

Highlands Highlights

HPC REOPENING STATUS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES

As of August 1, 2020

Since the last HPC Newsletter was published, the HPC Pastors and Session conducted meetings on June 14th and July 26th to discuss further plans to reopen HPC for in-person worship and activities.

A key action item from our June 14th meeting was to formulate and implement an outline/plan to conduct an abbreviated worship service to observe the Lord's Supper (Communion) with limited in person attendance while following appropriate safety and distancing guidelines. We conducted the Communion Worship Services on July 12th using three sessions held in the Fellowship Hall. We had reasonably good participation and received such positive feedback that we plan to conduct these Communion services monthly beginning Sunday, August 9, 2020. Please reserve your family's desired session and time using the HPC website or by calling the Church Office.

Many of the Corona Virus metrics for Gwinnett County are not what we hoped they would be by the end of July. For example, the sheer number of Gwinnett cases between June 21 (6,000+) and July 26 (15,000+) more than doubled – which is

not an encouraging sign of a steady reduction in Covid-19 incidences. However, on a more positive note at the state level as of July 29th, another metric that factors in case volume, testing volume, and number of positive case results reached a numeric value of less than one – an indication that Georgia as a whole has reached a significant point where the Covid-19 spread rate is declining.

For now, HPC will continue to worship together in Spirit blessed by our online streaming of Sunday worship services. In the meantime, the Pastors and Session will continue to monitor requirements and feasibility for moving forward safely in this dynamic environment. We would ask the following of the Congregation: 1) Please continue to pray; 2) If comfortable, consider attending in-person Communion Services; and 3) Stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for your patience; and should you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the Session or one of the Pastors.

HPC Pastors and Session



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Special Points of Interest

- Aug 2 - Worship Service
- Aug 2 - Puppet Show
- Aug 3 - 7 - Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS
- Aug 4 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Aug 4 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Aug 6 - Adult Bible Study
- Aug 9 - Worship Service
- Aug 9 - Small Group Communion Svc
- Aug 10 - Soup Nite
- Aug 11 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Aug 11 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Aug 13 - MMO Virtual Open House
- Aug 13 - Adult Bible Study
- Aug 16 - Worship Service
- Aug 17 - MMO First Day of Digital School
- Aug 18 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Aug 18 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Aug 18 - 20 - ARP General Synod
- Aug 20 - Adult Bible Study
- Aug 23 - Worship Service
- Aug 24 - Soup Nite
- Aug 25 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Aug 25 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Aug 27 - Adult Bible Study
- Aug 30 - Worship Service



From the Pastor

“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 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.

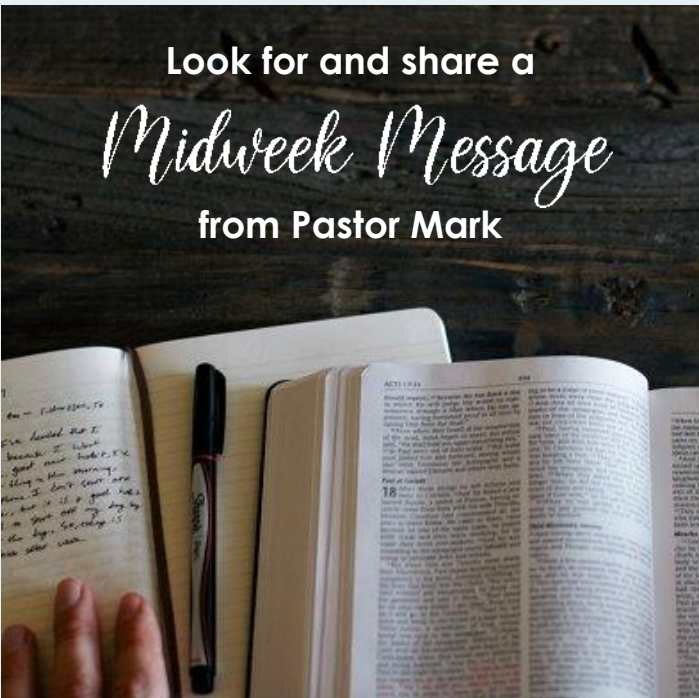
We have a God who does love us. His love is forever displayed and proven to us through the cross of our Lord Jesus. How could we ever doubt so great a love as God Himself coming to earth in human form so He could redeem and rescue the likes of us? You see, it's when we keep our focus on Jesus, remembering 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.

Pastor Mark



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. Hope you can join us. Contact the church office for details on how to get on our Zoom meeting.



You are encouraged to invite your family and friends to Worship Online with us. Simply click on www.highlandsarp.org and navigate to the "Worship" button at the top of the home screen. Remember that previous services are also available online at <https://livestream.com/accounts/3434908> People may be more open to the gospel during this unsettling time in our world.



The LORD is my rock,
my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock,
in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn
of my salvation,
my stronghold.

Psalms 18:2



Highlands Blood Drive

Tuesday, Sept 1st, 3 - 7 p.m.

Our July Blood Drive was successful! We had all 18 slots filled, including 4 first time donors. We made our goal of 15 pints with two extra! All donors received a Wonder Woman T-shirt.

Our next drive is scheduled for September 1 from 3pm – 7pm. The drive is already available for scheduling and we have 2 of the 16 slots filled. Visit www.redcrossblood.org, search for sponsor code "HPC" or zip 30017 and find your place today!



Highlands MMO & Preschool

August

Theme: Back to School Fun



Register Online

Free play-doh mat set with
each paid registration!

It's time for preschool to start! We will follow Gwinnett County, and begin with Digital Learning. Virtual Open House will be held on August 13th at 11:00 am. Register online now to hold your spot in the program for when we go to in person classes.



First day of Digital Learning will be August 17th!



Theme for the Month: This month we will be focusing on "Back to School Fun" and learning the rules that will help the students thrive and flourish at school! They will learn about using an inside voice, and walking feet! They will learn the

importance of being kind and following the instructions. We look forward to a wonderful month and year! Thank you for sharing your children with us. If you know of someone who might be interested in preschool, please let them know about Highlands Preschool.

DIGITAL OPEN HOUSE

JOIN US ON ZOOM AUGUST 13 AT 11AM.
EMAIL HIGHLANDSMMO@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO.



YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

Pisgah ARP Church invites us
to join them for VBS!

CLIMB ABOARD WITH US FOR

PISGAH VIRTUAL VBS 2020



Premieres LIVE August 3-7 at 10AM

Pre-Register by **MONDAY, JULY 20** to receive a VBS Package for your children

PISGAHARPCHURCH.ORG/VBS2020



Children's Church

Watch for a Friday Email!

highlandsarp.org

Highlands Presbyterian Church
Caring hearts united in Christ

We invite you to worship online with us this
Sunday at our 10am online worship service!

Worship - July 26

Bulletin - July 26

Join us for online worship!

Join us for a digital
Puppet Show
August 2

following our online Worship service

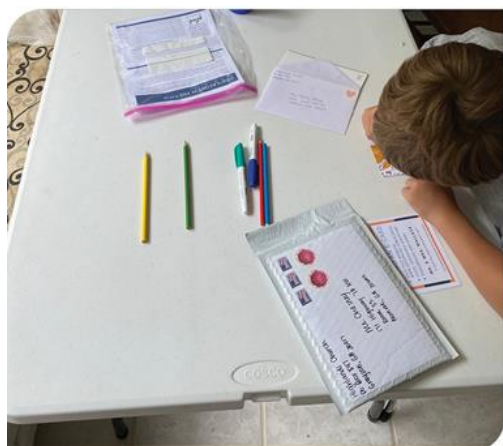
Life is wild, but God is good.

Highlands was able to offer a Virtual Vacation Bible School that launched in June. It has stayed on the website over the summer and has been enjoyed by many. It was a huge team effort! Many thanks to Michelle for registration, advertising, and social media posts. Corie did an awesome job recording and sharing God's Word with the children, and helping them learn incredible Bible verses that will stay with them their entire life. Bre shared fabulous crafts with pictures and step by step instructions with a little help from her adorable model Keegan. Pastor Mark was the technical genius that was able to splice together hundreds of video segments into amazing daily VBS videos for the children. Through the providence of our sovereign God we chose this VBS material in January, and it was so very appropriate during this pandemic for our children (and even the moms and dads) to learn that God is Good even when life is unfair, scary, sad, good, and when life changes. Thank you for your prayers for our children during these strange times! - Bonnie





This month, the youth and young families participated in our Digital Mission Trip – Mission Possible. We had 18 families participate and were able to encourage members of the church as well as missionaries and pastors in our denomination. Each day the students had 3 families to encourage by sending an email, card, or package. In the afternoons we had a zoom meeting to discuss what the students learned about encouraging and caring for others. Through the trip the Youth and Young Families encouraged 162 families! I am so proud of how the youth served. Thank you for your prayers and support! Please be in prayer for the youth as they go back to school this month. Some students will be participating digitally and others in-person. Pray that the students are able to learn and glorify God however they attend school this year.



BONCLARKEN MUSIC CONFERENCE

A Fruitful Life: Fruit of the Spirit



Adult Clinician
Dr. Shannon Jeffreys

Middle School Clinician
Victor C. Johnson

Primary/Cherub Clinician
Susan Eernise

Minister/Nibble Nook
Rev. Clint Davis



Youth Clinician
Dr. Todd Arant

Junior Clinician
Liz Shepley

Voice Class
Kristen Wunderlich

Children's Church Leader
Sarah Dagenhart

Psalm 1:3

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Online, 2020 | Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC
PLANNED AND SPONSORED BY THE SYNOD COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP**

Online! Contact Bonnie for more info.

