

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.



OCTOBER 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

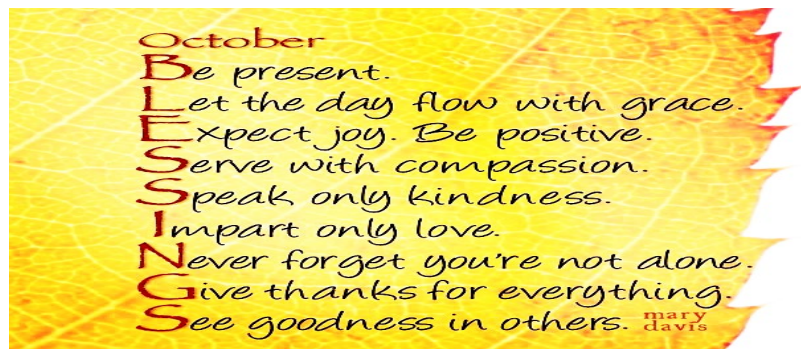
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VISIT US ONLINE

www.hickoryhillspres.org



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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

Think back for a moment – when did you first come to HHPC? What prompted you to come? Who, if anyone, nudged you in this direction? How long ago was that? What made you stay? What has kept you engaging, connecting, worshiping here? What keeps you tied to HHPC?

Perhaps it was a family member who drew you into the congregation, brought you as a kid or invited you along. Maybe it was a chance encounter, you wandered in one day and have never left. Maybe it was something you did or someone you met. No matter how long

ago it was, each of you has a story of connection, invitation, or belonging. Each of you is here, I hope, because you have, at some time or another, met Jesus here, but also, because you have found a home, a place of belonging, a people who will share themselves and life with you. I am willing to say that no matter what first brought you to HHPC, the vast majority (maybe even all) of you remain a part of HHPC because of the relationships.

Studies show over and over again that the single thing that makes people come to a church is that

they are asked by someone they know. Invitation, that is the thing most likely to bring in a new face. And what is it, do you suppose, causing people to stay, even when things are hard, even when you have a conflict with another person in the church, even when you might be struggling with your faith? Perhaps it is the meaningful relationships and connections we have.

You see, the church has never been about the building, no matter how much we might love it. The church has never

(cont'd on p. 3)

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

been about the preacher or the music, even if those things might draw someone in to begin with. The church isn't even about the programs it can offer - the church is about connection. Connection to God. Connection to one another. The church is about relationships, relationships with other people who share our beliefs and are trying to live as faithful people AND have a relationship with God.

We live in an isolated world. We can order literally anything we need to be delivered to our doorstep without ever having to speak to another human being. We can spend full days alone, isolated from one another. Many of you have had the experience of being in a room full of people, but feeling completely alone. We live in a world divided - age, demographic, color, ethnicity. The reasons to

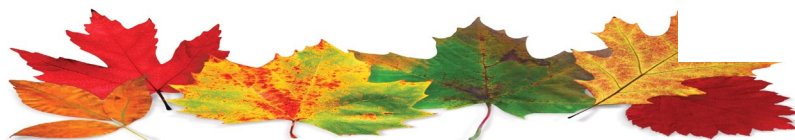
separate, to isolate, to hide are endless. We live in a world that invites us to engage with strangers on the other side of the world without ever knowing their identity, but not to walk next door and have a conversation with a neighbor face-to-face. But in the church, we gather together. We eat together. We sing, pray, and worship together. Certainly, we also disagree, say things we shouldn't, and need to forgive one another. But here, we can share hardships and joys, seek connection that is hard to find, and learn together.

Here, we also learn to follow the example of Jesus who was always connecting and inviting. Jesus went to people, met them where they were and saw their need. Jesus saw people – really saw them, engaged them, took

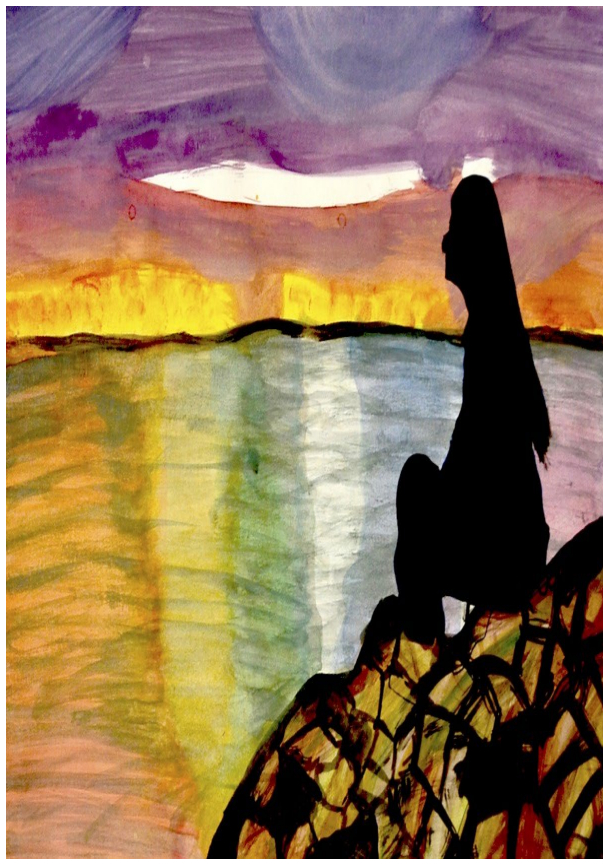
the time to talk with them, to know their needs. This is who we are called to model ourselves after, this is how we are called to be a church. Not just in the building on Sunday morning, but by connections throughout the week, by inviting others, by being present.

Think back again to how it is that you got here – give thanks for the person(s) who drew you in, and for the reasons that you have stayed. Now, turn your gaze to those you know, who do you need to invite? Who do you need to engage? Who are the lonely or disconnected people in your life and how can you invite them into a new kind of relationship?

*Grace and Peace
in Christ,
Rev. Edie*



Worship Readings, Sermons & Reflections



Jesus teaches in parables a lot, how do you understand the stories Jesus tells?

Jesus uses parables to tell us about the Kingdom of God. As you read the gospel lessons this month, what can you see about God's Kingdom from these stories?

Why do you think Jesus so often spoke in stories?

As you reflect on the parables, how do they influence your own faith and actions?



Let Us Worship and Praise the Lord Together!

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, October 1, 2023

Readings: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32;
Matthew 21: 23-32

Sermon: *Turn, Respond*

Sunday, October 8

Readings: Isaiah 5: 1-7; Matthew 21: 33-46

Sermon: *Vineyards*

Sunday, October 15

Readings: Isaiah 25: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

Sermon: *Wedding Banquet*

Sunday, October 22

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1-10;
Matthew 22: 15-22

Sermon: *What Is Mine?*

Sunday, October 29

Readings: Leviticus 19: 1-2; 15-18; Matthew 22: 34-46

Sermon: *Commands*



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

Addy; Ali (Susan); Agnes D (Grace); Bob; Bob (Tom K); Bobby (Toni); Bonnie (Grace); Brad (Andrew); Brian (Bernie); Bruce (Jeni); Cathy (Mel); Cindy (Dan); 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); Grace (Katie); Ivette (Kim); Jaden (Toni); Janet (Evelyn); Jay (Susan); Jerry (Toni); Jess (Susan); Jill (Deb); Jim (Deb); John (Debbie's brother); Joe (Shirley D); Jon (Charlie); Kait (Kim); Kathy (Bernie); Kathy (Jean); Kathy & Terry O'Shea (Debbie); Kathy (Linda L); Katie B; Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Katie); Leanne; Linae (Tom); Linda L; Lilli (Kim); Liz (Evelyn); Lucy (Wanda); Marge C (Bernie); Mary (Doral); Matthew; Michael (Shirley); Michele (Rev. Edie); Michele (Katie); Nancy (Debbie); Nora; Papa John (Jeni); Pat; Patrick (Katie); Paul (Deb); Pete (Esther); Rae (Karen G); Raymond (Diane C); Rose Marie (Toni); Ryan; Rick & Ruth S (Jen); Sherry (Debbie Z); Sherry (Peggy); Shirley (Ed); Steve (Debbie); Suzanne (Bernie); Tammy (Gordon); Terri (Debbie); Tierney (Shirley D); Tom (Charlie); 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); Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma Family (Evelyn); Dustin (Mel); Edward (Evelyn); Ethan (Grace); Evelyn G; Everleigh (Jeni); Fran; Frankie (Evelyn); Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Howard (Karen); Jack (Debbie); Janet (Evelyn); Janet T (Bernie); Janice (Gert); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joe C; John (Katie); John & Terry (Debbie); Josh & Ruth (Mel); Karyn (Mel); Kathy (Gordon); Katie (Mel); Kevin (Teresa); Kurt & Maya (Debbie); Landen (Jeni); Laura (Bernie); Lillian (Teresa); Lisa, Mandy (Mel); Marj (Charlie); Mary (Renee); Marson (Scott); 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); Philemina (Diane); Renee M; Rich (Scott Z); Robert (Gert); Roger (Karen); Rosalee (Deb); Sam (Debbie Z's dad); Scott (Deb); 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 those affected by Florida's Hurricane Ivaldi and for those who have died in its path; for those affected by the devastating Hawaii Wildfires and those who have died in its path; for Dali, Alinafe and Yanko as they await adoption; 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.

