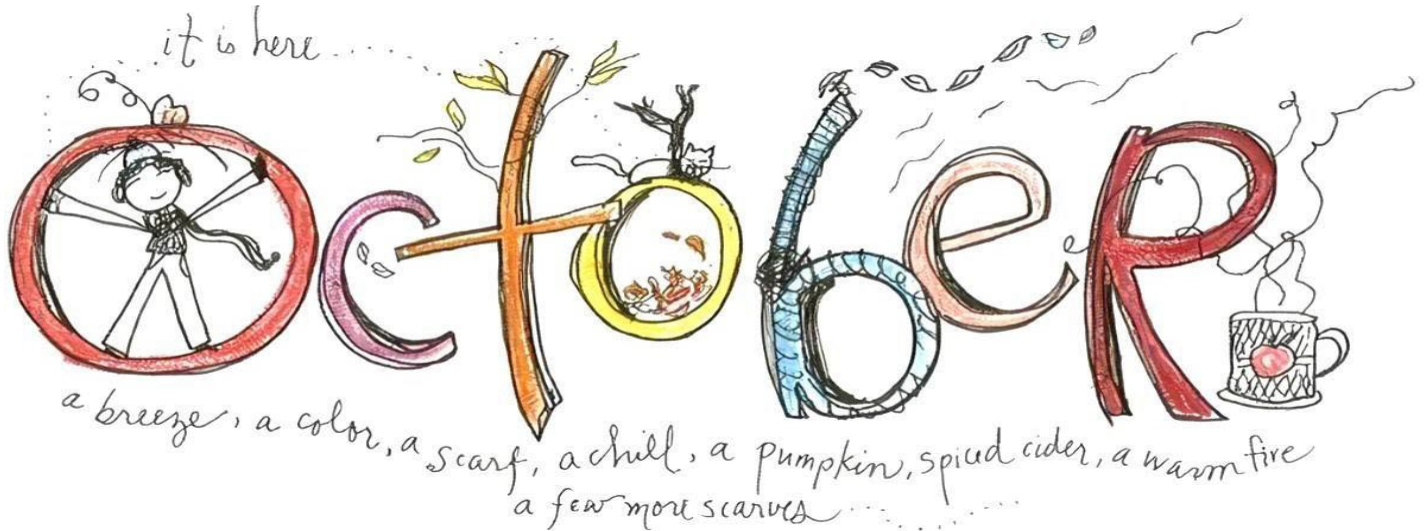


THE CONNECTING LINK

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

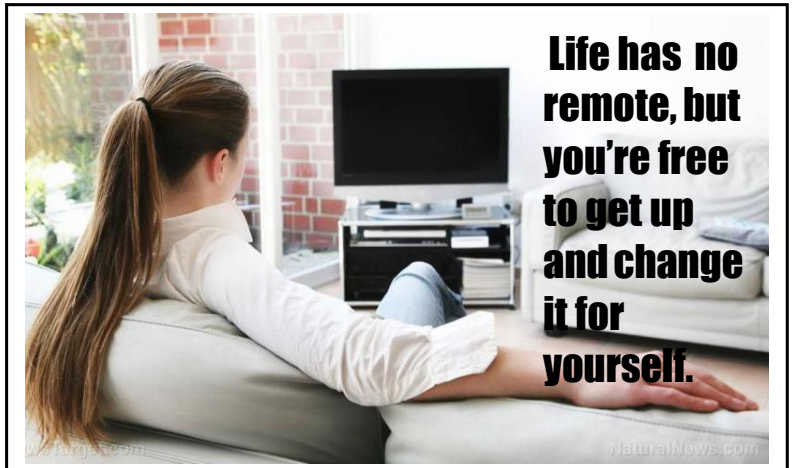
We are called to SEEK God's Word, to SHARE and CELEBRATE God's love and to SERVE Jesus Christ in the world.



OCTOBER 2022

WORSHIP WITH US

Note: 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 www.hickoryhillspres.org on Sundays by noon.



Life has no remote, but you're free to get up and change it for yourself.

