

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, JUNE 23-THURSDAY, JUNE 26

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

JUNE 2025



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A Letter from Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz



“This is something you can get through or it is something you can grow through – it is your choice.” These words of wisdom come from a former classmate in the Methodist tradition where pastors are appointed not selected. These appointments average 4-6 years but can be longer or shorter. This means that change is inevitable in ways we do not fully understand, or expect, almost all the time. In the last month she was notified that she would be moved, these profound words are the ones she has shared over and over with the congregation she serves as they struggle with an unexpected loss and transition (she was only there 4 years).

These are words for you (and I) as well. This is something you can get through or it is something you can grow through. HHPC has “gotten through” a lot of transitions, losses, and hard days. You are tenacious, determined, and yes, a little stubborn. You know how to get through things. You have, over the years, pulled together, taken on hard jobs, shared the load and made it through. You are a congregation that knows how to put your heads down and barrel through. You are a people who know how to come together and just make it work. But you are also not the people you were the last time you were in transition. You are not the congregation that made it through the last vacancy, you are a different people. What if this time God invites you to more than just getting through a transition. What if you chose to grow through this?

I know it sounds cliché at this point but attitude is a lot of it. How you talk to each other, how you act with one another, how you pray for the church and for one another all matter. The words you choose will have power, your determination to make it through or grow through this will change how you think about every part of a search process, how you imagine a next chapter of the church, and perhaps even the person you call next. Believing God’s call is to grow through this opens a world of possibilities; and you have been practicing that for a while now.

One simple example of this is the way we have talked together about trying new things. New ideas are experiments to be learned from events or programs that will either sink or swim. If something is an experiment, it is a learning opportunity; you cannot fail unless you fail to learn something. Last October we tried a month of meals. We learned that we really like this disruption to the fall. We learned that people will gather in October and in Lent. We learned that four weeks is a good number; we learned that creativity in the meals and sharing the load across committees is a good idea. We also learned that SOMEONE has to take the lead. This was, however, an experiment; it doesn’t have to happen in 2025, but it can. This can be something you do again or something you learned from and stop doing. You have already grown from it... therefore, no matter the turn out or the decision about this year, you have grown and learned.

My prayer for you, as a people who have loved me well and who I love, is that you will choose to grow and learn in this next chapter too. We have grown together, experimented, pivoted, tried all sorts of things. I believe God has work for you to do here, on this corner, at this time. I understand and I feel how uncertain it all feels right now. But you can choose to get through it or you can choose to grow through it. My abiding prayer for you in this next season is that you will choose to adventure together and grow, that you will continue to discover God’s plans for you.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz



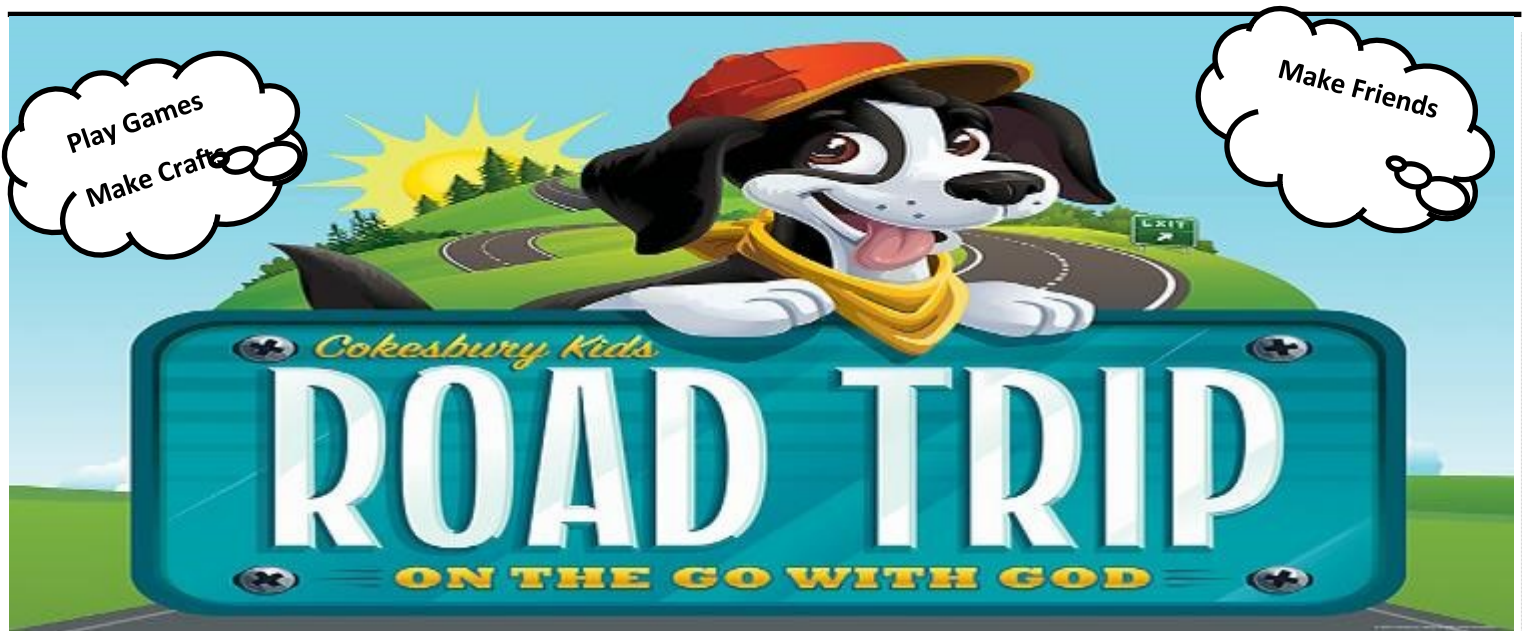
In recent weeks – there have been a flurry of reports of gift card scams. On Friday, May 16 many of you received an email pretending to be from Pastor Edie seeking gift cards.

While many of you are already aware of the dangers of these sorts of scams, it can be a helpful reminder to us all to pay attention to the email addresses being used, notice the wording being used and no matter who is asking, do not ever send images of gift cards through email.

If you receive a strange email, or an unexpected request from family, friends, or even the church, verify the request in a different way. Reach out via a phone call or text. Write a fresh email to the person who claims to be asking, make sure you use the email address you have for that person. Check in before you take action.

If you have fallen victim to this sort of scam you are not alone, you should not scold or shame yourself. People who are seeking to take advantage of others are very sneaky and creative. The important thing is to make sure it does not happen again and if you are able to report the email as a phishing scam. There are also ways to report these sorts of scams to law enforcement. Here is a link you can use to learn more:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/avoiding-and-reporting-gift-card-scams#howwork>



**HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“ROAD TRIP” ON THE GO WITH GOD

MONDAY JUNE 23 – THURSDAY JUNE 26, 2025

**FOR ALL CHILDREN
AGES 4-12! And...**

the Program is FREE!

**To Register on or before
June 23:**

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

Join us for SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM in person or virtually. If you miss a service, they are available on our website at: www.hickoryhillspres.org.

June 1

7th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ephesians 1:15-23
John 17:20-26

Sermon Title: Prayers for Us

June 8

Day of Pentecost

Readings: Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17

Sermon Title: Spirit of God

June 15

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Sermon Title:

June 22

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Sermon Title: You, the Body of Christ

June 29

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:13-10
Matthew 23:31-40

Sermon Title: More Than You Think

Pentecost
THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TIME TO

REFLECT

- ✧ The Spirit moved at Pentecost to inspire and challenge the church, where do you sense the Spirit moving in your life? In the life of the church?
- ✧ You are the Body of Christ - what does this mean in how you live, think, pray, act?
- ✧ What do you celebrate over the last 6 years?
- ✧ What do you hope for the next few months?



