

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

JULY/AUGUST 2025



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A Letter from Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz



Rev Edie Lenz, Pastor

“Life is made up of meetings and partings... that is the way of it” – Kermit the Frog as Bob Cratchit

“Don’t cry because it’s over... smile because it happened” – Dr. Seuss

Scripture is full of stories of endings and beginnings. Our lives are the same – beginnings and endings; starts and stops. People come into our lives and bless us, challenge us, encourage us. Sometimes they help us grow. Sometimes they help us heal. Sometimes we don’t know why we’ve met, it only seems it was the right thing at the right time.

I have been thinking a lot about all of this in the past 2 months. Why was I called here? What was God up to in bringing us together? What am I carrying with me as we leave this chapter of our lives behind and embark upon a new adventure? What did we learn together? I am positive that as I continue to reflect, more will come to me, as I continue to wonder, I will see more. But for right now, here are some words I am carrying with me as I go: empowerment, tenacity, love, and pacing.

In a multitude of ways, you have empowered me, blessed my learning, allowed me to use you as guinea pigs, tried new things and allowed me to grow and learn beside you. I could not have finished my doctorate without your support. We weathered a pandemic – doing things none of us could have imagined by encouraging one another.

You are a tenacious people – you are stubborn, you know what you believe, and you stick to it, your proclaimed identity is even set to music. Sometimes despite all reason, you are able to hold the course, stay engaged and keep going. Yes, of course, sometimes stubbornness can be a curse; but as a congregation, a body of believers, your tenacity allows you to do far more than most congregations your size. Your tenacity is a testament to your faith.

You have loved me well. You have loved and embraced my family, particularly Caleb. You have come alongside us, prayed for us, encouraged us and allowed us to be ourselves. Caleb found a place with you, ways to serve that suited his need to move around. You invited us to be ourselves and loved us for who we are. You love each other well. Certainly, as with all families, there are irritations, disagreements, even fights but love for one another. Love for your neighbor, love for the challenging, beautiful and eccentric people God has gathered here, on this corner, in this building.

I believe pacing, rest, and sabbath to be our growing edges. Together we have grappled with how tired people seem to be and how frequently there just isn’t more time in the day. I am carrying with me a clear understanding of the need to honor and hold my own Sabbath space well, I pray you all will continue to set boundaries, encourage regular rest and practice pacing yourselves. After all, most committees don’t need to meet every month.

Siblings in Christ, people of HHPC – my prayer for you as we part is that you will know the depth, breadth, and expanse of God’s love for you (and mine). “Now I commit you to God’s care. I commit you to the word of his grace. It can build you up. Then you will share in what God plans to give all his people.” – Acts 20:32

And I leave you with these questions to ponder together and on your own: What do you see that God was up to in bringing us together? What will you carry with you as a congregation? What have we learned together?

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz



You're Invited!



Ice Cream Social

Sunday July 20, 2025

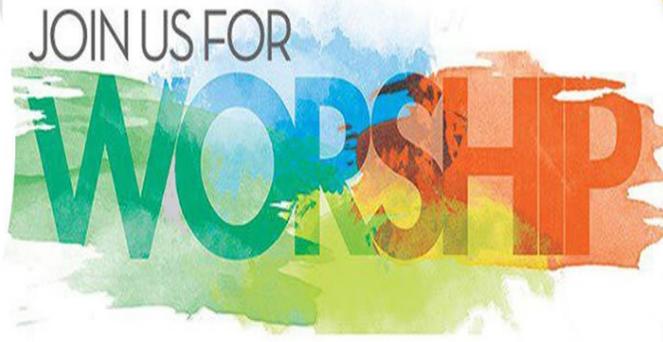
11:30 AM

in Fellowship Hall

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 W 95th St

Miss Fontable



Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for July & August. 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.

July 6

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 66:10; Galatians 6:1-6
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

August 3

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Eccl. 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Col. 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

July 13

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Deut. 30:9-14; Col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

August 10

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

July 20

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 18:1; Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

August 17

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 23:23-29; Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

July 27

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 11:1-13

August 24

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17



August 31

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7; Hebrews 13:1-8
Luke 12:49-56



As HHPC prepares for a new chapter take time to reflect on the letter from Pastor Edie.

