

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.



**JANUARY-FEBRUAY 2025**

**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



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## A Letter from Rev. Edie

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*Rev Edie Lenz, Pastor*

Grace and Peace to you! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wonder, how are you reflecting on this past year? How are you anticipating the year to come? Sometimes our new years begin with great plans and expectations, other years we creep carefully into the new year, nervous about what it might bring. Some years we are able to look back with joy on the year that is ending, other times we want to slam the door and never look back. No matter how you are walking through the Christmas season and into the new year, I want to invite you to take just a little time to pause, to reflect, to be present in your life as it is and notice where you are.

Take a little time to cast your mind over the past year. Where were you last January, what were you experiencing? What plans were you laying out for 2024? What hopes or expectations did you have? What possibilities were you concerned about? Now come back to the present, where are you now? What has changed? What has remained the same? I suspect if you are honest, you can see places of both hope and regret, joy and sorrow – that is just the way life tends to be. But can you see a difference between who you were and who you are? Can you pay attention to what God has been up to in your life?

Occasionally, change happens in big and dramatic moments; we can all point to moments where every thing has changed, and nothing is the same. But more often, the changes of our lives are ordinary, gradual and incremental, if we don't pay attention, we might even miss them. Pausing to look back, pausing to notice is one way in which we can begin to see those small changes over time. Where have you grown, how are you different today than you were a year ago? What has God been up to in your life or the lives of people you love? Where can you see the faithfulness of God in the past twelve months?

After taking stock of where you have been and where you are now, I want to invite you to look into the new year with some intentionality. This is not so much about setting a new year's resolution to forget about in two days, but to look with an eye to God's presence in your life and into the coming year. I want to invite you to reflect – what is God inviting you to this year? Where do you need to grow? How can you deepen your faith? Are there spiritual practices you need to take on? Are there parts of your life you need to say no to and gather people around you to help you keep saying no?

I want to invite you to set aside one hour in the first two weeks of January. One hour for reflection. You do not need to be still, but you do need to be quiet. Silence your phone, tell your family you need an hour, go for a walk or sit down at the table. Create a space for reflection and ask: Where God, are you calling me this year? Allow your imagination to wander, if you get distracted, call your mind back to the question. At the end of the hour, find one word or statement that will allow you to summarize what you are thinking. Something you can write on a post it note or in your phone that will help you call your intentions to mind. What intention will you set for yourself in the coming year? Finally, if you are feeling very brave – share with someone else, someone who will remind you, invite you and challenge you to remember. You see the point is not to create a “new you for a new year”, but to be intentional about the work you are called to do.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

*Rev. Edie*

# YOU ARE INVITED!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 W 95th St, Hickory Hills

11:30 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join in the fun whether you are cooking or just want to taste the many varieties of chili recipes.

There will be a chance to vote for your favorites!



#### **NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS**

**In consideration of those with food allergies, participants in the Chili Cook-off must provide a list of all the ingredients used in their chili.**

**Also, any additional food items that are used in or alongside the chili (macaroni, rice, oyster crackers, sour cream, etc.) must be purchased by**

**the participant.**

**Sign Up Sheets for participants and for sides are on the Narthex table**



Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for January and February. You can prepare for worship by reading and reflecting on these and the questions below.

Join us on Sundays 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)

**January 5**

Epiphany

**Readings:** Jeremiah 31:7-14  
John 1:1-18

**Sermon Title:** Light of the World

**January 12**

Baptism of the Lord

**Readings:** Isaiah 43:1-7  
Luke 3:10-22

**Sermon Title:** Beloved

**January 19**

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** Psalm 36:5-10  
John 2:1-11

**Sermon Title:** Abundance

**January 26**

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** Isaiah 61:1-4  
Luke 4:14-21

**Sermon Title:** God's Call

**February 2**

4th Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**February 9**

5th Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

**February 16**

6th Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Luke 6:17-26

**Sermon Title:** Blessing and Warning

**February 23**

7th Sunday after Epiphany

**Readings:** Psalm 37:1-11  
Luke 6:27-38

**Sermon Title:** What Should We Do?

**Time To Reflect!**



- ❖ Where have you seen the light of Christ shining this week?
- ❖ As you reflect on the scripture for the week, what might God be inviting you to see? To wonder? To learn?
- ❖ Spend a little time reflecting on the blessings of God in your life and give thanks. Now turn to the prayer list or to your own list of those in need, spend a little time talking with God about the needs you see around you and your prayers for those you love.



