

THE CONNECTING LINK

HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2017

May Worship Schedule and Special Sunday events

May 7 Psalm 23, **I Peter 1:17-23** "Resident Aliens" at 9:00 and 10:30

Reflections on Dr. Seuss at REV at 5:00 PM

Communion at all services

May 14 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 **I Peter 2:1-10** "Living Stones" at 9:00 and 10:30

Mother's Day Bake Sale at 11:30

DROP OFF begins from noon to 5:00 for the Yard Sale

Reflections on Dr. Seuss at REV at 5:00 PM

May 21 Recognition Sunday for Learners and Leaders at 10:30

3:00 – 5:00 – Special Mental Health Awareness Day

Sponsored by Mission Council 8, hosted by Hickory Hills Presbyterian,
funded by Synod of Lincoln Trails

**See next page for full description of the event. Bring friends,
neighbors, relatives. Mental Health issues touch all of us.**

May 28 Psalm 66:8-20, **I Peter 3:13-22** "Always Be Ready" **at 10:00 AM**

Reflections on Dr. Seuss at REV

Starting Sunday, May 28th, through Labor Day Sunday, September 3rd, we will be on our summer schedule of Worship at 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Session has voted for Communion to be served each Sunday of the summer at the morning service.



Everybody knows somebody suffering from anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, PTSD, addictions, the list goes on and on. We need to help churches understand how our faith communities can be welcoming, safe, caring places for persons living with a mental illness and their family members. People suffering from mental illness go through life feeling alone. Our churches can reassure them that they are never alone by practicing simple principles of care and support.

COME: learn more about mental health issues and how our churches can be loving, caring, supportive communities.

Learn "5 Aspects of Companionship" that will help our churches offer support to people who are struggling with mental health issues.

See actors and actresses from a group called "Erasing the Distance" share actual life stories of people living with the debilitating effects of mental illness. Discuss issues friends and families face in dealing with these issues.

Gather resources to learn more ways to serve those who are struggling.

WHEN: Sunday, May 21st from 3:00 pm - 5pm

WHERE: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church – 8426 W.95th Street Hickory Hills, IL
708-598-3100

Statistics show that one in five people will suffer a mental health challenge each year. These people are our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and members of our congregations. They need to know they are loved and supported. As Christians we can share the love of God that surpasses all understanding, as we have learned through Jesus Christ.

This event is sponsored by Mission Council 8, with a generous grant support from the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

SESSION SHORTS

The Session met on Monday, April 10th and conducted the following business:

Approved minutes of the March Session and Deacons meetings, received reports from the Treasurer, CE, Mission and heard an update from Personnel about the progress we are making in the search for a new church secretary. The Session sent a thank you note to Laura Villarreal for her months of volunteer service in the office. The Session also heard that the CAT survey will begin in April.

The long awaited CAT survey (Congregational Assessment Tool) is now available either on line or in printed form. The survey is open to members and those with an interest in and heart for the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. The on line survey is of course confidential and may be completed on line any time between Friday April 28 and Thursday May 18. The survey is open only for these three weeks and then closes so the assessment of the data can begin.

Here is the link to use in order to complete the survey on line:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HickoryHills>

The survey is open for completion to all members and to those who have a heart for and love of the ministry of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. We would like more, rather than less, surveys to be completed. Your honest input will help us measure our vitality and point us in the direction of completing our church ministry form so we can begin the search for the next pastor.

If you do not have access to a computer or are not comfortable going on line to do the survey, there are printed copies available at the church, in the narthex and the office, in brown self addressed manila envelopes. Tom Morrell has graciously agreed to be the person who does the work of confidentially inputting your completed paper survey on line for you. In order for him to have time to do this work, he must receive your completed survey back in the church office no later than Sunday, May 14th by 10:30 a.m. You can complete the survey at church or take it home for a few days and return it sealed in the pre labeled envelope for Tom. He will then go on line and enter it for you.

The results of the survey will be presented in a Leadership Report to staff, the Session and the Deacons on Saturday, June 10th from 9:00 to noon. It is the responsibility of those leaders to in turn interpret the report to the congregation.

THANK YOU for helping us shape our future by completing this survey.

Christian Education

Kids Club will end on May 8th. We will end with a bang! Children are invited to a final meeting for this 2016-2017 year. Every one of the staff wishes you a safe and fun time this summer and we hope you remember to return to us in the fall.

We will have our annual **Mother's Day Bake Sale** (formerly known as the Cookie Monster Bake Sale) on May 14th. Everyone is asked to stop downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 AM worship service to pick up a variety of delicious treats to share with your loved ones. The cost of a pound of cookies will be \$6. We hope to have a variety of cookies on sale. In addition to the cookies we will also have cake. One slice will cost \$1 but, if you need an entire cake, we will have them on sale for \$6. We are also hoping to have bakers donate to this sale. Please let Dianne know if you are willing to donate your favorite cookies and cakes for this fundraising event, Proceeds will be added to the Camp Scholarship Fund.

It is that time of the year when we recognize all the tireless workers in the Christian Education programs. The list of names goes on and on. Take time to say thank you to these volunteers on May 21st at the 10:30 AM worship service. If you are one of the many on the volunteer list, please make an effort to join us so we can thank you in person. We could not have such a variety of programs for children and adults without your help. **Recognition Sunday** will also be the last meeting day for **Sunday School** this year 2016-2017. Activities during the summer can be found at the doors of the sanctuary for the children in large envelopes. Please return the crayons for the next child to use.

It's time for us to begin planning for **Vacation Bible School**. VBS will be June 12-15 at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. We are fortunate to have Tricia and Company return to lead the lessons and singing. Rumor is that we will have a robot visiting for the four days. Be sure to come see the excitement as we venture into space for a trip to unknown worlds. Children age 4 through the 6th grade are invited to participate in this adventure, Children 7th grade through HS. are invited to talk to Dianne about being group helpers. Anyone interested in helping to decorate in May should contact Linda Lavaretto for planning dates and work schedules. The cost of the four days will be \$6 and a bag of cookies to use for snack times.

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. The Jr. High Discovery camp is intended for students who have completed grades 3-6, the Jr. High Adventure camp is intended for students who have completed grades 3-5, and the Sr. High Adventure camp is intended for students who have completed grades 9-12. There is a good possibility that at least a partial scholarship can be applied for through the church. Please contact Dianne Flynn for more information. Of course 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.

KIDS CLUB

*"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people,
but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
Leviticus 19:18*

Our learning time this year has focused on lessons that help children learn to work with potentially difficult life situations. Through Bible stories, scripture reading, discussions and games we have touched on many issues. Some of the subjects we studied included dealing with peer pressure, controlling anger, being kind to others, dealing with bullies, accepting others who are different, being a good friend, learning to pray, serving others, being dependable, following God's rules and making wise choices. All lessons encourage the children to know Jesus and grow into a stronger relationship with Him.

In May, our time of Christian learning will center on the following topics:

Feeling Lonely – We learn to look to God for comfort

Treating All People Fairly – As we read 2 Samuel we learn how David helps Mephibosheth.

Vacation Bible School 2017 will soon be here. Our theme for this year is "Galactic Starveyors – Discovering The God Of The Universe." Registration forms are available at the church. Plan to attend and tell others of this program which will be held June 12 – 15, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at HHPC.

Thank you to the special group of dedicated volunteers who help to make Kids Club possible. Weekly they have been here for the kids to help with crafts, lessons, gym time, games, homework time, and snack time. The 2016-17 Kids Club staff: Shannon Bastien, Shirley Dragas, LeAnne Kommenich, Linda Lavaretto, Grace Muszynski, Nancy Snyder, Mike Swearingen and Debbie Zimmerman. We are grateful for their gifts of time and talents.

May 8th will be our last day of Kids Club for this year. This day will be a celebration of all we have shared this year. On behalf of our staff I hope you have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you back in the fall.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday through Thursday
June 12 - 15
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Special Guests - Tricia and Company

**Mark your calendars
And tell your kids to invite their friends!!!**

We invite kids from our church and community to join us for the exciting VBS Adventure, "Galactic Starveyors – Discovering The God of the Universe".

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 of great music, crafts, and of course snacks.

Our four day adventure will find us searching the visible to discover the invisible. We discover how the God of the universe wants a relationship with us.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church with special guests Tricia and Company. *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. For registration or more information contact Dianne at the church office 708 598-3100

Prayer and Care

"For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer...." 1 Peter 3:12 RSV

Our prayers on earth activates God's power in heaven, and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We may not understand the mystery of prayer. Do we need to? All I know is actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth.

Hope to see you on National Day of Prayer in the sanctuary at noon on Thursday, May 4th!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Only, let every one lead the life which the Lord has assigned to him, and in which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches."

1 Corinthians 7:17 RSV

As we continue to read this book of the Bible, we are aware of what God commands and what Paul commands. We have discussed judgment, discernment and opinion. I thank the Lord for these marvelous women who continually enrich my life. We will close our study on May 8, 2017 for the summer.

Arlene Pearson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 John Kemp 3 Courtney Freiberg 3 Myrnalyn Delalamon 5 Ken Dritz
6 Mildred Neil 10 Carol Sack 10 Francine Costello 11 Wilda Duncan
15 Ginger Mercer 25 Terry Brock 26 Greg Majersky 27 Darlene Kibort
29 Karen Golema

MISSION COUNCIL 8 PROJECTS AND MISSIONS

5/3--5/4/2017 Savers Drop off/Loading Truck for Jones Center Faith Tinley Park
Drop off 5/3 @ 9-12 am & 4-6:30 pm. Helpers needed to load truck 5/4 @ 9 am.

Dakota Mission-- June 24-30, 2017 Need any towel, swimsuit or financial donations by **MID MAY**.

Kentucky Mission--July 8-15, 2017 Registration due JUNE 4th

10/28/17 Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing for Mission Council 8

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



HELP US RAISE \$\$\$



with our Donation Drive Fundraiser

ITEMS WE ACCEPT AND THE PRICE WE ARE PAID FOR THEM

20¢

PER POUND FOR SOFT GOODS



CLOTHING & SHOES

Men's, women's, children's



OTHER TEXTILES

Bed/bath towels, sheets, blankets,
pillows, curtains, tablecloths



ACCESSORIES

Hats, mittens, scarves, ties, socks,
purses, wallets, backpacks, bags

5¢

PER POUND FOR HARD GOODS



ELECTRICAL

Small toasters, blenders, coffee
makers, mixers, juicers, waffle irons,
griddles, hairdryers, curling irons



KIDS

Toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals



KITCHEN

Pots, pans, utensils, china cups, mugs,
vases, dishes, cutlery, glassware,
silverware, stemware



KNICK-KNACKS

Jewelry, crafts, candles, baskets,
ornaments, hand tools



MEDIA

Hardback and paperback books,
magazines, records, tapes, CDs,
videos, DVDs, computer software



SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Balls, bats, tennis rackets, Frisbees,
baseball gloves



YARD SALE DONATIONS

DROPOFF & PRICING

Great Week of Fellowship!

Sunday, May 14 12:00pm to 5:00pm
Monday, May 15 10:00am to 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 16 10:00am to 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 17 10:00am to 7:00 pm

YARD SALE HOURS

THURSDAY, MAY 18 9:00AM-7:00PM

FRIDAY, MAY 19 9:00AM-7:00PM

SATURDAY, MAY 20 9:00AM-1:00PM

IN ADDITION TO DONATIONS, WE ALSO NEED
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SALE
TOGETHER WE CAN HOST AN AMAZING FUNDRAISER!!!!



**NOTE: ITEMS SUCH AS OLD TUBE TV'S AND
COMPUTER MONITORS CANNOT BE
ACCEPTED!!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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: Gert's nephew, **Norman, Jerry & Joan Panko, Cliff, Mary Orr, Cos & Francine**, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen**, her friend's son **Brian**, her husband's cousin **Karen, Kevin, Eleanor** Watson, **Blanche** Barker, **Jean** Somerstorfer, **Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy D, 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 brother **Raymond**, Matt's dad, **Daniel**

We pray for those in need of strength: Susan's cousin **Randy**, Donna's sister **Shirley, Billy**, Jeni's friend, **Lou** and mom **Wanda**, Eva N's friends, **Jane, Dorothy & Marge**, Maryann's friend, **Jack M & Uncle Tony, Annette**, Theresa's niece **Beth, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen**, Rick's Dad, **Dick, Bernice** (Jeni) **George** (Charley) **Christina** (Charlie)

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, Pat** (Jeni)

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 Afghanistan, **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)

We pray for those who mourn: For the family and friends of **Dan**, Toni's cousin, who died 03/14, Family and friends of **George** Pilgrim, Cliff's brother, who died 03/22, Family & friends of **Lynn Kemp** who died 03/24, Family and friends of **Dick Fellers**, who died 4/4 and Family and friends of **Dorothy Leinweber** (Ivy) who died 4/14 .

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.

Our prayers of Christian sympathy for Toni Kenealy and her family on the death of her cousin Dan, for Cliff and Patt Pilgrim on the death of Cliff's brother George, for John and John Jr. on the death of Lynn Kemp, for Maryann, Susan and Rich Fellers on the death of Dick Fellers and for Ivy Taebel on the death of her sister Dorothy Leinweber. Blessed are those who die in the LORD says the Spirit. Their good works follow them.

May 2017

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	11 – Erasing the Distance 1:00 – Women's Bible Study 3:30 – Kids' Club	9 – Office Open	9:30 – Prayer and Care 9 – 12 & 4 – 6:30 Savers Drop off at Faith UPC, Tinley Park (for Jones Center fundraiser)	National Day of Prayer – Noon in the Sanctuary 4 – TOPS 7- Yoga	Rev. Laura at Presbytery Office all day	9 to 1 Stephen Ministry Training in Matteson
9 – Wor/Class 10:30 – Wor. & Sunday School 11:45 – Knitting 11:45 – CE 5:00 REV	1:00 – Last Women's Bible Study for summer 3:30 – LAST Kids' Club for summer 7:30 – Session	9 – Office Open	9:30 – Prayer and Care 9:30 – Meeting at POC office	4 – TOPS 7- Yoga		9:30 Visitation for Lynn Kemp 10:30 Service 11:30 Meal
Mother's Day Worship at 9, 10:30 and 5:00 11:45 Outreach & Bake Sale 12 – 5 Drop Off	9 – Office open 10 – 7 Yard Sale Drop off & pricing	9 – Office open 10 – 7 Yard Sale Drop off & pricing 9 – Presbytery Assembly in River Forest	9:30 – Prayer and Care 10 – 7 Yard Sale Drop off & pricing	9 am to 7 pm – Annual Indoor Yard Sale	9 am to 7 pm – Annual Indoor Yard Sale	9 am to 1 pm – Annual Indoor Yard Sale Rev. Laura – wedding in IN
Worship at 9, 10:30 RECOGNITION Mental Health Event 3-5, with fellowship to	7:30 – Deacons Rev. Laura – travel to PCUSA Cont Ed Event in MI	Rev. Laura – Continuing Ed, MI 8:30 – 5:00	9:30 – Prayer and Care Rev. Laura – Continuing Ed, MI 8:30 – 5:00	Rev. Laura home fr. MI 4 – TOPS 7- Yoga Ascension Day		10 – Evelyn Card Workshop
Summer worship schedule begins 10:00 – Hymn Sing 5:00 – REV	Memorial Day	9 – Office open	9 – Office open 9:30 – Prayer and Care			