Highlands ARP Church

FAITH,

June & July 2020 Volume XVI, Issue VI



### Invite family HOPE&LOVE and friends to Worship Online With Us

www.highlandsarp.org

### June & July Issue

Due to the limited number of activities during the summer, we have decided to combine the June & July newsletters into one issue. Please note that Sunday Worship will continue online (see the Letter from the Session on page 4). Additionally, the Daily Digital Prayer meetings and online Bible Study on Thursday evenings will also carry on.

Be sure to find the information for this summer's Online VBS and Youth Fellowship. Help is still appreciated for Soup Nites, as the need has increased, especially during this current situation.



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#### **Special Points of Interest**

- June 2nd Senior Meal Deliveries
- June 4th Adult Bible Study
- June 7th Puppet Show
- June 8th Soup Nite
- June 9th Senior Meal Deliveries
- June 11th Adult Bible Study
- June 14th Tentative Session Mtg
- June 15th 19th Online VBS
- June 16th Senior Meal Deliveries
- June 17th Zoom Youth Fellowship
- June 18th Adult Bible Study
- June 21st Father's Day
- June 22nd Soup Nite
- June 23rd Senior Meal Deliveries
- June 25th Adult Bible Study
- June 30th Senior Meal Deliveries
- July 2nd Adult Bible Study
- July 4th Independence Day
- June 5th Puppet Show
- July 7th Blood Drive
- July 7th Senior Meal Deliveries
- July 7th 9th Youth Digital Lesson
- July 9th Adult Bible Study
- July 13th Soup Night
- July 14th Senior Meal Deliveries
- July 15th Zoom Youth Fellowship
- July 16th Adult Bible Study
- July 21st Senior Meal Deliveries
- July 23rd Adult Bible Study
- July 27th Soup Night
- July 28th Senior Meal DeliveriesJuly 30th Adult Bible Study

#### From the Paston

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

(James 1:12 NIV)

Most people I know don't like to face times of difficulties. In fact, if you are anything like me you would most likely do anything and everything you can to avoid the hard times of life. I know I don't like to even contemplate the idea of suffering, whether it comes through areas of health, finances, persecution, or any other aspect of trouble, let alone have to endure it. That's certainly true of our current situation and I'm hopeful this will end soon.

However, did you notice that the Apostle James tells us that we receive a blessing from God when we face trials and persevere through them? Now, I will have to admit that I certainly like the blessing of God on my life and I hope that each of you do as well. No one can bless us as our Lord can bless us. Our God is a God who delights in blessing His people. So it seems to me that if we want to experience the fullness of God's blessings, then perhaps we need to rethink our position of facing the trials that come in life.

Now, don't think I have suddenly developed a martyrdom complex, as if I'm trying to get all of us to start looking for ways we can make our lives more difficult just so we can experience more of God's blessings. I'm not advocating that at all. However, I have found times in my life when I have refrained from ministry and service simply because of the difficulty I might face or the inconvenience I may have to endure.

Perhaps you've experienced that as well. You know, those times when God presents us with an opportunity to minister to someone, but we'll have to change our schedule or miss out on something important to us. God may present us with a situation to be of service to someone, but that might mean we will have to go without or sacrifice a little and the pain that results is just too much to bear. There might even be an opportunity to share the gospel with a friend or relative and we refrain because of the ridicule that may result or the fear of not being able to adequately explain the good news of salvation in Jesus.

Then there are the other types of suffering that come with little or no explanation like we're experiencing now. Our health might begin to fail. We might lose a job or a promotion. A friend or a loved one is suddenly taken from us and we turn our anger and bitterness toward God, and we begin to doubt His love, mercy, and grace. There are many who face such times and they turn completely away, failing the test of their faith in Jesus. I'll be the first to say that I can't explain why these things happen to us and we probably won't know until we reach our home in our Father's house. However, I believe what James says when he tells us that we are blessed when we persevere, that is, when we keep our faith and trust in the Lord our God.

