

**THE CONNECTING LINK**  
**HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**JULY AND AUGUST 2017**

- July 2** 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Psalm 23 **Genesis 22:1-14** "What if?"  
At 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM REV **Communion at all services**  
*Bring food donations for Elsie's Pantry at Our Savior Divine Lutheran Church  
as we come to be fed at the Lord's Table*
- July 9** 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Romans 7:15-25a **Matt 11:16-19, 25-30** "Take My Yoke"  
At 10:00 AM  
REV at 5:00 PM
- July 16** 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Ps 119:105-112 **Matt 13:1-9, 8-23** "Sheer Abundance"  
At 10:00 AM  
**At 11:15 AM – CAT Survey Congregational Executive Summary**  
presented by Amy Altenbern of SamaraCare (Samaritan Center) and a Session report  
on "**Next Steps**"  
REV at 5:00 PM
- July 23** 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Ps 139:1-12, 23-24 **Matt 13:24-30** "Both Grow Together....."  
At 10:00 AM  
REV at 5:00 PM
- July 30** **ONE CONGREGATION, ONE SERVICE – TIME TO BE DETERMINED**  
17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Psalm 105:1-11, 45b **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**  
"The Kingdom of Heaven"
- August 6** 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Psalm 17:1-7, 15 **Genesis 32:22-32**  
"The God Who Wrestles Jacob..."  
At 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM REV **Communion at all services**  
*Bring food donations for Elsie's Pantry at Our Savior Divine Lutheran Church  
as we come to be fed at the Lord's Table*
- August 13** 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**  
"What Then Of The Promise?"
- August 20** 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Psalm 133 **Genesis 45:1-15** "Sent Ahead"
- August 27** 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c, Matthew 16:21-28, **Exodus 3:1-15**  
"I Am Who I Am"

## **SESSION SHORTS**

The Session met on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and conducted the following business:

Shared pastoral concerns and opened the meeting with prayer. Approved the Clerk's report, Session minutes of 4/10 and Deacons minutes of 4/24 and received the Treasurer's report and the report of the Director of Children's Ministries. The Session changed the June meeting to the 19<sup>th</sup> to accommodate VBS the week of June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The need for repairs to the stairs leading from the second story exit over the gym was discussed, as well as the schedule for the Annual Indoor Yard Sale coming in the next week. The Session affirmed the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Bernadette Roche as the church secretary, effective 5/16/2017, for twelve hours a week. ***Please welcome Bernie to this ministry.***

The Session met again on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and conducted the following business:

Shared joys and concerns and opened the meeting with prayer. The Session greeted and welcomed to the meeting the Transitional Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Chicago, Rev. Debbie Rundlett and our COM liaison, Rev. Adam Malak.

After approving minutes, reports and building use by Evelyn on 7/22 and 8/19, the Session moved to consideration of the CAT survey Leadership Report received on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> as presented by Amy Altenbern of SamaraCare (formerly Samaritan Center). Since then, the time for the **Executive Summary report to the congregation** had been scheduled. Amy Altenbern will return on **Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the 10:00 service to make the Executive Summary report. A short stretch break will be provided at the end of worship and we will go right to the report promptly at **11:15 AM**. It will take an hour. Handouts of her PowerPoint slides will be provided that morning for the congregation. Ms. Altenbern's report will be followed by a short update from the Session on its action plan created in response to the report.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of our thoughts and feelings since receiving the CAT survey report. Rev. Debbie presented two options that build on the report's outcomes – Bridgebuilders and PATH. Using either method enables us to move quickly to writing a MIF (Ministry Information Form) and electing a PNC for the calling of the pastor being prepared even now by God to come partner with HHPC. Either method provides steps to continuing in our redevelopment so we are ready to receive a new pastor. Full descriptions of the two methods were distributed on Wednesday to the Session and our task is to read both and be in daily prayer between now and 7/10, asking for God's guidance in choosing which method we want to adopt and lead this summer. Please pray for the Session as they are in this discernment process. Please plan to join us on **Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>** at 11:15 AM and on **Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> in one service to be held at a time to be chosen on 7/10**. Bless your congregation by stepping up your participation in our life together.

**MISSION COUNCIL 8 PROJECTS AND MISSIONS**

Last year our MC8 churches raised \$2,087.01 for **The Dakota Mission Partnership endeavor**. At last year's August 2016 meeting, MC8 wanted to increase the donation for 2017 to at least \$3,000. At the June 2017 MC8 meeting, only \$261.00 had been donated from the churches, so sights were set a bit lower. At that meeting it was motioned that the MC8 account would match up to \$1,000 per donation from any of the churches. **God is good** and many thanks and blessings to the churches who stepped up big! Since last week's appeal MC8 has received from churches/donors:

\$1,000.00 donation  
123.00 donation  
500.00 donation  
50.00 donation  
100.00 donation

**This just in! New Grand Total \$4534.92 !! 🎉**

Unbelievable! When we all join together look at what we can accomplish! Thank you and Bless you! Please continue to lift up our missionaries in prayer as they go down this Saturday, June 24 to Friday, June 30, to do His good work with help from your gifts.



*"Anchored in Christ!"-- Hebrews 6:19*

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**Kentucky Mission--July 8-15, 2017**

**2017 Presbyterian Youth Camp for Leaders --Geneva Center Rochester, Indiana. July 30-August 4, 2017**

**8/12/17 Jones Center Night at the Windy City Thunderbolts Tickets: \$10**

**9/9/17 MC8 Meeting—Pullman Pres. 9-11 am**

**10/28/17 Feed My Starving Children-- Aurora location. 11:30 am-1:30pm**

**11/4/17--Jones Center 100th Year Anniversary Gala**

## **Fundraising Committee Report**

We are happy to report the profits from our two spring fundraisers.

The May flower sale netted the Camp Scholarship Fund \$621.00.

Thank you to everyone who purchased their flowers from the Church.

The Annual Rummage Sale was another success. After expenses, our profit was \$4,968.00. Thank you to everyone that contributed items, priced, worked the sale, fed us, cleaned up after the sale, etc.

Approximately \$2,000.00 of this money was sent to Mission Council 8 for two mission trips: South Dakota Partnership Trip and Kentucky Mission Trip.

### **Notice**

Our regular hostesses for 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship will be on vacation in July. Others may step up if they would like to.

### **What is Per Capita?**

It is a way Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (USA), no matter the size of their churches.

Per capita contributions are:

- Requested from every congregation
- Based on each church's total active membership

**Per Capita for 2017: \$33.38**

### **FYI**

- Eva Mason is now at home.
- Francine Costello is at Manor Care, 7850 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463
- Ryan and Jamie Krueger's new address is 7511 Woodlawn Drive, Frankfort, IL 60423



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### “Galactic Starveyors” 2017

The week was amazing! With the help of special guests, Tricia, Jon, and Daron Brouwers, we followed our VBS Motto and Searched the Visible to Discover the Invisible. Our week was filled with music, Bible lessons, crafts, recreation, snacks and new friends. Thank you to Daron for leading our Bible time while dressed in a robot costume he had designed and helped create. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary that Tricia, Jon, and Daron have been with us to help spread this ministry and reach kids and adults of all ages. We have been blessed that they chose to share this journey with us.

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

Chairperson – Linda Lavaretto  
Tony Lavaretto  
Grace Muszynski  
Nancy Snyder  
Laura Villarreal  
Debbie Zimmerman  
Megan Zimmerman

#### VBS Staff

Stacy Flynn–Brenz  
Phil Elam  
Hollie Fox  
Evelyn Garlic  
Linda Lavaretto  
Tony Lavaretto  
Theresa Leavitt

#### VBS Staff (Cont'd)

Grace Muszynski  
Nancy Snyder  
Jean Swearingen  
Mike Swearingen  
Laura Villarreal  
Andrew Witek  
Debbie Zimmerman  
Megan Zimmerman

#### Music Team

Ashley Fiedor  
Matt Witek  
Beth Kommenich  
LeAnne Kommenich

***Celebrating the Ordination of  
Ben Heimach-Snipes***

*Pastor of Morgan Park  
Presbyterian Church*

**Sunday, July 16th, 2017**

Morgan Park Presbyterian Church and the  
Presbytery of Chicago joyfully invite you to  
the ordination of Ben Heimach-Snipes to  
the office of *Teaching Elder*  
(Minister of Word and Sacrament)  
in the Presbyterian Church USA at

**Morgan Park Presbyterian Church  
2017 W. 110th Pl.  
Chicago, IL 60643**

**4:00pm - Ordination Worship Service**

*A free will offering will be collected for  
the Ministers' Emergency Fund of the  
Chicago Presbytery.*

**5:30pm - Community Picnic**  
*Sponsored by Morgan Park  
Presbyterian Church*

Ben has been called to be the pastor of  
Morgan Park Presbyterian Church  
after completing the ordination process in  
Whitewater Valley Presbytery and  
providing ministry as a chaplain at Rush  
University Medical Center, Jackson  
Park Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital. Ben  
has been a life-long member of  
Second Presbyterian Church in  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Please RSVP by phone or email to Morgan  
Park Presbyterian Church 773-779-3355  
morganparkpres@gmail.com**



The Presbytery of Chicago along with  
Friendship Presbyterian Church  
& Calvary United Protestant Church  
cordially invite you to the ordination of

**Andrea Denney**  
to the Office of Teaching Elder in the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on

**Sunday, July 2, 2017  
at 2:30 PM  
Calvary United Protestant Church  
425 N. Orchard  
Park Forest, Illinois**

*Reception follows  
in the Fellowship Hall*

Happy Birthday!



## July

1 – Amelia Huenecke  
4 – Robert Swindle  
6 – Toni Kenealy  
7 – Gabriella Ciametti  
8 – Joann Jackson  
8 – Elaine Molenaar  
8 – Becky Kusina  
19 – Andy Betterton  
21 – Kyle Ambrosat  
21 – Jarett Ambrosat  
22 – Dianne Flynn  
22 – Lucy Dumke  
23 – Diane Ciametti  
23 – Justin Rellinger  
27 – Cindy Treccani  
28 – Eleanor Watson  
29 – Carri McKinney

## August

1 – Anthony Lavaretto  
1 – Patt Pilgrim  
2 – Susan Beal Frangella  
2 – Jeni Vogl  
3 – Shannon Bastien  
5 – Carolyn Watson  
6 – Ashley Maranto  
9 – Molly Netter  
11 – Gertrude Vickers  
13 – Agnes Davidson  
18 – Jimmie Rehbock  
21 – Chris Maranto  
22 – Christine Fox  
23 – Abigail Rellinger  
30 – Marilyn Betterton

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns:** **Jerry & Joan** Panko, **Cliff, Mary** Orr, **Francine**, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen**, her friend's son **Brian**, her husband's cousin **Karen, Kevin, Eleanor** Watson, **Jean** Somerstorfer, **Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy D & Tom, Barb M, Aunt Sherry, Kyle W, Cori & Don** (Ivy), **Erik's son, Paul and Maureen** (B. Brown), **Dave and Dar, Leah** (Karen) Debbie's mom, **Carol**, Diane's great nephew **Colton**, Matt's dad, **Daniel, Barbara Brown, Cheryl** H

**We pray for those in need of strength:** Susan's cousin **Randy**, Donna's sister **Shirley, Billy**, Jeni's mom **Wanda**, Maryann's friend, **Jack M & Uncle Tony, Annette**, Theresa's niece **Beth, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen**, Rick's Dad, **Dick, George** (Charley), Bernie's daughter **Natalie**.

**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**, the entire **Cassiello family**, Donna's friend **Ken**, Grace's relative **Edith, Laura A, Eva M**, Ar's brother **Richie** and brother in law **Howie, Pat** (Jeni), **Eva N, Bob N, Joann J, Ramon and Laura , Cassie (Laura V)**, Gordon's **Aunt Jane, Pat Vickers**

**We pray for groups:** Israel, Our children & youth ministry, Christians in Middle East for strength & protection; people of other faiths; our country's divisions; policemen and firemen, persecuted Christians, Our enemies, Syria

**We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances:** Shirley D's friend **Pat Z, Karl** Haack and **Mark** Gulotta in the Marines and **Tanya** in Kuwait, **Shannon** for peace & direction, **Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt** for comfort & strength, Laura's friends **Debbie & Chris** for direction, **Lauren** for seeing the light & strength, **Joe** for direction & strength, **Joe, Uncle Bob & Pat, DelPrete** family for strength, faith & hope as **Jen** awaits a new trial, **Gloria** (Laura V), **Rachel and Juan**

**We pray for those who mourn:** Family and friends of **Blanche Barker** who died in May. Family and friends of **Bev Kahn** who died May 21st. Family and friends of **Tish** who died June 4th. Renee, Erik and Gabby Meyer on the death of **Frank Wojciechowski**, June 8th. Family and friends of **Eva Nestor** who died on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Family and friends of **Jack (Cos) Costello** who died June 13<sup>th</sup>. Family and friends of **Bob Nordstrom** who died June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**If you or someone you love needs a hospital visit, please call/text Rev. Laura on her cell (815) 822-0557. Due to federal privacy regulations, the hospitals never call the church, even if they ask for your church membership information upon admission.**



# July 2017

O greater Maker of this thy great sun,  
 Give me the strength this one day's race to run,  
 Fill me with light, fill me with sun-like strength,  
 Fill me with joy to rob the day its length.  
 Light from within, light that will outward shine,  
 Strength to make strong some weaker heart  
 than mine,  
 Joy to make glad each soul that feels its touch;  
 Great Father of the sun, I ask this much.

—James Weldon Johnson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Canada Day 1
Communion 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:30 PM Ordination Denny 5 PM – REV 2	Office closed 3	Office closed  Independence Day 4	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care 5	Office Closed BIG TENT Washington University - St. Louis 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga 6	Office Closed BIG TENT Washington University - St. Louis 7	BIG TENT Washington University - St. Louis Kentucky Trip leaves 8
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV Kentucky Trip 9	Office open until 2 PM 7:30 PM Session Kentucky Trip 10	Office Closed Kentucky Trip 11	Office open until 2 PM Kentucky Trip 9:30 Prayer and Care 12	Office closed Kentucky Trip 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga 13	Office open until 2 PM Kentucky Trip 14	Rev. Laura Family Reunion Kentucky Trip returns 15
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM CAT Executive Summary 5 PM REV Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering 4 PM Ordination – Heimach/Snipes 16	Office open until 2 PM Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering (Geneva Center) 17	Office closed Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering (Geneva Center) 18	9:30 AM Prayer & Care Office open until 2 PM Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering (Geneva Center) 19	Office closed Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering (Geneva Center) 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga 20	Office open until 2 PM Rev. Laura Covenant Gathering (Geneva Center) 21	10 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop 22
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship - Mike Welf 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV 23	Office open until 2 PM No Deacons 24	Office Closed 25	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care 26	Office closed 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga 27	Office open until 2 PM 28	29
One Congregation/ One Service at ?  Summer Camp at Stronghold	Office open until 2 PM Summer Camp at Stronghold 29					

# August 2017



Let praise — not merely thanksgiving, but praise — always form an ingredient of thy prayers. We thank God for what he is to us, for the benefits which he confers and the blessings with which he visits us. But we praise him for what he is in himself, for his glorious excellences and perfections, independently of their bearing on the welfare of the creature. ... When thou singest praise, all creation (in a manner) sings in thee and with thee.

— Edward Goulburn

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Office closed Summer Camp	Office open until 2 PM Summer Camp 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	Office closed Summer Camp 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga	Office open until 2 PM Summer Camp	
		1	2	3	4	5
Communion 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV	Office open until 2 PM Rev. Laura – Continuing Education in Glen Ellyn	Office closed Rev. Laura – Continuing Education in Glen Ellyn	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care Rev. Laura – Continuing Education in Glen Ellyn	Office closed Rev. Laura – Continuing Education in Glen Ellyn 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga	Office open until 2 PM Rev. Laura – Continuing Education in Glen Ellyn	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV Newsletter Deadline	Office open until 2 PM 7:30 PM Session	Office closed	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	Office closed 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga	Office open until 2 PM	10 AM Evelyn's Card Party
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV	Office open until 2 PM	Office closed Mail Newsletter	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	Office closed 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga	Office open until 2 PM	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 11 AM Mission 5 PM REV	Office open until 2 PM 7:30 PM Deacons	Office closed	Office open until 2 PM 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	Office closed 4 PM – TOPS 7 PM – Yoga		
27	28	29	30	31		