

Highlands Highlights



After some 32 Sundays of “virtual live-stream worship”, we are pleased to announce that the Highlands family will begin to worship in person again on November 1, 2020. Your Pastors and Session have not reached this decision without due consideration of several factors; and the actual deployment of our Reopening Plan’s Phase 3 is contingent upon general COVID-19 conditions continuing to improve and not getting any worse between now and November 1st. Also just as a reminder, the live-stream worship services (with which HPC has been blessed for many years) will continue, as in the past, for those who are not yet comfortable participating in larger group settings.

Though not ideal, we have observed some key indicators (e.g., rates of infection and hospitalizations) showing some declining rates in the past few weeks for Gwinnett County and the state. As further information (the Session appreciates your participation), 34% of our Highlands family (22 family units) provided Reopening Survey responses, and 70% of those responding indicated they were ready to resume in-person worship.

Of course, our worship services will remain just as spiritual and meaningful as they have been during our six months of “virtual” worship. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has not completed its course yet; and we all must adhere to reasonable precautions to ensure everyone’s health and safety. For example, initially for contact tracing purposes, you will be asked to register your planned attendance each Sunday. This simple process will be similar to what we’ve been doing for the monthly in-person Communion services. Another precaution (per CDC guidelines) is social distancing will be used in escorting attendees to their seats.

Other logistical and procedural requirements will be in place for a period of time after November 1st. Later in October, the congregation will receive a letter (via email or U.S. Mail) that provides specific information and requirements to help us “be smart and use common sense” as we resume in-person worship of our Lord and Savior. ***Please review this letter before November 1st and contact any elder with questions or concerns you may have.***

HPC Pastors & Session



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Special Points of Interest

- Oct 1 - Adult Bible Study
- Oct 4 - Worship Service
- Oct 4 - Puppet Show
- Oct 6 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Oct 6 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Oct 7 - Midweek Message
- Oct 8 - Adult Bible Study
- Oct 11 - Worship Service
- Oct 12 - Soup Nite
- Oct 13 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Oct 13 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Oct 14 - Midweek Message
- Oct 14 - Children’s Zoom & Youth Zoom
- Oct 15 - Adult Bible Study
- Oct 15 - World Witness virtual conference
- Oct 18 - Worship Service
- Oct 18 - Session Meeting
- Oct 20 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Oct 20 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Oct 21 - Midweek Message
- Oct 21 - Children’s Zoom & Youth Zoom
- Oct 22 - Adult Bible Study
- Oct 25 - Worship Service
- Oct 25 - Small Group Communion Svcs
- Oct 26 - Soup Nite
- Oct 27 - Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting
- Oct 27 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Oct 28 - Midweek Message
- Oct 28 - Fall Festival Night on Zoom
- Oct 29 - Adult Bible Study

From the Pastor

Back in the 70's, we used to watch the Flip Wilson Comedy Show. Some of you may remember it as well and how Flip Wilson would have a skit in which he played the part of Geraldine. It didn't matter what topic was being acted out there, it always came to the point when Geraldine would say with utmost sincerity, "the Devil made me do it." Of course, the manner in which it was said and the timing of it all made us roar with laughter. I guess you could say that Flip had a way of getting us to see the silliness of our trying to blame our failures and shortcomings on something that's outside of us instead of taking responsibility for our own lives.

Playing the "blame game" is nothing new to our culture although there seems to be an increase in our present age. It actually started way back in the very beginning with our first parents, Adam and Eve. After they had disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, God came to them and beginning with Adam asked them what they had done. Adam replied with "the woman You gave me" indicating it was both God's and Eve's fault. So God then asks Eve why she had disobeyed, and she then said "the serpent deceived me" placing the blame on the serpent. However, as we continue in the story God revealed the inadequacy of their excuses in that He disciplined everyone involved proving to them and us that we alone are responsible for our attitudes and our actions.

We see the same thing playing out today in our own lives as we continually seek to blame others for our failures. Parents blame society or the school system for their children's poor choices. Children blame their parents because they didn't raise them properly. Church members blame the church because it didn't meet their perceived needs. Husbands blame their wives or wives their husbands. On and on it goes, and the sad thing about it all is that nothing ever improves or changes.

