

the highland HEARTBEAT

August 6, 2023



CONNECTING YOU
WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY



Fall Sermon Series ~ The Book of Acts: Resilient Church, Resilient People

In Acts, Chapter 1, the resurrected Jesus ascends to heaven leaving the disciples confused and afraid. Staring up to heaven in sheer bewilderment, you can almost hear one of them ask this question: what's next? This fall, we are collectively asking, "What's next for Highland?" This is a question that is exciting and full of possibility. It is a question that gives us permission to dream and imagine. But it's also a question that can spark fear in us. It is natural for us to be afraid of the unknown and to feel discomfort with any kind of transformation. But the early church needed to expand and evolve in order for it to grow. And grow it did! The reason why Highland exists is because the early church was resilient and faithful, carrying the message of the gospel to all corners of the earth. This fall, we're going to take a look at the early church movement through the lens of resilience. We're going to ask, "What makes a resilient church?" And we're going to take lessons from those early Christians who adapted and fought for the gospel to be shared and for faith communities to be formed. We will be applying those lessons to our dreaming process as we think about what's next for Highland. And, hopefully, we'll be applying them to other aspects of our lives where we need to show up as resilient leaders, forging ahead with both faith and hope. I invite you to join me this fall as we dive into the book of Acts and follow where God leads.

Sign-ups for our fall small group studies will begin soon. There are four options for small group studies and the study books are on tables in the Narthex for your review and selection preference to study. Look at them, please indicate your interest on the sheets provided – **today if possible**. Here are some summary notes to help you decide which study group is right for you.

Max Lucado "Life Lessons from Acts" - 12 lessons ask intriguing questions, offer inspirational stories, offer Reflections, background information, excerpts of the text, exploration questions, inspirational thoughts from Max and a closing takeaway. Chapters/Lessons range in length from 8-10 pages. Book Price \$9.00

N.T. Wright "Acts for Everyone" with 24 lessons, leader guide, suggestions for group members, with brief historical background, maps, opening, questions for reflection and learning, prayers and notes on the learning from commentators. Chapter/Lessons range in length from 4-6 pages. Book price \$9.00

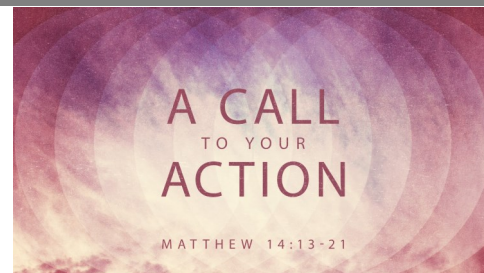
Interpretation Bible Studies "Acts" by Charles C. Williamson with 10 lessons featuring maps, illustrations, definitions of key terms, interesting biblical facts and questions for reflection and discussion and a leader guide. Chapter/Lessons range in length between 7 or 8 pages. Book price \$13.00

John Stott Bible Studies, "Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work" by John Stott with 18 lessons including a historical background introduction to each lesson, opening questions, study & reflection questions, life application and prayer and a leader guide. Chapter/Lessons range in length between 4 or 5 pages. Book price \$12.00

WORSHIP SERVICE

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:13-21

SERMON: "A Call To Your Action"



HOW TO VIEW OUR ONLINE SERVICES

- Visit our website for the current week's service at www.highlandpc.org
- Worship services are livestreamed at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings so you can watch it as it happens.
- Visit our Youtube Channel at www.youtube.com/c/highlandpresbyterian for access to all of our past services and events

PREACHING/WORSHIP CALENDAR

8/13 Pastor Allison preaching
8/20 Will Massey preaching
8/27 Pastor Allison preaching
9/03 Pastor Allison preaching
9/10 Pastor Allison preaching
9/17 Pastor Allison preaching
9/24 Pastor Allison preaching
10/1 Pastor Allison preaching
10/8 Pastor Allison preaching



PRAYER LIST

In Memory

Family of Zitella (Zit) Buzby
Family of Lewis Hershey
Family of Gine Lancaster
Family of Harriett Weaver
Family of Jim Zollman

In Prayer

Julie Bender
Robert Coup
Dill & Claudia Dyson (Friends of Lee Heisey)
Marilyn Frandsen
Linda Guimond
Joan Lewis
Carolyn McGuigan
Family of Jack & Shelby Snyder
Dorie Steinman

PASTOR ON CALL

August 7 ~ August 13



Names found on the Heartbeat prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days. If you would like the name to be included after 30 days, please contact the church office to re-add them. To request a name to be added to the Prayer List, kindly first obtain permission from the individual then call the church office to have them added.

Announcements & Updates

God's Plan Seekers (GPS) in Action! Over the past several months, a diverse and intergenerational group of members have been busy praying, listening, learning, and navigating what it means to be "people following Jesus". The mission of this team is to facilitate the determination of three to five God-sized goals for HPC through our collective reflecting on the past, thinking about the present, and dreaming for the future. In order to do this, the GPS team needs your help!



In September, October, and November, there will be three unique opportunities to gather all of us for facilitated congregational conversations. These conversations and lunch will be held following our Sunday services in the Fellowship Hall. They will be moderated, in small groups, by GPS team members on the following three dates: **September 10, 2023** to reflect on "The Past"; **October 15, 2023** to think about "The Present"; and **November 12, 2023** to dream about "The Future".

In October, the GPS team will also reach out to community partners to identify needs where Highland can help the most. In late November, we will collate the conversational findings and identify the three to five major goals that presented themselves throughout this process. A report of findings will be created, delivered to the Session, and presented to the congregation in the New Year.

By building upon our strengths and using the cross as our compass, we can continue to grow, deepen our relationships with the community, and serve God in potentially new ways. It is time for us to imagine anew and - with God's help - we, as a Congregation, will do just that! All voices are invited and needed as we undertake this discerning journey!

Highland's Earth Care Team encourages you to attend a presentation on the Purpose, Planning & Plantings on **Saturday, August 19 @ 1 pm**, Manheim Township Public Library in the natural area across from the Historic Stoner House and the Stoner Grille in Overlook Park. A tour will be hosted afterwards. Lamonte Garber is the Watershed Restoration Coordinator for the Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, PA, which advances knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and restoration. The event will also be streamed live via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944937566>

The 40 Days of Prayer gathering is happening **today** in the Chapel after worship. We will talk together about the fourth section of the book. Come join us!



HiLites August Event: Join us for the **pool party** at Jim and Connie Towers, assisted by Mike and Judy Eyster. The date - **Saturday, August 19** with Sunday the 20th as a rain date. It will be a smorgasbord event, so we are asking everyone to bring an appetizer, salad, main course or dessert to share. There will be the opportunity to swim, play boochi, ladder golf, corn hole, or just mingle and visit. Time: opens 1:30, appetizers 3:00, dinner 5:30. Cost \$5 to cover drinks and paper products. We are pleased to say we will have a special guest again this year. Please respond to the Towers or Eysters or call the church office by Monday, August 14. All are welcome - regular HiLites folks, and those who might be ages 60 to a little over 80 and want to give us a try. It is good fellowship and always good food too! Swimming optional.

Rally Day will be held following Worship on **Sunday, August 27th**. Plan to join us for food, fun and fellowship. The Corsair Jazz Orchestra will be performing, there will be face painting for children and our Hospitality Committee will be serving lunch. A sign-up Table for Mission & Ministry opportunities will also be available.



The Children's Ministry at Highland is growing!

Help us keep pace with this growth by occasionally volunteering to help on Sunday mornings. Currently, we are serving children in these age groups: nursery (infants to 3 years), PreK - 1st grade, 2nd - 4th grade, and 5th grade & above. What is involved, you ask? Here are the key components of a Sunday morning helper with children:



1. Submit your SafeChurch clearances (once every five years & free to everyone),
2. Join us for a team huddle on the morning you are scheduled to help,
3. Play, interact, guide, and build relationships with the children during the Sunday service, and Support other volunteers in the classroom.

A larger pool of volunteers equips us to share the load of our growing ministries. Grab a hard copy of the Fall Volunteer Availability Form today or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/hpckidsfall2023>. **Submit your form by August 13th.** (We also have volunteer openings for August.) See Jennifer Weitzel or email her at jenniferweitzel@highlandpc.org for more information.

Children and Youth Volunteers Training

If you're planning to assist with any children and/or youth related activities in the 2023-2024 school year, please plan to attend ONE of the two upcoming orientations:

Sunday, August 20th after service, 11:15 am - 12:15 pm, Youth Room

Monday, August 21st, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Zoom

We will discuss upcoming events, roles of volunteers, safety measures, and more as it relates to children and youth at Highland. See Jennifer Weitzel or Will Massey for more information and to RSVP.

Please note Highland Church has so many wonderful ministries and mission projects which we want to share with the congregation from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Given the realities of a one-hour worship service, livestreamed and saved on YouTube, the following guidelines are being implemented.

A Minute for Mission describes a Highland Mission endeavor in **1.5 - 2 minutes** about a particular mission project sponsored and supported by Highland's Mission Team. They are scheduled through the Director of Mission Ministries, Will Massey. Each Minute for Mission will be presented on the **2nd Sunday of the month**. Additional things to know:

- * When the content exceeds 2 minutes, the information will be presented in a 3-minute maximum video [developed by Highland's technology coordinator, Jonathan Lefever](#).
- * Minute for Mission presentations are placed during the announcement time.
- * Send your request in writing to the Director of Mission Ministries at least **FIVE** weeks in advance of the date you would like to share.
- * Send your written script (for in-person and video presentations) to the Director of Mission Ministries to be approved (and edited, when necessary) by Highland's staff worship team at least **THREE** weeks prior to the Sunday it is scheduled to be presented.

Worship Presentations from the Pulpit are announcements of *3 minutes or less* about current ministry initiatives of Highland. They are scheduled through the Associate Minister, Rev. Ann Osborne. Each Worship Presentation will be presented no more than one time per quarter, unless otherwise approved. Additional things to know:

- * When the content exceeds 3 minutes, the information will be presented in a video [developed by Highland's technology coordinator, Jonathan Lefever](#).
- * Worship presentations are placed during the announcement time, or following the Passing of the Peace, or as a congregational response to the Sermon.
- * Send your request in writing to the Associate Minister at least **FIVE** weeks in advance of the date you would like to share.
- * Send your written script (for in-person and video presentations) to the Associate Minister to be approved (and edited, when necessary) by Highland's staff worship team at least **THREE** weeks prior to the Sunday it is scheduled to be presented.