hickory hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CONNECTING LINK

June 2016

Issue Highlights

Vacation Bible School 1
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Birthdays

JUNE 2016

2 Ed Zabelka
3 Ivy Taebel
Mark Gulotta
6 Driton Semani
8 Barbara Monczynski
11 Katelin Wheeler
12 Amanda Swindle
14 Cheryl Huenecke
Alvin Swearingen
15 Ryan Krueger
16 Karen Hoffman
Albert Netter
19 Bob Nordstrom
20 Leonard Van Vossen
23 Roger Patterson
Mary Richer
Megan Zimmerman
27 Linda Lavaretto
29 Hanna Treccani
Thomas M. Morrell
Joe Simone

Worship Times

SUMMER 2016

10:00 Traditional Worship
5:00 Contemporary Worship

Talk About Adventure

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – A Week Not to be Missed!!

Monday through Friday
June 6 - 10
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Special Guests - Tricia and Company

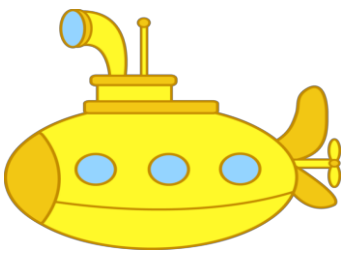
For a week kids from our church and community will join together for "Submerged: Finding Truth Below The Surface." As kids are submerged in God's Word, they will discover that Jesus saw people for who they were on the inside and not who they appeared to be on the surface. Kids will discover that Jesus sees them, knows them, and came to be their Savior.

We hope your children join us for the fun, excitement, and learning this week will bring. We'll hear Bible stories, play games in the gym, have lots and lots of great music, crafts, and of course snacks.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church with special guests Tricia and Company. It will be an outstanding week. This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6 (Completed). Cost for this week is $6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time.

Mark your calendars and tell your kids to invite their friends!!! Tricia and company will be here to lead the singing and bible study. There will be new crafts each night. Debbie and Patt will have new games to play each night. There will be cookies and refreshments served. Learn about Jesus, God, and yourself during the week of fun activities planned for you.

For registration or more information contact Dianne at the church office (708 598-3100).



Letter from Laura

My dear sister Ellie, of blessed memory, was full of wise sayings. We walked a close sisterly path and I loved the way she always helped me learn more about God's grace. One of her favorite sayings was "Expectations are premeditated resentments". I couldn't grasp the meaning when she first said it, so she gave me an example. She named someone we both know and find annoying. Ellie told me that were I to go to a gathering where this other person would also be, knowing she would also be in attendance, and were I to think ahead of time of how annoying she was sure to be, then lo and behold! My expectations would be fulfilled. But if instead I were to go to the gatherings without expectations, with no preconceptions in place, I would no longer get annoyed by this third party. I tried it and, to my amazement, it worked! Of course I didn't change my attitude overnight and I still had times of feeling like this person was standing on my last nerve. But as I let go of those premeditated resentments I also discovered that something inside me crumbled. A hard, judge-y piece that had been ready to pounce, to be unkind and critical. It needed to be fed by premeditated resentments to survive. It died when I quit feeding it. I even discovered that when I did not have my filter of assumptions in place that I began to think about this other person in a different way and found things to like and admire about her. I never expected that. A good transition.

It seems to me that the inclination to not bear premeditated resentments towards others goes hand in hand with taking personal responsibility for the wellbeing of our community. I had someone spend 20 minutes on Easter morning complaining about something that had not happened and I thought to myself – how much more useful it would be to tell a pastor who's never been here on Easter what you hope to experience. Mind reading is not a gift of the Holy Spirit. Griping is not a devotional practice. It's wearing to listen to and rarely builds up our life together. Complaining, premeditated resentments, hurt feelings will never go away on their own because we are human. Yet a healthy church places limits on them, expects clear communication up front, stands up and asks for a change in topic and does not allow the negative to be what drives practices, worship and ministries.

Especially as we come into the beginning of this long green season of spiritual growth, we do well to take up new practices. We are the people who live in perpetual hope, who seek good, and give thanks in all times and places. May our expectations be of God working in our lives to nourish us, rather than living expecting and anticipating disappointments and discouragement in our life together.

Blessings,
Rev. Laura

Liturgists Needed

We need worship leaders for the morning worship service. Rev. Laura prepares a weekly worship outline which includes all the parts that the worship leader does that she can email to you or you are free to write out your own materials. 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. It is no longer automatic that if you sign up to serve on a particular Sunday of the month that you will be expected to serve again on that same Sunday the following month.

