

# Highlands Highlights



*Invite someone to join us Online  
for Worship this Christmas Season!*

JOIN US AT 7PM FOR  
*Christmas Eve*  
ONLINE WORSHIP



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## Special Dates of Interest

- Dec 1 - Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Dec 1 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Dec 2 - Online Nativity Program
- Dec 3 - Online Adult Bible Study
- Dec 6 - Worship Service
- Dec 6 - Puppet Show
- Dec 8 - Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Dec 8 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Dec 9 - Online Talent Show
- Dec 10 - Online Adult Bible Study
- Dec 13 - Worship Service: Nine Lessons & Carols
- Dec 13 - Congregational Meeting
- Dec 13 - Angel Tree donations due
- Dec 14 - Soup Night
- Dec 15 - Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Dec 15 - Senior Meal Deliveries
- Dec 16 - Christmas Scripture & Song Concert
- Dec 17 - Online Adult Bible Study
- Dec 20 - Worship Service
- Dec 24 - Online Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
- Dec 27 - Worship Service
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

## *From the Pastor*

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

*(John 3:16,17 NIV)*

I love the Christmas season. It's my favorite time of the year. All the lights and decorations, joy and laughter, gifts given and received, make this holiday one of the most exciting we celebrate. Even though this Christmas may be a bit different because of the pandemic, it's still the most wonderful time of the year.

Have you ever wondered why we tend to get so into the Christmas spirit as the holiday approaches? Well, perhaps one of the reasons has to do with the fact that we are created in God's image. When God made us, He communicated to us certain aspects of His character, one of which is the ability to love. When we truly love others, we want to give the best we can for them. Love acts and the action that results from true love is giving.

Now we know that God's image in us is tarnished by sin and we don't love or give like we should. But just by the very fact we want to love, that we want to give, reveals something about God's image in us.

Giving is as much a part of God's nature as His love. The Bible tells us that God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son. God didn't hold anything back but gave us His very best, He gave us His all, He gave us Jesus.

Jesus was born in that stable so that we could know the forgiveness of our sins, experience the power to live holy lives, and look forward with great anticipation to an eternity in heaven with God.

Isn't that what Christmas is all about? Isn't that why we celebrate the holiday each year like we do? Isn't that why we spend so much time trying to find that perfect gift for that special someone in our lives? We love because God first loved us and we give because God first gave to us. God sent Jesus as His perfect gift so that we might in turn give to others.

As you celebrate the Christmas season this year be reminded that you do so only because God has given us His grace and mercy. So, be generous toward others as God has been generous to us so that you might reflect the reality that you are a true image bearer of God, loving Him and loving others as He has commanded us to do.

*Pastor Mark*



# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



*Highlands Women's Ministry*

CULTIVATE YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

## Pizza in a Pot

- Vickie Fledderjohann

- 1 1/2 lbs ground turkey (or hamburger if preferred)
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2-16 oz jars of spaghetti sauce
- 1-6 oz can tomato past
- 1 Tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 box Penne pasta, cooked and drained
- 8 oz mozzarella cheese

1. In a large skillet, cook meat, green pepper and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Drain excess fat.
2. Stir in sauce, tomato paste and all spices.
3. Layer 1/3 of meat mixture in bottom of crockpot, followed by 1/2 of Penne pasta and 1/2 of cheese. Repeat layers ending with 1/3 meat mixture. Make sure pasta is covered completely by the sauce so it doesn't become crunchy.
4. Cook on low 3-4 hours or until heated through
5. ENJOY!

*Join Us Online on Dec 2 at 7pm for our Nativity Program!*





Highlands MMO & Preschool

# December

Merry Christmas!



It's hard to believe that it's already December and we are almost half way through the school year! We had a great time learning about the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims and Native Americans.



This month we will be using Christmas and it's special activities to reinforce their learning! We will talk about the colors of wreaths, stockings, and candy canes! We will count the antlers on the reindeer, and we will talk about giving smiles as presents to all they meet. We will learn about the first Christmas. It should be a fun month.

Here is a picture from our 2018 Christmas Program!



