

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE CONNECTING LINK

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



APRIL 2023

WORSHIP WITH US

- **Morning Worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**
Our services are also recorded and made available later. You can find us on Facebook at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church* and on our website at hickoryhillspres.org.
- **REV Contemporary Worship on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.**

PRAY WITH US

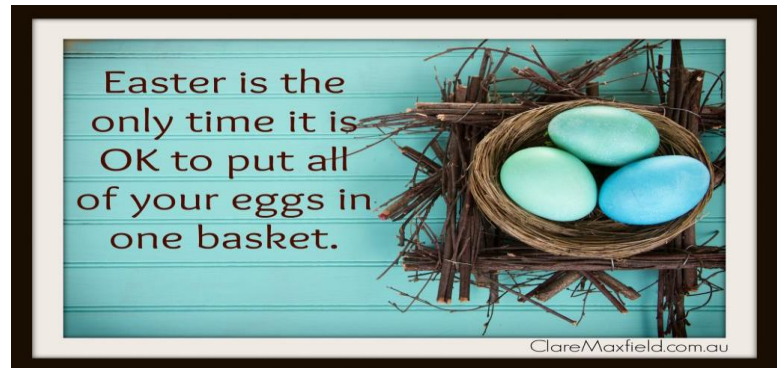
- **Daily Devotions and Morning Prayer**
on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.
on Facebook Live at *Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*.

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



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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

As Lent draws to a close, as we walk the lonely road to Gethsemane, and join the women as they draw near to the tomb, it can be tempting to just cast aside the patterns, habits, and even the things we might have given up or taken on for Lent. It might be tempting to just be done with our *Food for the Soul* theme and move on to other things. But before we do, I want to invite you to pause.

Pause with Jesus before he takes a seat on the donkey and enters Jerusalem. Linger at the table with the disciples, spend a little extra time listening to the words of

Jesus as he breaks the bread, pours the cup, and passes them around the table. Don't flee from the garden in the darkness or move too quickly through the suffering of the Friday we call Good. Walk the road this Holy season and wonder, look for clues, how did Jesus nourish his own soul? How do we see Jesus caring for himself and seeking nourishment as he prepares for his death?

Then as Easter morning dawns, as we gather together around the tables, as we eat bacon and celebrate the risen Christ; what nourishment is provided for the

rest of us? As we fill our bodies, can we also find nourishment for our souls in the celebrations? As we walk through different stories of the resurrection, as the disciples meet again and again with the risen Christ, notice how many of those encounters involve food. Over and over, Jesus cares not just for our hearts or souls, but our bodies as well. Again and again, it becomes clear, God is concerned with all of us, our whole selves.

(cont'd on next page)

A Letter from Rev. Edie (cont'd)

God cares for us throughout the year, not just in seasons of preparation like Advent and Lent. God cares for us in the ordinary and the extraordinary. In what ways are you experiencing this provision? In what ways are you longing for more; finding yourself tired, parched, or hungry for something beyond where you are today? What might be the food for your soul that you need?

Finally, I want to invite you to be curious. Curious about your own soul, but also

about the soul of the congregation (and our communities). How can we nourish one another well? How can we learn more about the needs of others to be a people who are always about: *Seeking God's word, Sharing and Celebrating God's Love and Serving Jesus Christ in the World.*

*Grace and Peace
and Easter Blessings,
Rev. Edie*



My Personal Faithwalking Journey



A new Faithwalking class will start the week of April 9, and continue through June 11. You are invited to sign up for this life-changing program. **Those interested should contact Rev. Edie no later than April 7.**

I completed the Faithwalking program last summer and I am so grateful that I did, and eager to tell you what prompted me to join in the first place and then continue the “walk.”

I guess what really drew me into Faithwalking was that I was curious about what more I might learn about myself and my faith at this point in my life journey.

Well, as it turned out, my curiosity really led me to a place of discovery where I received a clearer understanding of myself and an awareness of how my faith has always guided me.