We have a God who does love us. His love is forever displayed and proven to us through the cross of our Lord Jesus. How could we ever doubt so great a love as God Himself coming to earth in human form so He could redeem and rescue the likes of us? You see, it's when we keep our focus on Jesus, remembering His sacrifice for us, that I believe we'll more easily persevere through the difficulties of life. We'll be more willing to go without, to sacrifice, in order to minister and serve those who need our help. We'll be able to share the gospel with those who have not heard. We'll be able to keep the faith even in those times we face the most difficult of trials that may not make any sense to us. And when we persevere through all the troubles of life, keeping our faith fixed upon Jesus, we'll receive, as James points out, the blessing of the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

Pastat Watk



### Highlands Women's Ministry

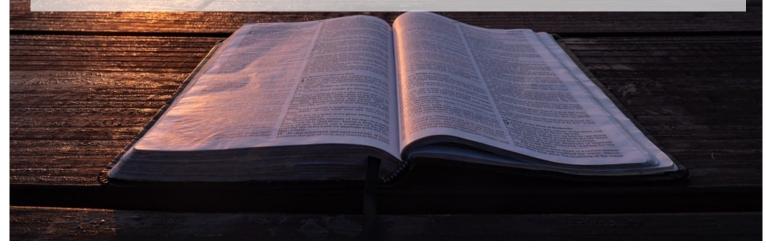
"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged. The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

**Sunshine Meals** – We have had several members who have been in need of meals over the past few weeks. While the Women's Ministry Team is in charge of organizing a meal train for these families, they need help from all shepherding groups. When invited, please consider how you can help.

Once the church reopens, we will be able to plan additional events. Until then, thank you for your patience.

### Adult Bible Study

The Thursday night Bible study will continue meeting through the summer at 7pm. Until the elders feel it is safe, we will continue to study together through Zoom. As we continue through this odd period of time, and see the difficulties of life continue, we will be taking time to study what life will be like when God ends this time of sin and destruction and cleans up the mess we have made of the world. What will life be like in our eternal home – what the Bible calls the New Heaven and New Earth? What will we be doing? Will we know each other? Will we eat and drink? Will there be work? How different will our new perfect bodies be? And many more questions. Hope you can join us. Contact the church office for details on how to get on our Zoom meeting.



#### UPDATE OF HPC REOPENING STATUS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES As of June 1, 2020

Your Session remains sensitive to and empathetic with a possible sense of disorder and probable feelings of isolation this health crisis has generated in all our lives since March of this year. However, good news is on the horizon; as many of you know, the final phase of Georgia's stay-at-home order restrictions are scheduled to expire June 12<sup>th</sup>. So, for many of us, in a couple of weeks we can begin to venture out and visit our neighbors and friends should we choose to do so.

However, the pandemic is NOT over and to reach any sense of normalcy in our daily lives still will require various steps of preparation; more analysis of consistent, reliable data with favorable results from observations over time; and a careful game plan that will ensure our safety and mitigate the potential risk of further exposure of the virus for our entire Congregation.

The Pastors, Session, and Diaconate have had their "ears to the ground" and our voices lifted in prayer for various sources of information regarding an effective and safe HPC reopening process:

- Worship Team has shared recommendations/ suggestions from the Synod for review
- 2. News items from the Governor's Office with specific Georgia statistics at local, county, and state level
- 3. ARP Magazine
- 4. Informal individual discussions
- 5. Other news media relevant items of information

The Session desires to be very deliberate, careful, judicious, and obedient to our Sovereign Lord as we study, plan, and implement the process of when and how HPC resumes worshipping together in person. Many of you are aware of at least one obstacle to overcome – a lack of consistently accurate statistical data (at all levels *including Georgia*) that drives the national and state recovery phases to determine what set of restrictions should be enforced. BEFORE we implement HPC's reopening plan, your Session wants to be very certain via observation over time with hard evidence (based on data) that our state and county have reached a point where we can say with a high degree of confidence: "We can begin to resume community worship keeping our Congregation safe and healthy and mitigating the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19."

Later this month, the Session will begin formal discussions laying the framework and foundation for our resumed inperson Worship and other ministry activities. We are hopeful that the data reporting will get better during June and provide us with a clearer status of where Georgia stands overall in terms of the recovery phases from the pandemic. This in turn will assist our planning efforts regarding any further restrictions that may still be in effect.

At this time, we will continue to worship together in Spirit through our online streaming of worship services. Your elders will continue to monitor requirements for moving forward in this dynamic, ever-changing environment. Should you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the Session or one of the Pastors. Please stay safe and healthy!

**Highlands Session** 



### Highlands Blood Drive Tuesday, July 7th, 3 - 7 p.m.

Our May Blood Drive was successful! While we had all 22 slots filled, several people were unable to attend, yet we made our goal of 15 pints with one extra! It was an interesting time as we all tried to figure out how to stay safe with our social distancing. Jim Whitson even learned how to take everyone's temperature.

Not Heroes wear Capes:

Our next drive is scheduled for July 7 from 3pm – 7pm. New T-shirts will be available for donors so be sure to sign up. The drive is already available for scheduling and we have 4 of the 17 slots filled. Visit <u>www.redcrossblood.org</u>, search for sponsor code "HPC" or zip 30017 and find your place today!

Digital Prayer Meeting Weekdays at 10am

Contact Pastor Chris for details.

## Look for and share a Midweek Message from Pastor Mark

### Highlands MMO & Preschool School's Out for Summer!



Highlands Preschool and MMO had a great month to end the school year! The students had so much fun at ZOOM Circle Time! The students truly enjoyed watching their Online End of Year Program and Graduation Celebration! The students and their parents all wished we had been able to end the school year with a hug!

Highlands is waiting on the Gwinnett County Public School System to determine what the 2020-2021 school year will look like at Highlands! Please be in prayer for

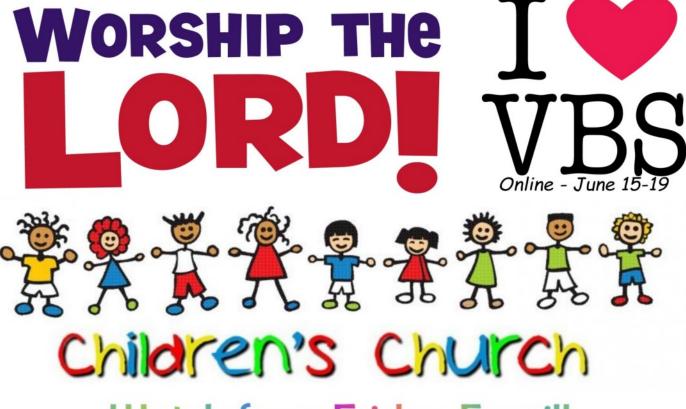


wisdom for those making decisions about school. Thank you for your prayers and support of this program!





## Join us for a Puppet Show June 7 & July 5



Watch for a Friday Email!

# Life is wild, but God is good.

Are you ready to experience a stampede of fun? Then get ready to engage the whole herd with an epic African adventure at Roar VBS! At Roar, we will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers us through this wild life!

- We will sing amazing new songs ...
- And learn awesome Bible verses ...
- Meet Bible Memory buddies ...
- And learn how to Watch for what God is doing all around us!
- Ms. Corie will Bring the Bible to life in Wild Bible Adventures
- We will also discover what life is like for 5 amazing kids from Africa at Kid Vid Cinema

If you register online you will get a daily email that will help you:

- Run wild with suggested high energy activities at Stampede Sports
- Enjoy delicious suggested snacks that reinforce the Bible lesson
- And Ms. Bre will help you energize your creative side with suggested crafts at Imagination Station

### Get ready to let the good times roar! Sign up today for Online VBS! June 15-19 at 10:30 am



### YOUTH GROUP: DIGITAL EDITION Understanding the Bible [Posts will remain up all summer!] Find the lessons online at www.highlandsarp.org/youth

Youth of Highlands,

I want to commend you for finishing school in what has been the strangest and one of the most difficult times I am sure you have faced. I am proud of each of you for your hard work and endurance. I wanted to let you know that I am still praying for you as you now enter summer. I know that this is probably not how you expected your summer to begin, but I know that God will use it for his glory. Many of the things we were looking forward to this summer have been altered or canceled. But keep in mind that God is still good, and he can use this summer for your good and his glory.

