

the highland HEARTBEAT

September 17, 2023



CONNECTING YOU
WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY

GPS Conversation ~ The Past

Following the benediction of a beautiful service, Highland Presbyterian Church members gathered for a time of food, fellowship, and conversation. This was unlike any other church event. It was a fun time of engagement and storytelling. box lunches were provided for members, as they were ushered into the Fellowship Hall. To make the table placements random, each member was asked to select a table number. As Presbyterians, we expect consistency; it is sometimes challenging to go out of our comfort zones and meet new people. Each table was set with name tags, Post-it notes, Sharpies, and an intergenerational mix of members that found common ground to develop new friendships and relationships.

Over the past several months, the GPS team has spent numerous hours planning for this event and the next two conversations. We created teams to organize, collect data, provide lunch, create a church timeline, and provide communication to the congregation. All the boxes were checked and the event was planned down to the minute, so nothing could go awry. However, God had different plans. Bill Owens, our consultant from the Center of Healthy Churches, was canceled from Nashville. He was deboarded three times! Luckily, he was able to catch an early Sunday morning flight, just in time for our first conversation! It is amazing how God can have a sense of humor. Adam Kane drove him swiftly, but carefully, to HPC. Although he was only a few minutes late, this provided ample opportunity to sing happy birthday to Pastor Allison, get a second sandwich, match a name with a familiar face, and continue strengthening our intergenerational bonds! This unexpected experience showed us that God has a plan. No matter how mysterious the plan may seem, he always comes through better than we expect. We can't wait to see what He has planned for HPC!

As Bill directed the facilitators and members, a hum of voices carried throughout the Fellowship Hall. Members willingly told their stories about the journey to Highland. These stories were told with much emotion — some laughter and happy tears — and provided a heartwarming experience to others. It was difficult not to smile as we listened to others' experiences. Music, family, mission, welcoming atmosphere, sermons, and the social aspect were some of the things that drew members to HPC.

Not only did the adult members of the congregation participate, but the youth at Highland provided insight. During Sunday night youth group, students were able to share their stories with each other. They discussed what Highland means to them and their faith journey. Their stories were inspiring; their voices were valued and recorded for the GPS team.

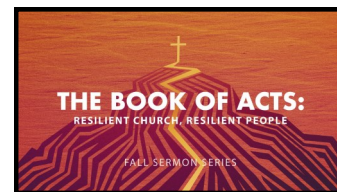
We cannot wait to see what the next two GPS conversations bring! On October 15th, members will meet to converse about the present at HPC. Then, we will discuss dreams of the future on November 12th. It is our hope we continue to have a successful turn out for the conversations and continue learning, building relationships, listening, and doing God's will!

Photos from the conversation can be found on the back page of the Heartbeat.

WORSHIP SERVICE

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:5-22

SERMON: "Testifying in the name of Jesus Christ"



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

9/24 Pastor Allison preaching
10/1 Pastor Allison preaching
10/8 Pastor Allison preaching
10/15 Bill Owen presenting
10/22 Will preaching
10/29 Pastor Allison preaching
11/5 Pastor Ann preaching
11/12 Pastor Alison preaching

PRAYER LIST

In Memory

Family of Zitella (Zit) Buzby

In Prayer

Julie Bender

Jane Boris (sister of Carla Rothacker)

Robert Coup

Bill & Claudia Dyson (Friends of Lee Heisey)

Marilyn Frandsen

Ryan Ginn

Kathy Groves

Linda Guimond

Carl Henkel

Marge Herrmann

Diane Hostetter (Mitchell)

Family of Jack & Marty Hynd

Joan Lewis

Carolyn McGuigan

Beverly Moore

Heather Sievers

Dorie Steinman

The people of Northwest & Southwest Cameroon

PASTOR ON CALL

September 18 ~ September 24

Pastor Allison



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

Purpose of our Acts sermon series:

1. To explore our roots as a church
2. To encourage the congregation to dream and innovate as the early church did
3. To study the Spirit's role in shaping a resilient church
4. To build hope and confidence in our work and our church

Resilient churches....

- Week 4 9/17: They boldly and unapologetically tell the story of Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)
- Week 5 9/24: They have people who know and use their gifts (Acts 9: 1-20)
- Week 6 10/1: They are nimble, flexible, and open to change (Acts 10: 1-33)
- Week 7 10/8: They maintain their joy and hope even in adversity (Acts 16:16-34)
- Week 8 10/29 Final sermon in Acts series; They are able to step out of their comfort zone (Acts 17: 16-31)

Peace & Global Witness Offering This is one of four special offerings collected by the Presbyterian Church USA. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils (the Presbytery and Synod) retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. One example of how the offering is used is the Global Peacemakers program through the PCUSA. Ten people have been named Global Peacemakers in 2023. Carmen Diaz (a colleague we have worked with in El Salvador) is among them. She is pictured with Joseph Rus a PCUSA mission coworker in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Please support the Peace & Global Witness Offering this fall. It will be received on October 1st this year. The 25% of the offering will be used by our Matthew 25 committee to support a local Presbyterian African American Highland will be collecting this offering on **October 1st**.



A Recent Visitor to Highland? A get together for recent visitors will be held after the worship service on **Sunday, September 24** in the McClintock Chapel. This will offer an opportunity for you to interact with staff members and each other, learn more about the overall scope of Highland's ministry, and get answers to some questions you might have. We look forward to seeing you then. For further information, please see the Larry or Anita Ewing at the Welcome Center or contact the church office at (7171) 569-2651.

New Members Class – Are you considering membership at Highland Presbyterian Church? Attend our next new members class on **Saturday morning, September 30**, at 8:30 am or **Wednesday evening, October 4** at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided. We will then welcome new members on **Sunday morning, October 8**. Please mark your calendars to save these dates. To register, contact Larry and Anita Ewing or the church office (717-569-2651).

Door 10 If you usually use door 10 which is located in the office wing of our building, please note that due to security reasons we will be locking this door **ten minutes after worship begins**. We will make sure we put a sign that directs people to use the main entrance when this door is locked. The door will open back up at 11:10 for those people who may be coming in for small groups. Thank you for your understanding as we do everything we can to create a safe environment for all!

HiLites ~ All are welcome! Please come to an after-dinner friendship time with friends, **Saturday, September 23rd**, at the home of Peggy & Dean Ehrhart, please arrive between 6:30 and 7 pm (before sunset) Coffee and Apple Cider will be provided. Optional bring a chair and a favorite small snack to share. Please note that this event will be cancelled if rain. For more details or to sign-up contact Peggy & Dean Ehrhart or call the church office 717-569-2651.

Children & Youth Activities

Children during Sunday Morning Worship beginning September 10th

Ignite ~ 9:30 am Children are invited to enter freely into the Ignite worship space on Sunday morning at 9:30 am from September ~ May.

Nursery during 10:00 am Worship Service Children ages 0 to 3 are invited to the nursery from 9:45 am until 10 minutes after the end of the service under the care of our SafeChurch volunteers.

Sunday School for Children during 10 am Worship Service Children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to remain with their grown-ups in the sanctuary until they are dismissed for Sunday School during the service. SafeChurch volunteers will escort children to their classrooms for a Bible lesson, activity, and fellowship. (Children should be registered for Sunday School before going into the sanctuary). Activity bags are available in the classrooms to be picked up before and returned after the service for children who prefer to remain with their grown-ups during the entire service. All children should be picked up within 10 minutes after the end of the service.

Children in grades 5 and above are welcome to sit together during the worship service, remain with their grown-up, or assist in the children's classrooms during the service. Signs-ups are required.

Support Youth Ministry: Volunteers and Meals Youth Group kicks off on August 27, and once again we will need two types of contributions:

- Youth Group volunteers (adults with Child Protection Clearances who also attend orientation)
- Sunday Dinners

You can start signing up today for Sunday Youth Gatherings from now through December. Contributing in either way makes a big difference for our youth as they build relationships and explore their faith in a non-judgmental environment. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4faea72cabfb6-youth1#/>



Save the date ~ next conversations

October 15 and November 12