

The Highland Heartbeat

Highland, a Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved

Sunday, December 21, 2025

The Highland Church office will be closed to the public from December 25 through January 2. Staff members who are not on vacation will be available to respond to emergencies during this time. We kindly ask that routine business be limited so staff may focus on essential year-end responsibilities. The office will re-open for regular business on Friday, January 2, 2026. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Dear Highland Presbyterian Church,

In this Advent season, we have been waiting in hopeful anticipation for our Savior, the Word made flesh, who draws near to us in divine love. That holy night is almost here, when the angelic chorus proclaims the good news of Christ's birth. He shall be called Emmanuel, God with us. Thanks be to God!

On behalf of the entire church staff, I extend to you our heartfelt wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year. Thank you for the privilege of serving and leading this beloved congregation as we seek to follow our Savior and glorify Him in all we do.

Grace and peace to you all,
Pastor Allison

Reverse Advent Calendar

Did you remember to bring in the last items on the food calendar? We will continue collecting food donations at **both Christmas Eve services**. **THANK YOU** for all the food you've contributed during Advent — you have brought light and nourishment to many in Lancaster County!

- The full calendar is available on the kiosk next to the Heartbeat, or on the round table in the narthex.
- Collection boxes are located in the narthex and office reception area.

Week 4

December 21	Canned soup (low salt)
December 22	Tuna/chicken (pouches)
December 23	Boxed potatoes
December 24	Jar of peanut butter

Family Christmas Pageant | 4:30 PM

Families are invited to a joyful, interactive Christmas Eve service where every child can be part of the story! Children may choose a provided costume (or bring their own: angels, stars, shepherds, or animals) as we retell the Christmas Story through a simple, no-rehearsal pageant woven with carols, a creative biblical retelling, and a candlelit "Silent Night" in the Sanctuary.



Traditional Candlelight Service | 8:00 PM

This service features scripture, carols, choir, and a thoughtful message as we enter the wonder of the Nativity story together. We will conclude with the beloved tradition of candlelight and "Silent Night," filling the Sanctuary with warmth and hope as we welcome the Christ Child once again. All are welcome as we gather to honor the hope and joy of Christmas in a meaningful and uplifting way!

Annual Carol Sing



Did we not sing your favorite Christmas carol this season? Make your voice heard and put in a request at our annual carol sing on the Sunday after Christmas! Join us for a casual service on **Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary. Be prepared for some famous Christmas quotes, a bit of Christmas trivia, a Christmas story based off of Psalm 46, and a carol sing led by the very talented Dr. Jeff Martin. A cookie reception will follow.

Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group

Interested in good fellowship, good discussions, & a good breakfast too? The Highland men's breakfast group meets at **Oregon Dairy** on **Wednesday mornings** from **7:30 to 9:00 AM**. Each week, we read a book and discuss a chapter or two. We take turns leading the discussion; some days there's no leader, just conversation, and we welcome those who'd simply like to listen as well. Book topics vary from theology (we are currently reading Elaine Pagels' *Miracles and Wonder*), to history (recent biographies of Lincoln and Franklin), to works that challenge our thinking (*The Tipping Point*, *Talking to Strangers*, and books on artificial intelligence). In the new year, we will start a new book to be determined in the coming weeks. Please contact Dick Entz for more details!

Exploring a 2026 Trip to El Salvador

On **Sunday, December 14**, a group gathered after worship for an interest meeting about a potential 2026 trip to our mission partner, Juan Calvino, in San Salvador, El Salvador. The conversation was encouraging, and we are excited to continue exploring this opportunity together. We are tentatively targeting early June 2026, but dates are still open for the summer or even the fall. We are planning an eight-day trip, which will include a Sunday, allowing us to worship with the local church.

The trip will be open to participants from high school age through adulthood and will emphasize learning, listening, and strengthening relationships.

If you are interested in this trip and would like to be included in our planning, please contact **Pastor Matt** by **Sunday, January 18**, so we can continue discerning next steps together. More details will be shared as plans take shape.

Visit the Library!

Christmas is coming fast, and it is always a time for reflection and blessings! Please browse the round table in the library for books, both fiction and non, that will speak to your heart.



Adult Sunday School

Start 2026 with a deeper dive into Scripture and good conversation! Beginning **January 11**, you're invited to gather after worship from **11:30 to 12:30** in **Room 204** for a new Adult Sunday School series. This study is designed with flexibility in mind: come when you can, jump in at any point, and bring your questions. From January through Easter, we'll journey through the Gospel of Matthew, exploring its sweeping narrative and paying special attention to one of its central themes: the Kingdom of Heaven. Whether you're looking to learn something new, reconnect with Scripture, or simply enjoy thoughtful discussion with others, there's a place for you. We hope you'll join us!



