

THE CONNECTING LINK

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017

Ash Wednesday is March 1. Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

Noon: Following Jesus -- Soup and worship, Fellowship Hall

7:00 Psalm 51 – You Are the Man – Worship in the Sanctuary

(NOTE: there will be no Wednesday evening Lenten programming this year)

March 5 9:00 and 10:30 Psalm 32 and Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 "Assumptions" Communion
5:00 PM – REV – Join us for an amazing Lenten series for all ages with interactive lessons, activities and music. If you've been looking for a way for everyone in your family to worship and learn together, try out REV for the 6 Sundays of Lent!

March 12 9:00 and 10:30 Psalm 121 and Genesis 12:1-4a "Finding the Right Man"
5:00 PM – REV – Join us for an amazing Lenten series for all ages

March 19 9:00 and 10:30 Psalm 95 and Exodus 17:1-7
5:00 PM – REV – Join us for an amazing Lenten series for all ages

March 26 9:00 and 10:30 Psalm 23 and 1 Samuel 16:1-14
5:00 PM – REV – Join us for an amazing Lenten series for all ages

Special Lenten Studies and Worship

Wednesdays at Noon – **Soup, Study and Worship** March 1 – April 12

Mission Council 8 Lenten Retreat held at Hickory Hills

Saturday, March 18th, 9:00 to 3:30

Registration limited to first 60 people

Looking ahead to April and the events of Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 9 – Easter Egg Hunt at 3:30 PM, leading into REV

Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 in the sanctuary

Friday, April 14 – Good Friday service at Noon

Easter Sunday, April 16 - Services at 8:30, 10:30 and 5:00 with the Easter breakfast at 9:30.

LETTER FROM LAURA

I remember calling my friend Bob in February of 1994 and saying "Help!" He started laughing and said, "I bet you thought there's a month where life in the church slows down, right?" Well, yes, I did have that fantasy. January is of course the most brutal month in the church – everyone that's held it together through the holidays falls apart; the baton gets passed from old leaders to new ones; we look back over what we did in the past year; we summarize, report and count; we try to not let stuff fall through the cracks. Some Februaries, like this year, we can breathe for just a bit before we start walking to Jerusalem with Jesus. I'm grateful for a late Easter this year, and the opportunity I had to take a week by the ocean, walking the beach for a few hours each day and listening to the relentless water breaking over the sands. It scoured my mind, my heart and my soul.

As we look at what's in this newsletter, notice all that we can do this month. This coming Saturday, March 4th, we have the chance to go to Oak Brook and hear Diana Butler Bass speak about how to flourish as a community. We are going to host a Lenten Retreat here, at our church, on Saturday, March 18th for anyone high school and older that wants to spend a day focused on prayer and spiritual practices. We're inviting the whole presbytery to join us that day, so if you want to come, be sure to sign up early. On Wednesdays, we'll do our traditional noon time soup and study from March 1st through April 12th. The REV Team is planning a vibrant, intergenerational worship time each Sunday from March 5th through April 9th that will help whole families worship and learn together. And our regular activities will all continue as well.

On Sunday mornings, I'll be taking us through some of the great old stories of the Old Testament – from Adam and Eve in the Garden through questions about whether God actually pays attention to us, and how God calls each of us each to give back with the life we're given. Come and join us on this road – take the road to Jerusalem, find where you can imitate Jesus in your own life and be drawn to those places where you need to grow.

Blessings,
Rev. Laura

**"The Lenten Journey of Listening to God's Love for Us"
Leader: Rev. Marcia Smith-Wood**

It's Lent, and our hearts yearn to open to God's love for us as we journey with Jesus to the cross. But...it's a long journey.

In this world we can get distracted.
Does the world ever exhaust you, disappoint you, stress you?
Do you have endless lists of things to do?
Do you ever dream of taking a Lenten retreat?

Come prepared to relax, be refreshed by Christ's Spirit, and open to exploring ever more deeply how to listen to God's love for you.

Who: High School through adult, Men and Women

What: Lenten Spiritual Retreat

Where: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church 8426 W. 95th Street (708)598-3100

When: Saturday, March 18, 2017 9:00 to 3:30

How: Pre-registration by March 15th
\$10.00 per person (limited to the first 60 people)



Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Number of participants being registered _____

Checks payable to HHPC

Mail in form or scan to pastor@hickoryhillspres.org



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent (March 1 - April 15), makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised



Self-Development of People (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills
- Receives 32% of funds raised



EASTER EGG HUNT

**HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT**

SUNDAY, April 9th

AT 3:30 P.M.

**Families welcome, participation in hunt is for
*CHILDREN 5TH GRADE AND YOUNGER***

**Join us to make a craft, hunt eggs,
Contemporary Worship & for refreshments**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 9th Palm Sunday

9:00, 10:30 and 5:00 REV

EASTER EGG HUNT AT 3:30 p.m. - Gym

April 13th Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

April 14th Good Friday at Noon

April 16th Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Services

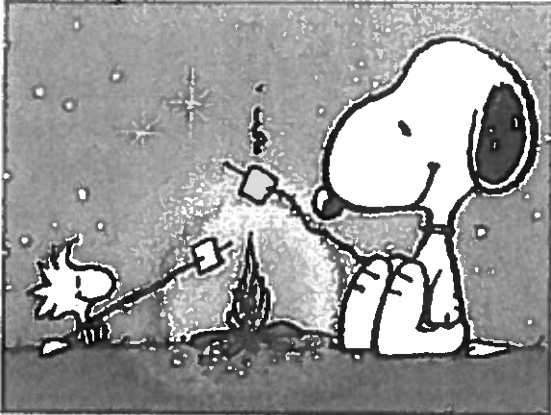
EASTER BREAKFAST - 9:30 AM

with Intergenerational activities

Communion at the early service

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

After serving almost a dozen different varieties of soup on Souper Sunday, February 5th, the Camp Scholarship Fund netted an astonishing \$305. Thank you to everyone who shared their soup making talents and the folks who donated to the fund so generously. We have a beginning of a scholarship fund for this summer.



Speaking of summer and camp, did you know that we will be sending children to camp this year at the Stronghold summer camps in Oregon, IL? We are looking at the camp dates of July 30-August 4. There is time throughout your stay to make new friends as well as join in the Bible Study. Other activities are swimming, canoeing, group games, hiking, the Leap of Faith, crafts, and campfires. Talk it over at home and be sure to sign up early so you can have an exciting summer adventure this year. Please contact Dianne Flynn for more information



Spring Fellowship Night is fast approaching on April 28th. We will begin at 6:30 with dinner. Around 7:15, everyone will move into the gym for the juggling exhibition of Jason Kollum. He has a brand new performance planned for this evening. It will have unicycle riding, juggling, and amazing lessons for all ages. Plan to attend this Spring Fellowship Night on April 28th. There will be a \$6 fee for anyone older than 5 years old. Be sure to sign up on the sheets located outside the sanctuary and also at the table outside the fellowship hall. Our cooks will need to know how many people to plan for.



Do you have a cookie or cake recipe you are dying to share? The Monster Bake Sale will be held on May 14. Bakers are needed to donate their goodies. Please be sure to sign up so we have an idea who is bringing in the cookies or cakes. All the proceeds will be added to the Summer Camp Scholarship fund. A container of cookies will be sold at \$6 a pound. A whole cake will be \$6. A slice of cake will be \$1. Any way you choose to look at this, it is a great deal. Since it is on Mother's Day, it is also an easy way to tell Mom, "I Love You" with a sweet treat.



The Sunday School will expand its teaching tools to allow students to recreate the Bible lessons with a puppet theater and puppets. This just one more way to get the students excited about the lessons discussed during Sunday mornings.



"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others....."

1 Peter 4: 10

God has given to each of us special abilities and talents. This month we will explore the ways these talents will be used to serve Him. For our celebration of Valentine's Day we chose to reach out and show love to the residents of the Hickory Hills Nursing Home by making Valentine Cards for each resident. Our kids are so creative and the cards helped to brighten the day of each person receiving this gift. Again, thanks to Shirley D. for planning this craft and delivering the cards. The kids also enjoyed decorating their own cupcakes for our snack time. Of course the day would not have been complete without the take home bags filled with candy and each child receiving a large helium heart shape balloon. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this day possible.



The winner of the Snicker Balance for January was Kacper W. Congratulations on your perfect attendance for January.



Our learning time for the month of March will center on the topics:

Preparing to Serve God – We learn the importance of using our talents to serve and please God.

Caring for My Family – We show love and respect to others.

Worshipping God Regularly - We worship God with all our hearts, minds and souls.

Learning to Give - Giving is about more than money, but also our time and talents for His work.

Beginning this month we will provide special activities centering on the popular Lenten Program, *Jerusalem Market Place*. Please make it a priority to join us for this exciting new adventure here at Kids Club. Invite your friends to join us.

Peace and Joy,

Dianne



Thank you to Bryan Ambrosat and Kait Phillips for volunteering to lead the Youth Group at HHP. Watch for more news on this new beginning.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Hollie Fox
- 2 Cooper Huenecke
- 2 Jean DeForest
- 2 Mike Monczynski
- 2 Christopher Pearson
- 4 Joyce McKinney
- 5 Dave Barker
- 5 Donna Bredlau
- 11 Michael E. Dragas
- 12 Lucy Manyenje
- 14 Karl Haack
- 14 Jordan Hepburn
- 14 Amanda Gulotta
- 14 Kim Ambrosat
- 15 Danny Orsic
- 16 Lizabeth Ramos
- 16 Pat Lorenz
- 16 Roy Hoffman
- 17 Luke Janchenko
- 18 Darlene Krueger
- 22 Frank Esparza
- 23 Victoria Pettis
- 28 Jeanette Grisko
- 28 Jennifer Petkus

Prayer and Care

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."

Jeremiah 1:5 (RSV)

The Lord appointed Jeremiah, a prophet, to the nations. This was his personal call. Please note the word **CONSECRATED**. He was set apart for sacred uses... a holy purpose. God planned you and me on purpose for His purpose. I know that His purpose for me is to proclaim the Power of Prayer. Do you know His purpose for you?



"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

Romans 12:9-10 (RSV)

Women's Bible Study

On February 6, 2017 Debbie provided her devotion for us which was very timely and so well applied to what is happening in our world. We spent the entire hour discussing the subject matter before going to prayer. If I had to give a title to our discussion, it would be WE ARE FAMILY. We did not pick each other. We might not like each other, but since God picked and loves us, We *are* family.



Easter Flowers

This year Hanna is again helping us order Easter flowers. We will have tulips available at \$12.00 each or Easter lilies for \$15.00 each. Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex and down by the fellowship hall to place your orders, which are due by Monday, April 3rd. Thanks for helping to beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday!


**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

Beverly Kahn has moved

Brentwood North Healthcare
3705 Deerfield Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015
847-947-9000

In Our Hearts & Prayers



PRAYER REQUESTS for March, 2017

Please consider joining us for Prayer and Care group each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns: Cheryl, Gert's nephew, Norman, Rick V, Jacob M, Katie H, Jerry & Joan Panko, Andrew's friend Jacob, Cliff, Mary Orr, Cos & Francine, Shirley D's sister Shirleen and her friend's son Brian, and Kevin, Dawn R's friend, Debbie, Eleanor Watson, Blanche Barker, Jean Somerstorfer, Adrian's brother, Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy, Barb M, Aunt Sherry, Cathie W, June, Cori (Ivy), Alice, Brett, Larry B, Tish, Ben's Dad, Erik's son, Paul and Maureen (B. Brown), Dave Krueger and Darlene, Leah (Karen)

We pray for those in need of strength: Susan's cousin Randy, Tom & Sharon M, Donna's sister Shirley, Billy, Jeni's friend, Lou and mom Wanda, Eva N's friends, Jane and Dorothy, Marge, Maryann's friend, Jack M, Annette, Theresa's niece Beth, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen, Rick's Dad, Dick

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, Wilda & Susan's friend Tracy, the entire

Cassiello family, Donna's friend Ken, Grace's relative Edith, Bev, Laura A, Eva M. Ar's brother Richie and brother in law Howie, Don (Toni), Beatrice and Jacob (Rev Laura), Dan,

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


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 Afghanistan, Shannon for peace & direction, Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt for comfort & strength, Laura's friends Debbie & Chris for direction, Cindy for guidance & strength, 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)

We pray for those who mourn: Ray's family Zack and Jade and friends, Tom Pearson's family and friends

If you or someone you love needs a hospital visit, please call/text Rev. Laura on her cell (815) 822-0557

March

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WED	2	3	4
			930 office open 930 P & C 12PM Soup/study 7pm worship	130pm conference call 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga		8-4 Flourishing Together Christ Church Oakbrook
5 Communion Wor/SS 9am Wor/SS 10:30am REV 5pm	6 1pm WBS 330 KC	7 1pm office open	8 930 office open 930 P & C 12PM Soup/study	9 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	10	11
12 Wor/SS 9am Wor/SS 10:30am CE 11:45 Outreach 1145 REV 5pm Cooper's party 4pm basement	13 1pm WBS 330 KC 730 Session	14 1pm office open	15 930 office open 930 P & C 12PM Soup/study	16 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	17 	18 830 – 330pm Lenten Retreat here 4 – 6pm Spaghetti Dinner Orland Dakota Part
19 Wor/SS 9am Wor/SS 10:30am REV 5pm	20 1pm WBS 330 KC	21 1pm office open	22 930 office open 930 P & C 12PM Soup/study Jones Painting Party	23 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga Jones Painting Party	24 Synod Assembly Indy	25 Synod Assembly Indy Evelyn's card workshop
26 Wor/SS 9am Wor/SS 10:30am REV 5pm	27 1pm WBS 330 KC 7 Deacons	28 1pm office open	29 930 office open 930 P & C 12PM Soup/study	30 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	31	

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