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) **Lois** (Darlene D) **Drew** (Evelyn) **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** (Deb H) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary** (Mel) **Robin** (Mel) **Mave** (Cheryl) **Charlotte** (Deb H) **Rich** (Rick) **Shirley** (Deb H) **Lou** (Cheryle) **Kathy M** (Deb H) **Lori** (Debbie Z) **Mike & Ann** (Deb H) **Irene** (Deb H) **Shirley** (Evelyn) **Jamie** (Toni) **Patrick** (Susan) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Diane** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Wilda) **Matthew C** (Debbie Z) **Fran** (Jeni) **Janice** (Sheri S) **Jasmine** (Sheri S) **Patricia** (Deb H) **Vito** (Katie) **Deb** (Mel) **Virginia** (Mel) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Kathy** (Deb H) **Andrew** (Darlene D) **Sara** (Mel) **George** (Kim) **Nancy** (Kim) **Michael** (Tom M) **John** (Grace) **Sue** (Grace) **Cindy** (Debbie Z) **Laurie** (Sheri) **Dani** (Andrew) **Robin** (Mel) **Tricia** (Deb H) **Billy** (Sheri) **Helen** (Debbie H) **Chris** (Susan) **Tommy** (Evelyn)

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) **Jacqui** (Katie) **Kathie** (Jeni V) **Ted** (Grace) **Scott** (Grace) **Gary** (Katie) **Artie** (Doral) **Sheri** (Barb K) **Toni** (Edie) **Kathy** (Jeni V) **Ruth** (Jeni) **Tom** (Katie) **Bud** (Diane C) **Michael** (Tom) **Sanderson Family** (Caleb) **Darren** (Evelyn) **Tony** (Deb H) **Dawn** (Jeni V) **Sam** (Debbie Z) **Mary Ann** (Mel) **Jane** (Jean) **Sheri** (Barb) **Janet** (Bernie) **Todd** (Charlie) **Yolanda** (Bernie) **Jill** (Kim) **Noel** (Kim) **Jarrett** (Kim)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

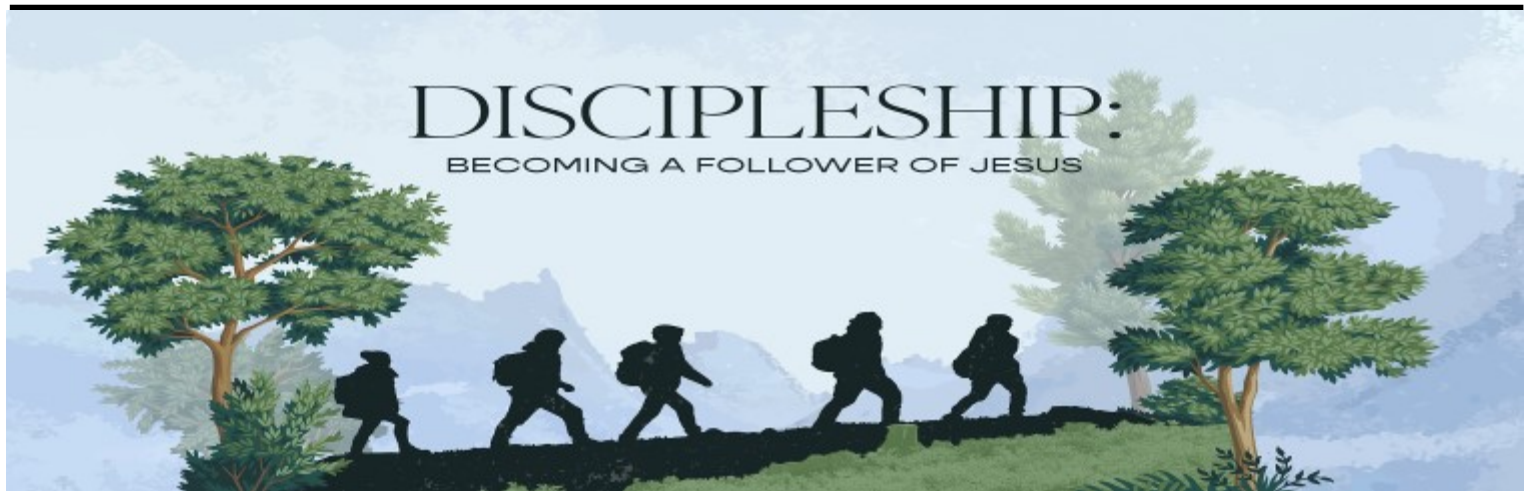
Ada S (Susan) **Steven** (Jean) **Sophie's Family** (Rick) **Clarissa's Family** (Doral) **Wiggins Family** (Jeni) **Lois's Family** (Darlene) **Javorski Family** (Michele V's Mom– Barb K) **Jill** (Loss of her father-Deb H)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Chance (Edie) **Dali**, **Alinafe**, **Yankho** (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Christopher** (Edie) **Janet** (Evelyn)

