

# 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.



DECEMBER 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

8426 West 95th Street  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Phone: 708-598-3100

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

## VISIT US ONLINE

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

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



## INSIDE...

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Article by Dynamis Ministries           | 2    |
| Worship Readings, Sermons, Reflections  | 3    |
| Prayer Requests                         | 4    |
| Discipleship Report                     | 5    |
| Mission Report                          | 6    |
| Invitation to HHPC Christmas Tea        | 7    |
| Upcoming Events                         | 8    |
| Round Our Church                        | 9-10 |
| December Birthdays, Announcements       | 11   |
| Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Wishes | 12   |
| December Calendar                       | 13   |

## **Small Actions, Big Impact**

---

*Written by Dynamis Ministries*

Reprinted with permission of Dynamis Ministries



Do you ever wonder what kind of impact you can truly make in the world? You might look around and see people who are more skilled than you, have more resources or have more opportunities, and then question whether the limited time, gifts or resources you possess can ever make a difference. It's so easy to doubt our impact when it seems like others are doing bigger, greater things. But the truth is, we can make an impact in the world! No matter how little we may think we have to offer, we can use it to make a significant difference for the good. There are many real-life examples that prove this. If you're skeptical, consider this one that might inspire you today.

Jadav Payeng grew up in a rural community on the largest river island in the world, located in the northeast region of India. As a boy, he witnessed the environmental impact of erosion on the island, leaving the land barren and desolate. Moved by the sad reality that his homeland could not sustain life, he set out to do something about it in the simplest way he knew how: to plant trees.

In 1979, at the age of 16, Jadav planted a tree sapling on the island's desolate landscape and has continued this practice every day for the past 40 years. Over these four decades, the island's entire ecosystem has revived. Today, the island features a forest nearly twice the size of Central Park in New York City, providing a habitat for wildlife including elephants, rhinos and tigers. Animal species that had left the island decades earlier are now returning to their natural habitat. This revival of growth and life is the result of one man who has faithfully planted tiny seeds into the ground every day for the last 40 years. It's no wonder Jadav has been dubbed "The Forest Man!"

The Forest Man's work is an inspiring story on many levels, from the value of persistence to delayed gratification to the importance of environmental stewardship and even an example of the ripple effects we can create. It also serves as a powerful analogy for how generosity works and can encourage us to believe that our simplest acts of generosity may create a bigger impact than we could ever imagine!

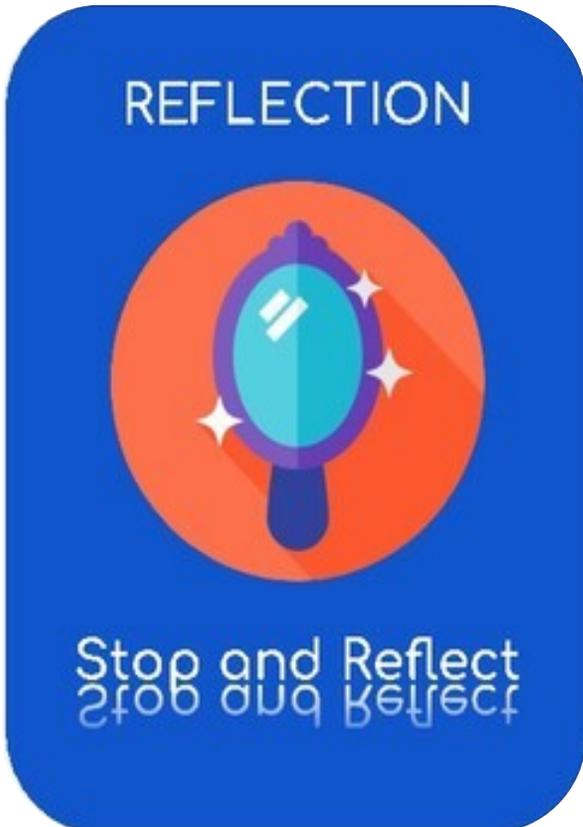
When Jadav planted his first tree, he had no idea what would become of it all these years later. Similarly, when we live out a spirit of generosity, we may never know what kind of seeds we are planting that will bear fruit down the road. Who knows, maybe a single act of service can become a catalyst for a new ministry idea, a small gift to someone in need may develop into a life-changing relationship or a simple gesture of kindness could revive a person's hope.

