

# 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.



SEPTEMBER 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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Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Phone: 708-598-3100

E-mail: [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org)

## VISIT US ONLINE

Website: [www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



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## **A Letter from Rev Dr. Craig Howard**

### **Perception Is Power: How Churches See Themselves Shapes Ministry**



Perception is everything. Congregations, like people, tend to have egos, personalities, and images of who they are in the world. These self-perceptions appear when a congregation is experiencing a pastoral transition. Some congregations expect to find the most qualified and gifted person, while others feel fortunate if anyone wants to be their pastor. The difference is the congregation's perception, or how it sees itself.

One congregation in the presbytery calls itself "Small but mighty." Friendship Presbyterian Church's self-image is the dung beetle. Yep, that's what the church members told me! Looking at Friendship, I can see why. The dung beetle is the strongest insect on the planet. It is the world's ultimate powerlifter, hauling over 1,000 times its own weight. That would be like a human lifting six city buses! The dung beetle truly is small but mighty!

Friendship expresses the dung beetle image in its work and ministry. Everything they do is far bigger than the average church could imagine. But they are not average. Friendship is constantly punching above

its weight. Sunday worship is small, but it has one of the best online presences I've experienced. This small church of less than 60 people feeds over 150 people every week! The entire place is electric with energy, excitement, and hope.

How a church sees itself comes through to visitors, the community, and anyone seeking to be a part of the ministry. As Hickory Hills goes through this pastoral transition, what image of the church are you showing? I pray you experience the power of the resurrection as you learn and grow together in hope, resurrection, and the power of God.

*Rev. Dr. Craig Howard*

Executive Presbyter





Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for September. 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](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org).

**September 7**

13th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Deut. 30:15-20; Philemon 1:1-21  
Luke 14:25-31

**September 14**

14th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Exodus 32:7-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

**September 21**

15th Sunday after Pentecost

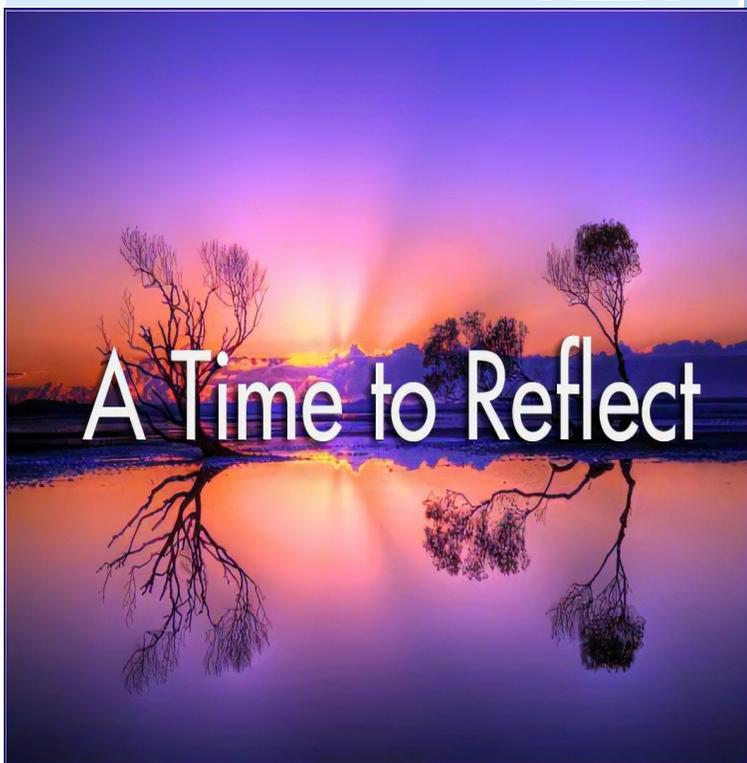
**Readings:** Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

**September 28**

16th Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Amos 6:1a,4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

**EVERY SUNDAY  
AT 10 AM**



**Luke Chapters 14, 15 & 16** contain many parables told by Jesus.

- Why does Jesus use parables?
- Do parables help you understand what Jesus is teaching?
- If parables are open to interpretation, how do I know I am understanding it correctly?

**1 Timothy** - The Apostle Paul is an ideal combination of friend, teacher and mentor to Timothy.

- What can a spiritual mentor teach you?
- Who have you seen as your most positive spiritual mentor?
- How does your spirituality fit in to the overall picture of your life?
- Does your spirituality help you lead a life of contentment?



## **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) **Karen G** (Grace) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Marg** (Bernie) **Melissa** (Charles S) **Cheryl** (Evelyn) **Linda** (Wilda) **Mary Jo** (Deb H) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary** (Mel) **Robin** (Mel) **Mave** (Cheryl) **Charlotte** (Deb H) **Rich** (Rick) **Shirley** (Deb H) **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) **Fran** (Jeni) **Janice** (Sheri S) **Patricia** (Deb H) **Deb** (Mel) **Virginia** (Mel) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Kathy** (Deb H) **Andrew** (Darlene D) **Sara** (Mel) **George** (Kim) **Nancy** (Kim) **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) **Kathy V** (Barb K) **Holli G** (Barb K) **Sandy** (Bernie R) **Joann** (Barb K) **Anthony** (Cindy) **Donna A** (Cindy) **Mario** (Cindy) **Monica, Dolores** (Debbie H) **Colton** (Diane) **Lilly, Katie B, Kirsten** (Debbie H) **Donna** (Katie)

## **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) **Darren** (Evelyn) **Tony** (Deb H) **Dawn** (Jeni V) **Z Mary Ann** (Mel) **Jane** (Jean) **Sheri** (Kim A) **Janet** (Bernie) **Yolanda** (Bernie) **Jill** (Kim) **Noel** (Kim) **Jarrett** (Kim) **Lynn** (Melanie) **Howie** (Jeni) **Joe** (Katie) **Missi L** (Jeni) **Madison** (Cindy)

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

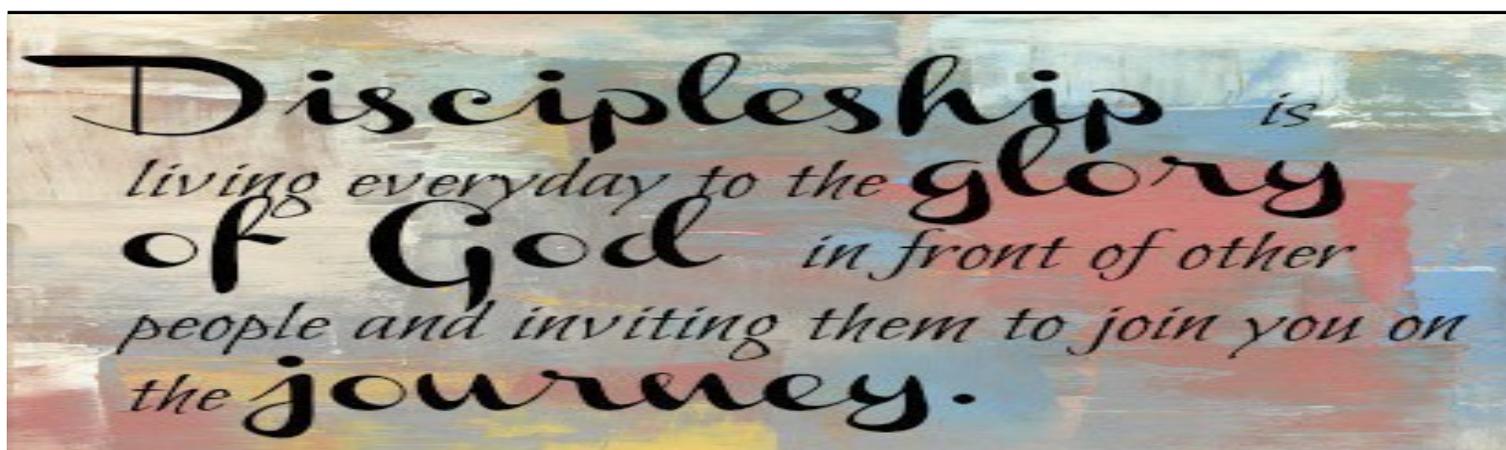
**Ada S** (Susan) **Clarissa's Family** (Doral) **Chickie M , Ed N, Reagen Family**

## **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...**

**Leslie A, Caleb**



## HHPC Discipleship Committee

### CURRENT

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study is held Mondays at 1pm. The group is currently studying Ephesians.

#### **ALUMINUM PULL TABS**

HHPC is in need of approximately 6 Pounds of pull tabs! These six pounds should bring us to our goal of 1,000,000 tabs donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn.

### UPCOMING

#### **FALL WELCOME** - Sunday, September 21

HHPC's first day of youth Sunday School. Our youth will meet for Sunday School during the 10 a.m. service on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of each month, September 21, 2025 thru May 3, 2026. We will celebrate Fall Welcome with a potluck meal following the 10 a.m. service. This potluck will be in place of Fellowship Hour. Meat and beverages will be supplied. Please plan to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, etc.; a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. There will be games! There will be B-I-N-G-O!

#### **TRUNK OR TREAT** - Sunday, October 26

Trunk or Treat at HHPC will occur from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. in our lower parking lot. Car decorations and costumes are optional, but fun! There will be prizes for Best Car and Best Costume! A light meal will be served during Fellowship for all who attended the 10 a.m. service and for all who participate with Trunk or Treat! A sign-up sheet will be available as of September 7. We must have eight (8) cars signed up by Sunday, October 12, in order to hold this event.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### **CHRISTMAS TEA** - Sunday, December 7

HHPC's Christmas Tea will be a great opportunity have a time of relaxation during a busy time of year! Our entertainment will be fantastic!

#### **SOUPER SUNDAY** - Sunday, February 8, 2026

# MISSIONS

## **Mission Committee Report**

Please keep those cards and letters coming. Seriously we want to keep the plastic caps and aluminum pull tabs coming. We are just a few pounds short of achieving our goal of so many pounds of tabs, which we hope can be met by the end of this year. And we are still collecting plastic caps with no metal content. The caps should be clean before bringing them to the church. They can be cleaned in a dishwasher or washing machine, or washed individually by hand. Open all caps that have a hinged part before washing.

## **Feed My Starving Children Update**

Tentative plans have been made to participate in a mobile pack October 4, 2025 at Willowbrook High School (Which is in Villa Park, not Willowbrook, 1250 Ardmore Avenue, North of Roosevelt road). More details on this as they become available. We have secured 10 slots for November 22, 2025 pack at the FMSC Aurora location. Signups for that will be made available shortly. It is anticipated that the “Feed the Need” pack will again take place at Illinois Benedictine in Early March 2026. We hope for good participation for that event.

## **Upcoming Events**

November will have us supporting Elsie’s pantry. We will have a list of supplies needed. At the same time please do not forget our mini pantry. It is used constantly and always needs items for restocking.

We will contact the Jones Center to see if they want us to supply some items for their after school program Christmas party. We have items for their dime store ready to take there.

The last two years have seen a very satisfying response to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Plans are to continue this campaign during Lent 2026.

# Upcoming Events at HHPC



## HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8**

**5:30 PM—6:30 PM**

**MONDAY OCTOBER 6**

**5:30—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.*



Join our  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**

Join us for Bible Study

Monday's at 1:00 PM

(There will be no Bible Study session on Labor Day, September 1)

Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)



Sunday October 26  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
8426 W 95th St  
Parking Lot

# TRUNK OR TREAT

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

A graphic for a fall celebration. The text "FALL KICK-OFF CELEBRATION" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, there are two red and white striped tents with colorful bunting flags strung across them.

**FALL  
KICK-OFF  
CELEBRATION**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR HHPC's 2025  
FALL CELEBRATION  
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL START!**

**Sunday September 21  
at 11:30 AM**

**There will be FOOD!  
There will be GAMES! & B-I-N-G-O!**

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95th St  
FELLOWSHIP HALL (LOWER LEVEL)**

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

## 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

### 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.

**PAYMENT DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

### Questions?

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

\*\* Donations of bottled water, appetizers & snacks are appreciate

### COUNT ME IN!

Return this portion with your check for \$150 made payable to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church no later than September 15th 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: \_\_\_\_\_



K Zimmerman	September 13
Cheryl Nirtaut	September 15
Dawn Rellinger	September 18
Charles Huenecke	September 19
Dave Delaney	September 20
Debbie Zimmerman	September 22
Ryan Brenz	September 23
Greg Rolla	September 27
Debbie Hejna	September 30



Brian & Edie Lenz  
 8013 Schrieber Rd  
 Floyd's Knobs, IN 47119

Caleb Lenz  
 1925 Ring Rd N #WHE-3322  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5453



### Prayer for Our Nation

Father God, We pray for our nation as a whole this September 11th. September 12th was met with unity and grief that we all shared. It is still something we share as a people; it is a reminder of how fragile and precious life truly is. Lord, we pray for peace and unity in our nation today. We pray that Your Spirit would pour out among us and that through and by You, there would be a common heart, a common goal, and a common desire for peace and kindness towards one another. Let us not lose sight of what is important in this life and help us love one another as You truly love us.