WE PRAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF GOD...

Brenna—Birth of **Jocelyn** (Mel) Birth of **Elliot Murray** (Jean S)



Discipleship Committee

The Discipleship Committee of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church thanks Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz for her support through the last six years. Edie has led and encouraged our committee and congregation through challenges, new experiences, lessons, and so much more! Edie, we are humbled by your creativity and energy.

We met the day after completion of HHPC's yard sale. Tired? Yes! Achy? Yes! Glad we do it to support our church? You bet! We thank the Fundraising Committee for their unfailing leadership for the Inside Yard Sale event. And for all those that made purchases. We celebrate that we were able to raise \$5700 this year.

VBS! Road Trip! June 23-26, 2025, 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Join us for a week of fun! See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

HHPC's Monday afternoon **Bible Study** remains on a break. We will meet again beginning Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1pm. All are welcome!

Our congregation, and its extended family, continue to collect **aluminum pull tabs**. These are the aluminum pull tabs found prominently on aluminum soda cans. HHPC's total at this time is 773 pounds. We are within 16 pounds of reaching the **MILLION TAB CLUB**! Once achieved, HHPC will receive recognition within the Ronald McDonald House at Advocate Health's Oak Lawn, IL Campus. HHPC is already a member of the **MILLION TAB CLUB** at Loyola's campus in Hines, IL. Keep saving!

Mark Your Calendars

Our **Youth Sunday School** has ended until September. Our High School attendees have been more successful with attendance than our younger group. We are open to your thoughts as to how to grow and sustain this activity. Discipleship is investigating curriculums that may meet our needs. When returning in the Fall, our first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 21, 2025! Plans are for Youth Sunday School to meet on the first and third Sundays of each month, September 21, 2025 thru May 3, 2026.

HHPC's **Fall Welcome** is scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2025. Plans are underway, yet it's pretty secure there will be a variety of activities and B-I-N-G-O!

Trunk or Treat is planned for Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Christmas Tea is being held Sunday, December 7, 2025.



Mission Committee Report

In Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 (Verse 1 to 8), the prophet declares that for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to reap; a time to kill and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silence and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

I want to add that there is a time to say hello and a time to say goodbye. Sadly, the time from when we said hello until the time we have to say goodbye to Edie Lenz is much too short. For the past 6 years I believe we have had the pleasure of keeping company with the person I consider to be the best pastor this church has had. However, we must say goodbye to Edie and her family. This is a blow to the church. God's plans for us are unknown. Even though Edie is leaving, it does not mean everything will come to a screeching halt. We will continue to collect plastic caps and aluminum pop tabs. Our knitters will continue to turn out beautiful prayer shawls and lap blankets. Feed My Starving Children has not announced any remote packing dates. But if one is so inclined their permanent facility in Aurora is open most days.

This year we collected \$415 for the One Great Hour of Sharing; Presbyterian programs designed to end hunger, repair after disasters, and promote the self-development of all people. Thank you to all that contributed to this generous amount.

Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



"If books are food for the mind, then this one needs salt, ketchup, mustard, and a side of fries!"

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www.glasbergen.com



"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"Our family is trying one of those
old-fashioned churches, with
preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."

