

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.

## 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)

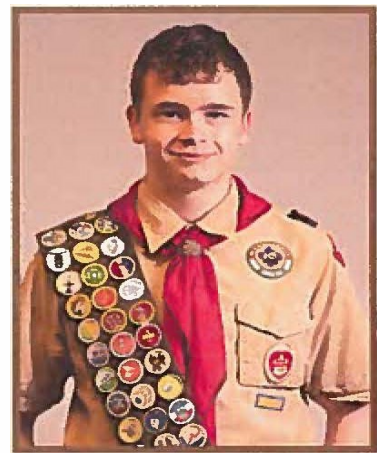
Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2024



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Thank you for coming to my Eagle Ceremony. It was a huge moment, and I am glad I was able to share it with others! It means a lot to me to have so much support.

I appreciate the generosity of those who gave of their time and gifts. I can't stress enough just how meaningful it is to have people who understand how big of a moment this was.

Getting the Eagle rank is probably the most difficult and most rewarding thing I've ever done. I am glad that I was able to share this moment with all of you!

## Caleb Lenz



## A Letter from Rev. Edie

This past Friday ABC Chicago ran another story on the loneliness epidemic sweeping our country. This is not a new story, in the wake of 2020, but even before there were growing concerns about isolation, disconnection, and “false intimacy”. What researchers and mental health providers have been warning us over and over again is that our society is more and more isolated, less and less meaningfully connected; this leads to a host of mental health and potentially physical ailments as time goes on. Essentially, though we can connect through devices and screens to anyone, anywhere in the world in a moment; this is not the same as meaningful connection. Thousands of followers or “friends” on social media are not the same as meaningful relationships. Human beings are wired for and need meaningful (and face to face) connection to thrive and the two most vulnerable populations are the elderly and teens.

We know this, I have even written about this before, but something about their story struck me in a new way. The focus of this story (the link is at the end if you want to watch it) was on the increase in participation in organizations like running clubs and other gatherings of people for a shared purpose onto which friendships, fellowship, and connection can be added. What struck me as I watched is that THIS is the work of the church throughout history. The church has been and should be a place where different people come together for a common purpose (worship, discipleship, faith) but find within that gathering connections, meaningful relationships, mutual encouragement, and (if I can draw the direct connection) a less lonely existence. I found myself wanting to interrupt the reporter, to say “but we DO that over here.” But of course, you can’t do that on a news snippet. But also, it has me wondering, how well DO we do that? And when I wonder about the “we” do I mean HHPC or the church as a whole?



Rev Edie Lenz, Pastor

As I have reflected further, what I know is that I cannot in any meaningful way impact “the church” across North America (I simply don’t have or want that platform). So, I think the “we” I want to wonder with is you. How are you doing with a sense of disconnection or loneliness? How could we as a people do a better job of addressing that for you? What about our neighbors, the strangers who live around the church, the people you’ve lived next door to for years and only even waved at? Are they lonely? How would we begin to know?

HHPC is a congregation that treats one another like a family; HHPC is a congregation that does a good job of welcoming strangers into our community – if they come here first. But I wonder, do our neighbors know they are welcome here? Beyond our beautiful electric sign, how else could we invite neighbors or acquaintances into our gathered community? If loneliness is the epidemic we’re told it is, how can we as God’s people take active steps to bring about a more connected world? What has to change in us? What would need to change in how we do things? Is this something God could be giving us to do? And if so, where and how might we begin to listen to the call of God for our neighbors and those we do not know yet?

Grace and Peace in Christ,

**Rev. Edie**

<https://abc7chicago.com/post/lakeview-run-club-offer-members-ways-stay-fit-foster-connection-find-love/15194872/>



Shown here are the theme and Scripture focus for September. 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)

**September 1**

15th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Sermon Title:** *Fruit from Within*

**September 8**

16th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Mark 7:24-37

**Sermon Title:** *The God Who Sees Us*

**September 15**

17th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Genesis 9:8-17; Matthew 6:25-34

**Sermon Title:** *Psalm 23 Verse 1*

**September 22**

18th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Isaiah 11:1-9; Philippians 4:4-9