Rev. Edie, the loving friends in my group who journeyed with me, and the weekly teachings and discussions prompted me to keep on “walking” and were truly a gift to me.

As I began writing this note about my journey, I looked up at an artistic picture hanging on the office wall of Jesus knocking on a door, and it made me think that perhaps the Lord had *knocked on my door* and provided me with this Faithwalking opportunity. All I simply had to do was “open the door.”

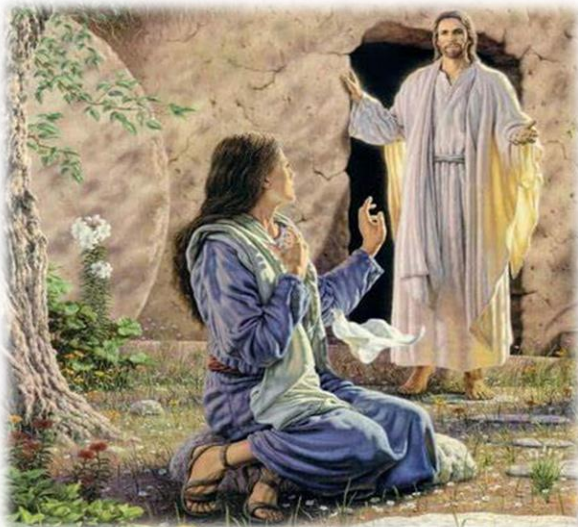
My hope is that you will consider giving to yourself the gift of Faithwalking, too. It might be the best “walk” of your life.

~ Bernie Roche

WORSHIP READINGS, SERMONS & REFLECTIONS



Reflections



How do YOU experience the resurrection and Jesus' promise of a new life?

There are so many stories of Jesus after the resurrection; what would it have been like to experience the risen Jesus?

Jesus gives clear directions to his followers for what happens after he leaves them; how do these same instructions apply for us?

How have you received "food for the soul" in this season of Lent? How will you continue to seek the nourishment you need in the coming weeks and months?

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

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday)

Readings: Matthew 21: 1-11; Matthew 26: 17-30

Sermon: *Food for the Soul: Communion*

Sunday, April 9

Resurrection of the Lord (Easter)

Readings: Colossians 3: 1-4; Matthew 28: 1-10

Sermon: *Food for the Soul: A New Life*

Sunday, April 16

2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31

Sermon: *Seeing and Believing*

Sunday, April 23

3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Psalm 34: 1-10; Luke 24: 13-35

Sermon: *Known in the Bread*

Sunday, April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10

Sermon: *Good Shepherd of the Sheep*

Let us



Pray

A complete list of those we are remembering in prayer is shown below. If you are on this prayer list and wish to be removed or you would like to be added to the list, please call the church office at 708-598-3100 or e-mail us at hnpc@hickoryhillspres.org. You can also send prayer requests online through our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayerrequest/

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

Addy; Ali (Susan); Bay (Rick); Beatrice (Molly); Bob; Bob (Tom K); Bobby (Toni); Bonnie (Grace); Brad (Andrew); Bruce (Jeni); Cheryl H (Evelyn); Chrissy (Jeni); Dan (Diane C); Danny F (Jeni); Dave D (Darlene); David; Deb (Jeni); Dee (Jeni); Delores (Grace); Diana (Wilda); Doris (Diane's Mom); Mrs. Duncan (Wilda); Esther (Grace); Fran (Jeni); Francie (Karen G); Gert; Glenda (Melanie); Gordon (Diane); Ivette (Kim); Jaden (Toni); Janet (Evelyn); Jay (Susan); Jenette L (Sandy B); Jerry (Toni); Jill (Jeni); John (Debbie's brother); Joe (Shirley D); Joyce (Sandy); Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Jean); Kathy & Terry O'Shea (Debbie); Kathy (Linda L); Katie & Joe B; Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Katie); Larry M (Karen G); Leanne; Linda L; Lilli (Kim); Liz (Evelyn); Mary (Doral); Matthew; Michael (Shirley); Michele (Katie); Myron (Brian); Papa John (Jeni); Pat; Patrick (Katie); Pete (Esther); Rae (Karen G); Raymond (Diane C); Rose Marie (Toni); Ryan; Rick & Ruth S (Jen); Sandi (Karen G); Shannon; Sherry (Debbie Z); Sherry (Peggy); Shirley (Ed); Suzanne (Bernie); Tammy (Gordon); Tierney (Shirley D); Tracy (Debbie Z); Victor M; Wanda (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING.

