

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.

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

MARCH 2025



**Soup
Suppers**

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

INSIDE...

Letter from Rev. Edie	2
Lent Teaching Series & Suppers Invitation	3
Complete Lenten Season Service Schedule	4
Prayer Requests	5
Worship Readings, Sermons, Reflections	6
Discipleship Report	7
Mission Report	8
Musicians Corner	9
Upcoming Events at HHPC	10
Round Our Church	11,12
March Observances	13
March Birthdays/ Community Event Invites	14
March Calendars	15

A Letter from Rev. Edie



For a very long time now, the Christian church, so long the perceived center of power in the western world has been moving to the margins. Membership in mainline denominations has been in decline since the 1970s. There are now more people in the US who identify themselves as “nones” than there are Christians (or any other religious confessions). While it is true that since 2020 these numbers seem to have increased dramatically, the pandemic didn’t create something new, rather it has dramatically revealed what was already happening.

Simply put, Christianity is no longer a central influence in society, and things have been trending this way for a very long time. This is something groups rail against, complain about, we get angry, defensive. We want to go back to the way is used to be -when faith seemed to have status and influence, when everything was closed on Sunday, when the question wasn’t if you go to church (if anyone even asks now days) but where you went to church – what denomination did you belong to? But this is not the way things are anymore. This is not a value judgment; it is a naming of reality. This is where we find ourselves.

Rather than being frustrated, angry, reactive, or defensive, maybe it is time we in the church began to own who we are and where we are. It is time that we look again at the scriptures, particularly at Jesus. What can we learn? What can we see about faithfulness, following Jesus, or what it means to be a person of faith? What influence, power or control did Jesus have? What new insight or meaning might we glean from Jesus if we stopped worrying about power or influence or culture and began instead to focus on living our faith? What might we learn, what might we experience if we joined Jesus and his mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God? What would be different in you and me, in our church, in the ways we live our lives if we were to take seriously the teachings and example of Jesus?

It matters where we are standing, where we are focusing our energy. Are we seeking to claw our way back into some central place of influence or are we willing to take on living faithfully where we are? Jesus spent his entire ministry on the margins. Jesus was a wandering teacher and healer, with no place to lay his head. Jesus broke traditions, honored human dignity, healed those that the rest of society had written off. As those who seek to be followers of Jesus, we are called to literally follow in his footsteps.

In the Footsteps of Jesus is our theme for Lent, beginning on March 5. Together on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings we will look to see: What did Jesus **DO**? What should we be **DOING**? We are used to reading the parables and teachings of Jesus, but his actions matter too. What Jesus did, who he talked to, where he went were deliberate; Jesus told his followers that all he said and all he did were in obedience to his Father. We can learn a lot not only from listening but looking at the actions of Jesus and wondering what he might be teaching us for the lives we live today.

As we prepare for the Lenten season, I invite you to join us in the footsteps of Jesus as we seek to learn to walk more faithfully with the Savior who came to die for us and who rose for us but also who lived his life as an example for us.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Edie

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A TIME OF REFLECTION AND WORSHIP

In the Footsteps of Jesus

Lenten Series

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00 P.M.

**BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
THROUGH APRIL 9, 2025**

FELLOWSHIP HALL

LESSONS BY REVEREND EDIE LENZ

MUSIC BY GREG ROLLA

SOUP, SALAD, AND DESSERT WILL BE SERVED.

Free will donations are welcomed and appreciated

**THIS SPECIAL SERIES WILL CONTINUE ON SUNDAYS ALL
THROUGH THE LENTEN SEASON. PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY FOR
OUR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.**



