

THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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FEBRUARY 2013

Minor Ministerial Musings

Don't tell Kirk, but I've been dating for the last two and a half years....

Well, okay, you can tell Kirk – because he's who I've been dating!

Something odd happened in our marriage when I became your pastor in August 2010. I was a married pastor – a combination that hadn't ever applied to me before. All of a sudden, it felt weird to work late, to be away from the house a lot – because I had someone (other than the cats) at the house waiting for me. Even when Kirk began teaching again – it started to feel like a bit of a balancing act. I didn't want to neglect my obligations at the church and with my new congregation. But I didn't want to neglect my husband, and the obligations and responsibilities of being married, either. Having never been married before, I wasn't sure I would even recognize this neglect if it did happen.

Then I remembered Date Night. It was a lesson I actually picked up from a friend of mine in seminary. From dating, through relationship, and into marriage, she and her husband had always taken one night a week to spend time with one another and shut out all other distractions – no chores, no phone calls, no meetings. Whether it was a movie, bowling, a special dinner out or pizza delivery, or even a needed trip to the grocery store – it was one night a week they spent together, no matter what.

When I started feeling a bit unbalanced, not sure how to give proper attention to all of the different areas – both familiar and new – in my life, Kirk and I talked, and we decided to apply this “date night” concept to *our* marriage. We found a day of the week that was consistently free for me – no meetings, and consistently free for Kirk – no classes. I let the staff, the Session, and the Deacons know, and planned my office hours accordingly. Once in a while, something in the church schedule or in Kirk's schedule will necessitate a little creativity on our parts. But Wednesday night has officially gotten a new name – Date Night. And bingo! We're dating again.

Our relationships are so important. Family, marriage, friendships. Whatever the responsibilities and priorities that fill our daily lives, whatever “balancing acts” we may find ourselves performing, our relationships with one another are at the foundation. Because our relationship with God is the foundation of all of our relationships with one another. God gives us one another so that we may live in loving and peaceful relationship, a love and peace and relationship modeled by God's love for us and the community of the Trinitarian God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is the month when everything seems to be draped in pink and red, and punctuated with hearts. On Valentine's Day, we celebrate love by celebrating our relationships with each other – friendship, romance, marriage, and family. As we celebrate Valentine's Day in this, our sixtieth year in ministry together as Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, let us celebrate these relationships – our love of God and our love of one another. Our relationships with our family and friends, and our relationship with our neighbors and the wider community. All the ways we are called to be in right relationship with one another. With God as our foundation, these relationships will be well-balanced with everything else we do, because these relationships will be the foundation on which everything else we do is built. Beloved, let us love one another. See you in church Sunday!

In Joyful Anticipation,

Pastor Lara

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Dianne Flynn for healing
Terese's Mom Jean, for health concerns
Donna's daughter-in-law, Mary, for health concerns
Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Jack Costello for health concerns
Alexa for peace and strength
Sandra Beal's mother for strength and healing
Bev & Linda Kahn for strength, &
The Kahn family & friends on the passing of Rich
Lucy's sister Joann for health concerns & great
niece, Dawn
Katie's friend Karen for health concerns
Georgie-Porgie for health concerns
Enid & Dorothy Scholefield for health concerns
Dana & newborn Ila, for strength & healing
Jerry Panko for health concerns
Stacy Flynn's friend, Colleen, for health concerns
Dave & his mother, Rose, for strength
David Krueger & family
Eleanor Watson for health concerns
Hollie Fox's friend, Emily Beazley (9 yrs old), who
has Stage III T-Cell Lymphoblastic Non-Hodgkins
Lymphoma
Gordon Home's niece, Kellie, for health concerns
Private Gregory Enokian, Tasha's friend, in the
service
Sandy Beal's friend, Kathy Kellogg, for health
concerns
Kirk's Aunt Claudia for health concerns
Arlene's neighbor, Barb, for health concerns
Kirk MacGregor's brother, Scotty, for health
concerns
Mary's nephew, Jerry Bemis, for health concerns
Shirley Dragas' sister, Sheryl, for strength &
her husband Jerry Smith, for health concerns
Jean Somerstorfer for health concerns
Margaret Dawson, Jimmie's aunt, for health
concerns
Darlene Kibort's daughter-in-law, Carla Murray, for
health concerns
Darlene Kibort's son Mark for healing
Mary Richer's son, Larry, for health concerns
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Dorothy Allen for strength & healing
DelPrete family for strength, faith, & hope during
Jen's battle

Prayer Group meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.