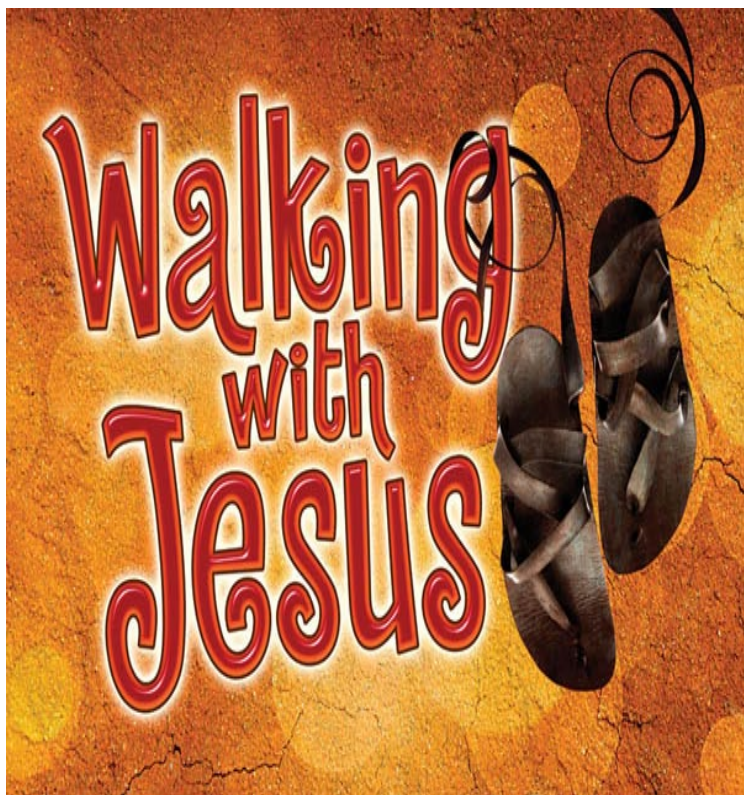
For the crisis of violence and mass shooting victims, crisis on the border and in Chicago

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)

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.





Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church welcomed all ages to be a part of our Welcome Back to the 2023-2024 year! The Discipleship Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped to make this an enjoyable day for all!

- **Sunday School** – Thank you for supporting our youth!
- **Burgers and Hotdogs Griller** – Thank you! *(Even though you had to move inside, delicious!)*
- **Everyone who donated food** – Thank you! We do always seem to have a beautiful variety of food!
- **Kitchen Crew** – Always amazing!
- **B-I-N-G-O** – SO MUCH FUN!!! Congratulations to all who won prizes!
- **Guess How Many?** Our winner was Eric Meyer. He guessed 200 Goldfish. There were 218!
- **Set-up/Clean-up** – God Bless You and Thank You!

*Sunday School will continue for our youth. Sunday School is currently planned for every other Sunday. October dates are October 1, October 15, and October 29.

Discipleship Report

by Jean Swearingen

Welcome to October! We are now in the last three months of 2023! We continue to be busy!

Your Discipleship Committee met on Monday, September 11, 2023. We finalized September plans and planned for the rest of the calendar year. We have also begun looking toward 2024! Before we get to 2024, let's bring you up to date for continued events in 2023.