Re-read the scripture cited from Acts 20:32.

Ponder the questions included in the article (listed below).

- What emotions get stirred up?
- What do you see that God was up to in bringing us together?
- What will you carry with you as this chapter closes?
- What have you learned?



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) **Richard** (Sheri) **Kathy V** (Barb K) **Holli G** (Barb K)

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) **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) **Lynn** (Melanie)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

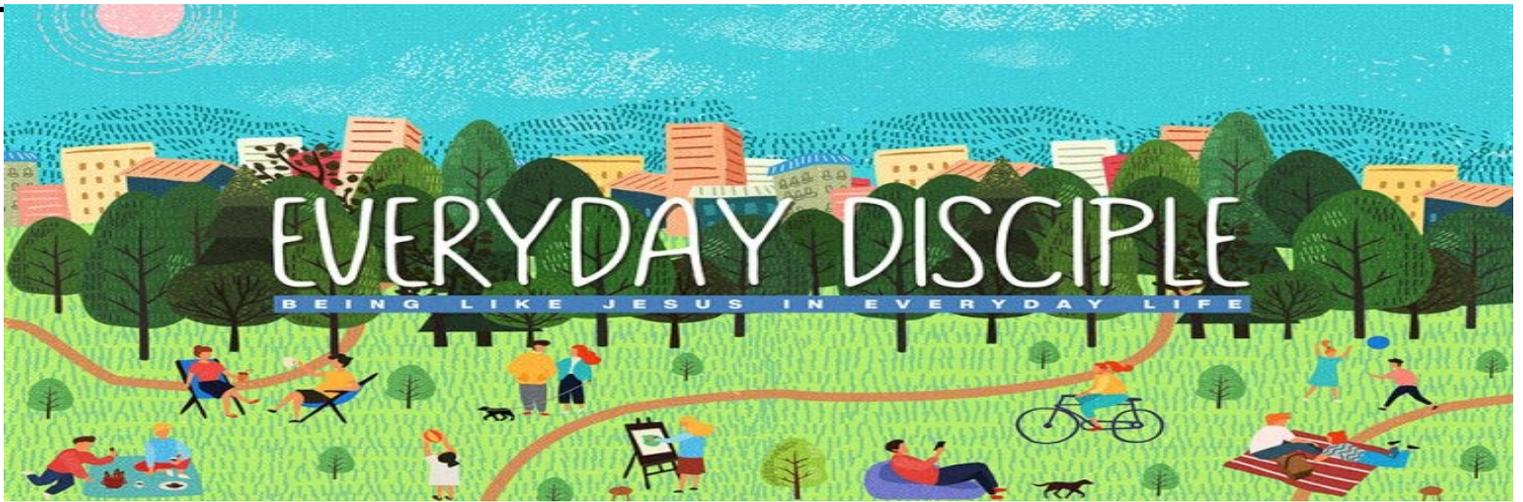
Ada S (Susan) **Steven** (Jean) **Sophie's Family** (Rick) **Clarissa's Family** (Doral) **Wiggins Family** (Jeni) **Jill** (Loss of her father-Deb H)

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

June was a busy month for the Discipleship Committee! We offered Vacation Bible School June 23 – June 26, 2025. Our theme was Road Trip – On the Go With God! “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go”—Joshua 1:9. Please search the July/August Newsletter for pictures of our VBS adventures! THANK YOU to all who assisted in making our 2025 VBS so much fun!



Aluminum Pull Tabs - Please continue to save pull tabs from aluminum cans. Aluminum pull tabs can also be found on some soup and pet food containers. It's summer; collect the pull tabs from summer parties and bring them to HHPC. As stated in July's newsletter, HHPC is within 16 pounds of meeting our 1,000,000 goal at Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn, IL.

