

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.



NOVEMBER 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

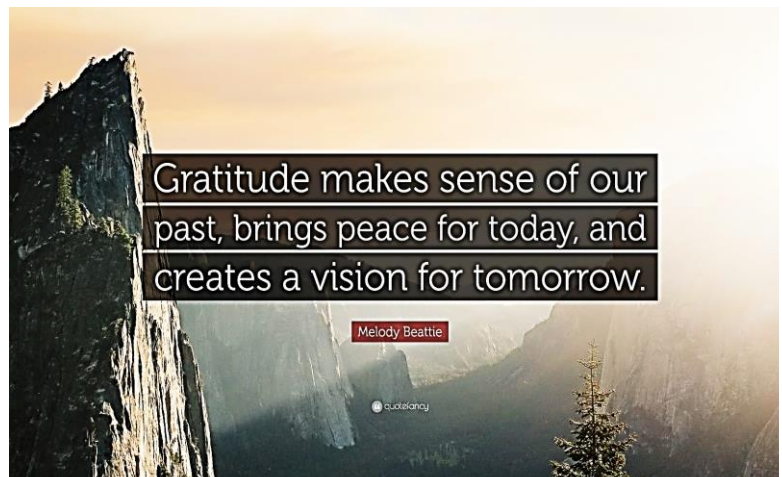
Evening Worship on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

CONTACT US

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VISIT US ONLINE

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Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



INSIDE . . .

Letter from Rev. Edie	2-3
Worship Readings, Sermons and Reflections	4
Prayer Requests	5
Ministry Updates:	
Discipleship	6, 7
'Round Our Church	8
Coming Up at HHPC	9
Birthdays, Contact Information, Micro-Pantry Needs	10
LOL Time	11
Try These Recipes!	12
Calendar	13

A Letter from Rev. Edie



Stop. Take stock. What are you doing on a regular basis that gives life? What are you doing that drains you? What are you choosing that is life-giving? What have you chosen that sucks life from you? Now comes the hard question: What is the current balance of life-giving and life-draining efforts in your day-to-day life, right now?

I suspect that many of you would say you are definitely out of balance. All around us are contradictory messages: you need 8 hours of sleep a night, blue light from your phone is bad for you, you need to care for yourself, you need to stay connected, you need to work more, you need to have all the things to be fulfilled; and perhaps worst of all, you don't have time. When you look around at all of the unwritten and written expectations we have placed on ourselves, there can be only one conclusion – we cannot do it. It is impossible. But what do we do with all of this? What alternative do we actually have?

The first thing, and I am preaching to myself as well as to all of you, we need to stop. We need to stand still long enough to hear clearly the voices speaking to us so that we can know which are God's voice, God's call, and which are the voices that swirl around us. We need to stop long enough to be able to notice how much we are choosing that isn't good for us. We need to stop long enough to hear the call of our own hearts rather than all of the "should," "ought to," and "supposed to" messages crowding our brains. This stopping is a spiritual discipline; it is an opportunity to be still in the presence of God, something we do not do enough.

This month, I want to encourage you to find 30 minutes each week (not when you are supposed to be sleeping) and stop. Take a break, turn off the computer, TV, put your phone in another room and your smart watch on do not disturb. Breathe. Take stock of things by answering the questions I asked in the first

paragraph. What gives you life? What brings you joy? What one thing that drains you could you just stop doing? And if you stopped, would the whole world grind to a halt? (odds are it wouldn't).

As you take stock each week, I want to also invite you to a place of gratitude. Literally, count your blessings. No, not because it is November and there is a cultural construct that tells us to be thankful this time of year, but because gratitude is an antidote to exhaustion. Gratitude reminds us of what we already possess, what is already ours, what we do not need to hustle to hold. Gratitude, like stopping, is a spiritual discipline. It is slowing down long enough to give thanks for all that God has done, is doing and will do in our lives. Gratitude is a reminder that the world doesn't actually revolve around us as

(cont'd on p. 3.)

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

human beings, nor does the earth spin because we make it. Gratitude is a simple practice that reminds us it is God who holds the world – not us.

