

# 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 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](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org).

## CONTACT US

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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## VISIT US ONLINE

Website: [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



## INSIDE...

|                                                 |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Invitation to Caleb Lenz's Eagle Scout Ceremony | 2     |
| Letter from Rev. Edie                           | 3,4   |
| Worship Readings, Sermons, Reflections          | 5     |
| Prayer Requests                                 | 6     |
| Vacation Bible School Pictures                  | 7-10  |
| Coming up at HHPC                               | 11    |
| Mission Report                                  | 12    |
| Discipleship Report                             | 13    |
| Time to Laugh                                   | 14    |
| July, August Birthdays                          | 15    |
| July, August Calendars                          | 16,17 |



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
BY TROOP 50 TO ATTEND THE  
EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR FOR

*Caleb Michael Lenz*

SUNDAY AUGUST 11, 2024 3:00 P.M.  
LOCKPORT VFW HALL  
1026 E 9TH ST LOCKPORT IL



LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



HHPC - thank you for all your help with my Eagle Project! I want to invite you to celebrate at my Eagle Ceremony on August 11; if you are coming please RSVP to my mom via email or text before July 20. Thank you for all your support!

Caleb Lenz, Eagle Scout

## A Letter from Rev. Edie



*Rev Edie Lenz, Pastor*

It has been a VERY busy first half of the year here at HHPC. Lent came early and we began our Soup Suppers right on the heels of Souper Sunday. This was quickly followed by Easter and the mammoth preparations for the Indoor Yard Sale. Just last week we had a blast with 24 kids participating in Vacation Bible School. (whew) It has been not just a busy, active season it has been a busy, active half a year. By contrast, it has been a very quiet week here at HHPC.

Sometimes, when things get quiet I get suspicious; something must be about to happen. Sometimes I feel disconcerted, there must be something I am supposed to be doing. Sometimes I am guilty of looking for something, anything to fill the stillness and quiet. But rarely when things get quiet do I simply take a deep breath and appreciate what I have, where I am and all that has been done. I suspect that more than a few of you are like me; struggling a little when space is created, unsure of what we are supposed to *DO* in the stillness. Rarely do I slow down and consider the possibility that God could be inviting me into rest.

This summer, I want to invite you into the quiet, into the stillness, into a month (or so) of Sabbath rest. Sabbath for some people brings up reminders of days gone by when everything was closed on Sunday. For others it is a reminder of the command to rest. Sabbath is a command, but the emphasis is not on requirement but on Sabbath as a good gift from a good God. Sabbath was gifted to God's people from the very beginning of creation. We are told that for six days, God labored to create the heavens and the earth and all that is in it; the capstone of

God's creating was humanity. "And on the seventh day, God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day." The culmination then of God's work is rest. Something I had never really considered before, until listening to an episode of the Leader's Journey podcast (link is below if you want to hear it), was that the first thing human beings do in creation is *rest*. It is God who rests from work; it is humans who are given the gift of rest as the very first day after they are created.

Jesus reminds us, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath." A day of rest, a time of stillness, down time to relax is a gift of God for the people of God. For all our hurry, hustle, and activity we often forget the small, still voice of God inviting us to sit, be still, listen, just be in the presence of a God who loves us. The reality is that few of us take sabbath the way it was intended. We rush about, work hard, and when weekends or days off come, we use them to catch up on all the other things we haven't gotten done. It is an urgency born of proving our worth, being productive, having a culture that insists that our value is to be found in our earning, our worth in what we produce.

But God does not need us to produce more, do more, cross off one more thing on the list (no matter how satisfying it is). God wants our very selves, to be in relationship, to be open hearted and open handed, to be willing to risk waiting, resting, and inviting others to do the same.

*(continued on the next page)*

July will be a quiet month at HHPC. Of course we will worship, study, fellowship and eat - but I hope you will also allow this month without events and programs to be a time of rest, a time to be restored, a gift from God for God's people. We will get moving soon, there will be much to do in the coming months, but for now what would it mean for you to simply be in worship, be in relationship, to be at rest? Will you encourage or offer this gift of rest to another?

