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.



NOVEMBER 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 hickoryhillspres.org

CONTACT US

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8426 West 95th Street,
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Website: hickoryhillspres.org
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Article from Reverend Jewel



Sharing What God Has Entrusted to Us

Written by Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
1 Peter 4:10, KJV

Every congregation holds a wealth of gifts. Some are easy to recognize: a beautiful singing voice, a talent for teaching, or the ability to lead a meeting. Others become apparent through every day acts of care: remembering someone's name, repairing something broken, listening patiently, or noticing who needs encouragement. Each gift offers an opportunity to share God's love.

Stewardship invites us to recognize these gifts and use them faithfully. We are caretakers of the abilities, opportunities, and resources entrusted to us. As we grow in gratitude for what we have received, we can ask, "Lord, how would you have me use this?"

Our abilities often develop through practice and experience. Someone who has managed a household may bring valuable organizational skills. A person who has navigated hardship may offer compassionate companionship. Someone comfortable with technology may help others stay connected. The skills we use throughout the week can also strengthen the church's ministry.

Sometimes we hesitate because our gifts seem ordinary. We compare ourselves with people whose contributions are more visible and wonder whether we have anything meaningful to offer. Yet a church depends upon many kinds of service. Preparing a meal, tending the grounds, sending a card, welcoming a visitor, and praying faithfully all contribute to a caring community.

Our resources also provide opportunities for stewardship. Financial giving sustains worship, education, pastoral care, and outreach. Sharing a vehicle, opening our home, donating useful supplies, or offering space for a gathering can meet practical needs. Thoughtful stewardship includes caring for what we already have, reducing waste, and making choices that respect God's creation.

Faithful stewardship requires discernment. We cannot respond to every request, and our capacity changes with health, age, responsibilities, and circumstances. Prayer helps us consider where our gifts can serve well.

Imagine what could grow as each of us offers something: our financial resources, greater encouragement, stronger relationships, new possibilities for ministry, and more neighbors experiencing Christ's care.

God has placed gifts among us for the good of all. May we recognize them with gratitude, develop them with patience, and share them with love.

In Christ's Service

Your Interim Pastor

Reverend Jewel Willis Thomas

Raffles!

Fun!

Christmas Tea Party

Refreshments

Fellowship



December

06

1:00 PM

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W 95th St
Hickory Hills, IL
708 598 3100

Please Join Us for This HHPC Holiday Tradition!

Returning by popular request:

The Arlingtones

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



Listed here are the Scriptures to focus on for November. 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 mess a service they are on our website: www.hickoryhillspres.org

November 1, 2026 All Saints Day **Readings:** Micah 3:5-12; 1 Thess 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12	**November 8** 24th Sunday after Pentecost **Readings:** Amos 5: 18-24; 1 Thess 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
November 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost **Readings:** Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	**November 22** Christ the King **Readings**: Ezek. 34:11-16,20-24; Eph 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
November 29 1st Sunday of Advent **Readings**: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	

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

November Scripture Readings & Reflection Questions

November 1, 2026 - All Saints Day

Micah 3:5-12; In this passage, the leaders and prophets of Israel are rebuked by the Lord.

- Do you ever find yourself listening to "false prophets"?
- How do you discern the words of a "false prophet" versus "the Word of the Lord"?

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13: Paul is addressing the Thessalonians as part of his ministry

- If you were listening to Paul preach, how would you know that he speaks "The Word of The Lord"?
- How do you discern what is "the word of men" versus "the Word of the Lord"?

Matthew 23:1-12 - Jesus is speaking to a crowd about Seven Woes

- How do you perceive your role as a Christian? Are you a teacher or a servant?
- How do you discern the words of a "Teacher" versus "the Word of the Lord"?

November 8 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5: 18-24 -

- Do you long for "The Day of the Lord"?
- How do you perceive "The Day of the Lord"?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Paul speaks about the coming of the Lord

- Are you prepared for the Day of the Lord?
- How can you prepare for the Day of the Lord?

Matthew 25:1-13 - The Parable of the Ten Virgins

- How have you prepared for the Kingdom of Heaven?
- Have you helped others prepare?

November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 -

- The Prophet Zephaniah speaks of destruction of those who worship false gods when the Lord comes. What false gods do you allow in your life?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Paul speaks of "Sons of Light" and "Sons of Darkness"

- Do you see yourself as a Child of Light or a Child of Darkness?
- How can you share your light with others?

Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents

- God gives us each gifts with which to serve Him. Can you identify the way in which God wants you to serve Him?
- How would your life be different if you knew you had just a year left to live? A month? A day?
- Do you think God sees you as a "Faithful and Wise servant"? Why or why not?

November 22 - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24 - Ezekiel speaks of Shepherds and Sheep. He names David as one of the Shepherds

- Who have you had in your life that served as a "shepherd"?
- Can you see yourself as a sheep? Or would you be a shepherd?

Ephesians 1:15-23 - Paul wrote Ephesians as a love letter to the church

- How can you fill your week with thanksgiving and prayer?
- How can you open yourself to the "wisdom and revelation" God offers to know Him better?

Matthew 25:31-46 - The Sheep and the Goats

- How have you seen the Lord in your daily life?
- How easy do you find it to see the Lord in those around you and help them?

November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 - God is Powerful

- How do you prepare yourself to approach the Lord?
- Where do you see the power of God?

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Paul is thankful for the people of Corinth

- Paul says we "do not lack any spiritual gift." How has God enriched your life?
- How can you stay strong in your faith?

Mark 13:24-37 - Mark is speaking of the signs of the end of the age.

- Do you have a vision of what the "end of the age" might look like?
- Are there signs around us now?
- How does your faith prepare you for the end of days?





DISCIPLESHIP REPORT *by Jean Swearingen*

TRUNK or TREAT

HHPC celebrated Halloween with our 6th Annual **TRUNK or TREAT** on October 24, 2026. We tried a new day of the week and a new time. We had success! Estimates reveal that over 100 kids, parents, participants(and 1 dog) stopped or wandered through the HHPC parking lot. God granted our community beautiful Autumn weather.

THANK YOU to all who assisted with TRUNK or TREAT! We thank you for your donations, your time and your talents!! Each year brings new themes! The creativity is amazing!

Our winning entrees for 2026 . . .

Best Vehicle - Swearingen family - "CRAZY CAT LADY"

Best Costume - Noonan family - "MEN IN BLACK" (and the cutest Baby Alien ever.)

We hope you had a spooktacular time! See pictures located on page 7 this newsletter

BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO - HOLIDAY MAGIC 2026

HHPC will continue our treasured tradition of having a Christmas Tree as a part of **HOLIDAY MAGIC** at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. Our tree is #388 and will be located in the East Mall. HHPC will be decorating our tree on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 at 10am. There are limited passes and parking passes available for this decorating event. They will be available on first come, first-served basis. If you desire passes for this day, please make arrangements to receive them. If you are a Brookfield Zoo Chicago Member, your membership will allow you to attend.

The dates for **BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO - HOLIDAY MAGIC** are . . .

Nov. 21-25 & 27-29

Dec. 3-6, 10-13, 17-23 & 26-31

Jan. 1-3, 2027

The time for all dates is 3p-9p.

More information can be found at https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/holiday-magic

CHRISTMAS TEA

HHPC will host **CHRISTMAS TEA** on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2026, at 1pm. We will once again enjoy an afternoon of friendship, entertainment and light snacks. Please plan to bring some cookies/Christmas treats to share. We will be enjoying the talents of The Arlingtones this year. Sound familiar? This is the group who entertained us in 2025. They had so much fun, they asked to come back in 2026! There will be sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Check out our entertainment at https://www.arlingtones.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSURY

HHPC offers **SUNDAY SCHOOL** during our 10am service on the FIRST and THIRD Sunday of each month thru May 2, 2027. Sunday School is available for youth 3 years through 12th grade.

A nursery is available for our youngest visitors.

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE STUDY meets on Monday afternoons at 1pm. We are currently studying Ruth and Esther. All are welcome.

Mission Committee IN ACTION

Mission committee met October 11, 2026. Andrew, Jewel and Kim met briefly in the food line at Dave & Darlene's farewell luncheon.

One prayer shawl was given to the Delaney's for their departure.

Our quarterly cap sorting event is scheduled for November 29th after service. There are hundreds of caps to be sorted and cleaned, if necessary. Please join us.

For the month of November, we are asking for donations of food items for the Giving Basket collection which will be sent to Elsie's Food Pantry. We plan on giving this to Elsie's before Thanksgiving and will have the items delivered.

Our next Feed My Starving Children pack is Saturday, November 21st, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. This is a mobile pack at Willowbrook High School / 1250 Ardmore Ave / Villa Park. 5 slots have been reserved for HHPC. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Towards the end of November, the Tree of Warmth will be put up in the Narthex, we will be collection donations of scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves.