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
E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

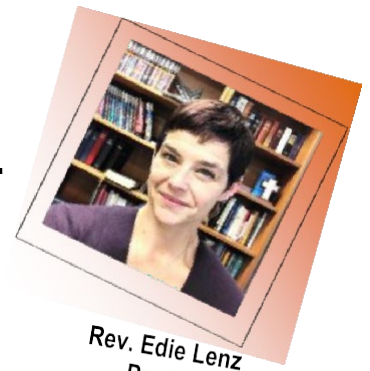
VISIT US ONLINE

www.hickoryhillspres.org

Inside . . .

Letter from Rev. Edie	2,3
Worship Readings, Sermons and Reflections	4
Prayer Requests	5
Ministry Updates:	
Discipleship, Mission	6
Board of Deacons, Stewardship	
All Saints Day Remembrance	7
Birthdays, Halloween Recipe	8
Upcoming Events	9
'Round Our Church	10
LOL Time	11
Autumn Lifts	12
Calendar	13

A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz
Pastor

Thank You. These are powerful words. We know their power because when we receive them, we know that it feels good to be noticed, appreciated, to be seen. We know their power because we instill them in our children, sometimes even before they can talk. Caleb knew the American Sign Language signs for please and thank you long before he finally decided to start speaking. We know their power in absence as well.

We have all had moments when we thought “all you had to do was say thank you.” Or, “All I really wanted was a simple “thanks.” Gratitude is powerful both when we receive it and when it is absent. Saying thank you really does matter; it is a small thing, but it makes a difference.

It turns out gratitude does not just benefit those who are on

the receiving end of our thanks. Gratitude is good for the soul. We talk about this in pop culture – an attitude of gratitude gets tossed out there frequently as a way of boosting our spirits, changing our hearts, opening us up a bit and putting things into perspective. This is not psycho-babble, but a reality that we see echoed in the very words of God. Over and over, the bible tells us to give thanks, be grateful, give praise for what we have received. Gratitude is powerful in how it changes our hearts and our minds. When we think of ourselves as deserving, or earning something, we tend to take on an air of privilege; sometimes even an air of expectation that things should go our way, and we are frustrated when they don’t. But when we see what we have as a gift, when we approach life from a position of gratitude, something shifts, it changes our hearts and our minds. Gratitude has the power to open us up,

widen our hearts, and allow us to live from a more generous way of being.

In November, we think a lot about gratitude because it is Thanksgiving, and the calendar tells us it is time to be thankful, to count our blessings, to notice those who do not have what we have, and show our own open hearts by blessing others. But gratitude is not a seasonal thing, gratitude is a way of being, a way of living life, a way of noticing God’s good gifts each and every day.

Throughout the month of October and into the beginning of November, we are going to be exploring aspects of gratitude in worship. We will be walking through different stories and parables of Jesus, searching for the impact of gratitude on the Christian life. What can we learn from the stories Jesus told? What can we learn from the examples set by those who followed Jesus or

A Letter from Rev. Edie (cont'd)

those who he has healed? What do we learn about our own sense of living in gratitude? What might we learn about living our lives in a posture of gratitude?

As we begin to think about postures of gratitude and the power of living in grateful reflection, I want to invite you to pay attention, to notice in your own life what happens in you when you experience

gratitude from someone else? What happens when you give thanks? What are the blessings God has given you and how have you expressed thanks for them? In what ways are you living with a posture of expectation? In what ways are you living a posture of gratitude?

*Grace and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Edie*





WORSHIP READINGS, SERMONS & REFLECTIONS

The readings and sermons shown below are ones 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 hickoryhillspres.org



A Time to Reflect

How do you measure faith? Is there a way in which you notice your faith growing or shifting?

What are you grateful for? Are there things in your life you take for granted that you might notice and offer thanks for?

What are your practices of gratitude? Is there a person in your life who has made a difference to you (a long time ago or recently) that you have not told about their impact? Find a way to express your thanks.