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

## Puppet Show

*Dec 6 Online after worship*



## Children's Nativity Program

*Online Dec 2 at 7pm*



# Talent Show

*Online Dec 9 at 7pm*



*Worship  
With Us!*

*Online or In Person*



*Christmas  
EVE  
Online at 7pm*



Youth Group Zoom resumes January 13

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

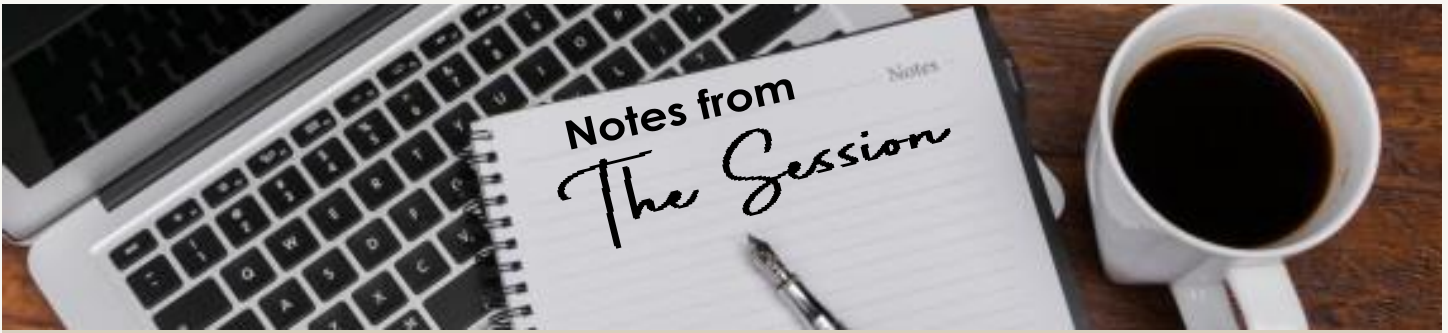


I want to thank you all for your prayers for our youth this school year. As the school year draws to a close, we are thankful for the Lord for his provision for all our students. We have many students who are attending school in person, and others that are doing digital learning, and we thank the Lord for providing for each one of them. During our time together on Wednesday nights over zoom we have been studying the book of Philippians together. One of the main takeaways we have had is that Paul's attitude is one that glorifies God even in the midst of trials. This has helped to point all of us to Christ during this time of pandemic. While zoom has been a good substitute for in person youth group, we do miss the fellowship of being together. Please continue to pray for the youth as they finish out this school year and pray that their attitudes are like that of Christ!

Pastor Chris







## ***On behalf of the Session***

of Highlands Presbyterian Church, I would like to thank those attending our Sunday morning services. It has been uplifting to worship together these past three weeks and it has been encouraging to see friends and fellow members again after such a long hiatus.

Things have gone smoothly to date and the precautions we have undertaken have been simple and easy for our congregation to follow.

For those who may be hesitant to attend, know that we are screening everyone prior to entering the church and wearing masks inside at all times. We are encouraging everyone to socialize afterwards in the parking lot, rather than in the sanctuary or in the hallways.

While we encourage everyone to come worship in person, we recognize that it may still be too soon for some; therefore, we welcome those to continue to participate online either live or by replay at another time.

The Session continues to pray for the health and safety of our staff and our members and guests during this unprecedented time.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mark, Chris, or any of the Elders if you have questions about our Sunday services.

Yours in Christ.

Bob Statham



***No Session Meeting in December.  
Next Meeting at 11:30 AM  
January 17, 2021***

CHURCH  
*Congregational Meeting*  
To approve the budget

**Dec 13 after Worship**  
*In Person or on ZOOM*



*Join us for Worship  
Online Sundays at 10am  
[www.highlandsarp.org](http://www.highlandsarp.org)*

Could you help this year?  
Cash donations or gift cards only please!



Angel Tree

Sharing Christ's Love

Please donate or bring to the church by Dec 13!



**Adult Bible Study**

*Thursdays at 7pm*



A golden silhouette illustration of a nativity scene, showing Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, and two oxen, all under a simple stable structure. A bright, multi-pointed star shines in the sky above the stable.

# *Join us Online for Nine Lessons & Carols*

*December 13 at 10am*

*10 O'Clock Worship Service \* Sunday, December 13, 2020*

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. Please consider inviting family and friends to this special online worship service. Limited seating will also be available for in person Worship.

A decorative background for the Christmas Talent Show section, featuring a dark blue field with numerous glowing, circular ornaments of various sizes and shades of blue. Each ornament contains a white snowflake pattern and has a bright light source, creating a bokeh effect.

# *Christmas Talent Show*

*Online December 9 at 7pm*



FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS. AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6



Please join us for a  
**Christmas Scripture & Song Concert**  
**Online Dec 16 at 7pm**

## Highlands Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

You don't need a special reason to give blood. You just need your own reason. Some of us give blood because we were asked by a friend. Some know that a family member or a friend might need blood someday. Some believe it is the right thing we do.

Whatever your reason, the need is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. And you'll feel good knowing you've helped change a life.

Did you know that there are only 2 regularly scheduled blood drives in the city of Grayson and only one in Loganville? Highlands is sponsoring our next blood drive on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. Our goal is 15 pints – hopefully you can find a time to give that works in your schedule.