Now I will admit that sometimes others are involved in the struggles we have, sometimes creating a climate where we make poor decisions. However, we alone must bear the brunt of our failure to be and do all that God has commanded of us. There's not a person on this earth who will be able to stand before God on that day when He judges the nations and blame something or someone outside of themselves for their own failure to make responsible decisions and to live rightly.

As parents we need to ensure that we parent our children, "bringing them up in the training and instructions of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). As children we need to "honor our father and our mother that it may go well with us" (Ephesians 6:2). As husbands we need to ensure that we "love our wives as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:20) and wives need to "submit to your husbands as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). As church members we need to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1). You see, if we all would focus on striving to fulfill our responsibilities before God and quit seeking to blame others for our shortcomings we would find vast improvement in our outlook on life as well as our attitudes and actions in life. God expects us to act as responsible, mature people and in doing so we will discover His peace, presence, and power for our lives. So please, don't play the "blame game" but take charge of your life and you will reap the wondrous blessings of our Lord.

Pastor Mark



Imagine going for your first chemo treatment. So many others are in their recliners, surrounded by nurses, TVs and IV poles. You know that what comes next will be for your good, but it doesn't keep you from feeling cold inside. A non-profit organization, **Project Chemo Crochet**, was founded to provide hand-made blankets to cancer patients to help them feel safe and warm, and to know that they have the support of so many, near and far.

But they need your help. They have volunteers all over the country, and here in Grayson, crocheting 9" squares of yarn that volunteers in Pennsylvania and California stitch together. Squares are made of any color, any pattern, and any type of yarn. After completion, any cancer patient or family member can request that an afghan be sent, free of charge, to a chemo patient.

If you would like to participate, please contact Betsy Whitson or Vickie Fledderjohann. They have made some of the squares pictured here and can help you get started.

Delicious side dish recipe from Vicki Fledderjohann.

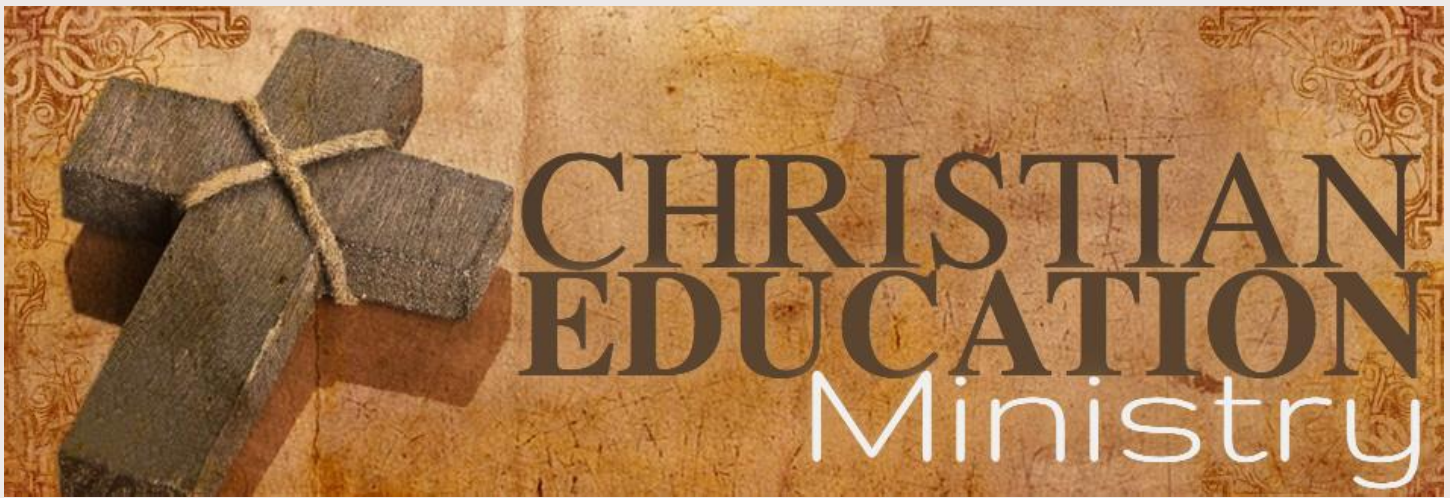
PINEAPPLE SALAD

Philadelphia cream cheese 8 oz
Cool Whip (medium or large)
20 oz Can Crushed Pineapple - drained
4 Tablespoons Salad Dressing
4 Tablespoons sugar
Small bag white miniature marshmallows

Cream together cream cheese, sugar, and salad dressing. Stir in drained pineapple. Stir in whip cream. Stir in marshmallows.

