



HIGHLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PROCLAMATIONS

A Welcoming Family of Faith

Rev. David A. Perkins, Pastor

Ginny Fisk, Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Randall Manges, Director of Music

Monthly Newsletter

December, 2018

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All is Calm, All is Bright

What My Church Means to Me

We moved to HPPC when I was 6 years old. Ever since then, the church has become a 2nd home to me. Growing up in Highland Park, it's sometimes hard to be a Christian. All my friends are Jewish. It's sometimes hard to feel like you fit in. But I always felt that I fit in at HPPC.

First there was JAM (the youth group of its day). It seemed like just fun and games. But I was learning about the Bible and stories of people of faith. I learned that I could get up in front of a group and speak (or sing) through the musicals. I still remember being Martha in *Life of the Party*: the story of Mary and Martha. Then there was Sunday School. I went from being a student to being a teacher, and it seemed like that happened overnight. As a teacher, I had so much appreciation for my own Sunday School teachers and my own school teachers. But I know how much you learn about your faith from teaching others. And I learned how hard it is to be a teacher.

When I was in 7th grade, I had surgery for scoliosis. That was a scary time for me and my family. But our faith helped us through, giving us something to hold on to and trust that everything would be okay. When I was confirmed in 8th grade, I learned more about religion and what being a Christian means. My friends were all wrapped up in their bar and bat mitzvahs, but for me my confirmation was a meaningful religious experience, confirming my faith in God. I didn't need the big party and dancing.

As I've moved into high school, I got more involved in the rummage sale. The past few years I've worked in the Treasures Room with my mom. Last year, I did a lot of computer work trying to help Mom and Tami Block price in their fancy room. Most of all, I love the family at HPPC. It's a community you can't find many places. And I'm not sure where or if I will find it in college. Where will I find another Barb Gifford who is always ready to say hello and ask how I'm doing? Or a Dr. Cape? Where will I be able to find a person to watch grow from a crazy kid into a great young man like Nick Schallmo? I'm not sure I will ever find it. But growing up in HPPC, I know what I am looking for.....and I'll trust in God that I will find it.

Grace Jenks Nov. 18, 2018



Merry Christmas from David and the Staff of HPPC.

Children are Our Future



The Youth Group has had two successful Monthly Moments meetings. In October, we began our journey through the Bible with a lesson and discussion on the Creation story. In November, our group moved onto a lesson on disruption. This lesson had us ponder the events in the Garden of Eden, Cain's murder of Abel, the wickedness of humankind and God's flood filled response to evil, followed by the promise of his rainbow. Our Monthly Moments group will meet again on December 9 to contemplate the years of Biblical exodus. Please consider joining us in December!

In November, the families of our church came together to make toys for animals housed in anti-cruelty shelters across Chicagoland. We made rope pull toys, cork toys, puzzle toys and catnip sachets for some very appreciative animals. Stay tuned for our next service project, coming in the new year!

HPPK has been hard at work on this year's pageant. We will present our play during service on December 16th. This year's play focuses on the writing of Silent Night, which turns 200 years old this year. The growing Junior Choir will also be highlighted during the Nativity play.

Children who wish to be wisemen, angels and shepherds in the production can join us at 9am on the 16th in the library for costume fitting and our final rehearsal. After our pageant, HPPK will take a break for the holidays.

We will resume HPPK after church on January 20th. We will begin practicing for our Spring musical, as well as continue our study of the Fruits of the Spirit. Come join the fun!

Sunday School Upcoming Dates:

There will be NO Sunday school on December 16th. The children of the church will be with Ms Ginny for the first portion of the service and then we will present our play to the congregation. On December 23rd, Ms Ginny will lead an Advent workshop for all ages during Sunday school time. **Sunday School resumes January 6th.**

A Welcoming Family of Faith

**ERIE HOUSE GIFTS DUE BY:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**



Thanksgiving Offering

For a few years now we have been transitioning from food offerings to monetary ones for our annual Thanksgiving offering. The kids of the church brought into worship 8 or 9 bags of food on Nov. 18. The congregation collected \$1500 from cents-ability in November plus Thanksgiving offering. An additional \$500 was added from rummage proceeds. The Moraine Township Food Pantry was thrilled to receive such a generous amount. Drop by and see the new facility and you will see Highland Park Presbyterian Church in big green letters on the wall of the pantry as a thank you for our support.

The next Ladies Event will be Sunday Dec 16th at 1:00 at the Rundell home. We'll be doing a **COOKIE SWAP** and collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for Nuestro Center in Highwood.

Bring a few dozen of one kind of (home-made) cookie, and swap with others. Take home the same number you bring but a variety.

For the Gents: Come meet up at Ravinia Brewery with Bob Rundell to watch the Bears vs. Green Bay. Game starts at noon. (He needed somewhere to go while the ladies invade the house).

Glory to God in the Highest

Pledge 2019

Stewardship letters were sent out in early November and members returned them during the service on the 11th of November. Early indications suggest a successful start for the Stewardship Campaign. So far, we have received 43 pledges totaling \$177,542 towards the budget goal of \$245,000. Thank you all for your generosity. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so during services or mail to the Church Office c/o Russ Brown.



2018 Operating Budget -

Contributions budgeted through Nov 18th
\$245,034

Contributions received through Nov 18th
\$205,271

If you are able to contribute more in this last month of December 2018, the church will be grateful.



The Gift That Gives Twice

Are you looking for a great stocking stuffer or hostess gift? Consider Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate. These organic and high quality items will be sold Sunday Dec. 9 during fellowship. Fair Trade allows small third world farmers to earn a fair living wage and ensures funding for projects like new schools, clean water, and healthcare. If supporting social justice is on your Christmas list this year, stop by and experience Equal Exchange. Equal Exchange has become a world leader in the Fair Trade movement and you can taste the result! Stop by and consider the gift that gives twice.

Christmas Joy Collection

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50% supports Presbyterian-related racial- ethnic education. On Sunday, **December 23**, the offering will be taken at HPPC.



**Congratulations to our
Elected Classes of 2020
Deacons and Elders**

**Elders (2nd term)
Kathy Salinger
Jim Kingwill
Joanne Beckwith
Vince Racioppo**

**Elders (1st term)
Tami Block
Laurel Freeman**

**Deacons (2nd term)
Danielle Niday
Shevonne Thoreson
Bob Rundell**

**Deacons (1st term)
Janet Reed**



As in past years, the sanctuary will be graced with red, pink, and white poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to help make that possible this year, fill out the order form below and return it to the church office with your check by Sunday, **December 23**. The plants may be taken home following the late service on Christmas Eve. However, if you prefer, you may leave your plant to decorate the sanctuary through the New Year.

PLEASE RESERVE _____
POINSETTIA PLANTS @**\$15 EACH**

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____
PAYABLE TO HIGHLAND PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

___ I will take my plant(s) home following the last service on Christmas Eve.

___ I will leave my plant(s) to decorate the sanctuary.

Given by

In memory of

In honor of

(Please PRINT the above information exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.)

Advent and Christmas Calendar



Sunday, December 2

10:00 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

11:10 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent

Worship—Communion

Sunday School

HPPkids pageant practice

Sunday, December 9

10:00 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

11:10 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship – Cents-ability

Last Sunday School until Jan.

Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16

9 a.m.

10 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Worship—Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 23

10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent

Worship- *Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve*

by M A Charpentier and based on French carols

Choir presentation with chamber orchestra

NO Sunday School

Christmas Joy Offering

Monday, December 24

5 p.m.

10 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Family Candlelight Service with Brass Quartet and choral ensemble

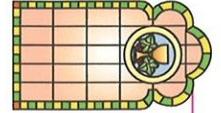
Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with Choir and Strings

Sunday, December 30

1st Sunday of Christmas

Informal Worship, Carol Sing, Bring a Bell

Ken Johnson and David Perkins at the keyboards



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