Congratulations!

to Toni Kenealy for being named the part-time employee of the year at Moraine Valley Community College.

Prayer and Care

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Ephesians 6:10-18 (RSV)

Please join us on the last Wednesday in June for the World Day of Prayer. More information forthcoming. Please consider joining us for Prayer and Care group each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer List

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns: **Rick** V, **Lorraine** Cunningham, Adeline's friend **Judy** Hanke, **Jacob** Morrell, **Gert**, **Katie** Huenecke, Kyle & Katie's mom **Cathie**, **Adam S's Dad, Agnes** Davidson, **Mrs. Brown and her family**, Karen G's friend **Judy**, **Cindy** B, **Jerry** & **Joan** Panko, Andrew's friend **Jacob**, **Cliff** Pilgrim, **Mary** Orr, **Cos & Francine** Costello, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen**, 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**, Shirley D's friend **Brian**, Adeline's friend **Susan**, **Mary** Richer, The entire **Cassiello family**, Donna's friends **Ken** & **Nancy**, Grace's relative **Steven** Eklund, **Bev**

We pray for those in mourning: **Family and friends** of Enid Scholefield on her passing, **Family and friends** of Darlene's cousin Norma on her passing, **Family and friends** of Barb N's brother **Mike** on his passing.

We pray for groups: **Israel**, **Zika victims and solutions**, **Our children & youth & our ministry to them**, **Christians in Middle East** for strength & protection & others

We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances: thanksgiving for Shirley B's great grandson **Miles**, **OLCC Food Pantry solution**, **Karl** Haack in the Marines, **Shannon** for peace & direction, Theresa's mom **Jeanne** for blessings & healing, **Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt** for comfort & strength, **George** DeJong for courage & strength, Laura's friend **Debbie** 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.

National Day of Prayer

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

When women and men of all backgrounds and beliefs are free to practice their faiths without fear or coercion, it bolsters our religious communities and helps to lift up diverse and vibrant societies throughout our world. In America, our Nation is stronger because we welcome and respect people of all faiths, and because we protect the fundamental right of all peoples to practice their faith how they choose, to change their faith, or to practice no faith at all, and to do so free from persecution and discrimination. Today, as we pause in solemn reflection, we celebrate the religious liberty we cherish here at home, and we recommit to standing up for religious freedom around the world.

For many of us, prayer is an important expression of faith -- an essential act of worship and a daily discipline that allows reflection, provides guidance, and offers solace. Through prayer we find the strength to do God's work: to feed the hungry, care for the poor, comfort the afflicted, and make peace where there is strife. In times of uncertainty or tragedy, Americans offer humble supplications for comfort for those who mourn, for healing for those who are sick, and for protection for those who are in harm's way. When we pray, we are reminded that we are not alone -- our hope is a common hope, our pain is shared, and we are all children of God.

Around the globe, too few know the protections we enjoy in America. Millions of individuals worldwide are subjected to discrimination, abuse, and sanctioned violence simply for exercising their religion or choosing not to claim a faith. Communities are threatened with genocide and driven from their homelands because of who they are or how they pray. The United States will continue to stand against these reprehensible attacks, work to end them, and protect religious freedom throughout the world. And we remember those who are prisoners of conscience -- who are held unjustly because of their faiths or beliefs -- and we will take every action within our power to secure their release.

In the face of tremendous challenges, prayer is a powerful force for peace, justice, and a brighter, more hopeful tomorrow. Today, as we join together in fellowship, we seek to see our own reflection in the struggle of others, to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and to keep faith -- in one another, in the promise of our Nation, and in the Almighty.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on the President to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a "National Day of Prayer."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2015, as a National Day of Prayer. I invite the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, for our many freedoms and blessings, and I join all people of faith in asking for God's continued guidance, mercy, and protection as we seek a more just world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

May Worship and Summer Worship

	SCRIPTURE	MESSAGE
June 5	*communion at both services*	
10:00	Luke 7:11-17; **1 Kings 17:8-24**	*Vulnerable to the Divine Power*
5:00 (REV)	Psalm 96, **Luke 7:1-10**	*Under Authority,* Laura Reason
June 12		
10:00	Psalms 42-43, **1 Kings 19:1-15**	*Sheer Silence*
5:00 (REV)		
June 19		
10:00	Psalm 5:1-8, **1 Kings 21:1-21a**	*Is God For Everyone?*
5:00 (REV)		Message by Scott Zimmerman
June 26		
10:00	Psalm 77, **Luke 9:51-62**	*Hard Sayings*
5:00 (REV)		

Summer Worship Times

We are now in our Summer Worship Schedule, where we are combining the morning services into a single service at 10:00 a.m. The evening REV service will remain at 5:00 p.m. This schedule will be in effect through September 4. On Sunday, July 31, it being the fifth Sunday of the month, we will have only one service that day – at 3:00 p.m. There will be no service scheduled at 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m., rather we will gather together as one congregation in worship together in the afternoon.

