

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.



JUNE 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.

CONTACT US

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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A Letter from Rev. Edie



Rev Edie Lenz, Pastor

As REV has now come to an end, it is important to wonder: what is the legacy of REV, what is the DNA of REV, what might need to come next in the life of the congregation to intentionally continue some of what has been most important over the years? From what I can see, much of what mattered most about REV infuses HHPC. Did REV happen because of your values, how has the congregation been changed over the last 17 years? These questions I cannot answer in full, but I want to share with you some of what I observe, some are new, some you have heard me saying for a long time.

HHPC is a congregation who loves deeply and cares for one another well, relationships are a central part of who you are.

HHPC is a congregation that warmly welcomes those who come through our doors. While we are not always as active out in the neighborhood, those coming through the doors are welcomed with respect and dignity.

HHPC is infused with people who connect around tables and shared meals. This is not just something we do because we like to eat, it is something reflective of how Jesus met people and spent time. HHPC is a church that understands the sacred space of shared meals.

HHPC is a tenacious people, you are determined, occasionally “stiff-necked” and stubborn. This value has meant that even when things are hard, even when you

are without a pastor, even when things got rocky, you were determined to find a way forward, to keep walking the road by faith, even if you couldn’t see where it was taking you.

HHPC is a creative congregation, open to taking on challenges that look far bigger than our small congregation. You know that together you can do more than any one individual and over and over you have come together with a vision to do something extraordinary; REV was just one of the many things you have done.

You have been through a lot. You have sustained difficult pastors, losses of beloved members of the community, the challenges of pandemic, a changing world, just to name a very few things. You have changed, adapted, morphed, and continued to become who you are today. You cling tenaciously to the belief centered in who you are: “We are called to Seek God’s word, to Share and Celebrate God’s love, and to Serve Jesus Christ in the world.” I do not claim to have a clear understanding of God’s call, but I am convinced that God has plans for you; perhaps they are plans we have not yet imaged but there is work to be done here, now, in this place and next door.

(cont’d on the next page)

I also want to acknowledge a general fatigue in the congregation. You are tired, you work hard, play hard, do hard work. As a people you have been “punching above your weight” for quite a while. I know that since the spring of 2020 we have let go of a lot of programs and ministries, we have seen the departure of two of our building partners, stopped doing things that at one time were deeply vital to the life of the church. It is also true that we have not started a lot of new things; this also has been intentional, the fatigue and burnout you have felt is real; there is a need for Sabbath, for recovery, for rest – and while some days you might feel guilty for resting, it is biblical that we would take regular time for rest, celebration, and recovery.

As I look at HHPC today I am drawn back to Jesus’ conversation with his disciples in John 15, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit... Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

As we enter the summer, a season that tends to be quieter around the church, I encourage you to rest. Come and be with one another but don’t feel like you need to do things. Come and eat, come and fellowship, come and pray but also come to be. To be in the presence of the one who created us, the one who calls us; the one who knows the plans that are laid out for us even before we can begin to see. It will be time soon to wonder what next, what else but for now it is enough that we are who God made us to be. It is enough. You are enough. We are enough.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Edie



REV Worship

November 12, 2006–
May 5, 2024

Memory Book

These books are now available. If you would like one please let Rev Edie or Barb Karcz know.



Shown here are the theme and Scripture focus for June. 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

<p>June 2 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Isa 6:1-8, Luke 11:1-4, 9-13 Sermon Title: <i>Our Father...Holy is Your Name</i></p>	<p>June 9 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Revelation 22:1-7, Matt 16:24-28 Sermon Title: <i>Your Kingdom Come, On Earth as in Heaven</i></p>
<p>June 16 4th Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Exodus 16:9-15, 31, 35; Matthew 6:25-34 Sermon Title: <i>Give Us Bread for Today</i></p>	<p>June 23 5th Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Rom 14:7-12; Matthew 18:21-35 Sermon Title: <i>Forgive Us, As We Forgive</i></p>
<p>June 30 6th Sunday after Pentecost Readings: Ephesians 6:10-17; Mark 8:27-33 Sermon Title: <i>Lead Us Not Into Temptation</i></p>	

In June and July we are going to be exploring the words, the meaning, the purpose of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. We pray the Lord's Prayer weekly and to end most of our meetings; but what do these words we know so well mean?

As you reflect on the Lord's Prayer, is there a phrase that means more to you than the rest? Why?

Is there a part of the prayer you struggle with or do not quite understand?



Take time each week to reflect just on the phrase of the week.

- * What do these words mean to you?
- * What do you wish you understood more or felt more deeply?
- * How have you lived this piece of the prayer? How are you living it today?

1 Thessalonians 5:16

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING...

