

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.

BLESSED IS THE FATHER
WHO SHARES HIS HEART,
LIVES HIS FAITH GIVES HIS TIME,
AND LOVES HIS FAMILY.

PROVERBS 20:7 ESV

To All Our
HHPC Fathers:
Happy Father's Day!

JUNE 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

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

Don't think of the things you didn't get after *praying.* Think of the countless blessings God gave you without *asking.*

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A Letter from Rev. Edie

The season of Pentecost is upon us. Within the church, this means Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Advocate who Jesus promised would be and remain with us until his return. It means that on Sunday we decorate with red, celebrate with the bright flames of the Spirit. But Pentecost is not just a Sunday that we mark as significant in the life of the church, it is that, in fact, we can trace the very beginning of “the church” – not the buildings, the gathered groups of believers to the festival of Pentecost. It was on Pentecost that the disciples began to make disciples – these births worshiping communities, something we now call a church. But, Pentecost is not just a day of celebration in the church, the season of Pentecost is the longest of all our seasons. The season of

Pentecost stretches from the end of May to the end of November, the season of Pentecost, the season of the Spirit, stretches for more than half our calendar year.

But our calendars mark other seasons, too, don't they? As we enter the season of Pentecost, the dramatic gifting of the Spirit, we also enter into the season of summer. In contrast to the burst of energy and excitement and drama of Pentecost, we often think of the summer season in the church as a time of slowing, a time of rest from the programs of the school year. At HHPC we end May with a burst of energy and effort that results in our Indoor Yard Sale, which was a huge success this year (*thank you to everyone who made it possible!*). We then spend time preparing for VBS which follows rapidly on the heels of the sale. The end of spring and beginning of summer are times of big



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

events here at HHPC. But those are the big events. Summer tends to be a quiet season here at HHPC, a season in which many people travel, have family events, head off to cottages. Summer can be a quiet season, even as it is marked on the church calendar as the season of the coming of the Spirit – Pentecost.

How do we reconcile these two realities? Should we be doing more? Is there something different that should happen? If we are willing to acknowledge the tension between the gifting of the Holy Spirit with the burst of energy for the followers of Jesus and our own summer slow-down, what do we do with it? I think we can begin by

(cont'd on p. 3)

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

paying attention to the rhythms and seasons that God gave us from the beginning of creation. In the beginning, we are told, God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. Sometimes we think of this as the 6 days of creation. But really, it is 7 days. Sabbath rest is a part of creation. The day of rest was created by God as surely as the trees, flowers, and even the mosquitos. Sabbath is a part of creation, though in our hurriedness, we have often forgotten Sabbath is a part of God's gift of creation to us. The rhythm of rest and work, Sabbath and the rest of the week is an important one, one that we often do

not honor. In the summer when things seem to slow down a little, perhaps this is the time to reestablish for ourselves the regular rhythm God intended-- work AND Sabbath.

The other opportunity we have is to notice the seasons. There are seasons of the year in terms of weather, but these vary throughout our world – our summer is another's winter. But the rhythm God gives is the same. In this summer season, as things begin to slow a bit at church, I want to invite you to take this as an opportunity – an opportunity to rest in the presence of God, to receive the gift of Sabbath. Take not only an hour or two on Sunday morning as a time for

worship, but the full day as a day of rest. Choose a practice of reading scripture, prayer, silence to engage in these months. Take up a book, prayer walking, or a regular time of connection with others. Choose a slower, but intentional rhythm of growing your faith. Give yourself permission to be still in the presence of God. As we enter into a Sabbathing time in the church, come and be present, come and engage, come and be with one another without 1,000 other things to get done. Come, be still with the Spirit given us that we might bless others.

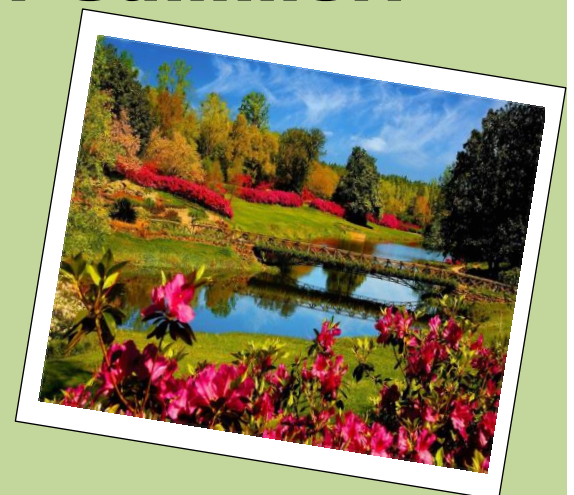
**Grace and Peace
in Christ,**

Rev. Edie

Thank You, God, for Summer!

