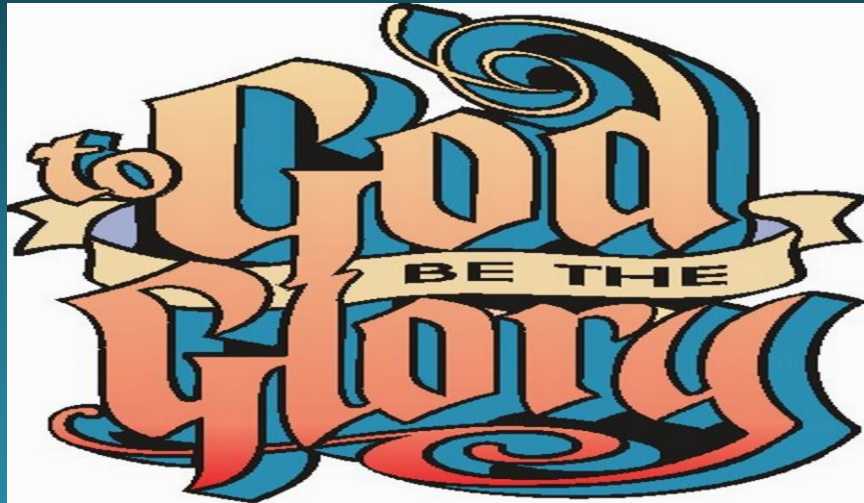


THE CONNECTING LINK

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-MAY 2024

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 www.hickoryhillspres.org.

- Evening Worship on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. (*until May 5*)

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

Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev. Edie Lenz, Pastor

It is no accident that Easter arrives along with the season of spring. There is something sacred about the earth coming to life again as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Spring brings with it longer and warmer days, signs of rebirth and new life. For many of us spring also brings about a season of clearing out, cleaning, and grappling with the clutter that has accumulated over the past season or two (or more). Maybe you have already been working at clearing out as a part of your Lenten practices. Maybe you just always go through a few things at the start of a season. Maybe the preparation for the Indoor Yard Sale is just deeply ingrained in your habits. Clearing away, making space, and seeking to declutter can also be tools of faith. Generosity, openness, and a spirit of service we know are all qualities of faith that we seek to emulate. But the clearing out our physical spaces can be echoed in clearing out space in our hearts and minds. Clearing away the cobwebs and clutter in the attic can also be a clearing out of the clutter in our minds. Making room, opening things up a bit can be a gift to God as we seek to make a little more space in our hearts for Jesus. This kind of clearing and cleaning requires just as much, if not more intention, than our spring cleaning at home.

What is cluttering your heart and mind in this season? Maybe there are old hurts and wounds that you are still tending that have not yet healed the way you need them to. Maybe there is some broken relationship that still eats at you, something you want to repair, or wish had ended differently that you just can't seem to move on from. Maybe there is an area of guilt or

shame you are carrying around; you know you should turn it over and let it go, but you just can't quite do it. Perhaps you have a habit or a tendency that you want to get rid of, move on from that holds more power over you than you want to admit. All of these are possible areas of clearing, healing, cleaning that are not as easy as a closet clean-out but are far more life giving.

As we shift from the Lenten season to Easter, I want to invite you to continue to seek life-giving practices of faith, opportunities to grow, moments that God offers that allow us to clear the space, open our hearts, and live a little more aligned with Jesus. We do this by being intentional, choosing to take something on or let something go. We do this through prayer, reading scripture, worship, and other faith-filled practices. As you start boxing up the clutter, choosing what will come to the sale, I want to invite you to be in prayer. Ask God what else should be let go. Ask Jesus to help you to take on that other thing you are avoiding, that next faithful step you need.

As we prepare for spring, as we clear the ground for gardens and our closets for the Indoor Yard Sale, let us also faithfully and intentionally look for ways to make space in our lives, hearts, and minds for the God who loved us so much that he was willing to become one of us, to die for us, to rise for us, and who welcomes and calls us.

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Edie



April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 John 1:1-2:2

Sermon Title: *Resurrection Promises*

April 14

3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon Title: *Children of God*

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Sermon Title: *Living Example*

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 John 4:7-16; John 15:1-8

Sermon Title: *Abiding Love*

Shown here are the theme and Scripture focus for April and May. You can prepare for worship by reading and reflecting on them before Sunday worship.