To make it more festive for holidays you can add a little food coloring.





The Wednesday Night Bible Study was transformed into the Midweek Message when we were no longer able to meet together in person. This goes out each Wednesday as an email. If you are not receiving this email, please check with Betsy to make sure we have your correct email address. Betsy will also mail you a copy if you do not have email. Feel free to pass it along to family and friends, so they also may be encouraged by God's Word.

Adult Bible Study

You are invited to join the Adult Bible Study! It meets each Thursday on ZOOM. They meet together to study the Bible and to pray together. The new study is on spiritual warfare. Email Betsy at highlandarp@gmail.com for more info.



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.



For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.
~ Psalm 100:5



JOIN US FOR

Communion

Small Group Communion Service will be
held October 25th at 12, 1, & 2 pm
with sign-up available as done previously.

Highlands Blood Drive

Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 3-7pm



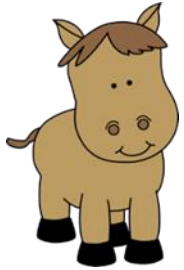
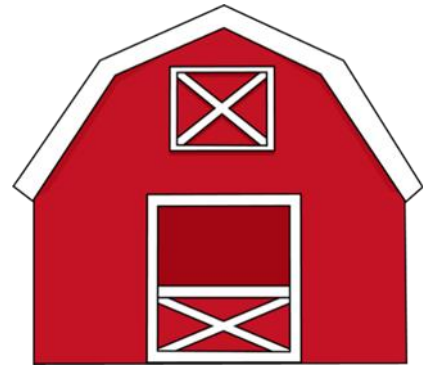
Our September Blood Drive was successful even though we had to shut down early because of an A/C problem. We had 17 of 21 slots filled, but were able to only allow donors to come until 5:45 p.m. We almost made our goal of 14 pints with 13 pints given. All donors received a \$5 Amazon e-gift card.

Our next drive is scheduled for **November 10 from 3pm – 7pm**. The drive is already available for scheduling and we have 9 of the 23 slots filled. Visit www.redcrossblood.org, search for sponsor code "HPC" or zip 30017 or call 1-800-RED-CROSS and find your place today!

Highlands MMO & Preschool

October

Theme: Back to School Fun



It will be a fun month at preschool as we go "Down on the Farm." We will have fun singing new songs like "Old MacDonald had a Farm," "Mary had a Little Lamb," and "The Farmer in the Dell." We will enjoy learning about "F, G, H, and I."



We invite you to look at our Facebook page on October 29 to see our students dressed up in their costumes! You can share one of your family too!



Preschool Digital Learning

Register Online

www.highlandspreschoolandmmo.org



Highlands MMO & Preschool is reaching out to our community to provide quality Christian childcare and instruction for families with young children. Please pray for this outreach ministry of Highlands ARP Church.




YOUNG FAMILIES

MINISTRY



Join us for a Puppet Show

Online October 4 after Worship



Worship
the LORD
Sundays Online at 10am!

Starting September 9
Kingdom Cubs
Children's
Ministry
Wednesdays at 6:30!
Join us on
ZOOM
See Ms. Bonnie
for more info

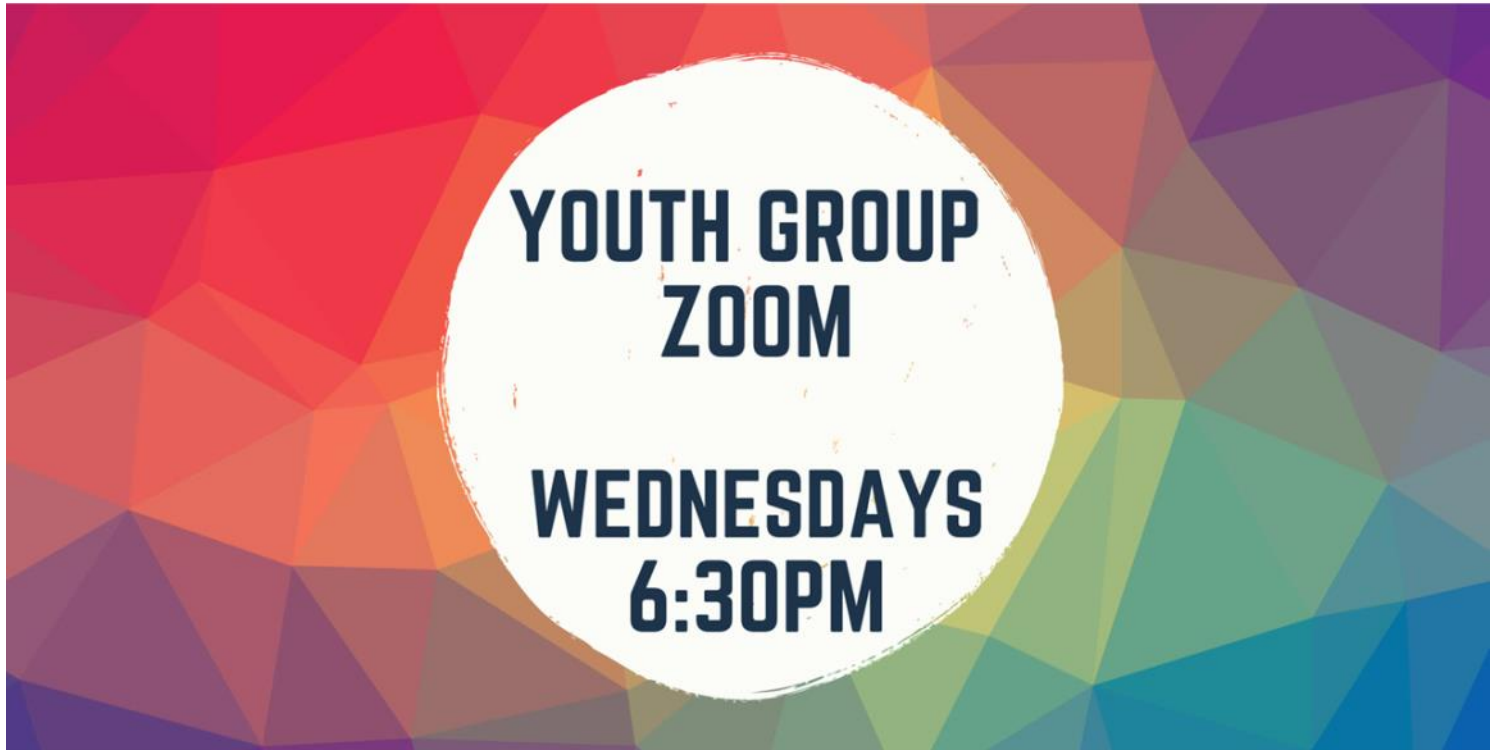
*Join us on Oct.28 at 6:30pm for
Fall Festival Night on Zoom*



*Dress up
in your costume!*

*Show your pumpkin!
Play some games!*





Youth Zoom will not meet October 7

The month of September has been an exciting one for the youth group as we have now begun meeting online via Zoom for our Wednesday night youth group. We have had a great time praying and learning together. We started a new study in the book of Philippians that has been excellent so far. We are learning all about Philippi, the people of the city, and Paul, the author of Philippians. The youth have done a great job adapting to the digital environment and have had a lot of fun seeing each other. Please continue to be in prayer for all of our youth as many of them are back in school. It is my hope that this fall we will be able to support our youth well by reminding them of the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers!