Lord, we pray for our leaders today. We pray that You would give them wisdom and discernment as they tackle events and dilemmas as they unfold. We pray that You would inspire this nation to be a nation under God, one that seeks to glorify, honor, and praise You. This is our heart's desire, Lord. We desire to be Your people, and we strive to have peace. This nation has so much to offer, and Lord, we pray for our nation to truly be a City on a Hill. In Jesus Name, Amen



Where's the Ice Cream?



## Round Our Church



Sunday, July 20, an Ice Cream social hosted by the Deacons. Fun and ice cream was enjoyed by all

1



*Round Our Church*



*Sunday, July 20, an Ice Cream social hosted by the Deacons. Fun and ice cream was enjoyed by all*

2

There is always room for ice cream!



This is delicious!



# Join Us for Trunk or Treat 2025!

*(Decorate your car with a creative theme or just come and have fun.*

*~ Sign-up sheet in the narthex.*

*We must have 8 cars signed up by October 12 to hold this event.)*



## **Fun for Everyone!**

~ Kids will enjoy trick or treating at creatively-themed cars.

~ Car decorations are optional but fun!

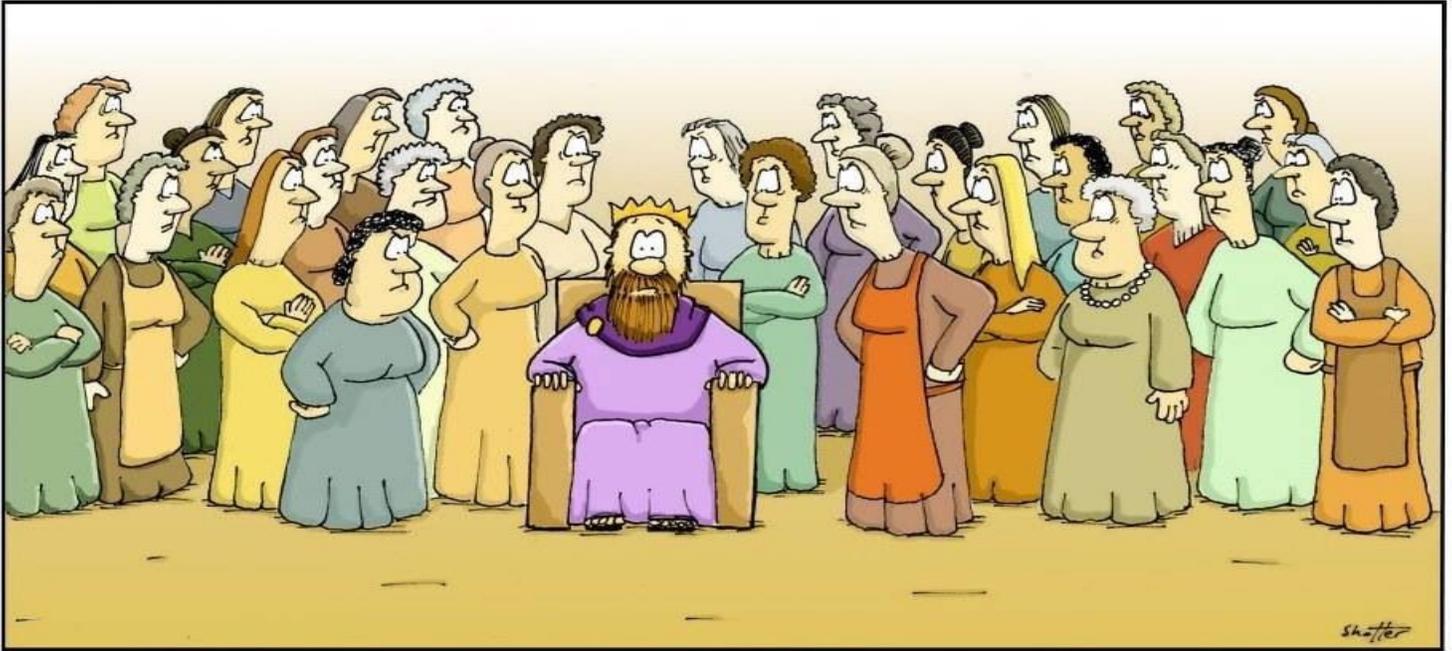
~ Prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Car & Best Costume.

**Sunday, October 26**  
**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Hickory Hills**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
**8426 W 95th St**  
**Lower parking lot**

# Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



Some of Solomon's courtiers had to question the wisdom of a man with 700 mother-in-laws



"What do we do if they NEVER leave the building?"

# September 2025

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

# SEPTEMBER

# Affetto

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