Join us on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in person or virtually. If you miss a service, they are available on our website at: www.hickoryhillspres.org

May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 John 4:18-21; John 15:9-17

Sermon Title: *Loving One Another*

May 12

7th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53

Sermon Title: *Ascension Sunday*

May 19

Day of Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon Title: *Pentecost Sunday*

May 26

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Romans 8:18-28; John 16:4b-15

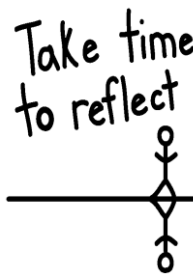
Sermon Title: *Trinity Sunday*

Resurrection is a promise of a new life - one day and today.

How are you choosing to live as a new creation each morning?

What does the hope of resurrection mean for you today?

Our identity is found as children of God, what does this mean for you?



How is your life an example of God's grace and love?

In what ways are you living your faith today – be specific.

Abide means to remain or be in; how are you abiding in God's love?

How are you resting in God's love today?

Tid-bits and Extras



The results from March 2-3, 2024's Feed My Starving Children mobile pack with Feed the Need:

800,928 meals were prepared.
2,194 kids were fed for a year.

Keep your contact information

UPDATED



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.



Thank you to everyone who generously gave during the Souper Sunday, Lenten Suppers, and Easter Sunday Breakfast. The total amount collected was \$1,006.00. This will go a long way towards purchasing staples for the micro-pantry.



FAITH WALKING
making wholeness possible

A new FaithWalking course begins the week of May 7, 2024. I had been invited to attend FaithWalking several times by a dear friend who was just finishing Module 1. I declined because I thought I knew everything I needed to know about myself. However, her invitation was so earnest that I reconsidered and registered for the first module. I have been to many retreats and self-help workshops and seminars; this was very different than anything that I had experienced before. I have not regretted one moment that I spent in FaithWalking. I discovered why I think certain ways and do certain things and it is my choice whether or not I want to change these things. If you have been considering FaithWalking, I strongly encourage it. If you need to know more or have any questions, please see Rev. Edie. Dates and times will be announced.

Barbara Karcz



Just in case you were wondering... the collected bottle caps have been weighed and there is currently a total of 787 pounds. Thank you to all that have contributed!



The following 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, please call the church office at 708-598-3100 or e-mail us at hhpc@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...

Ally (Toni) **Benny** (Toni) **Chris** (Mel) **Danny** (Jeni V) **Diane** (Toni) **Everleigh** (Jeni V) **Fanny** (Molly) **Fran** (Jeni V) **Jaden K** (Toni) **Jay** (Susan F) **Jerry** (Toni) **Jill R** (Jeni V) **Joe R** (Jeni V) **Kathy & Jim** (Jeni V) **Kristen** (Charlie) **Lori** (Deb) **Lori** (Evelyn G) **Mary** (Liz) **Mike & Suzanne** (Sandy B) **Raymond** (Diane C) **Rick & Ruth S** (Jeni V) **Joyce** (Renee M) **Pat** (Renee M) **Lois** (Darlene D) **Dave** (Renee M) **Sam** (Debbie Z) **Drew** (Evelyn) **Bernie** (Debbie) **Jason** (Peggy) **Sandy** (Susan) **Sharon S** (Debbie) **Ann** (Debbie H) **Steve & Dawn** (Jen) **Karen G** (Grace) **Jaden Maria** (Debbie)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH...

Anne C (Deb H) **Bill** (Bernie) **Bob D** (Dave D) **Bob M** (Grace M) **Carrie** (Deb H) **Cindy** (Deb Z) **David D** (Karen G) **Dee & Joel** (Jeni V) **Don & family** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Wilda D) **Esther E** (Grace M) **Jen** (Debbie H) **Katie & Joe Kevin** (Cheryl) **Landon** (Jeni V) **Lisa E** (Grace) **Lucy** (Wanda M) **Mike B** (Jeni V) **Natalie** (Bernie) **Patti & Randy** (Jeni V) **Pete** (Esther) **Savannah** (Darlene) **Stacy** (Deb) **Toni Valentine** (Doral) **Wanda M** (Jeni V) **Francie** (Karen G) **Rae** (Karen G) **Loretta** (Wanda) **Jessica** (Susan) **Kaitlyn** (Kim) **Susie** (Raymond)

