January 2021 Volume XVII, Issue I

Highlands Highlights



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we near the end of this year of 2020 with all its confusion, hardships and tough times, I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to Our Father in Heaven for His love, comfort and blessings to us all. To all who administered and ministered Christian Ed/Teaching within our body many thanks. To all the teachers of the Word for their faithfulness and clarity we give thanks and especially for the diligence of Mark, Bonnie, Chris and Dennis.

We all should know and be comforted that Highlands ARP is a small yet important part of the Body of Christ. Our church body remains true, focused and faithful to the Word and for that truth

and stability we have much to be thankful for in our times of need. I would encourage all to continue daily reading of the New and the Old Testament and to pray daily for one another, the nation our whole world, which is in need of Jesus and Our Father in Heaven... Be enriched by the Holy Spirit. Be guided by the Holy Spirit. Be not afraid because Jesus goes before us always. We are the Sheep of his pasture and we are loved and protected and cared for now and always. God's Shalom and Love be with you and all your loved ones.

In Christ's love to you all, Don Reinhardt Christian Ed Elder





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Special Dates of Interest

- Jan 3 Online Worship Service
- Jan 3 Puppet Show
- Jan 5 Senior Meal Deliveries
- Jan 7 Online Adult Bible Study
- Jan 10 Online Worship Service
- Jan 10 Deacons' Meeting
- Jan 11 Soup Night
- Jan 12 Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Jan 12 Senior Meal Deliveries
- Jan 12 Blood Drive
- Jan 13 Midweek Message
- Jan 13 Children's & Youth Group Zooms
- Jan 14 Online Adult Bible Study
- Jan 17 Online Worship Service
- Jan 17 Session Meeting
- Jan 19 Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Jan 19 Senior Meal Deliveries
- Jan 20 Midweek Message
- Jan 20 Children's & Youth Group Zooms
- Jan 21 Online Adult Bible Study
- Jan 24 Online Worship Service
- Jan 25 Soup Night
- Jan 26 Weekly Online Prayer & Praise
- Jan 26 Senior Meal Deliveries
- Jan 27 Midweek Message
- Jan 27 Children's & Youth Group Zooms
- Jan 28 Online Adult Bible Study
- Jan 31 Online Worship Service

From the Pastor

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18 NIV)

Jesus' words to Peter were not only a profound truth that the disciples needed to hear but also a wonderful proclamation that's meant to encourage us as we strive to be the church in today's world. Jesus is promising us that His church will be established, that it will grow and flourish, that it will endure even the onslaught of our enemy, the devil, and that it will continue to thrive even in the midst of difficult times and circumstances. Now that's something I believe should get us all excited as we look forward to what God will do in our midst during 2021.

You see, Highlands is a part of the greater Christian community and part of our Lord's fulfillment of His wonderful promise. This church has existed since the late 1800's and has continued to hold together through the good times and the bad times. I see no reason why we shouldn't anticipate a glorious future and great longevity. We have an awesome God who loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die on a cross so that we might be forgiven of all our sins and restored to fellowship with our Creator. That in and of itself should not only fill us with wondrous joy and profound gratitude but should also create within us great confidence for the future. If God has loved us so much that He would give His own life to redeem us then we can be assured that every promise He has made to us will also be accomplished and that's especially true of church growth.

However, in order for us to fully receive and enjoy God's blessings, we must put ourselves in the path of blessing. One of the reasons why we miss so much of what God desires to give us is simply because we don't look for it and live for it. I really don't think that God is going to pour out His special favor on us as a church if we're not keeping our focus on Him and longing for His presence, power, and peace in our midst. Now, some of you are probably wondering what I'm getting at and how can we practically do this. Well, I'm glad you asked, so here goes.

First, we need to continue steadfastly in prayer. James writes in his letter that "you don't have because you don't ask or you ask for the wrong reasons." If want to see the church grow, we need to spend time in prayer with God. God has promised to answer the prayers of His people when such prayers are offered according to His Word. Does God's Word indicate a growing, thriving church? Of course, so let's ask Him for it!