Sabbath rest stands in sharp contrast to our need to be productive; sabbath is a reminder that we do not make the world go around. If we stop, it will not all fall apart, in fact, if we stop for a while it will likely all still be there again tomorrow. I would also encourage you to seek a regular practice of sabbath, if not a day of rest in a week, at least a carved intentional time for connection to other people and to God, without an agenda or a to do list attached to it.

“Jesus said, Come to me all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke up on you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” *Matthew 11:28-29*

Here is the link to the podcast I referenced:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-leaders-journey-podcast/id1369304020?i=1000629718292>

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Edie





Shown here are the theme and Scripture focus for July and August. 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](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)

**July 7**

7th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Isa 43:1-7, John 17:15-21

**Sermon Title:** *Deliver Us From Evil*

**July 14**

8th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Revelation 21:1-6, Ephesians 1:3-14

**Sermon Title:** *Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and Glory Forever*

**July 21**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28**

10th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

**August 4**

11th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

**August 11**

12th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2

**August 18**

13th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Proverbs 9:1-6; Ephesians 5:15-21

**August 25**

14th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69



- \* Where do you see God at work in these passages?
- \* Where are you seeing God at work in your life?
- \* As you pray, are you taking time to listen as well as speak to God
- \* What do these passages tell you about who God is?

# Prayer Request

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY WITH YOU

BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING; BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD. AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 KJV

## 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) **Faulk Family** (Diane C)

## 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) **Steve**—loss of wife (Jean) **Katie B**—loss of her sister **Bill's Family**—loss of Bill (Susan) **Wednesday** - Youth, loss of her Mom (Edie)

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

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

# Vacation Bible School 2024



VBS 2024 Camp Firelight was a great success! Thank you to all the volunteers that worked for weeks before, during VBS, and all who cleaned up afterwards. Everyone had a great time with the crafts, games, and the food. There were 24 kids in attendance and 29 volunteers. WOW! Thank you especially to Dianne Flynn for serving as our VBS director, and for Bernie's photographic genius. And a special thank you to all who attended.



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# Vacation Bible School 2024





# Vacation Bible School 2024





# Upcoming Events @ HHPC



## **HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL JULY - NO COMMUNITY MEAL**

**MONDAY AUGUST 5**

**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!*

*You're Invited to an*  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



**DATE:** July 14, 2024

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** HHPC Fellowship Hall

**R.S.V.P.:** Sign-up Sheet or  
[hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)

COME JOIN OUR

# BIBLE

## Study

**Monday Afternoons**

**@ 1:00 PM**

**HHPC Fellowship Hall**

# You're Invited

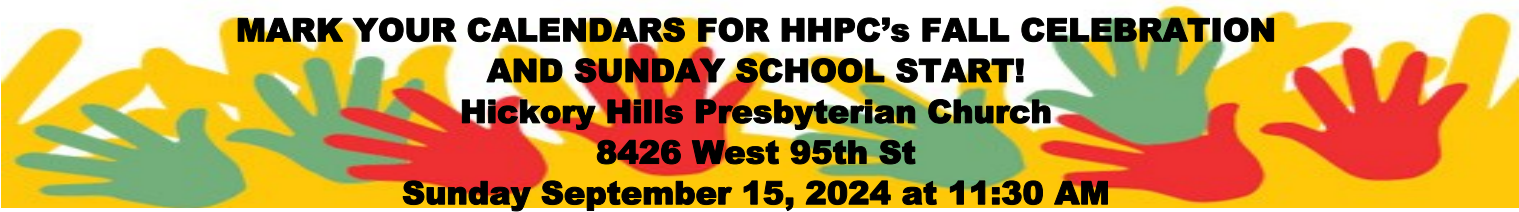
to our Fall Sunday School  
Kick-off

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HHPC's FALL CELEBRATION  
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL START!**