Amelia (Jeni); Angela (Katie); Ashley & Andrew K (Debbie); Beth (Teresa); Bill (Bernie); Bill (Katie); Brian K (Debbie); Bob (Dave D); Bob (Grace); Bree's Mom (Evelyn); Carol S; Chandra (Debbie); Dameon (Cheryle); Debbie Z; Dina and Al (Cindy); Dotty (Debbie); Douma Family (Evelyn); Edward (Evelyn); Esha (Rev. Edie); Ethan (Grace); Fran; Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Howard (Karen); Janet (Evelyn); Janice (Gert); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joe C; Karyn (Mel); Kevin (Teresa); Kurt & Maya (Debbie); Laura (Bernie); Lillian (Teresa); Lisa, Marj (Charlie); Mathius Family (Debbie); Michelle (Katie); Michelle V (Bernie); Mike B (Jeni); Mike R (Bernie); Pam (Katie); Patti & Randy (Jeni); Phil (Andrew); Renee M; Rich and Cindy (Sandy); Robert (Gert); Roger (Bernie); Roger (Karen); Sam (Debbie Z's dad); Shirley D; Slava (Katie); Stephanie, Mackenzie and Savino; Susanne L (Sandy B); Tina (Evelyn); Todd (Charlie & Peggy); Tommy (Evelyn)

WE PRAY FOR GROUPS WHO ARE IN NEED.

For Dali, Alinafe and Yanko as they await immigration; the people of Ukraine; healthcare providers; those in hospitals and facilities with health needs; those unemployed, under-employed and those seeking work; 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; those with mental health needs; those who are being impacted by disasters and other environmental challenges; students and teachers

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For the victims of the recent school shooting in Nashville, TN and for their families and friends; for family and friends of Ed Murphy as they mourn his loss; for family and friends of Frankie Johnson (Bernie's nephew) who recently passed away; for family and friends of Mary Jo on the death of Bobby (Mel); for Chicago Firefighter Walter Stewart in the loss of his family.

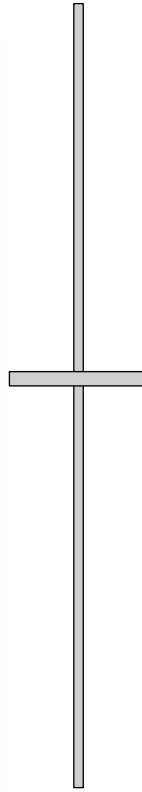
WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

For Danny (Rick); Darlene (Evelyn); Elise; Holly (Evelyn); Jonathan (Kim); Kaitlyn (Karen G); Karl, Kevin and Michael and all who are serving in the military (Debbie Z)

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.



Discipleship Report by Jean Swearingen



Happy Spring, Happy Easter!

Your Discipleship Committee met on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. We will be anticipating Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

HHPC's Wednesday Lenten series was truly inspirational with reflections shared by Rev. Edie, Rev. Adam Malak of Faith United Presbyterian Church, and Rick Vogl, along with the beautiful hymns played on the piano by Greg Rolla. We also were filled with soup, salad, bread and dessert each evening. (One thing we do not do at HHPC is go home hungry!)

Your Discipleship Committee thanks everyone for their time and talent and for the donations for our Lenten Supper. We overcame what was referred to as "Wednesday Weather" throughout the series! Freewill donations were collected for HHPC's Fund for Human Need.