OCTOBER 2, 2022

17TH Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Timothy 1:3-10; Luke 17: 5-10

Sermon Title: *Mustard Seed Faith*

OCTOBER 9

18TH Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Psalm 111; Luke 17: 11-19

Sermon Title: *Images of Gratitude: 1/10*

OCTOBER 16

19TH Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Psalm 121; Luke 18: 1-8

Sermon Title: *Images of Gratitude: Tenacity*

OCTOBER 23

20TH Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Psalm 84; Luke 18: 9-14

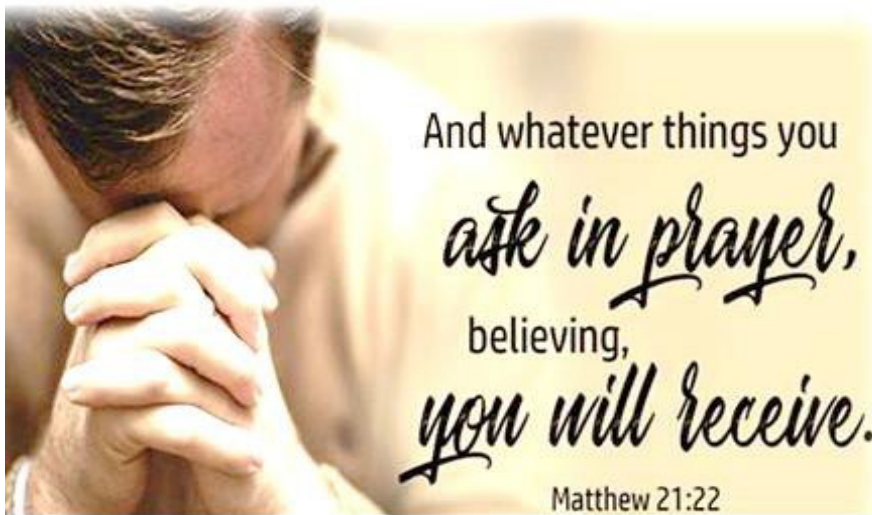
Sermon Title: *Images of Gratitude:
Arrogance and Humility*

OCTOBER 30

21ST Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Psalm 32: 1-7; Luke 19: 1-10

Sermon Title: *Images of Gratitude:
Sought and Saved*



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/

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); **Papa John** (Jeni); **Pat; Pete** (Esther); **Rae** (Karen G); **Randy** (Susan); **Ryan; Ruth S** (Jen); **Sandi** (Karen G); **Sandy** (Mel); **Shannon; Sharon** (Tom M); **Sherry** (Peggy); **Shirley A** (Karen G); **Sonja** (Nick); **Suzanne** (Bernie); **Tammy** (Gordon); **Tierney** (Shirley D); **Tim** (Charlie); **Tracy** (Debbie Z); **Victor M** (Debbie Z); **Wanda** (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Angela (Katie); **Beth** (Teresa); **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); **Jessica** (Joan); **Joan P; JoAnn** (Cheryle R); **Joellen** (Mel); **Kirsten** (Kim); **Lacy** (Melanie S); **Lillian** (Teresa); **Lisa, Lorrie** (Debbie Z); **Marj** (Charlie); **Michelle** (Katie); **Michelle V** (Bernie); **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)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

For the people in the paths of **Hurricane Ian** and **Hurricane Fiona**; 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 WHO MOURN.

For the **Barnes family** and friends of **Lee** who recently passed away (Rev. Edie); for family and friends of **Christine Madera** who recently passed away (Bernie); 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; Eric** (Ashley); 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

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

We cling to the promise 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

Sunday School Begins

Children and Youth Sunday School began Sunday, October 2. An important part of our Christian family life, we continue teaching our children and youth about the ministry of Jesus and how they can follow Jesus in their lives by loving and caring for others. Sunday School is held every Sunday as part of morning worship.

Trunk or Treat returns to HHPC!

Start thinking about plans to decorate your trunk with a clever theme for *Trunk or Treat* to be held on Sunday, October 30 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. You might consider wearing a costume that coincides with your theme. Cars will be displayed in our parking lot where trick or treaters and their families will walk through and check out the cars and gather some treats. Some participants already have plans. Prizes will be awarded for Overall Entry and Best Costume.

See the sign-up sheet in the narthex. *We ask a minimum of 8 participants signed up by October 16.*

Christmas Tea Is Back!

