

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2023

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

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1,2(a)

This verse comes at the end of Hebrews 11, often referred to as the Faith Chapter since it provides a long list of familiar Old Testament men and women whose faith in God, though He was unseen, guided their lives and actions. The writer of Hebrews goes on to tell his readers that God had something much better planned for us - His Son, Jesus. Because of our faith in Christ, we are given perseverance to "not grow weary and lose heart" when we are faced with trials and opposition.

Many churches celebrate All Saints day on November 1. This scripture is used to call to mind the men and women who have been an influence in the church and the Kingdom. The church around the world is alive today because of the calling and faith of people to do God's work.

Likewise, Highland has a remarkable past; many saints have come through these doors. Their faithfulness and character laid the foundation to ensure Highland became a church of the Living God that loves, cares, and reaches out to others.

For us today, we should never become complacent and only reminisce of the work of our ancestors. The race is not yet finished, our eyes should still be fixed on Jesus until He comes. How then, are we still influencing those around us to continue the work left to us to carry on? How can we through "such opposition from sinners" initiate a spiritual transformation to reach the culture in which we live? Individually, we start with discipleship. Learn who God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are, be committed to their calling. Empty yourself wholly to the Spirit and learn to lean on Him. Be contrary to what the popular culture is saying - not living for 'me' but living for God.

Collectively, every decision we make as a church should be based on what God wants, what we can do to love people better and how we can reach out with the love of God and the gospel. Let's make sure Highland and its people are written on the pages of a future "Faith Hall of Fame."

Women's Ministry

CPWM met Monday, October 2nd in the Fellowship Hall. We started our meeting in prayer for all our concerns, and especially, for Marlene Wallace. She keeps us anchored to Christ Jesus. We studied the Woman at the Well in John 4:9-10 and learned how Jesus gave her hope and a purpose. Final plans for our October potluck were discussed. We will serve cake and cupcakes to recognize Brother Bud and Elizabeth during Pastor Appreciation month.

We would like to begin **collecting school supplies** for students in need. The supplies will be collected throughout the year and distributed at the beginning of the school year. We would like to start our collection with notebook paper and No. 2 pencils. If you have any questions, any of our ladies would be glad to answer them. In other news, Jeanne Mullen and Velva Mullen hinted that we could be hosting a Bazaar in 2024.

It is time to put our **Christmas Dinner** on your calendar! Jeff Parker has agreed to cater our dinner Monday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. What a great way to fellowship with the ladies at Highland as we begin this Advent Season.

Our next meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall Monday, November 6th at 10:00 am. Please join us! We need your ideas and input!

Session Highlights

At the October Session Meeting we voted to:

- Approve recommendation from Youth Director Elizabeth Spann that she attend Children's Church to provide extra training and support in order to evaluate the program. She will also be publishing the age range for Children's Church (K-4th) in the bulletin and will make an announcement over the next few weeks.
- Request Sidney Milton e-mail the Children's Ministry Assistant job description to our members. If we have no results in two weeks it will be posted on Indeed.
- Re-establish a Member Care Committee. Responsibilities will include those of the Mission Committee and the Blessing Box
- Increase scholarships for our High School graduates from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00.
- Give the congregation the opportunity to donate to the Covenant Presbyterian Widow's Fund on Sunday, November 5th.
- Bro. Bud will be on vacation Oct. 26 – Nov. 1.

October Numbers

Financial Record as of October 30

income \$ 27,709.00

expenses \$ 16,695.85

Attendance

October 1 -65

October 8 - 101

October 15 - 80

October 22 - 81

November Calendar

November 6 - CPWM, 10:00

November 16 - Highlanders

November 19 - Return Loaves and Fishes boxes
Session Meeting, 2:00

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

November Ushers Debby Hughes, Ryan Spann,
Mike Haynes, Ron Spann

November Elder Cindy Robertson

Barbeque on the River In other business the Session voted to distribute profits from Barbeque on the River as follows:

Cemetery and Scholarship Funds – \$ 1,788.24 each

Blessing Box - \$1,000.00,

Martha's Vineyard – \$2,000.00,

New Pathways for Children – \$300.00,
Eric Horner Ministries Tanks Full of Love – \$276.44.

Opportunities for Giving

Loaves and Fishes 75% of this year's collection is for an after school program for Venezuelan Refugee Children in Colombia, South America. The remaining 25% stays at Highland for local needs. Boxes will be collected November 19.

Widow's Fund November 5 we will collect a special offering for surviving spouses of ministers who served Covenant Presbytery.

School Supplies The CPWM has started collecting school supplies. Please read that section for details

Operation Christmas Child The Shoe Boxes have arrived. Get yours soon, fill it up and return it to the church. Please see Wayne Coleman for details.

Blessing Box Ideas: canned fruit, beans, vegetables, soups, meals-in-a-can; crackers, granola bars, baby food, peanut butter, personal hygiene products,

NOT ACCEPTABLE: open or partially used items, homemade food, alcoholic beverages; rusty, dented, leaking or unlabeled cans, expired food, glass containers

PCM Regular Quarterly Item - boxed macaroni and cheese; Special Request - Raman Noodles, tuna, instant potatoes, crackers, pasta and sauce

YOUTH NEWS

No Wednesday evening programming for kids or youth on November 22. Happy Thanksgiving!

New Baby

Welcome Charlotte Parker daughter of Tanner and Samantha Parker born October 16.

November Birthdays

- 1 – Mason Wooten
- 5 - Melissa Dumes
Tammy Wood
- 7 - Cindy Robertson
- 8 - Emily Johnson Ferrer
- 9 – Rev. Doug Hughes
- 10 - Suzanna Stoll Szabo
- 13 - Roddy Johnson
- 17 – Haley Russell Camp
Patrick Mahan
Isla Mahan
- 21 - Gregg Stoll
- 25 - Tina Dodd

November Anniversaries

- 6 – Harold and Bernice Belt
 - 15 – Steve and Diane Shrewsberry
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Upcoming in December

1st Sunday of Advent - December 3

CPWM Ladies Christmas Dinner - December 4

Youth and Children's Program - *We Three Spies*
December 10

HIGHLAND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2023

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

Being part of the church is about being part of a community, a family of believers who support and uplift one another. It's a place where you can find love, acceptance, and companionship. The church provides a sense of belonging essential for our spiritual and emotional well-being. Whether in times of joy or struggle, the church is where we can find strength and hope through the support of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Moreover, being part of the church means being a part of something much bigger than ourselves. It's about joining a collective body of believers who share God's love with the world. As church members, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, spreading his message of love, compassion, and forgiveness. Our collective efforts can make a real and tangible impact on the lives of those in need, bringing hope and healing to our communities and beyond.

Being part of the church also means experiencing spiritual growth and transformation. The church provides a nurturing environment where we can deepen our faith, gain wisdom from the teachings of the Bible, and cultivate a closer relationship with God. Through worship, prayer, and learning, we can continually grow in understanding God's love and grace and be empowered to live out our faith in meaningful ways.

It's important to remember that being part of the church is about what we receive and what we can give. Each one of us has unique talents, gifts, and abilities that can be used to serve others and edify the body of believers. Whether volunteering, serving in ministry or simply offering a listening ear and a caring heart, we can all contribute to the greater good of the church and positively impact the lives of those around us.

During life's challenges and uncertainties, being part of the church provides a source of hope and stability. It offers a constant reminder that we are never alone and are valued and loved by God and fellow believers. The church is a beacon of light in a world that often feels dark and overwhelming, offering a message of hope that transcends adversity.

I encourage you to fully embrace the privilege and responsibility of being part of the church. Continue to build one another up, reach out to those in need, and be a living testament to the transformative power of God's love. Together, as a unified body of believers, we can impact the world with the message of hope and redemption.

As you journey through your life as a member of the church, may you always find comfort in the fellowship of believers, strength in the teachings of Christ, and purpose in the service of others. May you be a shining light in your community, reflecting the love and compassion of our Savior to all those around you. Remember, you are an integral part of the church, and your presence and contributions are truly valued.