The truth is that small acts do make a big difference. Sometimes we see the impact quickly, but other times it may take years before we realize it, as the seeds we've planted have had time to grow and bring forth new life. As we go forward today, let's not underestimate the impact our smallest acts of generosity can create. Rather, let's be faithful in planting seeds, no matter how small, and live with expectancy that they can grow into something far greater than we ever imagined!

Dynamis Ministries  
2700 Duncan Lane  
Batavia, IL 60510  
630.643.0009  
<http://www.dynamisministries.org>

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  <p><b>Worship With Us</b><br/>IN-PERSON &amp; ONLINE</p>  |  | <p><i>Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for December. You can prepare for worship by reading and reflecting on these and the questions below.</i></p> <p><i>Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM in person or virtually. If you miss a service, they are available on our website at: <a href="http://www.hickoryhillspres.org">www.hickoryhillspres.org</a>.</i></p> |  |
| <p><b>December 7</b><br/>2nd Sunday of Advent<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-11<br/>Matthew 3:1-12</p>                   |  | <p><b>December 14</b><br/>3rd Sunday of Advent<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10<br/>Matthew 11:2-11</p>   |  |
| <p><b>December 21</b><br/>4th Sunday of Advent<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7<br/>Matthew 1:18-25</p>                   |  | <p><b>December 24</b><br/>Christmas Eve<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14<br/>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>December 25</b><br/>Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)<br/>John 1:1-14</p> |  | <p><b>December 28</b><br/>1st Sunday of Christmas<br/><b>Readings:</b> Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18<br/>Matthew 2:13-23</p>  |  |

### December Reflection Questions



**December 7, 2025** - The Second Sunday Of Advent

- John says to repent and turn away from our evil ways, the kingdom is near. What can you do to turn away from evil, today?
- We have heard of the coming of The Kingdom for so many generations. How can you maintain a sense of urgency and prepare, now, for the coming of The Kingdom?
- How can you let the fire of the Holy Spirit be in your life, today?

**December 14, 2025** - The Third Sunday Of Advent

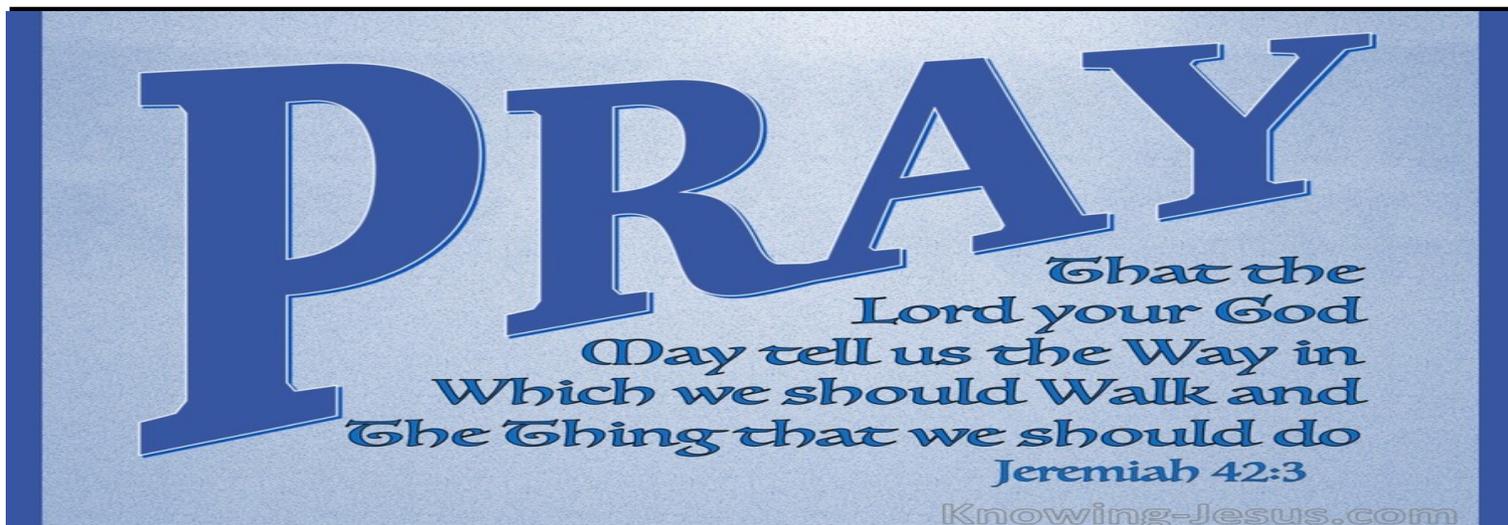
- John is in prison and is still reaching out to Jesus. Do you reach to God only when times are hard? Do you pray at all times, and in all ways?
- When God, Jesus, does not meet our exact expectations, how easy is it to still follow him, and not question him?
- Are you a reed, bending in the wind and turning to each new thing that comes along?

