

Volume 118, Issue 4

December 24 & 31, 2023

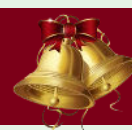
the highland HEARTBEAT



CONNECTING YOU
WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



During the Advent season we've been asking, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" This question affirms the weariness and brokenness of the world, but it also makes room for joy. Joy can certainly be found in many places—in the face of a newborn, a beautiful sunset, or a hug from a friend. It can also be found in meaningful work, wonderful coworkers, and a faithful congregation. I know I speak for the staff when I say what a joy it is to serve at Highland. We feel blessed to be among you in both leadership and support positions. It gives us great joy, in a world of weariness, to tend to the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. Jesus is truly the source of our joy this season and every season. He is our Lord and our God, *Immanuel*, God with us. He is "the thrill of hope" that allows this weary world to rejoice. We count ourselves blessed to rejoice with you in the birth of our Lord who has come and will come to make all things new. Merry Christmas, Highland Presbyterian Church! Blessings, Pastor Allison and the Highland Staff



WORSHIP SERVICE/PREACHING CALENDAR

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:46-55 (The Message)

SERMON: "We Sing Stories of Hope"

Christmas Eve Service Schedule

9:30 am Ignite

10am Traditional Worship

4:30 pm Family Christmas Service

8 pm Candlelight Service

December 31st ~ 10 am Traditional Worship (carol sing)!

January 7th ~ 10 am Traditional Worship Pastor Allison preaching



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 Sylvia Seymour

Family of Rev. Dr. Richard Vieth

In Prayer

Julie Bender

Robert Coup

Linda Dunlap

(daughter of Betty Grogan)

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 Miller)

Sybil Lawrence

Joan Lewis

Carolyn McGuigan

Beverly Moore

Shirley Offermann

Ingeborg Ross

Hank Savard

Maya Thompson

(great niece of Rita Pickles)

Jim Wimer

Our World

PASTOR ON CALL

December 25 ~ December 31

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne



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

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**



Women of Highland, Do you want to start the new year off on the right foot with a Bible Study with other women? Beginning Thursday, January 4 and running for 5 weeks until February 1, we will study Philippians with Beth and Melissa Moore. This DVD based study will be a one-hour video, with an additional 30 minutes for discussion, questions, and prayer. We will meet in room 208 at 7:00pm. Workbooks are available for \$20. Contact Barb Droz if you are interested or call the church office at (717) 569-2651.

"Gathering of Grieving Guys" Starting January 14th, Highland will be offering a time for grieving guys to gather together for six weeks to move through the significant stages of grief to arrive at a place of recovery in living their lives. Pastors Ann and Ken Osborne and other invited guests will lead you and other recently widowed and other grieving men through an engaging process involving brief information sharing, small group conversation, weekly reflection, journaling, and prayer support. The six weeks of connection will enable you to learn about how you personally experience grief and loss as well as offer you support for renewal, healing, and grief recovery. The weekly one hour gathering will be held from 11:30am to 12:30pm, in the prayer room, following the 10am Sunday, Worship Service. The study will start on Sunday, January 14th and finish on Sunday, February 18th. Each week will cover a different topic and use the resource entitled "The Grief Recovery Handbook" by John W. James and Russell Friedman. Copies of the \$10 resource are available for your purchase between now and January 14th when you register. You can register and purchase the book at the sign-up table in the Narthex on Sundays beginning December 17th.



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.

A big **THANK YOU** to the congregation from the Highland Quilters. The recent Sunday morning sales resulted in a profit of \$2400.00. The quilters also were featured at Miller's Quilt Shop in October where more of their creative works were sold. Always emphasizing charities that help and enable women and children, the Quilters have distributed their earnings to the following.

Local: Casa Mental Health Center, Teen Hope of the Samaritan Center, Power Packs, Milagro House and Off the Streets.

The PC(USA) Giving Catalogue: Health for Mothers & Newborns, Family Nutrition Packs, Kitchen Kits and Sewing Machines

Heifer Project: Schooling for Girls

Other: Sewing Machine(s) in El Salvador (a Highland supported mission) and the Maji Project in Ethiopia (providing electricity and water)

The quilters meet every Wednesday from 9a.m. to noon. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact Juanita Fowler or the church office at (717)-569-2651.



Mission & Outreach Corner

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/>



SCAN ME

Reverse Advent Calendar THANK YOU to everyone who brought in food through the Reverse Advent Calendar. You have provided food for those deeply affected by poverty and the working poor. You demonstrated what Jesus said in Matthew 25. When the righteous asked when they had provided food for Jesus, he told them, "when you fed the hungry in Lancaster, you fed me."

Youth Group Meals and Volunteers You are invited once again to care for our young people and support their ministry in Spring 2024. Youth group gathers almost every Sunday at 4:30-6:30 in the Youth Room. You may sign up for a week to bring a meal that can feed 15+ people, or you may feel called to join our roster of youth ministry volunteers. Contact Will Massey if you are interested, or hold your phone camera over the code to the right to sign up for a slot. Thank you for all the ways that this congregation supports Youth Ministry!



SCAN ME

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>



SCAN ME

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/>

Referees & Snack Stand Volunteers for Upward Basketball 2024 180 players have signed up for Upward Basketball at Highland beginning January 2024, which has exceeded our goal! What if you could help us make a difference in the lives of these children by refereeing games or serving at our snack stand? Email Jennifer Weitzel at upwardhpc@gmail.com to learn more about these opportunities. Clearances required for refs. Help us spread the word to others that might also be interested.



New Years at Noon Countdown! Sunday 12/31, Immediately following the service. Join us as we countdown 12:00 PM noon by celebrating with appetizers and sparkling juice in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/HPCCountdown2023> or RSVP to jenniferweitzel@highlandpc.org by 12/24.

"Getting Your House in Order Before You Need It" Mark Your Calendars Now for the Class. The six week "Getting Your House in Order Before You Need It" learning experience will meet at 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Sundays following the Sunday 10am Sanctuary service, beginning January 14 through February 18, 2024. We will meet in the McClintock Chapel. Each week a facilitator will lead discussion on different topics for planning your future or helping your parents plan their retirement years. Professionals will offer up to date information on the following topics: 1) Living Wills and Healthcare Options; 2) Estate Planning; 3) Preplanning Your Funeral; 4) Downsizing for Right Sized Retirement Living; 5) Growing Spiritually as You Age; and 6) Ethical Wills and Leaving a Legacy. You can sign up for the topics and dates you plan to participate beginning Sunday, Dec. 31 in the Narthex.

Please note the Church office will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1.