Creator God,

For more light in the day, we thank you.
For gentle mornings, we thank you.
For nighttime conversations, we thank you.
For friends and family, we thank you.
For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.
Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.
Help us love this earth.
Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.
Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create. Amen.



COME LET US WORSHIP

WORSHIP READINGS, SERMONS & REFLECTIONS

Time to Reflect



Where do you see the Holy Spirit active in our world? Where do you notice God at work?

Our God is a God of relationship. Why does that matter for us?

Where do you locate yourself in the reading? What might this passage be saying to you?

Spend some time in silence. Where do you find peace in the reading?

Where do you find joy in what you are reading?

~ ~ ~

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, June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Psalm 8; Matthew 28: 16-20

Sermon: *Trinity Mystery*

Sunday, June 11

2ND Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Hosea 5:15-6:6; Matthew 9:18-26

Sermon: *Seen, Touched, Healed*

Sunday, June 18

3RD Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:7

Sermon: *While We Were Sinners*

Sunday, June 25

4TH Sunday after Pentecost

(Pulpit Supply Preacher Rev. Marge Vander Wagen will celebrate worship with us while Rev. Edie is away at study.)

PRAYING FOR YOU

**The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**
PSALM 34:18

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

Addy; Ali (Susan); **Agnes D** (Grace); **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); **Emma** (Sue D); **Esther** (Grace); **Fran** (Jeni); **Francie** (Karen G); **Gert; Glenda** (Melanie); **Gordon** (Diane); **Grace** (Katie); **Ivette** (Kim); **Jaden** (Toni); **Janet** (Evelyn); **Jay** (Susan); **Jenette L** (Sandy B); **Jerry** (Toni); **Jill** (Deb); **Jill** (Jeni); **Jim** (Deb); **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; Linae** (Tom); **Linda L; Lilli** (Kim); **Liz** (Evelyn); **Mary** (Doral); **Matthew; Michael** (Gert); **Michael** (Shirley); **Michele** (Katie); **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); **Tom** (Karen G); **Tom S** (Karen G); **Tracy** (Debbie Z); **Victor M; Vivian** (Wilda); **Wanda** (Jeni)

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); **Bob & Lisa** (Darlene); **Bree's Mom** (Evelyn); **Carol S; Chandra** (Debbie); **Dameon** (Cheryle); **Debbie Z; Delores** (Grace); **Dina and Al** (Cindy); **Dotty** (Debbie); **Douma Family** (Evelyn); **Edward** (Evelyn); **Esha** (Rev. Edie); **Ethan** (Grace); **Everleigh** (Jeni); **Fran; Irene and Tiffany** (Katie B); **Howard** (Karen); **Janet** (Evelyn); **Janet T** (Bernie); **Janice** (Gert); **Jessica** (Joan); **Joan P; Joe C; John** (Katie); **Josh & Ruth** (Mel); **Karyn** (Mel); **Kevin** (Teresa); **Kurt & Maya** (Debbie); **Laura** (Bernie); **Lillian** (Teresa); **Lisa; Marj** (Charlie); **Mathius Family** (Debbie); **Michelle** (Katie); **Michelle V** (Bernie); **Michelle** (Toni); **Mike B** (Jeni); **Mike R** (Bernie); **Pam** (Katie); **Patti & Randy** (Jeni); **Paul** (Debbie Z); **Phil** (Andrew); **Renee M; Rich and Cindy** (Sandy); **Robert** (Gert); **Roger** (Karen); **Rosalee** (Deb); **Sam** (Debbie Z's dad); **Shirley D; Slava** (Katie); **Stephanie; Mackenzie and Savino; Susanne L** (Sandy B); **Tina** (Evelyn); **Todd** (Charlie & Peggy); **Tommy** (Evelyn); **Yolanda** (Bernie)

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

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN.

For the **family of Coleen** (Cheryle); for the **family of Sandy** (Jeni); for the **family of Vivian** (Wilda); for the **McGowan Family** (Susan); for **Diane's Family** (Jeni); for the **crisis of violence and mass shooting victims, crisis on the border and in Chicago**

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

The last time you heard from your Discipleship Committee was in the April 2023 *Connecting Link*.