# Prayer Requests

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

**Ally** (Toni) **Benny** (Toni) **Bernie** (Barb K) **Chris** (Mel) **Dan** (Evelyn) **Danny** (Jeni V) **Everleigh** (Jeni V) **Jaden K** (Toni) **Jerry** (Toni) **Kristen** (Charlie) **Lori** (Evelyn G) **Raymond** (Diane C) **Lois** (Darlene D) **Drew** (Evelyn) **Jason** (Peggy) **Sharon S** (Debbie) **Steve & Dawn** (Jeni V) **Karen G** (Grace) **Maria** (Debbie) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Marg** (Bernie) **Melissa** (Charles S) **Nancy** (Debbie Z) **Cheryl** (Evelyn) **Linda** (Wilda) **Mary Jo** (Debbie H) **Kelsey** (Susan) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary** (Mel) **Robin** (Mel) **Mave** (Cheryl) **Charlotte** (Deb H) **Rich** (Rick) **Lily** (Kim) **Shirley** (Debbie H) **Todd** (Charlie) **Lou** (Cheryle) **Kathy M** (Debbie H) **Lori** (Debbie Z) **Mike & Ann** (Deb H) **Irene** (Deb H) **Kathy V** (Barb K) **Ramon** (Mel) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Shirley** (Evelyn) **Jamie** (Toni) **Patrick** (Susan) **Diane** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Wilda)

## 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) **Katie & Joe & Kevin** (Cheryl) **Landon** (Jeni V) **Lisa E** (Grace) **Lucy** (Wanda M) **Mike & Suzanne** (Sandy B) **Natalie** (Bernie) **Patti & Randy** (Jeni V) **Savannah** (Darlene) **Stacy** (Deb) **Wanda M** (Jeni V) **Francie** (Karen G) **Jessica** (Susan) **Kaitlyn** (Kim) **Millie** (Toni) **Janice** (Katie) **Faulk Family** (Diane C) **Jacqui** (Katie) **Mary** (Mel) **Bob** (Edie) **Kathie** (Jeni V) **Ted** (Grace) **Scott** (Grace) **Russell Novack Family** (Tom M) **Mary** (Wanda) **Gary** (Katie) **Artie** (Doral) **Sheri** (Barb K) **Toni** (Edie) **Kathy** (Jeni V) **Ruth** (Jeni)

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

**Ada S** (Susan) **Barbara** (Evelyn) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Mary** (Debbie) **Zikus Family** (Debbie H) **Kathy** - (Loss of Jim); **Family of Madelynn**; **Ciametti Family** (Loss of Doris) **Maria O & Family** (Loss of Mom) **Chelsy-Loss** (Jean) **Willis Family** (Susan)

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

**Dali, Alinafe, Yankho** (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Christopher** (Edie) **Bob C** (Barb K)



### Discipleship Committee Report

The Discipleship Committee of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) hopes you had a good and safe 2024! We also send our greatest wishes that your 2025 is blessed with friends and family and (since we're Presbyterian), food!

HHPC celebrated our annual Christmas Tea, featuring Martina Mathisen, on Sunday, December 8. We enjoyed entertainment, tea, games, and gathering with friends! Please see pictures on page 10 of this newsletter. We send a special THANK YOU to Dianne Flynn and Debbie Zimmerman for organizing this wonderful and relaxing event at a very busy time of the year!

Our Sunday School continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We hope to see our youth on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Come out on Sunday January 12, 2025 for our annual Chili Throw Down, following the morning service. AND, mark your calendars for SOUPER SUNDAY! This event will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Souper Sunday sign-up sheets will be on the Narthex table January 12, 2025. Stay tuned for announcements from the pulpit as this event gets closer.

AND, don't forget Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Sign-up sheets for this series of meals will be available on February 9, 2025. Announcements will be made as this date comes closer.

*Happy 2025*



A mission is any body of persons sent someplace in order to perform or accomplish a specific work or service or the specific task that a person is assigned to do or fulfill. We performed many tasks for a very successful mission year.

One of Christ's mandates was to take care of the poor and hungry. Our mission committee lived up to that in a very generous manner. To help alleviate hunger, we partnered with Feed My Starving Children four times in 2024.

To mitigate suffering because of natural disasters, we participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing. We also had a special collection to help the population of western North Carolina after that area was devastated by torrential rains.

