

# HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**December 2019**

*Highland Church reaches out in the name of Jesus Christ building disciples with vision for ministry.*

## **Welcome to Advent**

The word “advent” comes from the Latin *advenio* meaning “coming” or “arrival.”

Advent is a season of the four Sundays prior to Christmas that mark the beginning of a new church year. The ancient Christian church celebrated Advent as a kind of fresh start to faith and worship. Advent is a time to anticipate and spiritually prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior: God’s gift of love to us. At the same time, Advent anticipates and hopes for Jesus’ glorious return at the end of the age.

In a 2002 Advent speech, Pope John Paul II said, "The liturgy of Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we recited in the (Apostles') Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come and who comes continuously."

For the next four weeks I challenge you to respond to the call of the prophets and teachers, even Pope John Paul. Recognize Christ in all you see, do and say. What message do we want to send to a world that is in desperate need of the hope, peace, joy, and love that is born on Christmas Day? Our celebration is more than the parties and presents. Our celebration is grounded in God's redeeming love and sacrifice. What do we want to teach our children about Advent and Christmas? Truly, Jesus is the greatest gift of all!

## **CPWM**

CPWM met Monday, November 4 in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme for November was to "Walk in Love in Thankfulness" taken from Psalm 136:1 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. We finalized plans for our Christmas Dinner and compiled a list of seniors we will be remembering at Christmas this year.

We will not have a meeting in December but invite all the ladies and girls at Highland to our **Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 9**. It will be in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. Jeff Parker is catering a chicken and dressing meal with the ladies of CPWM providing desserts. We are so excited to start the Advent Season in fellowship with our Christian friends. We do need reservations by Sunday, December 1st.

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## **Session Highlights**

Items approved at the November meeting:

- Participate in the 2019 Gift of the King Offering.
  - Upon recommendation of the Technology Committee, purchase two new projectors for the Sanctuary and to replace the projector in the Fellowship Hall. A proposal from MidComm AV in the amount of \$3,590.00 was approved, and also includes up to three hours of alignment and testing following installation.
  - After a congregational meeting, it was agreed to reduce the number of elders from 7 to 5 beginning in 2020.
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**Paducah Cooperative Ministry** Canned Goods

Welcome New Member

George Olmeda joined the Highland family November 24.

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## **November Numbers**

Stewardship Report as of November 25, 2019

Receipts	\$ 18,702.70
Disbursements	\$ 23,029.33

## **Attendance Record**

November 3 - 116

November 10 - 104

November 17 - 120

November 24 - 128

## **December Calendar**

December 7 - Paducah Christmas Parade, 5:00

December 9 - Ladies and Girls dinner, 6:00 p.m.

December 15 - Session meeting, 2:00 p.m.

December 22 - Congregational meeting to  
Nominate Elders for 2020-2022 Class

December 22 - Children's Christmas Play and  
fellowship, 6:00 p.m.

**Ushers** – Tanner Parker, Ronnie Parker

Steve and Diane Shrewsberry

**Elders** – Steve Shrewsberry, Wayne Coleman



## Youth News

The Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 18 at the church. We will NOT exchange gifts, just come and have a good time. No youth December 25 or January 1. We resume normal schedule January 8.

Grace Presbytery Convocation in Gatlinburg, TN January 17-20. Registration is due soon. Mike Golightly has forms.

## December Children's Church

The connection between Joy and God's character

- Jesus is Promised - You can have joy because God keeps His promises
  - The Coming Birth of John the Baptist - You can have joy because anything is possible with God.
  - The Coming Birth of Jesus - You can have joy because God is with you.
  - Jesus Is Born - You can have joy because God sent His Son
  - The Wise Men Visit Jesus - You can find joy when you search for God
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## Outreach/Mission Projects

- Loaves and Fishes \$624.55 collected for denominational projects: Project VIDA, Coalition of Appalachian Ministries and Beth-El Farm Workers Ministry)
- Project Pomona \$539 collected at our Joint CP Thanksgiving Service
- Operation Christmas Child - over 40 shoe boxes collected

Thank you to everyone who collected and participated.

## December Mission Project

During our Youth Christmas play Dec. 22, we will collect our annual Gift to the King offering.

### December Birthdays

5 - Lisa Parker  
6 – Caroline Parker  
7 – Karen Coleman  
9 – David Russell  
13 – Doris Lynn  
14 – Donna Yates  
    Madeline Stowell  
16 – Rev. Dr. Bernice Belt  
    Laura DeHart  
    Sidney Milton  
19 - Terrella Hancock  
    Berkley Parker  
20 - Buddy Rushing  
23 - Melissa Kilgore  
25 - Clint Cunningham  
26 - Johnny Overton  
    Tony Dodd  
    Allison Hasty  
29 - Alyssa McKinney

### December Anniversaries

31 – Bud and Pam Russell