If you haven't given in a while, or if you've never given, this is a great time to start! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), search for "30017" and January 12 and sign up online. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Whitson at 404-790-8936 or [bjwhitson@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjwhitson@bellsouth.net).





*Hi All,*



Our Holiday time has begun! The first meal on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November was our Turkey Dinner. We had turkey, sweet potato casserole and green beans. We got turkeys cooked every which way available! It was so fun watching them come into the kitchen as each one was a work of art! LOL. We ran out of turkey by 5:30 and had to defrost some of the

pork BBQ from last year's Highland BBQ Weekend. Jane quickly made plates for guests to take home to make sandwiches! So the night ended with an all-time high of 34 families! This is the most we have ever had. There was an added blessing as our name has gotten out to other communities. **Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC** heard we could use some help, so they sent over five volunteers to help us serve in the drive thru. It was good to share what we do and for them to see the need.

We distributed Produce Boxes again from Gwinnett County. Bob Statham made a Food Bank run earlier in the week and we bagged up products and produce for 25 families. We have made sure that flyers go out to the CoOp clients to bring them over to us and so far, that has been a reminder to them to come by and see us.

Our last Soup Nite was on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We served our classic Pizza in a Pot with Cheesy Breadsticks and Yogurt Parfaits. Thank you to all who made a crock pot of Pizza in a Pot, thank you to Cindy and Eunice for making breadsticks all afternoon and thank you once again to **Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC** for helping us serve and the donations of water and Ensure. The evening was a bit slower than we planned. The CoOp was super busy with lines around the block until after 7pm so at least we know where all our guests were. This was the last day to get food as the CoOp is closed for Thanksgiving week. We were able to freeze most of the breadsticks and pasta left over for our senior meals in December. It's all good.

All four routes of seniors were delivered meals this month. We doubled up on Routes 4 and 1 due to the CoOp closing for Thanksgiving, but everyone was still able to get two meals each. Our seniors are still well and no hospitalizations this month. YAY! Our friends at Friends of Gwinnett Seniors have offered to give us a monetary donation for meals for our seniors. We hope to receive that soon so that December meals will be easier without all the stress of the holiday events. I hope to contact local restaurants to get the meals ready made so it's easy to pack up for the senior routes.

We have been using our new equipment, the reach-in freezer and Cambro Go Boxes are a blessing. I posted on Instagram our Cambro boxes and tagged them. Cambro put us on their Instagram story too! It's good to support each other and see what others are doing in the community of meal prep for the food insecure. During this holiday season, please remember to pray for those in need. The need is great this year. Food Banks are doing the best they can to distribute food, but the need is dire. It's growing daily. Your prayers are needed as we work together, one community at a time. Thank you for your patience, willingness and encouragement. God has blessed us tremendously so let's pass it on.

Our only December Soup Nite is on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Shepherd's Pie is on the menu with homemade cookies for dessert. We will also distribute produce boxes and food items on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be a busy week. If you would like to help, we welcome it! Thank you for all you do!

In Christ,

*Carrie*



Highlands Presbyterian







# Prayer and Praise

Online, Tuesdays at 10am

## Prayer Corner Update

- Please pray for Joe Bath. Marie reports that he was not feeling well Wednesday. She does not think that it is related to his recent surgery to remove a metal plate from his skull. He is being treated with the antibiotic Bactrim for a possible infection and she is concerned that he has had a bad reaction to it. He had a difficult night Wednesday. Please pray that Joe will feel better quickly.
- Continue to pray for Highlands' families who have lost loved ones.
- Jon Jones' Uncle Mike has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver and esophagus cancer. He is able to still get around but the doctors have said that there is nothing that they can do. Pray for peace for Mike's family.
- Stephen Raubensine is still recovering from COVID. He has been fever-free for several days and sees the doctor next week. Please pray for his fatigue to subside.
- Avitable's family friend, Julie Tyre, went to the hospital Monday for outpatient surgery and had to go back in Monday evening for complications. She was released Friday but went back last night because of shortness of breath. She is in ICU with a blood clot on her lungs and she has COVID. Her husband and three kids are in quarantine until December 4th and she doesn't know how long she will be in the hospital.

## Praise Item

- This note from MaryBradley Bayne - Elliott has gotten results from the dermatologist. He is officially cancer-free - Praise God!

**If you have a prayer need, please contact your shepherd or email the office to let the congregation know. Please use the [highlandarp@gmail.com](mailto:highlandarp@gmail.com) address. The old address of [highlandsprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:highlandsprayerchain@gmail.com) is not used any longer.**



# Highlands 2020 Operating Budget Update

YTD Gifts & Offerings      \$178,993.20  
YTD Expenses                      \$176,953.32

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

Donate

## WHILE YOU SHOP!

~ and help support our church ~

  
You shop. Amazon gives.

More people are shopping online this year, in an effort to stay safe. Did you know that there are several ways you can generate cash for Highlands' ministries when you shop? The most popular program, called Amazon Smile, gives 0.5% of the online purchase price to the charity of your choice – Highlands! Simply visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), type "Highlands Presbyterian Church" in the search bar, select the one in Grayson GA and your next online purchase will generate a donation to the church.

If you shop at Kroger, you can register for their rewards program at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Log into your account with the email address you used to enroll for a Kroger Plus card (If you don't have one, you will need to acquire one first). Again, search for Highlands Presbyterian Church and make that selection. When you shop at Kroger, simply give them your Kroger Plus card and a percentage of your purchase will benefit Highlands' ministries.



Another program is called iGive. This site [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) is a pass-through site and generates its contributions passed on advertising by the hundreds of participating stores. Again, simply log in, search for Highlands Presbyterian Church in Georgia, select and shop! It's that easy.

The Finance and Stewardship team has recommended that any donations generated through these programs benefit 2 ministries of Highlands – Soup Nite and Missions. Soup Nite occasionally needs to purchase food items and supplies as the number of families they serve continues to increase. Missions giving will allow HARP to increase support for our current missionaries or to support new ones. The team also wants Highlands's members to know that while we don't endorse these companies, they provide the rewards programs that we are aware of. You might be enrolled in a program that provides similar rewards – if you do, contact the office and we can look into it. **This year, with five members participating in these online programs, they have generated more than \$125 in donations to our church.** Imagine what it would be if more of us took advantage of this service! Please consider participating in one or all three of these programs. If you need help enrolling, contact the office at [highlandarp@gmail.com](mailto:highlandarp@gmail.com) or at (770) 978-3001.

# December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise  Senior Meal Deliveries	<b>2</b> <b>7pm Online Children's Nativity</b>  	<b>3</b> 7pm Online Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Happy Birthday Omar Edmondson</i>
<b>6</b> <i>Happy Birthday Don Reinhardt</i>  10am Worship 11am Puppet Show	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise  Senior Meal Deliveries	<b>9</b> <i>Happy Birthday Benjamin Coker</i>  <b>7pm Online Talent Show</b> 	<b>10</b> <i>Happy Birthday Kristy Summers</i>  7pm Online Adult Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Happy Birthday Lyn Alimena</i>  10am Worship: 9 Lessons & Carols 11am Congregational Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>Soup Night</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Happy Birthday Rob Whittle</i>  10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise  Senior Meal Deliveries	<b>16</b> <b>7pm Online Christmas Scripture &amp; Song Concert</b>  	<b>17</b> 7pm Online Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10am Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No activities	<b>24</b> <b>7pm Online Christmas Eve Service</b>  	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Happy Birthday Daniel McCoy</i>  10am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Happy Birthday Alex McGill</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Happy Birthday Frank Sexton</i>  No activities	<b>31</b> <i>Happy Birthday Earl Thomas</i>  		



# 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  
2023 Bob Statham

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: 10:00am Worship  
11:00am Deacons' Meeting (2nd Sunday of the month)  
11:30am Session Meeting (3rd Sunday of the month)

### Weekly activities\*

Monday: 4-7pm Soup Nite (2nd & 4th Mondays)

Tuesday: 10:00am Online Prayer Time  
Senior Meal Deliveries

3-7pm Blood Drive (every other month)

Wednesday: 12:00pm Midweek Message from Pastor Mark  
6:30pm Young Family Ministry ZOOM Meeting  
6:30pm Youth ZOOM Meeting

Thursday: 7:00pm Adult Online Bible Study

*\*Normal activities schedule will resume in January. See calendar for scheduled events.*

## Candle Lighters:

**Dec 6** Nate Edmondson  
**Dec 13** Thomas Kuykendall  
**Dec 20** Ethan Spiller  
**Dec 27** Sama Chifen  
Jacob Blandshaw



## Warmly Welcoming our Members & Visitors each week

**Dec 6** Jim Whitson, Stan Whitaker, Sal Macaluso, Jon Jones  
**Dec 13** Phillip Wallace, John Avitabile, Earl Thomas, Rob Kuykendall  
**Dec 20** Robert Whittle, Edward Spiller, George O'Farrell, Justin Jacques  
**Dec 27** Paul McInnish, Glenn Martin, Charles Roberts, John West



## Highlands ARP Church

### December 2020 Newsletter

Physical Address:  
830 Grayson Parkway  
Grayson, GA 30017-1206

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 847  
Grayson, GA 30017-0016



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED