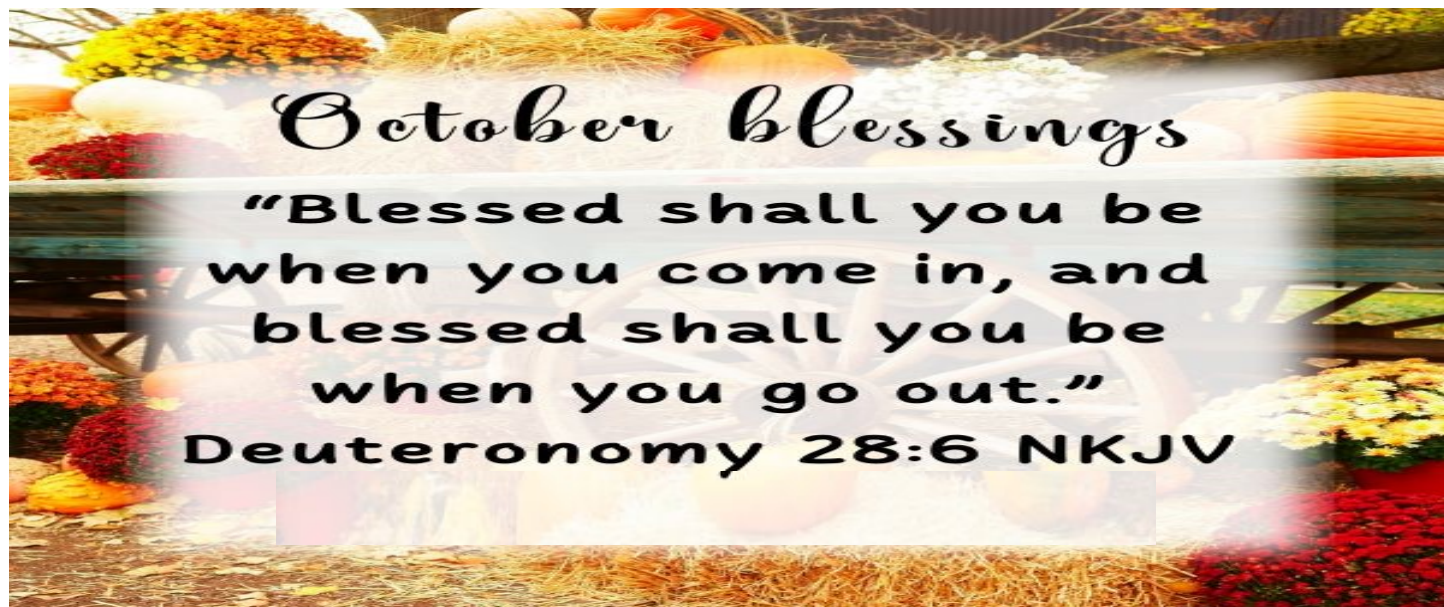


HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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](mailto:hhcp@hickoryhillspres.org)

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

Facebook: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER, 2026



INSIDE...

Article by Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas	2
Trunk or Treat Invite	3
Worship Readings, Church Invite	4
October Scripture Reflection Questions	5
Prayer Requests	6
Discipleship Report	7
"Thanks a Million Club" Report	8
Micro Pantry Supply Needs	9
Recurring Events at HHP	10
October Birthdays, Up Coming Events	11
Friends and Family Sunday Fun Pics	12
October Calendar	13

Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas

Commitment: Choosing Faithfulness Every Day

Written by Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas



“Choose this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” —Joshua 24:15

How do you define commitment? What or who have you been committed to? Why did you choose to be committed?

Commitment is more than making a promise when we feel excited or inspired. True commitment is the decision to remain faithful even when enthusiasm fades, circumstances change, and the journey becomes difficult.

In Joshua 24, Joshua gathered the people of Israel and challenged them to make a clear decision. They had witnessed God’s faithfulness, experienced divine deliverance, and received blessings they could never have obtained on their own. Now Joshua asked them to decide how they would live in response: “Choose this day whom you will serve.”