In a more local mode we, to the best of our ability, kept our mini pantry stocked throughout the year. We also contributed to Elsie's pantry with food items and cash collected during the month of November.

Our tree of warmth overflowed with items intended for use in cold weather. Anything collected went to the local library for use in the BEDS program.

We continued to collect plastic caps and tabs from aluminum cans. This is an ongoing mission and will be continued into 2025.

We did not have a specific request from the Jones Center for their after school program in 2024.

Our congregation has been most generous in all of the committee's projects. It is hoped we can repeat that generosity in 2025.

**IMAGINE**  
**2025**

# Upcoming Events at HHPC



## HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

**MONDAY JANUARY 6  
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 3  
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!*



Please join us on Monday Afternoons @ 1:00 PM  
HHPC Fellowship Hall

Resuming on January 6, we will gather to study God's  
written word. A potluck lunch will be held on January 13

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 W 95th St, Hickory Hills

11:30 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sign-up sheets are available for  
participants and for sides

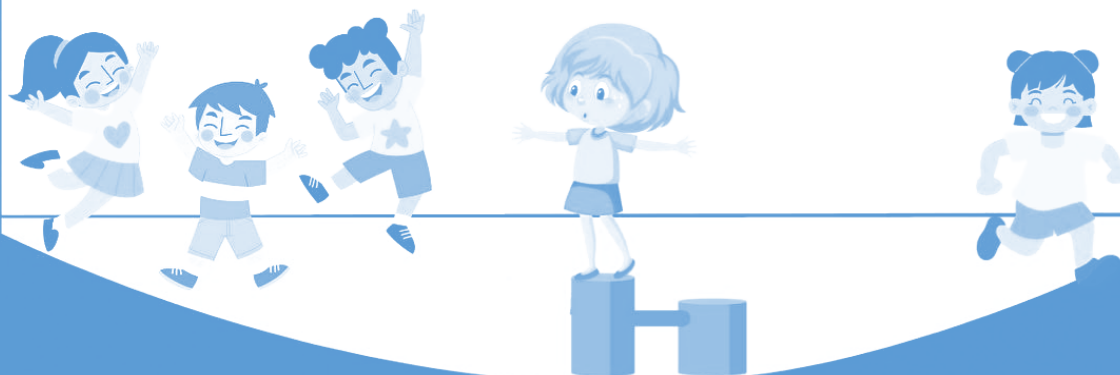


**JOIN US FOR  
HHPC's ANNUAL  
"SOUPER SUNDAY"  
FEBRUARY 9, 2025  
11:30 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**If you plan to make soup for this event,  
there will be a sign-up sheet on the  
Narthex table.**



# Coming Soon to HHPC



## LITTLE SENDERS

Let's 'Send It' together!



**First Saturday Meeting-  
January 25, 2025  
11:00 AM-2:00 PM**

### About Our Event

In collaboration with Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, The Harbor Chicago, and Testimony Skateboards, we present 'Little Senders'.

A family event focused to build and encourage children ages 4-11 we invite you to find the perfect balance of faith, friends, and fun during our time together.

**8426 W 95th St  
Hickory Hills**

### Event Highlights

Fun activities

various activities to learn about balance, as an introduction to skateboarding

### Encouraging Message

A short devotional that's entertaining and educational on the basics of faith in action

### Delicious Food

Enjoy a spread of snacks and refreshments throughout the event.

### craft corner

participate in a fun craft that helps tie the event together, and take the craft home with you!



## *Round Our Church*



**HHPC's Annual Christmas Tea Party  
December 8, 2024**

**Featuring Martina Mathisen  
"American Christmas Traditions"**



All set up for the anticipated yearly event!



It was a wonderful afternoon filled with interesting facts about Christmas, tea, food, fellowship, & fun games!



Martina shared the history of how many of our Christmas traditions came to be. We learned a lot!

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# Round Our Church

## Little Senders Introductory Event

December 29, 2024

A Family event focused on building and encouraging youth ages 4-12 to find the perfect balance of faith, friends, & fun. Please see page 9 of this Newsletter for more information about this Ministry.



# Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4

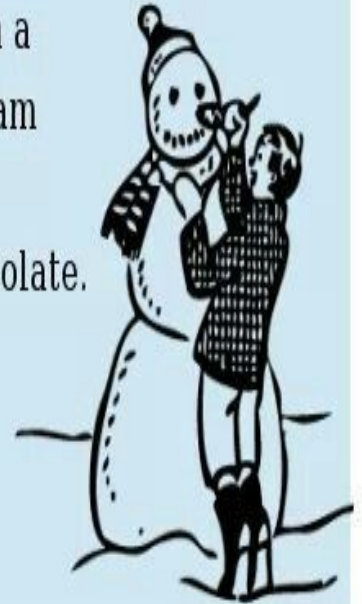
WHO'S ALWAYS HAS A DATE  
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?



A CALENDAR

JoyinCrafting.com

I love snow....  
especially through a  
window...while I am  
under a blanket...  
drinking Hot Chocolate.



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

Q. WHAT IS THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A  
CAT AND A COMMA?



A CAT HAS CLAWS AT THE ENDS  
OF ITS PAWS, BUT A COMMA HAS A  
PAUSE AT THE END OF ITS CLAUSE.

PAINFULPUNS.com



**JANUARY**

<i>Hunter Treccani</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>Stan Flynn</i>	<i>January 4</i>
<i>MacKenzie Netter</i>	<i>January 7</i>
<i>Andrew Witek</i>	<i>January 21</i>
<i>Ashley Fiedor</i>	<i>January 22</i>
<i>Rev. Edie Lenz</i>	<i>January 28</i>
<i>Audrey Sowa</i>	<i>January 31</i>



**FEBRUARY**

<i>Pat Frangella</i>	<i>February 2</i>
<i>Sam Swearingen</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Scott Zimmerman</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Mike Swearingen</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Kaitlyn Ambrosat</i>	<i>February 13</i>
<i>Thomas Kett</i>	<i>February 18</i>
<i>Alyssia Kommenich</i>	<i>February 20</i>
<i>Shirley Dragas</i>	<i>February 27</i>
<i>Rick Vogl</i>	<i>February 27</i>
<i>Sandy Beal</i>	<i>February 28</i>

**FAITHWALKING FOUNDATIONS NEW GROUP STARTING**

You are invited to be a part of the Faith Walking Process, led by Rev. Edie: Faith Walking is a spiritual formation process based on the belief that change begins with the individual and ripples out into the world. For any and all adults –we can all benefit from becoming more fully human and more fully alive. Faith Walking is open to members and non-members of HHPC, if you have a friend you would like to invite to join you, please do not hesitate to bring them along.

There will be a Faithwalking 1 group starting the week of February 9. This group will meet during the day and in person. The day of the week and the time of day will be determined when we have a few who are ready to commit. There is a fee for the materials and as always if you have someone ready to commit who cannot afford it we have scholarship money available.

In Faith Walking Foundations Module 1 you will get tools for building self-awareness and self-discovery. You will reflect on both the positive and the negative of your first formation. You will learn how your first formation wounded you and how those wounds are impacting your life. You will learn how to make positive declarations that move your life forward in a healthier direction.


For more information or to register please email [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org) or call 708-598-3100.




Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals who support one another in solving their common problem, compulsive eating, and is patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous. Meetings are held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 8607 S Narragansett Ave Burbank, IL 60459 on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM and on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Other meeting locations can be found at [oa.org](http://oa.org). There are no dues or fees. For more information call Mary Ann P. at 708-705-1608

*If you have a fellowship group that you would like mentioned here or you have an upcoming fellowship retreat or convention and would like to get the word out via this newsletter, please contact Barb K at [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)*

# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, Ordain & Install Elders & Deacons, Fellowship	<b>6</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study Resumes 5:30 PM Community Meal	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>8</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Puzzle Palooza event, at Pres. Church in Orland Park, 13401 Wolf Road, 1:00 PM <a href="https://pcorlandpark.org/">https:// pcorlandpark.org/</a>
<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:30 AM Chili Cook-Off	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study, Pot Luck 7:00 PM Session, Discipleship	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>15</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class
<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth, Annual Report Distribution Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacon's Meeting	<b>20</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>22</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Life Screening 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM Harbor/Testimony Skate Ministries- Little Senders Event
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, HHPC Annual Meeting, Fellowship	<b>27</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>29</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>31</b>	

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, Fellowship	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>5</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Souper Sunday	<b>10</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>12</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM Harbor/Testimony Skate Ministries Little Senders Event
<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, Fellowship	<b>17</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>19</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacon's Meeting	<b>24</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>26</b> 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	<b>28</b>	



2025

***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