After a brief Covid-19 break, HHPC will host our much-loved holiday event, “Christmas Tea,” on Sunday, December 4 (*time to be determined*). Plan to come as magic will be in the air. *Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.*

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 10 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Mission Report

by Jeni Vogl

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. Watch the bulletin for items currently needed and our next newsletter for the latest with our Mission Ministry.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 11 ~ 7:30 p.m.





DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Board of Deacons Report

by Kim Ambrosat

Come join us Sunday, November 13, after 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship for a **Fellowship and Gratitude** gathering.

The Deacons, working towards reconnection, will be hosting fellowship and baking some Autumn comfort muffins and special sweet treats.

We will have supplies to create a gratitude card or two. You can write a note to someone special letting them know how much they mean to you or send a note of thanks or two for the little (or big) thing they did for you.

So that we have enough supplies, please let us know if you will attend by signing up on the sheet in the narthex.

Hope to see you there!



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

AND ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE

On Stewardship Sunday, November 6, 2022, during morning worship, Rev. Edie's sermon will focus on saints, stewardship and stepping in faith. We will also honor those whom we have lost in the past year and during the COVID disruption.

Following worship, we invite everyone to join us at a special luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Sandwiches will be served.

Please sign up if you would like to help.



**Hope you will join us
on this special Sunday!**

Try This Recipe for Halloween!



Bats and Cobwebs Pasta

Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package farfalle (bow tie) pasta
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped (Optional)
- 1 (28 ounce) jar pasta sauce
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Fill a large pot with lightly salted water and bring to a rolling boil over high heat. Stir in the bow tie pasta and return to a boil. Boil pasta, stirring occasionally until cooked through, but still firm to the bite--about 12 minutes. Drain well.

Cook and stir ground beef and onion in a large skillet until beef is no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Drain fat. Stir in pasta sauce and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer.

Stir cooked pasta and half of the mozzarella cheese into the sauce; toss to combine. Transfer to a 2-quart baking dish. Top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven until lightly browned and bubbly, 15 to 20 minutes.

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Happy Birthday to all our friends.
May God bless them on their special
day and throughout the year!

Leslie Ambrosat	October 1
Haley Netter	October 1
LeAnne Kommenich	October 8
Sarah Swearingen	October 8
Scott Flynn	October 28
Karen Korzeniewski	October 28
Daniel Ciametti	October 29
Susan Cunningham	October 31



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 or e-mail the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Drive-thru Community Meal **Monday, October 3 ~ 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM**

Trunk or Treat **Sunday, October 30 ~ 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM**

Stewardship Sunday **Sunday, November 6 at Morning Worship**

All Saints Day Remembrance **Sunday, November 6 at Morning Worship**

**Fellowship & Gratitude
Gathering** **Sunday, November 13 after Morning Worship**

Christmas Tea **Sunday, December 4 (*time to be announced*)**

JOIN US!



'ROUND OUR CHURCH

FROM BOTTLE CAPS TO BENCHES!

HHPC reached its goal of collecting enough plastic bottle caps to reap the reward of receiving a new plastic picnic table along with a waste container for our church grounds.

In September, Scott Zimmerman, Mike Swearingen and Rick Vogl picked up the items and delivered them to our church. Our thanks to these wonderful men for their time and efforts in this project and those who were on hand to help. Our grounds continue to become a great place to sit and enjoy our surroundings.