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church**

**8426 West 95th St**

**Sunday September 15, 2024 at 11:30 AM**





# MISSION MINISTRY

Making disciples of all nations

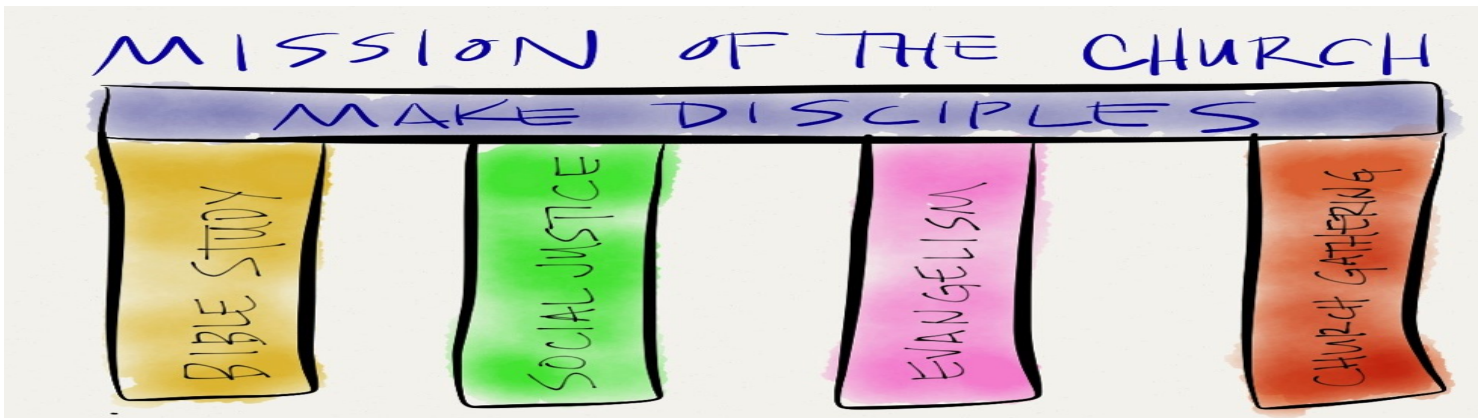
Mission Committee Report

Dave Delaney

The annual indoor yard sale was a great success, raising just under \$8,000. We sold a great deal of what was donated. But there was even more left over that did not sell. On Monday, May 20 we loaded the truck from Hearts In Motion with as much as they could take. An additional donation was made to the Salvation Army. What was left went to a group called Pass It On. They support Christian schools on the southwest suburban area.

On June 1 eight people associated with our church went to the Aurora facility of FMSC. The total number of boxes packed during the session we attended was 155, or a total of 33480 meals. Our team, and the one next to them, packed 49 boxes, nearly 1/3 of the total. These meals have already been shipped to Peru and Mozambique. We still want to attend more such sessions before the end of the year.

Over the years we have participated in many events at the Colbert Jones Memorial Center in Chicago Heights. For 30 of those years we had the pleasure of working with Cheryl Roop. But as of May 30 Cheryl retired, we will miss her. In her place Juana Morales has been named as interim director. Juana is a long time employee and is familiar with the whole operation. Our plans are to support the Jones Center as we have in past years.



Discipleship Committee Report  
Jean Swearingen

Your Discipleship workers hope you are enjoying your summer. We ended our Sunday School year with Recognition Sunday on May 5, 2024. Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) recognized two graduates; Haley Netter from 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Jacob Morell with a Bachelor degree. We wish both great success! We also offer THANKS to ALL who help throughout the year to make our HHPC events complete. God Bless You for sharing your Time and Talents.



We began planning immediately after Recognition Sunday (actually before) for Vacation Bible School (VBS). We thank Dianne Flynn for overseeing our 2024 VBS – Camp Firelight. We passed out flyers and had visual advertisement during HHPC’s Inside Yard Sale. We advertised in local news media, through Hickory Hill’s Chamber of Commerce and on our church marquee.

Thank You to ALL who helped with VBS planning, set-up, skits, lessons, games, crafts and snacks. You will find VBS pictures in this newsletter.

