



The Highland Heartbeat

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

Volume 126 ~ Issue 45

August 25, 2024

Highland Presbyterian Church, 500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

www.highlandpc.org

Back to School Blessing

It is always good to welcome God into our midst, and especially as we embark on the journey of a new school year. May God's abundant presence illuminate the path of our students and teachers! We invite you to share this blessing, beautifully penned by Evelyn Lisi, with the students and educators in your life as a source of encouragement and inspiration for the year ahead.

"God of the summertime and school time, we make space to welcome you in this transition – all that we have experienced and all that we have loved now becomes a recent memory that will coat our hearts with calm and comfort in these coming days of a new school year.

May we surrender our anxious cares to You, God – about who our teachers and students will be and whether or not they will like us and we will like them; about whom we might sit with at lunch; whether or not we can get up on the “right” side of the bed and be on time for the school bell. We surrender to You, God, our trust that you will walk down the halls alongside us; You will be outside on the playground keeping us company, in the cafeteria when the smells and the sounds are just too much, and cheering us on be it lightning math facts, physical education pacer tests, or the PSSAs themselves. Give us the Words, the Grace, the Patience, the Courage, the Deep Breaths of your Holy Spirit to guide us to walk in Your compassionate name and in Your love no matter what.

Lastly, dear Lord, each day, may we try to love like you do and may we remember to reach for and take your hand in the quiet and in the chaos. Above all, this year, oh God, may we know how loved we are through Jesus—may we know that even when we feel invisible or wish to be invisible, You, God, see us and meet us wherever we are. You know, God, that sometimes we are sitting in class wishing for the summer days behind us and dreading the school assignments before us.

Bless these students, teachers, and educators (consider praying for those you know by name). You know each of us, God, and may we trust in You that together we've got this. For in You, our Gracious and Heavenly Creator, we are seen, known, and loved—now and always. Amen." - Evelyn Lisi



WORSHIP SERVICE/PREACHING CALENDAR

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15
SERMON:

PREACHING SCHEDULE

September 1 ~ Pastor Matt	September 8 ~ Pastor Allison
September 15 ~ Pastor Allison	September 22 ~ Pastor Allison
September 29 ~ Pastor Allison	October 6 ~ Pastor Allison
October 13 ~ Pastor Allison	October 20 ~ Sarah Hostetter
October 27 ~ Pastor Matt Drumheller	November 3 ~ Pastor Ann



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 Judy Eyster
Family of Donald Pentz
Family of Gene Hannum

In Prayer

Owen Blevins
(brother-in-law of Jen Winter)
Robert Coup
Pete Faber
Linda Guimond
Lois Hagedorn
Luther Heiser
Deb Herr & Family
Marge Herrmann
The Hostetter (Diane Mitchell) Family
Gretchen Laubach
Family of Jim Loose
Joyce McClintock

Bill & Marge Mann
Martha Matt
Shirley Offermann
Charles O'Neill
Dorie Steinman
John Wolfe
Our Nation

PASTOR ON CALL

Rev. Ken Osborne

August 26 ~ September 1



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

Sermon Series ~ September 8- September 29 Through many months of prayer, congregational conversations, and discernment, we have completed the strategic plan that will guide Highland for the next 3-5 years. We heard common themes about what has kept you at Highland and we also heard common dreams too. Much of those dreams revolve around Highland being a spiritual home where we can deepen our individual and collective faith as we walk together on the path to being *seen, known, and loved*. This sermon series will dive into the strategic plan and reflect on



how we are being called to participate in God's mission in the world. Our vision centers around being "seen, known, and loved," so we will look at some of Jesus' most famous encounters where he shows us very clearly how to live out that vision. We will start the series with a sermon on "The Road to Emmaus." After that, we will consider Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well and Nicodemus. We'll also reflect on one of Jesus' most famous parables, "The Good Samaritan." I can't wait to unveil our strategic plan through these wonderful stories. My hope is that they will inspire us to live into this plan and all the wonderful God-sized dreams we have for Highland.

See you in worship! *In Christ, Pastor Allison*

Passing the Offering Plates Many of you have spoken about your desire to resume passing the offering plates each Sunday during worship. A number of you have signed up to help support our regular ushering crew in making this possible. Thank you! **Beginning on Rally Sunday, September 8**, we will begin passing the offering plates each Sunday at the 10 am worship service. We believe this will enhance our worship experience and grow our resources to further the mission and ministry at Highland. If you have questions, or wish to help with this effort, speak with Leigh Shuman, Chair of Worship and Music at the church.

Highland's Ministers' to Visit Members and Guests living in Retirement Communities The Pastors plan to be at various retirement communities to visit and fellowship with Highland's members who reside at that particular location for a time of fellowship and connection. They look forward to seeing long-time Highland members who no longer drive, new members who have joined in the past six months, and former members who have recently returned to Lancaster, as well as all who worship each week in Highland's Sanctuary. Mark your calendars to plan to meet with them according to the anticipated schedule. Next scheduled visit is **Thursday, September 19 from 2-3:30 pm** at the Manor Campus of Willow Valley (North). Plans are to visit Willow Valley Lakes Campus (South) on October. Residents will receive a postcard invitation early in the month of the ministers' visits to advise them of where the gathering will be held.

New Members Class – Are you considering membership at Highland Presbyterian Church? Attend our next new members class on either Wednesday evening, **September 18, from 6:30-8pm.** or **Saturday morning, September 21 from 8:30-10 am.** Child care will be provided. New members then will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday morning, September 29. Mark your calendar to save these dates. In the meantime, please become actively involved in our church life. To register, contact Larry and Anita Ewing or call the church office 717-569-2651.

Ignite an extended time of praise and music ~ will resume on **Sunday, September 8th. from 9:30-9:50 am** in Fellowship Hall.



Committee Spotlight

Highland Christmas Giving Tree Committee – Each year for the past 42 years the Highland congregation has donated Christmas gifts to those community members who are less fortunate. The names of the children and other individuals are requested from local service agencies along with specific gift requests. Tags are made for each gift and hung on Christmas trees which are placed in the Narthex between the last weekend in October and Thanksgiving weekend. All gifts are requested to be brought to the church on or by In Gathering Sunday. Last year over 500 gifts were purchased and delivered to 15 local social service agencies. The committee chairs are Barb Denlinger and John Herr.

MISSION & OUTREACH CORNER

In partnership with Church World Services, the Highland Resettlement Initiative has recruited a support team for Sahar's family. They are raising money to bring Sahar's family to safety. You have been encouraged to contribute to the public fundraiser to support the resettlement of Sahar's family. This week, The Session of Highland Presbyterian Church approved an official Highland fundraiser to further support this effort. There are so many desperately tragic situations around the world about which we fear we can do nothing. But this is an opportunity to respond to Christ's call to care for our neighbors and to make a tangible difference in the lives of Sahar and her family. Please consider contributing to this fundraiser. Any donations can be made to Highland Presbyterian Church with a note for the "HARI Initiative". Thank you for your support!

Rally Day ~ Sunday, September 8th Rally Day is a day to come together and celebrate the beginning of a new



program year. No doubt our year will be filled with wonderful opportunities for fellowship, study, and worship. But everyone knows it takes a village! We need all hands-on deck to ensure we have a great program year so there will be volunteer sign ups in the narthex. Like last year, we will challenge everyone to make sure they are signed up for at least one volunteer opportunity, whether that is making dinner for the youth group, serving communion, or helping at funeral receptions. For worship on the 8th, Pastor Allison will begin a sermon series on the strategic plan, which will be rolled out during the month of September. The Corsair Blue Jazz Orchestra will join us for the 10th year! They will play both in worship and in fellowship hall following the service. Lunch will be served. (Please sign

up in the Narthex if you are planning to eat lunch so we know how many to prepare for!). There will also be face painting for the kids and an open gym for the youth to play some games. So come out on the 8th to celebrate what God is doing and about to do at Highland Presbyterian church this year.

Matthew 25 Book Discussion on Sept. 29th- Highland's Matthew 25 group invites you to join us in reading the book *Brown Faces, White Spaces* by Latasha Morrison. "The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Be the Bridge* calls people of faith to be a part of lasting change and help heal the racial disparity in our country—together. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the problem, unsure how we can make a difference. Yet God calls the church to stand firmly committed to racial reconciliation—and for each one of us to make choices that lead to healing. This honest, hope-filled book shows us how we can reform historically white spaces and create systems that work for the good of all." A book discussion will be held on **September 29 in the Upper Room at 11:15**. Contact Pastor Matt if you want to attend by Zoom. Hope you can join us!

Kids Sunday School - Leaders Wanted We're excited about a new curriculum for Children's Sunday School that will help us learn more about Jesus through art, science, videos, games, and other workshops. Be a part of these meaningful moments of learning, loving, and growing by helping out as a leader with our babies & toddlers, PreK through 1st graders, or 2nd - 4th graders. Pick up an availability form in the Narthex to sign-up ASAP and before Tuesday, 9/3. Contact Jennifer Weitzel, jenniferweitzel@highlandpc.org, with any questions. Thanks!

Senior Fellowship Breakfast – Join us **Thursday, September 5** at Oregon Dairy starting at **9 am** for a time of sharing and caring while we eat! We meet in a small room off the main dining area set aside for us. Breakfast is pay for what you order and comes with a free donut and glass of milk. Get to know your fellow mature HPC members better. Bring stories to tell and concerns to share. Please contact the church office with any questions.



The Earth Care Committee is inviting you to join in a walk around the Highland property this Fall with the company that helped us create our Green Master Plan! This will include professional explanations about the needs and impacts of the many projects approved in this environmental revitalization project.



While the date is not yet fixed, we intend to host this tour on a Sunday afternoon after worship. There will be a sign-up on Rally Day!