FALL FUN was enjoyed on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

COMING EVENTS!

TRUNK OR TREAT


Sunday, October 29, 2023 - 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. Sign-ups for this activity are available. Please sign-up ASAP, as we need to have a minimum of 8 participants identified by October 15 to proceed with this outside event. Start your planning. You can decorate your car, but décor is not mandatory. There will be prizes for the "Best Vehicle" and "Best Costume" associated with a vehicle.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.
Stay tuned for further information.

The entertainment will be HHPC's pianist Greg Rolla. We know his talents will brighten our Holiday Spirits!

Fall Blessings, Jean



Happiness is knowing
that when you are
serving people, you are
serving Jesus.

Mission Report

by Kim Ambrosat

Our next **Community Meal** is scheduled for October 2nd from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. As usual, the meals will still be served in drive-thru fashion. Want to help? Contact Debbie Zimmerman. In September, we served 40 meals in the rain!

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, peanut butter, and macaroni and cheese. School snacks are needed as well.

During the month of October, we will be collecting for the **Giving Basket to help Elsie's Pantry** fill the need for Thanksgiving dinner. Watch your bulletins for a shopping list, or if you wish, simply make a donation, and we'll do the shopping for you.

Share your thoughts and time –

We are contemplating serving at a **Mobile Pack** in Oak Brook on November 4th.

Mark your calendars now - **Feed The Need** is returning in March. We'll be packing in Lisle, a tiny bit closer to home.

The **Warming Tree** will be set up shortly after *Trunk or Treat*. Your handmade or purchased hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves will look lovely adorning the tree until they are given to someone to warm their body.

It has been many years since we, as a group, have volunteered at **The Jones Center**. Watch your bulletins and upcoming newsletters – we'd like to volunteer our time to help with **Santa's Breakfast**.

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 Mike 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.

Peace,
Kim



HHPC DRIVE-THRU 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 change each month and are doled out by our volunteers who continue to bring joy to those who come. 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. Contact Debbie Zimmerman if you would like to help at the meals.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

After a summer break, HHPC Bible Study resumed on Monday, September 18, and will continue every Monday through the end of May at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Join our group, led by Rev. Edie Lenz, as we continue to study David, King of Israel and writer of many psalms in the Old Testament.

If you haven't been to the Bible Study, give it a try. You might be amazed at what you learn through the stories and messages of wisdom that you can use in your daily life.



COMING SOON: AED TRAINING

Through the generous donations of our members and friends, an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) and new First Aid Kits were recently purchased for the church. The AED will be installed in the East Room by the lift in October.

As part of my Eagle Project, I am working to coordinate training for the congregation and community. An announcement of the date and time of the training will hopefully be made soon.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

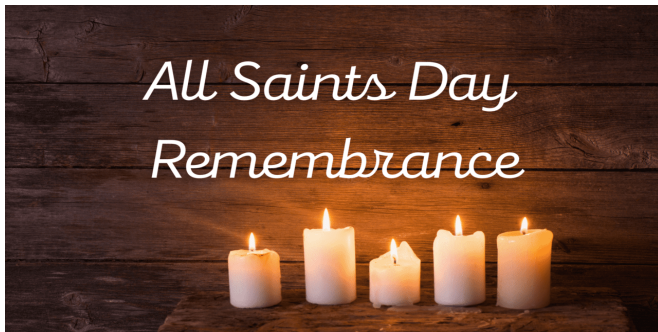
Caleb Lenz

Mark your calendars!

**COMING
SOON**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
AFTER 10:00 AM WORSHIP
(Fellowship to follow.)**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
(During 10:00 AM
Morning Worship)**



**HHPC TRUNK OR TREAT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
12 NOON – 2:00 PM
EAST PARKING LOT
(See bulletin insert for more details.)**



**HPPC CHRISTMAS TEA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
1:00 PM
(More details to follow.)**



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
(IN THE SANCTUARY)
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP
POTLUCK FOLLOWS IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL.**



Meet Hildegarde of Bingen



Hildegarde of Bingen (1098-1179) was a German Benedictine abbess and is considered one of the most creative and important individuals of the Middle Ages. She was a writer, composer, philosopher, theologian, mystic, visionary and a medical practitioner. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred music and one of the most recorded in modern history.