(cont'd. below)

Please plan to join your HHPC family for **Palm Sunday**. Palms will be distributed.

Easter Sunday, April 9, will bring lots of early activity into our building. We will be serving **Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.** Our kitchen crew is set and ready to go! The sign-up sheet for donations is out. Our requested donations are listed on the sign-up sheet. There are a few open spaces. If you have interest in donating items or your time, please contact the church office or a member of the Discipleship Committee. We ask for donations to be at HHPC by Friday, April 7. There will be someone in the building on Saturday, April 8, between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for final drop-offs.

On **Recognition Sunday**, May 14, 2023, we will take the time to reflect back throughout the past year.

Also on this day, we will offer praise for our accomplishments and celebrate our graduates! Fellowship following the 10:00 a.m. worship service will serve to celebrate!

Vacation Bible School will be held June 12-15, 2023. Our theme is *Twists & Turns - Following Jesus Christ Changes the Game*. We are in need of some assistance with décor and preparing the building with said décor. If you can assist, please let us know. Begin planning now for the week of June 12-15, 2023.

Believe it or not, we have begun talking about and planning for **Trunk or Treat** (Sunday, October 29, 2023) and **Christmas Tea** (*date to be determined*).

Our next Discipleship meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

God's Blessings at Easter,

Jean





———— Mission Report by Kim Ambrosat ————

Our next **Drive-thru Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday April 3, from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. As usual, the meals will be served in drive-thru fashion. In March, we served 68 meals!

Our **micro-pantry** is still being used as a local source of staples. Thanks for your generous donations! *Please see page 9 for a list of items currently needed.*

Want to help? Contact Debbie Zimmerman.

We are looking forward again to a pack at **Feed My Starving Children** in June and, again, in September. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

If you enjoyed adding a plant or two to your garden last year, Jeni is going to put out a sign-up sheet for **Grace Seeds Ministry**. Bring the extra produce in to share in the micro-pantry or within the congregation (*see p. 11*).

Keep your (clean) **bottle caps** coming in! Mike and our REV friends are busy weighing and cleaning them. If you're interested in how many hundreds of pounds we have, ask him – thank him, for overseeing this mission!

Continue to pray for one other and the work HHPC continues to do in our corner of the world.
Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Peace,
Kim



Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

The Top 10 Music Selections for the Resurrection

Even if you are not into classical music, there is a wealth of discovery to be found. One of the websites I visit regularly is classicfm.com which has just about anything related to fine art music.

Here is my Top 10 guide to music for the Resurrection of Our Lord:

1. *Amazing Grace* – John Newton (1779)
2. *How Great Thou Art* – Carl Boberg (1885)
3. *Messiah* – George Frederic Handel (1742)
4. *Russian Easter Festival Overture* –
Rimsky - Koksakov
5. *Seven Last Words of Christ* – Josef Haydn
(1796)
6. *Easter Oratorio* – Johann Sebastian Bach
(1725)
7. *Symphony No. 2 Resurrection* –
Gustaf Mahler (1895)
8. *St. Matthew Passion* – J. S. Bach (1727)
9. *Parsifal* – Richard Wagner (1882)
10. *Invictus: A Passion* – Howard Goodall (2017)



fyi

I will be performing a piano recital at HHPC on Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited!



Titled *A Menu of Music*, it will take the listener through a seven-course musical meal consisting of *lite classic appetizers to hot and spicy to heavenly desserts*, and then some. Mark it on your calendar.

Above all, Happy Easter Season,

Greg

Round Our Church

HHPC MICRO-PANTRY WELCOMES FOOD DONATIONS

Our Micro-pantry continues to be a resource for our community. To continue this important mission, the pantry needs to be restocked regularly with food items.