Second, we need to notice what God is doing. It seems there are always some who make it their life's goal to see only what they believe is wrong with the church. God has done and is doing a wonderful work in our midst. But we've got to focus on the good things God is doing and give Him the praise before He will ever give us more. Negative reporting only creates discouragement, dissension, and discord in the church. The Apostle Paul tells us that we're to "do everything without grumbling or complaining."

Third, we need to be active participants. Someone said that healthy churches grow. One aspect of a healthy church is when the members are actively involved, giving of their time, talents, and treasures in ministry to one another and service to the Lord. A healthy church loves to meet together, pray together, serve together, and worship together. Simply put, a healthy church is excited about who it is, where it's going, and what God is doing in and through it for His glory.

I have great hope for Highlands in 2021 and as you can tell, I'm very excited about what God will do in and through us. But we have to want it, anticipate it, expect it, and believe that the Lord will fulfill His promise to build His church, here at Highlands.

Pastor Mark



Highlands Women's Ministry

CULTIVATE YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

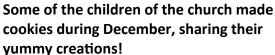
The Church Casserole

- 1 6 oz. package long-grain wild rice, cooked
- 2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 14 oz. can mushrooms
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup, mixed with 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds

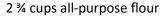
Butter 8x11 inch casserole and layer ingredients in order listed. Bake at 350F for 45 minutes or until bubbly. Can be frozen for several weeks. Serves 4-6.











1 teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 cup butter, softened

1 1/2 cups white sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract









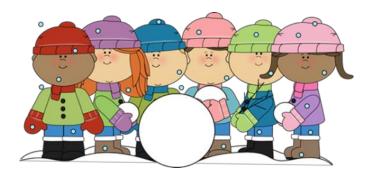


Preheat oven to 375 F. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls, and place onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks.

Highlands MMO & Preschool

January

Theme: My Five Senses



This month we will learn about "My Five Senses." We will have many fun

activities that the students will be able to see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. We will also learn about letters "N, O, and P." We will have fun as we "see, smell, touch, and taste" donuts on January 14! On January 21 we will have a silly fun day where we wear our pajamas at school day!



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.





Join us for a Puppet Show Online Jan 3 after Worship









YOUTH GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS RESUME JANUARY 13

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30

Message Pastor Chris for more information

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I want to thank you all for your prayers for the youth during this year. This year has been quite different than we all expected, but we praise God for his provision and are thankful for the safety we have enjoyed. While we have not been meeting together in person due to COVID, we were still able to fellowship and study God's word together over Zoom. Many of our students are back at school in person, while others are still working digitally. Please continue to remember them in your prayers as they face many struggles that this year has brought. And please also pray for them that they would be strengthened spiritually for the year ahead, that it might be a year of growth in Jesus Christ as we all seek to glorify Him together.

Pastor Chris









On behalf of the Session

As you know, the Session advised that in person worship would be suspended through Dec. 27th. Since that announcement, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged significantly in Gwinnett County. Also, Mark and Bonnie have been exposed to the virus via their daughter and are awaiting test results. As a result, and in an abundance of caution, the Session regretfully has decided to suspend in person worship for the entire month of January 2021. We acknowledge that this may not be a very popular decision. However, our

congregational make-up and our pastors' vulnerabilities warrant a cautious, conservative approach as we move forward through this pandemic. At our Jan. 17, 2021 regular meeting, the Session will evaluate current status – both here at HPC and overall, in Gwinnett County. Hopefully, the newly available vaccines will generate a reversal in the current trends. Please plan on joining our livestream worship services during January and continue to pray for the HPC family and its staff as well as the Session.

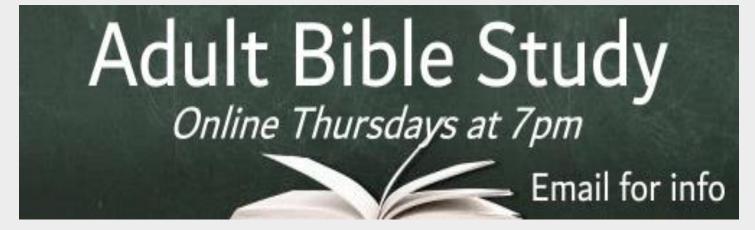


Deacons' Meeting

11:15 AM - January 10, 2021

Session Meeting

11:30 AM - January 17, 2021









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, 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.

Hi All,

We are done with 2020! What a challenging year and yet it was filled with so many blessings. Jane and I want to thank each and every one who helped serve, prepared food, ran to the Food Bank, donated money and food and for those that prayed for us. It was a time filled with exhaustion and trepidation, but also peace and contentment. God is always good. Now for a few weeks rest until January 2021! Our only drive thru serving was on December 14th. We served shepherd's pie, with rolls and holiday chocolate chip cookies. We changed our time from 4-7pm to 3-6pm, which seemed to work better for us because if we have left over meals when finished, we can bring them over to the CoOp, as they close at 7pm. Our Soup Nite family, the Johnsons, volunteered to help serve meals and put them in our guests' cars. Rebecca and Samantha weathered the cold air that came upon us later in the afternoon. It was a good meal, nice and hearty for the day.

Our Senior Program ended on December 15th, doing two routes together to make up for the week of Christmas being closed at the CoOp. Highlands was given \$2,000 from the Friends of Gwinnett Seniors! What a wonderful Christmas gift to us to use for meals towards our seniors. We bought boxes of chicken salad sandwiches with a pasta salad from **Chicken Salad Chick** in Loganville and various ready-made, prepared, heat and serve meals from **MOM's Meals**. This money will help us in a pinch when time is tight to make meals. We hope to do this each time until the money runs out!



Our year ended with 880 meals made for seniors and 2,989 meals for Soup Nite. We started a distribution of Food Items and Fresh Produce to our guests this year, totaling 1,828 pounds. A huge thank you to Gwinnett County for the fresh produce boxes these last few months. Our final distribution was on December 14th and we gave food out to 31 families in 30 minutes. The cars were lined up in our parking lot. This was a first for us. If you'd like to see the video from this day, check it out on our Facebook page, Highlands Soup Nite. It was an Awesome day. It has been a challenging year, but like I said, God is always good. Hope everyone has Christmas Blessings and a Healthy New Year. We hope to see you

In Christ,



again in January!