I do want to let you know that we will have two zoom meetings throughout the summer so that we can see each other, talk, and hear about how things have been for each of you. We also are planning a mission trip of sorts in which you will be able to participate from home. We will all work together while apart and separate at our homes to glorify God and serve the church. While this pandemic has changed many things, it has not changed the calling we have to love one another well, and we are hoping that the mission trip we are putting together will teach and encourage you how to serve others during this time. I hope each of you will be able to participate in the Zoom meetings and the mission trip from home. I am looking forward to and praying that we will be able to be back together soon.

**Pastor Chris** 



BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE IQRD, THE PEOPLE HE CHOSE FOR HIS INHERITANCE. PSALM 33:12



To all the Mask Warriors **THANK Y♥U SEW MUCH** For all you've done to support area healthcare workers!

Karen Caughman











### Prayer Corner Update

- Temple Elam is home from the VA hospital.
- Rev. Bill Slattery, pastor at Redeemer PCA in SC (Frank and Carole Sexton's pastor) arrived home. Please continue to pray for his continued healing.
- Missionaries with World Witness who are experiencing loneliness due to COVID-19
- Linda Merkler's grandson, Holden, came through his oral surgery well. He was able to have one parent with him until he was out and then one when he woke up.
- Lee Ragas and Mary Bradley Bayne, as they recover from the surgeries they had a week ago.
- Lelia Oates Darby, former member and mother of Amy Darby, passed away on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please be in prayer for that family.
- Sunshine Meals We have had several members who have been in need of meals over the past few weeks. While the Women's Ministry is in charge of organizing a meal train for these families, they need help from all shepherding groups. When invited, please consider how you can help.

### Praise Items

- Jackie Rice's surgery to repair her broken sacrum and pelvis on May 29th went well.
- Avitabile family John Mark's test was negative, thank the Lord! Leah and Daniel are having no ill effects, they feel fine, just had a slight cold. Still in isolation until Saturday to be safe. Alicia and Joseph's wedding was beautiful, even though small and private. The newlyweds are off on their honeymoon and we hope to have a big celebration in the future, Lord willing. Jake and Rosa Avitabile welcomed their 3rd son, Giovani Avitabile, on May 8th at 8:20 a.m. He weighs 8 lbs. 5 oz. and is 20.75" long. Mom and baby are doing well. Proud grandparents are John and Lynn Avitabile. Thank you for your prayers!
- Ricky and Kristy Summers welcomed baby girl, Kayleigh Joyce, May 8th at 10:14

   a.m. She weighs 8 lbs. 4 oz. and is 19.5" long. Everyone is doing well.
   Congratulations to the entire family!

If you have a prayer request for the congregation, please send to: highlandarp@gmail.com

### Highlands Benevolence Fund Policy (Adopted by the Session at their November 2019 meeting)

Galatians 6:10 states "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Highlands' officers used this verse, among others, as the basis for establishing a Benevolence Fund Policy to benefit our church family. They recognized that sometimes the need for charitable assistance seems overwhelming but they also were aware that the Lord says, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The Benevolence Fund Policy is administered by a team of three deacons, one from each class of officers, assisted by one Elder and having oversight from the Diaconate Chairman and the appointed Elder. The team has the responsibility of reviewing applications for assistance and either approving or denying those requests. They are also responsible for encouraging donations from the church membership for the Benevolence Fund (there will be more information concerning this in the near future.)

Requests for assistance may be made by a church member, an immediate family member or regular visitors and the need should be of a critical nature that the requestor is unable to meet on their own. A request may be made of any active officer or one of the church pastors. One of these leaders may assist in the application process

with the intention of turning over the request to a team member. It is the intention of the officers that these gifts be a one-time gift, but it is also recognized that unusual circumstances do occur. Confidentiality and promptness in handling these requests are encouraged.

Gifts to the Benevolence Fund are given freely and unconditionally, without regard to a specific need and over and above the tithe. Gifts from the Benevolence Fund are considered a gift from the Highlands church family and should not be construed as a loan.

This is an overall summary of the Benevolence Fund Policy. The entire document may be read online in the Members section of the website. Applications may be downloaded from the website and are also available in the

church office. Questions may be directed to one of the Benevolence Fund Team members – Deacons Justin Jacques, Phillip Wallace, or Fru Chifen or Elder Lee Hunt.



### **GIVING TITHELY - ONLINE GIVING**

Effective July 1, Highlands ARP is changing our online giving platform to **<u>tithe.ly</u>**. The format is similar to ones that we have been using in that donations by credit card or debit card (fees are 2.9% +\$.30/transactions) and bank transfers (1% fee) are both an option. There will be an option for you to cover the credit card fee as well.

The website is easy to understand -

- 1. You have the option of donating to predetermined funds (General Fund, Benevolence Fund, Soup Nite Ministry, Missions, etc.)
- 2. You may set up the frequency of regular gifts (weekly, bi-weekly, semi-monthly or monthly)
- 3. You may elect to cover the credit card processing fees
- 4. You may select a bank draft or a credit/debit card payment

In about 2 weeks, you will receive an email that details the specifics of the platform, but it is very similar to other online giving sites.

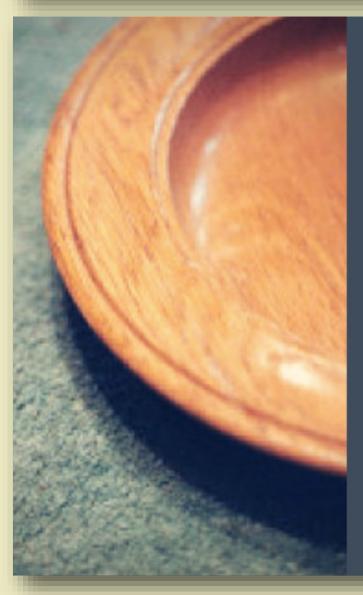
If you have any questions about this platform, don't hesitate to contact me or Lee Hunt.

Betsy Whitson <u>bjwhitson@bellsouth.net</u> c-404-790-8936 Lee Hunt <u>hunt1@bellsouth.net</u> c-(678) 580-8410

### Highlands 2019 Operating Budget Update

April Gifts & Offerings April Expenses \$19,119.19 \$15,855.54

YTD Gifts & Offerings YTD Expenses \$67,235.98 \$68,653.21



## ONLINE GIVING IS GETTING A NEW LOOK

3

BUDGET

Highlands online giving will be powered by Tithe.ly beginning July 1.

**Highlands Highlights** 

# JUNE 2020

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Happy Birthday Yeluma Tata 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting	2 Happy Birthday Nyla Nkefor Anna Wimer 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	<b>3</b> Happy Birthday Caralee Whittle Robert Whittle 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting	<b>4</b> Happy Birthday Erin Mueller Marian Wingfield 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting 7pm Adult Bible Study	5 Happy Birthday Ron Wimer 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting	<b>6</b> Happy Birthday Lea Whittle
<b>7</b> Happy Birthday Ricky Summers 10am Worship 11am Puppet Show	8 Happy Birthday Elisabeth Badio 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting Soup Night	9 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	10 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting	<b>11</b> Happy Birthday Matt Hunt 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting 7pm Adult Bible Study	12 10am Daily Digital Prayer Meeting	13 Happy Birthday Trent Smith
14 10am Worship 11am Tentative Session Meeting	15 Happy Birthday Omekah Edmondson 10am Daily Digital Prayer 10:30am VBS Online	<ul> <li>16</li> <li>10am Daily Digital Prayer</li> <li>10:30am VBS Online Senior Meal Deliveries</li> </ul>	17 Happy Birthday Taylor Jacques 10am Daily Digital Prayer 10:30am VBS Online Youth Zoom Fellowship	18 10am Daily Digital Prayer 10:30am VBS Online 7pm Adult Bible Study	19 10am Daily Digital Prayer 10:30am VBS Online	20
<b>21</b> Happy Birthday Pascale Tata 10am Worship Father's Day	22 10am Daily Digital Prayer Soup Night	23 10am Daily Digital Prayer Senior Meal Deliveries	<b>24</b> Happy Birthday Lynn Avitabile 10am Daily Digital Prayer	25 10am Daily Digital Prayer 7pm Adult Bible Study	<b>26</b> 10am Daily Digital Prayer	27
28 10am Worship	<b>29</b> 10am Daily Digital Prayer	30 Happy Birthday Rob Kuykendall 10am Daily Digital Prayer Senior Meal Deliveries				

# JULY 2020

			14			
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Change to new online giving tithe.ly	2 Happy Birthday Edward Spiller 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg 7pm Adult Bible Study	3 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	
5 10am Worship 11am Puppet Show	6 Happy Birthday Carolyn Crook 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	7 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Youth Digital Mtg <b>3-7pm</b> Blood Drive Senior Meal Deliveries	8 Happy Birthday Lynsey Edmondson 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Youth Digital Mtg	9 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Youth Digital Mtg 7pm Adult Bible Study	10 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	11
12 Happy Birthday Phillip Wallace 10am Worship	13 Happy Birthday Nathaniel Edmondson 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Soup Night	14 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Senior Meal Deliveries	15 Happy Birthday Marissa Spiller 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Zoom Youth Fellowship	16 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg 7pm Adult Bible Study	17 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	18 Happy Birthday Alicia Avitabile Barak Badio Benji Badio
<b>19</b> Happy Birthday Bob Statham 10am Worship	20 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	21 Happy Birthday Liezl Spiller 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Senior Meal Deliveries	22 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	23 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg 7pm Adult Bible Study	24 Happy Birthday Francina Akins Sal Macaluso 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	25
26 10am Worship	27 Happy Birthday Kaity Wright 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Soup Night	28 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg Senior Meal Deliveries	29 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	30 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg 7pm Adult Bible Study	31 Happy Birthday Joe Bath 10am Daily Digital Prayer Mtg	

#### Email: highlandarp@gmail.com

770.978.3001 — Phone

770.972.3008 - Fax

Pastor:		Mark Hornby	
Associate Past	Chris McCoy		
Music Director	Bonnie Hornby		
Secretary:		Betsy Whitson	
Elders:	2020	George O'Farrel	

#### 2021 Lee Hunt 2021 Don Reinhardt 2022 **Charles Roberts** 2022 Jim Whitson

rge O'Farrell

**Highlands ARP Church** 

Class of 2020 Deacons: **Justin Jacques** Jon Jones Earl Thomas

> Class of 2021 Omar Edmondson **Phillip Wallace Betsy Whitson**

Class of 2022 John Avitabile Fru Chifen **Deron Smith** 

#### **Worship Times and Activities**

Sunday:		am Worship
	11:00	Meeting - 2nd Sunday of the month
		Weekly activities resume in Sept. (tentatively)
Wednesday:	6:00	pm Choir Practice
	6:30	pm Youth & Children Fun & Games
	7:00	pm Dinner
	7:30	pm Bible Study
Thursday:	8:30	am Men's Prayer Breakfast
	7:30	pm Session Meeting- 3rd Thurs. of the month
Saturday:	9:00	am Fellowship Breakfast (periodically)

### HEN ACTIVITIES RESUME

#### **Candle Lighters:**

June 7	Jacob Blandshaw	July 5	Sama Chifen
June 14	Nate Edmondson	July 12	Jacob Blandshaw
June 21	Thomas Kuykendall	July 19	Nate Edmondson
June 28	Ethan Spiller	July 26	Thomas Kuykendall

#### Warmly Welcoming our Members & Visitors each week

June 7	Jim Whitson, Stan Whitaker, Sal Macaluso, Jon Jones	July 5
June 14	Phillip Wallace, John Avitabile, Earl Thomas, Rob Kuykendall	July 12
June 21	Robert Whittle, Edward Spiller, George O'Farrell, Justin Jacques	July 19
June 28	Paul McInnish, Glenn Martin, Charles Roberts, John West	July 26

**Highlands ARP Church** June & July 2020 Newsletter 830 Grayson Parkway Grayson, GA 30017



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED