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.



JULY-AUGUST 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



INSIDE

Letter from Rev. Edie; An Eagle Scout Project	2-3
Worship Readings, Sermons and Reflections	4
Prayer Requests	5
Ministry Updates: Discipleship	6
Church Musician's Corner	7
'Round Our Church—Vacation Bible School (VBS)	8-9
What's Happening, Take Some Time for Summer Rest	10
Birthdays, Contact Information, Micro-Pantry Needs	11
LOL for Summer	12
Try This Recipe!	13
Calendars (July, August)	14, 15

A Letter from Rev. Edie

AS many of you are aware, I just spent a full week in California at class for my doctorate. For the past 3 years, we have journeyed together learning about adaptive change. Adaptive change is the kind of change that you can't just hire an expert to make happen – the kind of change that requires we learn new things, experiment with new ideas and test some new possibilities.

Adaptive change put broadly is the work that churches, schools, companies and not-for-profits are engaged in all over the world as things continue to change dramatically and we are trying to keep up.

As my learning cohort met for the final time, we wondered about big questions, hard questions, questions that are being asked all over, but that are also very specific to the community that is asking them. What we are learning is that what works in one community doesn't work in another. What seems obvious in one place is not the same in another area of the country. Why? Because the pains, needs, and struggles of one community are not the same as those of another. Context is vital.

I have been sent home with homework; just like the past two years, I have a paper to write. I have reflecting and work to do as I engage with you in our particular context. The over-arching question is:

What does it take to increase the ability of a faith community to engage in experiments, learning, curiosity (also known as adaptive change)? What will it take for HHPC as a community of believers to learn new things? What will it take for us to cultivate a spirit of curiosity and wonder? How do we grow our gratitude and joy so that we are more open to God's call on us in this world?

These are big questions, questions I have some ideas about, some wonderings, and



some hints, but no clear, easy answers. But as I begin to dig in and start trying to gather all the threads of what I have been learning together, I need to ask for your help.

One of the ways we can begin to wonder *What is God up to?* Who is God creating HHPC to be? is to begin by asking more questions and getting curious.

I have a set of three questions. Would you take these questions and have conversations with friends, family, or neighbors – bonus points if those individuals are not already active in a church.

- What is great about living here?
- What is not so great about living here?

(cont'd on next page)

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

> If good people came together, what could they do to make it great for everyone who lives here?

If you live in Hickory Hills, would you find 2-3 people and ask? If you don't live in Hickory Hills, think about any person you might invite to come to our church, even if you have never had the courage to invite them, have a conversation and ask these three questions that I listed above.

Write down the answers – What do you learn? What do you see? After you write them down, get them to me please. These questions are an important step in the work I have been assigned and the wider the answers the better. I have a next step after we have gleaned some responses, but just to

begin. Would you commit to 2-3 conversations with people you come in contact with regularly and get me the responses. I don't need to know who you talked to, just what they had to say.

Believe it or not, these conversations will help me in my schooling (after this Fall, I am on my own to work on a dissertation), but they will also help us as a congregation.

As we continue to Seek God's Word, to Share and Celebrate God's Love, and to Serve Jesus Christ in the World: we ask that God would help us to identify the unique context in which we have been planted and the specific call of Jesus for our church. Thank you in advance for your help in my learning. I look forward to hearing what you learn.

Grace and Peace in Christ, Rev. Edie

Caleb Lenz

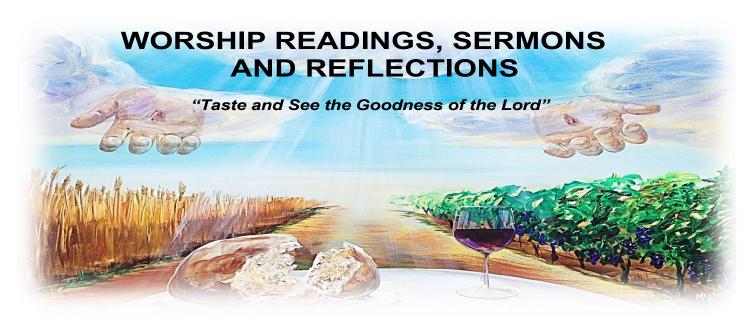
Caleb Lenz Eagle Project Proposal

I am working on my Eagle Scout Project which is the acquisition and installation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for use at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. This is in order for me to obtain the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

There will be basic training available to anyone on how to use the AED, with the help of the Rogers Park Fire Department (training must be done by someone certified). The training is necessary because an AED is effectively worthless if you do not know how to operate it.

There will be a labeled plastic container set up in the narthex if anyone is interested in pitching in so that the AED can be purchased. My goal is to raise \$2,800 to purchase the AED **before August 1**st. Thank you for your support.

Caleb





Slowly read the passages for each week shown at right.

Take time with each verse. Settle in and be curious.

- What does this mean for me?
- Who is God?
- How does God see the world?
- Where do I see Jesus at work today?



Sunday Readings

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.

JULY

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Readings: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;

Romans 6:12-23 **Sermon:** *Life and Death*

Sunday, July 9

Readings: Psalm 145: 8-14;

Romans 7:15-25

Sermon: Why do I do these things?

Sunday, July 16

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13;

Romans 8:1-11

Sermon: No Condemnation to Christ

Sunday, July 23

Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8;

Romans 8:12-25

Sermon: Adoption, Hope, Patience

Sunday, July 30

Readings: Psalm 129-136;

Romans 8:26-39

Sermon: Nothing Can Separate Us

AUGUST

Sunday, August 6, 2023

Readings and Sermon will be chosen by pulpit supply preacher. (Rev. Edie on vacation.)

Sunday, August 13

Readings and Sermon will be chosen by pulpit supply preacher. (Rev. Edie on vacation.)

Sunday, August 20

Readings: Romans 11:19-32;

Matthew 15: 21-28

Sermon: Great Is Your Faith!

Sunday, August 27

Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-6;

Romans 12: 1-8

Sermon: What is Transformation?



Shown at right 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, e-mail the church office at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org, call the office at 708-598-3100 or enter your prayer request online at

hickoryhillspres.org/prayerrequest/

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); Brian (Bernie); Bruce (Jeni); Cheryl H (Evelyn); Cindy (Debbie); Dan (Diane C); Danny F (Jeni); Dave D (Darlene); David; Deb (Jeni); Dee (Jeni); Delores (Grace); Diana (Wilda); Doris (Diane's Mom); 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); 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); Lucy (Wanda); Marge C (Bernie); Mary (Doral); Matthew; Michael (Gert); Michael (Shirley); Michele (Katie); Nancy (Debbie); Nora; 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); Steve (Debbie); Suzanne (Bernie); Tammy (Gordon); Terri (Debbie); Tierney (Shirley D); Tom (Karen G); Tom S (Karen G); Tracy (Debbie Z); Victor M; Wanda (Jeni)

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH AND HEALING ...

Amy (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); Bruce & Kathie (Jeni); 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, Mandy (Mel); 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 . . .

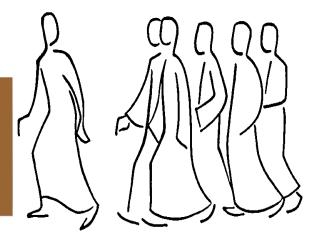
For the crisis of violence and mass shooting victims, crisis on the border and in Chicago

FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES . . .

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

Discipleship in Action:

- Following Jesus
- Being Changed by Jesus
- Committing to Jesus' Mission



Discipleship Report by Jean Swearingen

The Discipleship Committee is happy to have provided its fair share of *Twists and Turns* at our Vacation Bible School. We invited friends and family from our church and community. We had fun!

Our Master of Ceremonies for the VBS opening was Rev. Edie Lenz, assisted by Leslie Noonan. All opening and closing formalities were accented with a game. Participants played sweet potato roll, stacking dice on a tongue depressor, emptying pop boxes stacked like Jenga, making a sandwich while blindfolded and more!

Our daily stories taught and secured our trust in the Lord. Our participants learned Jesus is with them, supporting them through the *Twists and Turns* of their lives.

Crafts were made. God has given us great creativity! The gym was filled with enthusiasm! Kids – on carts – with laundry baskets – playing "Hungry, Hungry Hippo" – you would have had to have seen it to believe how much fun you can have!

The kitchen was open for business. Even our food was game-themed. We had tic-tac-toe, we went fishing and we even had race cars!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP!!!

Your Discipleship Committee hopes you are enjoying some Summer Sun!

It's time to do some planning.

Here are a few clues to keep you wondering what we're up to . . .

Sunday School ~ Trunk or Treat ~ Christmas Tea

Discipleship will be meet Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 11:15 a.m. in the Library.

Summer Blessings,

Tean

Church Musician's Corner

by Greg Rolla

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier of Saint-Georges

I am currently reading the book *The Black Mozart* by author Walter E. Smith. Joseph was born on Christmas Day, 1745, in the French Antilles to a rich planation owner and an African slave. When he was 13, his father brought him to France and had him enrolled in an elite private school where he excelled in both studies and sports, including music. He became renowned in France as the greatest fencer and swordsman; an accomplished horseback rider and dancer among the royalty. He was the first classical composter of African descent to receive widespread critical acclaim. Joseph composed numerous works including string quartets, sonatas, violin concerti, symphonies and operas. Mozart traveled to Paris to study under him.

After the French Revolution, he enlisted in the French National Guard and served as a colonel in the special legion St. George which was comprised mainly of French *citizens of color*. He became a victim of the Reign of Terror which followed the Revolution and was imprisoned for almost a year. This is when his health began to deteriorate.

Joseph's music is as intricate and melodious as any classical composer of his day. His works for violin and strings are phenomenal and are still published and recorded today. He died on June 9, 1799, in France at the age of 54 due to an acute bladder infection and gangrene.

I'm glad to have learned of him. A truly Renaissance man.





'Round Our Church

VBS *Twists and Turns*: Fun for Everyone

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church held its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 12-15, 2023. This year's theme was *Twists and Turns*. A fun-loving event hosted each year, our kids and volunteers alike enjoyed the four-day program. The pictures shown on this page and the next say it all . . . fun for everyone . . . look forward to next year!



Twists and Turns Game Show Hosts Rev. Edie and Leslie Noonan



VBS 2023 Coordinator Dianne Flynn poses for the photographer.



Left to right, VBS Helpers Jean Swearingen, Leslie Noonan and Debbie Zimmerman



Left to right, Kitchen Queens Jeni Vogl and Jean Swearingen



One of our VBS participants shows off his cool and classy outfit.



Left to right, craft teachers Nancy Snyder, Grace Muszynski, and Stacey Flynn Brenz

The Fun continued . . .



Panda (a.k.a. Caleb Lenz) poses for a pic with Rev. Edie and Leslie Noonan.



Contestants Rev. Edie, Leslie, Brittany and Victoria readying up for the hilarious sandwich game.



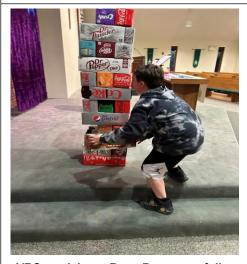
Beth Kommenich and Mike Swearingen team up for a quick pic.



Linda Lavaretto and Mike Swearingen give a welcoming smile to all of our VBS participants.



Blindfolded Brittany attempts to align a sandwich as contestant Rev. Edie Lenz heartily bites down.



VBS participant Ryan Brenz carefully pulls out a carton from the stack used as the VBS version of the popular *Jenga* game.



VBS kids on carts with their baskets playing the VBS rendition of *Hungry*, *Hungry Hippo*.



Enthusiastic Leslie eats the sandwich that blindfolded Victoria hopes is positioned accurately.



HHPC gym walls decorated with Monopoly cards designed by Debbie Zimmerman are ready for VBS participants to play the game.



As HHPC takes a summer respite from the hustle and bustle of the past year, our worship and fellowship time, along with our church missions, go on.

Here is what's on our calendar for July and August:

SUNDAY, JULY 9 . . . Board of Deacons Ice Cream Social

Fellowship Hall (during coffee time) (Sign up if you will attend.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 7... HHPC Drive-thru Community Meal 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

(Meal will not be held in July.)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12...
Gert Vickers' 100th Birthday
Celebration (All are welcome!)
Fellowship Hall
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HHPC MICRO-PANTRY DONATIONS . . .

We continue to ask everyone to donate items for the pantry, if possible.

SUMMER REV MEALS . . . Sunday, July 16 Sunday, August 20



Our calendars seem to always be filled with things to do, places to go, people to meet, but giving ourselves a time out to rest mentally and physically will help to refresh our bodies, minds and spirits. Here are some ideas on how to take some restful and enjoyable time out for you this summer.

Spend some time outdoors. When we spend our time in nature, it naturally calms us and gives us a feeling of inner peace. The bonus is natural sunlight, which gives us our vitamin D – great for the bones and a mood booster.

Unplug from technology. Use the summer as an excuse to be in vacation mode. Even if you only can do this once a week, take that time to connect to nature by unplugging from technology.

Start a personal fitness program. Go hiking, bike riding, etc. Do something new and fun. Make it better by bringing a friend!

Slow down. Mindfully, do one task at a time, enjoying the beauty around you and living in the moment. You'll be amazed at the outcome.

Spend time with family and friends. Set up date nights and fun nights.

Involve yourself in activities you really enjoy. Read the book you never had time to read, take a day trip to a new town and see new sights or go to the beach or your backyard and relax. Whatever brings you "flow," summer is the time to do it.

Step outside of your comfort zone. Try something new. It can be something simple like trying a new food or drink or going to a new restaurant. When you try something new, you'll feel a happiness boost.

Have some free time with no expectations. It doesn't matter if you go on vacation or just take a walk, just enjoy some time off.

Create some "ME TIME." Wake up 10 minutes earlier this summer to sit outside on your deck, patio or pull up a lawn chair outside with your coffee for 10-15 minutes and just enjoy the silence.

Breathe. Even with nice weather and longer days, we still can get stressed. So, when you feel the stress coming, take a moment to close your eyes and take a deep breath. It really works!



So that we can keep our records up-to-date, contact the church office If you have a change to your personal contact information.

> Phone: 708-598-3100 E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

The Connecting Link 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.

No recent changes were submitted.



Our readers would enjoy seeing pictures of your summer vacation with family and friends or any other images you would like to share.

Submit the picture(s) with a description to: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Birthday blessings to all our friends celebrating their birthdays in July and August!

JULY		AUGUS	Т
Amelia Huenecke	July 1		
Mike Korzeniewski	July 3		
Robert Swindle	July 4	Anthony Lavaretto	August 1
Toni Kenealy	July 6	Susan Frangella	August 2
Gabriella Ciametti	July 7	Jeni Vogl	August 2
Bernie Roche	July 9	Shannon Bastien	August 3
Andy Betterton	July 19	Molly Netter	August 9
Kyle Ambrosat	July 21	Gertrude Vickers	August 11
Jarett Ambrosat	July 21	Agnes Davidson	August 13
Dianne Flynn	July 22	Abigail Rellinger	August 23
Lucy Dumke	July 22	Marilyn Betterton	August 30
Diane Ciametti	July 23		
Cindy Treccani	July 27		



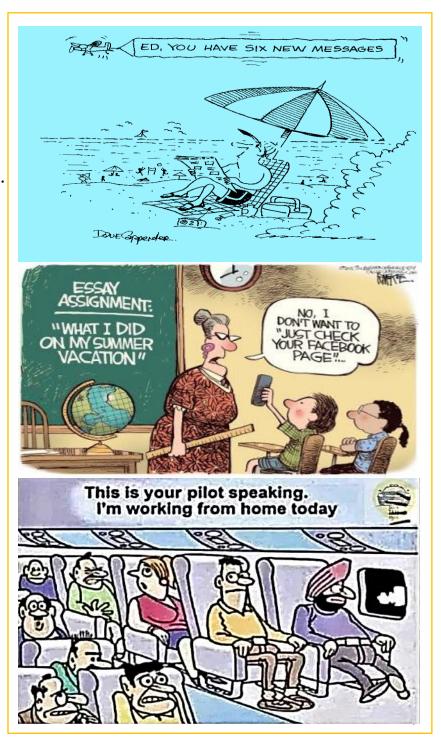
Our Micro-pantry located outside our church is being used daily and we can always use the following:

Canned fruits (all kinds), pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter (chunky), canned chicken, canned tuna, cereal, breakfast bars, juice boxes/bottles. Thank you for your generosity.

CURRENT NEED: Cereal, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Canned Fruit



LAUGH OUT LOUD THIS SUMMER!

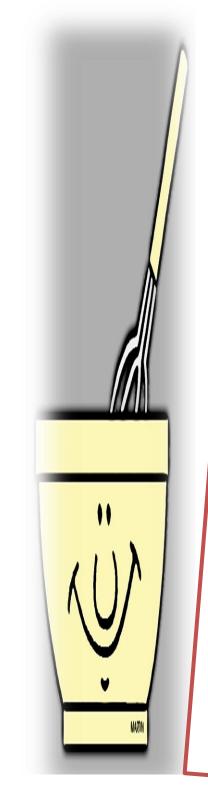




"SUMMER QUOTES"

"I need 6 months of vacation, twice a year." "Hey Summer, you're speeding!"
"Hey, gimme a break...I've been waiting all winter to complain about the summer heat."
"I'm giving myself a permission slip to be lazy this summer."

IIS RECIPE!



VBS's Favorite Recipe: ACTS APPLE DIP

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

½ C brown sugar

½ C sugar

1 tsp vanilla

½ C Biscoff® crunchy cookie butter spread Apple slices

Mix all ingredients (except apple slices) together using a mixer. Chill for an hour. Serve apple slices with a heaping spoonful of dip!

HINT: Soak apples in lemon lime soda for 2-3 minutes after cutting to keep them from turning brown. Store apples in a Ziplock bag and refrigerate until needed.



JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 AM Moming Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Worship	No Community Meal in July	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live Happy 4th of July	No Yoga today	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga		
9 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:15 AM Ice Cream Social during coffee time	10	11 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	13 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	14	15
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Meal	17	18 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	21	22
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meet	24	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	26 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	28	29
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship	31					

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Rev. Edie vacatio August 5 – to office of Augu	on from 13; returns n Monday,	7:00 PM Worship & Music Meets	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	4	5
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM. REV Worship	7 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM HHPC Community Meal	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	11	12 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Gert Vickers' 100th Birthday Celebration (Fellowship Hall) ALL ARE INVITED!
13 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:15 AM Discipleship meets in Library	14	15 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	17 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	18	19
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 5:00 PM REV Meal	21	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	25	26
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meet	28	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga		

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

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

The Connecting Link A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



JULY-AUGUST 2023