Women's Bible Study

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
1 John 3:1 (RSV)

Twelve of us enjoyed the delicious luncheon held in HHPC on May 9. We enjoyed appetizers, chicken, lasagna, macaroni salad, broccoli salad, chopped salad, corn casserole, fruit jello mold and a dessert to die for. We missed Shannon Bastien, Lucy Dumke, Carol Heins, Joann Jackson, Darlene Kibort, Eva Nestor, Jimmie Rehbock, Carol Sack and Gert Vickers. We were thrilled to have Beverly Kahn, Adeline Kramer, Rev. Laura Reason and Roberta Smith join us. Please be aware of our new schedule for the summer:

PRAYING IN COLOR
On the Mondays in June, beginning with June 6, the Women's Bible Study will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the knitting room. They have asked that Rev. Laura do the "Praying in Color" workshop she did during Lent. The workshop teaches various ways to pray in meditative or contemplative styles. We will do four sessions on the four June Mondays. 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 pick up 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.

Session Shorts

provided by Rev. Laura Reason

The Session met on Monday, May 9 and conducted the following business:

As usual, started the meeting sharing what we like that we see going on around the church, as well as joys and concerns. We lifted up the grieving – for the Swindles on the death of Uncle Cecil and Al; for Gabriella's upcoming graduation from the U of I; the Mother's Day Cookie Sale netting $240.00; for those recovering from strokes and respiratory problems; for those in the hospital, esp. Uncle Ron and Karen's friend; for those who have been laid off; for the joy of the Spring Fellowship Night; for Miles, now 21 pounds and doing well! The meeting was then opened with prayer by Rev. Laura at 7:40 p.m.

We began the business portion of the meeting by introducing ourselves to our new COM liaison, Gary Rayl and then:

-approved an outing by The Builders to Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat on July 24th in New Lenox. Abby Rellinger will be in the production.

-noted during the Clerk's report that Mike Welf served as pulpit supply on May 1 and 8; that Elsie "Enid" Scholefield died on 4/25 (services were 5/6 in Crest Hill) and the wedding on 4/23 of Ryan Krueger and Jamie Towns. We also confirmed the email votes on changing the 5/29 morning service time to **10:00 a.m.** and the use of the building by Pastor Kakish on 5/28. We also accepted, with regret, the resignation of Dawn Rellinger from the Board of Deacons.

The CE minutes, the Board of Deacons minutes and Worship and Music minutes were accepted and several uses of the building approved – for Mikaela Sullivan for voice practice; Hueneckes for a baptism party for Cooper on 5/15; for use of the hall by Melanie for a fundraiser for the Dakota Partnership either 6/3 or 6/17 and the use of the kitchen, hall and gym on 11/26 by Rev. Laura to host her family for Thanksgiving. Details for the Yoga class which will meet soon meet on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. are being finalized.

Worship and Music reminded us of the experiment being conducted this summer of one summer service time at **10:00 a.m.** and showed us the new communion ware pieces that have been received (purchased from memorial funds given for Sam Reason).

Outreach asked the Session to review the brochures being updated for the Street Fair on 6/26. They are asking for help from the congregation to work the Fair that day. The willing workers being sought need to be able to provide a genuine welcome and to speak of the activities of the church with those we meet and greet that day. See Tom, Gina or Gordon to help.

The second half of the meeting was spent in conversation with our new COM liaison Gary Rayl and talking about the pieces that need to be in place for HHPC to be in a strong position as we call our next installed pastor. Our goals for the interim time are to get organized administratively and to develop a clear vision we can easily communicate with others. Work will begin this summer on the CAT process available through the Presbytery which will serve as part of our mission study.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:45 until our next regular meeting of June 13.

Christian Education

There were over 70 people attending the **Spring Fellowship Night** on May 6. It began with a fabulous meal completed with dessert. Then the fun began as Master Ron made the rounds in the audience to make balloons, do some magic, and share his toy mini-trike. What a great night! It was so gratifying to see so many people bring family and friends to this night. Thank you to our cooks, Debbie, Dianne, Diane, Jean and Mike for working to make this a great time of fellowship. Thank you to Debbie, Mike, and Peter for the seating arrangements. Thank you to all who attended and those who even brought in family and friends to share the night. If you missed this time there will be a Fellowship night in the fall. So mark your calendars and maybe you can have some great memories of a Fellowship Night, too.

The **Cookie Monster Bake** sale held on May 8 was a huge success. There were so many choices that the containers filled up very quickly. Thank you to Dawn Rellinger, Abby, Jacob, Mike, Diane, Brittany, and Barb for your hard work filling the containers, weighing them and collecting the money. Thank you to Debbie, Mike and Peter for setting up the sales tables. A great big thank you to all the bakers who donated something so delicious to share for the sale. Over $200 was collected for camp scholarships. Thank you to everyone who purchased some of the cookies whether it was to enjoy alone or share.

Recognition Sunday was May 22. Our many volunteers who have helped in any way during the year with any of the Education Programs were recognized during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There was only the one morning service that day. Thank you to those who attended to thank the people who have worked so hard to create children's programs throughout the year. There was a long list of volunteers.

The Builders youth group will attend a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on July 24 in New Lennox. Our own Abby Rellinger will be in this production.

Are you ready for a week filled with learning fun? **The VBS theme this year is "Submerged."** The church will begin to be transformed to an underwater paradise at the end of May. VBS begins on June 6-10 at 6:30 p.m.. Children ages 4 through grade 6 are welcome to attend. The cost is only $6 and a bag of cookies. If you are interested in volunteering to supervise a group during the week, be sure to contact Dianne. Volunteers are always welcome.

Summer Camp

All students who are interested in **camp** this summer at the **Stronghold** will need to get their registration and down payments in soon. Camp is scheduled for July 24-29. Be sure to get the information you need before the deadline so you can attend. Camp fills up quickly. Registrations and deposit are due by May 18. Scholarships are available.

Stronghold, located at 1922 IL Rt. 2N, Oregon IL, has hosted summer camps for over 50 years. A typical day at Stronghold Camp includes bible study, arts, crafts, swimming, games, nature study, campfire vespers, astronomy, meal and snack time. Are you interested in learning more about camp? See Dianne, the Director of Children's Ministries, at the church office (708 598-3100) for details if you did not attend the camp meeting.

Jr. Adventure II (Completed grades 3-5) **Jr. High Adventure** (Completed grades 6-8)
Sr. High Adventure (Completed grades 9 – 12)

Recognition Sunday

On May 22 the following were recognized as part of the Christian Education ministry of HHPC.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Hayley Netter	Oak Lawn Montessori
Jacob Morrell	Old Quarry Middle School
Brian Haack	Stagg High School
Gabriella Ciametti	University of Illinois - Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education
Ashley Fiedor	Robert Morris University - Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design
Molly Netter	St. Xavier University - Post Graduate Diploma, Family Nurse Practitioner
Kyle Zimmerman	Commercial Diving Academy (Jacksonville, Florida)

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Debbie Zimmerman	Preschool / Kindergarten
LeAnne Kommenich	Grades 1-5
Gordon Home	Junior High / Senior High
Dave Delaney	Adult Class
Donna Bredlau	Assistant Superintendent

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH AND ADULT LEADERS

Dawn Rellinger & Bryan Ambrosat	The Builders (Junior and Senior High Youth Group)
Arlene Pearson	Women's Bible Study
Rev. Laura Reason	Lenten Series Noon and Evening Adult Study

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDS CLUB STAFF

Shannon Bastien, Shirley Dragas, Karen Golema, LeAnne Kommenich, Linda Lavaretto, Grace Muszynski, Jimmie Rehbock, Nancy Snyder, Mike Swearingen, Debbie Zimmerman
Director – Dianne Flynn

THANK YOU TO OUR NURSERY STAFF

Beth Kommenich and LeAnne Kommenich

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Shannon Bastien, Donna Bredlau, Linda Lavaretto, Patt Pilgrim, Jean Swearingen, Debbie Zimmerman

June Birthdays

7 Brittany Brown
14 T.J. DeVries

Perfect Attendance in Sunday School for May

Karen Korzeniewski – Preschool / Kindergarten
Lizbeth Ramos – Grade 5

June 2016 Calendar

Unique Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion	6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11:15 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Session					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Dakota Mission Trip MC8 with Pullman Start					
26	27	28	29	30		
Dakota Mission Trip MC8 with Pullman End	7:30 pm Deacons	7:00 pm Worship and Music				

Every Week in June (except as noted)

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm REV Worship	1:00 pm Women's Bible Study, Praying in Color		9:30 am Prayer and Care 4:00 pm Food Pantry	4:00 pm TOPS		