Bro. Bud

Women's Ministry

CPWM met in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, November 6th. Marlene Wallace opened our meeting with prayer for all our praises and concerns. Elaine Overton shared her thoughts on a selection from Mark 12 talking about Jesus praising the widow with two mites. We finalized plans for our Christmas Dinner, Monday, December 4th and look forward to an evening of fellowship with the ladies of Highland. We voted to donate \$300.00 to the Covenant Presbytery Widow's Fund, and to ask the Session permission to hold a Bazaar in November 2024.

We discussed our quarterly potlucks for 2024 and set the first one for February 4th to celebrate the birth of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 8th. Please join us as we make plans for 2024!

Session Highlights

At the November Session Meeting we voted to:

- Give \$100.00 to Feeding America
 - Voted to present Rev. Elizabeth Spann a robe at her ordination.
 - Participate in the Gift of the Offering to be collected at the Children's Christmas Program
 - Allow Youth Director Rev. Spann to enforce the attendance policy at all upcoming events.
 - Upon recommendation from the Maintenance Committee proceed with replacing the mulch around the Sanctuary with rocks.
 - Upon request from CPWM schedule a bazaar in November, 2024.
 - Call Congregational meetings December 3, 10 and 17 for the purpose of increasing number of elders, elder nomination, election, ordination and installation (please see details below)
 - Send our \$600.00 December OUO offering to the Covenant Presbytery Widow's Fund.
 - Celebrate Communion with Christmas Eve Come and Go Communion Sunday, December 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
 - Vacation for Bro Bud December 25 – January 2.
 - Keep Pickleball on the calendar permanently.
 - Dismiss Sunday Evening Worship until January 7; starting time will change to 5:00 p.m. temporarily
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November Numbers

Financial Record as of November 27

income \$ 21,123.78

expenses \$ 24,505.22

Attendance

November 5 - 78

November 12 - 94

November 19 - 84

November 26 - 63

December Calendar

December 3 - Congregational Meeting, after Worship

December 4 - Ladies Christmas Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

December 10 - Congregational Meeting

December 17 - Session Meeting, 2:00

December 24 - Christmas Eve Communion, 5:00 -7:00

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

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

Scouts Monday Dec. 4 and 11; 6:30-7:30, the gym

December Ushers Tanner Parker, Ronnie Parker, Wayne Coleman, Ray Massie

December Elder Jeff Parker



Sunday, December 10 5:00 pm
Fellowship to follow - bring your favorite finger foods

YOUTH NEWS

Youth and Kids Christmas Parties Wednesday, Dec. 13 Children will meet 5:30-7:00 PM
Youth will meet 6:00-7:30 PM.

Christmas Caroling Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of joy and celebration as we spread the holiday cheer to our church family. We will leave the church at 5 PM on December 20. Children who are in 5th grade or younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Congregational Meetings

December 3, the following recommendation from the session will be put to a congregational vote: "The Session is making a recommendation to increase the number of elders from five to seven. If the recommendation is approved, two Elders will then be nominated to the Class of 2024-2026 (to replace Melissa Dumes and Jeff Parker); two more Elders will be nominated to serve a two year term for the Class of 2024-2025 (Mike Golightly is currently the only elder serving in this Class)"

December 10 for the purpose of Nominating and Electing Elders for the Class of 2024 -2026; Two names will be submitted to replace Melissa Dumes and Jeff Parker who rotate off. In addition, pending the outcome of the December 3 Congregation Meeting, two more names will be submitted

December 17 for the purpose of Ordaining (if needed)
and Installing new elders.

Opportunities for Giving

School Supplies The CPWM has started collecting school supplies.

Blessing Box Non-perishable food items

Gift the the King This special offering will be collected at the Children's Christmas Program. Money collected this year will be used to complete the purchase of facilities for two congregations, one in Brazil and the other in Guatemala. Permanent homes are needed for "La Vid" in Guatemala and "Mata" in Brazil. These congregations will be very grateful to have a place to worship that they can call their own. This is our opportunity to help them share the gift of Jesus Christ with many more!

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 – Laura DeHart
Sidney Milton

19 - Berkley Parker
20 - Buddy Rushing
23 - Melissa Kilgore
Jonathan Cunningham
25 - Clint Cunningham
26 - Johnny Overton
Tony Dodd
30 - Elizabeth Spann

December Anniversaries

31 – Bud and Pam Russell