In December, we will wait for Mission Council 8 to advise what is needed to support the Jones Center for their annual Breakfast with Santa event. We will donate any way we are able. Jones Center will be contacted to confirm gifts for children, whether an actual gift is wanted or if cash is preferred.

Next Mission Committee meeting will be held January 17th, 2027.

Elsie's Pantry "Baskets of Blessings" Beginning in November we will be gathering food for Elsie's Pantry. See the list of food items. We will give thanks to God for the blessings we have received each day by gathering an item to give to another who is in need. These items will then be given out for a Christmas Dinner by Elsie's Pantry. If you prefer not to do the actual shopping; a donation of $50 can be made to go towards the cost of a Blessing Basket.

Day 1: Box of Stuffing Mix	Day 2: Instant Mashed Potatoes
Day 3: Jar of Turkey Gravy	Day 4: Canned Yams
Day 5: Can of Cranberry Sauce	Day 6 Can of Green Beans
Day 7: Can of Corn	Day 8: Can of Peas
Day 9: Can of Mixed Fruit	Day 10: Oatmeal
Day 11: Dessert Mix	Day 12: Can of Tomatoes
Day 13: Can of Tuna	Day 14: Box of Pasta
Day 15: Jar of Spaghetti Sauce	Day 16: Package of Rice
Day 17: Jar of Peanut Butter	Day 18: Jar of Jam
Day 19: Applesauce	Day 20: Box of Jell-O or Pudding Mix
Day 21: Box of Cereal	Day 22: Can of Mixed Vegetables
Day 23: Box of Crackers	Day 24: Macaroni and Cheese
Day 25: Can of Cream Soup	Day 26: Can of Peaches
Day 27: Lemonade Mix	Day 28: Can of Pears



WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING.

(Barb K) **Bernie R** (Bernie R) **Marg, Melissa, Sandy** (Cindy) **Anthony, Donna A, Mario** (Charlie) **Kristen, Melissa, Marj, Aleta, Sally** (Cheryl)**Mave** (Deb H) **Jeff, Charlotte, Kathie M, Irene, Patricia, Kirsten, Frank** (Debbie Z) **Lori, Tina S** (Diane C) **Colton, Robbie (**Dianne F) **Tina F** (Evelyn) **Katie B** (Gordon) **Ruth, Steve** (Grace)**Karen G** (Jeni V) **Danny, Everleigh, Rene (Kasper), Sharon, Mia** (Rev Jewel) **Greg R** (Katie) **Donna** (Kim) **Trudy** (Linda) **Marie, Susan** (Mel) **Chris, Mary, Robin, & Nick, Sara, Jamie, Danny, Barbara, Roger** (Rev Jewel) **Elizabeth** (Rick) **Rich** (Ruth) **Donna, Regina** (Sandy B) **Ray J, Vince C** (Scott) **Irma M** (Susan) **Abby, Ada, Kate W** (Tom M) **Jamie N, Linda** (Toni) **Ally, Benny, Jaden K, Jerry K** (Wilda) **Doris**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF STRENGTH

(Barb K) **Sheri, Matthew Carver Family** (Bernie) **Bill, Natalie, Janet, Yolanda** (Bob) **Ann** (Cindy) **Madison** (Charlie) **Aleta's Family** (Cheryl) **Katie, Joe & Kevin,** (Dave D) **Bob D** (Deb H) **Anne C, Tony, John S, Byron & Debbie** (Debbie Z) **Cindy, Stacy, Zilly's Family, Barb** (Diane C) **Bud** (Evelyn) **Barb & husband** (Grace) **Bob M, Esther E, Lisa E, Scott** (Jean) **Jane** (Jeni V) **Dee & Joel, Don, Landon, Patti & Randy, Kathie, Kathy, Rick S, Howie, DeWanna, Dawn, Geraldine** (Katie) **Janice, Jacqui, Gary, Joe** (Rev. Jewel) **Heather G, Henderson Fam, Rayna** (Sandy B) **Mike, George N, Dave W** (Scott) **Kim C** (Susan) **Jessica, Tom S** (Toni) **Millie** (Wilda) **Beatty Fam**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT.

(Deb H) **Mike Horvath Family** (Darlene) **Dick** (Evelyn) **Blake Fam** (Jeni V) **Lars Family, Steele Family** (Rev Jewel) **Serna Fam** (Kim) **Oma Lilli A (**Rick V) **Walthemath Family** (Sandy B) **Lenahan Family, Ratliff Family** (Scott) **Family of Laura Silmon**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED.

Janet (Karen G) **Kaitlyn** (Molly) **Dali, Alinafe, Yankho**

WE PRAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

(Debbie H) **Joshua I W, Chris** (Mel) **Alanna**

If you are on this prayer list and wish to be removed or you would like to be added to the list, e-mail the church office at hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org, call the office at 708-598-3100, or enter your prayer request online at hickoryhillspres.org/prayerrequest



Erik Meyer	November 1
Kristen Elam	November 2
Phil Elam	November 2
Caleb Lenz	November 3
Katie Huenecke	November 5
Jean Swearingen	November 6
Mitchell Huenecke	November 8
Renee Meyer	November 8
Jessica Panko	November 12
Jacob Morrell	November 15
Beth Ann Kommenich	November 26
Cheryle Rizzo	November 28
Gordon Home	November 30

HHPC Events



HHPC will be decorating a tree again this year on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m.

If interested in joining us please contact the church OFFICE: 708 598 3100 or hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org (best way)

See page 6, the Discipleship Report, for more details



A special service, followed by a delicious lunch, was held on Sunday, October 11, 2026, to celebrate Dave and Darlene's MANY years of faithful service. We send them onward to the next chapter of their lives with many blessings.

There will be a cap sorting event Sunday, November 29, following the service.

Weekly Events



Monday's at 1:00 PM - Fellowship Hall



HHPC COMMUNITY MEAL

MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 2026

MONDAY JANUARY 4, 2027



All Weather Indoor Walking Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm – 2pm

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

For more information please call 708 598 3100
Enter through the East door from the lower parking lot


TRUNK or TREAT


TRUNK OR TREAT
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95 Th ST.
TODAY 2-4






2026








TRUNK or TREAT

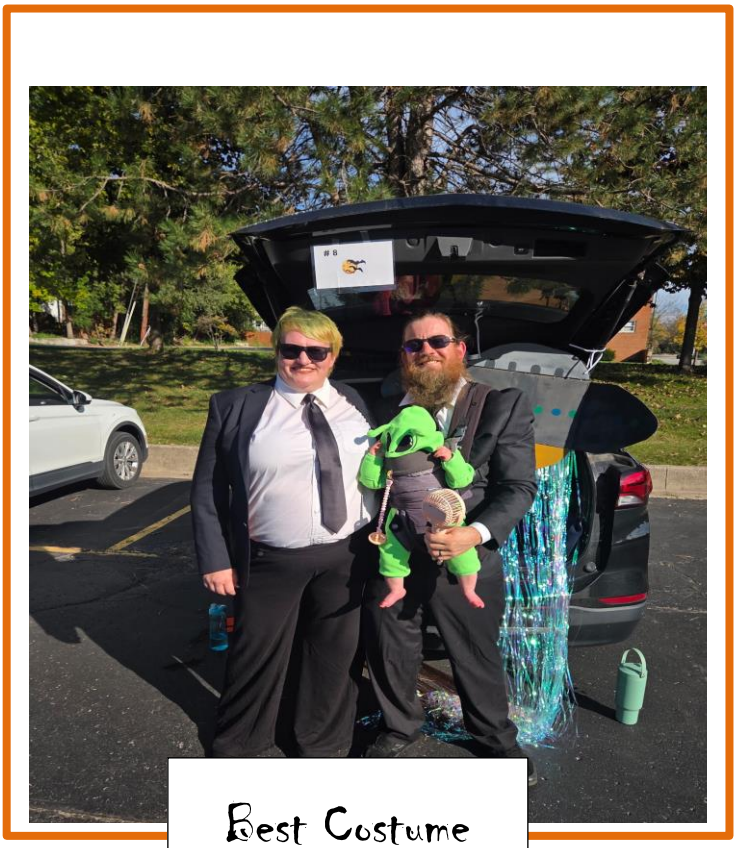






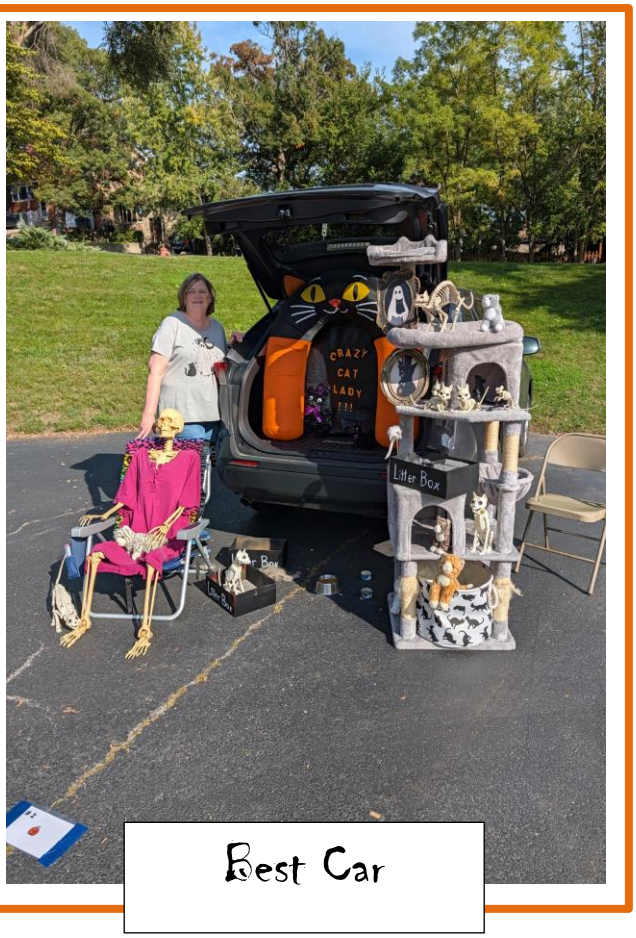

HAPPY

This Year's Winners



Best Costume





Best Car





Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church(HHPC) is in the process of doing a mission study in preparation for hiring its next pastor. We have designed a survey that we would like members and friends of the church to complete. We will be distributing the survey on Sunday, November 15th during fellowship. Below are the survey questions for your review or if you are not able to be in church on that Sunday, please feel free to complete it and mail or email it to the church. Thank you. - The Mission Study Committee

Name _____

Male _____. Female _____

What is your age group?
20 - 35 ___
36 -50 ___
50 - 65 ___
65 +. ___

How long have you attended HHPC:
1 - 4 Yrs. ___
5 - 10 yrs. ___
11 - 20 yrs ___
21 - 30 yrs. ___
31+. ___

Does this congregation have a clear vision, goals or direction for its ministry or mission?

How Are you involved in mission or advocacy groups through the church?

How Are you involved in mission or advocacy groups outside of the church?

How have you worked with others in the past year to solve a problem in your community?

What three words best describe the congregation.

What do you see as the congregation's greatest strengths: (choose 3)

- o Meaningful worship and music
- o Biblical preaching and teaching
- o Prayer and spiritual support
- o Caring for members during difficult times
- o Welcoming visitors and newcomers
- o Learning and growing together
- o Other _____
- o Fellowship and relationships
- o Community service and mission
- o Generosity and willingness to help
- o Faithful leadership and volunteers

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 **10:00 AM** Morning Worship, Youth and Children Sunday School, Fellowship	**2** **1:00 PM** Bible Study **5:30 PM** Community Meal	**3** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout	**4** **11:00 AM** Chair Yoga	**5** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout **7:00 PM** Traditional Yoga	**6**	**7** **10:00 AM** Brookfield Zoo Tree Decorating
8 **10:00 AM** Morning Worship, Fellowship	**9** **1:00 PM** Bible Study **7:30 PM** Session	**10** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout	**11** **11:00 AM** Chair Yoga	**12** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout **7:00 PM** Traditional Yoga	**13**	**14**
15 **10:00 AM** Morning Worship, Youth and Children Sunday School, **11:15 AM** Mission Study Committee Fellowship	**16** **1:00 PM** Bible Study	**17** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout	**18** **11:00 AM** Chair Yoga	**19** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout **7:00 PM** Traditional Yoga	**20**	**21** **8:00 AM** FMSC Meal Pack Event
22 **10:00 AM** Morning Worship, Congregational Meeting, **11:15 AM** Mission Study Committee Gathering, Deacons Meet	**23** **1:00 PM** Bible Study	**24** **1:00 PM** Indoor Walking Workout	**25** **11:00 AM** Chair Yoga	**26** 	**27**	**28** **10:00 AM** EG Card Class
29 **10:00 AM** Morning Worship, Fellowship **11:15 AM** Cap Sorting	**30** **1:00 PM** Bible Study					

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT HOLD

The Connecting Link

A monthly newsletter from Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



NOVEMBER 2026