A reminder of Bible Study, which resumed meeting on Monday, June 17. All are welcome. Bible Study meets every Monday at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

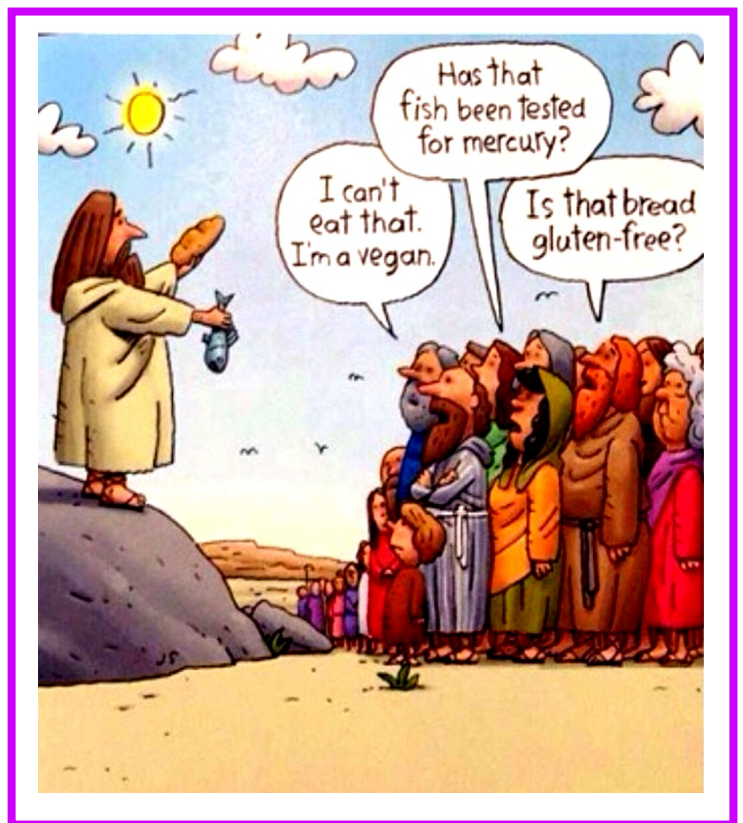
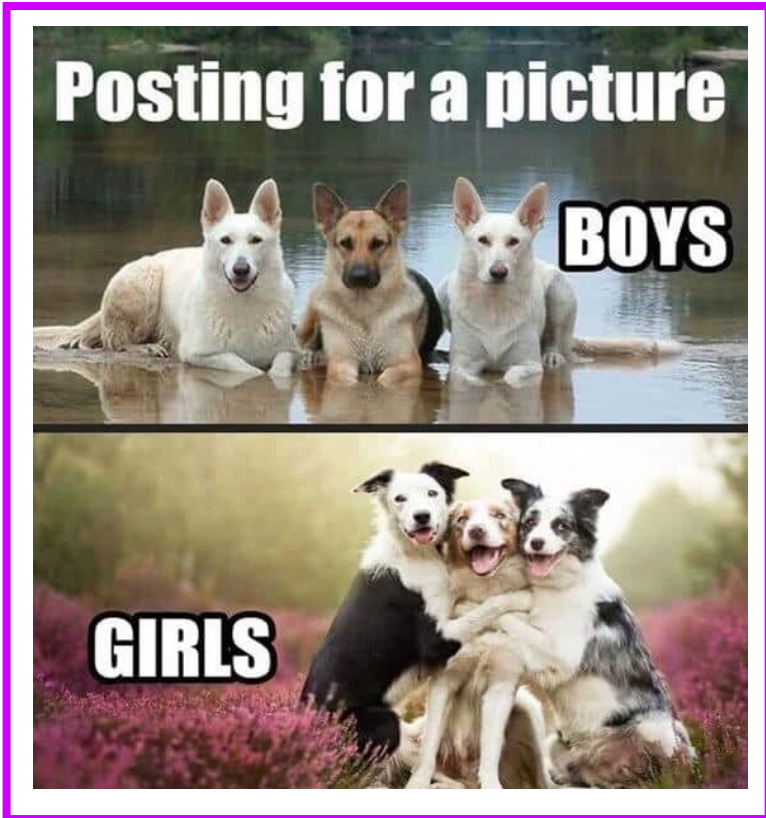
Your Discipleship workers are using July and August to begin planning for our 24-25 Church/Sunday School year. Some dates to look forward to . . .

