

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2022

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

One of the themes of Advent is Hope. Many scriptures define the hope that people receive when they believe in the saving grace of Jesus. Ephesians 1:18 is one of those scriptures, *"having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the **hope** to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,"*

This year at Highland we opened the Advent season with a Hanging of the Green service and celebrated the Hope that Christ's coming brought to all who call upon his name. Throughout the centuries, when the believers faith has been tested, hope has been the foundation of their strength to persevere. This hope is found in Jesus. Jesus came in order that we could experience, Immanuel, which means 'God with us'. Romans 15:13 says, *"May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**."*

Christ enters our world with the message sung by the angels, *"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."* Luke 2:10. Advent is the time we think about our only real source of hope, Jesus. He is the one who provides us with a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3 explains where our hope comes from, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*

This Advent season, focus on what Christmas means: hope, peace, joy and love. What could these riches mean to others who are lost, broken and still seeking God's loving grace? Take this opportunity to look into the depth of His love and what He offers to all who believe that He is truly God in the flesh, who has come and is coming again so that our hope will be finalized! Immanuel - God with us.

As you celebrate all the festivities surrounding the Christmas holiday, be ever mindful to prepare your heart to experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love the Christ child brings and the relationship He offers. If you have the opportunity to share the message, by all means, do so. There is a world full of people needing to hear the Good News of hope.

Merry CHRISTmas,

Women's Ministry

The ladies in CPWM are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner Monday, Dec. 5. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated and festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. If you have not made a reservation, please call Elaine Overton at 270-554-1259. We look forward to a relaxing evening celebrating the beginning of the Advent Season!

Our regular monthly meeting will be Monday, Dec. 12 at 10:00. We plan to fill stockings made by Velva Mullen with various gifts for our shut ins. This has been a fun project, and we look forward to delivering them in time for Christmas. Thank you ladies for a year of faithful ministry to the Highland Church family!

Session Highlights

Items approved at the November Meeting:

- From Youth Director, Elizabeth Spann:
 - Increase the 2023 Budget for Youth Ministry to \$17,420 to accommodate our growing programs;
 - Use money from the Youth Fund to cover the cost of the 2023 graceConvo trip and increase the budget next year;
 - Ask the Hospitality Committee to host a church-wide fellowship following the Christmas Program, December 4th.
- From the Maintenance Committee: have the pine needles removed from the Outreach Center parking lot at a cost of \$125.00.
- Participate in the Gift of the King Offering.
- Give Suzan Roberts a retirement gift on her last Sunday, November 27th.
- Purchase two pickleball sets in the amount of \$800.00. Our new Pickleball leagues will play on Thursday nights from January - March. We are working on a plan for participants to reimburse the Church.
- Present our Staff and Musicians year end gifts.
- Explore the possibility of purchasing the Charlie Hampton property adjacent to the Church. His children have informed us that the property is available.

November Numbers

Financial Record as of November 28

income - \$ 17,855.72

expenses - \$ 42,855.81

Attendance

November 6 - 74

November 13 - 101

November 20 - 69

November 27 - 83

December Calendar

December 3 - Paducah Christmas Parade

December 4 - Kids Christmas Program, 5:00 p.m. and Finger Food Fellowship

December 5 - Women and Girls meal sponsored by CPWM, 6:00 p.m.

December 11 - Elder Nomination, morning worship

December 16 - Highlanders, Texas Roadhouse
December 18 - Elder Election
December 24 - Come and Go Communion, 5:00 - 7:00
December 25 - Christmas Day

Ushers – Tanner Parker, Ronnie Parker,
Steve and Diane Shrewsberry
Elder - Jeff Parker

Change of Address Suzan Roberts our Nursery Worker has moved to the Lexington area to be near her son and his family. Suzan's new address is
1108 Gallant Dr., Wilmore, KY 40390.

Gift to the King Offering During our Youth/Children Christmas Program, December 4 at 5:00, we will collect our annual Gift to the King Offering. Funds collected go to the denomination to help support growing Cumberland Presbyterian missions in England and Scotland. These new churches have been founded by CP immigrants from Hong Kong. With the city of Hong Kong coming under control by the Chinese government in 2019, many residents fled the city for England. Among those fleeing were CP pastors and leaders. Together, they are beginning to establish ministries and worship communities.

Loaves and Fishes Thank you to everyone who supported our offering for a food sustainability program in Brazil. We will be working with other CPs to help provide food for 15 needy families for up to two years. 75% of our offering will go to that project and the remaining 25% will be distributed by the Highland CPWM to local organizations. The Highland church collected \$609.72. Thank you.

Youth News

graceCONVO Convocation registration is due December 10. Our 6th - 12th graders will return to Gatlinburg, January 13-16, 2023 for a weekend of praise and worship with other CP Youth.

Youth Christmas Party Come be tacky with us! December 14 at 6PM we'll have an Ugly Christmas Pajama party including a contest for the ugliest pajamas! If you would like to participate in the white elephant gift exchange be sure to bring a wrapped gift!

Children's Christmas Party Our kids' Christmas party will take place on December 14 at 6PM. We'll watch a Christmas movie together, have snacks, and talk about Jesus' birth.

Christmas Caroling Join us for Christmas caroling as we visit our church family and community December 21 at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!

December Birthdays

5 - Lisa Parker
6 – Caroline Parker
7 – Karen Coleman
9 – David Russell
13 – Doris Lynn
14 – Donna Yates
 Madeline Stowell
15 - Jeanne Mullen
16 – Bernice Belt
 Laura DeHart
 Sidney Milton
19 - Terrella Hancock
 Berkley Parker
20 - Buddy Rushing
23 - Melissa Kilgore
 Jonathan Cunningham
25 - Clint Cunningham
26 - Johnny Overton
 Tony Dodd
 Kathy Lipford
30 - Elizabeth Spann

December Anniversaries

31 – Bud and Pam Russell

Merry
Christmas

