



**hickory hills**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE CONNECTING LINK

July/August 2016

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## Birthdays

July & August list inside

## Worship Times

SUMMER 2016  
 10:00 Traditional Worship  
 5:00 Contemporary Worship

## One Congregation, One Service

**Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**3:00 PM**



**Bring a friend (or more) to church for our one  
 service at 3:00 PM  
 Fellowship, Food, Fun  
 "How Can I Give You Up?"  
 Hosea 11:1-11**

## Letter from Laura

I'll be traveling out to a cemetery today with a family I've known for a while as we take Dad's ashes to be interred. I've been thinking a lot about this particular man, preparing for this graveside service, and am again amazed by what a privilege it is to get to know people: what they value, what matters to them, how they respond to God's claim on their lives. Tom has made me think back to those days when my brother and I were home alone during the day while our older sisters were off at school. When you're one of six, you notice the quiet times. Every afternoon we would snuggle with Mother on the living room couch and she would read to us from the books of Laura Ingalls Wilder or share an adventure of Babar the Elephant or read one of the Just So stories of Rudyard Kipling. I would carry vivid images from those tales up to my bed for naptime. When I was old enough to read to myself, I devoured the entire Ingalls' Little House series. I especially liked her book "Farmer Boy" about her husband Almanzo's childhood on a farm in upstate New York. In it she describes how Almanzo raises two calves, teaching them to work as a yoked team so they could together do the work of plowing and hauling. The calves needed to learn to pull together, be at the same pace with each other, to turn to the left or right or stop on command, to back up, to trust the voice and direction of their master. When they learned to do all these things, they were an effective team. Yoked together, they could do all that was asked of them, and share the work load.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites us to come to him, with all our cares, responsibilities, worries, and woes and slip our necks through the yoke he offers us. We stick our heads in gladly, because Jesus is standing there with one side of the yoke already around his neck, resting gently on his shoulders. Somehow, as our head slips through the other side of the yoke, Jesus, lined up in partnership with us, is able to match us in height and body composition and make the weight lying on our shoulders feel light as a feather. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

In church, we symbolize the wearing of the yoke of Christ when we put on a stole. We know that Jesus stands right beside us when we wear his yoke; which indeed is both easy and light with him carrying the other side; and we find we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. It seems to me that Tom knew a lot about showing others who he teamed up with all through his life. Whether working as his Mother's right hand as the oldest, or job sharing before it was popular, or invested in his long time partnership with his wife; when yoked with Jesus Tom lived the golden rule: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you" (Mt. 7:12) He makes me think about being sure that I'm listening to Jesus' invitation each day – to come to him, to take his yoke upon me and learn of him. I invite you to do the same.

Blessings,  
*Rev. Laura*

## Liturgists Needed

We need worship leaders for the morning worship service. If you have any interest in leading worship please sign up on the list out in the narthex or talk to Rev. Laura with any questions.

## One Congregation, One Service

The Worship and Music Committee has recommended that in 2016, we worship together as one congregation on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. This means that on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, we will have only one service – at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. We are asking you to invite a friend (or more) to join us for worship that day and to stay for a time of food, fellowship and fun to follow.

Our **second** One Congregation, One Service time for 2016 will be on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. While the exact time has not been set, it will be closer to noon. This will be an All Saints Day Service. As part of the service, we will light candles in memory of those we know who have passed from death to new life in Christ since October 2015. While we are certainly aware of some deaths because we have had them on the prayer list, you may also wish to ask for your loved one to be included and lifted up in prayer during this service being planned for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Please submit in writing to the church office the name of your loved one, their date of death and your name so they might be included at this time. These requests can also be emailed to [hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org). Thanks for your help with this preparation!

## Women's Bible Study

We are taking the month of July off. Beginning August 1, we will start up our regular schedule of Monday Bible studies at 1:00 and resume our study of the Book of Acts. The class is open to women of every age and we encourage you to participate as you are able. Contact Arlene at 708-598-5420 with any questions.

## Yoga for Every Body

Get your body moving and quiet your mind with a gentle yoga flow. Weekly community class geared towards all levels is held in the gym on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Dress in comfortable clothes and please bring your own mat (or a beach towel if you do not have a mat). All other props will be provided.

Special Pricing for church members:

Single class, \$8, Two classes \$15, Four classes \$30+1 FREE class.

Non-members:

Single class \$10, Four classes \$40 + 1 FREE class.

*Friendly reminder, it's not about being good at yoga, it's about being good to yourself! See you at class, Kari*

# Prayer List

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns: **Cheryl** Huenecke, Gordon's co-worker's neighbor's son **Christopher, Rick V, Lorraine** Cunningham, **Jacob** Morrell, **Gert, Katie** Huenecke, **Adam S's Dad, Mrs. Brown and family**, Karen G's friend **Judy, Jerry & Joan** Panko, Andrew's friend **Jacob, Cliff** Pilgrim, **Mary** Orr, **Cos & Francine** Costello, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen** and her friend's son **Brian**, Dawn R's friend **Debbie, Eleanor** Watson, **Blanche** Barker, Larry's niece **Olivia, Pete** McKinney, **Jean** Somerstorfer.

We pray for those in need of strength: Susan's cousin **Randy**, Gordon's brother **Gary, Tom and Sharon** Morrell, Donna's sister **Shirley, Gigi & Katrina, Billy, Angie** Swindle, Jeni's mom **Wanda**.

We pray for those in need of strength and healing, or with health concerns: **Lori and her Mom, Judy, Lou's Family Kim, Kiana, Howie, Elaine & Harry**. Wilda's and Susan's friend **Tracy, Mary** Richer, the entire **Cassiello family**, Donna's friend **Ken**, Grace's relative **Steven** Eklund, **Bev**

We pray for those in mourning: **Family and friends of** Donna's friend **Nancy** upon her passing; **Orlando, FL victims and families**.

We pray for groups: **Israel, Zika victims and solutions, Our children & youth ministry, Christians in Middle East** for strength & protection; **people of other faiths; our missionaries to S. Dakota and KY**.

We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances: **Scott Blumenthal** for an open door, Shirley D's friends **Pat Z, Eleanor R, Eddie M and Bob B, Karl Haack** in the Marines, **Shannon** for peace & direction, Theresa's mom **Jeanne, Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt** for comfort & strength, **George** DeJong for courage & strength, Laura's friend **Debbie & husband** for direction, **Cindy** for guidance & strength, **Lauren** for seeing the light & strength, **Joe** for direction & strength, Joyce's friend **Rose**, for peace & strength, **Joe, Uncle Bob & Pat, DelPrete** family for strength, faith & hope during **Jen's** battle.



*Notice: Due to privacy policies, hospitals no longer contact the church to let us know you are there (even if they ask you the name of your church). If you or someone you love needs a hospital visit, please call or text Rev. Laura on her cell phone (815) 822-0557.*

# Summer Worship



## July 3 Communion served at 10:00

10:00 "My Country 'Tis of Thee" – a service of songs and reflections

5:00 REV worship

## July 10 Communion served at 5:00

10:00 "To You, O Lord" Psalm 82, **Psalm 25:1-10**

5:00 REV Worship and Communion - "To You, O Lord"

## July 17

10:00 "A Famine of Hearing" Psalm 52, **Amos 8:1-12**

5:00 REV Worship – "A Famine of Hearing"

## July 24

10:00 "Mission Possible" – a report from the Kentucky trip by Melanie Swindle

5:00 REV Worship – "Mission Possible" by Melanie Swindle

## July 31 A Fifth Sunday service - "One Congregation, One Service"

3:00 Bring a Friend (or more) to church for our one service at 3:00

Rev. Laura and REV praise band lead worship, followed by Fellowship, Food & Fun

"How Can I Give You Up?" **Hosea 11:1-11**



## August 7 Communion served at both services

10:00 "Give Thanks" Luke 12:32-40, **Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23**

5:00 REV Worship – "Give Thanks"

## August 14

10:00 "Now Faith is the Assurance of Things Hoped For" Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

5:00 REV Worship **Hebrews 11:29-12:2** "Therefore....."

## August 21

10:00 "Jesus Made Her Able" Psalm 71:1-6 **Luke 13:10-17**

5:00 REV Worship **Luke 13:10-17** "She Was Quite Unable"

## August 28

10:00 "And The Host **May** Say....." Hebrews 13:1-8 **Luke 14:1, 7-14**

5:00 REV Worship

## Jones Center Night At the Ballpark

Join Jones Center for an evening of fun on Saturday, July 23rd! **At 6:05 PM the Windy City Thunderbolts of Crestwood, IL** will play the Gateway Grizzlies from the St. Louis suburbs. There will be a **SUPER MEGA post game fireworks SPECTACULAR**. Before the game, enjoy a pregame concert by the Beverly All Stars!

Cost: \$10 per ticket, proceeds will be used to benefit Jones Community Center in providing the youth with necessary school supplies for the upcoming school year. This is a great event for a church outing, the park is nice and the seats are close to the field. The ballpark is located off Cicero Avenue at the Midlothian Turnpike. Going south on Cicero, turn left on the Midlothian Turnpike, the stadium is just up the street on your right. Cost of parking is \$2 per car. Refreshments from \$2.50 on up.

If you are not available July 23rd, please consider buying a ticket or two and giving to a family member, neighbor or friend. If you can make it, please invite your family, neighbors and friends! **See Dave Delaney for tickets.**



## *Still Time to Register*

Summer Camp  
Stronghold Retreat Center  
Oregon, IL



**Jr. Adventure II**  
(Completed grades 3-5)  
July 24 - 29

**Jr. High Adventure**  
(Completed grades 6-8)  
July 24 - 29

**Sr. High Adventure**  
(Completed grades 9 - 12)  
July 24 - 29

*For more information about camp, talk with Dianne at the church office 708 598-3100. Camp fills up quickly. Scholarships are available.*

# Session Shorts

**The Session met** on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and began by sharing the following joys and concerns: excitement over the upcoming Dakota Partnership trip; the week of VBS that was just completed; the enthusiasm and dedication of Karolina, the yoga instructor using the gym on Thursday evenings, thanks for the power of prayer, esp. from those who are being uplifted presently; for a recently retired colleague whose recently discovered cancer has metastasized throughout his system; enthusiasm for the KY trip this year; for those waiting the results of tests. Having read Psalm 103, the meeting was then opened with prayer.

Dianne's report: VBS (held June 6-10) had 46-48 in attendance each evening. Participants brought a wide variety of guests on Family Night including family, neighbors and friends. There are no June or July CE meetings and work continues on getting youth enrolled for camp.

The Session approved the minutes of the 5/9 Session meeting and noted that we are in our summer schedule of worship at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Session received the report of the Board of Deacons and the Treasurer's report, which shows a positive balance for the end of May. The congregation is reminded that when we go on vacation, the church's bills do not. Please remember to pay your pledge this summer.

The Session also approved the use of the sanctuary on Wednesday June 29<sup>th</sup> for the World Day of Prayer, heard that the annual Indoor Yard Sale has yielded more than 5300.00 and agreed to do a final approval of our missionaries going to Kentucky via email when the participation list is finalized.

The Session concurred with the recommendation from Mission to close the Food Pantry in our building effective 6/29 and hired Pam Sigler to work as the Administrative Assistant in the office for 12 hours/week. The office will be open 12 -3 on Mondays and 9 to Noon on Wednesdays. Other hours are worked on Friday and as needed.

The balance of the meeting was spent discussing the Congregational Assessment Tool we will be using to start the mission study process for seeking an installed pastor. We will establish a task force to work with Rev. Laura on this assessment process and to draft a plan to submit to the Commission on Ministry for this transition time. We are looking for an early fall implementation time.

There being no further business, the Session adjourned with prayer at 9:15 until its next regular meeting of August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Laura

## Christian Education

# Vacation Bible School

**"Submerged"**  
2016

The week was amazing! With the help of special guests, Tricia, Jon, and Daron Brouwers, we became submerged in God's Word and discovered that Jesus saw people for who they are on the inside, not on the surface. Our week was filled with music, Bible lessons, crafts, recreation, snacks and meeting new friends. Thank you to Daron for leading our Bible time with puppets and the black light experience.

We give thanks to this group of dedicated volunteers who made the week possible for the kids of our church and community.

**THANK YOU!!**

### **Decorating Team**

Chair -Linda Lavaretto  
Stacy Flynn-Brenz  
Barbara Brown  
Evelyn Garlic  
Tony Lavaretto  
Eva Mason  
Grace Muszynski  
Nancy Snyder  
Laura Villarreal  
Debbie Zimmerman  
Scott Zimmerman

### **VBS Staff**

Shannon Bastien  
Stacy Flynn -Brenz  
Kirsten Elam  
Phil Elam  
Evelyn Garlic  
Alyssia Kommenich

Beth Kommenich  
LeAnne Kommenich  
Linda Lavaretto  
Tony Lavaretto  
Theresa Leavitt  
Grace Muszynski  
Nancy Snyder  
Jean Swearingen  
Mike Swearingen  
Sarah Swearingen  
Cindy Treccani  
Laura Villarreal  
Andrew Witek  
Debbie Zimmerman  
Megan Zimmerman

### **Music Team**

Ashley Fiedor  
Matt Witek



## July 2016 BIRTHDAYS

1 – Kaylee Rys  
1- Amelia Huenecke  
4 – Robert Swindle  
6 – Toni Kenealy  
7 – Theodore Atiedu  
7 – Gabriella Ciametti  
8- Joann Jackson  
8 – Elaine Molenaar  
8 – Becky Kusina  
13 – Gessica Grisko  
15 – Nellie Prunty  
19 – Andy Betterton  
21- Kyle Ambrosat  
21- Jarett Ambrosat  
22 – Dianne Flynn  
22 – Lucy Dumke  
23 – Diane Ciametti  
23 – Justin Rellinger  
24 – Jack Costello  
26- Michael Crowley  
27 – Cindy Treccani  
28 – Eleanor Watson  
29 – Carri McKinney

## August 2016 BIRTHDAYS

1 – Anthony Lavaretto  
1 – Patricia Pilgrim  
2 – Susan Beal Frangella  
2- Jeni Vogl  
3- Shannon Bastien  
5 – Carolyn Watson  
5 – Dave Ulrich  
6- Ashley Maranto  
9- Molly Netter  
10 – Jimmy Kupka  
11 – Gertrude Vickers  
12 – David Semani  
12 – Don Rys  
13 – Agnes Davidson  
14 – Tia Del Prete  
18 – Jimmie Rehbock  
21- Chris Maranto  
22 – Christine Fox  
23 – Abigail Rellinger  
29 – Micki Kluska  
30 – Marilyn Betterton

# July 2016 Calendar

## Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 AM Communion	4 Independence Day Rev. Laura at Covenant Gathering this week	5 Christian Ed on break	6 Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	7 4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga	8	9 Kentucky Mission Trip Departs Evelyn - Hall
10 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	11 Office 12 to 3 Session on break	12	13 Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	14 4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga	15	16 Kentuck Mission trip returns
17 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	18 Office 12 to 3	19	20 Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	21 4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	25 Office 12 to 3 Deacons on break	26 Worship & Music on break	27 Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	28 4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga	29	30
31 3:00 PM One Service						

# August 2016 Calendar Events

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study	7 PM Christian Ed	Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga		
7		8	9	10	11	12	13
	10 AM Communion	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Session		Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga		
14		15	16	17	18	19	20
	10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study		Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga		
21		22	23	24	25	26	27
	10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Deacons	7 PM Worship & Music	Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30	4 PM TOPS 7 PM Yoga		
28		29	30	31			
	10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	Office 12 to 3 1 PM Women's Bible Study		Office 9 to Noon Prayer and Care 9:30			