

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2023

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

For the past few Sundays my sermons have focused on the Book of Daniel. Through the stories about the dedication of God's faithful servant Daniel and his friends during the Babylonian exile, we have learned much about the sovereignty and faithfulness of God. I continue to be humbled and in awe of Daniel's devotion and God's reward.

Charlie Brown builds a beautiful sandcastle, works on it for hours. Finally he stands back, looks at it. It's wonderful. Just as he's admiring it, a storm comes up and blows over all of his sandcastle. Now, he's standing where his beautiful masterpiece was, on level sand, saying to himself, "I know there's a lesson in this, but I'm not sure what it is."

Life is not predictable; there are ups and downs along the way and sometimes the storms destroy our sandcastles. Trusting God when times are good, can be easy. However, when we experience difficulties and trials, and although we may question 'why?', it is during these storms when trusting God is of utmost importance. God's unchanging character and His Word can give us a firm foundation when things seem unsteady and uncertain. Trusting God is more than an emotional response in a stressful situation. Our trust should be built on faith in what the Scriptures say in spite of our feelings. Yes, emotions are important, but ultimately we need to analyze how we react to circumstances through the lens of faith and God's Word.

We may not know the 'why' or perhaps even the 'how,' but we should know and acknowledge God is in control. He is in control in order to accomplish His good, pleasing and perfect will for our lives. It's our decision to choose to trust God and let him work in us to be transformed. (Romans 12:1,2)

God is completely trustworthy, but He does not ask you to trust Him blindly. He wants you to learn to trust Him as you get to know Him. You can get to know God through personal time with Him in prayer and through His Word in study. With those tools, ask yourself what God may be doing, allowing or teaching in your current situation. Then, when we realize that even as a Christian we are not exempt from trials and hardships, we know for certain we can depend on God's power to accomplish His purpose for our lives. Live a life worthy of the calling so all can see that our God is faithful!

Now back to Charlie Brown and Daniel. What lesson can you glean from the Charlie Brown story - has a wave destroyed your sandcastle? How will you choose to react? Likewise, if you are not familiar with the stories of Daniel, I challenge you to read the first six chapters of the book so you can understand and learn more of God's faithfulness and sovereignty.

Women's Ministry

CPWM met Monday, March 6th in the Fellowship Hall. We opened our meeting by lifting up our missionaries, our session, and various prayer concerns. Jeanne Mullen was excited about the feedback we got at our potluck following Worship Services January 29th. Discussion was held regarding sponsoring these potlucks monthly or quarterly. It was agreed by consensus to schedule one the first Sunday of each quarter beginning April 2nd. In April we propose sandwiches, sides, and desserts; July salads and dessert; and October soup, chili, cornbread and desserts.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 3rd in the Fellowship hall. We will be making plans for our Regional CPWM Meeting on Saturday, April 15th at the Hopkinsville CP Church. Our Stott Wallace Missionary Fund Lip Sync is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th, and we want everyone to begin finding the music you want to perform. It is such a fun night!

Session Highlights

Items approved at the March Meeting:

- Cancel current automated phone message provider through OnSolve and replace with Remind. Members will need to download the Remind App. on their cell phones. We will be available to anyone needing help with this app.
 - Amend the Youth Ministry Handbook as presented by Youth Director Elizabeth Spann. Copies are available from Elizabeth.
 - Upon request from Youth Director Elizabeth Spann hire Sarah Staubs as a Children's Ministry Assistant at \$100.00 per week. This will be contingent on a background check. She will be working on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This will be evaluated at the end of 60 days.
 - Bro. Bud summer schedule to include: Spiritual Disciplines Retreat April 24-28 in Kingston, TN; out of town wedding and vacation May 1-9; Installation of Cherry Mitchell Saturday, May 13 at White Plains, KY; Installation of Dr. Belt May 20 at Grace Covenant; and PAS July 31-17.
 - Hold Maundy Thursday Service on April 6th with communion.
 - Continue Pickleball April 14 through May 31.
 - Upon request from CPWM host quarterly potlucks the first Sunday in the quarter beginning in April.
 - Upon request from the Worship Committee have a Spotify play list begin as soon as possible after Sunday School ends to run until 10:40 or until the organ starts.
 - Ask Mike Golightly to establish a plan for Session Members to participate in member care.
 - Work with the Worship Committee and musicians to minimize distractions during the worship service.
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February Numbers

Financial Record as of March 29

income - \$ 18,628.19

expenses - \$ 18,238.67

Attendance

March 5 - 88

March 12 - 79

March 19 - 77

March 26 - 81

Youth News

Youth Discipleship Weekend

When Anxiety Attacks, will take place April 28-30. Anyone in 6th-12th grades is welcome. Cost is \$25 per student. Contact Elizabeth to register.

April Calendar

April 2 - Palm Sunday

Quarterly Potluck after a.m. worship

April 3 - CPWM, 10:00 a.m.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday service, 6:00 p.m.

April 9 - Easter

April 16 - Session Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

April 19 - CE Committee meeting after Youth April 20 - Highlanders

April 24-28 - Bro. Bud at Spiritual Disciplines

Retreat in TN

Things that happen EVERY WEEK

Sunday - Sunday School, 9:45 am

Morning Worship, 10:45 am

Evening Worship, 5:00 pm

Monday - Secretary in the office, 9:00 am

Scouts, Fellowship Hall; 6:30 pm

Tuesday - Exercise, Gym, 5:00 pm

Discipleship Class, 6:00 pm

Wednesday - Secretary in the office, 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study, 6:00

Youth Groups, Gym, 6:00

Thursday - Secretary in the office, 9:00 am

Saturday - Exercise, Gym, 10:00 am

April Ushers Debby Hughes, Johnny Overton, Jimmy Russell, Melissa Dumes

April Elder Jeff Parker

Highlanders Traveling to The Farm in LaCenter April 20. The bus leaves at 4:30 p.m. Let Marlene know if you can go.

Upcoming

Safe Sanctuary Training This is a required training for anyone who works with our youth or children. It will be May 7 immediately following our worship service!

LipSync and Fund Raiser night Our annual night of food, music and desert auction is scheduled for June 4. As usual this is also a fundraiser for the Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund. It's not too early to start working on your act. Contact Velva when you have your plan.

April Birthdays

2 – Melanie Massie

Sharon Rushing

12 – Mike Bryan

13 – David Robinson

15 – Brenda Dodd

Linda Johnson

Debby Hughes

27 – Lindsay Gamble LeBlanc

30 – Alec Golightly

April Anniversaries

3 – Daniel and Jennifer Rushing

19 – Gordon and Kelly Foltz

28 – Max and Brenda Dodd