**December 21, 2025** - The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

- What can we learn from Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus?
- How do you see Immanuel, “God with us”, in your world today? How can you help others to see “God with us” in our world today?

**December 28, 2025** - The First Sunday After Christmas

- Have you ever received a warning that put your life into upheaval? How did you respond?
- How can prayer, how can God, be present for you during times of distress?



## **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) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Diane** (Jeni V) **Doris** (Wilda) **Fran** (Jeni) **Janice** (Sheri S) **Patricia** (Deb H) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Kathy** (Deb H) **Andrew** (Darlene D) **Sara** (Mel) **George** (Kim) **John** (Grace) **Sue** (Grace) **Laurie** (Sheri) **Dani** (Andrew) **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) **Frank** (Deb H) **Kristey S** (Debbie Z) **Tina S** (Debbie Z) **Simone** (Debbie Z) **CJ** (Debbie Z) **Robbie** (Diane C) **Vince C** (Sandy B)

## **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) **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) **Kathy** (Jeni V) **Ruth** (Jeni) **Bud** (Diane C) **Tony** (Deb H) **Dawn** (Jeni V) **Jane** (Jean) **Janet** (Bernie) **Yolanda** (Bernie) **Howie** (Jeni) **Joe** (Katie) **Missi L** (Jeni) **Madison** (Cindy) **Nick** (Mel) **Jamie** (Mel) **Linda** (Deb H) **George N** (Sandy B) **Dave W** (Sandy B)

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

**Ada S** (Susan) **Family of Carlos** (Toni) **Chickie M** , **Ed N**, **Reagen Family**, **Renee G** (Susan) **Family of Wanda McIlvoy**

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

**Dali, Alinafe, Yankho** (Molly) **Diana** (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Janet** (Evelyn) **Theresa J** (Barb K)

## **WE PRAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF GOD...**

**Leslie N, Braiden** (Deb H)



# Growing Through Discipleship

Your HHPC Discipleship Committee remains busy! HHPC sent a group to Brookfield Zoo Chicago to decorate our gifted tree. Please see pictures on pages 9-10 of th newsletter.

## CHRISTMAS TEA

Our annual Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 1pm. Our entertainment is the vocal group The Arlingtones! Sign-ups are available. Please feel free to bring some cookies or Christmas treats to share with all who attend. All are welcome to attend! Also, we are asking those that plan to attend to bring a non-perishable food item. All donations will be distributed to area food pantries and to HHPC's micro-pantry. Free will donations will be accepted.

## BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 1pm.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first and third Sundays of each month! Dec. 7 and Dec. 21

## SOUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8, 2026!



### You're Invited!

HHPC Christmas Tea Party  
Sunday, December 7, 2025  
1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 W 95th Street  
Hickory Hills, IL  
hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org  
708 598 3100

Please bring a non-perishable food item.  
All donations will be used by the micro-pantry here  
and the local Pantry - Elsie's Pantry.



### **Feed My Starving Children**

We are still planning to go to the Feed the Need pack in late February or Early March.

### **Lap Robes and Prayer Shawls**

To anybody who makes these items: Keep up the good work. A few items have already been delivered to the Church. We certainly hope we get many more. Is Winter a good time to keep the needles and hooks busy? And, how is your yarn supply? If you need more let me know and I will try to get what you need. Our Tree of Warmth is up and we collecting hats, gloves, scarves, socks, leggings, and other items for warmth during the winter months.



*These Slots are Still Open as of November 24, 2025. Please visit website for more information.*

**10:00 am Breakfast Seating**

**28 of 30 slots filled**

**10:15 am Breakfast Seating**

**1 of 25 slots filled**

**10:30 am Breakfast Seating**

**4 of 25 slots filled**

**10:45 am Breakfast Seating**

**7 of 19 slots filled**

Games

## *You're Invited!*

*HHPC Christmas Tea Party*

*Sunday, December 7, 2025*

*1:00 PM—3:00 PM*

*Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*

*8426 W 95th Street*

*Hickory Hills, IL*

*hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org*

*708 598 3100*

*Please bring a non-perishable food item .*

*All donations will be used by the micro-pantry here ,*

*and the local Pantry - Elsie's Pantry.*

*Free will donations are accepted.*

Fellowship

Refreshments

# Upcoming Events at HHPC

## HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1**

**5:30—6:30 PM**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

**5:30—6:30 PM**

**COMMUNITY**  
*meal*



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

Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)

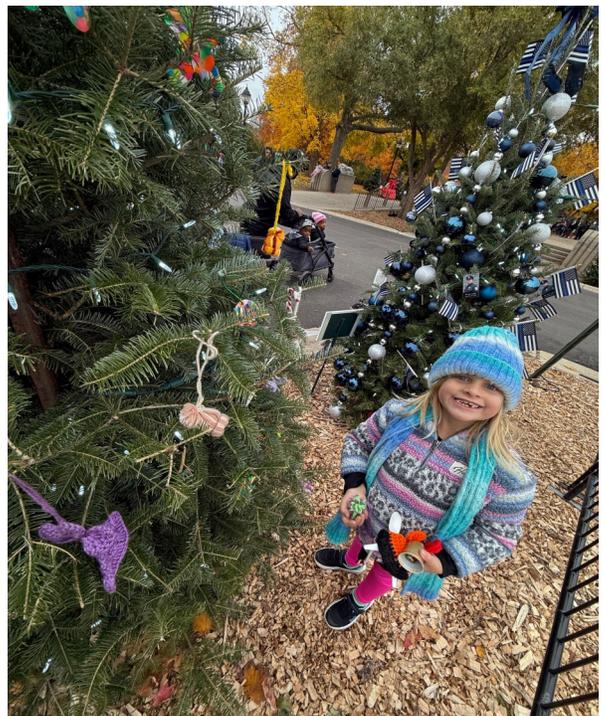


The Warming Tree is up. We will be taking donations of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, leggings, sweatpants, and coats to benefit those in need. Collection will continue until December 28.

*Round Our Church*



**Brookfield Zoo Tree Decorating**



*Round Our Church*  
  
**Brookfield Zoo Tree Decorating**





|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Darlene Delaney | December 1  |
| Melanie Swindle | December 1  |
| Bryan Ambrosat  | December 12 |
| Gabby Meyer     | December 15 |
| Jayden Kenealy  | December 16 |
| Gina Ciametti   | December 16 |
| Greg Nirtaut    | December 16 |
| Lynn Majersky   | December 17 |
| Natasha Swindle | December 20 |

**Suggested List of The Best Non-Perishable Foods to Donate**

Food banks report that food donations should focus “on whole, un-processed 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. Our Micro-Pantry or Elsie’s Pantry will benefit from the donation of any of these items.

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:**

- 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**

**Our Micro-pantry located outside our church is being used daily, especially at this time and with the Holidays just around the corner. We appreciate donations. The list above offers a suggested list for healthy choices..**



**Thank you, everyone,  
for your generosity!**



*From the Hickory Hills  
Presbyterian Church Family*

# December 2025

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri       | Sat       |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
|  | <b>1</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study<br><b>5:30 PM</b><br>Community Meal | <b>2</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga  | <b>3</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga  | <b>4</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga                                       | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning Worship,<br>Children & Youth Sunday<br>School, Fellowship<br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Christmas Tea FT:<br>The Arlingtones 🎵 | <b>8</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study<br><b>7:30 PM</b><br>Session        | <b>9</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga  | <b>10</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga   | <b>11</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga                                      | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning Worship,<br>Fellowship   | <b>15</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                    | <b>16</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga | <b>17</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b><br>Chair Yoga   | <b>18</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga                                      | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning Worship,<br>Children & Youth Sunday<br>School, Fellowship  | <b>22</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                    | <b>23</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga | <br><b>11:00 P.M.</b> |  | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Morning Worship,<br>Fellowship   | <b>29</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br>Bible Study                                    | <b>30</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br>Traditional Yoga |                       |  |           |           |

**DECEMBER**



**2025**

*A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church*  
**The Connecting Link**

**DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT HOLD**

**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457**