Here are food items currently needed for our pantry:

Canned fruits (all kinds)
Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter (Chunky)
Canned Chicken
Canned Tuna
Cereal
Breakfast Bars
Juice Boxes/Bottles

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Lenten Suppers Provide Food for the Soul (and Body)

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, HHPC members and friends relished in a variety of soups, salads and desserts made by our volunteer chefs who are always available to provide us with the best food.

Each evening following supper, Rev. Edie shared a thoughtful reflection, providing “food” for our souls. Beautiful hymns played by Greg Rolla also added a relaxing and reflective tone to the evening. The Rev. Adam Malak and members from Faith United Presbyterian Church joined Rev. Edie at one of the evenings.

The last evening on March 29, Rick Vogl presented a reflection and led us in prayer as Rev. Edie was away on vacation.

Thank you to all who prepared and served up the delicious weekly suppers and to those who helped with set up and clean up.

HHPC Offers Chair Yoga Classes

Chair Yoga classes with yoga teacher Caroline is held every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the gym.

We are always looking for more participants. Classes are \$10/week or you can purchase a punch card for \$50 and come as your time allows. Chair yoga provides an easy way to relax and strengthen your tired muscles, stretch, and just make time for YOU. **First class is free...come and try it!**

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every Monday from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. downstairs.

With Rev. Edie as our guide, we learn about biblical history and how reading and reflecting on Scriptures may help us in our purposeful lives as women of faith.

Please join us.



UPCOMING EVENTS



EASTER BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023
9:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL
(Worship to follow)

If you would like
to donate food items, sign up
on the sheet in the Narthex.



HHPC DRIVE-THRU
COMMUNITY MEAL
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
5:30 – 6:00 PM

*(Contact Debbie or Evelyn
if you would like to help at the meals.)*



LET'S CELEBRATE
OUR GRADUATES!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MAY 14, 2023
(DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP)

(Fellowship to follow)

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL (VBS)
JUNE 12-15, 2023



Volunteers will be needed for
preparing the building with décor
and to assist at VBS.

*(Watch upcoming bulletins & newsletter
for more details.)*



The Connecting Link newsletter 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.

Recent address changes:

Darlene Krueger, Linda Lavaretto

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 all those celebrating their birthdays in April with joy on their special day and always!

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
<i>Evelyn Garlic</i>	<i>April 6</i>
<i>Grace Muszynski</i>	<i>April 8</i>
<i>Josh Treccani</i>	<i>April 10</i>
<i>Tucker Treccani</i>	<i>April 10</i>
<i>Kelly Bredlau</i>	<i>April 14</i>
<i>Wanda McIlvoy</i>	<i>April 15</i>
<i>Veronica Swindle</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Michael Dragas</i>	<i>April 24</i>
<i>Stacy Flynn-Brenz</i>	<i>April 25</i>

NOTE: A revised HHPC Contact Directory for 2023 will be published soon.

If you have an address, phone or e-mail change, please send it to the church office so that up-to-date information is published.



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Grace Seeds Ministry is again offering tomato, pepper, cucumbers and herb start-up plants for anyone interested in planting and harvesting them in your garden. Later, bring in your harvest as a donation for our Micro-pantry or to share with the congregation. A sign-up sheet with ordering details is in the narthex.

Friends,

Our utility bills have been on the rise, sometimes dramatically so this winter. Please do not adjust the thermostats if the heat is on in the space you are in.

If you are in a space at an odd time and need to turn on the heat, please **DO NOT** press “Hold.” This will allow the temperature to regulate back automatically after 4 hours. “Hold” means it stays where you put it indefinitely.

If you turn on lights, please turn them back off. These are little things we all can do to help be good stewards of our resources here at HHPC. Thank you.