Hildegarde is one of the few composers of her era who wrote both the music and words to her compositions. One of her famous works, the *Ordo Virtutum* (Order of Virtues) is an early example of liturgical drama, and a morality play. It consisted of 82 songs and was performed yearly at the monastery by both noblewomen and nuns. The *Ordo* revolved around the theme that the virtues of womanhood would save the souls of humankind and defeat the devil.

It is a fascinating work written by one of the most fascinating women of history.

May music be in your heart always,
Greg





UPDATE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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.

REMINDER:

The **2023 HHPC Membership Directory is near completion.** If you have a change to your personal contact information (address, e-mail, phone) and have not yet sent it to us, please contact the church office.

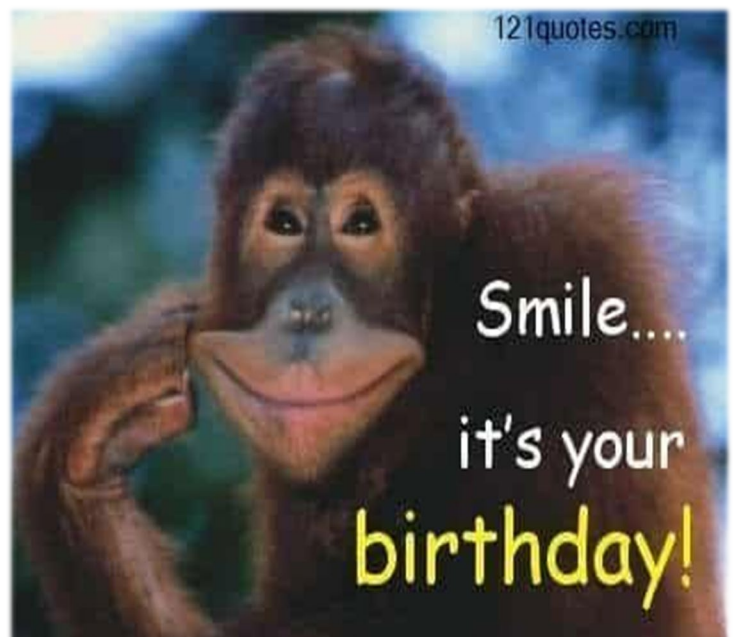
Phone:
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E-mail:
hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



Birthday blessings to all our friends celebrating their birthdays in October

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





Try This Recipe!

Ingredients:

Meat

- 2 lbs Ground Beef

Produce

- 3 stalks Celery
- 1 Onion, large
- 4 (15-ounce) cans Tomatoes, petite
- 2 (10-ounce) cans Tomatoes and green chilies
- 2 Yukon gold potatoes

Canned Goods

- 1 (32-ounce) container Beef broth

Pasta & Grains

- 1 cups Ditalini pasta

Frozen

- 2 (12-ounce) bags Mixed vegetables, frozen

Liquids

- Add 4-8 cups of water depending on how much soup you will make.



**HALLOWEEN
SOUP!
OH MY!**

FALL FEST FUN

HHPC members welcomed in the new season of Children's Sunday School at our annual Fall Fest/Kickoff held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 17, 2023. As are all of HHPC's food and fun gatherings, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and the fixin's were on the menu to enjoy. Here are some snapshots of this great time together.



Enjoying delicious food!



Chatting with friends!



Lingering awhile!



And... B-I-N-G-O with Grace & Karen!

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship, Sunday School	2 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM-6:00 PM Community Meal	3 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	4 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	5 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	6	7
8 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship	9 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:30 PM Session Meeting	10 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	11 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	12 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	13	14
15 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship, Sunday School 11:30 AM Fall Church Clean Up Day 11:30 AM Mission Meeting	16 1:00 PM Bible Study	17 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	18 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	19 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	20	21
22 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meeting	23 1:00 PM Bible Study	24 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live	25 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	26 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Yoga	27	28 10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
29 10:00 AM Morning Worship <i>All Saints Day Remembrance</i>) Sunday School, Fellowship 12:00 NOON - 2:00 PM Trunk or Treat	30 1:00 PM Bible Study	31 10:00 AM Morning Devotion on Facebook Live				

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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