Date/Day	Theme	Scripture
Sun 3/2	Transfiguration Sunday	2 Cor 3:17-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
Wed 3/5	Ash Wednesday	Luke 5:17-26; Jn 8:2-11; Isa 58:1-12; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10
Sun 3/9	Jesus was Tempted	Luke 4:1-13
Wed 3/12	Jesus Taught	Luke 15:11-32
Sun 3/16	Jesus Healed	Luke 5:12-16; Jn 5:2-9; Luke 8:40-56 (alt)
Wed 3/19	Jesus Took Time Away	Luke 4:40-44; Luke 5:16
Sun 3/23	Jesus Gathered Disciples	Luke 5:27-28; Luke 6:12-16
Wed 3/26	Jesus Calmed the Storm	Luke 8:22-25
Sun 3/30	Jesus Washed the Disciples Feet	John 13:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Wed 4/2	Jesus Challenged Assumptions	Luke 9:44-50; Luke 11:37-44
Sun 4/6	Jesus Dignified the Marginalized	Luke 7:36-50; Jn 4:7-31
Wed 4/9	Jesus Prayed	Luke 11:1-13
Sun 4/13	Jesus entered Jerusalem Jesus cleansed the temple	Luke 19:28-40 (41-44) 45-48
HOLY WEEK		
Sun 4/20	Jesus Rose	Jn 20:1-18



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) **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) **Shirley** (Evelyn) **Jamie** (Toni) **Patrick** (Susan) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Diane** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Wilda) **Matthew C** (Debbie Z) **Fran** (Jeni) **Florence** (Kim) **Judy** (Kim) **Janice** (Sheri S)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH...

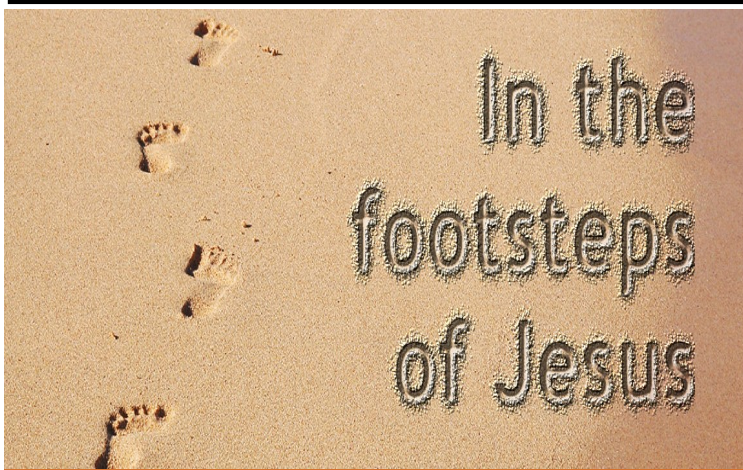
Anne C (Deb H) **Bill** (Bernie) **Bob D** (Dave D) **Bob M** (Grace M) **Carrie** (Deb H) **Cindy** (Deb Z) **Dan** (Susan) **Dee & Joel** (Jeni V) **Don** (Jeni V) **Esther E** (Grace M) **Katie & Joe & Kevin** (Cheryl) **Landon** (Jeni V) **Lisa E** (Grace) **Lucy** (Wanda M) **Mike & Suzanne** (Sandy B) **Natalie** (Bernie) **Patti & Randy** (Jeni V) **Savannah** (Darlene) **Stacy** (Deb) **Wanda M** (Jeni V) **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) **Gary** (Katie) **Artie** (Doral) **Sheri** (Barb K) **Toni** (Edie) **Kathy** (Jeni V) **Ruth** (Jeni) **Ray** (Susan) **Tom** (Katie) **Bud** (Diane C) **Laurie** (Sheri) **Michael** (Tom) **Sanderson Family** (Caleb) **Darren** (Evelyn) **Tony** (Deb H) **Dawn** (Jeni V)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

Ada S (Susan) **Barbara** (Evelyn) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Mary** (Debbie) **Willis Family** (Susan) **Steve** (Jean) **Rev Jewel** (loss of husband) **Family of Ramon Villareal** (Jeni) **Hansen Family** (loss of daughter) (Barb K) **Lawrence Family** (Mel) **Victims of the Fire in Justice** (Kim) **Kara's Family**, **Erkaptic Family** (Jeni V)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Dali, Alinafe, Yankho (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Christopher** (Edie) **Vretto Family** (Cheryle)



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

Join us on Ash Wednesday, supper at 6:00 p.m., service at 7:00 p.m., and 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. See page 4 of this Newsletter for complete Lenten service schedule.

