

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

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OCTOBER 2025



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Rev Dr. Craig Howard

Beauty of Change

Written by Rev. Dr. Craig Howard

Featured in Presbytery Connect May 28, 2025



Churches throughout the presbytery have experienced a lot of change and many transitions over the past two years. In this article, I reflect on how we look at change and how we recognize what God is doing in our midst.

Marilyn and I enjoyed visiting the Butterfly House outside St. Louis for Memorial Day. We'd never been before and didn't know what to expect. Once inside, we were surrounded by butterflies fluttering and flying around us. Their flying was more like a dance as they weaved in and around one another and us! These beautiful creatures were from locations around the world. Colors and grace encircled us as the butterflies floated freely throughout the enclosure.

Butterflies are a symbol of transition and change. As I've written before, change can be difficult and painful. Change can bring loss and grief. There is a harshness and fear in describing change in this way. Change can be like a thief in the night, invading our lives, coming when we don't expect it or want it. But watching the butterflies gracefully flutter, I experienced the beauty of change.



Perhaps it was the wings. Butterfly wings look different depending on which side is showing. They can appear as camouflage, blending into the trees, or a fluorescent blue blur across the water. Change can also appear differently depending on our viewpoint of life. We can see change as an unwanted intruder or a welcome opportunity. Change can be a door we have been afraid to open until a pastoral transition or leadership change.

The past five years have brought many pastoral changes in the Presbytery of Chicago. Twenty-three congregations have new pastors, and 25 pastors and leaders have new calls. Fourteen of these changes happened in 2023. These changes do not include congregations that have dissolved or closed. How should we look at these changes? How should we see what God is doing in our midst? Should we express fear toward the future or embrace the reality of change like a dance, engaging it with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

I enjoy taking pictures of sunrises and sunsets. At some point, I realized that dawn and dusk, as well as sunrise and sunset, look identical. The ending and the beginning look alike. Maybe life is saying that when change brings an ending, it is also an opportunity for a new beginning. In the book [*Yes, Love, Thank You*](#), David Long-Higgins refers to God as "Yes." I love that! He writes:

Yes, grant me
An advent awakening
Muting every resistance
And releasing a new song
Of thanks for your grand gift
Of beginning again...

Here... now... yes... thank you.

May the changes in our churches, lives, and society release a new song as we live into new beginnings. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Craig Howard

Executive Presbyter

(Blog and photo by Rev. Dr. Craig Howard)



Come
LET US
WORSHIP
THE LORD

Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for October. 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.

October 5

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; 2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 19

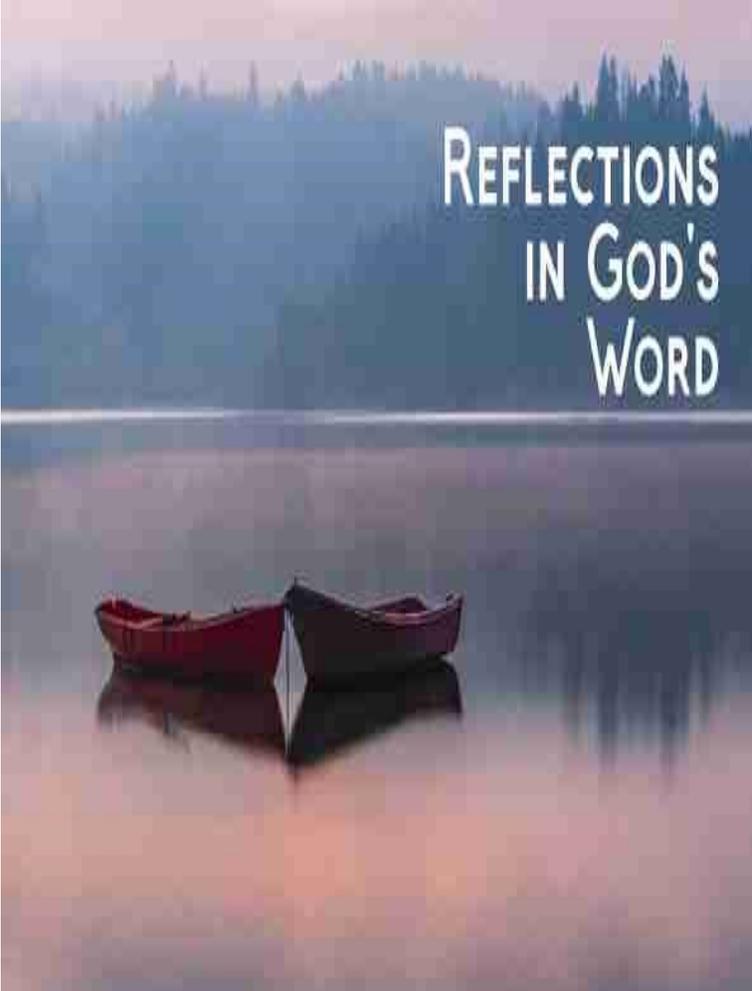
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



REFLECTIONS
IN GOD'S
WORD

The Gospel Readings for the month of October include many instances of Jesus teaching His Disciples. He speaks of Sin, Faith & Duty.

Luke 17:5-10 speaks of faith the size of a mustard seed. How would you categorize the size and strength of your faith?

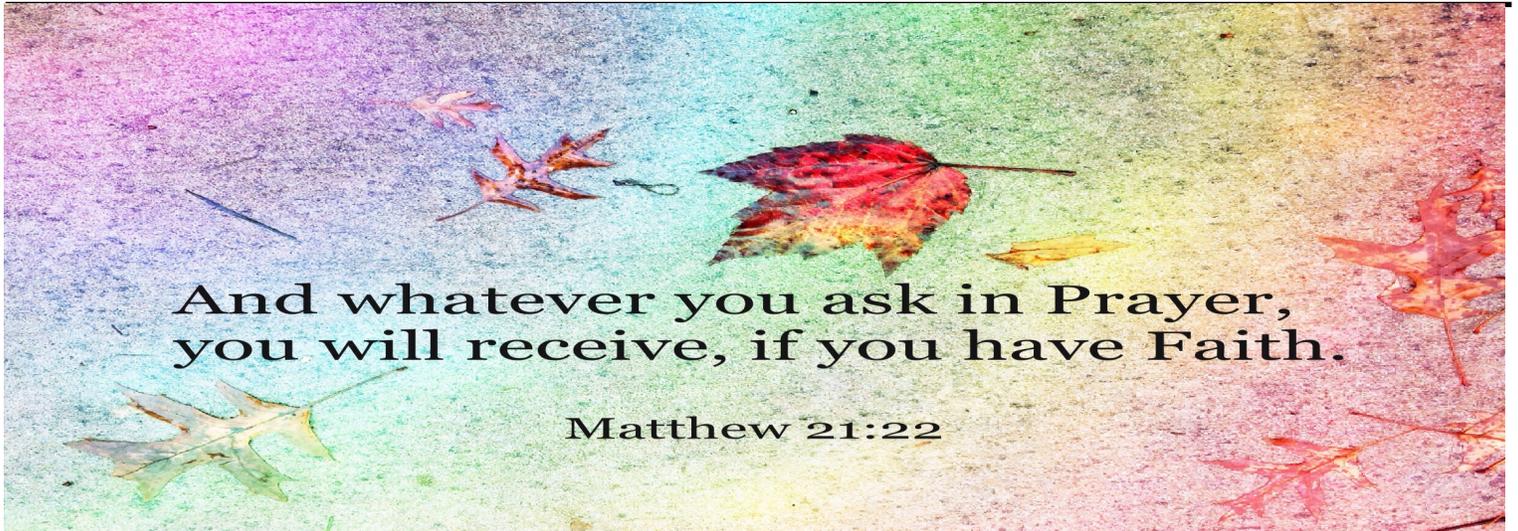
Luke 17:11-19 relates the miracle of Jesus healing a group of lepers. He told them it was by their faith they had been healed. How does your faith interrelate to your physical well-being? Do you offer thanks to God for the gifts he has given?

Luke 18:1-8 is the Parable of the persistent Widow. When your prayers, your pleas, are not answered immediately, does your faith suffer? When things are finally “put right” what is your first reaction? When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith in your heart?

In **Luke 18:9-14**, Jesus presents the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. You can find some reflection questions in our Sunday bulletin on October 26.

Jesus uses parables when he teaches. Do parables make it easier or harder to understand what Jesus wants to teach us?

What parable is your favorite, or has most impacted your faith?



**And whatever you ask in Prayer,
you will receive, if you have Faith.**

Matthew 21:22

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING...

Ally (Toni) Benny (Toni) Bernie (Barb K) Chris (Mel) Danny (Jeni V) Everleigh (Jeni V) Jaden K (Toni) Jerry (Toni) Kristen (Charlie) Lois (Darlene D) Karen G (Grace) Jeff (Deb H) Marg (Bernie) Melissa (Charles S) 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) 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) John (Grace) Sue (Grace) Cindy (Debbie Z) Laurie (Sheri) Dani (Andrew) Robin (Mel) Tricia (Deb H) Helen (Deb H) Chris (Susan) Tommy (Evelyn) Sandy (Bernie R) Anthony (Cindy) Donna A (Cindy) Mario (Cindy) Monica, Dolores (Deb H) Colton (Diane) Katie B, Kirsten (Deb H) Donna (Katie) Frannie (Debbie Z) Grace M (Cheryle R) Delores O (Debbie H) Kenneth B (Deb H)

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) Millie (Toni) Janice (Katie) Jacqui (Katie) Kathie (Jeni V) Ted (Grace) Scott (Grace) Gary (Katie) Sheri (Barb K) Toni (Edie) Kathy (Jeni V) Ruth (Jeni) Bud (Diane C) Tony (Deb H) Dawn (Jeni V) Z) Mary Ann (Mel) Jane (Jean) Janet (Bernie) Yolanda (Bernie) Lynn (Melanie) Howie (Jeni) Joe (Katie) Missi L (Jeni) Madison (Cindy) Nick (Mel) Jamie (Mel) Linda (Deb H)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

Ada S (Susan) Family of Carlos (Toni) 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 N, Caleb L, Braiden (Deb H)

DISCIPLESHIP

Our Fall/Autumn/Harvest Season activities have begun! Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) welcomed our changing tree colors with FALL KICK-OFF on Sunday, September 21. We began Youth Sunday School, which is held the first and third Sunday of each month now thru May 3, 2026. We further celebrated with a potluck and activities following the 10am service. We THANK our premier "Grill Master Dan" for the delicious burgers and hotdogs! B-I-N-G-O was enjoyed! We applaud the Number Calling Skill of our very own Linda! We had Lucky Winners and Gracious Non-Winners! There was a guess, "How Many", with Cheryl R. being the Lucky Winner! THANK YOU to every one of you who assisted to make this a fun day at HHPC!

TRUNK OR TREAT is rapidly approaching!

- 👁️ Sunday, October 26, 2025, from 1p-3p in our lower lot.
- 👁️ Car decorations and costumes are fun but not required!
- 👁️ There will be prizes for Best Car and Best Costume!
- 👁️ Fellowship Hour after the 10 am service will be a light meal for all who attend the 10am service and for Trunk or Treat workers/volunteers/car participants.
- 👁️ A sign-up sheet is available. We must have eight (8) cars signed up by October 12, 2025, in order to hold this event.



CHRISTMAS TEA

Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 1pm.

Our program will be provided by The Arlingtons!

BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 1p!

ALUMINUM PULL TABS

A drop off of pull tabs has recently been made that we anticipate will result in HHPC meeting our goal of 1,000,000 tabs! We are waiting for verification from Ronald McDonald House - Oak Lawn. We will let you know as soon as we know!

SOUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Football Season is in full swing!



Committee Report

Plastic Caps

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

HHPC will 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. We have also secured 10 slots for the FMSC November 22, 2025 pack at Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, 277 Hawthorne Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL. Signup sheets will be available. 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. **Please see page 7 of this Newsletter for a suggested list of healthy food items.** At the same time please do not forget our mini pantry. It is used constantly and always needs items for restocking.

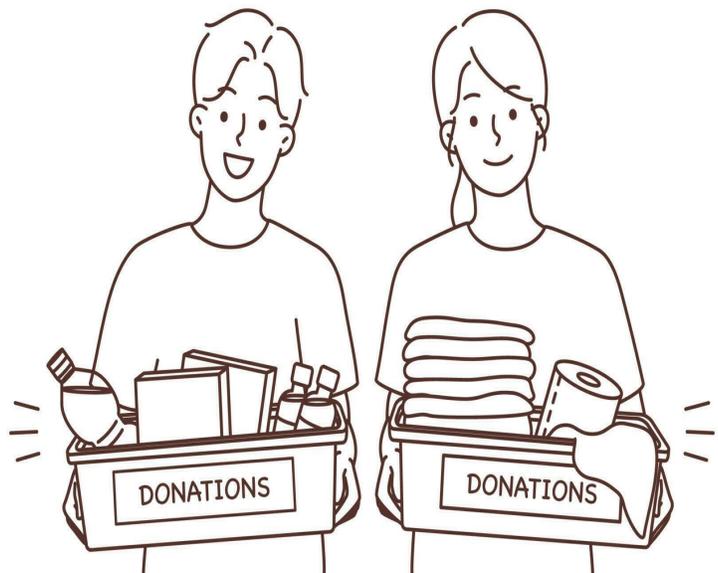
We will contact the Jones Center to see if they want us to supply some items for their after school program Christmas party. We have items for their dime store ready to take there.

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.

Suggested List of The Best Non-Perishable Foods to Donate

Food banks report that food donations should focus “on whole, unprocessed or minimally processed foods.” Instead of donating foods high in salt, sugar, and highly processed grains, give foods high in protein, healthy fats, and whole grains. Below are some of the best healthy food donations you can give during the holidays and year-round.