Sunday, September 15 – Fall Fest / Sunday School begins

Sunday, October 27 – Trunk or Treat

# Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4





|                    |        |                  |         |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|---------|
| Amelia Huenecke    | July 1 | Jarett Ambrosat  | July 21 |
| Mike Korzeniewski  | July 3 | Kyle Ambrosat    | July 21 |
| Robert Swindle     | July 4 | Dianne Flynn     | July 22 |
| Toni Kenealy       | July 6 | Diane Ciametti   | July 23 |
| Gabriella Ciametti | July 7 | Justin Rellinger | July 23 |
| Bernie Roche       | July 9 | Cindy Treccani   | July 27 |



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|                      |          |                    |           |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Anthony Lavaretto    | August 1 | Molly Netter       | August 9  |
| Susan Beal Frangella | August 2 | Barb Karcz         | August 13 |
| Jeni Vogl            | August 2 | Lorenza Swearingen | August 13 |
| Shannon Bastien      | August 3 | Abigail Rellinger  | August 23 |

# July 2024

| Sunday                                                                   | Monday                                                              | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                | Friday | Saturday                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          | 1                                                                   | 2       | 3<br> | 4<br> | 5      | 6                                                         |
| 7<br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship                | 8<br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study<br><br><b>7:30 PM</b><br>Session | 9       | 10<br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga                                                    | 11<br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional<br>Yoga                                             | 12     | 13                                                        |
| 14<br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship—<br>Ice Cream | 15<br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                 | 16      | 17<br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga                                                    | 18<br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional<br>Yoga                                             | 19     | 20                                                        |
| 21<br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship               | 22<br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                 | 23      | 24<br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga                                                    | 25<br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional<br>Yoga                                             | 26     | 27<br><b>10:00 AM-</b><br>Evelyn's<br>Cardmaking<br>Class |
| 28<br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship               | 29<br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                 | 30      | 31<br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga                                                    |                                                                                         |        |                                                           |



# August 2024

| Sunday                                                                                          | Monday                                                          | Tuesday | Wednesday                    | Thursday                             | Friday | Saturday                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                 |                                                                 |         |                              | 1<br>7:00 PM<br>Traditional<br>Yoga  | 2      | 3                                                  |
| 4<br>10:00 AM<br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship<br>11:30 AM<br>All<br>Committees<br>Meetings | 5<br>1:00 PM<br>Bible Study<br><br>5:30 PM<br>Community<br>Meal | 6       | 7<br>11:00 AM<br>Chair Yoga  | 8<br>7:00 PM<br>Traditional<br>Yoga  | 9      | 10                                                 |
| 11<br>10:00 AM<br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship                                             | 12<br>1:00 PM<br>Bible Study                                    | 13      | 14<br>11:00 AM<br>Chair Yoga | 15<br>7:00 PM<br>Traditional<br>Yoga | 16     | 17                                                 |
| 18<br>10:00 AM<br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship                                             | 19<br>1:00 PM<br>Bible Study                                    | 20      | 21<br>11:00 AM<br>Chair Yoga | 22<br>7:00 PM<br>Traditional<br>Yoga | 23     | 24<br>10:00 AM-<br>Evelyn's<br>Cardmaking<br>Class |
| 25<br>10:00 AM<br>Morning<br>Worship,<br>Fellowship                                             | 26<br>1:00 PM<br>Bible Study                                    | 27      | 28<br>11:00 AM<br>Chair Yoga | 29<br>7:00 PM<br>Traditional<br>Yoga | 30     | 31                                                 |



2024

**The Connecting Link**  
*A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457