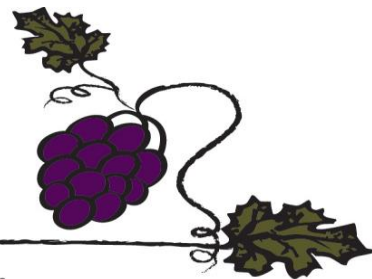
WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

Ada S (Susan) **Bruce & Kathie & family** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Diane C) **Georgene** (Jeni V) **Rich's Family** (Tom M) **Barbara** (Evelyn) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Mary** (Debbie) **Freight Family-death of Elmer** (Rick) **Fisher Family death of Artie** (Rev. Edie)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Dali, Alinafe, Yankho (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Raymond** (Rev. Edie) **Chris**

Discipleship



“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” JOHN 15:8

Discipleship Report *by Jean Swearingen*

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church's (HHPC) Discipleship Committee has been very busy. We like to stay active and are most happy when the rest of you are also busy. We complete very little without assistance from you.

Souper Sunday held on 2/11/24 occurred with assistance from our soup chefs, those who set-up, servers, clean-up crew and those who support through prayer and finances. Discipleship also is appreciative of all free-will donations received. Free-will offerings throughout our February/March activities are directed, in collaboration with Missions, toward support of HHPC's Micro Pantry.

Three days after Souper Sunday, HHPC began journeying through the **Lenten Season**. Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day this year. We commemorated with invited guests from Faith United Presbyterian Church. More soup! More fellowship!

Wednesdays have continued to be evenings of meeting for soup and lessons to feed the soul. Free-will offerings from the **Lenten Soup Suppers** will also be used to support HHPC's Micro Pantry. Free-will offerings have been cash and have been used to purchase items to be placed in the Micro Pantry. All who attended the Lenten Suppers enjoyed a great variety of soups throughout the weeks. Our soup cooks have stretched their imaginations and we have benefited from new and established recipes.

The Discipleship Committee thank ALL who helped with Lent. The sign-up was filled each week with happy participants. The next sign-up was for **Easter Sunday Breakfast**. It too filled up with very little concern. YOU ARE ALL AMAZING! Easter is early this year, occurring March 31, 2024. Thank you to all who joined us. Pictures will be in the June issue of the Connecting Link.

Our **Youth and Children's Sunday School** will be held on the first and third Sundays, April 7, 2024, and April 21. We will also have Sunday School on the first Sunday of May and May 21.

Bible Study continues to meet on Mondays at 1pm. The group is finishing 2 Samuel and heading into 1 Kings. Lots of questions arise. Some have easy answers. Most do not. Join us!

Recognition Sunday will be held on May 5, 2024, during our 10am service. We will recognize our graduates and all who have helped support us through the year. The Discipleship Committee will be in charge of Fellowship.

Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Thursday, June 10-13, 2024, 6:30pm – 8:30pm. **CAMP FIRELIGHT!** Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

Round Our Church

Recent events at HHPC



Lenten Soup Suppers Feeding Body & Soul



Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, Mother's Day 2024 falls on Sunday, May 12. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards, and other gifts.

Proverbs 1:8b-9 -

...Forsake not your mother's teachings, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the Lord, **she shall be praised.**

Happy Mother's Day



Evelyn Garlic	April 6
Grace Muszynski	April 8
Josh Treccani	April 10
Tucker Treccani	April 10
Kelly Bredlau	April 14
Wanda McIlvoy	April 15
Veronica Swindle	April 23
Michael Dragas	April 24
Stacy Flynn-Brenz	April 25
Kirsten Elam	April 28



Myrnalyn Delalamon	May 3
Luz Korzeniewski	May 10
Carol Sack	May 10
Wilda Duncan	May 11
Greg Majersky	May 26
Karen Golema	May 29

HHPC UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Join US

Community
Meal

HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL
MONDAY, ARIL 1, 2024
MONDAY, MAY 6
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

*If you would like to help at this meal, please
see Debbie Zimmerman or Evelyn Garlic.*

We appreciate you!

INDOOR YARD

SALE

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
2024 Indoor Yard Sale

Thursday, May 16 9:00 a. m. – 7:00 p. m.
Friday, May 17 9:00 a. m. – 7:00 p. m.
Saturday May 18 9:00 a. m. – 1:00 p. m.

Donations will be accepted beginning April 1.
Call the church for drop offs: 708 598 3100

**We will NOT be accepting: Clothing,
Pianos, Mattresses, T. V. s, Knife Sets, or
China Cabinets**

**RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

**May 5, 2024, during the 10:00
a.m. service, we will honor our
graduates and all those who
support us throughout the
year. A fellowship time will
follow the service.**



Vacation Bible School
CAMP FIRELIGHT
June 10-13, 2024
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



A Deeper Look into Handel's Messiah

By Greg Rolla

Handel's *Messiah* is probably one of the most popular musical works of the 18th century that exceeds history. Written by George Frederic Handel in 1741, it is a music adaptation of the life of Christ. The text was compiled from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742, and made its London premiere in 1743. There are 53 movements (or sections) in three parts. It is written for SATB (short for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) choir and solo performance with accompaniment of 2 trumpets, timpani drum, 2 oboes, 2 violins, viola, and double bass. The work is an oratorio: it resembles an opera but lacks characters or any drama.

Part I begins with the prophecies of Isaiah and others and processed to the *annunciation to the shepherds*. It is the only scene taken from the Gospels.

Part II expresses the *Passion of Christ* and ends with the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Part III covers Paul's teachings on the *resurrection of the dead* and *Christ's glory in heaven*.



I believe that Handel was inspired by God to write this work. I say that because it took him only 24 days to compose it with little sleep or sustenance. He did borrow some of the melodies from previous operas but transformed these into a musical treasure.

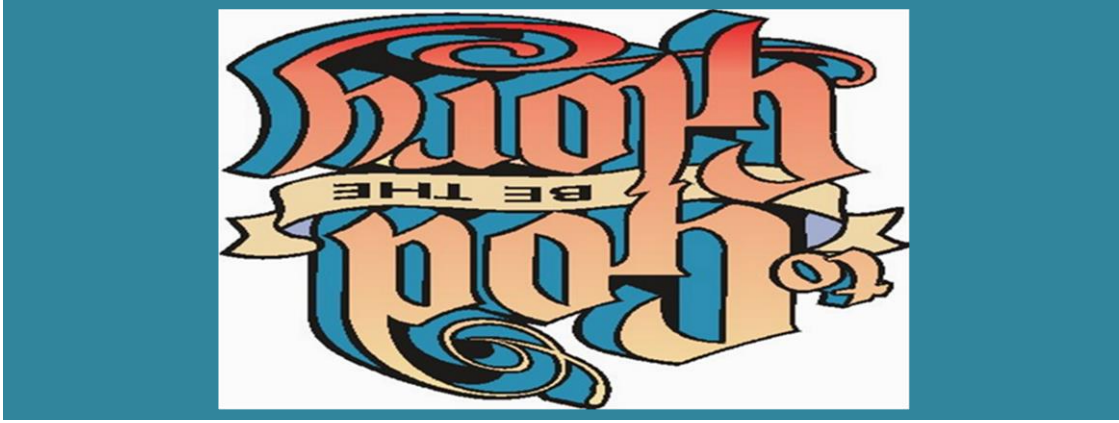
Messiah became more popular after Handel's death. Orchestras and choirs became bigger. Today we even have performances of "do it yourself" *Messiahs*.

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	2	3 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	4 7:00 PM Yoga	5	6 10:00 AM Clean-out Day
7 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School & Fellowship 5:00 PM Evening Worship	8 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	9	10 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	11 7:00 PM Yoga	12	13
14 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 5:00 PM Evening Worship	15 1:00 PM Bible Study	16	17 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	18 7:00 PM Yoga	19	20 10:00 AM Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
21 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School 11:00 AM Planning & Potluck 5:00 PM Evening Worship	22 1:00 PM Bible Study	23	24 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	25 7:00 PM Yoga	26	27
28 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:00 AM Deacon's Meeting 5:00 PM Evening Meal	29 1:00 PM Bible Study	30				

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00 AM Morning Worship Recognition Sunday; Sunday School & Fellowship 5:00 PM Evening Worship <i>Final Celebration!</i>	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, Fellowship	13 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	14	15 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	16 9:00 AM-7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale 7:00 PM Yoga	17 9:00 AM-7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	18 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale
19 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Sunday School & Fellowship		21	22 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	23 7:00 PM Yoga	24	25
26 10:00 AM Morning Worship & Fellowship	27	28	29 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	30 7:00 PM Yoga	31	



2024

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