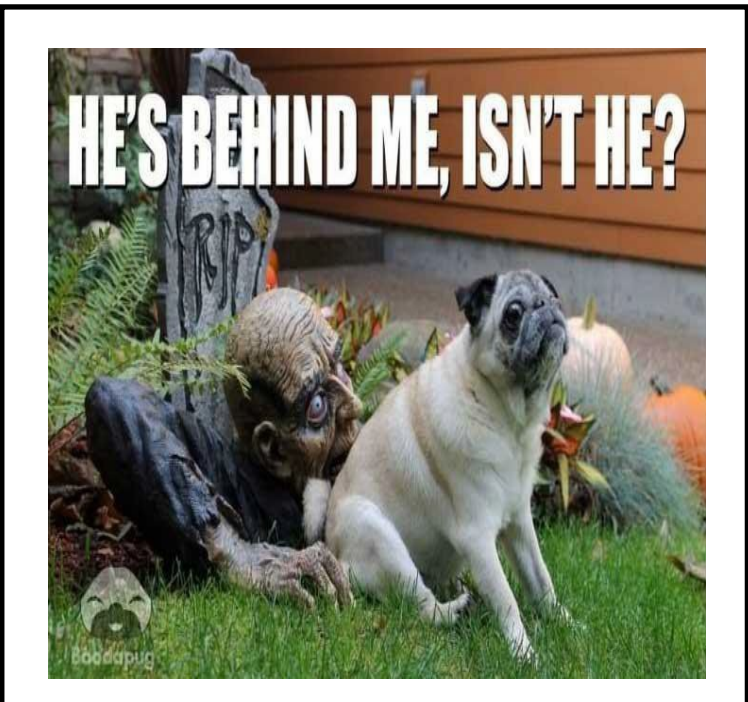


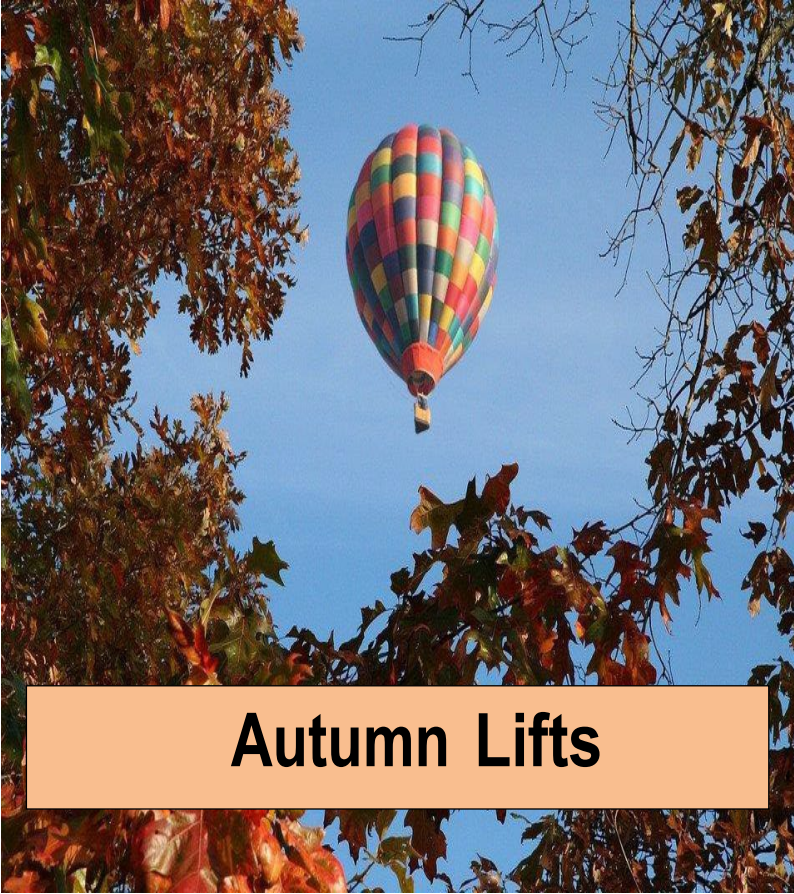
LOL TIME!

For Halloween



Q. Why don't vampires eat a lot of Halloween candy?
A. They're afraid of tooth decay.





Autumn Lifts

Let Go, Let God

Autumn reminds us of the importance of letting go and letting God. It shows us that within our lives there comes a time to let go and release those things that no longer serve us. Human nature encourages us to hold tightly to things, and yet, Autumn shows us how to transition and surrender through this process in glorious technicolor. Life is happier and easier when we can go with the flow, surrender, and let go and let God.

Embrace change

Autumn shows us how to embrace change in glorious splendor. It reminds us to accept and go with the flow of change in our lives. Just as the falling leaves, we have to let go in order to move forward, grow and heal.

Delight in the detail

Autumn is a beautiful time, and yet most of us go about our lives too busy and distracted to notice. Use this stunning season as a reminder to live more mindfully, to take a slower and more mindful pace to life and to notice the detail. Pay attention to the colors of the sky, and the falling leaves. The birds whose songs still chirp bright and clear.

Make it a habit to notice the changes taking place around you in the awesome world of nature.

Autumn's Descent *by Janet Martin*

In dusty blues and rustic hues,
her steps at first descend,
then her hand sweeps all the land
as glorious colors blend.
And, as we gaze at autumn's blaze,
which sets the world a-fire,
it's like a breath of Heaven on earth
to calm us and inspire.

The red and gold that we behold
overtakes the green and brown,
and each hillside so far and wide
is decked in autumn's gown.
The geese that fly across the sky,
in spite of autumn's smile,
have felt the call of chilling fall,
within each lofty mile.

Man cannot use or ever choose
this perfect artistry,
although they've have tried with skillful pride
to paint her pure beauty.
For up above is a God of love
who's perfect in his control.
His touch will crown this glorious gown
which claims all nature's soul.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	2	3
2 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship 11:15 AM Bell Choir Practice 11:30 AM Fall Celebration No REV	3 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Community Meal	4 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	5	6 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	7	8
9 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Worship	10 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Discipleship meets 7:30 PM Session meets	11 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:30 PM Mission meets	12	13 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	14	15 9:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
16 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Meal	17 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	18 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	19	20 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	21	22 8:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live
23 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship 11:15 AM Bell Choir Practice 12:00 PM Board of Deacons Meet 5:00 PM REV Worship	24 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	25 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 7:30 PM Worship & Music meets on ZOOM	26	27 9:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	28	29 Feed My Starving Children Packing Event in Aurora
30 10:00 AM Morning Worship, School, Fellowship 12:00 Noon Trunk or Treat 5:00 PM REV Worship	31 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study					



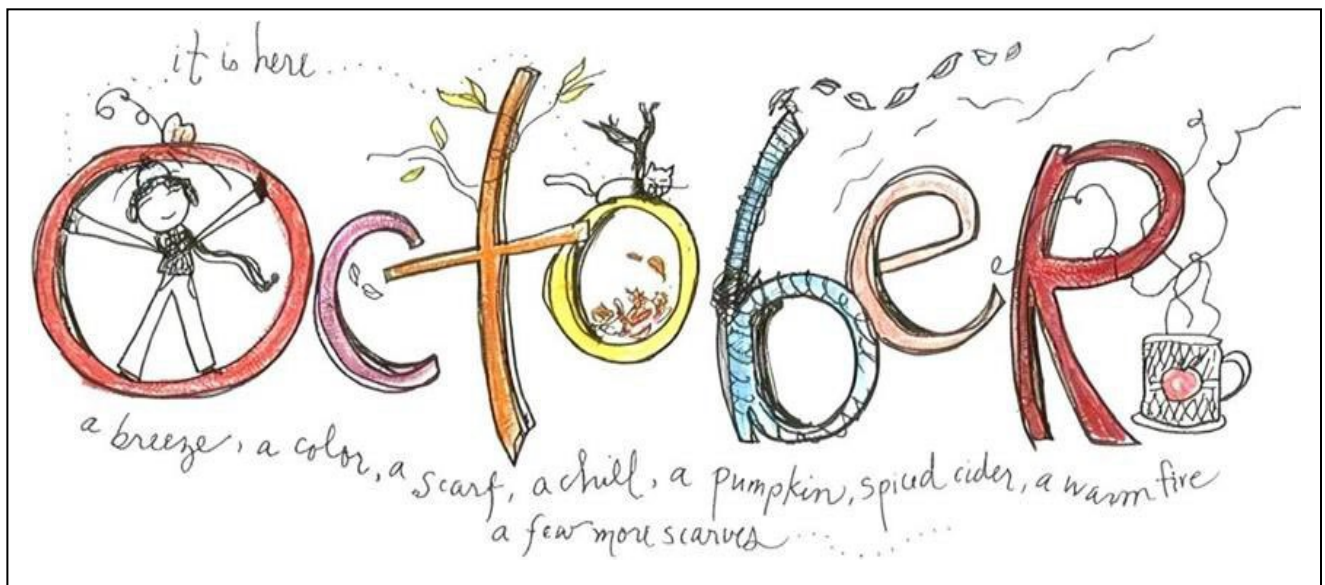
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

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HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK

A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



OCTOBER 2022