Pastor Chris





WELCOME New Members

MaryBradley and Elliott Bayne joined Highlands September 13th. They are both retired and currently live in Snellville. MaryBradley enjoys crafts, knitting and art. Her favorite hymn is "Crown Him with Many Crowns," and her favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 53:5. She has one son from a previous marriage. Elliott's favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace," and his favorite verse is John 14:6. He enjoys cooking, and has a daughter and son from a previous marriage. The Baynes came to us from Brookwood PCA. We are happy to have them in our fold!



ELECTIONS

2020 HPC Officer Elections Postponed

Due to a variety of logistical and procedural complications brought about by the suspension of in-person HPC activities and the Coronavirus for most of 2020, the Session and Pastors have decided to postpone the annual election of officers until 2021. To continue with our staggered rotation of both Deacons and Elders, all current, active officers were requested and agreed to extend their respective terms of service by one year.

Should you have questions or concerns about this one-time administrative adjustment, please contact any elder or deacon listed on the weekly worship bulletin.

GENERAL
SYNOD OF
THE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERY CHURCH



Postponed to
October, 2020

2020



Hi All,

We are back to serving meals at Highlands! Our first time out was on September 14th and we served BBQ Chicken Sliders and Macaroni Salad with Mixed Berry or Chocolate Chip scones for dessert. Lea Whittle and her two kids, Robert and Cara Lee were out front working the drive up and packaging the meals. Jane and I were in the kitchen making sliders and scones as needed. There was much needed as Jane made over 150 scones and they were all used up between Soup Nite and senior meals! We ran out of sliders at some point and went with frozen pizzas and/or frozen Healthy Choice dinners from the Food Bank. It was a good night and there were many new people asking, "Why is it called Highlands Soup Nite when there is no Soup???" LOL!

Our second serving was on the 28th and it's our annual Soup Nite Anniversary celebration. Eight Years! Now going into our 9th year.....At this serving, we had 40 large and 6 medium Papa John pizzas delivered to Highlands and Lea Whittle and Cindy Walton were there to see all our guests. They served until 6pm and ran out of pizzas. Pretty cool, huh? Lea said she saw our regular guests but also a female police officer with a flyer from the CoOp came thru our drive up. We love our community!

Senior meal delivery is still going strong. Between the CoOp and us, they are getting many good and nutritious food items. I will not be able to make and deliver senior meals from September 29th until October 13th because of being out of town. Thank you for all your prayers as my Dad is doing much better from his heart attack on September 1st. I look forward to being back home soon.

Our next Soup Nite is October 12th! No plan for a recipe yet, but it will be delicious, bet on it! Thank you for all your prayers, service, and willingness to continue to volunteer amidst a pandemic. We get to share the LOVE of Christ with friends and strangers through a hot meal and smiling eyes! What can be better than that!

In Christ,

Carrie



Thank you to everyone who prayed for travel mercies for us. Dad and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Ireland. As many of you know, my daughter Emma moved there at the beginning of August to start a three-year study program in graphic design in Dublin, so we went over to assist in her move. Since we had to self-isolate for the first 2 weeks, dad and I spent much of the time safely driving around in our rental car, from



which we were able to enjoy Ireland's natural beauty, castles and ruins without interacting with others. The cliff-edged coastline, rocky landscape crisscrossed by rock walls and hedges, wandering colorful sheep, and grand mountains were awe inspiring! I believe there is nowhere else on earth with so many shades of green.



Once our isolation ended, we were able to visit a few more places. In Dingle we actually met some distant cousins who own a bar and restaurant. At the Cliffs of Moher, the winds were so fierce we were afraid we might get blown away, and the fog was as thick as the wool on all those sheep. Just as we were about to give up and leave, the fog lifted just enough to give us a glimpse of the majestic cliffs. We also survived two named storms while there, which are similar to tropical storms here in

the U.S. (God certainly watched over us!) One of my favorite days there was when we visited Trinity College to see the Book of Kells and the Long Library. It felt like we had our own private tour of what is normally a very busy tourist site. The silver lining was that all of the places we visited had no crowds and had precautions in place for everyone's safety.



Finally making our way back to Dublin, we were able to spend some time with Emma. While dad and I traveled, she got settled in, made some friends and prepared for the start of school. We pray she finds a job soon too. I'm excited for this new chapter for her and look forward to hopefully taking my mom along next year! ~ Karen



Prayer Corner Update

- Joe Bath's surgery went well Tuesday. The plate was removed, and bone had started regrowing so there was no need for anything else to go in and be rejected. Although the surgery was delayed 5 hours, Joe was able to go home that night.
- Phillip Wallace was been moved from the PCU at Eastside Hospital to a regular room, but due to low oxygen, was moved back Thursday. He is back on antibiotics and will be having another scan to check on the status of blood clots and pneumonia. Please continue to pray for Phillip and Faith.
- Betty Reinhardt developed complications following a pacemaker procedure and required full open chest surgery to evacuate fluid around her heart including blood with clots and one surgical stitch. That surgery was successful and life-saving. She is in good spirits and knows that the Lord is with her. She is at Northside Gwinnett. Please pray for Betty, Don and the medical team as they attend to her.
- Please pray for Ella Moore, the granddaughter of Kaity Wright's best friend, Karen. She has been missing since August 26.

Praise Item

- Mary Ashe's biopsy results came back clear. No cancer was found, and the lesion on her spine is benign. Praise God!

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

Highlands 2020 Operating Budget Update

YTD Gifts & Offerings \$143,600.91

YTD Expenses \$136,346.23

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



TITHE.LY ONLINE GIVING

Recently, Highlands ARP changed its online giving platform to tithe.ly. The format is similar to ones that we have been using previously, 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

If you have any questions about this platform, don't hesitate to contact either Betsy or Lee:

Betsy Whitson
bjwhitson@bellsouth.net
C - 404-790-8936

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

October 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7pm Adult Bible Study	2	3
4 <i>Happy Birthday Chris Mobley</i> 10am Worship 11am Puppet Show	5	6 10am Daily Weekly Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	7 <i>Happy Birthday Dottie Davis</i> Midweek Message FALL BREAK No ZOOM Mtgs	8 7pm Adult Bible Study	9	10
11 10am Worship	12 <i>Happy Birthday Marie Bath Ryeland Jones</i> Soup Night	13 <i>Happy Birthday Megan Sinclair Carol Streng</i> 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	14 <i>Happy Birthday Brianne Jones</i> Midweek Message 6:30 Children 's ZOOM with Ms. Bonnie & Youth ZOOM with Pastor Chris	15 7pm Adult Bible Study	16 <i>Happy Birthday Rachel McCoy Nancy Smith</i>	17
18 <i>Happy Birthday Edward Akins Shirley Bartenfeld Jackie Rice</i> 10am Worship 12pm Session Mtg	19	20 <i>Happy Birthday Babila Tata Dob Tata</i> 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	21 Midweek Message 6:30 Children 's ZOOM with Ms. Bonnie & Youth ZOOM with Pastor Chris	22 7pm Adult Bible Study	23	24 <i>Happy Birthday Hall Badio Lee Ragas</i>
25 <i>Happy Birthday James Daniel</i> 10am Worship 12, 1 & 2pm Small Group Communion Worship Services	26 Soup Night	27 10am Weekly Digital Prayer Meeting Senior Meal Deliveries	28 <i>Happy Birthday Thomas Kuykendall</i> Midweek Message 6:30 Fall Festival Night on ZOOM	29 <i>Happy Birthday Deron Smith</i> 7pm Adult Bible Study	30	31 

Highlands ARP Church

770.978.3001 — Phone

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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—TBD

Candle Lighters:

Oct 4 Thomas Kuykendall
Oct 11 Ethan Spiller
Oct 18 Sama Chifen
Oct 25 Jacob Blandshaw

Warmly Welcoming our Members & Visitors each week

Oct 4 Jim Whitson, Stan Whitaker, Sal Macaluso, Jon Jones
Oct 11 Phillip Wallace, John Avitabile, Earl Thomas, Rob Kuykendall
Oct 18 Robert Whittle, Edward Spiller, George O'Farrell, Justin Jacques
Oct 25 Paul McInnish, Glenn Martin, Charles Roberts, John West

Highlands ARP Church

October 2020 Newsletter

Physical Address:

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Grayson, GA 30017-1206

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PO BOX 847
Grayson, GA 30017-0016



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED