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

MAY 2025



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A Letter from Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz



"Every morning is Easter morning from now on!
Every day's resurrection day
The past is over and gone!
Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!
Hello Lord, Hello sun!
I am one of the Easter people!
My new life has begun!"

So, ring out the words of the Easter praise song written in 1972 by Donald Marsh and Richard Avery. I first learned this song more than 20 years ago at my first call and while I confess it was never one of my favorite songs we sang, the words have echoed over and over in my mind in the last few days. We have entered the season of Easter. So often we think of Easter as one Sunday on the calendar, a beloved day of celebration that, like an egg hunt, you spend time, energy and effort preparing for only to have it happen in a whirlwind and as suddenly as it began, it is over.

But Easter is not a day on the calendar, or one singular moment in the life of the church. Easter is a season, more than that, Easter is a reminder of our identity as people of the resurrection – all year long. Easter is an annual reminder of the resurrection of Jesus and therefore our resurrection to new life. But Easter the season runs through forty days to Ascension Day and then to the following Sunday, Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit, and some say the birthday of the church. Easter lasts until June 8 this year. Easter is not a one and done. Easter is intended to be remembered, celebrated, and proclaimed throughout the year. Because Jesus was raised, everything has changed; because Jesus was raised, we are a new creation. Easter is about the rest of our lives, the gathering of God's people and the work of the church.

We are a people of resurrection and new life; this is true every single day. We are a people who have been forgiven, redeemed, claimed as Christ's own. This is true when we have wandered away, gotten lost, been angry, too sad to lift our heads... This is true when we are confident in ourselves and forget to rely on the goodness of God. This has always been true. If we were to live as a people of resurrection, what would be different than what we do now? If you were to embrace the full possibility of a new life in Christ, what would you do differently?

This Easter Sunday was a day of joy. Families gathered for worship, giggles of children were heard. Breakfast was bountiful and delicious. The sanctuary teemed with butterflies; voices rang out in song. But Easter didn't end on Sunday evening with the coming darkness. Easter continues, new life is possible each and every morning. We ARE the Easter people. We are the people of forgiveness, possibility, new life – what would happen if more of God's people lived their lives in such a way that new life was possible every single morning? What would be different for you if you lived brand new every morning?

Every morning is Easter morning, from now on.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz

Coming Soon to HHPC INDOOR YARDISALE

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 8426 W 95TH STREET 708 598 3100 https://hickoryhillspres.org/

Where you can find that thing you've always been looking for

SALE HOURS

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 9:00 AM—7:00 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 16 9:00 AM—7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 17 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

YOU'RE INVITED!



Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for May. 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.

May 4

3rd Sunday of Easter **Readings:** Isaiah 61:1-3

John 21:1-19

Sermon Title: Sent

May 18

5th Sunday of Easter **Readings:** Acts 11:1-18

John 13:31-35

Sermon Title: A New Commandment

May 11

4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Isaiah 53:1-6

John 10:22-30

Sermon Title: Suffering Servant

May 25

6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Revelations 22:1-5

John 14:23-29

Sermon Title: Promises



In the light of the resurrection to new life and the promises of the Easter season. Reflect on these passages.

- What does it mean to live in the light of Christ every day?
- We are God's sent people, where has God sent you? Where is God sending you?
- Jesus came, humble and ordinary, suffering to save, what does this show us about our lives?
- What are the promises of God that mean the most to you? How might you share those promises with one other person?
- ₱ Jesus commanded us to love one another; how are we doing this well? How might we grow our capacity to love others?



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)

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)

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)

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

Discipleship Committee Report

April Showers – May Flowers – Busy times at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church!

HHPC Lenten services were held Wednesday evenings. We are grateful to everyone who assisted in making these meals of soup, salad, bread and dessert a success! The free-will offerings collected from the Lent suppers and Easter Breakfast totaled \$405.00 and will be used for HHPC's Micro Pantry.

Easter Sunday was a busy day for HHPC. Our dedicated Kitchen Crew begins bright and early. The food donated is organized and becomes a delicious feast for the soul. We get to share fellowship and form new memories!

