

# The Connecting Link

OCTOBER, 2016



## All Saints' Day Service

**FIFTH Sunday Service – One Congregation, One Service returns October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**We need your help to plan this service**

**Time: NOON**, with a potluck meal to follow.  
Please bring one side dish per household

For this All Saints Day Service we will be naming individuals who have died, and lighting a candle in their memory. This will include members as well as people important to you for whom you want your congregation to pray.

**Please email the information to**  
Laura V. @ [TEAMVILLARREAL@aol.com](mailto:TEAMVILLARREAL@aol.com)

**OR**

Rev. Laura @ [revlaura1911@hotmail.com](mailto:revlaura1911@hotmail.com)

**OR**

mail it to the office at 8426 W. 95<sup>th</sup>, 60457

**OR**

leave a note on the secretary's desk

**OR**

call it in, leaving it in mailbox 0.

**Here is the information we will need**

**Name of the deceased, date of death and your name.**

If there is a family member that should receive a note from the office inviting them to worship with us on 10/30, please provide that information as well. Please see Laura Villarreal or Rev. Laura with any questions.

Thanks for your support of this ministry of compassion and hospitality.

## LETTER FROM LAURA

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Use **Romans 8** at my funeral. What a wonderful chapter it is. Paul talks about the brokenness of the world as we experience it, of how we and the whole creation groan while we live confidently toward that time when God will hit the giant "refresh" key and create the greatest do over of all time - God will **make all things new**. We may be brought to our knees from time to time, but the song writer says that no storm will ever shake us completely. How can I keep from singing?

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Use **Isaiah 43:1-7** at my funeral. Do not fear – no matter what, God is with us. Why? Because we are precious to God and God never gives up on us. Even in the midst of tragedy, the music of the universe continues. Above the cries, the lamenting of the world, we can still hear the far-off hymn that promises the new creation.

*What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Use **Psalms 139** at my funeral. We can run but we cannot hide. God can see through all the walls we build. God sees us shrivel up and always knows where we're hunkered down. God shows up when least expected. Even in the dark a song springs from our lips.

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

I needed to be buried within your singing for months – my throat would close up if the music went too high. We have to be relaxed to sing at the top of our range. One summer day while weeding I suddenly realized I was singing. Again. As I've done my whole life when I am content. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth and I have been giving my Sam into His keeping, how can I keep from singing? How good it is to begin to come out of the valley of the shadow of death and to cling to the Rock, rather than be seized in spasms of sorrow night and day. I am thankful for the inward calm God has been giving me in answer to prayer and for wanting to sing again. It is true that "in all these we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Ro. 8:37) Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Rev. Laura



## SESSION SHORTS

The Session met on Monday, 9/12 and conducted the following business:

Gave thanks for the delight of Rally Day, for young people in our congregation finding new jobs, for college adventures, for Shirley passing her driver's test and shared concerns for families known to us who have lost a 4 day old son, Charlie, a 15 mo. old daughter, Emilia, a 16 mo. old son, Huck and an 8 year old grandson, Tristan.

Confirmed the Clerk's report and discussed a piece of correspondence, delegating follow up to Susan and Cheryl and Rev. Laura. The Session also approved the August Session and Deacons minutes.

Under **Building and Grounds** discussed several items and:

APPROVED the use of the east parking lot by the SERTOMA Club for their annual Christmas tree sale. We will lose one handicap spot in the parking lot, as well as the south end of the east lot. Able bodied church members will be asked to park in the upper lot on Sunday mornings, and Sunday tree sales will start after noon. Set up will occur around 11/25 and the sale will end on 12/22. The SERTOMA Club means **SERVICE TO MANKIND**. They donate the money they raise to support the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center, St. Patricia's Community Services, Hickory Hills Youth Baseball, Fantasy Baseball for the Hearing Impaired, Hickory Hills Park District and local Scholarship Programs as well as many other programs you can see on their website. They will be responsible for setting up and caring for their fenced area and will make a donation to the church for this usage.

APPROVED a bid from US Waterproofing to seal the Youth Room. DENIED the request of a neighbor to routinely park overnight in our lot. APPROVED the use of the building for the Forest View Condo Assoc. Annual Meeting. REFERRED the Yoga lady's request for additional building usage to B & G to consider further (she would like to offer Chair Yoga as well). APPROVED 2 building use requests from Jen Del Prete. APPROVED Evelyn's request for a card workshop on 10/22.

Under **Worship and Music** modified the 2016 worship schedule as follows:

One Congregation, One Service on 10/30 is set for **NOON**, potluck to follow. Changed Communion from the first Sunday of Dec. to the first Sunday of Advent, 11/27. We will host a 3 p.m. Blue Christmas service Sun, 12/4 and not have a REV service that day. Set worship on Sunday, 12/25 for 10:30 only. Set worship for Sunday, 1/1/2017 for 5:00 p.m. only. (See separate worship page for all details)

Heard a further presentation from Tom Morrell about his research on church software management programs and **VOTED** to invest in Church Teams software for the church office, beginning 10/1/2016. A five year funding gift has come from an anonymous donor to support this and other communication needs.

Heard from the pastor about her various activities in the past month and that her temporary housemate will be moving by the end of September.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:45 p.m.

Notes by Rev. Laura



The HHPC Worship & Music Committee has several special worship events coming up.

As you know, the regularly scheduled worship services are at 9am, 10:30am, & 5pm each Sunday.

The following Sundays may have special worship times or unexpected elements.

*Please note changes on your calendar and join us as often as possible.*

October 30<sup>th</sup> – All Saints Day – NOON Worship - One Congregation, One Service  
Potluck luncheon to follow

Please offer Laura Reason or Laura Villarreal names and date of death of those you would like to remember at this service. Handwritten notes or emails are welcome.

November 13<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of REV

November 27<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent –Communion Sunday  
and we decorate the tree with Chrismons

December 4<sup>th</sup> – In addition to our regularly scheduled morning services, we will have a Blue Christmas Service at 3pm followed by fellowship in the East Room  
*(There will be NO REV Worship)*

December 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am Intergenerational Christmas Service

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Lessons and Carols

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve - 4pm and 11pm Worship Services

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day - 10:30 am worship only – Come in your pajamas if you wish and enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas Cookies afterwards in the East Room  
*(There will be NO 9 am or REV Worship)*

January 1<sup>st</sup> – 5pm REV Worship only – Come celebrate the possibilities of the new year with us  
*(There will be no morning worship services)*

## Christian Education

Everyone at the meeting thought the **Rally Day** was a success! Thank you to our set up and take down team of Debbie, Mike and staff. It was so nice to have an opportunity to eat outdoors or indoors. Thank you to the cooks, Dan, Scott and Bryan, who did such a great job of not burning the hamburgers and hot dogs. They were yummy. Thank you to Leslie who organized the games for the kids to play. Thank you to Jean and Mike for filling our jars and challenging everyone to guess how many items were in each jar. Thank you to Grace and Barb for calling the BINGO game and keeping everyone in their seats just waiting for the winning numbers. Not only did we have fun after church but earlier in the day we joined in a time of worship with beautiful songs led by Greg and an inspiring sermon by Reverend Dr. Laura Reason.

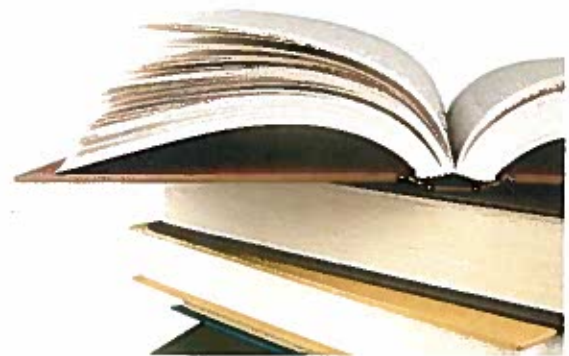
Friday, September 23 was the **Fall Fellowship Celebration**. A Bouncy house, fall crafts, and challenging games. All went home with a treat of pop corn and apple juice. It was a fun night with plenty of activities including balloon sculptures by Janet Pawlicki and face painting by Katherine Farris. Did you notice the scarecrow working the room? If you did not attend this year, perhaps you can join us for the Spring Fellowship night. Thank you to all the helpers who volunteered to keep the kids safe in the Bouncy house, assist people who decided to make the crafts or worked in the kitchen to get the treats prepared. Your help is so valuable to special nights like this one. Thanks to Debbie and Mike for setting up the gym with tables and of course, taking them down.

Before you know it Advent will be here. We are planning a special worship service called, "**Christingle**", which will require some help from the children and the volunteering adults. It is a unique service and should provide some added understanding of the celebration coming in December. Mark your calendars for December 11. You will want to attend the 10:30 service and be a part of this intergenerational worship service.

Another special program to be sure to attend is the **Women's Christmas Tea**. We hope to have this on Thursday, December 8. We have tea, spend time in fellowship, and enjoy homemade cookies and treats provided by anyone who wants to share. Watch for more information on this special event.

**Advent Fellowship Night** is a tradition here at HHPC. The evening begins with a potluck dinner and is followed by fellowship and crafts. This will be on Friday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.

A great big thank you to our **Sunday School** teachers this quarter. The Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher is Stacy Flynn. Dianne Flynn is teaching grades 1 thru 5. Gordon Home will teach the students in Jr. High and Sr. High. LeAnne Kommenich has been serving as an assistant for both of the primary and intermediate classes downstairs. Beth Kommenich is in the nursery for children up to age 2. Dave Delaney is the moderator of the Adult Class which is meeting at 9 AM every Sunday. Arlene Pearson leads the Women's Bible Study which meets on Mondays at 1:00.





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**Kids Club** started September 12. We welcomed back all staff members as well as 14 students. Debbie supervises the activities in the gym. Shirley Dragas designs and teaches the crafts each week. She is assisted by Nancy Snyder and LeAnne Kommenich. Grace Muszynski did registration. Linda Lavaretto came prepared to lead the Christian Learning with a new program called, "Jumping the Hurdles". We enjoyed a delicious snack of Nachos and lemonade prepared by Dianne Flynn and Shirley Dragas. The children were challenged to bring a friend to Kids Club on September 19. They learned how to be eligible to win the Snicker Balance for good attendance.



Watch for more details on the plans for **Jr. High/Sr. High Youth Group** activities Bryan Ambrosat, Kait, Debbie and Rev. Laura plan to have available for the students later this month.

## We Celebrate October Birthdays

1. Hayley Netter
8. LeAnne Kommenich
- 14 Frank Rodriguez
28. Karen Korzeniewski

**happy  
birthday**



## Woman's Bible Study

**"And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, Come, Let us return and visit the brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ACTS 15:36 (RSV)**

The men cared enough about the Christians they wanted to check up on them. But there arose a sharp contention, so they separated from each other. Barnabas and Mark with him. Paul chose Silas to accompany him. It's not always possible for believers to work with everybody without dissension. While those who are in disagreement should go their own ways, it should be done without hostility and bad feelings. Thanks to Rev. Laura we have copies of a map showing the missionary journeys of Paul

## Prayer and Care

**"For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world..." PHILIPPIANS 2:13-15 (RSV)**

As we continue our walk with God Almighty's hand, the power of prayer becomes more and more important!



## Welcome back to Kids Club!

The kids and staff have been away for the summer and now we are back with a new beginning. Our program and activities are planned to help us grow as Christians. The new curriculum for Kids Club is exciting and filled with fun, challenging activities for the kids. Each week we will focus on the great stories and people in the Bible as we learn how they solved the hurdles that were placed in their lives. We again thank Linda for guiding us with her creative teaching. The topics we will study during the month of October are;

*Controlling My Anger* - We study peace.

*Being Kind to Others* - We study Abigail and learn how she shows kindness

*Dealing with Bullies*- We learn that Jesus turns away from violence

*Getting Along with Family Members* - We study forgiveness.

*Accepting Others Who Are Different* - From Acts 10 we study Peter and Cornelius



, On 10/31, we will host a fun, safe Halloween Party for the kids. We are planning games, face painting and surprises for this day. We invite kids to wear their costumes to this party. If possible, we ask those attending to bring a bag of candy to share in the take home "trick or treat" bags.

Thank you to our Kids Club staff for their dedication to this program. Weekly they are here to volunteer their time and talents for the kids. The guidance and care they share is a blessing to this program.

"Kids are # 1" Have you invited a child to be a part of this program?

Peace and Joy,  
Dianne

# Annual Craft Bazaar

Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

9AM to 3PM

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street

Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Donated Baked Goods would be appreciated!

Baked Items can be dropped off at church Friday 10/28 from 10AM to 3PM

## There is something for everyone

Great Gift Ideas and Crafts, over 50 gift baskets, a Bake Sale,

'The Penny Social" and of course our "Snack Shop"

where you have several options for lunch such as:

Chili, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Soup, Pie etc.

Please stop by and enjoy a great day of fellowship and good food !!!!!

*Hosted by the Fundraising Committee*



## October Birthdays

1 - Leslie Ambrosat  
3 - Michael Pettis  
5 - Kate Crowley  
8 - Sarah Swearingen  
26 - Chris Rellinger  
28 - Lori Haack  
31 - Susan Cunningham

5 - Rob Nordstrom  
6 - Larry Haack  
16 - Arlene Pearson  
28 - Scott Flynn  
29 - Daniel Ciamenti

## **CORRECTION:**

The Ambrosats' new address is 1373 Lily Cache Lane Bolingbrook IL 60490





## **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:** Cheryl, Gert's nephew, Norman, Christopher (Gordon), Rick V, Lorraine, Jacob M, Katie H, Karen G's friend Judy, Jerry & Joan Panko, Andrew's friend Jacob, Cliff, Mary Orr, Cos & Francine, Shirley D's sister Shirleen and her friend's son Brian, Dawn R's friend, Debbie, Eleanor Watson, Blanche Barker, Larry's niece Olivia, Jean Somerstorfer, Adeline's d-i-l, Annette, Vince, Evelyn G, Adrian's brother, Barb B's friends Jim, Jane P, Bob D, Sawyer, Shirley Larson, Adam (Hanna), Lucy, Barb M

**We pray for those in need of strength:** Susan's cousin Randy, Tom & Sharon M, Donna's sister Shirley, Gigi & Katrina, Billy, Angie Swindle, Jeni's mom Wanda, Eva N's friend, Jane, Marge, Gerta (Evelyn), Teresa (Mel)

**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 & Susan's friend Tracy, Mary Richer, the entire Cassiello family, Donna's friend Ken, Grace's relatives Steven Eklund and Edith, Bev, Darlene D, Laura A

**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 country's divisions; policemen and firemen, persecuted Christians, Our enemies

**We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances:** Shirley D's friends Pat Z, Eleanor R, Eddie M and Bob B, Karl Haack and Mark Gulotta in the Marines, Shannon for peace & direction, Theresa's mom Jeanne, 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, Jen's mom

**We pray for those who mourn:**

Family and friends of EJ; Deb Raschke's family on the death of Deb's grandmother, Anna Fields; Fowler Family in loss of 75 yr. old & 16 mo. old; Emilia's family, Tristan's family

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

# CHICAGO PRESBYTERY KIT HARVEST

In the past 4 years, with each of us doing our part, Chicago churches have brought over 6500 Hygiene Kits to the November Presbytery assemblies – a rich harvest of generosity waiting for a time of need. These kits are sent to the Church World Service warehouse, ready to be sent all over the world and throughout the United States when natural disasters strike. Floods, hurricanes and earthquakes will always happen, and we can be there to help, in the kits we assemble and donate today.

We are once again participating in the Harvest of Kits on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Evanston.

The goal is to assemble 30 kits from our church. If you can help with this project, please bring in your donations no later than Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and add it to one of the collection boxes either in the narthex or downstairs in the hall by the elevator.

## CWS Hygiene Kit contents

Supplies needed for each kit:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x 28" to 16"x 32"  
(no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber please – think of where they will be used)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. **Do not add any extra items or toothpaste.** A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit by CWS just prior to its journey.

Church World Service thanks you in advance for your support of this project.

If you would rather make a monetary donation, we also wish to be able to send \$2.00 with each kit to offset the processing and shipping costs. Please indicate CWS on such gifts.

Thank you,  
Dave and Mel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2</b> communion 9am Adult Class 9am Worship 1030am Worship 1130am Fellowship 5pm REV Worship	<b>3</b> 1pm Women's Bible 3:30 pm Kids Club	<b>4</b> 11:00 Staff Meeting 1pm Office Open	<b>5</b> 930am Prayer & Care 1pm Office Open	<b>6</b> 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9am Adult Class 9am Worship 1030am Worship 1130am Fellowship 11:45 Outreach 11:45 Christian Ed 5pm REV	<b>10</b> 1pm Woman's Bible Study 330pm Kids Club 730pm Session Meeting	<b>11</b> 11:00 Staff Meeting 1pm Office Open	<b>12</b> 930am Prayer & Care 1pm Office Open	<b>13</b> 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9am Adult Class 9am Worship 1030am Worship 1130am Fellowship 5pm REV Worship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>17</b> 1pm Woman's Bible Study 330pm Kids Club	<b>18</b> 11:00 Staff Meeting 1pm Office Open	<b>19</b> 930am Prayer & Care 1pm Office Open	<b>20</b> 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 Evelyn's Card Workshop 
<b>25</b> 9am Adult Class 9am Worship 1030am Worship 1130am Fellowship 5pm REV Worship	<b>26</b> 1pm Woman's Bible Study 330pm Kids Club 7pm Deacons Meeting	<b>27</b> 11:00 Staff Meeting 1pm Office Open 7pm Worship & Music 	<b>28</b> 930am Prayer & Care 1pm Office Open	<b>29</b> 4pm TOPS 7pm Yoga	<b>28</b> 10:00 – 3:00 Bazaar Set Up	<b>29</b> 9am – 3pm Annual Craft Bazaar
<b>30</b> 12:00pm All Saints Day One Service Pot Luck to Follow 	<b>31</b> 1pm Women's Bible 3:30 pm Kids Club					