Joshua understood that faith requires a deliberate choice. He did not say, “Serve God only when life is easy,” or “Follow God when it is convenient.” He declared, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Commitment to God does not mean we will never struggle, question, or become weary. It means that even during those moments, we continue turning toward God. We pray when answers seem delayed. We worship when our hearts feel heavy. We serve when no one applauds. We love when relationships require patience and forgiveness.

Commitment is revealed through consistency. Commitment is revealed through choice. Commitment is revealed through action.

A committed Christian is not necessarily the person who speaks the loudest about faith. It is often the person who quietly keeps showing up: the volunteer who serves faithfully, the caregiver who continues offering compassion, the church member who prays for others, and the believer who chooses integrity when no one is watching. Jesus demonstrated the greatest example of commitment. His love for humanity led Him all the way to the cross. When

the path became painful, He did not abandon His mission. He remained faithful because of His love for the Father and for us.

Our commitment is a response to God’s commitment. Scripture reminds us that God’s mercies are new every morning and that God’s faithfulness is great. Even when we fall short, God does not give up on us. Divine grace invites us to begin again.

Today, consider the commitments God has placed before you. Perhaps you need to renew your commitment to prayer, worship, family, service, or the ministry of the church. Do not wait until you feel perfectly prepared. Begin with one faithful step.

Commitment is not one great decision made only once. It is a choice we renew each day. With Joshua, may we confidently declare, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” And by God’s grace, may our actions support the promise our lips proclaim

In Christ’s service,

Your Interim Pastor

Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas



Join Us for Trunk or Treat 2026!

Saturday, October 24

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W 95th St

- * Decorate your car with a creative theme or just come and have fun.
- * Prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Car & Best Costume.
- * We must have 8 participants signed up by Sunday, October 11. If not, HHPC will not be able to host this fun event.
- * A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex.

(Lower Parking Lot)



Shown here are Scriptures to focus on for October. You can prepare for worship by reading the scriptures and reflecting on the questions on page 5 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

October 4

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Lev 19: 1-2, 15-18; 1 Thess 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Come, Join Us!



We meet every Sunday for Worship at 10:00 AM. Then we gather in Fellowship Hall for conversation and refreshments.

We have a Bible Study on Mondays. It's a good opportunity to learn more about God and connect with Him

We love to reach out to the community by offering a Micro Pantry for those in need of food. We have many events and all are invited.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

October 4 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost:

Isaiah 5:1 -7

- Isaiah 5 asks us to examine the fruit in our lives. What kind of fruit are you producing in your life?

Philippians 3:4b-14

- What accomplishments and credentials does Paul list and why might they have mattered to him?
- What does it mean for you to “press on” in this season of life?

Matthew 21:33 - 46

- What might the vineyard and its fruit represent in this parable?
- If God came looking for fruit in our life together, what would God find?

October 11- 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9

- God prepares a feast “for all peoples.” What does that image tell us about God’s welcome?
- Isaiah praises God for being a refuge to the poor and needy. Where do you see people needing refuge in our community today?

Philippians 4:1 - 9

- What is the difference between Paul’s call to “rejoice always” and pretending that everything is fine?
- Paul tells the church to think about what is true, honorable, just, and worthy of praise. How might that practice shape the way we speak to one another this week?

Matthew 22:1-14

- Why do you think some invited guests refused to come to the banquet?
- What can keep us from responding to God’s invitation?

October 18 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7

- Why might it have surprised God’s people that God chose Cyrus, a foreign ruler, to carry out God’s purposes?
- Where might God be at work today in ways we did not expect?

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

- What evidence of faith, love, and hope does Paul see in the Thessalonian church?
- How did the Thessalonians’ response to the gospel influence people beyond their own community?

Matthew 22:15–22

- What trap were the Pharisees and Herodians setting for Jesus with their question about taxes?
- What might Jesus mean when he says to give to God what belongs to God?

October 25 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18

- Why does this passage connect loving our neighbor with justice and fairness?
- How can we address a wrong honestly without holding on to hatred or seeking revenge?

1 Thessalonians 2:1–8

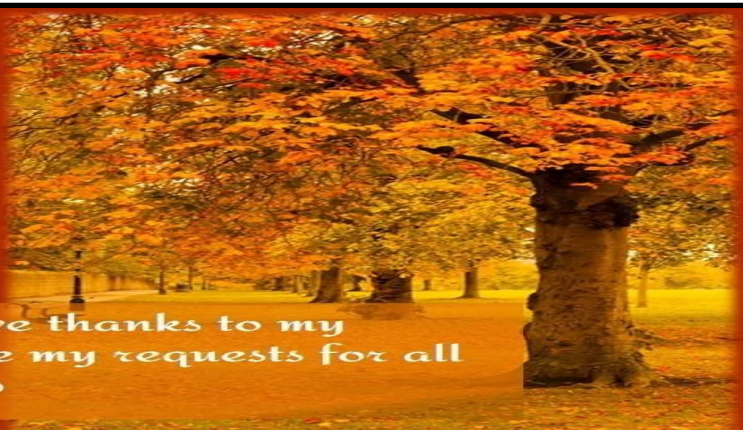
- What do Paul’s words reveal about his motives for sharing the gospel?
- Paul compares his care for the Thessalonians to a nursing mother caring for her children. What does that image teach us about ministry?

Matthew 22:34–46

- Why do you think Jesus joins the command to love God with the command to love our neighbor?
- What does loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind look like in daily life?
- Jesus ends by asking who the Messiah is. How might our understanding of Jesus shape the way we live out these two commandments?

Prayer Requests

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy Philippians 1:3-4(NCT)



If you are on the list for prayer and your prayer has been answered or you would like to be removed from this list, please let us know. hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

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) **Melissa** (Bernie) **Mary, Robin, Nick** (Mel) **Mave** (Cheryl) **Charlotte** (Deb H) **Rich** (Rick) **Kathy M** (Deb H) **Lori** (Debbie Z) **Irene** (Deb H) **Ray J** (Sandy) **Doris** (Wilda) S) **Patricia** (Deb H) **Sara** (Mel) **Tommy** (Evelyn) **Sandy** (Bernie R) **Anthony** (Cindy) **Donna A** (Cindy) **Mario** (Cindy) **Colton** (Diane) **Kirsten** (Deb H) **Donna** (Katie) **Frank** (Deb H) **Tina S** (Debbie Z) **Robbie** (Diane C) **Vince C** (Sandy B) **Marj N** (Charlie S) **Donna** (Ruth) **Jamie** (Mel) **Sharon** (Jeni) **Marie** (Linda) **Susan** (Linda) **Jamie N** (Tom M) **Tina F** (Dianne F) **Ada** (Susan) **Irma M** (Scott) **Danny Mickey** (Mel) **Aleta** (Charles S) **Barb** (Melanie) **Jerry K** (Toni) **Katie B** (Evelyn) **Gordon** (Susan) **Trudy** (Kim) **Alana** (Melanie) **Elizabeth L** (Rev Jewel) **Mia** (Jeni V) **Sally E** (Charlie S) **Beatty Fam** (Wilda) **Monica** (Sandy) **Dawn McF** (Deb Z)

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** (Sandy B) **Natalie** (Bernie) **Patti & Randy** (Jeni V) **Stacy** (Deb) **Millie** (Toni)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH...(Cont'd)

Janice (Katie) **Jacqui** (Katie) **Kathie** (Jeni V) **Scott** (Grace) **Gary** (Katie) **Sheri** (Barb K) **Rick S** (Jeni) **Bud** (Diane C) **Tony** (Deb H) **Jane** (Jean) **Janet** (Bernie) **Yolanda** (Bernie) **Howie** (Jeni) **Joe** (Katie) **Madison** (Cindy) **George N** (Sandy B) **Dave W** (Sandy B) **Barb & husband** (Evelyn) **Ann** (Bob M) **Matthew Carver Fam** (Barb K) **Aleta's Fam** (Charles S) **Rayna** (Rev Jewel) **Zillys Family** (Deb Z) **John S** (Debbie H) **Byron & Debbie** (Debbie H) **Abby S** (Susan), **Kate W** (Susan) **Usdrey Family** (Debbie H)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT...

Mike Horvath Family (Debbie H) **Family of Laura Silmon** (Scott) **Dick** (Darlene) **Darlene** (Evelyn) **Lenahan Family** (Sandy B) **Ratliff Family** (Sanday B) **Oma Lilli A** (Kim) **Cousin, Great Aunt; Mazarka Fam** (Greg C) **Rene McFadden/Kasper Fams** (Jeni V)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED...

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

WE PRAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF GOD...

James Thomas—Great Grandson (Cheryl N) **Reina** (Kim)



By this shall all men know that ye are
my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
John 13:35

Discipleship Committee Report October 2026

Fall is here! What a wonderful time of year. You likely can already smell the Pumpkin Spice Latte! School has begun. Buses are running and football is in full gear. Watch out for school kids when driving.

The Discipleship Committee at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) welcomes you to our Fall events. We hope you were able to be a part of our Fall Welcome/Friends and Family Sunday and will be able to join us for our approaching Fall events and for our upcoming Winter events.

FALL WELCOME/FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY - Was a success!

HHPC was a busy place on Sunday, September 20!

- * The 26-27 year began! Thank you to our Nursery Staff and our Sunday School Teachers for getting the year started.
- * Our "Guess How Many" winners were: Peanuts = Deb H. and Charms Mini Pops = Aaron T.
- * **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make the day a success! Naming names would likely end in forgetting someone. So, we offer shout outs to everyone who assisted in any way! (Set-up, grilling, kitchen, serving, eating, bringing dish to pass, playing games, wash dishes, clean-up, calling B-I-N-G-O, & more).
- * See pictures on **page 12** of this newsletter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY

- * We will continue to have Sunday School during the 10am Sunday service on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of each month thru May 2, 2027. Sunday School is available kids/youth 3 years thru 12th grade.
- * A nursery is available for those under 3 years of age.

BIBLE STUDY

- * Bible Study meets on Monday afternoons at 1pm. The group is beginning to study the books of Ruth and Esther. Please join us!

TRUNK or TREAT

Saturday, October 24, 2026 @ 2p-4p

- * **New day of the week!**
- * **New time!**

Sign-up sheets are available.

- * We will also need volunteers to be at our "Welcome" table.
- * Let us know how you can help/participate.
- * There will be prizes for Best Entry and Best Costume!

**We must have 8 participants signed up by
Sunday, October 11, 2026.
If not, HHPC will not be able to host this event.
Sign-up to participate!
This is a fun and creative event.**

BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO - HOLIDAY MAGIC 2026!!

- * HHPC has, once again been gifted a tree to decorate for this annual zoo event. If interested in being a part of the decorating team, please let the church office know. We will then let you know the exact dates decorating will take place. Our tree will be a part of over 3.5 million lights!

CHRISTMAS TEA

- * Sunday, December 6, 2026 @ 1pm.
- * The Arlingtones will be our entertainment again this year!! So much fun last year and willing to have more fun in 2026!!!
- * Please plan to join us for this HHPC tradition!



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**
Chicagoland &
Northwest Indiana

posthumously recognizes

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

as a



" Thanks a Million Club"
One Million Tab Member

at our Ronald McDonald House: Advocate Children's Hospital

HHPC POP TAB HISTORY - DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC) has been collecting pop tabs for many years. Where have these tabs gone? They have been donated to The Ronald McDonald Houses at Loyola Medical Center and Advocate Children's Hospital Oak Lawn Campus.

HHPC reached the goal of donating 1,000,000 tabs to Loyola several years ago. Our accomplishment is documented within the Ronald McDonald House at Loyola.

Our HHPC family has continued to give to the Ronald McDonald House at Advocate. This is our progress:

2009 - Our first donation to the Ronald McDonald House Oak Lawn was sizable. The tabs were used to raise funds to assist the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Unfortunately, the Oak Lawn House was new and not yet documenting amounts donated by specific groups. Because of this, our 2009 donation is not included in HHPC's total toward 1,000,000 tabs.

2011	223 pounds donated
2014	166 pounds donated
2018	139 pounds donated
2020	138 pounds donated
2022	-35 pounds donated
2025	-95 pounds donated

In May of 2026 HHPC received official documentation stating, **WE HAVE MADE OUR GOAL OF COLLECTING AND DONATING 1,000,000 PULL TABS TO THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - OAK LAWN!**

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has helped to meet this goal! We also ask you to continue to collect!

1 pound	= 1267 pull tabs
1 cup	= 196 pull tabs
1 mile	= 63,360 pull tabs laid end to end
789.27 pounds	= 1,000,000 pull tabs

"The generous will
themselves be blessed, for
they share their food with
the poor."

Proverbs 22:9



THANK YOU



Each Sunday through October, we will continue to collect specific items to support our church's Micro Pantry. Each week will focus on a different item. Your faithful generosity helps us keep our Micro Pantry stocked and ready to serve our community. Please place the items in the box in the narthex. Thank you for giving so generously.

October	Food Item
10/04	Cake/Muffin Mix
10/11	Peanut Butter and/or Jelly
10/18	Canned Veggies or Fruit
10/25	Canned Meat
* Other items: Box of Jello or Pudding, Box of Granola Bars or Fruit Snacks, Cereal. * During November we will collect items for a Blessing Basket for Elsie's Pantry.	



Recurring 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 OCTOBER 5, 2026

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

5:30—6:30 PM

Bible Study

Join Us

Monday's at 1:00 PM - Fellowship Hall



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



Leslie Noonan	October 1
Haley Netter	October 1
LeAnne Sandvick	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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raffles!

Fun!

Fellowship

Refreshments

Christmas Tea Party

December 06

1:00 PM

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 W 95th St
Hickory Hills, IL

Please Join Us for This HHPC Holiday Tradition!

Returning by popular request:

The Arlingstones

Call 708 598 3100 or email hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org for ?'s



BROOKFIELD ZOO, IL

HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW

HHPC WILL BE DECORATING A TREE AGAIN THIS YEAR. IF INTERESTED IN JOINING US PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:
708 598 3100 OR HHPC@HICKORYHILLSPRES.ORG (BEST WAY)



HHPC Grill Crew!



September 20, 2026



"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." – Proverbs 18:24



2 Corinthians 9:8

"And God is able to bless you abundantly..." – 2 Corinthians 9:8



Acts 2:42: "They devoted themselves to...fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."



"They all ate and were satisfied."
Mark 6:42



But be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	2	3
4 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Youth and Children Sunday School, Fel- lowship	5 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Meal	6 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	7 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	8 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	9	10
11 10:00 AM Morning Worship, 11:15 AM Delaney Farewell, 11:30 AM Mission Committee Meets	12 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Session	13 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	14 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	15 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	16	17 10:00 AM Evelyn Garlic Cardmaking Class
18 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Youth and Children Sunday School, Fellowship	19 1:00 PM Bible Study	20 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	21 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	22 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	23	24 2:00 PM -4:00 PM Trunk or Treat 
25 10:00 AM Morning Worship, Fellowship 11:15 AM Deacons Meet	26 1:00 PM Bible Study	27 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout	28 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	29 1:00 PM Indoor Walking Workout 7:00 PM Traditional Yoga	30	31



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