

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Good Shepherd, Your presence fills our lives - all that we are and all that we have comes from you; all that you do declares your love for us. Yet when trouble comes, when adversity plagues us, we wonder where you are; we even wonder who you are. How quickly we forget that you are always with us. Dispel our gloom and despair. Change our garments of darkness into robes of dazzling light. Spread your table before us, and feed us from your hand. Lead us in the paths of righteousness, for it is in your name that we pray. 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 (NKJV)

ANTHEM

GOSPEL      John 10:1-14 (NIV)

MESSAGE      The Good Shepherd, week 3: The Lord is My SHEPHERD  
Rev. Chip Stapleton

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

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
**All: We believe in the goodness of God.**  
**We believe God hears and responds to our needs.**  
**We believe God responds to all children everywhere.**  
One: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.  
**All: We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water.**  
**But we know that many do not have enough.**  
**Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.**  
One: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
**All: Too many children do not see God's righteousness.**  
**Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear.**  
**Too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.**  
One: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**All: To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.**  
**Our hearts may be broken and our lives may be threatened.**  
**Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.**  
One: Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies; thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.  
**All: Our steps may be small and timid.**  
**We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift.**  
**But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.**  
One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
**All: God is more relentless than war.**  
**God is more pervasive than hatred.**  
**God is more insistent than despair.**  
One: Amen.  
**All: Amen.**

**RESPONSE**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

†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 #

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE      Great Is the Lord      Smith

†All who are able, please stand

**Notes on Today's Music...**

The Chancel Choir has enjoyed preparing anthems based on Psalm 23 during our current sermon series. The first anthem was this beloved psalm set to the tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR by Malcolm Archer. The second was a paraphrase from the Scottish Psalter (1650) sung to the tune CRIMROD - an anthem by Carl Mueller. "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Allen Pote will be the final anthem in this series. In a few weeks the choir will be singing this beautiful composition along with four other Allen Pote pieces at a choral festival in Shalotte, NC. It will be presented Sunday by an ensemble instead of full choir.  
~Pam



**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Thursday morning Bible Study will begin September 21 at 10 am in the Today's Word classroom (#219). We will be studying a book called The Faithful - The Heroes of the Old Testament. We welcome all who love to study God's Word. For more information you may call Elva Owen (910-484-6936) or email Elvaowen@aol.com.



**KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**  
**Sunday, September 10th**  
Donuts during the Sunday School hour on the Front Lawn and Mission Central. Grab and go or stick around and enjoy some fellowship with friends!

**~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~**

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

Martha Jessup  
June Marie Smith  
Doris & John English  
Violet McNeill  
Bill Owen  
Pattie Koonce

Steve & Orion Gaynos  
Madie Rae Locklear  
("Grandma" to the Guy Family)  
Lib Yarborough  
Bill Johnson  
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



Hello Highlanders,

As I started to work out what I was going to focus on in this week's note, I thought I would be highlighting our unified service this Sunday (11:00am in the sanctuary if you are in town over this Labor Day weekend); and the upcoming Kickoff Sunday on Sept. 10th, with 2nd Mile @ 9am, Traditional worship @11am, and donuts, coffee, and fellowship during the Sunday school hour in-between.

But, of course, life often has other plans. Since I started typing out this note, I have received a message from one school about rescheduled sporting events and another message from another school about cancelation tomorrow. Not being a native North Carolinian, I am still not used to this time of year being Hurricane season.

But, that is how the storms in our lives tend to go - they aren't usually put on the calendar in advance. That is a central part of what makes them so difficult to deal with.

And so, today, it seems that maybe the message to be shared is a simple, but important one: Whatever is going on: the start of new years at schools, transitions in jobs, reentering 'normal' routines, or unexpected events like storms (both weather and metaphorical) you don't go through these moments alone. In the midst of all these things, God is present with us. You are not now and never will be alone. The presence of God's Holy Spirit is with us, to comfort us, to guide us, to celebrate with us, to carry us when needed.

*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 17- 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!



### Elder Suggestion Time

The Nominating Committee has begun our search for the Highland Presbyterian Church Elder Class of 2026 and we need your help. Elder service is not only a commitment, but an honor and a privilege. Elders serve God and the church through spiritual and business leadership. Please prayerfully consider submitting a suggestion for Elder nomination. Suggestion boxes and forms will be available beginning September 10th.



### Look Out!

Wednesday Night Dinners are on their way!  
5:00-6:00

### Menu for September 13 (Wednesday Night Kick-off)

**FRIED CHICKEN** (*it's been a long time*), **Mac & Cheese**, **Veggies**,  
**Salad Bar**, **Dessert**, **Beverage**

Adults - \$8 | Kids - \$4 | Family Cap - \$32

We also offer a gluten free option, please let us know when you make your reservations. Go to [hpchurch.org](http://hpchurch.org), scroll down a little on the landing page, there you will find the reservation form.

If you would like to make a "standing reservation" for the 2023-2024 season, you may do so in the reservation form. Please note that we have NOT carried over standing reservations from last year, so you will need to make sure to do this.

Please make your reservations by 12:00noon on the Tuesday prior. This allows time for proper preparation. Thank you!

### Entered into the Church Triumphant



**Della E Mol**  
August 31, 2023

*"Because I Live, You Also  
Shall Live."* John 14:19



SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

11:00AM

UNIFIED WORSHIP

HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

GATHERING MUSIC

### GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

The Lord Is My Shepherd  
(Chancel Choir ensemble)

Pote

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Caring Shepherd, you supply all our needs.

**All: We celebrate God's generous care of us all.**

One: Good Shepherd, you take us by the hand and lead us through the dark and fearful times in life.

**All: We celebrate God's compassion and understanding.**

One: Gracious Shepherd, your goodness and mercy nurtures and blesses us, and it enriches our soul.

**All: As we worship you, we are restored and refreshed by your loving care and providence for us.**

OPENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #

CALL TO CONFESSION