**Sermon Title:** *Psalm 23 Verse 2*

**September 29**

19th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:31-35

**Sermon Title:** *Psalm 23 Verse 3*

# PSALM 23

*Join us at 10:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 15, thru Sunday October 20, for a study on Psalm 23*

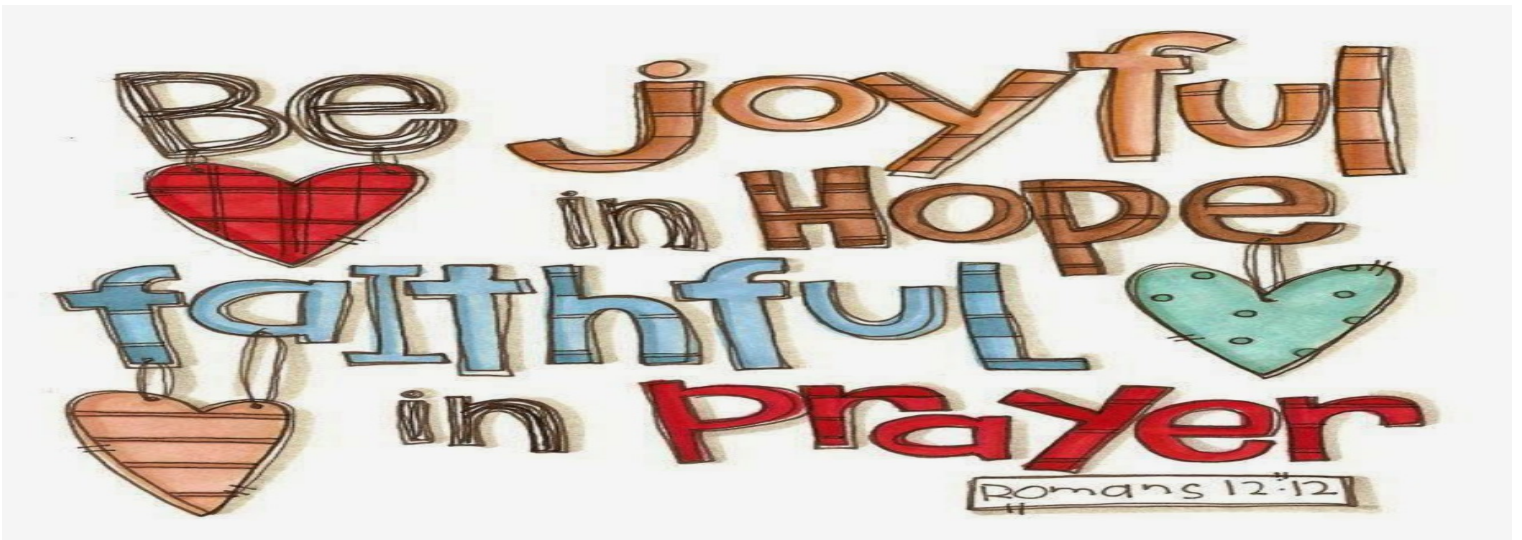


As we enter the fall season at HHPC, I want to invite you to spend some time reflecting on the fruit we bear. We are told by Jesus that what matters most is what comes from our hearts out into the world.

- What is the fruit you are bearing?
- What fruit do you see in others?
- What is the fruit of HHPC?

Beginning in mid-September, we will be embarking on a walk through Psalm 23. In preparation, please take some time to reflect on the words of the Psalm. Read it in a few different translations, what speaks to you?

- What words resonate?
- What words are uncomfortable?
- Why do you suppose this Psalm in particular is so well known and loved?



## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING...

