

# HIGHLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PROCLAMATIONS

**A Welcoming Family of Faith**

David A. Perkins, Pastor

Ginny Fisk, Director of Children and Youth Ministry

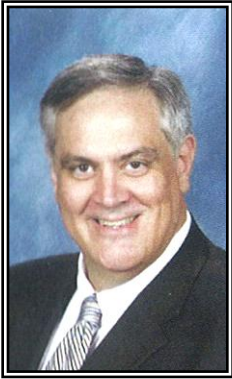
Randall Manges, Director of Music

**Monthly Newsletter**

February, 2018

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## *Words from Our Pastor*

**Rev. David A. Perkins**

I remember it well. It was the day after the 9/11 tragedy. The custodian at the Terre Haute church I was serving said to me, “If God exists, why didn’t he stop those planes?” She wasn’t an atheist, only asking the question on millions of people’s minds then and in the wake of other tragedies. Why does God not stop big tragedies from happening? For that matter why does God not stop small tragedies from happening? Why do babies die?

Some would say, God doesn’t act because he limits himself to the laws of physics and nature. Others would say, God doesn’t act because we are sinful and deserve to suffer. There is certainly validity to these polar opposites though they are both inadequate answers and not very comforting. Is God impotent or malevolent? Or as Job finally assents, is it all a mystery which we aren’t supposed to fully understand.

Theodicy is the fancy name for the problem of evil in this world. Some evil is self-evident, the product of self-destructive humanity. Other evil, like natural disasters, is harder to explain in a God centered worldview. Certainly the worldview in Biblical times was that calamities happened because of misbehavior or sins of the persons affected. That is the general answer given by Job’s friends. Jesus addresses this view a couple of times. In Luke 13 he talks about the tower of Siloam falling on some people and he says that they were not any worse than anyone else. He places the emphasis on cleaning up your own act rather than on the sinfulness of the victims. Or another place he addresses the impartiality of evil is when he says “God makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust” Matt. 5:45. Again he is making the point about doing good for goodness sake not to escape evil.

I guess it comes down to this for me. No one will ever truly explain evil in a way that satisfies everybody. The best we can do is let ourselves be motivated to be present in comfort and love when bad things happen. And in those acts of compassion we see God, who is love, at work.

**DAVID**

# Worship and Fellowship

The traditional start of the forty days of Lent, falls on Wednesday, **February 14<sup>th</sup>**. HPPC will observe Ash Wednesday with a brief **Worship Service at 7:30 pm.** in the sanctuary. The service includes the optional imposition of ashes and the choir will also be offering their musical gifts. **Lenten materials, for all ages, will be available during the Lenten season in the narthex.**



especially those concerning child & forced labor.

We sell Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate the third Sunday of every month during fellowship. Please join us in supporting this important mission.

**JAZZ SUNDAY on February 11 at 10 a.m.** Come celebrate the last Sunday before Lent.



## Equal Exchange Products

- Raises and stabilizes the incomes of small-scale farmers and farm workers
- Promotes safe and sustainable farming methods and working conditions
- More equitably distributes the economic gains and opportunities associated with these goods
- Adheres to the policies of the International Labor Organization,

## FELLOWSHIP CHARTS

Please help us fill in the fellowship charts for 2018. There is very little time and effort involved. Coming in 15 minutes before service to set up and about 15 minutes after Fellowship to clean up. Coffee will be made for you and juice will be set out. Even if you are not a baker, store bought cookies, quick breads, fruit and cheese would be a treat.

# Christian Education

**HPPKids** is underway again as we rehearse this year's musical, Paul's Shipwreck. We can't wait to share our performance with you on March 18th during service. Rehearsals are in the sanctuary from 11:15 to noon on Sundays.



**Youth Group** is gearing up for the second half of the school year, with many upcoming service projects tied to hunger, homelessness and security. In looking close to home and helping those in need around us, we will be making and serving dinner for the PADS guests at Deerfield Church on Sunday evening, February 11th. We will also be organizing a food drive for the Moraine Township Food Pantry during the first two weeks of February. On March 13, we will learn more about world hunger and pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville from 6:00-7:30pm.

Everyone older than 5 is welcome to attend this event. Please sign up with Ginny, as space is limited.

The Sunday schoolers have been learning the Peace Promise, which hangs in each of the Sunday school rooms. It is a promise that we all should consider as we go about our daily lives. The words are below, for your consideration:

I will be a peacemaker,  
Today and every day  
With all my actions,  
In all my thoughts,  
And in everything I say.

# More Church Happenings



## RUMMAGE 2018 – LOOKING AHEAD

Rummage sorts have already begun believe it or not. We meet on Mondays, from 9 to 11 a.m. If you have an hour or two to spare, your help is greatly appreciated. Make new friends, connect with the old friends.

Our rummage sale has grown over the years and has earned a reputation as being one of the best. The money raised from our sale elevates what we can accomplish as a church, both in what we contribute to charitable organizations throughout our community, and in what we can renovate, replenish, and realize within our own church.

## 2018 PER CAPITA IS DUE

This year HPPC will pay **\$33.61** for every member of the church, to the Presbytery of Chicago, Synod of Lincoln Trails and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. This is for the operation and ministry of our larger Church. Our church pays the full amount early in the year and we request members to be responsible for paying their own per capita through HPPC.



## Next Ladies Night In NOTE CHANGE OF DAY

Our next event will be **THURSDAY Feb 1st**, at the home of Nancy Lazar. 1338 Sunnyside, Highland Park at 7:30 pm... Come get to know some other ladies in the congregation. We'll also be brainstorming simple mission projects for future. Hope you can join us on our new night.

# Finance and Budget

## ANNUAL REPORT

The Session met in January to approve the 2018 budget as shown below.

### HPPC Financial Summary 2017 Actual

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$350,265	\$349,493



### HPPC 2018 Budget- \$350,000

#### 2018 Estimated Expense Detail:

Pastoral & Staff	\$227,8500
Christian Ed.	\$2,800
Music & Worship	\$5,000
Buildings & Grounds	\$69,900
General Admin.	\$20,150
Stewardship	\$300
Cong. Life	\$700
Church Growth	\$500
Benevolences	\$30,000
Total	\$357,200



#### 2018 Estimated Income Detail:

Pledges/ Current Yr.	\$250,000
Non-Pledge Rev.	\$27,000
Per Capita Income	\$5,000
Pledges Prior Year	\$500
Loose Offering	\$6,000
Interest Income	\$500
Building Fees	\$61,000
Total Income	\$350,000





**Thursday - Saturday, Feb. 1– Feb. 3**

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**Sunday, February 4**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship: Communion  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship  
11:15 a.m. HPPKids  
11:15 a.m. PADS Lunches

**Monday-Saturday, Feb. 5 – Feb. 10**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice  
7:17 p.m. Adult Choir practice

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**Sunday, February 11**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service:Cents-ability  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School-K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship  
11:15 a.m. HPPKids  
5:00 p.m. PADS at FPCD

**Monday-Saturday, Feb. 12 – Feb. 17**

Tuesday  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

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**Sunday, February 18**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11:00a.m. Fellowship/Equal Exchange Products  
11:15 a.m. HPPKids  
11:00 a.m. PADS Lunches

**Monday-Saturday, Feb. 19 – 24**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice  
7:15 p.m. Vocal Choir practice

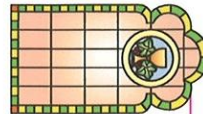
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**Sunday, February 26**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School – K-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship  
11:15 a.m. HPPKids

**Monday – Saturday, Feb. 27 – Mar 3**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice  
7:15 p.m. Vocal Choir practice



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