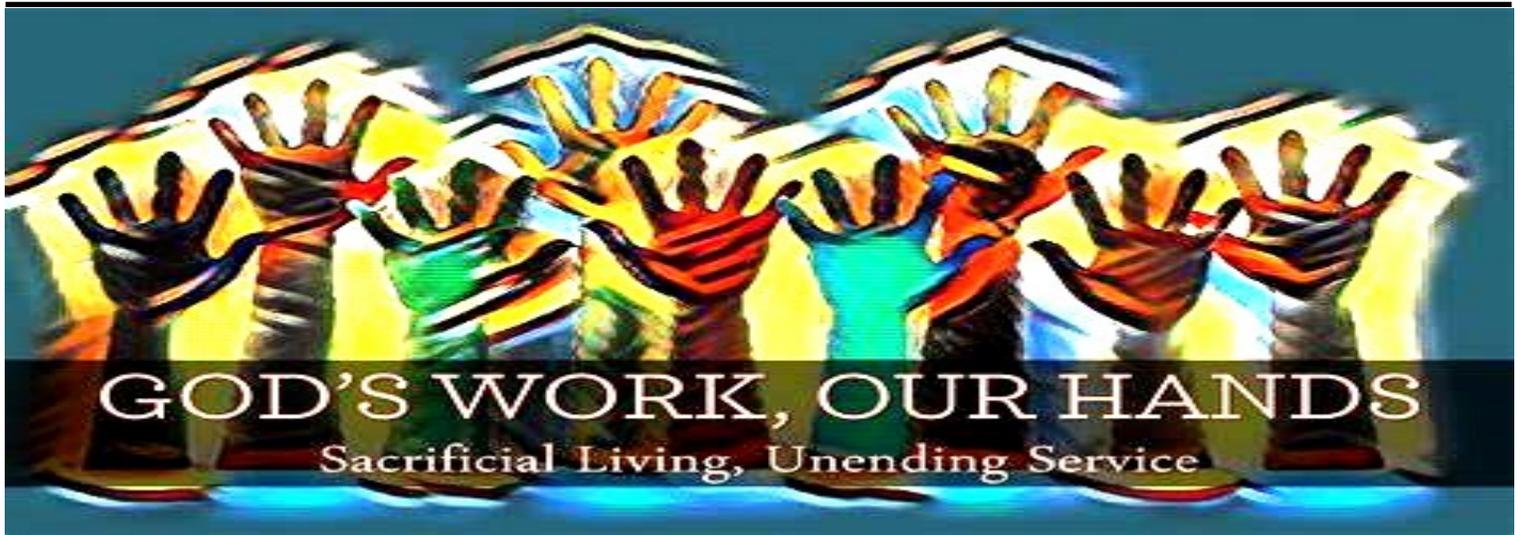
Discipleship has no planned activities for July and August. Don't be disappointed. We continue to plan for our future! Here are some important dates:

July 7 - Bible Study will resume! The group took a break and will meet again at 1 p.m. on July 7. All are welcome to join HHPC's Bible Study.

September 21 - HHPC's Fall Welcome! This will be our first day for youth Sunday School. Our Youth will continue to meet for Sunday School during our 10 a.m. service on the first and third Sundays of each month. Following service we will celebrate this Fall Welcome with a potluck meal. Meat and beverages will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, etc. After our potluck meal there will be games!

October 26 - Trunk or Treat! HHPC will celebrate Halloween. Car decorations and costumes are optional. However, they are also fun! More details to come in the September newsletter.

December 7 - Christmas Tea! Plans continue to develop this activity. Plan to join us!



Mission Committee Report

With Edie's departure our church has lost a valuable asset. Edie spearheaded many of our missions. Her leadership will be missed. The committee plans to continue with our various missions in the coming months.

Disaster Relief

We have no concrete plans at this time. We will evaluate future opportunities as they occur.

Feed My Starving Children

At this time there are no suitable packs except at the Aurora facility. We anticipate participating in the Feed The Need next February or March.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The last two years have proved to be successful in our support of the OGHS. We plan on continuing this mission during lent 2026.

Plastic Caps and Aluminum Tabs

We had a very successful Cap-sort-athon on June 1. According to the latest estimate we have about 880 pounds of caps ready for shipment. However, there are a number of caps still to be cleaned, and they will be added to the total number of pounds when they are actually clean. Please keep the caps coming and please make sure they are clean before bringing them to the church. We have more cap-sort-athon stations set up for anybody so inclined to use them. We are still collecting the aluminum tabs. We are nearing a milestone for this mission and would like to get there this year.

Micro Pantry

The need for our micro pantry shows no sign of abating. Please help us to keep it stocked.

Prayer Shawls and Lap Blankets

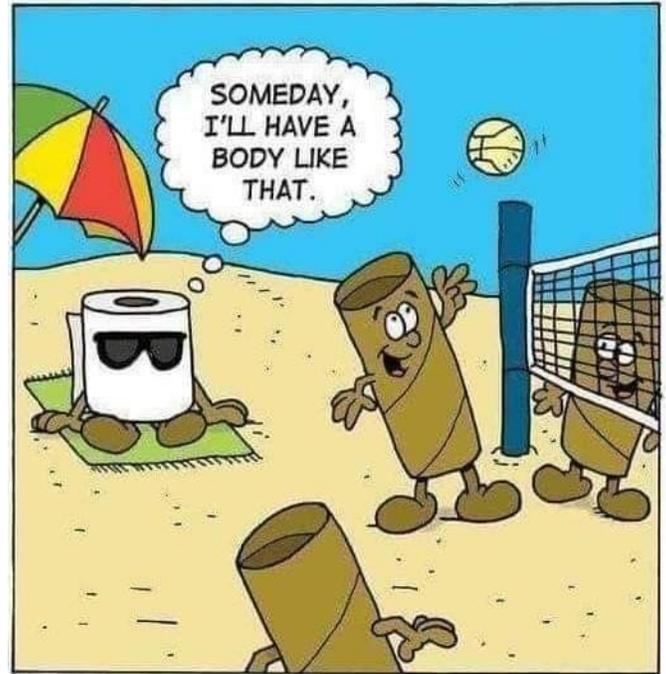
We ask you, as you are able and willing, to continue with this mission. Over 100 items were given away last year and there are many places we could donate these items to when we have a reasonable number to donate.

In the Future

Are there missions we should drop or are there missions we should adopt? Please let us know your thoughts.

Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



You should be on FUNsubstance.com

© Randy Glasbergen / glasbergen.com



"I found a good job for the summer.
I'm a grief counselor in a swimsuit store."



"Each serving contains 10 grams of 'OK in moderation', 5 grams of 'Not the worst thing you could eat' and 15 grams of 'It probably won't kill you'."

Upcoming Events at HHPC



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

JULY 7 NO COMMUNITY MEAL

**MONDAY AUGUST 4
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1
5:30 PM—6:30 PM**



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 resume on
Monday, July 7, at 1:00 p.m.**

**FALL
KICK-OFF
CELEBRATION**

YOU'RE INVITED!

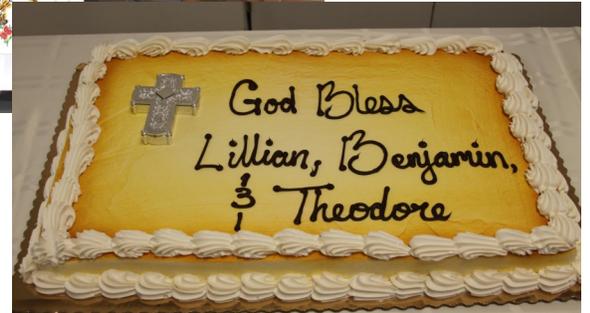
HHPC's Fall Welcome and Sunday School start is scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2025, 11:30 a.m. Plans are underway, yet it's pretty secure there will be a variety of activities and B-I-N-G-O!

Round Our Church

June 1 was a day of joy as HHPC celebrated 3 Baptisms.



It was also a day of sadness as the reality of Pastor Edie's completion of her pastorship at HHPC was upon us



