

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2023

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

If you didn't know, Pam and I live in the country, surrounded by fields. The farmer who works the land by our house rotates crops; this year he planted corn, last year, wheat and soybeans. Every year we watch the process of sowing the seed, growth of the plants and reaping the harvest. It can be difficult but rewarding work.

In His teaching, Jesus used common and familiar practices to make his lessons come to life for the people. On one occasion He spoke to the disciples of a farmer who planted seed in three different areas (a sidewalk, gravel, and thorns). Compared to seed sown on fertile soil, these seed had no chance of survival. Later, Jesus interpreted his story to explain how the Word of God is received and believed by people. (Mark 4:1-20)

Jesus again uses the image of a farmer when he said to his disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*" Matt. 9:37-38

Sowing seeds and reaping a harvest. We understand the agricultural aspects, but how does that work for the Christian. Since we are all called to be ambassadors and witnesses for Christ our first job is to share the Gospel of Jesus, that through Him the world would be saved. One way to do that is through the way we live and greet our neighbors. Colossians 3 gives us some ideas of good seeds to sow: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love. The key is always seeking to bring Glory to God in all we do.

And then, like the farmer, we wait for the harvest. "*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.*" James 5:7 and "A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7 When we use what God has given us for His Glory and according to His will, we will see a harvest. God calls us be generous with what we have been given, whether it be time, resources, or talents. What you want to harvest determines your attitude. Know the harvest you are expecting and work toward it.

What seeds do you need to sow? Reconciliation? Forgiveness? Kindness? The Hope of Salvation to someone who doesn't know Jesus? Then cultivate a harvest of renewed relationships, the heart of a servant, peace of mind and joy in knowing someone now belongs to Jesus.

Women's Ministry

CPWM met Monday, September 11th in the Fellowship Hall. Marlene Wallace opened with intercessory prayer for our missionaries, our session, our presbytery, and many prayer concerns. Elaine Overton introduced our 2023-2024 theme, "This is our Story" based on Psalm 107:2. We also have a new logo and many resources available on the CPWM website. The focus of our new director and officers is to get more women, especially younger women, involved in this amazing ministry. **Every woman at Highland is a member of CPWM.** Let any of us know if you would like more information!

We voted to take our 20 lap blankets to Parkview Nursing Home along with \$100.00 for Activities Director Kim Lee to provide for the needs of residents with no family. Thank you, Jancie Frans, for making the majority of these blankets! You are much appreciated!

Please join us Sunday Morning, **October 8th** following Worship Services for our **quarterly potluck**. This month, we will be honoring our pastors, Bro. Bud and Elizabeth Spann along with everyone having a birthday this quarter. We will be bringing chili, hot dogs, soups, and cornbread. You are encouraged to bring your favorite dish. Dessert will be a cake and cupcakes.

We discussed "**A Day in the Park**" to be held at the Birthplace Shrine at Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson, Tennessee. We would like to organize a group to take the bus on Tuesday, October 10th. It is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon with lunch to be served at the CP Church in Dickson.

Our **next meeting** will be Monday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Let's all invite someone in the church to attend. It is always a morning of Christian Fellowship as we share our stories.

Session Highlights

At the September Session Meeting we voted to:

- Participate in the Loaves and Fishes Offering.
- Authorize Youth Director Elizabeth Spann to rent an AirBnb in Branson, Missouri during the MLK weekend for a youth retreat; to use the Sanctuary Sunday evenings during November and first Sunday in December for Christmas Program rehearsal; rent a bounce house for Trunk or Treat at a cost of \$556.50
- Call Elizabeth Spann to Highland as our Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries following her ordination in November.
- Take the bus to Dickson, TN for "A Day in the Park" Tuesday, October 10th. Bro Bud agreed to drive the to the Birthplace Shrine leaving at 8:00 a.m.
- Not participate in the Christmas Parade

September Numbers

Financial Record as of September 24, 2023

income \$ 28,530.69 (includes BBQ money)

expenses \$ 15,743.11

Attendance

September 3 - 92

September 10 - 69

September 17 - 100

September 24 - 84

October Calendar

October 2 - CPWM, 10:00

October 8 - Quarterly Potluck

October 10 - "A Day in the Park" trip

October 15 - Session Meeting, 2:00

October 19 - Highlanders

October 29 - Trunk or Treat

Exercise Tuesdays at 5:30 and Saturdays at 10:00

Pickleball Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:00

Scouts Mondays 6:30-7:30, the gym

October Ushers Jimmy Russell, Mike Golightly, Alec Golightly, Tina Gamble

A Day in the Park

Join with other CPs at the beautiful Montgomery Bell State Park to worship, fellowship and have lunch October 10. Please make reservations through Paula in the office by Oct. 5. (see CPWM news for details)

Barbeque on the River

Another year is in the books. We had a Net Profit of \$7,442. Some of the profits will be kept for church projects and the remainder divided between local charities.

New Member

Ronda Beeler joined the Highland family Sunday, September 24. Ronda is the daughter of Evalena Duncan which makes her related to Cindy Robertson and Linda Cunningham.

Blessing Box

Thanks to several folks in the Highland family an idea for community outreach has been put into action. We now have a Blessing Box out in the front of our property by the mail box. A Blessing Box is a place where non-perishable food can be dropped off for anyone in need. For both the donor and recipient it is private with no embarrassment. Please help us maintain this opportunity with your donations.

Thank You from Hope Unlimited The annual Baby Bottle campaign raised \$64,660 for Hope Unlimited. Highland collected \$1,184.30 of that total.

Loaves and Fishes

This year's collection is for an after school program for Venezuelan Refugee Children in Colombia. Collection boxes will be handed out at the end of October.

YOUTH NEWS

FALL BREAK No Wednesday evening programming for children or youth on October 4. Enjoy some extra time with family during fall break!

CROSS RETREAT Registration for CROSS retreat 2023 is now open. Please see Elizabeth for details.

October Birthdays

3 - Adria Rushing

Jennifer Rushing

8 - Dottie Owens

10 – Janice Frans

11 - Jim Perry

12 - Linda Cunningham

14 - Brad Hall

17 – Graham Hill

18 - Ann Jackson

20 - Randy Dumes

Jeff Yates

Olivia and Jacob Hill

27 - Olivia Stowell

October Anniversaries

5 - Scott and Morgan Cunningham

14 – Ray and Melanie Massie

31 - Larry and Jeanne Mullen



OCTOBER 31ST (Starting at 6:00 pm)
Location: Catechetical Center Parking Lot

Trunk or Treat 2023 and Chili Supper

October 29 4:30 - 6:00
Sign up on the YOUTH bulletin board