

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. But, O Lord, we are consumed with wanting more. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. But, O Lord, other pastures seem greener. The waters aren't always still. Our souls still thirst. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. O Lord, we long to be led by you, though we may complain along the path. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. And yet, O God, we do sometimes fear. May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. O God, sometimes we refuse to sit down at your table. Forgive us and help us to see your overflowing mercy. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Forgive us, God, and lead us into your house. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

†Gloria Patri #579 **Glory Be to the Father**

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 23

ANTHEM The Lord's My Shepherd Mueller
(Chancel Choir)

GOSPEL Matthew 18:12-14

MESSAGE The Good Shepherd, week 2: The Lord is MY Shepherd
Rev. Chip Stapleton

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Congregational Affirmation (based on Psalm 23)*

All: You, O God, are our Shepherd. You provide everything we need. You let us rest in green meadows and lead us beside quiet streams. You renew our strength, and guide us in ways that bring honor to Your name. Even when we walk through difficult valleys, we will not fear, for you never are far away - protecting and comforting, guarding and guiding every step we take. You prepare a feast for us in the presence of our enemies. You welcome us as friends and lavish your blessings on us. We know that your goodness and unfailing love will continue to pursue us all the days of our lives, and that after our lives here are over, we will spend eternity in your presence.

RESPONSE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us Bradbury
(Dawn Fleck, Miriam Walker, Warren Way, Clay Johnson)

†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

†SENDING #585 **Lord, Dismiss with Thy Blessing**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Stanley

†All who are able, please stand



~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

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

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Martha Jessup        | Steve & Orion Gaynos          |
| June Marie Smith     | Madie Rae Locklear            |
| Doris & John English | ("Grandma" to the Guy Family) |
| Violet McNeill       | Lib Yarborough                |
| Bill Owen            | Bill Johnson                  |
| Pattie Koonce        | Betty Graham                  |
|                      | Annette Pleasant              |

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. Thank you. Email [kellilu@gmail.com](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com)

**Music Notes from the Choir...**

Join the choir and live longer! A Yale/Harvard study concluded that singing in a choir increases life expectancy. If that were not enough to get you to consider participating in Highland's choral music ministry, then please read these thoughts from Chancel Choir members...

**Andrea Kelly:** I hope to see new members join the choir because serving through music is a nourishment like no other for the soul - participating in music ministry is a blessing that brings joy to others and changes our lives for the better.

**Bill Hardwick:** The Chancel Choir is a family of brothers and sisters from all walks of life bound by a common love of presenting God's message through song. The harmonies created strengthen us both individually and as a group. A tear from the heart can often be seen in the corner of our eyes as we fully comprehend the words we sing and the impact they could have on the congregation. The choir is my foundation from which God's gifts are truly nurtured. If growing with God through music moves you, please consider joining us. There are no special skills required other than a love of music.

**Bob Matlack:** Singing in Highland's Chancel Choir is one of the ways I express my appreciation to God for all the many blessings my family and I enjoy. Having sung in the Octet and Concert Choir in high school and in choirs at Penn State and in the Coast Guard, I find singing in our church choir to be a wonderfully fulfilling way to both praise the Lord and fellowship with other church members. Please prayerfully consider joining us!!!!

**Don Latella:** "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord..." Singing in the choir is a gift to God. It matters not what your musical ability level is as long as you are doing the best you can. It's not about you - it's about giving your best to God. That's the value of singing in the choir - a gift to God from the people of God.

**Donna Hunt:** I look forward to Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings to be with my chancel choir FAMILY. I enjoy the challenges and camaraderie. The music we sing is relaxing to me, and the messages inspiring.

**Elaine Bryant Hayes:** I have been singing in my church choirs since I was 12 years old. Doing this has shaped my life. It has brought me joy, friends, and so much love for my career as a music educator. If I could repeat my life, I would always be singing in the choir. Come and join us and feel the love!

**Fran Way:** Singing in the choir always lifts my spirits. It is a wonderful way to worship the Lord, and we pray every Sunday that we can touch the hearts of those who hear us.

**Warren Way:** Someone asked me recently how long I have been singing in a choir. I joined the choir at my home Episcopal church as a boy soprano at age 7 or 8. I am now 80 so do the math. Being in a church choir has both inward and outward benefits. Inwardly, I gain from the pleasure of creating music as well as being in a community of people who are doing what they love to do. Choral singing is part of the overall worship experience and I feel that singing in the choir is a way I can contribute to the experience. Yes, the choir takes commitment, but doing anything worthwhile takes commitment and I cannot think of anything more worthwhile than being part of Christian worship.

**Wayne Wampler:** It has been a healing experience to be able to sing praises with these Christians. What might initially be seen as a responsibility/commitment most quickly became a joyous privilege to praise God. We as a "church choir" would welcome those of you who like to sing but, in error, say any of these things to yourself: "I can't read music, I am not a good enough singer, I don't want to be embarrassed, I feel the time commitment is too much, I want to sit with my family, or blah blah blah. Read Psalm 100 and accept this opportunity to act as instructed.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100)

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this dynamic ministry here at HPC!  
~Pam

Hello Highlanders,

In the Stapleton household summer is, sadly, well and truly over with 3 of our 4 boys back in school - including 1 settled in for his freshman year of college in PA (yikes!). This is an exciting, scary, stressful, hopeful time of year for all of us that are connected to school in one way or another.

The sense of calm and relaxation that often comes with summer has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of school schedules and deadlines, etc. This is a great time to remember that, while we come together to worship, fellowship, and serve, our connection - and God's Holy Spirit - goes with us wherever and whenever we go.

That is really what our 'blessing of the backpacks', taking place today in both services, is all about. The prayer we say, and the backpack tags that we will pass out are not lucky charms, but rather tangible reminders of God's constant presence and providence with us and for us.

So, whether you have a backpack or not - I'm glad you are here today as we bless those going back to school and remind all of us that wherever we go, God goes with us, before us, and behind us.

*Sharing God's love,*

~Chip



### BUSCH GARDENS TRIP 2023

Camping and Roller Coasters, and Thrills, and People I like a lot!

October 6-8

Cost: \$150

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Begins Sept 18- During Sunday School 10am- Youth Room

Calling All 8th Graders (And High School Students who missed out).

Please contact Chris to be included in our Confirmation Class for 2023-24!

### LAKE DAY AT THE HORNE'S

RESCHEDULED to Sept 10

Our Fall Kickoff for youth group!

More details as we get closer

### FRIENDS!

While we try to hold on to the care-free attitude of summer, it's time to get back in the groove. We will be putting out information on Wednesday programming, menus, and other events in the next few weeks. We look forward to a fun year together!



### Suppers for Six

Please sign up by **August 30** if you would like to participate in the Fall Suppers for 6.

We welcome new members.

Those who are currently signed up, do you want to continue this Fall? (Let us know!!)

Sign-up forms are available at the front desk!

Or you may email Kelli ([kellilu@gmail.com](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com))

with your information (name/s, address, phone number).



### ARISE

*An encounter with Christ*

*A weekend of Faith building*

*Raising up youth to become leaders*

#### 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 \$150, 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.

**AUGUST 26, 2023**

**11:00AM**



**HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

GATHERING MUSIC

### GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

The Good Shepherd  
I am the good shepherd; I know my own  
and my own know me - John 10:14

Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.

**All: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,  
which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness

**All: and walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are  
not afraid. The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

One: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.

There we're anointed with oils and our cup overflows.

**All: Goodness and mercy shall never depart from  
us as long as we dwell in the house of God!**

OPENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #478 **Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**

CALL TO CONFESSION