HHPC celebrated **Easter** on April 9, 2023. Discipleship oversaw Easter Breakfast. We served approximately 60 people, including HHPC congregants and members of our community. The Discipleship Committee thanks everyone who assisted in making Easter Breakfast a success. We pray all in attendance enjoyed the breakfast and the fellowship.

On May 14, 2023, HHPC celebrated **Recognition Sunday**. On this day, we were able to look back and review the activities of

last year. We gave thanks for all who have, in any way, assisted with Discipleship Committee activities.

HHPC was able to recognize four 2023 Graduates! Congratulations!

Lizbeth Ramos - High School; Erik Meyer - Bachelor's Degree; Abby Rellinger - Bachelor's Degree; Sarah Swearingen - Master's Degree

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Sunday, October 29, 2023 - Trunk or Treat**
- **Christmas Tea** (*date to be determined*)

Our next Discipleship Committee meeting will be Sunday, June 4, 2023, following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Summer Blessings, Jean

Vacation Bible School Is Here!

Ready to have some fun? Join us as we celebrate "Twists and Turns" Vacation Bible School at HHPC June 12-15, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

All kids ages 4 through 12 are invited to participate in this celebration of games. Our evening will include music, crafts, outdoor recreation, Bible stories and, of course, snacks!

Life is full of twists and turns that can leave us feeling like we've taken one step forward and two steps back. During this 4-day program, kids will discover that Jesus guides us through all the twists and turns of our lives. He helps us know His ways and teaches us His paths. Following Jesus changes everything!

Don't miss out. . . register today by calling the church office at 708-598-3100 or visit the church website at hickoryhillspres.org Please let your families and friends know about this wonderful opportunity! Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter. We are in need of assistance of preparing the building with VBS decorations.

Blessings, Dianne

MISSION REPORT

by Kim Ambrosat

Our next **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2023, from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

As usual, the meals will still be served in drive-thru fashion. In May, we served 48 meals!

Want to help? Contact Debbie Zimmerman.

Our **Micro-pantry** is still being used as a local source of staples. Thanks for your generous donations! This month, we are especially in need of spaghetti (or any type of pasta), sauce, cereal, and peanut butter.

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.



A huge thank you to Jeni Vogl for organizing **Grace Seeds Ministry**, and having plants brought to the church. When the time comes, if you have extra produce, please bring it in to share with the Micro-pantry or within the congregation.

Keep your (clean) **bottle caps** coming in! Mike and the REV friends are busy weighing and cleaning them. If you're interested in how many hundreds of pounds we have, ask him, and 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 Gardening! *Kim*

'Round Our Church



Ready, Set . . . VBS!

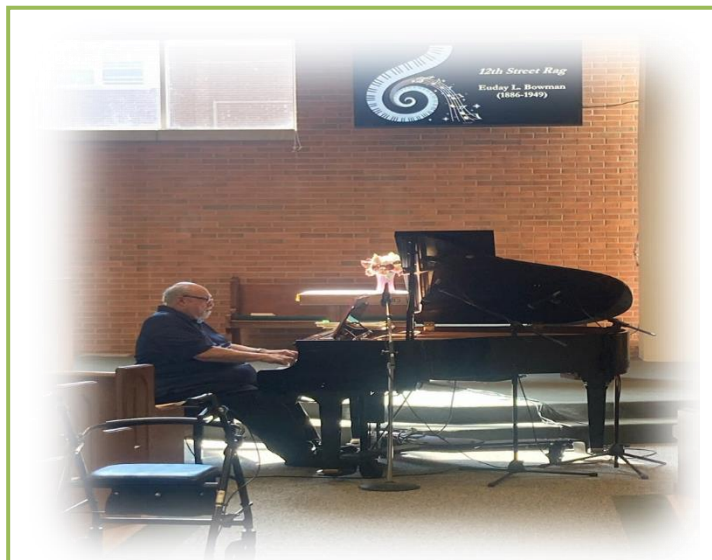
Jean Swearingen and Debbie Zimmerman hold up a display sign to welcome the kids to VBS June 12-15!

DRIVE-THRU HPPC COMMUNITY MEALS CONTINUE

Community Meals at HHPC are served on the first Mondays of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and continue to draw in neighboring residents.

Menus are changed each month and served up by our volunteers who continue to bring joy to those who they serve.

We ask God's blessings on all who come to our drive-thru pick up and to our dedicated volunteers for their continued service to others.



