

the highland HEARTBEAT

December 10, 2023



CONNECTING YOU
WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY

GPS Retreat Recap



The fall and winter seasons are the busiest times of the year: the Thanksgiving feasts, hustle and bustle of people, gift shopping, football games, stand-still traffic, and Christmas preparations. Despite the busy season, we would like to take the time to remember everything we have accomplished over the past few months as a congregation and GPS team. Together, we discussed what brought us to Highland, our current involvement, and our God-sized dreams.

The GPS team, an intergenerational mix of members and HPC staff, attended a two-day writing retreat with consultant Bill Owen before Thanksgiving. We began with a time of discussion around personal leadership, experiences, and spiritual discernment followed by our reflections about the past few months of conversations with the congregation. Then, each of the many God-sized dreams were reviewed and categorized. These dreams were very well written, thought-provoking, and inspiring! Common themes were extracted and narrowed down to three categories:

worship, discipleship, and mission. There was a lot of conversing, listening, reflecting, and brainstorming as we poured over tables of God-size dreams to find similarities. As you can imagine, this was no easy task! It was a beautiful sight to see as we all contributed our ideas and thoughts in a caring and nonjudgmental way.



Early next year, we will begin developing a draft of dreams, objectives, and key results that support our three main categories of worship, discipleship, and mission. We will continue working hard in the New Year to take what we've heard from you and come up with a plan! Our goal is to keep the conversations going! We will provide updates throughout the Spring. As you enter this busy Advent season and New Year, please continue to pray for our GPS team, Highland's dreams, and this continued time of discernment.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings each year that helps us connect with the national and international ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). 50% of your Christmas Joy gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The other 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future!

To contribute, you can write a check to Highland with "Christmas Joy" in the memo line. Additionally, you can text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



WORSHIP SERVICE/PREACHING CALENDAR

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: Luke 1: 26-45

SERMON: "We Find Joy in Connection"

How does a weary world rejoice?" Advent Sermon Series

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

12/17 Pastor Allison preaching

Christmas Eve Service Schedule 9:30 am Ignite 10am Traditional Worship
4:30 pm Family Christmas Service 8 pm Candlelight Service



VIEWING OF ONLINE SERVICES

- Go to www.youtube.com
- In the YouTube search bar, type "Highland Presbyterian Church"
- You should see the Highland picture (as seen below) at the top of the search results, click it.
- Here, you will find all of our weekly services and devotionals by date, including our recent online services.
- Worship services are livestreamed here at 10 am on Sunday mornings so you can watch it as it happens.

GIVING

- Mail your contributions to Highland Presbyterian church at 500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.
- Go to our www.highlandpc.org and select the "Give Now" button in the upper right-hand corner. It will walk you through how to give using your credit or debit card.
- Scan the QR code below and it will take you to the online giving on our website.

If you have general questions, please contact Mike Nolt, Church Administrator at mikenolt@highlandpc.org or call the church office at 717-569-2651.



PRAYER LIST

In Memory

Family of M. Joan Barney
Family of Miriam Hiestand
Family of Sylvia Seymour

In Prayer

Julie Bender
Robert Coup
Mary Catherine Ebner
(sister of Julie Bender)
Helen Emmitt
Pete Faber
Linda Guimond
Carl Henkel
Marge Herrmann
Diane Hostetter (Mitchell)
Samuel Huffard
(father of Ginny)
Sybil Lawrence

Joan Lewis
Carolyn McGuigan
Beverly Moore
Ingeborg Ross
Hank Savard
Maya Thompson
(great niece of Rita Pickles)
Jim Wimer
The people of Israel & Gaza

PASTOR ON CALL

December 11~ December 17

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

"How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" Sermon Series. Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people. This advent our sermon series is based on the first few chapters of Luke's gospel. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy. There is a companion devotional to our sermon series. Hopefully by now you have received the link to that devotional through an email. If you would like a hard copy of the devotional, please contact the office. There is also a companion advent calendar that gives daily prompts on practicing joy in a weary world. This is also available as a hard copy. Please call the office if you would like one. We pray that through this sermon series and devotional, your hearts will be prepared to receive the Christ child this Christmas. May your advent season be blessed! *Pastor Allison*



The Deacons and the Brass Bands have planned Christmas Caroling on **Tuesday, December 19** at Landis Homes, in the High Foundation Auditorium. We are scheduled to arrive and begin caroling around 6:45 pm for 30 to 40 minutes total. It is open to church members who wish to join and get in the Christmas Spirit. We thank Jerry Rothacker and Joe Chesnutt for arranging the Brass Group.

Caroling at Christmas On **Sunday December 17th from 2:30 - 5:00 PM**, carolers of ALL ages are invited to gather in the Youth Room before walking to Long Community where we'll sing Christmas carols and pass out treats. We'll end our night with walking tacos at the church. See Jennifer Weitzel or Will Massey to let them know you're coming. The more the merrier!



Childcare During Christmas Eve Services Our **10:00 AM service** will have staffed nursery care for children ages three and under. All older children may grab an activity bag from the children's classroom area before service that day and remain with their grown-ups for the service. Families are also welcome to use the classroom space under the supervision of their own grown-up, since the service can be heard from the classroom's speakers. We kindly ask that you return the activity bags and tidy the play space after the service.

The **4:30 PM Family service** is meant for all ages! Everyone is invited into the Fellowship Hall; no childcare provided.

The **8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service** will not have any staffed childcare services available, but we will open the Chapel for families with children. We value the many types of learning styles of children and encourage families to utilize this family-friendly space when children need to move around. The service will be livestreamed in the Chapel so everyone can still be connected to the service.

Dorothy Rose Smith Concert ~ Today @ 4 pm. There will be sing-along carol medleys, terrific arrangements of familiar music like "O Holy Night" featuring our soloists, and the popular and stunning Gloria by John Rutter. The Gloria is accompanied by a full complement of brass players (4 trumpets no less!) and percussionists along with our Jonathan Lefever on organ.

Porch Piracy Prevention In the spirit of a secure and joyful advent season, it's important to have some tools to help "fortify your defenses" against delivery theft, a.k.a. "porch pirates." As you gear up for online holiday shopping, here are a few steps to ensure that your gifts get to their intended recipient.



- *Consider enlisting the support of vigilant neighbors to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity around your neighborhood, or even to collect a delivered package until you arrive home.
- *Investing in an affordable doorbell camera and strategically placed surveillance cameras can act as a powerful deterrent and provide valuable evidence if needed.
- *Use a third-party location such as Amazon Counter, or Amazon Locker. Check with other retailers for innovative and secure delivery options as well.

Should you fall victim to porch piracy, don't hesitate to report the incident to your local police department. The sooner law enforcement knows about the crime, the better the chance to effectively investigate. They may even be able prevent further thefts. Let's come together as a community to ensure our deliveries reach us safe and sound.

Stay safe and Merry Christmas!
Chris McKim - Security Trustee



Mission & Outreach Corner

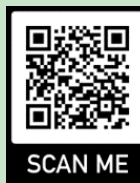
Oh! Oh! Spaghetti-O's! What's on your shopping list this week? pasta, spaghetti sauce, meat helpers, oatmeal and Spaghetti-O's! **Thank you to all who have brought in food items so far.** Every item you bring in helps a family who is suffering from food deprivation. Bring your food items each Sunday and put them in the collection boxes in the Narthex or in the office area. All foods donated will be taken to the Lancaster Food Hub. The Lancaster Food Hub provides food for those deeply affected by poverty as well as the working poor. Additional copies of the Calendar are available in the Narthex or office. Any questions, please see Juanita Fowler or call the church office. **Oh! Oh! Don't forget the Spaghetti-O's!**

Last Day for the Quilters Sale Pot Holders, microwave bowls, wall hangings, table runners, baby quilts are just a few of the items that the Highland Quilters are selling today before and after the 10:00 a.m. service. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to nonprofits whose focus is on supporting women and children. Already this year the Quilters have donated money to CASA, Milagro House, Teen Hope at the Samaritan Center, and Power Packs. Your purchases will enable them to donate to other worthy organizations. AND you will be purchasing wonderful handmade Christmas gifts for others and/or yourself. Be sure to stop at the tables in the Narthex today. The sale is before and after the service. This is the last day of the sale. Thank you for your support.



Help Feed Our Neighbors at Arch Street! Highland has continued to support Arch Street Center since its founding 40 years ago. Currently we provide lunch for about 40 people once a month. Volunteers are given a simple casserole recipe that they prepare in their own homes, or they may bake cookies. Volunteers drop their food off at church on the assigned day and from there it is taken to Arch Street. We would love to welcome some new people. For more details, please contact Linda Neumann or the church office.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog You can make a difference in the lives of others by giving through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Every act of generosity counts, and this is your opportunity to help shape a world built upon shared humanity, amplified generosity, and God's love. Everyone has something to give and through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, you can connect with those in need. The Catalog provides a space where you can contribute to a cause close to your heart to make giving easy and rewarding. Gift options include contributions to community farming projects, disaster relief, educational programs, clean water solutions, and many more. To purchase a gift, go to the following link or hold your phone camera over the QR code below: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>



January Youth Retreat: Mid-Winter Advance! Highland Youth will participate in the Mid-Winter Advance Retreat at Refreshing Mountain, January 26-28. Several youth groups from the area will be there for worship, play, and spiritual encouragement. See more about the event here: <https://www.midwinteradvance.com> Let's get a good crew together and spend a weekend at Refreshing Mountain! We want everybody to be signed up by Christmas. A separate registration form is available for download within the link below. The cost is \$175, but please let Will Massey know if you would like to talk about a scholarship. <https://forms.office.com/r/fHtiZ6908j>



Children's Ministry Helpers needed 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/>

From Your Stewardship Committee: Have You Turned In Your Pledge Card?

As of December 6, there were 76 individuals and families who had submitted pledges last year for 2023, but who have yet to do so for 2024." Are you one of them? If so, please remember that any pledge, however small, is important in building Highland's 2024 budget.

Pledge cards can be mailed to the church office at any time in the next few weeks. Anyone who has not received, or who has misplaced, the stewardship materials mailed in October should feel free to call the church office for replacements.