Upcoming Events at HHPC



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY JUNE 2

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

JULY 7 NO COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY AUGUST 4

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

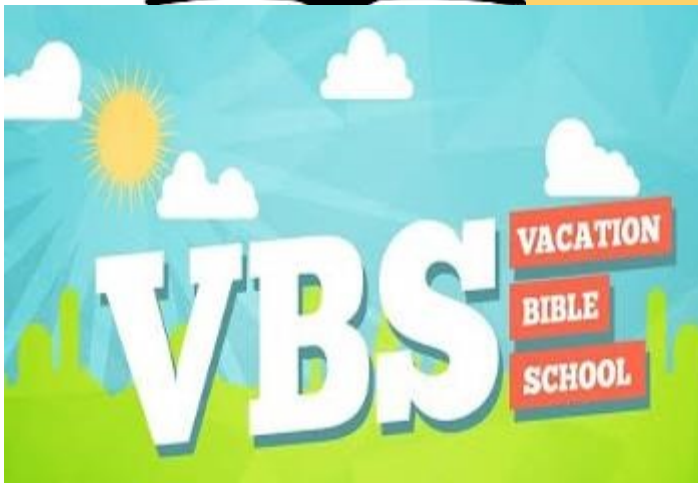
*If you would like to help at this meal,
please see Debbie Zimmerman or Evelyn Garlic.*

We appreciate you!

During the Spring and Summer months and nice days in the Fall, you are welcome to enjoy your meal at one of the picnic tables on the church campus.



HHPC Bible Study is on break throughout the month of June and will resume on July 7.



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church will host Vacation Bible School starting Monday, June 23 through Thursday, June 26 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. We look forward to welcoming all kids from ages 4-12. The program is free. We offer opportunities for the kids to listen to great bible stories, make new friends, play games, enjoy music, and make crafts. See page 3 of this newsletter for flyer.



Round Our Church

**Administrative Professionals
Luncheon Hosted at HHPC
Thursday, April 24, 2025**



**Recognition Sunday
May 4, 2025**



Administrative Professionals Luncheon at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
“...The presbytery hosted two luncheons to celebrate the work of administrators in our congregations and institutions. It was a chance for fellowship and an opportunity to say thank you. The goal was to have the people who do the nuts and bolts work of the church meet one another, share smiles and ideas, and realize they are not alone.” Rev. Dr. Craig Howard



Graduates:

Caleb Lenz - Diploma from Lockport High School

Reverend Doctor Edie Lenz - Doctor of Ministry Degree from
Fuller Theological Seminary



Jean presents the very happy graduates to the congregation



HHPC INDOOR MAY 15-17 YARD SALE

WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY!



HHPC's Annual Indoor Yard Sale ready for treasure seekers after many days and hours of preparation and pricing.



HHPC INDOOR MAY 15-17 YARD SALE



Happy Birthday To Everyone Born in June!

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

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 31—NOVEMBER 2, 2025

HHPC FALL RETREAT

A Retreat weekend is currently being planned for Friday, October 31 thru Sunday, November 2, 2025 at:

Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center
12173 Tower Hill Road
Sawyer, MI 49125
towerhillcamp@ilucc.org

Consider joining us to relax, refresh, and discover what it means to live the life God designed for each of us with greater meaning, peace, and authenticity.

All (male and female) church members and Faithwalking participants are welcome! Cost is \$150.00 which includes room accommodations and all meals. Partial and full scholarships are available if needed.

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

PULL TAB TRIVIA

1,000,000 pull tabs = 789.27 pounds

1267 pull tabs = 1 pound

63,360 pull tabs laid end-to-end = 1 mile

196 pull tabs = 1 cup

KEEP SAVING!

**BRING THEM TO HHPC
8426 W 95th St
Hickory Hills**


**(You don't have to be a member at HHPC to contribute. They are donated to Ronald McDonald House and really does help.
Call 708-598-3100
for appointment to drop off.)**



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

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting, Cap Sorting, Luncheon</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 PM Community Meal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 PM Session</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga 7:30 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting ZOOM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM Traditional Yoga</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30—8:30 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30—8:30 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga 6:30—8:30 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30—8:30 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship, Rev Edie's Farewell, Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>					



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