**Ally** (Toni) **Benny** (Toni) **Bernie** (Barb K) **Chris** (Mel) **Christy** (Debbie Z) **Dan** (Evelyn) **Danny** (Jeni V) **Diane** (Toni) **Everleigh** (Jeni V) **Fran** (Jeni V) **Jaden K** (Toni) **Jay** (Susan F) **Jerry** (Toni) **Jill R** (Jeni V) **Kathy & Jim** (Jeni V) **Kristen** (Charlie) **Lori** (Deb) **Lori** (Evelyn G) **Maria's Mom** (Sandy) **Mike & Suzanne** (Sandy B) **Raymond** (Diane C) **Rick & Ruth S** (Jeni V) **Lois** (Darlene D) **Drew** (Evelyn) **Jason** (Peggy) **Sandy** (Susan) **Sharon S** (Debbie) **Steve & Dawn** (Jeni V) **Karen G** (Grace) **Maria** (Debbie) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Marg** (Bernie) **Devin** (Barb K) **Melissa** (Charles S) **Millie** (Toni) **Nancy** (Debbie Z) **Valentina** (Doral) **Cheryl** (Evelyn) **Arlene** (Doral) **Linda** (Wilda) **Mary Jo** (Debbie H) **Kelsey** (Susan) **Billy** (Mel) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary** (Mel) **Robin** (Mel) **Terri C** (Phone Request)

## 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) **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) **Millie** (Toni) **Janice** (Katie) **Faulk Family** (Diane C) **Mary Ann L** (Debbie H) **Jacqui** (Katie) **Mary** (Mel) **Bob** (Edie) **Mike** (Rick) **Kathie** (Jeni V) **Madalynn** (Wanda) **McKenna** (Jeni V) **Kieran** (Jeni V) **Evelyn** (Edie)

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

**Ada S** (Susan) **Doris** (Diane C) **Barbara** (Evelyn) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Mary** (Debbie) **Marilyn's Family** (Darlene) **Steve**—loss of wife (Jean) **Fischer Family**—Loss of Tina's mom & loss of Ray's dad (Edie) **Funk Family**—Death of Robert (Deb H)

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

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

# Discipleship: Becoming More Like **CHRIST**

EPHESIANS 2:10

## WELCOME TO FALL Y'ALL!

The Discipleship committee is busy preparing for September, October and beyond!

### Sunday, September 15, 2024

\*\* FALL FEST and WELCOME! We will be kicking off our school year activities! Fellowship hour follows the morning service. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. A sign-up for side dishes and/or availability to assist with set-up/clean-up is in the east room and awaits your name. Let us know how you can help. Our Fellowship meal will be followed by games for all ages. Ping-Pong, Bags, Giant Jenga, and B-I-N-G-O. (Maybe TWISTER)

\*\* SUNDAY SCHOOL begins for our youth. Sunday School will be held the first and third Sundays of each month. A new curriculum awaits our curious youth.

### Wednesdays, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, & 23

\*\* HARVEST GATHERINGS The first four Wednesdays of October. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. for food, music by Greg, and lessons by Edie. Being Presbyterian, we will have some fun with our food. Plans are being put into place for attendees to enjoy each week as our Session, Deacons, and committees work together to fill our stomachs.

Oct. 2	Taco Bar
Oct. 9	Baked Potato Bar
Oct. 16	Chili Bar
Oct. 23	Pasta Bar

### Sunday, October 27

\*\* TRUNK or TREAT Sunday, October 27, 2024, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.. Rain or Shine! A sign-up sheet will be available beginning September 15. We require a minimum of 8 participants to be registered to participate by October 13 in order for this event to occur. Prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Entry and Best Costume.

### Sunday, December 8

\*\* CHRISTMAS TEA Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.. Mark your calendar!

# Mission in Action

Mission Committee Report  
Dave Delaney

On August 10 several of us participated in a mobile pack for FMSC at Saint Mary's Orthodox Church in Palos Heights. Andrew Witek, a glutton for service, attended the Friday evening session as well as the two sessions on Saturday. A total of 101,088 meals were packed which translates into 217 kids fed for an entire year. Future plans for upcoming FMSC packs include November at Christ Church in Oak Brook (dates and times to be determined) and another Feed The Need on March 1-2 , 2025 (presumably at Illinois Benedictine, times not yet determined).

Plans have been made to attach labels to our supply of prayer shawls and other items. We have over 100 of these items, so get your thread and needles ready. When they are ready they will be delivered to Bella Terra in La Grange. That is where Gert Vickers spent most of her last days.

November brings us to supporting Elsie's pantry. Once again this year we want to provide needed items for this worthwhile endeavor. A list of needed items will be available. At the same time we should not forget our own micro pantry.

We will contact the Jones Center as to what they want from us this year. Two years ago it was blankets and last year it was board games. Items intended for their dime store will be taken to the center at the appropriate time. Arrangements for Breakfast with Santa will be handled through Mission Council 8.



# Musicians Corner

A Church Musician You Should Know—Part 1  
by Greg Rolla

Andrae Crouch (1942-2015) was an American gospel singer, arranger, record producer and pastor. Known as the father of modern gospel music, his best known songs are; “The Blood Will Never Lose it’s Power”, “My Tribute”, and “Soon and Very Soon”. He also collaborated on recordings with popular artists Stevie Wonder, DeBarge, and Chaka Khan. Artists who have recorded his songs include; Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, Barbara Mandrell, Little Richard, Michael Jackson, and Elton John.

Andrae and his twin sister, Sandra, were born in San Francisco to Benjamin and Caterine Crouch. Their father was a minister in the Church of God in Christ in Pacoma, California. His parents later owned both a dry cleaners and a restaurant in Los Angeles. The Crouch’s also had a street preaching ministry and Benjamin worked as chaplain in both a hospital and prison

Andrae was encouraged to learn the piano at an early age and began playing and singing at the age of nine during his father’s church services. At 14 he wrote his first gospel song, “The Blood Will Never Lose its Power”. It was recorded on his first album in 1968, featuring jazz pianist Billy Preston. He appeared with his gospel group “The Disciples” on the Johnny Carson Tonight Show in 1972, and twice at Carnegie Hall in 1975 and 1979.

Crouch had a significant influence on contemporary Christian music during the 1970’s - 1980’s and bridged the gap between black and white Christian music. In 1996 he was honored on the Grammy Award winning CD *Tribute: The Songs of Andrae Crouch*.

Towards the end of his life, he suffered from various health problems. In 2015 he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 72. Crouch never married or had any children. He remained very close to his sister and his family. His songs can be found in hymnals of many Christian denominations throughout the world.





## upcoming events at HHPC



### HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

**2ND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9**

**5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**MONDAY OCTOBER 7**

**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 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**

COME JOIN OUR

# BIBLE



## Study

Monday Afternoons

@ 1:00 PM

HHPC Fellowship Hall

(Not Meeting Labor Day 9/02/24)

YOUR WORD  
I HAVE  
Hidden  
IN MY  
heart  
THAT I MIGHT  
NOT SIN  
against you  
• PSALM 119:11 •

**COMING  
SOON!  
NEW HHPC  
EVENT!**

**OCTOBER  
HARVEST  
SUPPERS**

## HARVEST GATHERINGS

Join us on the first four Wednesdays in October at 6:00 p.m. downstairs in our Fellowship Hall for fellowship and food. All are invited. We will have lessons by Reverend Edie Lenz and music by Greg Rolla. The theme for the fellowship dinners will be “bar” food. See the list below.

Oct. 2	Taco Bar
Oct. 9	Baked Potato Bar
Oct. 16	Chili Bar
Oct. 23	Pasta Bar

*All free will donations will be used to support Elsie's Pantry*

# Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



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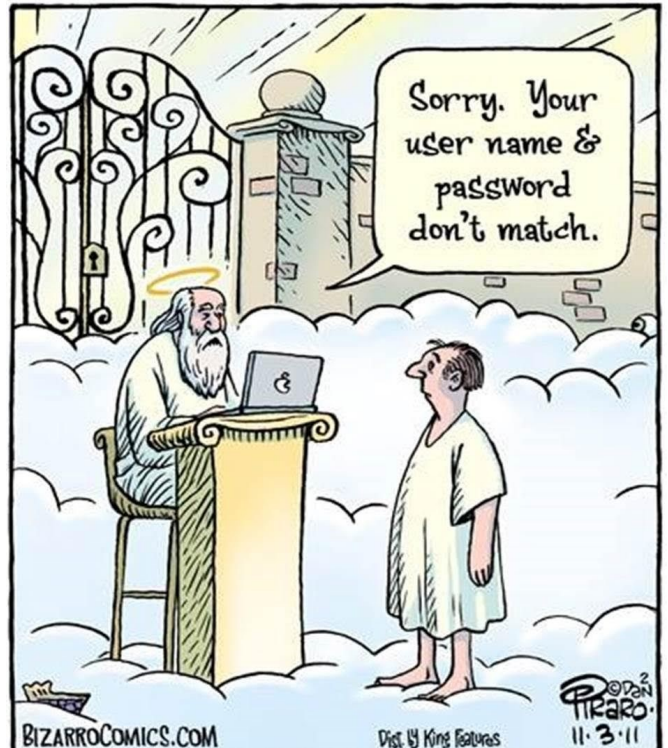