Recognition Sunday will be held Sunday, May 4. HHPC will be celebrating those in our church family that we know have completed educational milestones. We will also be offering thanks to those who have, in any way, helped support the discipleship of HHPC during the year. Please join us for presentations during the 10:00 AM service and for Fellowship Hour. This will be the last date for Sunday School until September! Look for the start up date in our July/August Newsletter.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23 – 26, 2025, 6:30PM – 8:30PM.

OUR THEME IS ROAD TRIP – ON THE GO WITH GOD!

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. PLEASE JOIN US!





called to designed to empowered to released to BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Mission Committee Report by Dave Delaney

Part of the HHPC mission statement is to serve Jesus Christ in the world. One of the ways we have done this is by participating in many various missions over the years. Some, such as the Kentucky and Honduras trips, have come and gone, having faded away naturally. (Alice Gust and Kelly Breadlau were two of the first persons from our congregation to go on a Kentucky trip.) Others, such as Feed My Starving Children, have taken the place of abandoned missions. We resurrected the One Great Hour of Sharing last year and have continued with it this year. As of March 31 \$250 has been donated to this charity. Our micro pantry grew out of the need generated by the pandemic. A total of \$405 was collected through the free will offerings at the Wednesday Lenten dinners and the Easter Breakfast. This money will be used to help supply our micro pantry. Over the years various natural disasters have prompted special collections. We have generally been quite generous with these collections, especially for flood relief in Kentucky and fire damage in California. We still support the Jones Center, although our participation there has declined in recent years. Last year we donated most of our prayer shawls to two nursing homes. It is certainly hoped that enough shawls will necessitate another give away in the not too distant future. For the last two years, after the annual yard sale, we have made a donation of the leftover furniture to Hearts In Motion (HIM) (Corazones en Moviemento). The plan is to give HIM first dibs this year on what has not sold at the yard sale. What HIM does not take will be sent to other organizations.

We, as a congregation, are committed to supporting our various missions. But is there a mission that we currently support that we should abandon? Likewise do you have a favorite mission we should consider as a congregation? The session approved one new mission last year. But, due to some unforeseen complications, it has gotten off to a slow start. Further news about this group will come in the fall. Because it uses our building and serves young people, we hope it becomes successful. And do not forget that any mission that you participate in does not necessarily have to be a part of our congregation. If it is something you think is worthwhile and fits the congregation, please let us know about it.

HHPC Featured in the Presbytery Connect Newsletter!

Photo of the Week



Eastertide at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church: 425 butterflies crafted by church artist Melanie Swindle surrounding worshippers with signs of new life!



📸 by Jana Blazek

Upcoming Events at HHPC



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY MAY 5 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

MONDAY JUNE 2 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 will be on break starting May 5 and will resume on July 7.



Register on or before June 23:

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 8426 WEST 95TH STREET

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"ROAD TRIP" ON THE GO WITH GOD

Monday June 23 – Thursday June 26 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

FOR ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-12, THE PROGRAM IS FREE

Welcoming Our New Member





Round Our Charch



Celebrating Wanda Mcilvoy's 100th Year of Life!











Myrnalyn Delalamon May 3
Luz Korzeniewski May 10
Carol Sack May 10
Wilda Duncan May 11
Greg Majersky May 26
Karen Golema May 29

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 31—NOVEMBER 2, 2025 HHPC FALL RETREAT

A Faithwalking 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.





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 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

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	2	3	
4 10:00 AM Recognition Sunday Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, 11:30 AM Building Use Task Force	5:30 PM Community Meal	7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	7 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	8 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	9	10	
11. 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	7:30 PM Session	7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	14 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	9:00 AM-7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	9:00 AM-7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	9:00 AM-7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	
18 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Discipleship Meeting	19	7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	21 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	23	24	
25 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacon's Meeting	26	7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	28 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	29 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	30	31	

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church 8426 West 95th Street Hickory Hills, IL 60457

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD

The Connecting Link A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

