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the connecting link

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September 2017



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE AND SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

9:00 A.M. Adult Study all year round
10:00 AM Worship with Sunday School for ages 3 through high school
5:00 PM REV Contemporary Worship

LETTER FROM LAURA

(by Rev. Dr. Laura Reason)

Over dinner last week I asked my friend if she braids her hair in cornrows herself? No, she gets it done. I always admire her weaves, extensions, hairpieces and braids. She is quite glamorous. We went on to discuss our presbytery work that brought us to the same table that night. We love the church of Jesus Christ and we are great volunteers. Instead of griping and taking pot shots and complaining about what we don't like in the church, we are involved, committed and make a difference at home and in the presbytery. We met because we both accepted the call to do some hard and unpleasant work and saw it through. We became friends during it because we have the same work ethic, the same sense of what Christ calls us to do, the same moral standards and the same willingness to hold ourselves and others accountable for how we live our lives.

We also share being professional women who have been trailblazers, we have doctorates earned while working full time and making a home, we both are mothers and grandmothers, we both know that everyone, every day, sins and fall short of God's dreams for us, we both read the Bible and pray constantly and especially we know tis grace hath brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home. We have argued constantly over our mutual responsibility because it's so complicated and does not have just a simple 'right' answer. Through this we have found how much we love and appreciate each other and have made our way to unity, concord and peace.

Sunday, September 3
Labor Day Weekend
Communion at all services

10 AM Hymn Sing
5 PM REV
Lessons: Romans 13: 8-14, Psalm 119: 33-40,
Matthew 18: 15-20
Sermon: *If and When*

Sunday, September 10
Rally Day (see page 3 for more details)
First Day of Sunday School for children and youth
(Stay after service for a picnic and fun and games)

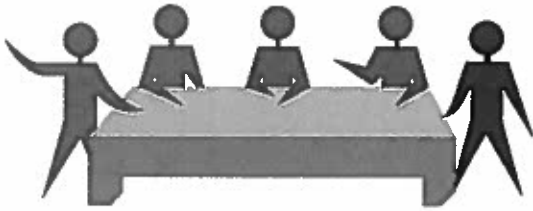
10 AM Worship
5 PM REV
Lessons: Psalm 114, Matthew 18: 21-35
Sermon: *How Often Should I Forgive?*

Sunday, September 17
Special REV series on the movie, *The Shack*, begins
Synopsis: A girl is murdered in a shack. Later, her father spends a weekend at the scene of the crime with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The movie is based on the powerful book with the same name will be shown and then studied the next 5 weeks at the REV service.

10 AM Worship
5 PM REV
Lessons: Philippians 1: 21-30, Matthew 20: 1-16
Sermon: *Last or First?*

Sunday, September 24
10 AM Worship
5 PM REV – *The Shack* series continues
Lessons: Philippians 2: 1-13, Matthew 21: 23-32
Sermon: *By What Authority?*

(continued on page 2)



SESSION SHORTS

The session met on Monday, June 19th, July 10th and August 14th and conducted the following business.

Received reports, approved minutes and spent the major part of each meeting discussing the redevelopment of our church. Stay tuned to hear more about the plans.

We are excited over the work that Andrew and Tom are doing on the website and with all that is going on in the office with Bernie now on staff.

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 HELPS CHURCHES

Through per capita, Presbytery of Chicago churches:

- Help congregations with pastoral transitions
- Train and support interim ministers
- Resolve congregational conflicts
- Care for ministers, Christian Educators, and their families
- Help prepare people for service as ordained ministers.

The per capita for 2017 is \$33.38 per member.

LETTER FROM LAURA

(Continued from page 1)

And we are different. My skin color is a washed out pinkish hue. Hers is black. When I shop, when I complain as a customer, when I go about my daily living, I am treated differently than she is. She has incredible patience because she has lived her whole life in the reality Dr. King was speaking of when he said he hoped that someday his four little children would be judged not by the color of their skin but the content of their character. She asked me to proof read a paper she'd written about how Presbyterian churches raised money for decades by renting out the slaves they owned as laborers. We've both read Debby Irving's book, *Waking Up White*, which our whole denomination is reading together this year. Irving writes, "*Though it once felt polite to ignore a person of color's race and just see all people as individuals, my former color-blind approach was actually allowing me to ignore my own part in systemic racism. Color-blindness, a philosophy that denies the way lives play out differently along racial lines, actually maintains the very cycle of silence, ignorance, and denial that needs to be broken for racism to be dismantled.*"

Reading this book with my friend has led me into the deepest conversations of my life. I tremble for the ways we don't seem to be able to talk to and hear each other any more in our country. I ask myself how to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. It's not always easy to step out of where I am most comfortable, but I don't know how to live in these times without doing exactly that. What about you?

Blessings,
Rev. Laura

MISSION



The Mission Committee thanks everyone for their generous donations of school supplies. A huge thank you to Rev. Laura as well, for her time in taking the supplies to the Jones Center.

We took 20 three ring binders, 34 double pocket folders, 23 pairs of scissors, 59 glue sticks and glue bottles, 32 boxes of crayons, 26 boxes of markers, 15 sets of colored pencils, 34 packs of pencils, 18 erasers, pencil sharpeners, 10 packages of Post it notes, 15 rulers, 17 pencil boxes, 23 packs of lined paper and 25 spiral notebooks, along with \$100.00 in cash donations to the Jones Center School Supplies drive on August 17th! All this after Mission gave you supply lists on July 30th and August 6th! Thank you for this helpful and timely response to requests for help for Jones Center. You are a blessing in many lives.

On another note, thank you for the bottle caps! Keep them coming in...they are finding homes for continued recycling.



~ Kim

MISSION COUNCIL 8

COMING SOON



September 9, 2017 MC 8 Meeting
Pullman Presbyterian Church
9 to 11 AM

October 28, 2017 Feed My Starving Children
Meal Packing
Aurora, IL
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Slots are limited, so sign up early. Ages 5 and older may participate.

November 4, 2017 Jones Center
100th-Year Anniversary
Gala Celebration

Opportunity to Help Families and Communities Affected by Flooding:

CWS EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKETS DRIVE September 1-17

You can provide assistance to families and communities affected by flooding, tornados and other disasters.

Here's what you'll need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non-surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45-gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

NOTE.-- All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75.00 - Processing fee: \$3.00 per bucket

**Please do not enclose money
or extra items inside the buckets!**

SPECIAL EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!



CRAFTERS WANTED

**FOR HHPC
HOLIDAY
CRAFT FAIR
NOVEMBER 4,
2017**

For more
information,
call Grace
708-990-0739

RALLY DAY

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
FOLLOWING THE
10 AM SERVICE**

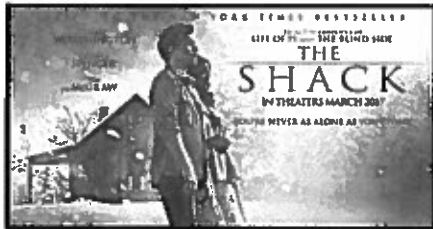
Seating available inside and outside!

MENU

Bratwursts
Hamburgers
Chips
Drinks

**Sign up to bring Side Dishes and
Desserts (Sign-up sheets are located in
the East Room and downstairs)**

**Bring a dish to add to our pot luck and
come to have a great time
with your HHPC family!**



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
is excited to announce that
we will be showing the movie

“THE SHACK”

followed by a 5-week journey of the movie
and what it means.

Join us for the showing of the film

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
AT THE 5 PM REV SERVICE**
and the following 5 Sundays at 5:00 p.m.
for the discussion and worship service
Please invite your family and friends to see
this wonderful movie and group discussion.

Hope to see you there!



2017-2018 season

SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Unravel the Mysteries

(See information posted in the Narthex.)



PRAYER AND CARE

REFLECTIONS

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might, he increases strength." *(Isaiah 40:28-29 (RSV))*

As September greets us, let us not forget who gives us what we need all the time. As we seek His Will, we should know whether the teaching is from God and not our planning. Let me leave you with the following verses: "So it depends not upon man's will or exertion, but upon God's mercy." *(Romans 9:16)*

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." *(Romans 12:2)*

--Arlene Pearson

**REMINDER...PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
RESUMES SEPTEMBER 17TH.**



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13 (NSV))

What a beautiful verse to end our class in May! We will begin on September 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the crochet and knitting room. Looking forward to the inspiration I receive from each of you as we resume with the worth and use of spiritual gifts

WE LIFT IN PRAYER

Those in need of healing and 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, Don (Ivy), Erik's son, Dave and Dar, Leah (Karen), Debbie's mom, Carol, Diane's great nephew Colton, Barbara Brown, Cheryl H, Gail (Ar), Richard (Gert), Michelle (Mel)

Those in need of strength:

Susan's cousin Randy, Donna's sister Shirley, Billy, Jeni's mom Wanda, Annette (Adeline), Theresa's niece Beth, Aunt and Carol, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen, Rick's Dad, Dick, George (Charley), Bernie's daughter Natalie, Rhiannon (Charlie), Betty (Huenecke)

Those in need of strength and healing or with health concerns:

Lori and her Mom, Judy, 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 and sister Gerry, Pat (Jeni), Joann J, Ramon and Laura, Cassie (Laura V), Joshua (Evelyn), Donna (Karen)

Groups around our country and around the world:

Charlottesville, VA victims, Hurricane Harvey victims, 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

Those in need during miscellaneous circumstances:

Shirley D's friend Pat Z, Karl Haack and Mark Gulotta in the Marines, Shannon for peace & direction, Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt for comfort & strength, Laura V's friends Debbie & Chris for direction, Lauren for seeing the light & strength, Joe for direction & strength, Jen DelPrete and family, Gloria (Laura V), Rachel and Juan

Those who mourn:

Family and friends of Leonard Van Vossen who recently died.

**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.**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

RALLY DAY. Are you ready for the beginning of a fun filled and awe-inspiring year? The 2017-2018 church year will begin with a fun filled day on, **Rally Day, September 10th.** Be sure to attend the 10 AM worship service so you can "get 'em while they're hot!" (Brats and hamburgers, that is.) You can sign up to bring your favorite side dish and desserts. We will supply the condiments and refreshments. There will be plenty of activities for young and old after the feast. Water balloons, bingo with prizes, and more were among the favorites during our planning meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. September 10th is also the beginning of our Sunday School classes for children ages 3 thru the Senior year of High School. Classes will begin during the 10AM worship service. Plans to run a program for children attending the REV service are developing. Talk to Dianne if that is of interest to you.

NURSERY. Thank you to Beth Kommenich who has volunteered for another year in the Nursery during the 10 AM worship service. Children from infant to age 2 are welcome to come spend the worship service with Beth. Parents are asked to stop by the Nursery after the service to pick up their children and take them to the Fellowship hour.

KIDS HELPING. Did you know that the mission "Kids Helping Kids" has reached a special recognition from the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola Hospital? This summer we were added to the 1 million pound donors. This is quite a feat! Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this goal. We are currently working to achieve this same goal at the site near Hope Children's Hospital. With everyone helping we may even reach it this year.

Our mission for "Kids Helping Kids" this year includes collecting school supplies. You can help too. Local children will have new supplies to begin the year as well as a stock of replacements later in the year.



KIDS CLUB

Kids Club begins a new year on Monday, September 11th. We encourage you to invite all children *age 5 through grade 6* to join the fun and learning offered at this after school program each Monday. We come together for a time of recreation in the gym, games, craft projects, music, snacks, and Christian Life studies. We enjoy sharing cooking projects, holiday parties and other special events. The popular Snicker Balance contest, celebrating monthly perfect attendance will be back.

This year we will continue to work with a curriculum from TeamKid titled "Jumping the Hurdles". With our study of Bible Stories, we will meet many bible characters and discover that they faced life hurdles just as we do. Weekly we will talk about skills to help succeed, to make sound decisions, the need to develop a firm foundation of knowing Jesus Christ

We are now accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year. There is no cost for the program, but registration is necessary. The forms are available at the church and can be mailed or completed on the first day of Kids Club. This program is open to church and community kids. We encourage you to share this information and invite others to be a part of this outstanding outreach of our church.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information Kids Club, please contact Dianne at the church office 708 598-3100.

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, September 29
6:30 - 8:30 PM

There will be crafts, games, balloon animals by *Chuckles the Clown*, face painting by *Laura Villarreal* and a Bouncy House.

ADVENT NIGHT

Friday, December 1
Potluck Dinner begins at 6:30 PM and is followed with a variety of crafts to create decorations for the holidays.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Sunday, December 10
1:00 PM

This has been moved to Sunday afternoon. There will be a variety of teas served. You are asked to supply a batch of your favorite cookies to share with those who attend. A special entertainment is scheduled.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Birthdays of the Month

SEPTEMBER 2017

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 – Mark Maranto | 18 – Stephanie Lorenz |
| 4 – Erin Rose Prunty | 18 – Dawn Rellinger |
| 7 – Noelle Larson | 19 – Charles Huenecke |
| 7 – Eamonn Prunty | 20 – Dave Delaney |
| 8 – Terri Lorenz | 21 – Colleen Petkus |
| 8 – Sarah Sizemore | 22 – Debbie Zimmerman |
| 10 – Frances Nelson | 26 – Kathie Wheeler |
| 11 – Debbie Raschke | 27 – Greg Rolla |
| 12 – Evan Grisko | 29 – Eileen Freeman |
| 13 – Kyle Zimmerman | 29 – John Morgucz |
| 15 – Stacey Lorenz | 30 – Barbara Hepburn |
| 15 – Cheryl Nirtaut | 30 – Doug McKinney |
| 17 – Shirley Brunell | |
| 17 – Kyle Wheeler | |

Note. --Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office at 708-598-3100 or e-mail to HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org

Leonard Van Vossen's sister is Cheryl Fifield.
Her address is:
Cheryl Fifield
260 North Marshall Road
Beulah, MI 49617



HHPC CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION

The following are changes to contact information received from our members.

Those wishing to change their address, telephone or e-mail should call the church office at 708-598-3100 or send an e-mail to hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org

Shannon Bastien
7409 Southwest Highway, Apt. 3E
Worth, IL 60482

Gina Ciametti
3726 N. Kenmore Avenue, Apt. 1,
Chicago IL 60613

Jean Somerstorfer
Marian Village
15624 Marian Drive, #309
Homer Glen, IL 60491
Tel: 708-745-5953

Josh and Hanna Treccani
10848 S. Austin
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

Feed My Starving Children



Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

(Matthew 25:35 – "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.")

Once again you are invited to join Mission Council 8 on Saturday, October 28 11:30am-1:30pm to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children. We'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to our incredible partners working hard to reach the neediest children in America and around the world. (go to fmssc.org to learn more)

This hands on mission project is very popular. We only have 160 slots available this year. You must pre-register to participate and we ask you to cancel that reservation if your plans change so those on standby can go instead. We're always full for this event.

Send an email to April that includes lists the first and last names of all people you are registering, as well as whether they are adults. List the ages of all youth under 18. Registration deadline is Thursday, October 26th. **Don't delay, commit today!**

For more information and to do the required pre-registration, contact:

April Morgan, Clerk of Session, Oak Lawn Community Church
708-372-3862 cell number
amorgan.olcc@gmail.com

Plan to carpool from your church to the Feed My Starving Children Packing Day
555 Exchange Court Aurora IL 60504 October 28, 11:30 to 1:30
Arrive early to check in and receive orientation. The event starts and ends on time.

Fundraising goal for this Mission Council 8 event:

At least \$50.00 per participant (or \$8000.00 at a minimum).

Help start our HHPC donation by taking home either a Manna Pack Coin Box which can hold all coins and paper money OR a M & M tube to be enjoyed and then returned packed with quarters. **It takes \$80.00 to feed one child nutritious daily meals for one year.**



September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Hymn Sing 11:15 AM Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM REV DIANNE ON VACATION	4 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	5 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	7 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM 4 PM Tops 7 PM Yoga	8 OFFICE CLOSED 4 - 6 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	9 9 - 11 AM Mission Council 8 at Pullman Presbyterian
10 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 PM Rally Day Meal 5 PM REV NO OUTREACH MEETNG	11 OFFICE CLOSED 1 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM Kids Club begins 7:30 PM Session	12 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AM Prayer & Care 9:30 AM Elevator Inspection	14 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM 4 PM - Tops 7 PM - Yoga Reminder e-mail sent to Newsletter contributors	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10:30 AM "I Am Not Your Negro" Movie & Discussion McCormick Seminary (RSVP required)
17 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry starts & Fellowship 5 PM REV Deadline for Newsletter	18 OFFICE CLOSED 1 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM Kids Club	19 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM Presbytery of Chicago Assembly (Wheaton, IL)	20 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	21 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM 4 PM - Tops 7 PM - Yoga	22 OFFICE CLOSED 4 - 6 PM Arab Women's Fellowship	23 10 AM Evelyn's Card Workshop
24 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry & Mission 5 PM REV	25 OFFICE CLOSED 1 PM Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM Kids Club 7:30PM Deacons	26 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM 10 AM Newsletter Mailed	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AM Prayer & Care	28 OFFICE OPEN 11 AM - 5 PM 4 PM - Tops 7 PM - Yoga	29 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 - 8:30 PM Fall Fellowship Night	30