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## September Birthdays



K Zimmerman	September 13
Cheryl Nirtaut	September 15
Dawn Rellinger	September 18
Charles Huenecke	September 19
Dave Delaney	September 20
Debbie Zimmerman	September 22
Ryan Brenz	September 23
Greg Rolla	September 27
Debbie Hejna	September 30

## Other Events and Observances in September



September is Suicide Prevention Month

A mental health condition, suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death. Mental disorders (including depression, bipolar disorder, autism spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, personality disorders, anxiety disorders), physical disorders (such as chronic fatigue syndrome) and substance use disorders (including alcohol use disorder and the use of and withdrawal from benzodiazepines) are risk...wikipedia.org

Help is just a phone call away: Call or Text or Chat the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 any time of day. The Lifeline provides free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

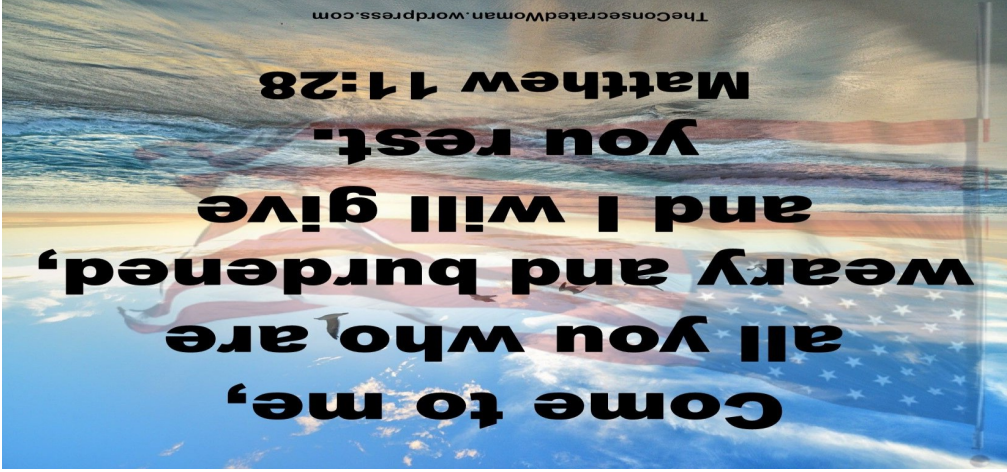
World  
Gratitude  
DAY  
Sep 21st

Graphics From the Pond

NATIONAL COFFEE DAY:  
SEPTEMBER 29  
*a holiday just for coffee lovers*

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Worship, Fellowship	2 	3	4 <b>11:00 AM</b> Chair Yoga	5 <b>7:00 PM</b> Traditional Yoga	6	7
8 <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Worship, Fellowship	9 <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Community Meal <b>6:30 PM</b> Discipleship <b>7:30 PM</b> Session	10	11 <b>11:00 AM</b> Chair Yoga 	12 <b>7:00 PM</b> Traditional Yoga	13	14
15 <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Worship, Fellowship <b>11:30 AM</b> Fall Fest & Sunday School Kick-off	16 <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study	17	18 <b>11:00 AM</b> Chair Yoga	19 <b>7:00 PM</b> Traditional Yoga	20	21 <b>10:00 AM-</b> Evelyn's Cardmaking Class
22 <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Worship, Fellowship <b>11:30 AM</b> Deacon's Meeting	23 <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study	24	25 <b>11:00 AM</b> Chair Yoga	26 <b>7:00 PM</b> Traditional Yoga	27	28
29 <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Worship, Fellowship	30 <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study					



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