PIANO RECITAL HELD AT HHPC

On Sunday, May 7, 2023, our Music Director Greg Rolla entertained his afternoon audience with a “menu-full” of music selections including classical, Italian, ragtime, and traditional spiritual and well-loved hymns.

Following the recital, attendees were invited to Fellowship Hall for light refreshments.

Thank you, Greg, for an enjoyable “menu of music” beautifully played!

Greg has been music director at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church since 2014.

2023 INDOOR YARD SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our annual **Indoor Yard Sale**, held at HHPC from Thursday through Saturday, May 18 –20 was an amazing event.

This year's sale not only brought in an overwhelming amount of various donations of every kind, including many furniture pieces, but was a gainful event, with our church receiving approximately **\$10,000 in proceeds**.

This event continues to be enjoyed by those in our community and surrounding areas.

What's happening

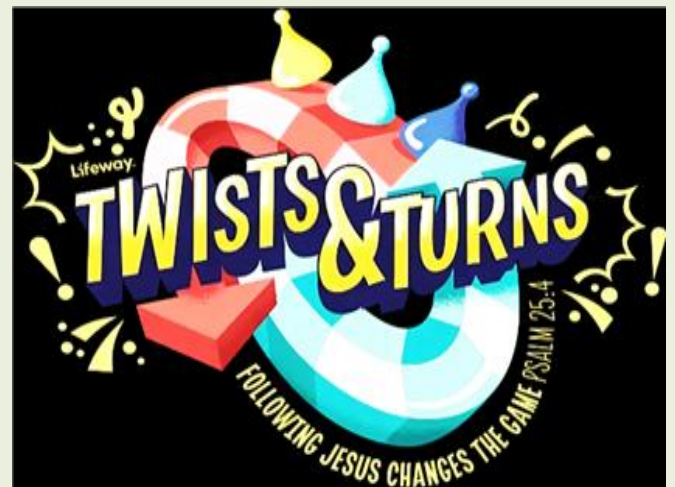
HHPC events coming soon!

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

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



**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
9:00 AM – 10:45 AM
(Sign-up sheet in narthex.)**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 12-15, 2023
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**This year's theme:
*Twists and Turns***

**Open to All Children
4 to 12 years old.**

**We are in need of volunteers to help
at VBS. See Dianne Flynn
if you would like to help.**



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

Recent address changes:
Mike Korzeniewski

If you have a change to your personal contact information, please contact the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Birthday blessings to all our friends celebrating their birthdays in June!

Brittany Brown	June 7
Barbara Monczynski	June 8
Katelin Wheeler	June 11
Amanda Swindle	June 12
Cheryl Huenecke	June 14
Alvin Swearingen	June 14
Albert Netter	June 16
Megan Zimmerman	June 23
Linda Lavaretto	June 27
McKenzie Lorenz	June 28
Hanna Treccani	June 29
Tom Morrell	June 29



My Birthday Prayer to God

Thank you, God, for giving me another year of life. Thank you for all the people who remembered me today by sending cards, letters, gifts and good wishes. Thank you for all the experience of this past year; for times of success which will always be happy memories, for times of failure which reminded me of my own weakness and of my need for you, for times of joy when the sun was shining, for times of sadness which drove me to you. Forgive me for the hours I wasted, for the chances I failed to take, for the opportunities I missed this past year. Help me in the days ahead to make this the best year yet, and through it to bring good credit to myself, happiness and pride to my loved ones, and joy to you. Amen.

A revised HHPC Member Directory for 2023 will be published soon.

If you have an address, phone or e-mail change, please drop it off in the church office or e-mail it to us at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org so that up-to-date information is published.

SUMMERTIME LOL

Get Ready...Summer begins June 21!

SOOO READY FOR SUMMER



SUMMER VACATION

THIS IS THE LIFE



YOU KNOW WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT POOL PARTIES?



NO ONE WANTS TO PET A WET KITTY

SUMMER IS COMING



SUMMER
PUN FUN

- "Water you doing, my friend? Glad to ketchup with you."
- "Fishing you a wonderful day."
- "In need of some vitamin sea."
- "I'd love to sea more of you."
- "Whale, hello there, buddy."



Try This Recipe!

Creamy Pasta Salad

Salad Ingredients

- salad macaroni or ditalini pasta
- tiny broccoli florets
- diced cucumber
- finely diced red pepper
- sliced black olives
- very thinly sliced green onion

Dressing Ingredients

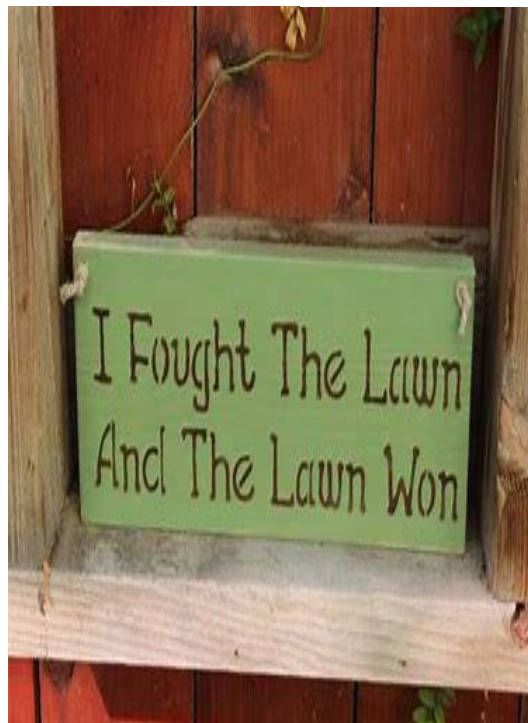
- mayonnaise
- white wine or plain vinegar
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- sugar

Directions

1. In a large pot, cook the pasta according to the directions on the package, adding a generous tablespoon or so of kosher salt to the water as it cooks.
2. Just before the noodles are done cooking, add the broccoli to the pot. Let the broccoli boil for about 30 seconds and then drain everything into a large strainer. Rinse well with cold water.
3. Stir together the mayonnaise, vinegar, salt, pepper, and sugar in a large mixing bowl.
4. Add the cooked pasta and broccoli to the bowl and stir well to coat.
5. Add the cucumber, pepper, olives, and onions and stir again.
6. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Stir again just before serving.



Funny Garden Signs



Summer Word Search

R	F	H	S	K	A	A	U	G	U	S	T	G	X	C	Z	P
O	S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	I	P	B	J	O	L	N
M	T	L	X	J	F	Z	A	Y	F	U	J	B	B	P	L	W
X	T	E	N	N	I	S	Y	A	P	I	C	N	I	C	S	O
A	D	X	V	V	D	X	A	B	Q	B	I	Z	V	P	H	P
O	V	Y	F	A	E	B	F	R	J	H	C	G	F	Y	A	J
G	U	F	H	C	I	L	L	S	J	Q	E	I	I	C	S	U
A	G	T	T	A	H	X	B	F	Z	G	C	Q	S	U	O	M
L	E	G	Y	T	S	P	O	O	L	P	R	K	H	N	Z	P
G	A	O	U	I	E	G	X	Q	Y	A	E	E	I	T	D	R
B	C	P	J	O	T	A	L	J	F	K	A	R	N	D	V	O
G	A	X	I	N	Q	M	N	M	N	D	M	G	G	Q	D	P
V	M	M	K	X	R	G	G	B	P	J	W	P	E	Y	A	E
Q	P	M	E	S	B	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	F
Y	I	Y	L	T	S	G	C	S	A	K	W	S	W	O	K	U
J	N	J	O	J	B	X	I	K	G	Z	B	E	A	C	H	Q
G	G	C	L	G	I	K	E	X	F	W	S	W	K	U	N	S
Z	X	J	U	L	Y	H	W	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	D
I	L	A	H	O	T	W	F	L	I	P	F	L	O	P	S	O

BEACH

CAMPING

AUGUST

JULY

ICE CREAM

SUNSCREEN

VACATION

PICNICS

POOL

SUNGLASSES

TENNIS

JUMPROPE

SWIMMING

FISHING

FLIPFLOPS



JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	2	3
4 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Discipleship meets Board of Deacons meet 5:00 PM. REV Worship	5 5:30 PM – 6 PM HHPC Community Meal	6 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	7 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	8 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	9	10 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM Feed My Starving Children Packing Event – Aurora (Sign-up in narthex)
11 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship	12	13 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	14 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	15 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	16	17
Vacation Bible School – June 12-15 – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM						
18 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Worship	19	20 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	21 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	22 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	23	24
Rev Edie Study Week – June 19-23; returns to office June 26						
25 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship	26	27 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	28 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	29 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	30	

JUNE 2023



The Connecting Link
A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

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