Barb (COM), Darlene & Jeni meeting prep



Jeni reading Recommendation with Barb from COM

Caleb and Pastor Edie sharing a poignant moment of reflection



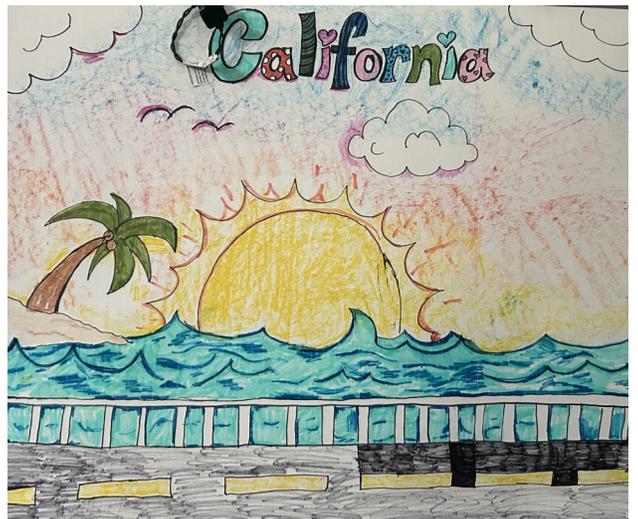
HHPC 2025 VBS—ROAD TRIP



The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



on the **ROAD** again



HGPC 2025 VBS—ROAD TRIP



**The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9**



Played
Games

Ate
Snacks



Made
Crafts



HHPC 2025 VBS—ROAD TRIP



The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



THANK YOU! to all who made HHPC's Vacation Bible School a success. All those who set-up, cleaned-up, prepared the curriculum & decor, food, skits, crafts, and games. A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to the **Illinois Valley Oldsmobile Club** for their car display and to the **Rogers Park Fire Department** for saving the day and posing for pictures. A shout out to all the kids as they stayed calm when the Fire Alarms went off and then followed instructions to calmly leave the building.



Registration is Open

Take some time away to relax, refresh and renew as you discover what it means to live the life God designed just for you with greater meaning, peace and authenticity.

Living A More Fully Alive Life

- Weekend Activities*
- Share delicious meals together
 - Listen to thought-provoking presentations
 - Engage in group discussions
 - Take time for personal reflection and prayer
 - Enjoy a Friday Night movie and a Saturday Night fun-filled evening
 - Browse the beautiful surroundings:
 - Lake Michigan
 - Lighthouse Mall
 - Wine Tasting nearby
 - Partake in a special Sunday Prayer Service

Scholarships will be available, if needed.

A Weekend Retreat

Arrival: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

3:00 PM Eastern Time; 2:00 PM Central Time
(Retreat will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.)

Departure: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

12 Noon Eastern Time; 11:00 AM Central Time

TOWER HILL CAMP
12173 TOWER HILL ROAD
SAWYER, MICHIGAN

Cost: \$150/person*

*Includes Meals; Shared Accommodations

PAYMENT DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST

Questions?

Contact Debbie Zimmerman 708-516-8607 or Bernie Roche 708-609-1951

**** Donations of bottled water, appetizers & snacks are appreciated. ****

COUNT ME IN!

Return this portion with your check for \$150 made payable to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church no later than September 1st and mail to: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, Attn: Barbara Karcz, Office Assistant, 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457. Indicate in memo line: For Retreat.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

PLEASE INDICATE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____



Amelia Huenecke	July 1
Mike Korzeniewski	July 3
Robert Swindle	July 4
Toni Kenealy	July 6
Gabriella Ciametti	July 7
Bernie Roche	July 9
Kyle Ambrosat	July 21
Jarett Ambrosat	July 21
Dianne Flynn	July 22
Lucy Dumke	July 22
Diane Ciametti	July 23
Justin Rellinger	July 23
Cindy Treccani	July 27



Anthony Lavaretto	August 1
Patt Pilgrim	August 1
Susan Beal Frangella	August 2
Jeni Vogl	August 2
Shannon Bastien	August 3
Molly Netter	August 9
Barb Karcz	August 13
Lorenza Swearingen	August 13
Abigail Rellinger	August 23



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>

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	2	3 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	4	5
6 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	7 1:00 PM Bible Study NO COMMUNITY MEAL	8 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	9 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	10 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	11	12
13 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	14 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session Meets	15 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	16 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	17 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	18	19 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class
20 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Ice Cream Social	21 1:00 PM Bible Study	22 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	23 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	24 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	25	26
27 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	28 1:00 PM Bible Study	29 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	30 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	31 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga		

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	4 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM COMMUNITY MEAL	5 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	6 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	7 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	8	9
10 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	11 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session Meets	12 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	13 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	14 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	15	16
17 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	18 1:00 PM Bible Study	19 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	20 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	21 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	22	23 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic's Card Making Class
24 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	25 1:00 PM Bible Study	26 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	27 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	28 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	29	30
31 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship						



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