1. Canned beans
2. Dry beans
3. Peanut butter, or other nut butters
4. Rolled oats
5. Canned fruit in juice (not in light or heavy syrup)
6. Canned vegetables (with no or low-sodium)
7. Low-sodium soups
8. Canned tuna in water
9. Canned chicken
10. Brown rice
11. Quinoa
12. Nuts (unsalted)
13. Seeds (unsalted)
14. Shelf stable milk and milk substitutes
15. Whole grain pasta
16. Low-sodium pasta sauce
17. Canned stews
18. Unsweetened apple sauce
19. Whole grain and low-sugar cold cereals
20. Olive or canola oil
21. Canned tomatoes
22. Dried fruits (no sugar added)
23. Honey
24. Chicken, beef, and vegetable broths and stock.



Additional tips:

- Toiletry items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, and personal hygiene products are appreciated.
- Pet food for dogs and cats are welcomed as well.
- Canned goods with pop-top lids are better than those requiring a can opener
- Avoid foods packaged in glass
- **Don't donate foods that are past the expiration date**

Upcoming Events at HHPC



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY OCTOBER 6

5:30 PM—6:30 PM

MONDAY NOVEMBER 3

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 us for Bible Study
Monday's at 1:00 PM

Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)



Christmas Tea
Sunday, December 7



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**

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**

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 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: _____



Leslie Noonan	October 1
Haley Netter	October 1
LeAnne Kommenich	October 8
Sarah Johnston	October 8
Chris Rellinger	October 26
Scott Flynn	October 28
Karen Korzeniewski	October 28
Daniel Ciametti	October 29
Andrew Johnston	October 30



Brian & Edie Lenz
 8018 Schrieber Rd
 Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

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



Caramel Apple Dip

- ◆ 2 pkgs cream cheese*
- ◆ 1-cup brown sugar
- ◆ 1/2 cup sugar
- ◆ 2teaspoons vanilla
- ◆ 1pkg Heath Bar chips (no chocolate)
- ◆ Ghirardelli Carmel topping
- ◆ Whip cream cheese until fluffy
- ◆ Add sugars and vanilla
- ◆ Mix well add some Heath chips and mix
- ◆ Put in dish
- ◆ Pour Carmel topping on top (amount you desire)
- ◆ Sprinkle more Heath chips on top.
- ◆ Serve with apple slices (red and green)

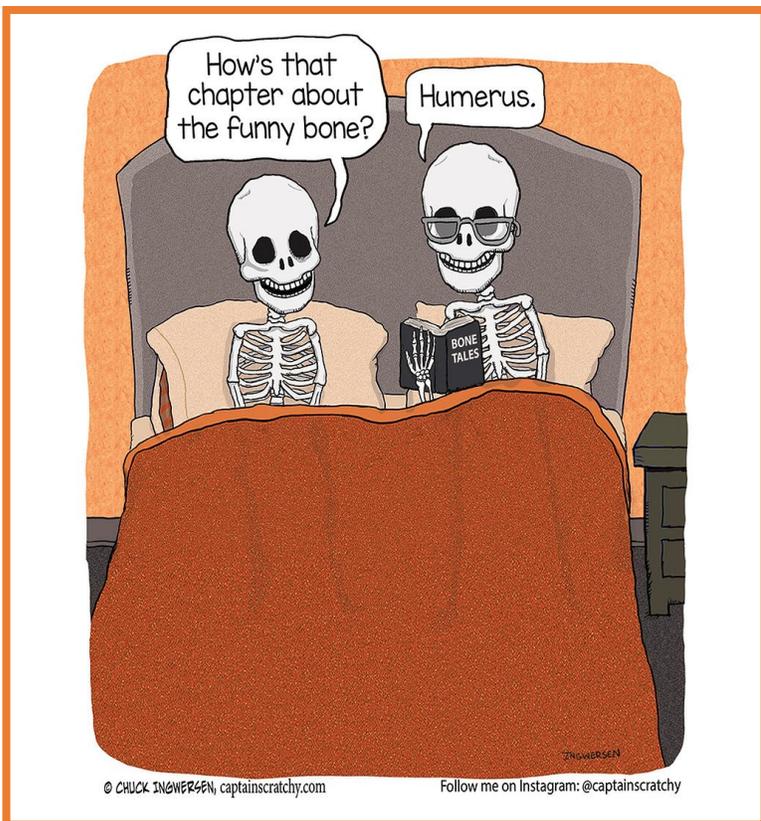
*Can be made with the Philadelphia No-Bake Cheesecake in the tub.

Enjoy!

Evelyn Garlic

Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4



October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	2 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	3	4 9:00 AM Willowbrook HS Villa Park 
5 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, Fellowship 11:30 AM Personal Committee Meets	6 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	7 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	8 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	9 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	10	11
12 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship	13 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session Meets	14 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	15 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	16 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	17	18
19 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School, Fellowship	20 1:00 PM Bible Study	21 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	22 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	23 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	24	25
26 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacon's Meeting 1:00 PM Trunk or Treat	27 1:00 PM Bible Study	28 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	29 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	30 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	31 HHPC Retreat 10/31—11/02 	HHPC Retreat 



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