March 2

Transfiguration of the Lord

Readings: 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:2
Luke 9:28-36

Sermon Title: A Work in Progress

March 9

1st Sunday in Lent

Readings: Romans 8:5-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sermon Title: Jesus Was Tempted

March 16

2nd Sunday in Lent

Readings: Luke 5:12-16
John 5:2-9

Sermon Title: Jesus Healed

March 23

3rd Sunday in Lent

Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 5:27-28, Luke 6:12-16

Sermon Title: Jesus Gathered Disciples

March 30

4th Sunday in Lent

Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
John 13:1-17

Sermon Title: Jesus Washed Their Feet



Reflection Questions for Lent:

- † *What do you see Jesus doing?*
- † *What is he teaching us?*
- † *What are we called to do?*
- † *How can you live more faithfully?*
- † *If Jesus were living your life, what choices would he make?*



DISCIPLESHIP

YOU WERE CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST



Discipleship Committee Report

It's 2025 and your Discipleship committee and friends are off to a great start! Discipleship's first meeting of the year was held January 13.

HHPC offers Sunday School to our youth on the first and third Sundays of each month. The following are the dates for the remainder of the school year: March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20 and May 4.

Souper Sunday was held on Sunday, February 9, 2025! We enjoyed a variety of soups made by some great cooks! We had bread and butter and games on our tables. We had desserts made by talented members and friends of HHPC. A free-will donation was collected with proceeds going to HHPC's Micro Pantry. Please enjoy pictures found on page 12 of this newsletter.

HHPC's Lenten series will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. HHPC has invited our friends from Faith United Presbyterian Church to join us. Lenten services will be held Wednesday evenings on March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9. We will enjoy music, lessons, and fellowship. Please find sign-up sheets for these evenings and investigate how you can help. Free-will donations will be accepted each week. Donations can be in the form of cash or items for HHPC's Micro Pantry.

Easter is Sunday, April 20, 2025! HHPC's Easter breakfast kitchen crew is ready to go. Please seek the Easter sign-up lists for items required.

Recognition Sunday will be held Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 23 – 26, 2025. Mark your calendars! Plans are underway! Our theme is . . . Road Trip – On The Go With God . . . *The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9.*



Mission Committee Report

Disaster Relief:

During the month of January we had a collection designated for Disaster Relief in California for those people who were affected by the wildfires in that state.

Feed My Starving Children:

On Saturday and Sunday March 8-9 2025 we will participate in a FMSC pack at Illinois Benedictine University in Lisle. This is a large pack, as noted by the FEED THE NEED slogan. Last year over 800,000 meals were packed at this event. Beyond this we will try to participate in a pack in May or June at the Aurora location.

One Great Hour of Sharing:

During Lent in 2025 we will again participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. That campaign more than met expectations in 2024. We hope to at least match those results, if not to exceed them in 2025. There will be special inserts in the bulletin, special envelopes, and pulpit announcements supporting this campaign.

Plastic Caps and Aluminum Tabs

Please keep these items coming. Although the emphasis has been on the plastic caps we are still collecting the tabs from aluminum cans. With the caps: please make sure they are clean before bringing them to the church. Dishwashers and washing machines are acceptable ways to actually get the caps clean.

A Note from our Cap Whisperer:

Starting in March, we are asking you to only save your water bottle and pop caps. There are a lot of caps that don't come clean and there are a lot of caps they can't accept. To make the work easier, we are asking you to change what you are saving and recycle the rest at home.

Thank you!

Micro Pantry

Our micro pantry is still being constantly used. Please help us keep it stocked. Some suggestions are:

- ◆ Dry Goods-such as Cereal, Rice, Beans, Pasta, Macaroni, Noodles, and Soup
- ◆ Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Beans, and Soup
- ◆ Canned Tuna, Chicken
- ◆ Spaghetti Sauce
- ◆ Personal Items

No perishable food items or any opened boxes or bags (e.g. meat, etc.)

The title "Musicians Corner" is written in a large, blue, cursive font. It is surrounded by various colorful musical notes (yellow, blue, pink, green) and stems, some of which are floating around the text. The background is black, and the notes are scattered across the top and sides of the page.

Musicians Corner

“Come, Thou Almighty King” [1757] by Greg Rolla

We are all familiar with this hymn. (“Glory to God” #2) This is one of the oldest English hymns that has come down to us, probably written by Reverend Martin Madan (1726-1790), an English lawyer turned Methodist preacher. It is said that he was a stirring orator and talented musician. At first, the hymn was sung to “God Save the King.” On our side of the Atlantic, we use the same melody for “My Country, Tis of Thee.”