These practices, stopping and counting blessings, are examples of Sabbath keeping. Sabbath is a theme I have spoken about over and over and will continue to do so. Sabbath is the very first thing God invited humans to do. God created human beings on the 6th day and decreed Sabbath on the 7th. Sabbath was created for human beings, offered as a gift.

Sabbath is not a set of rules about what you can and can't do on Sunday. Sabbath is the rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation that only God can offer. In this chaotic world where so much seems to rest on our shoulders and so much feels out of control, I invite you to remember the presence of God with you; stop, rest, give thanks. The world and all of its chaos, responsibility and mess will still be there and you may even be better able to face it.

*Grace and Peace in Christ
and Happy Thanksgiving,*
Rev. Edie

A Few Things to Mention...

HHPC Family,

It has been a long time, but we need to reset our **Prayer List**. On the First Sunday of Advent, we will begin the new church year with a new prayer list. In the coming weeks, you are encouraged to transfer anyone you wish from the current list onto the new list by turning those in to the church office.

All you will need to do is fill out the form that will be available *beginning on November 12* or e-mail the church office with the name of the person, what we are praying for, and your name.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting to elect Elders and Deacons will be held on Sunday, November 12. This will be an in-person only meeting. Please plan to attend worship, stay for the meeting and join us for the potluck that will follow the meeting. On the meeting agenda is also approval of the amended by-laws, the draft of which you can pick up outside the sanctuary any time before the meeting.

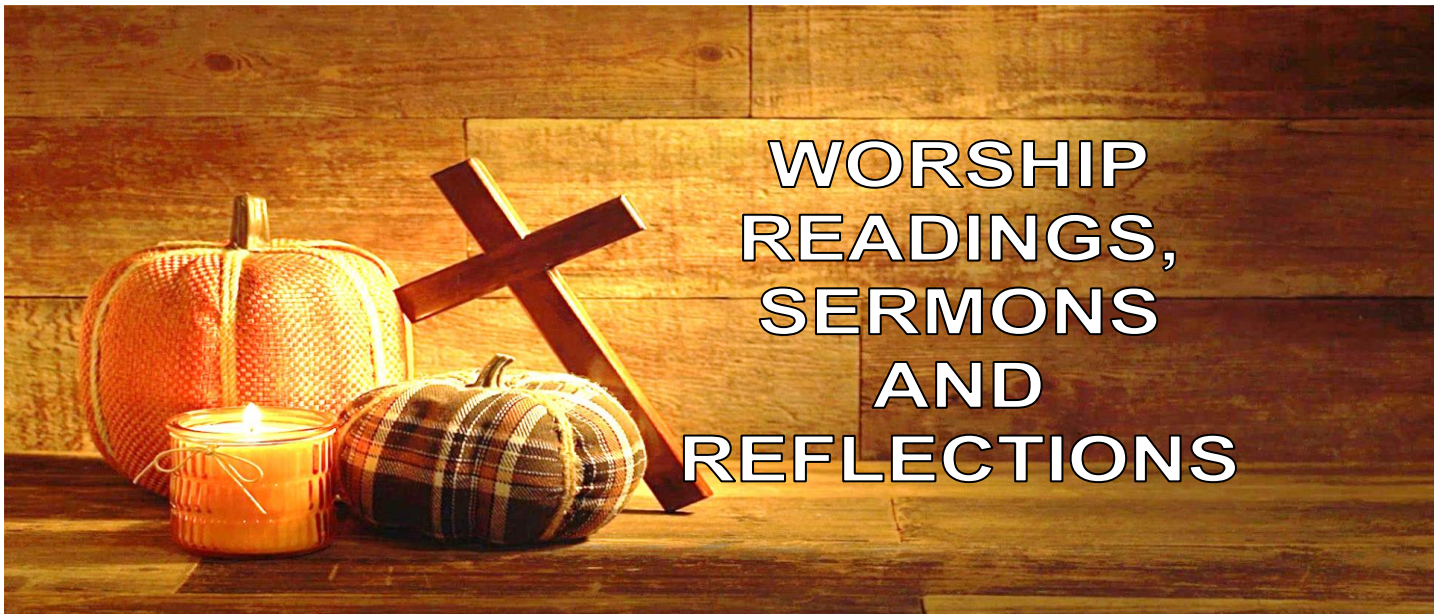
November 12 is also **Consecration Sunday** and this is the Sunday where we ask that you return the pledge cards that were mailed to you. This year, those pledges will be collected in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer, you can return your pledge via regular mail to the church office marked *Attention: Susan Frangella*.

Upcoming AED and First Aid Training will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 11:30 a.m.. We will be joined by the North Roberts Park Fire Department and the Boy Scouts of Troop 50 who will be leading our training. A light lunch will follow.

Christmas Eve Services will be held on December 24.

10:00 a.m.	Regular Morning Worship celebrating the 4 th Sunday of Advent
11:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

~~ Rev. Edie



Throughout November, the gospel lessons will invite us to reflect on the coming Kingdom of God. This is more than a wondering about someday in heaven. This is about Jesus proclaiming that the Kingdom is here and now. Where is God at work around us? How are we helping, hindering, or just blind to God's action in the world?

Jesus challenges us to remain ready at all times. In what ways are you living in the Kingdom now? In what ways are you still waiting for Jesus? In what ways have you forgotten to be ready?

The parables Jesus tells are familiar; we have read them before. As you read, wonder what it would be like to hear them for the first time. What fresh insight do you gain? Who are the least of these? Who have we missed? What could or should we do?



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. on Sunday mornings or recorded and posted on our website at www.hickoryhillspres.org.

November 5, 2023

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

*(Rev. Jewel Willis Thomas
will celebrate worship with us today.)*

Readings: Micah 3: 5-12; Matthew 6: 25-33

Sermon Title: *Thankful Living*

Sunday, November 12

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Amos 5: 18-24; Matthew 25: 1-13

Sermon Title: *Unexpected Preparation*

Sunday, November 19

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11;
Matthew 25: 14-30

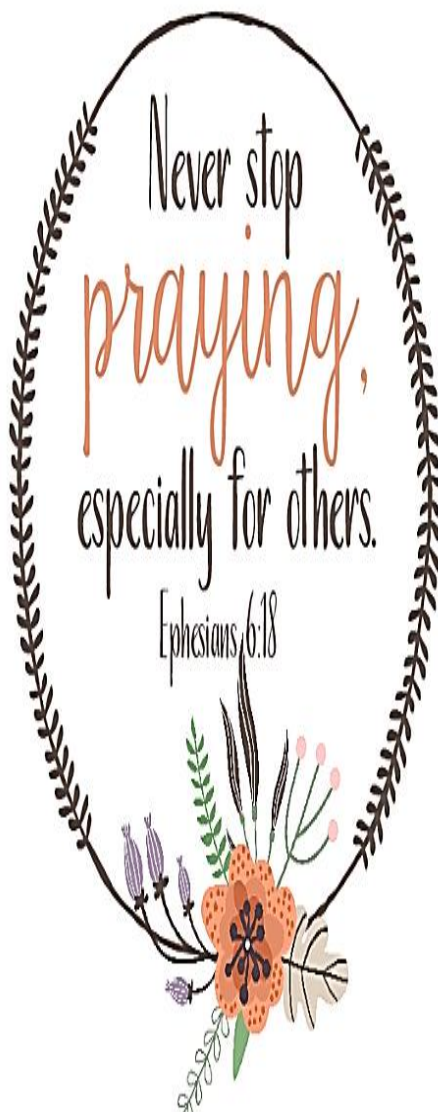
Sermon Title: *Celebrating YOUR Talents*

Sunday, November 26

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Ezechiel 34: 11-16; 20-24;
Matthew 25: 31-46

Sermon: *Shepherd King*



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); Bob; Bob (Tom K); Bobby (Toni); Bonnie (Grace); Brad (Andrew); Brian (Bernie); Bruce (Jeni); Carroll C (Sandy B); Cathy (Mel); Cindy (Dan); Cindy (Debbie); Dan (Diane C); Danny F (Jeni); Dave D (Darlene); David; Deb (Jeni); Dee (Jeni); Delores (Grace); Diana (Wilda); Dori & Dave Whitley (Sandy B); Doris (Diane's Mom); Emma (Sue D); Esther (Grace); Faye B (Sandy B); Fran (Jeni); Francie (Karen G); Gert; Grace (Katie); Ivetta (Kim); Jaden (Toni); Jayden (Debbie Z); 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; Ken (Doral); Kim B (Jeni); Kyle (Katie); Leanne; Linae (Tom); Linda L; Lilli (Kim); Liz (Evelyn); Lori (Evelyn); Lucy (Wanda); Marge (Bernie); Mary (Doral); Michael (Shirley); Michele (Katie); Mike L (Sandy B); 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); Brad (Mel); Bree's Mom (Evelyn); Bruce & Family (Jeni V); Bruce & Kathie (Jeni); Carol S; Chandra (Debbie); Chris (Debbie); Dan (Katie); David (Karen G); Debbie (Mel); Dina and Al (Cindy); Douma Family (Evelyn); Dustin (Mel); Edward (Evelyn); Ethan (Grace); Evelyn G; Everleigh (Jeni); Fran; Frankie (Evelyn); Gert; Irene and Tiffany (Katie B); Howard (Karen); Jack (Debbie); Jane (Jean); Janet (Evelyn); Janet T (Bernie); Janice (Gert); Jennifer (Cheryl); Jessica (Joan); Joan P; Joe (Jeni V); Joe C; John (Katie); John H (Phil); John & Terry (Debbie); Karyn (Mel); Kathy (Gordon); (Teresa); Kevin (Mel); Kim, Kim (Jeni); Don & family (Jeni); Kurt & Maya (Debbie); Landen (Jeni); Laura & Ramon (Mel); Laurie (Evelyn); Lewis (Rev. Edie); Lisa, Lori (Mel); Mandy (Mel); Marj (Charlie); Marco's Family (Mel); Mary (Mel); Mary (Renee); Marson (Scott); Mathius Family (Debbie); Michelle (Katie); Michelle (Toni); Mickey (Toni); Mike B (Jeni); 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 the people in Gaza and Israel; 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 family of John Halsey; for family and friends of Ruth Colby (Susan); for Judy and family and friends on the death of Bay (Rick); for Allison and family and friends on the death of Barbara (Mel); for innocent civilians of Israel and Palestine; for the Dellacrose family and friends on the death of Rich (Scott Z); for the family and friends of Lilly Arnett (Susan); for the family of Jason Dee (Debbie Z); for the family and friends of Jim (Tom M) for the crisis of violence and mass shooting victims, crisis on the border and in Chicago

FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES . . .

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

DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP REPORT *by Jean Swearingen*

Your HHPC Discipleship Team met on Monday, October 9, 2023. We continue to plan for the remainder of 2023 AND are looking forward to 2024!

Our **Sunday School** continues to meet.

Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church has again received the gift of a tree for *Holiday Magic* at Brookfield Zoo. Our décor is ready to go! We hope you will be able to visit Brookfield Zoo to see our tree and enjoy the zoo. The following are details from Brookfield Zoo:

This holiday season, get ready to visit Chicagoland's longest-running lights festival featuring over two million twinkling LED lights!

DATES: November 24-26, 30 and December 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 21-23, 26-31, 2023

PARK HOURS: Brookfield Zoo is only open 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on *Holiday Magic* dates.

LOCATION: Zoo-wide

HHPC's Christmas Tea

Our annual tea event will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. *Please see information elsewhere in this newsletter.* Sign-up sheet will be out soon.

Some 2024 Happenings

Sunday, February 11, 2024 - Souper Sunday
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - Ash Wednesday

A Spooktacular Time at HHPC's Trunk or Treat

HHPC once again twisted up the traditional *trick or treating* with our **Trunk or Treat** event held on Sunday, October 29.

It was Spooktacular Day! The weather was questionable. Our participants were inside and outside. We had 7 "Trunks" and welcoming volunteers. We saw some new faces and celebrated seeing familiar faces. Our *Trunk or Treat* had approximately 100 Trick or Treaters.



Best Trunk – The Swearingen Family
Best Costume – Leslie and Matt Noonan
and their dog, Loki

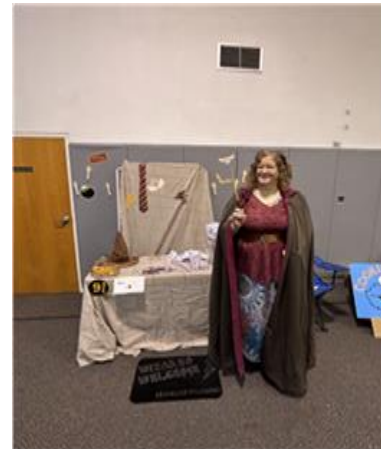
Trunk or Treat 2023



Melanie Swindle and her nieces and nephews enjoy family fun time together.



Rev. Edie meets and greets those who dare to try her witch treats. *(Love the shoes!)*



Wizard Melanie Swindle casts a spell on all who enter in.



Proud Grandma Evelyn Garlic and her grandchildren happily pose for a Halloween pic.



Daniel Ciametti stands at his Birthday trunk display and celebrates his special day with family and friends.

This Year's Winners ...



Posing as Wizard of Oz characters Dorothy and the Scarecrow, Leslie and Matt Noonan pose with the cowardly lion--their dog Loki--after winning *Best Costume*.



Snoopy (*Mike*) welcomes all to the Great Pumpkin Patch, this year's *Best Car*.



Jeni Vogl, her mom Wanda McIlvoy and granddaughter Ariella smile for the camera as they enjoy the fun event.

'Round Our Church

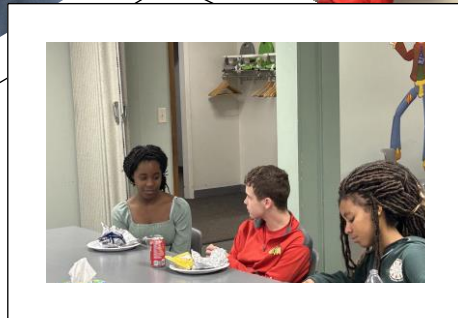
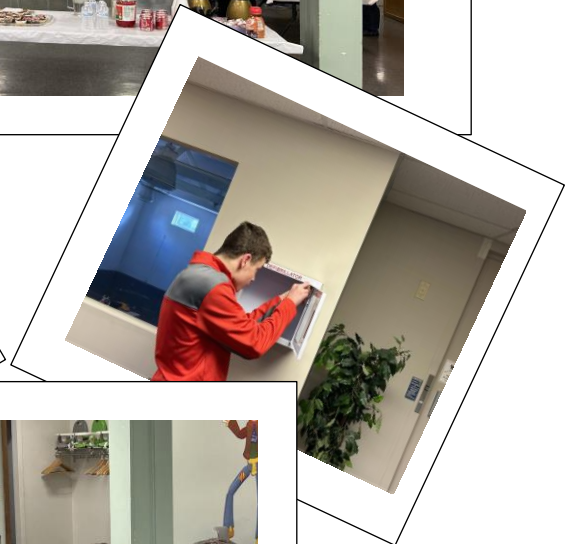


Following Sunday worship on October 15, 2023, HHPC volunteers teamed up to help with our fall cleanup in and around the church.

The crew did a remarkable job with many tasks including washing, sweeping, organizing, landscaping, *etc.* (and removing stairs?) to make our church look sparkly and clean for worship time and all upcoming events. The crew enjoyed lunch after the cleanup.



Our Thanks to All!



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **HHPC Tree of Warmth (*Now through Dec. 24*)**
Our giving tree is up in the narthex for your donations of gloves, hats, scarves, etc. for those in need.
- **Congregational Meeting, Potluck & All-Committee Planning Meet**
Sunday, November 12 after Morning Worship
(Election of Elders & Deacons, Advent and Epiphany Planning)
- **Elsie's Pantry Basket of Blessings**
Deadline Sunday, November 5
(Food & Monetary Donations Being Accepted.)
- **Evelyn's Cardmaking Class**
Saturday, November 18
Fellowship Hall
(Have fun with crafts & fellowship)
- **First Aid & AED Training at HHPC**
Sunday, November 19
11:30 AM
(A Save-Lives Learning Experience)
- **Sunday, December 3**
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
HHPC Christmas Tea
(Entertainment by Pianist Greg Rolla, Enjoy a Variety of Christmas Teas & Treats, Fun, Games and Fellowship)

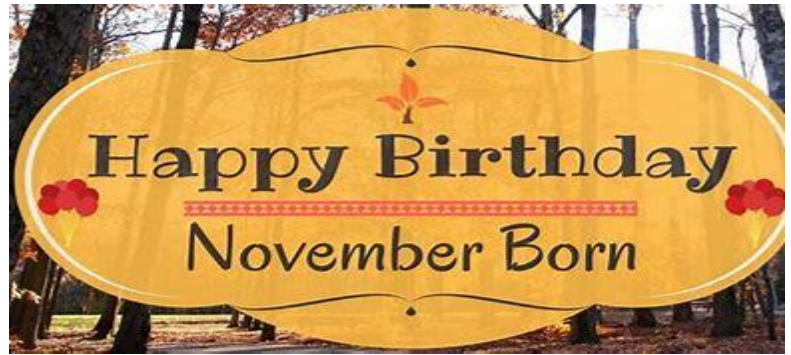


So that we can keep our records up-to-date, contact the church office if you have a change to your personal contact information.

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.



Blessings to all on their special day!



Phil Elam	November 2
Caleb Lenz	November 3
Katie Huenecke	November 5
Jean Swearingen	November 6
Mitchell Huenecke	November 8
Jessica Panko	November 12
Jacob Morrell	November 15
Beth Ann Kommenich	November 26
Gordon Home	November 30



Our readers would enjoy seeing pictures of you events, vacations, and holidays that you would like to share.

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



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, everyone, for your generosity!

LOL for Thanksgiving





TRY THESE RECIPES!



Corn Soufflé

Ingredients:

- 1/2 c. unsalted butter, plus more for greasing
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 jalapeño peppers, stemmed and chopped (seeded, if desired)
- 4 garlic cloves
- 3 c. fresh yellow corn kernels
- 1 (16-oz.) container sour cream
- 1 (14.75-oz.) can creamed corn
- 2 (8 1/2-oz.) boxes corn muffin mix
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp. kosher salt

Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter.

- 2 In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onion, and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 8 minutes. Stir in the jalapeño and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in the corn, and cook until just tender, about 4 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl.

- 3 Add the sour cream, creamed corn, corn muffin mix, eggs, and salt to the onion mixture. Stir until well combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared dish and spread in an even layer.

- 4 Bake until set, puffed in the center, and lightly browned on top, 50 to 60 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.



Mushroom, Spinach, and Brown Rice Loaf

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup brown rice, dry
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 10 ounces cremini mushrooms, stems removed, sliced thin
- 1 tablespoon fresh tarragon, chopped
- 6 ounces fresh spinach
- 3 ounces sun dried tomatoes, chopped
- 4 eggs, whisked
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons vegetable broth


INSTRUCTIONS: Preheat oven to 400F. Cook rice according to package instructions. Set aside. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add onions and cook until translucent. Stir in garlic and celery and season with salt and pepper. Cook until vegetables are soft, about 5 minutes.

Add in mushrooms and tarragon and cook until mushrooms release their juices and the liquid evaporates, about 5 more minutes. Add in spinach and cook until wilted. Stir in sun dried tomatoes, then remove from heat and let cool slightly.

In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, mustard, and broth. Add in vegetable mixture and rice and stir to combine.

Generously grease a loaf pan with olive oil. Pour in vegetable mixture and smooth to flat with a spatula. Bake for 40-45 minutes, until edges are nicely browned. Let cool slightly, then run a knife along edges and flip onto platter.

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	2 7:00 PM Yoga	3	4
5 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School & Fellowship 5:00 PM Evening Worship	6 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	7	8 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	9 7:00 PM Yoga	10	11
12 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Consecration Sunday Pottuck & Planning Meeting Fellowship 5:00 PM Evening Worship	13 1:00 PM Bible Study	14	15 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	16 7:00 PM Yoga	17	18 10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
19 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School & Fellowship 11:30 AM First Aid & AED Training 5:00 PM Evening Worship	20 1:00 PM Bible Study	21	22 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	23 	24	25
26 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship 11:30 AM Board of Deacons Meeting 5:00 PM Meal & Worship	27 1:00 PM Bible Study	28	29 11:00 AM Chair Yoga in the Gym	30 7:00 PM Yoga		

NOVEMBER 2023



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DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

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Hickory Hills, IL 60457**