

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arise with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH Jen Jammer

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 Wayne Wampler

ANTHEM Beautiful Star of Bethlehem arr. Fettke
(Clay Johnson, soloist)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:13-23

MESSAGE From Generation to Generation: We Keep Seeking
Rev. Chip Stapleton

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**All: There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be
used for the common good.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

Presentation of Elders to be Ordained & Installed

Profession of Faith

One: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

One: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination

Declaration of Ordination & Installation

RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Christmas Offering
(Second Mile)

†DOXOLOGY #592

**“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above Ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

†HYMN #66 We Three Kings

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Glorious Star Callahan
†All who are able, please stand

~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

**We ask that you keep our home-bound in your thoughts and prayers.**

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| P.W. and Martha Jessup       | Steve & Orion Gaynos               |
| Jean Robinson                | Madie Rae Locklear                 |
| Lisa Hitt                    | ("Grandma" to the Guy Family)      |
| (daughter of Gayle McDonald) | Lib Yarborough                     |
| Charlotte Ingram             | Bill Johnson                       |
| June Marie Smith             | Betty Graham                       |
| Doris & John English         | Hope Campbell                      |
| Violet McNeill               | Mike Byerly (SIL to Shirley Olund) |
| Randy Gainer                 | Bill Owen                          |

Please let us know if you have concerns that you think the church should know about. Please limit to close-extended family. We will put their names (and relation to you if you desire) in the email update. The names will be removed after a few weeks unless requested otherwise. Kelli 910-401-0928 or kellilu@gmail.com

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Chip Stapleton, Senior Minister  
Pam Langston, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Jen Jammer, Dir. of Children's Ministry  
Chris Jackson, Dir. of Youth Ministry

**HAVE YOU GONE ALL IN YET?**

If you haven't yet made your pledge for 2023, it's not too late.  
In fact, it's never too late to pledge.

You may pledge on-line by going to [www.hpchurch.org/give](http://www.hpchurch.org/give) which is also where you can update or adjust your pledge amount.  
If you would like to speak with Sara about any concerns or questions, please call her at 910-401-0924.

If you have pledged for 2023 and have not yet received a hand-written thank you note from the Generosity Committee, please call Sara at the above number.

*Campaign Progress for Operating Fund*  
(January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

GOAL: \$699,738.00  
115 Pledges thus far for a  
TOTAL: \$650,151.00

**Apple Fundraiser**

Highland Learning Center is holding an Apple Fundraiser to raise money for improvement of the front playground.

All orders and money will be due on Friday, January 13th (cash or check); the apples are scheduled to be here by January 24th.

Apples are \$10 each. BUT, but....these are not just any apple - these are Granny Smith Apples, covered with rich caramel, topped with something else delightful (M&Ms, Worms & Dirt, toffee) and they are yummy! Get one for you and then buy one for a friend; you probably won't want to share.

Someone from HLC will be around Wednesday evening during the dinner hour to help you make your purchase.

**WHAT IS ARISE?**

An ARISE retreat is an encounter with Christ in which the participants become part of a community abounding in God's grace. It is a weekend based on faith building and strengthening of relationships both with Christ and other youth. *Who may go to an ARISE weekend?*

The weekend is open to young men and women ages fifteen and up from any denominational background. An ARISE weekend is not meant to convert anyone to Christianity; it is meant for those who have committed to Christ already. It is a weekend aimed at encouraging Christians to grow in faith, and increase their awareness and desire to serve the Lord.

*How much does it cost?*

The weekend costs \$120, which covers food, lodging, and the supplies for the weekend. Scholarships are available for those who cannot afford to pay the entire amount of the weekend.

The ARISE weekend will be held on Martin Luther King Day Weekend, January 14th – 16th Camp Carefree in Stokesdale, NC.

To attend speak with a youth who has already attended or Terry Morris, 910-988-5064 or email: [firerescue57@yahoo.com](mailto:firerescue57@yahoo.com). Or go to the ARISE website: [arisewithchrist.com](http://arisewithchrist.com) or email any questions to [council@arisewithchrist.com](mailto:council@arisewithchrist.com)  
**Deadline for registration is Monday, January 9th.**

**A note from your Pastor...**

Hello Highlanders,

A new year always brings with it some level of impetus for change, growth, and new, positive things. I think this is part of our nature to look for the grace and growth in the world that God is offering us.

There is no better place to look for that grace and growth than in and with the community of faith here at Highland. The church year, and the liturgical calendar begin not with the first Sunday in January, but rather, with the first Sunday of Advent. A reminder of where and from whom that grace and our new beginnings are found.

It is in and through Jesus and our relationship with him that we find the ability to grow. Like everything of value, growing into who God has called and created us to be requires work and consistent effort.

So, I want to encourage you to come and sit with the grace of Jesus Christ with us in worship this Sunday. It is a special day in the life of our church and a great way to begin the new year centered in Jesus Christ.

*Sharing God's Love,*

~Chip



**Our Thursday morning Bible study** will begin January 12, 2023. We will be using the book and video, *Elijah, Faith and Fire* by Priscilla Shirer. We start at 10am and end by 12. Please join us for a wonderful time of study and prayer. You may call Elva Owen (910-484-6936) for more information.

**A Call for Readers**

If anyone would like to be a reader (scripture or otherwise) on Sundays or for special services, please let Jen Jammer know you are interested. Text her at 989-447-3489

**LORENA CLARK PINER SCHOLARSHIP**

Each year Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina offer scholarships to an accredited institution of higher learning. Any deserving full time student from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina who is a member of a Presbyterian Church (USA) of proven scholastic ability, who needs financial assistance to further his/her education will be considered.

Preference will be given to students attending Presbyterian colleges.

**Pick up your application at the front desk - deadline is February 15th.**



**YOUTH INFORMATION**

CHICK-FIL-A BREAKFAST

We'll restart on January 10.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

We'll restart Wonderful Wednesdays on January 11

What's coming Next Year?

January 8- New Series for High School:

**How NOT to Read the Bible**

Contact Chris if you want to buy a book (but you don't have to)

New Series for Middle School:

**Throne Room**

(It's really about being in God's presence, but there just might be some bathroom humor thrown in for good fun!)

~Chris Jackson

Director of Youth and Worship Ministries

chris@hpchurch.org

Mobile 910-309-3030 || Office 910-401-0923



**Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings for January 2023**

**Monday, January 9th**

Circle #4, side-dining room at 12:00pm

Circle #5, Parlor at 1:00pm

**Tuesday, January 10th**

Circle #6, Parlor at 10:00am

Circle #3, Leighton McKeithen Room at 12:00pm

Circle #8, Member's home at 7:00pm



**Wednesday, January 11th, 2023**

Menu: *BBQ Ribs, Baked Potato, Corn-on-the-cob, Cornbread, Salad Bar, Dessert*

Make your reservations now! Call 401-0928

Don't forget to indicate if you want dine-in or take-out. You may also email Kelli with your reservations - kellilu@gmail.com

**JANUARY 8, 2023**

**11:00am**



**HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

GATHERING MUSIC

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Open up the Heavens  
(Second Mile)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Light! Light, light and more light! Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**All: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

One: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East, saying: Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

**All: For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.**

One: The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #63

**As with Gladness Men of Old**

CALL TO CONFESSION