PRAYER & CARE

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us
exalt his name together!" PSALMS 34:3

When I was asked to lead Prayer Group,
Wednesday at 9:30 am was the choice.
The reason? Hump Day.
Not meaning the hump of a whale, but the
middle of the week. We could go up over
the hump, or down the hump. The former
was chosen.
It would be great to see the library
(where we meet) to be filled to the size of
a whale.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly!" ISAIAH 1:4a (RSV)

Isaiah was a prophet. The Hebrew word for "prophet" literally means "one who is inspired by God." A spiritual leader commissioned by God to warn people of the perils of wickedness, to point the way to true religion, and, to give guidance on moral issues was believed by Isaiah and the other prophets. Time and again their predictions of impending doom were fulfilled. We have begun to study the book of Isaiah.

As reported last month, let me share the joy we experienced during our Christmas Luncheon. As usual, the food made by each woman was superb. Marge Brumis surprised us with a two pound box of See's Famous Old Time Candies sent from California. The centerpieces on each table were books. Each of the 13 women in attendance was to respond with short comments on the books' contents. You see, each book depicted certain qualities applicable to one woman in our group.

If you're female and free on Monday from 1-3pm, come and learn with us!

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene



Meet
Our
Confirmands

Confirmation Class News

From Melanie & Pastor Lara

We have begun confirmation classes and have 7 potential church members. Please pray for these young people as they walk this path; Shaylin, LeeAnne, Ronni, Petar, Frank, Riley, and Stacey. We have read quite a bit of scripture and we

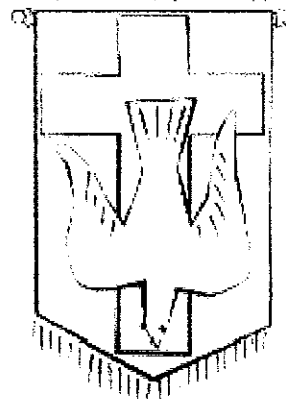
have been involved in brainstorming to answer questions and build on ideas. During our 2nd class, our inspired young people created this acrostic:

**People
Renew
Elders
Spirit
Bible
You
Teachers
Ephesians
Respectful
Individual Shepherds
Acceptance
Never Ending Love**

We've talked about what it looks like to be clothed in Christ no matter what we're physically wearing. We've researched the history of the Presbyterian church and searched through the bible for definitions of the term "elder" and the job descriptions that go along with that position.

All of our confirmation kids are required to complete 12 service hours, split between church, home, and community. They are excited to announce their progress each week. Some already know the joy of having a servant's heart and others are learning.

Confirmation Class



News from Senior High Youth Group Happenings in 2012...



During 2012 the Sr. High Youth Group was led by Katie Treccani, Mitch Huenecke, Jeni Vogl, and Rick Vogl.

During February the SHYG took the opportunity to Retreat to Saugatuck for the weekend. We worked through the first three videos of BASIC. The Youth Group took this experience to another level by planning a series of worship services for the REV service. By sharing the BASIC series the youth group could share the growth they experienced with a wider group. Sharing our faith with others is what we are intended, by God, to do. Sharing our faith is how we grow in our faith.

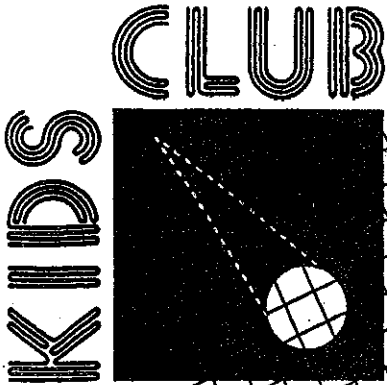
The Voices of Appalachia shared their faith and their talents with us at HHPC. The youth helped with this program by acting as greeters and ushers. They also helped feed our guests at breakfast next morning. These guests were not the only ones that the SHYG helped to feed. In April, the SHYG prepared the meal for the PADS program. In May, the group gathered to make communion bread for the congregation. The SHYG ended the Spring 2012 session with an outing to PGN for miniature golf.

We returned to the church to enjoy a pizza dinner.

Senior High Youth group started back up in September of 2012 for the Fall session. One of the first service projects the group undertook was to plan and bring to HHPC, a Barefoot Sunday. The concept is for the members of the congregation to come to church wearing shoes. Shoes are removed as a reminder that there are other of God's children in the world that do not have the means to purchase shoes. Several people commented on how they felt closer to Christ when they walked without shoes. The collection of shoes filled the back of a truck, seven large size trash bags and a couple of boxes were needed to transport the shoes to Share Your Soles. The Share Your Soles organization takes the donated shoes and distributes them to needy persons throughout the world, including places in the United States, Central and South America, Asia and Africa. Often having a pair of shoes means a man can get a job and support his family.

Other fun activities included a Halloween party on October 28 and several game nights.





Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:35

We are a diverse group of individuals. Monday afternoons we are exploring ways of spreading God's Word to all and sharing Jesus with everyone. The ways are many, how do you chose to reach out?

Our learning time for the month of February will center around the following topics;

- Big Top Olympics* - Followers of Christ love and accept people.
- Respecting the Referees* - A follower of Christ finds freedom in submission to others and to God.
- Worship Workout* - Worship is a Christian discipline that will help us become more like Christ.
- Hopping Mad* - We can overcome our anger as we follow Christ.

Winners for the Snicker Balance Contest for the month of December were Sara F. and Isaiah. We congratulate them and celebrate their perfect attendance for this month. Who will be the winner for January?

We invite you to join us at the upcoming Lenten Program beginning Wednesday, February 13. You will not want to miss this program. More information concerning this can be found in this newsletter. Remember friends are always welcome here and this is a program that you will want to share. I hope you will make it a priority to be with us;

Wednesday evenings February 13 - March 20
Soup supper begins at 6:15 with program at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to those who have been dropping off pull tabs. Our collection continues to grow. Thank you to everyone for your support for the Ronald McDonald House.

Monday afternoons at Kids Club are filled with fun, learning, and friendships. If you know of someone who would like to join us please invite them.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



Christian Education Committee



Come join us during the **Annual Souper Sunday** luncheon held on February 3rd. Enjoy your favorite soup or enjoy the discovery of a new favorite soup as you lunch with us after the 10:30 AM worship service. The Jr. High Youth group will assist filling your bowls with delicious soups. There will be a free will offering. All proceeds will be given to the Camp Scholarships for children who wish to attend summer camp this year. A huge thank you to Debbie and her crew in setting up the tables and taking them down. Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate your soup to this annual feast. I expect it will be an excellent time for fellowship.

Speaking of **Summer Camp**, this may be the last opportunity to attend Camp at Saugatuck. The camp has been sold and will be given to the developer late this summer. Anyone who thinks they may like to visit one more time is asked to watch for the camp meeting scheduled for early spring. Camp dates for 2013 are:

Mini Camp (for children who have completed grades 1-4) June 30-July 4

Mission Council 8 Camp Gray (for children who have completed grades 3-5) July 28-August 3

Mission Council 8 Camp Kema (for children who have completed grades 6-8) July 28-August 3

Be sure to watch for the camp meeting and then complete the reservation quickly since this may be the last time camp is held at Saugatuck.

We are preparing the **Lenten Program**, Jerusalem Marketplace, for students age 3 thru High School. Students will have an opportunity to experience crafts which were popular during Jesus' time. They will visit the JC Workshop, the Kitchen, the Storyteller, Bits and Pieces (working with mosaics), Christian Creations (learning some of the symbols of Easter), and Gems and Jewels (creating a memory box). By visiting one activity each evening during the Lenten program, they will learn many crafts and skills which were popular during Jesus' time. Be sure to mark your calendar so you can come to all six weeks presentations. Children begin their adventure at 7 PM while adults are asked to meet in the Sanctuary upstairs. The Lenten program begins February 13 and runs thru March 28. Make this a priority for your entire family and you will certainly be blessed with a new understanding of Easter.

The Stampers are meeting January 24 at 10AM. We will be designing cards to help the Prayer and Care group. All the Stampers design their own cards and then donate some to this group. We learn from each other and use each other as consultants on most cards. There is a great amount of fellowship and even some laughter as we work to create cards for ourselves and the church. Come join us! Tentative dates for February are Thursdays 7 and 21.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is working on lap blankets to donate to the Palos Hills Day Care located on Roberts Road. We are eager to welcome new knitters or crocheters to the group which meets

after the 10:30 AM worship service. Many of the current women are available to help anyone who wishes to learn the skill of knitting or crocheting. We spend time in fellowship while we work on our projects. Bring in your current project and join us! Anyone who wishes to work on lap blankets in the privacy of their own home is also welcome to donate the finished product to us in the room near the piano in the fellowship hall or drop it off at Dianne Flynn's office.

The Confirmation class for 2013 is underway. Melanie Swindle and Pastor Lara are guiding the group to a better understanding of being a Presbyterian as well as a better understanding of being a Christian. Meetings for Confirmation are held immediately after the 10:30 AM worship service on Sundays. Students from grades 6-8 are welcome to join this class. For more information, please contact Melanie Swindle or Pastor Lara.

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize?

SO RUN TO WIN!

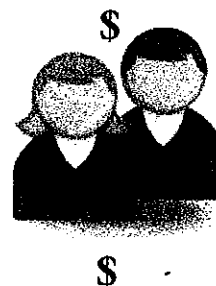
1 Corinthians 9:24, NLT



Risking love

To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. Love comes to those who still hope even though they've been disappointed, to those who still believe even though they've been betrayed, to those who still love even though they've been hurt before.

—Author unknown



What is per capita?

Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

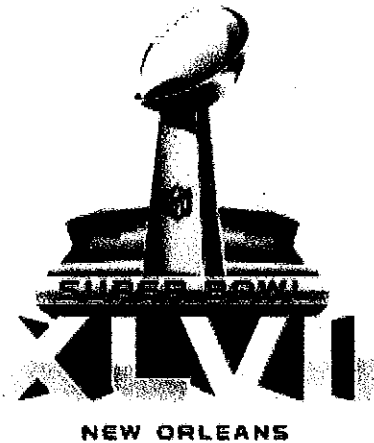
How much is per capita?

Per capita is assessed to each member of our congregation. For 2013 each member's share is **\$30.68**. (Though they are highly valued members of our congregation, unconfirmed children are not counted in the determination of per capita for HHPC.)

Please prayerfully consider making this a year you (and your family) fulfill this obligation.

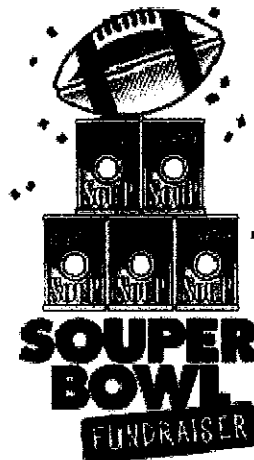
There is a Per Capita collection envelope in your offering envelopes box.

SOUPER SUNDAY



Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013

Following 10:30 a.m. Worship



A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE SOUPS

Freewill Donations Accepted

Support Our Kids

All Donations are used to help support scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Stories To Transform



Join us for a time of looking back, looking forward

In light of HHPC's 60th anniversary, our session and deacons wish to enter together into a time of storytelling for us to gain a clearer picture of our heritage, our strengths, and our dreams. In this three-hour session, we will look anew at who we have been, who we are, and who we are led to be as we move forward in ministry together.

• Share your own stories of ministry
• Hear from our past members
• Discover how our mission and vision have been realized
• Hear from our past and present members and neighborhood

• Hear from our past and present members
• Hear from our past and present members
• Hear from our past and present members
• Hear from our past and present members

HHPC Sanctuary, Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9am-12 p.m.

Sign up at Coffee Hour OR
Call Pastor Lara for more details

708-598-3100

JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE

LENT 2013

**A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING FEB. 13**

"YOU ARE THERE!"

Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through High School. While adults are in worship, our kids will participate in an age appropriate program that has been designed with learning and fun in mind. It is called Jerusalem Market Place. This is a hands on learning time that will provide the kids with a "YOU ARE THERE!" Bible time experience. They will relive Bible time events while exploring and experiencing occupations and events of that time. During the six week program, the kids will participate in six different shops. They will:

- **SMELL** the aromas of bakeries in the Bakery and Confectioner Shop
- **HEAR** the sounds of carpenters in the J.C. Woodshop
- **SEE** the villagers in Bible Times attire as you meet the Roman Soldiers and the teachers in our shops
- **EXPERIENCE** learning occupational skills of the times by visiting the shops
- **JOURNEY** with friends to visit the Great Storyteller
- **WRITE** in Scribes Journals

We hope that your family will be a part of this Holy Land Adventure.

**LENT 2013
Every Wednesday
Feb. 13- Mar. 20**

MIDDAY SERVICE

Soup Luncheon- Worship
12:00 Noon

EVENING SERVICE

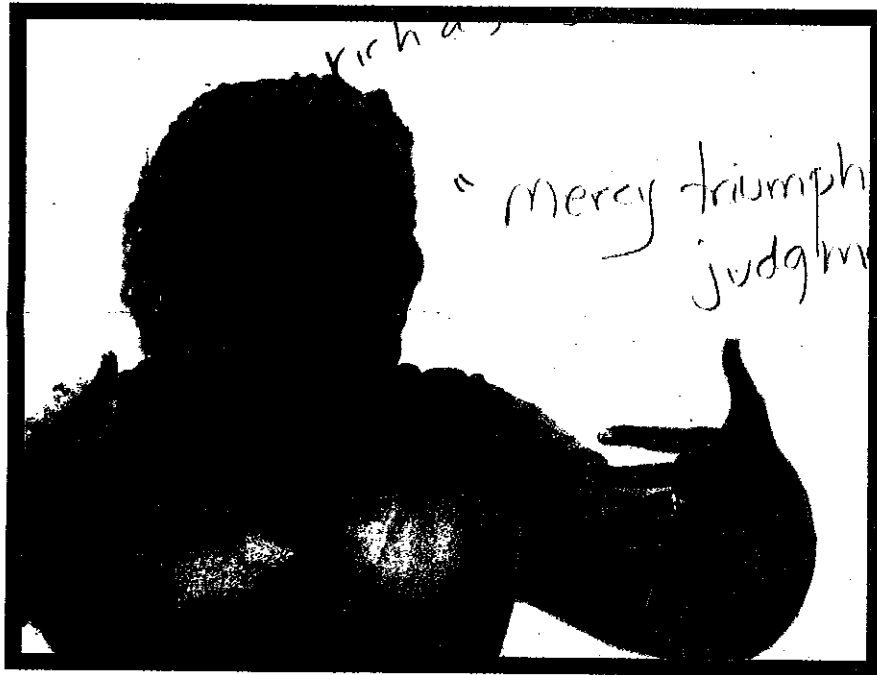
(With Children's Program)
ASH WEDNESDAY:
Soup Dinner- 6:15 pm/
Worship/Programs- 7:00 pm

ALL OTHER WEDNESDAYS:
Worship & Jerusalem Market Place- 7:00 p.m.

L.E.A.D. 2013 - SAVE THE DATE!

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH.

For elders, deacons, church school teachers, clergy, clerks, youth workers, church musicians, mission workers and trustees. Put LEAD on your church calendar today!



Love One Another:

What the Beatitudes have to tell us about getting over ourselves
and getting on with the work of ministry

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

Assoc. Professor of New Testament, Chair of Biblical Studies, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Aymer is the author of the 2011-2012 PW/Horizons Bible Study, *Confessing the Beatitudes*.

Saturday, March 2, 2013

8:00 – 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

715 Carlton Street, Wheaton, IL 60187 • 630-668-5147

\$15 Registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch

LEAD is presented by MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CHICAGO PRESBYTERY & FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHEATON, IL.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 3, 2013

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Feb. 3, 2013	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim	Darlene Kibort
Feb. 10, 2013	D. LaCognata	Rick Vogl
Feb. 17, 2013	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Dave LaCognata
Feb. 24, 2013	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Kim Ambrosat
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	ACOLYTES
Feb. 3, 2013	Susan Frangella	Bobby DeVries, Jayden Kenealy
Feb. 10, 2013	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Jacob Morrell, Danny Orsic
Feb. 17, 2013	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Bobby DeVries, Danny Orsic
Feb. 24, 2013	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Jacob Morrell, Jayden Kenealy

Communion Servers: Dave Delaney, Ivy Taebel

Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck



Mark Your Calendar!

Mini Camp (completed grades 1 - 4)

June 30 - July 4

Mission Council 8 Camp Gray (completed grades 3 - 5)

July 28 - August 3

Mission Council 8 Camp Kema (completed grades 6 - 8)

July 28 - August 3

This year's camp curriculum - "All Things New!"

FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:30 a.m. Souper Sunday 11:30 a.m. Confirmation 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Praise Team 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	4 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	5 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 7:00 p.m. CE Meeting	6 9:00 a.m. Stampers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group	7 4:30 p.m. TOPS	8	9 9 am-12 pm- "Stories to Transform" Storytelling 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
10 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:30 a.m. Confirmation 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Mar. Newsletter Deadline	11 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Session	12 1:00 p.m. Stories & More	13 Ash Wednesday Lenten Series Begins 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 12 p.m. Lunch/ Worship 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner 7:00 p.m. Worship/ Marketplace	14 4:30 p.m. TOPS	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:30 a.m. Confirmation 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	18 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting	19 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	20 Lenten Series 9:00 a.m. Stampers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 12 p.m. Lunch/ Worship 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Worship/ Marketplace	21 4:30 p.m. TOPS	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:30 a.m. Confirmation 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	25 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting	26 1:00 p.m. Stories & More	27 Lenten Series 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 12 p.m. Lunch/ Worship 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Worship/ Marketplace	28 4:30 p.m. TOPS		

February Birthdays

February 1 – Josh Krueger
5 – Scott Zimmerman
5 – Sam Swearingen
5 – Mike Swearingen
7 – Julie Witek
12 – Lorraine Cunningham
13 – Theresa Ochoa
16 – Beverly Kahn
17 – Barbara Brown
17 – Shirley Fogg
17 – Kahlan DeRose
18 – Amy Simone
18 – Karrington Wreza
20 – Alyssia Kommenich
22 – Chris Pilgrim
23 – Eva Nestor
25 – Austin McKinney
27 – Shirley Dragas
27 – Rick Vogl
28 – Ryan Brandt
28 – Sandy Beal
28 – Kevin Lorenz

*Any omissions or errors should be reported
to the church office...*

708-598-3100 or

HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org

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Thank you.*



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