Stewardship Committee

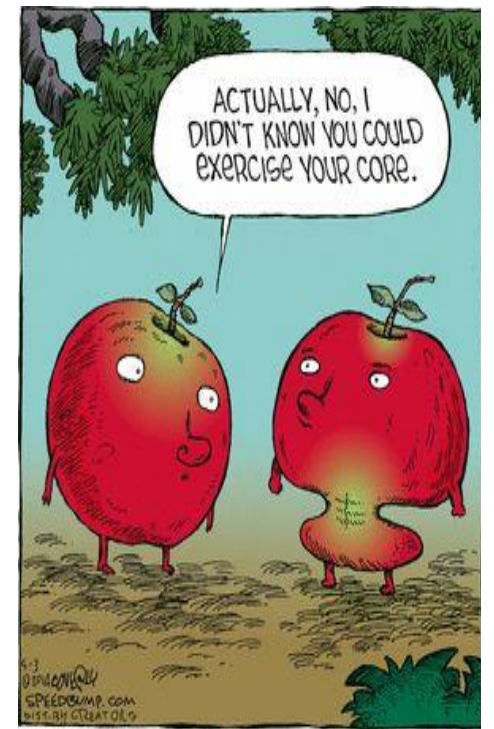
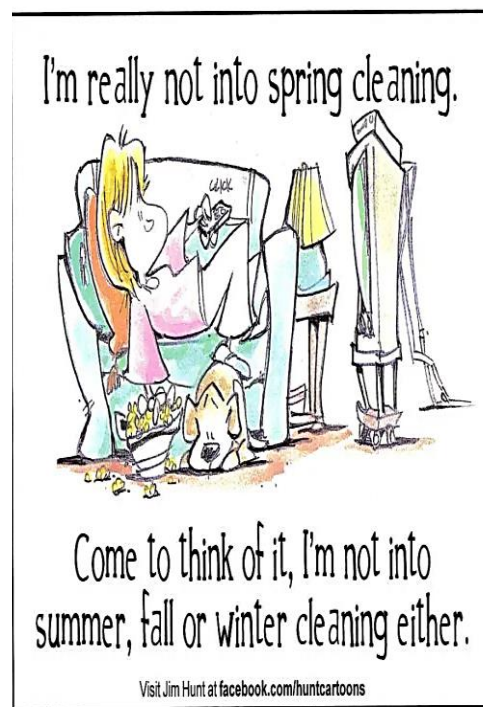
Netter Family Update

Molly continues to fight and pray to have the children allowed to immigrate here to the U.S. We seem to have a stone wall, that is U.S. Immigration. They simply are not approving the request for the children to come, nor are they canceling their applications. Without knowing what else to do, with no clear course of action or path, Molly is wondering if any of us would be willing to begin writing letters and e-mails to Senator Durbin’s office. Molly has had contact with them and has, in the past, had help in navigating, but now his office is silent, too. If you are so inclined, please feel free to take action, reach out, ask for help, an answer. And above all else, continue to pray for the children, for the Netters, and the situation as a whole. And if anyone has any other wisdom, please share. Thank you.

LOL TIME



Spring is Here!



“SHIRLEY AND MARCY”

(Submitted by Karen Golema)

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son Timmy walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but yet know that he was safe.

So, she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbor said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the

same lady was following them as she seemed to every day, all week. Finally, she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school?" Do you know her? Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yes, I know who she is." The little girl said, "Well, who is she?" "That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, and her daughter Marcy. Then the little girl asked, "Shirley Goodnest?" "Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

Well, Timmy explained, "Every night my mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, "Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life," so I guess I'll just have to get used to it.



May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always!

APRIL 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Bell Choir 5:00 PM REV Worship	3 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	4 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	5 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	6 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 6:00 PM Shared Maundy Thursday Supper at Faith United	7	8
9 Happy Easter! 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship No REV Worship; No Mission today	10 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session No Discipleship Meeting today	11 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	12 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	13 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	14	15
16 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Bell Choir 5:00 PM REV Worship	17 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	18 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	19 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	20 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	21	22 10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
23 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meeting 5:00 PM REV Worship	24 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study	25 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	26 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	27 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	28	29
30 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Worship						

Bernie is on vacation; back in the office on Wednesday, May 3.

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 West 95th Place
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

THE CONNECTING LINK

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