Invite someone to join us for Worship

Online Sundays at 10am

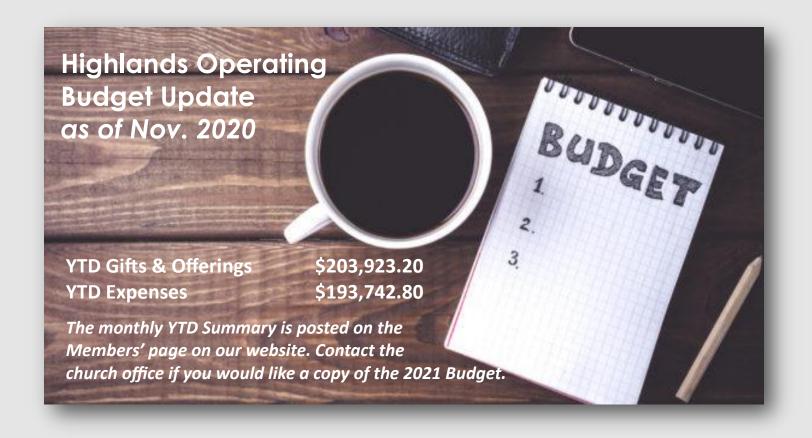
www.highlandsarp.org

Prayer Corner Update

- Highlands' families who have lost loved ones.
- Highlands' families who are still experiencing job insecurity.
- Robert (Bob) Bell's family as they mourn his death.
- The families who receive assistance through the Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry and through Highlands' Soup Nite.
- Highlands' members, family and friends diagnosed with COVID: Rachel Bratley's sister, Becky; Pastor Mark & Bonny have been exposed to COVID, and their daughter, Angela tested positive; Lea Whittle's daughter, Brianna who also has a high-risk pregnancy; Pastor Chris' sister Michelle Miles and her boyfriend, Jack; Danny Struebing, Lynn Avitabile's brother, has been taken to the hospital with his symptoms; Jim and Debi Veldhuis, close friends of Kaity Wright; the Highlands' member who is experiencing possible COVID symptoms; and Karen & Zack Caughman.
- Barbara Fordham's son-in-law, Jeff, has an infection in his foot that will not heal. The
 doctors think he may need surgery as the infection may have reached the bone. Jeff
 was recently diagnosed with diabetes which complicates the issues.
- Phillip Wallace has tentatively been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease causing inflammation of blood vessels and will be getting a biopsy on December 31st to confirm the diagnosis.

If you have a prayer need, please contact your shepherd or email the office to let the congregation know. Please use the highlandsrp.gemail.com address. The old address of highlandsrp.gemail.com is not used any longer.







January 2021

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The state of					1 Happy Birthday Helen Tata	2 Happy Birthday Ethan Chofong Laura Daniel
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am Online Worship 11am Puppet Show	Happy Birthday Lyna Nkefor Linda Whitaker	Senior Meal Deliveries		7pm Online Adult Bible Study	Happy Birthday Rachel Bratley Zack Caughman	Happy Birthday Henry Kurtz
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am Online Worship 11:15am Deacons' Mtg, Zoom	Soup Night	Happy Birthday MaryBradley Bayne 10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise Senior Meal Deliveries 3-7pm Blood Drive	Midweek Message 6:30 Children 's ZOOM with Ms. Bonnie & Youth ZOOM with Pastor Chris	7pm Online Adult Bible Study	Happy Birthday Karen Akins	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am Online Worship 11:30am Session Mtg	Happy Birthday Betsy Kuykendall Carole Sexton	10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise Senior Meal Deliveries	Midweek Message 6:30 Children 's ZOOM with Ms. Bonnie & Youth ZOOM with Pastor Chris	7pm Online Adult Bible Study		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Happy Birthday Mark Hornby	Happy Birthday Deborah Akins	10am Weekly Online Prayer & Praise	Midweek Message	7pm Online Adult Bible Study		
10am Online Worship	Soup Night	Senior Meal Deliveries	6:30 Children 's ZOOM with Ms. Bonnie & Youth ZOOM with Pastor Chris			
31						
10am Online Worship		9/////	\leftarrow	043	Vel	ونظرا

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: <u>Class of 2021</u>

Omar Edmondson Phillip Wallace Betsy Whitson

<u>Class of 2022</u> 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)12:00pm Midweek Message from Pastor Mark

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

Candle Lighters:

Jan 3	Ethan Spiller
Jan 10	Sama Chifen
Jan 17	Jacob Blandshaw
Jan 24	Nate Edmondson
Jan 31	Thomas Kuykendall



Warmly Welcoming our Members & Visitors each week

Jan 3 Jim Whitson, Stan Whitaker, Sal Macaluso, Jon Jones
 Jan 10 Phillip Wallace, John Avitabile, Earl Thomas, Rob Kuykendall
 Jan 17 Robert Whittle, Edward Spiller, George O'Farrell, Justin Jacques
 Jan 24 Paul McInnish, Glenn Martin, Charles Roberts, John West

Jan 31 Bill Alimena, Don Reinhard

Highlands ARP Church January 2021 Newsletter

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

Mailing Address: PO BOX 847

Grayson, GA 30017-0016



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

^{*}See calendar for scheduled events or cancellations.