

the highland HEARTBEAT

November 19, 2023



CONNECTING YOU
WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY

GPS RECAP



Carl Sandburg, American poet and Pulitzer Prize winner, once said “nothing happens unless first a dream”. This past Sunday, Highland Presbyterian Church members were dreaming, not during the sermon, but at the last congregational conversation! During the sermon, Pastor Allison encouraged and challenged us to use our own time, talent, and treasure to deepen our faith. Members were once again ushered to the Fellowship Hall after the service to participate in a lunch and conversation. They have been eagerly awaiting this conversation! Dreaming about the future is exciting, exhilarating, inspiring, and sometimes challenging.

Scott Billig first gave the participants a summary from the second conversation. This was a time of looking in the mirror at our church and looking out the window into our community. We gathered a few themes that Highland members are passionate about the present and the future. They are currently excited about chancel choir, youth and children’s ministries, mental health missions, family ministry, and food hub missions, among many others! Some areas of focus for the future were found in mental health, missions, family ministry, chancel choir, food hub, youth at Highland, the assimilation team, and quite a few other areas.

Bill Owens led us as we participated in dreaming of Highland’s future. He asked members to take a few minutes to close their eyes and focus on the year of 2030. What would we see, hear, and feel in 2030 at Highland? Luckily, we didn’t hear any snoring during this time! Members took this exercise seriously and focused on some dreams for Highland: God-sized dreams. Dreams that are large enough to create new relationships, encourage new learning, challenge assumptions, and are spiritual in nature. There were sounds of chatter, laughter, and excitement found in the voices of participants, as everyone brainstormed some large God-sized dreams for the church. We focused on the areas of discipleship, fellowship, mission, worship, and witnessing. In small groups, members voiced their dreams into present-tense statements as they shared their dreams to other participants. There were many thought-provoking, compelling, and inspiring dreams.

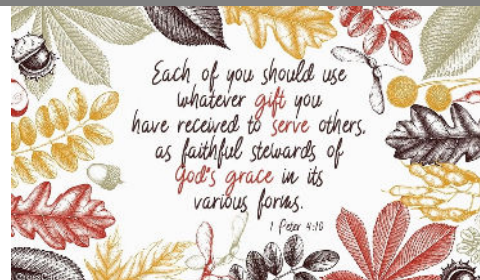
Although it was our last conversation, the dreaming and action plan does not end here! The GPS team was, and continues to be, busy at work. We are gathering information from all three conversations, forming common themes, discussing the God-sized dreams, and presenting ideas to the Session.

Thank you for joining the conversations! We appreciate everyone’s eagerness to participate and express your thoughts. We look forward to seeing what God has planned for Highland Presbyterian Church! However, we still need your help! The GPS team would like your prayers over the next few months as we enter a time of discernment and form a few God-sized dreams to grow Highland’s discipleship, fellowship, mission, worship, and witnessing. There will be updates early next year with what is to come!

WORSHIP SERVICE

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:7-11

SERMON: "Our Gifts To Share—Part 2"



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

11/19 Will Massey preaching

"How does a weary world rejoice?" Starting December 3 Pastor Allison preaching

Experience the hope, love, peace and JOY of the season amount your church family.

12/10 Pastor Allison preaching

12/17 Pastor Allison preaching

Christmas Eve Service Schedule

4:30 pm Family Christmas Service

9:20 am Ignite

10 am Traditional Worship

8 pm Candlelight Service

PRAYER LIST

In Memory

Family of Frances Kaufmann

Family of M. Joan Barney

Family of Miriam Hiestand

In Prayer

Julie Bender

Matt Bransby

Robert Coup

Pete Faber

Linda Guimond

Carl Henkel

Marge Herrmann

Diane Hostetter (Mitchell)

Joan Lewis

Carolyn McGuigan

Beverly Moore

Ingeborg Ross & Family

Hank Savard

Heather Sievers

The people of Israel & Gaza

PASTOR ON CALL

November 20 ~ November 26

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns



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

2023 Highland Christmas Giving Tree During the 2023 Christmas Season Highland Presbyterian Church is providing Christmas gifts for clients in fifteen agencies and local organizations. A few tags remain on the trees and your willingness to take an additional tag would be appreciated. We will be taking down the trees today but the activities of the volunteers continue as we purchase gifts with donated funds for those tags not selected. Volunteers will be purchasing over 120 gifts and your donations are needed to complete the project. Donations can be sent to Mike Nolt marked Giving Tree. All gifts are should be taken to Highland on or before In Gathering Sunday on November 26



Senior Ministry Christmas Gathering ~ Thursday December 7 from 11 am ~ 1 pm

Save the date! Registration will begin in the Narthex starting **TODAY** for the JOY CHRISTMAS PARTY. The party will start promptly at 11am on Thursday, December 7th with carol singing, a Christmas. devotional with Pastor Allison, and fun with Pastor Ann. Lunch will be provided by our own hospitality team. Registration is required for the party so that we will have sufficient food for everyone. Donation baskets will be provided to cover the expenses of the meal.



Christmas Memorial Poinsettias are for sale in the Narthex. Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17th and Christmas Eve. If you indicate on the order form that you wish to take your home, please, pick it up after the 8 pm Christmas Eve Service. Stop by the Deacon table in the Narthex before or after Sunday services, now thru December 3 to place your order! Plants are \$9 each.

Christmas Tea Attention **ALL** the women at Highland! Save **Thursday, December 14** at noon for the annual Christmas tea sponsored by the Presbyterian women. All ages are encouraged to attend.

HiLites Christmas Party is Saturday, December 9. Are you an empty nester? This event is a great time to give us a try. We will gather at John and Sandy Wolfe's at 6:00 for hearty appetizers and then to Andrew and Dana Mead's for dessert and ornament exchange game. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to sign up contact Ginny Kleppinger, Judy Eyster or the church office.



Advent Sermon Series This Advent season, we invite you to look closely at the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel as we discover Christ being born into a weary world. Discover where joy is sprinkled throughout the narrative even though fear, grief, and timidity are present. Consider how joy can be a companion to you this season, for our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God.



Postcards will be sent next week to all Highlanders detailing the many joy-filled activities being offered by Highland this Advent season. We will have more invitations printed next week for you to begin inviting your family and friends. Be sure to mark your calendars for our three Christmas Eve services at 10:00 AM Worship Service

(Ignite at 9:30 AM), 4:30 PM Family Service, and 8:00 PM Traditional Service.

Advent devotionals that follow our church-wide series, How Does a Weary World Rejoice?, are available online at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/> or in print by calling the church office. Perhaps this is a time where you reconnect with your Summer prayer triad (or form a new one) to engage with the richness of Christ's story alive in you. This devotional is designed to help you practice joy in a weary world. Each lesson includes art, reflections, poetry, and hymns. May each week offer you rhythms for rejoicing through acknowledging your weariness, finding joy in connection, allowing yourself to be amazed, singing stories of hope, making room, rooting yourself in ritual, and remembering your belovedness.

For a full listing of Advent activities including our Christmas Eve services, Christmas Cantata, Kid's Night Out, Caroling, Christmas Tea, and more, see our special Advent page on the church website. www.highlandpc.org/advent2023. Scan this QR code (by simply hovering your open Camera app on the image, and then clicking the link that appears at the top of your smartphone screen) to access it quickly.



Mission & Outreach Corner

Ecological Gardening for Fall In the linked article, Lancaster Conservancy offers their wisdom on ecological gardening this Fall. By implementing these tips you can support habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. Scan the code using the camera app on your phone to read more! Their advice includes:

- • Leave the Leaves
- • Expand your garden with native plants
- • Leave stalks, stems and seed heads in your garden.



SCAN ME

Thank you, thank you! Our congregation through Market Share has made a second donation for this year to the Lancaster Food Hub. And just like a school child, the Food Hub was in need of milk money. Our donation of \$1700 came just at the right time to have a direct and large impact to supply milk for the remainder of the year. Remember, purchasing grocery cards at the **Market Share** desk helps raise funds to aid in combating hunger. Please, give it a try!

Christmas Bags for Red Rose Assisted Living – it is once again that time of year when PW collects toiletries and more for those in need. **We plan to pack the bags the first week in December, so bring in items by Dec 3.** Besides for small toiletries, we need pens, small tablets, individually wrapped hard candy (regular and diabetic), combs, chap stick. Thanks for your support!

Fall cleanup day ~ The Trustees are planning to remove leaves from the Highland campus on **Saturday, November 25th** with a rain date of December 2nd. Please come out to help remove leaves, bring leaf rakes, tarps, and pickup trucks if you have one. Contact the church office if you have questions.



From the Library ~ Our library has some special books to enhance your preparations and slow down the journey. Please take time to visit and select a special "read" for yourself! The books, and puzzles, are on the round table. Please sign the card in the back of the book and place it in the small basket on the bookshelf, to the right of the door. There is no sign out for the puzzles.

Children's Ministry Helpers on Sunday Mornings, Sign up to make a difference with children and their spiritual formation. Now scheduling for January through May 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/>

Be part of the Christmas Pageant being planned We're planning to have a Christmas pageant for our family service on Sunday, December 24th at 4:30 pm. **We need actors, narrators, Black Light performers, ushers, children's hand bells, and behind the scenes helpers to make this a success.** Children, youth, and adults are all encouraged to join us in the preparations. **We need LOTS of people for various roles, so please SIGN UP TODAY!** Contact Jennifer Weitzel at jenniferweitzel@highlandpc.org OR Will Massey at willmassey@highlandpc for more information Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/hpc2023xmas430>

From Your Stewardship Committee: Dedication Sunday During worship today we bring forward our pledges for 2024, as a token and symbol of what we plan to give for the work of God's kingdom next year. Those who aren't in the sanctuary today are just as important as those who are. Your pledge cards can be mailed to the church office at any time in the next few weeks. Anyone who has not received, or has mislaid, stewardship materials mailed in October should feel free to call the church office for replacements.

Highland office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24.