Ally (Toni) **Benny** (Toni) **Bob** (Edie) **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) **Lois** (Darlene D) **Sam** (Debbie Z) **Drew** (Evelyn) **Jason** (Peggy) **Sandy** (Susan) **Sharon S** (Debbie) **Ann** (Debbie H) **Steve & Dawn** (Jen) **Karen G** (Grace) **Maria** (Debbie) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Marg** (Bernie) **Dianne** (Debbie Z) **John** (Cindy) **Devin** (Barb K) **Janeth** (Barb K) **Chi** (Barb K) **Melissa** (Charles S) **Millie** (Toni) **Valentine** (Doral) **Jaden**

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) **Savannah** (Darlene) **Stacy** (Deb) **Wanda M** (Jeni V) **Francie** (Karen G) **Loretta** (Wanda) **Jessica** (Susan) **Kaitlyn** (Kim) **Norman** (Ashley) **Millie** (Toni) **Sarah** (Barb K) **Janice** (Katie)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

Ada S (Susan) **Doris** (Diane C) **Barbara** (Evelyn) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Mary** (Debbie) **Susie** (Raymond) **Marilyn's Family** (Darlene) **Hanson Family** (Rick) **Georgene's Family** (Jeni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Dali, Alinafe, Yankho (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Chris**

The Musicians Corner

Thank you - Greg Rolla

THANK YOU!

The first Sunday in June marks my 10th year as music Director of HHPC. I want to sincerely thank this congregation for having faith in me to carry out this particular ministry. It has meant so much to me! Very seldom does one experience a group of people who consistently lift each other up by prayer and work and constant charity. For almost 50 years I have served as choir/bell/organist/pianist and director for a number of Christian denominations. This one has intimately touched my heart. I have been both happy and content to be here. God willing I will continue this ministry to you.

Again, thank you for believing in me.



HHPC UPCOMING EVENTS



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

JULY - NO COMMUNITY MEAL

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

We appreciate you!

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Presents:

CAMP FIRELIGHT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday June 10 – Thursday June 13, 2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Your children will: Listen to Bible Stories; Make Crafts; Play Games, Enjoy Music, Make New Friends, Eat a Delicious Snack, and Have Great Fun!

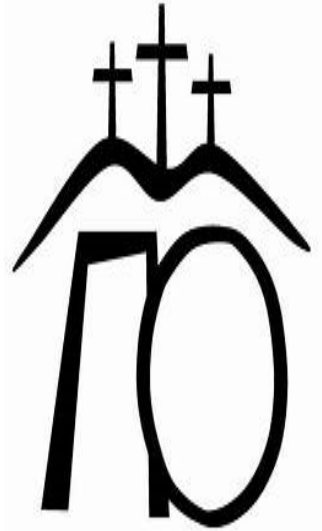
To Register on or before June 10:

- * **Call the Church Office—
708 598 3100**
- * **“Message us” online @
[www.hickoryhillspres.org/
contact/](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org/contact/)**
- * **Sign up on the day the
program begins**

**FOR ALL CHILDREN
AGES 4-12! And
the Program is FREE!**



Easter Breakfast Celebration at HHPC



Easter Breakfast Celebration at HHPC P. 2





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
HARD WORK
AND
DEDICATION



INDOOR YARD SALE



Origins of Father's Day

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, WA, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day>



Brittany Brown	June 7
Amanda Swindle	June 12
Cheryl Huenecke	June 14
Alvin Swearingen	June 14
Albert Netter	June 16
Doral Pavlicek	June 19
Megan Zimmerman	June 23
Linda Lavaretto	June 27
Hanna Treccani	June 29
Thomas M. Morrell	June 29



Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



more awesome pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM



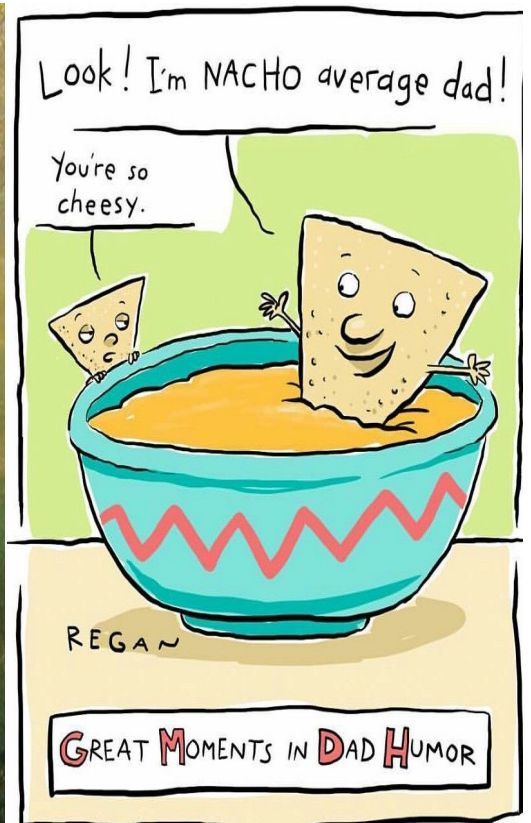
They say that

what doesn't kill you
makes you stronger.

At this point,

I should be able
to bench-press a

BUICK.



June 2024

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



2024

The Connecting Link
A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

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Hickory Hills, IL 60457