

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.

Indoor Yard Sale



SALE HOURS

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026
9:00 AM—7:00 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 15
9:00 AM—7:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 16
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

MAY 2026

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](mailto:hhcp@hickoryhillspres.org)

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



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Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas

Faithful in the In-Between

Written by Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas



In this era of the instantaneous - Amazon prime, same day deliveries, Zelle, Cash App, etc. We are very often impatient for the next thing. We either long for the “old days’ or what to hurry to what’s next! Many of us have developed an appetite for hurry. And when we take time to think about it, we instinctively know that life does not always work that way.

The life of a congregation, like the life of faith itself, is marked by seasons. There are seasons of clarity and momentum, and there are seasons of transition—times when one chapter has ended and another has not yet fully begun. As your Interim Pastor, I want to acknowledge that we are in such a season together: an in-between time.

It is natural in these moments to feel a mixture of emotions. There may be gratitude for what has been, uncertainty about what lies ahead, and even a quiet longing for stability. Yet Scripture reminds us that in-between seasons are not empty spaces in the life of God’s people. They are often the very places where God does some of the deepest and most transformative work.

The psalmist offers this prayer:

“So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart” (Psalm 90:12).

This verse invites us to see each season—even one of transition—as an opportunity for growth in wisdom and trust. We are not called simply to wait passively for what comes next, but to live faithfully in the present moment, attentive to how God is shaping us here and now.

Throughout Scripture, the people of God frequently find themselves in in-between places. The Israelites journeyed through the wilderness between liberation and promise. The disciples lived in the tension between Jesus’ resurrection and the fullness of the church’s mission. In each case, the in-between was not a pause in God’s activity, but a season of preparation, formation, and deepening dependence on God.

The Apostle Paul offers a helpful perspective for such times:

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13–14).

Paul does not dismiss the past, nor does he rush anxiously into the future. Instead, he models a steady faithfulness—holding the past with gratitude, looking toward the future with hope, and remaining grounded in the present call of God.

As a congregation, this is our shared invitation: to be faithful in the in-between.

This faithfulness takes many forms. It includes continuing in worship, even when the future feels uncertain. It includes caring for one another, strengthening relationships, and listening attentively for God’s guidance. It includes resisting the temptation to rush ahead in anxiety or to linger too long in what has been and instead trusting that God is at work among us in this very season.

Most importantly, we are reminded that our identity as the church is not dependent on any one leader or moment in time. The church belongs to Christ. As Jesus assures us,

“I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

This promise anchors us. It assures us that we do not walk through this season alone. Christ is present - guiding, sustaining, and preparing us for what lies ahead.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to walk with you during this time. I look forward to listening, learning, and serving alongside you as we discern together how God is leading this congregation into its next chapter.

May we embrace this season not with fear, but with faith—trusting that the God who has been faithful in the past will continue to be faithful in the future.

In Christ’s service,

Your Interim Pastor
Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas



Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for May. You can prepare for worship by reading the scriptures and reflecting on the questions on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Our worship services are 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 3

5th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Proverbs 4:10-18; 1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10

6th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Ezekiel 34:1-7a; 1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17

Ascension of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7; Acts 1:6-14
Luke 24:44-53

May 24

Day of Pentecost

Readings: Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23

May 31

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2,4a; 2 Cor. 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20



Something to Ponder

May Scripture Reflections

May 3, 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter.

Proverbs 4: 10-18 – Wisdom is Supreme

Who do you turn to for wisdom?

Does your father, or your “Father” provide more wisdom?

1 Peter 2:2-10 – The Living Stone

Do you see Jesus as the “corner stone” of your faith?

How can you be a “living stone”?

What can you do with those stones on your path that cause you to trip or stumble on your walk of faith?

John 14:1-14 – Jesus Comforts His Disciples, Jesus the Way to the Father

When you are troubled, how do you find peace in just words?

Have you placed the outcome of your life in Jesus? In what ways does your life show this to be true?

Who do you know that hasn’t placed their life in Jesus’ hands?

What keeps you from sharing the good news of Jesus with this person?

May 10, 2026 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Ezekial 34:1-7a – Shepherds and Sheep

To whom is the Prophet Ezekiel speaking in this passage?

Are you one of the shepherds or one of the sheep?

1 Peter 3:13-22 – Suffering for Good

Have you ever done something that was intended to be truly good and been punished for that act?

How easy is it for you to discern what is God’s will for you and what is your desire?

John 14:15-21 – Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

How often do you look ahead with anticipation to the Final Victory in Jesus?

What steps can you take to gain a deep and consistent hope in this ultimate triumph?

How do you let the Holy Spirit into your heart?

How do you share the Holy Spirit with others?

May 17, 2026 – Ascension of the Lord

Isaiah 45:1-7

What is your vision of Heaven?

What awaits for you at Judgement Day?

Acts 1:6-14 – Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

Why does the Disciples’ realization of Christ compel them to obedience?

Have you come to realize, as the Disciples did, that Christ is who He says He is?

How has that realization impacted your life?

How can you come to know Christ in an intimate way that leads to obedience?

May 24, 2026 – Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30

How have you sought out the Spirit of the Lord?

What has made you feel filled with the Spirit?

Acts 2:1-21 – The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Many consider Pentecost as “the birthday of the Church.” How can you celebrate this “birthday”?

The Spirit unites people from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to hear and understand in their own languages.

How can we share the Spirit to create unity in the diversity of the current day?

Peter speaks **boldly** to the other Disciples and to the crowd.

How can you find boldness to share the Spirit with those around you?

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Acts 2:21

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8426 W 95TH STREET

708 598 3100

<https://hickoryhillspres.org/>

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SATURDAY, MAY 16

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**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

We are now accepting donations.

Please call 708-598-3100

for drop off appointment or pick up.

Must be received, NO DUMPING.

**NO Clothing, T.V.'s, Knives, Curio Cabinets,
or Mattresses, will be accepted**



Pray WITHOUT ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

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) **Karen G** (Grace) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Marg** (Bernie) **Melissa** (Charles S) **Linda** (Wilda) **Mary Jo** (Deb H) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary, Robin, Nick** (Mel) **Mave** (Cheryl) **Charlotte** (Deb H) **Rich** (Rick) **Kathy M** (Deb H) **Lori** (Debbie Z) **Mike** (Deb H) **Irene** (Deb H) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Doris** (Wilda) **Janice** (Sheri S) **Patricia** (Deb H) **Jeff** (Deb H) **Kathy** (Deb H) **Sara** (Mel) **John** (Grace) **Sue** (Grace) **Laurie** (Sheri) **Dani** (Andrew) **Tommy** (Evelyn) **Sandy** (Bernie R) **Anthony** (Cindy) **Donna A** (Cindy) **Mario** (Cindy) **Colton** (Diane) **Kirsten** (Deb H) **Donna** (Katie) **Delores O** (Debbie H) **Kenneth B** (Deb H) **Frank** (Deb H) **Tina S** (Debbie Z) **Robbie** (Diane C) **Vince C** (Sandy B) **Marj N** (Charlie S) **Donna** (Ruth) **Jamie** (Mel) **Rene** [Arlene Kasper's daughter] (Jeni) **Sharon** (Jeni) **Oma Lilli A** (Kim), **Marie** (Linda) **Susan** (Linda) **Jamie N** (Tom M) **Tina F** (Dianne F) **Ada** (Susan) **Irma M** (Scott) **Alyssa** (Kim) **Danny Mickey** (Mel) **Joan P** (Barb K) **Declan C** (Barb K)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH...

Anne C (Deb H) **Bill** (Bernie) **Bob D** (Dave D) **Bob M** (Grace M) **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) **Stacy** (Deb) **Jessica** (Susan) **Millie** (Toni) **Janice** (Katie) **Jacqui** (Katie) **Kathie** (Jeni V) **Ted** (Grace) **Scott** (Grace) **Gary** (Katie) **Sheri** (Barb K) **Kathy** (Jeni V) **Rick & Ruth S** (Jeni) **Bud** (Diane C) **Tony** (Deb H) **Dawn** (Jeni V) **Jane** (Jean) **Janet** (Bernie) **Yolanda** (Bernie) **Howie** (Jeni) **Joe** (Katie) **Madison** (Cindy) **George N** (Sandy B) **Dave W** (Sandy B) **DeWanna** (Jeni V) **Geraldine** (Jeni V) **Barb & husband** (Evelyn) **Ann** (Bob M) **Kathy M** (Deb H) **Kathy** (Deb) **Matthew Carver Fam** (Barb K)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

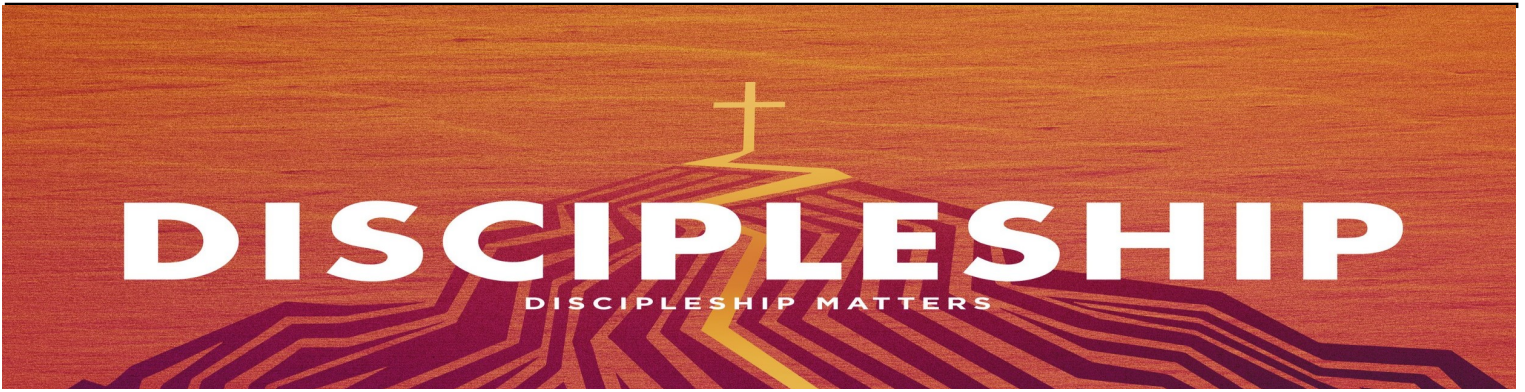
Mike Horvath Family (Debbie H) **Family of Laura Silmon** (Scott) **Ed & Family** (Mel)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Diana (Wilda D) **Kaitlyn** (Karen G) **Janet** (Evelyn)

WE PRAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF GOD...

Walking Club (Evelyn), **James Thomas—Great Grandson** (Cheryl N) **Reina** (Kim)



Discipleship Committee Report May, 2026

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church was most certainly a busy place in April. May and June will also keep our families and friends busy!

The Discipleship Committee is busy with HHPC's Spring and Summer events.

EASTER BREAKFAST - Fun. Food. Faith. Family. Fellowship. All were found during HHPC's Easter Breakfast!

We **THANK EVERYONE** who donated time and talent to make Easter Breakfast a meaningful event. Thank you for setting up, donating, cooking (Yummy), serving, clean up, and everything necessary to make this annual Holy Day fellowship successful.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Our Youth Sunday School has been available on the first and third Sundays of each month from mid-September 2025 to early May 2026. Our youth are smart and talented, their questions are amazing! May 3, 2026 will be our last Sunday School Sunday for this Spring.

BIBLE STUDY - Bible Study has completed Ephesians. The group is currently looking at and studying the events of Holy Week!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY - May 3, 2026 - Fellowship hour - We have much to be thankful for and recognize throughout our church! The Discipleship committee will be working with Session to provide Fellowship hour. HHPC will recognize members of our church family who have completed a milestone in their education. We will be celebrating Reverend Jewel as she begins her journey as Interim Pastor with HHPC!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Monday, June 8 - Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 6:30pm-8:30pm. The theme this year is "ILLUMINATION STATION" - Shining a light on who Jesus really is - John 8:12. Discipleship is working to get ready for VBS. We welcome Jeanine Knox as our music and lesson leader. Our volunteers will roll out fantastic decorations, games, crafts, and treats for the week. We do invite everyone to join us on Thursday. You will be able to see what we have learned during the week.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Fall Welcome - Sept

Sunday School starts - Sept

Trunk or Treat - Oct

Christmas Tea - Dec. 6, 2026



Mission Committee Report May, 2026

One Great Hour of Sharing

We do not yet have the final results of the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. First results show a very good example of our congregation being generous.

Feed My Starving Children

There has not been a mobile pack within a reasonable distance since the pack last March. So we are planning to visit their Aurora facility on Saturday June 27 at 9:00 am. Sign up sheets will be available before then.

Plastic Caps and Pop Tabs

Another cap sort-a-thon is scheduled for June 7. We need to make sure that any cap we send out does not contain any leftover food or other product. So please wash out any caps you are donating before bringing them to the church. Open up any cap that has a hinge before cleaning. Any cap containing metal, such as a spring plunger is not acceptable. Over the years we collected over one million pop tabs. We are working on our second million, so continue to bring them in when you get a collection of them.

Prayer Shawls

We are still gathering prayer shawls and prayer blankets. Those of you who knit and/or crochet, keep up the good work. There is a lot of yarn available for your projects. If you need more yarn, or something special, let somebody know what you need. That somebody includes me.

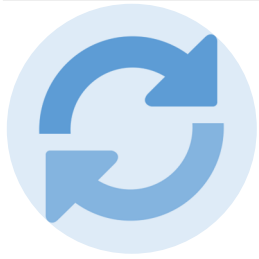
Micro Pantry – Elsie's Pantry

Each Sunday throughout May and June, we will be collecting specific items to support two important ministries: our church's Micro Pantry and Elsie's Food Pantry. Each week will focus on a different item. Your faithful generosity helps us keep both ministries stocked and ready to serve our community. Please place the items in the box in the narthex. Thank you for giving so generously.

MAY	FOOD ITEMS x 2
3rd	Peanut Butter
10th	Jelly
17th	Canned Meat
24th	Canned Vegetables
31st	Macaroni & Cheese

JUNE	FOOD ITEMS X 2
7th	Peanut Butter
14th	Jelly
21st	Pasta
28th	Pasta Sauce





Events at HHPC



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 COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

5:30—6:30 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 1,

5:30—6:30 PM



GROW IN FAITH
**JOIN OUR BIBLE
STUDY**



Monday's at 1:00 PM



**Fellowship Hall
(Lower Level)**



All Weather Indoor Walking Club

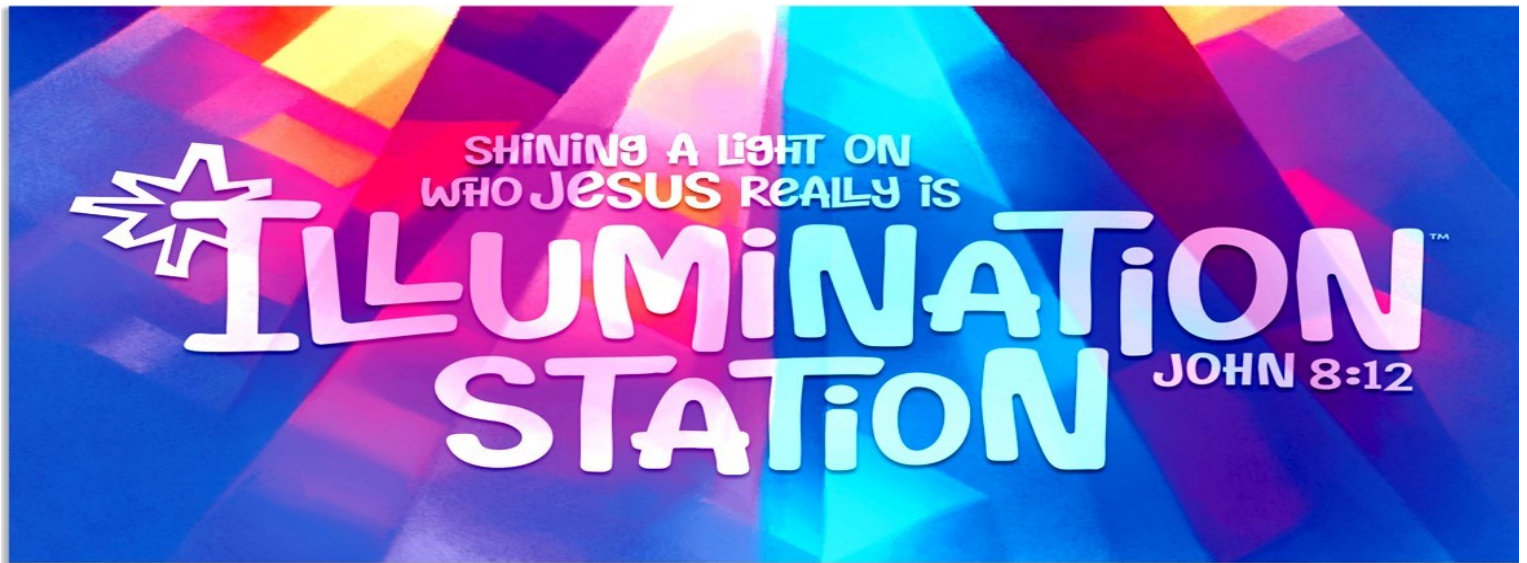
Tuesdays & Thursdays

1pm – 2pm

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W 95th Street, Hickory Hills

*Enter through the East door from the lower parking lot
and meet in the gym*

Up-Coming Events at HHPC



**HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8426 WEST 95TH STREET**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**MONDAY JUNE 8 – THURSDAY JUNE 11, 2026
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

YOUR CHILDREN WILL: LISTEN TO BIBLE STORIES; MAKE CRAFTS; PLAY GAMES, ENJOY MUSIC, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, EAT A DELICIOUS SNACK, AND HAVE GREAT FUN!



**To Register on or before
June 8:**

- ⇒ **Call the Church Office—
708 598 3100**
- ⇒ **“Message us” online at
www.hickoryhillspres.org/contact/**
- ⇒ **Sign up on the day the
program begins**



*BIBLE VERSES
ABOUT
MOTHER'S LOVE*

*1. She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her
tongue.* *Proverbs 31:26*

*2. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it
does not boast, it is not proud.* *1 Corinthians 13:4*

*3. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let
her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

Proverbs 31:31

*4. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful,
and trusting.* *1 Corinthians 13:7*

*5. Her children arise up, and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her.*

Proverbs 31:28

*6. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and
does not get upset with others. Love does not
count up wrongs that have been done.*

1 Corinthians 13:5

7. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:8



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



Memorial Day is officially celebrated on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day is dedicated to service men and women who gave their lives for freedom and country. It is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. The roots of Memorial Day observance go back to 1865 and the end of the Civil War.

The ultimate sacrifice made by millions of U.S. servicemen and women is perhaps best exemplified by Nathan Hale as he was about to be executed by the British for spying for the Continental Army when he said “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Memorial Day was traditionally held on the 30th of May. In 1971, Congress changed it to the last Monday, to create a three-day holiday weekend. Regardless of the date, we encourage you to follow Memorial Day tradition: attend a parade and visit a cemetery to honor and remember our serviceman. Take time to remember lost loved ones in whatever way you feel appropriate.

Did you Know? Memorial Day was first called Decoration Day. It was changed to Memorial Day in 1882.



Memorial Day also marks the beginning of the gardening and summer seasons, even though summer will not occur until a few weeks later. This day usually includes the first family picnic of the year.



Please use the new clerk of session email address when you need to request use of the church building, submit committee reports, or other church business. Thank you!

clerk@hickoryhillspres.org

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 AM Recognition Sunday Morning Worship, Fellowship Pantry Item x 2: Peanut Butter	4 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	5 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	6 11:00 AM Chair Yoga 7:00 PM Worship & Music Mtg	7 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	8	9
10 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship Pantry Item x 2: Jelly	 11 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	12 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	13 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	14 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	15 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale	16 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale
17 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship Pantry Item x 2: Canned Meat	18 1:00 PM Bible Study	19 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	20 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	21 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	22	23
24 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship Pantry Item x 2: Canned Vegetables	 25	26 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	27 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	28 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	29	30
31 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship Pantry Item x 2: Macaroni & Cheese						



2026

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