From Your Stewardship Committee: Thank You and a Reminder

Highland's congregation has responded generously to this fall's stewardship campaign. As of December 8, about **248** individuals and families have pledged just over **\$975,000** in financial support for 2026. This will go far in helping us meet what is expected to be a 2026 budget of around \$1.4 million, and we are grateful for the response so far.

At the same time, some **66** individuals and families who submitted a pledge for 2025 have not yet done so for 2026. To get us further toward greater support of next year's budget, we need to hear from those who have not yet pledged. Pledge cards can be obtained by calling the church office. It is not too late to pledge, and no amount is too small.

Update from Pastor Matt

Travel Seminar to India

From December 27 to January 16, Claire and I will be in India as part of an international travel seminar through Union Presbyterian Seminary. This seminar brings together current seminary students and graduates to study theological education and the practice of Christianity in a context very different from our own. A central focus of the trip is visiting seminaries and theological colleges across the country, where we will meet with students, faculty, and church leaders. We will learn how Christianity is taught and lived in a pluralistic society where it is a minority religion alongside Hinduism and Islam. We will explore what faithful witness and discipleship look like in that setting. We will also visit some of India's cultural and historical landmarks.

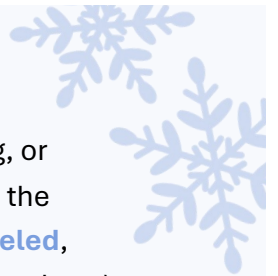
This experience will strengthen my ministry at Highland by enriching my theological perspective and deepening my understanding of the global church. I am grateful for your prayers and support, and I look forward to sharing more when I return.

Winter Weather Closure Policy

Highland Presbyterian Church will continue to monitor [Manheim Township School District](#) (MTSD), but weather decisions will be made based on *actual* conditions and safety, not strictly school status. If Manheim Township School District issues a delay, or if Highland determines road/parking conditions warrant a delay, Highland will operate on a **2-hour delay**.

Full Closure

A full closure happens when roads, parking, or walkways are unsafe. During a full closure, the office and all in-person programs are **anceled**, with essential staff allowed on-site (if safe to do so). **Announcements** will be made via the church website, email, social media, WGAL, and phone message. Outside groups will be notified directly.



Highland Happenings

JOY (Just Older Youth) Christmas Party

The annual JOY (Just Older Youth) Christmas Caroling and Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 4, and brought together 90 HPC members for a time of music, fun, and fellowship. Bill Rhoads led the group in song, Pastor Allison read a Christmas story written by the late Rev. Ross McClintock, and Linda Brackbill and her volunteers served a delicious lunch. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all who shared their time and talents. Merry Christmas!



Worship



This Week's Scripture

Luke 1:46-55
"The Voices of Advent:
The Voice of Mary"
Rev. Matt Drumheller

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

December 28
Carol Sing

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 21

11:15 AM Family Christmas Movie: *The Nativity Story*

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 PM Family Christmas Pageant
8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

Thursday, January 8

7:00 PM Ladies Night Out at Harvest

Wednesday, January 21

12:00 PM Working Adult Lunch — Zig's Bakery & Cafe
6:00 PM Men's Trivia Night at Stoner Grille

Worship Times

Ignite Worship | 9:30 AM
Traditional Worship | 10:00 AM

Program Staff

Senior Pastor — Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Pastor for Congregational Care — Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne
Associate Pastor for Missions & Discipleship — Rev. Matt Drumheller
Parish Associate — Rev. Dr. Bob Burns
Parish Associate — Rev. Ken Osborne
Music Director — Dr. Paul Thorlakson
Ignite Worship Leader — Dr. Jeffrey Martin
IT/Media Coordinator & Organist — Jonathan Lefever
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries — Sarah Hostetter



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Friday
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Contact Information

717-569-2651
www.HighlandPC.org
500 East Roseville Road
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601

For staff contact information, visit our website at www.highlandpc.org and go to **About Us > Staff**, or ask the reception desk for a copy of our Staff & Committee Contacts brochure.

*Highland: A Place to be
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Year to Date Finances

As of November 30, 2025
Expenses exceed revenues by \$90,000

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$1,098,000	\$1,334,000	- \$236,000
Expenses	\$1,188,000	\$1,311,000	- \$123,000