There’s an interesting story connected with it. During the American Revolutionary war, British troops were occupying New York City and were seemingly winning the war at that time. A group of English soldiers went to church one Sunday morning in Long Island and demanded that both minister and congregation sing “God Save the King” in honor of King George III. The organist was forced to begin playing the tune, but instead of singing “God Save the King” the congregation sang the words of “Come, Thou Almighty King.”

In the late 1700s, Italian immigrants began coming to the colonies and brought a new tune with them which was eventually set to the words of “Come, Thou Almighty King.” Known as the “Italian Hymn”, it was written by the composer Felice de Giardini (1716-1796). By the 1870’s, the Italian hymn replaced the original and is what we sing today.



Upcoming Events at HHPC



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY MARCH 3
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

MONDAY APRIL 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!



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

We are studying the wise sayings written in the book of Proverbs, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's Word during the Lenten season



FAITH WALKING
making wholeness possible

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 in April**. 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.

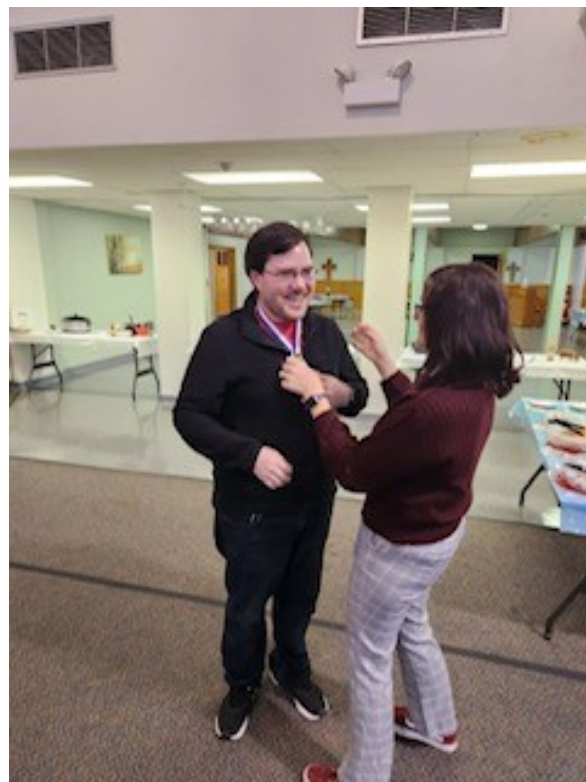
For more information or to register please email hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org or call 708-598-3100.

Round Our Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



**1st Place Winner!
Andrew Witek**

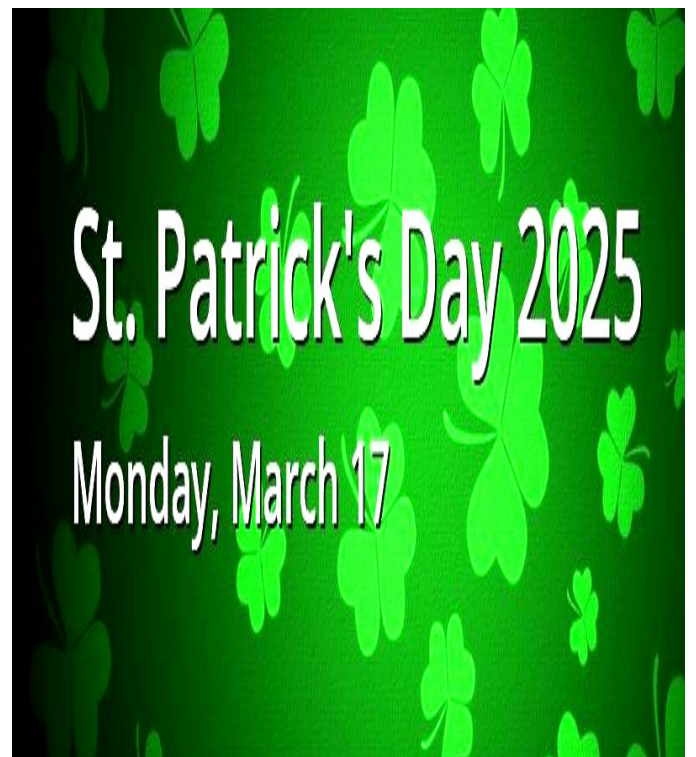
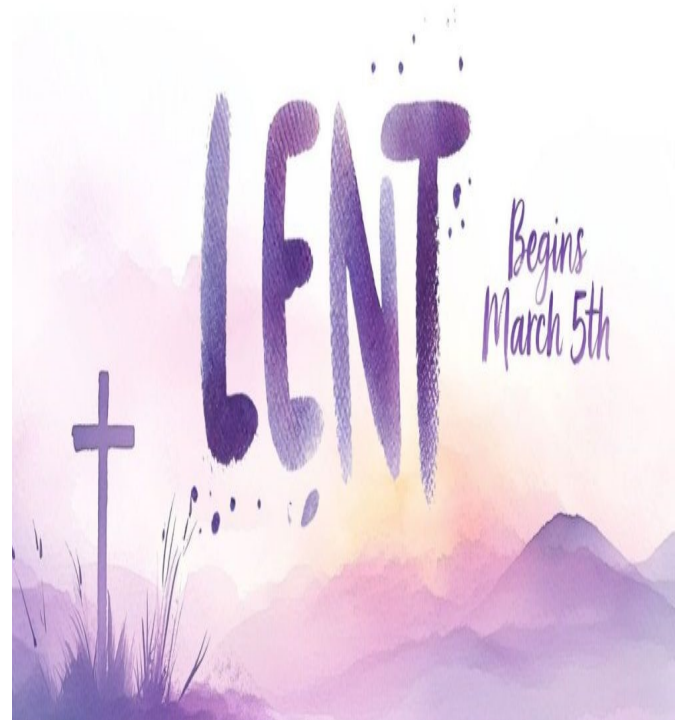


Round Our Church

**HHPC's Annual Souper Sunday
Held February 9, 2025**



March Observances





- Hollie Fox March 1
- Cooper Huenecke March 2
- Mike Monczynski March 2
- Donna Bredlau March 5
- Mary Fellers March 7
- Michael E. Dragas March 11
- Lucy Manyenje March 12
- Kim Ambrosat March 15
- Lizbeth Ramos March 16
- Roy Hoffman March 16
- Charles Smith March 28

You Are Invited-Community Events

**HARVEST TIME WORSHIP CENTER-
ANNUAL TEA PARTY**
THEME:
CROWN OF BEAUTY!



Life can sometimes knock you down. Circumstances and the weight of what we carry as ladies can be too much to bear. The enemy would love to steal your joy, but thank God we have a promise. God gives beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and the garment of Praise.
Isaiah 61: 1-3

SATURDAY MARCH 29TH 2025
12PM-3PM

Come and join us for a time of fun, fellowship,
and food for the body and soul.
We want to celebrate you!

Bring your tea cup and wear your favorite crown!



8420 Narragansett Avenue
Burbank IL, 60459

RSVP 219-613-4899 Minister Denice or Church Office
@ 708-576-8570 / www.harvesttimeworshipcenter.org

CONNECTION ENCOUNTER



JUNE 13-JUNE 15, 2025



Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center
<https://strongholdcenter.org/>
1922 IL-2 N, Oregon, IL 61061
(815) 732-6111

\$250.00 PER PERSON
\$50.00 DEPOSIT NON-REFUNDABLE

Office@harvesttimeworshipcenter.org
708-576-8570

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS®

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. 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

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, 11:15 AM Discipleship Mtg	3 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	4 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	5 Ash Wednesday 11:00 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Service	6 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	7	8 Feed The Need 9-11 AM 6-8 PM
9 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	10 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	11 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	12 11:00 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Lent Supper & Service	13 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	14	15
16 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, 11:00 AM Meet Your Deacon Luncheon	17 1:00 PM Bible Study	18 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	19 11:00 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Lent Supper & Service	20 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	21	22 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class
23 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacon's Meeting	24 1:00 PM Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	26 11:00 AM Chair Yoga 6:00 PM Lent Supper & Service	27 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	28	29 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM Harbor/Testimony Skate Ministries Youth Event
30 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship <i>Rummage Sale</i> <i>Donations Can Begin</i>	31 1:00 PM Bible Study					

2025



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