Hi All,

What a hot month! But it always is, isn't it? The Soup Nite team did mighty things despite the heat. Not only did we make two meals every week for the senior program, we sometimes made three. One of our senior families is moving to Ohio to be with their daughter. This is the Miller family and they have been with us the longest. They used to eat meals when we served them over at the trailers at the Food CoOp on Hwy. 78! They came to our first Soup Nite at Highlands, but then, they couldn't make it out any longer and we have been bringing them meals since 2014! I'm very glad that they will be taken care of in Ohio, but they will be missed.

A side note... deer got into the garden a couple weeks ago. Yes, horrible. Jane said that she was almost finished harvesting for summer. She will now get ready for Fall. It's been too hot to even water, so it's all good.

Our first Soup Nite was on the 13th and we used some of the chicken thighs we ordered from the Food Bank to make meals for our regular guests who come to pick up meals on Soup Nite Mondays. This has been a constant eight families, adding up to 42 meals. Jane is working on a recipe for our first August meal using the chicken thighs, as we have a lot left from our Food Bank order. So stayed tuned.

On our second Soup Nite on the 27th, we distributed a good portion of the 1500 lb. order from the June Food Bank pick up order. It was advertised on the Food CoOp's Facebook page and Highland's Facebook page. We also passed out flyers at the CoOp last week to tell clients about it. Food items were bagged up and then put on a table under the church awning for grab and go. Signs were put up around the parking lot for which way to go in and out. Food was given away to 17 families - totaling 97 people. Not bad for a first attempt. All the leftover items will be donated to the Food CoOp. YAY!!! A huge shout out to Chris McCoy, Bonnie Hornby and Bob and Jane Statham for taking this project by the horns and getting it done. We even made it to the new Digital Sign out front of the church. See the attached photo!

Again, thank you to all who continue to help us serve, and also to those who pray for this ministry. We hope to make a large meal on the second Monday in August to pass out at the CoOp, and on the fourth Monday do another distribution of Food items. We will see how it goes. With the virus, every day it brings changes. I will keep you posted. Stay safe and reach out anytime. Jane and I miss you all terribly.

In Christ,

Carrie



Highlands Presbyterian



Prayer Corner Update

- Ken Fordham is tolerating the cancer pill fairly well, sometimes experiencing a little nausea. He had a good report from the eye surgeon yesterday. Pressures are way down from last visit – 21 & 23 last time and 12 & 15 yesterday.
- Kristy Summers' mother who fell and broke her leg and is in the hospital.
- Lynn Avitabile asks for prayer for her cousin, Jill Mack, who has recently been diagnosed with ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. She is 59 years old.
- Pastor Chris's mother's friend, Lunette, is still being treated for COVID-19 in the ICU at Athens Regional Medical Center but is off the ventilator and eating on her own. Her husband, Richard, has been released from the hospital.
- Sal and Carrie Macaluso's friends, Cheryl and Bob Zack, are going thru a rough time. Bob has a rare lymphoma and he has gone through 2 rounds of chemo to no avail. His team of doctors are sending him to Tampa (in the mist of COVID-19) to receive a type of clinical trial, T-cell therapy. He has left for a week then comes home to Athens. He will wait a short time and then go back again for 3 weeks, at which time Cheryl will go with him. She needs to keep working but won't be able during this time. Money is an issue for them. Cheryl is a Christian, however, we are praying Bob will become convicted of his sin and trust God in the days ahead.
- Lee Rages' friend, Dottie, who lives in Missouri, has 6 family members in Louisiana who all have COVID-19. Dottie's sister came home from the hospital for 2 days and had to go back and Dottie's brother is still in the hospital. Please pray for this family who have been hit so hard.
- Mary Ashe as she awaits the results of her second MRI for a cyst on her spine.
- Traveling mercies for Emma Caughman as she leaves on Aug. 3rd for Ireland to attend a study program in Dublin. Praises for this wonderful opportunity.
- Elliott Bayne had a skin cancer removed from the top of his head. Praise that no more cancer was found.
- Bill Wright is recovering well from his cataract surgery. Bill and Kaity have a friend, Jen Parker, who has been diagnosed with COVID19. Jen is in a very high-risk category. Please pray for him and the staff in charge of his care.
- Family and friends who are affected by COVID-19.
- Frontline and essential workers, providing care and needed services during the pandemic.
- Soup Nite Ministry as they think outside the box to determine the best way to feed families amidst the coronavirus environment.

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



Dear FBC Friends and Family,

While it has been a deep disappointment to cancel Family Bible Conference, we are delighted to announce that we will have the sessions from our two main speakers and many of our seminars available for you online! Dr. Mark Ross and Dr. Jonny Gibson are in the home stretch of getting their talks recorded and sent in to us. Once they are, we will be posting them on the FBC website for anyone and everyone to consume with joy and delight!

In addition, many of the speakers we had planned to teach seminars will also be able to record their presentations so you can benefit from their hard work and insight. As these recordings are received we will post them online, so be sure to check in as you are able. Once the two main speakers' sessions are available, we will send another email announcement letting you know.

As we continue in the strangeness and difficulty of this season, I leave you with this thought from the theme verse of Family Bible Conference 2020:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13, ESV)

Have you seen this working out in your life in the past few months? Do people recognize that you have been with Jesus? One of the questions that I have asked myself is, "Has my reflection of Christ become clearer in this season or has it dimmed?" My prayer for you and for me is that even though we won't be gathering at Bonclarken, we would be united to Jesus in such a way that those around us are astonished at how common men and women can so clearly reflect the Savior.

Serving alongside you,

Andrew Di Iulio

GIVING TITHELY - ONLINE GIVING

Effective July 1, Highlands ARP is changing our online giving platform to tithe.ly. 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
bjwhitson@bellsouth.net
c-404-790-8936

Lee Hunt
hunt1@bellsouth.net
c-(678) 580-8410

A top-down photograph of a wooden surface. On the left is a white ceramic cup filled with dark coffee. To its right is a spiral-bound notebook with a white cover and lined pages. The word "BUDGET" is written in large, bold, black letters at the top of the notebook. Below it, the numbers "1.", "2.", and "3." are visible. A wooden pencil lies horizontally to the right of the notebook. The background is a dark, textured wood.

Highlands 2019 Operating Budget Update

YTD Gifts & Offerings	\$105,542.85
YTD Expenses	\$102,538.55

The June YTD Summary is posted on the
Members' page on our website.

A close-up photograph of a shallow, round wooden bowl. The bowl is made of light-colored wood with a visible grain. It is resting on a green, textured surface, possibly a carpet or rug. The lighting is soft, creating gentle shadows.

ONLINE GIVING IS GETTING A NEW LOOK

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

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 10am Worship 11am Puppet Show	3 10am Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS	4 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting 10am Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS Senior Meal Deliveries	5 Happy Birthday Faith Wallace 10am Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS	6 Happy Birthday Ajavon Tarpeh 10am Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS 7pm Adult Bible Study	7 Happy Birthday Ethan Spiller 10am Pisgah ARP Church Virtual VBS	8 Happy Birthday Ryan Mobley
9 10am Worship Small Group Communion Worship Services	10 Soup Night	11 10am Daily Weekly Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	12	13 Happy Birthday Bobby Rice 11am MMO Virtual Open House 7pm Adult Bible Study	14 Happy Birthday John West	15 Happy Birthday Temple Elam
16 Happy Birthday Lena Tata 10am Worship	17 MMO First Day of Digital School	18 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	19 Happy Birthday Karen Caughman	20 7pm Adult Bible Study	21 Happy Birthday Karen Mobley	22
23 10am Worship	24 Happy Birthday Melvin Crook Soup Night	25 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal	26 Happy Birthday Sharon Edmondson	27 7pm Adult Bible Study	28 Happy Birthday Gene Wade	29 Happy Birthday Paul Akins
30 Happy Birthday Bill Keoho 10am Worship	31					

Highlands ARP Church

770.978.3001 — Phone

770.972.3008 — Fax

Email: highlandarp@gmail.com



Pastor: Mark Hornby
Associate Pastor: Chris McCoy
Music Director: Bonnie Hornby
Secretary: Betsy Whitson

Elders: 2020 George O'Farrell
2021 Lee Hunt
2021 Don Reinhardt
2022 Charles Roberts
2022 Jim Whitson

Deacons: Class of 2020
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: 10:00 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)

WHEN ACTIVITIES RESUME

Candle Lighters:

Aug 2 Ethan Spiller
Aug 9 Sama Chifen
Aug 16 Jacob Blandshaw
Aug 23 Nate Edmondson
Aug 30 Thomas Kuykendall

Warmly Welcoming our Members & Visitors each week

Aug 2 Jim Whitson, Stan Whitaker, Sal Macaluso, Jon Jones
Aug 9 Phillip Wallace, John Avitabile, Earl Thomas, Rob Kuykendall
Aug 16 Robert Whittle, Edward Spiller, George O'Farrell, Justin Jacques
Aug 23 Paul McInnish, Glenn Martin, Charles Roberts, John West
Aug 30 Bill Alimena, Zack Caughman, Don Reinhardt

Highlands ARP Church

August 2020 Newsletter

830 Grayson Parkway

Grayson, GA 30017



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED