

September 2020

Wednesday, Sept 2  
Zoom Study @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 6  
Worship Service on YouTube  
Zoom Sunday School @ 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept 9  
Zoom Study @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 13  
Worship Service on YouTube  
Zoom Sunday School @ 10 a.m.  
CROP Walk Virtual Celebration

Wednesday, Sept 16  
Quarterly Church Conference  
on Zoom @ 6 p.m.  
Zoom Study @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 20  
Worship Service on YouTube  
Zoom Sunday School @ 10 a.m.  
CROP Walk Virtual Celebration

Wednesday, Sept 23  
Zoom Study @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 27  
Worship Service on YouTube  
Zoom Council Meeting @ 9 a.m.  
Zoom Sunday School @ 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept 30  
Zoom Study @ 7 p.m.

Vol. LXIV Issue VIII Sept 2020

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue to be pre-recorded from homes and put together by Kay Greenhaw. [Visit our YouTube video feed](#) to see past services. Thank you to our diligent and talented staff for leading us through these times of worship, to Kay for so beautifully piecing everything together, and to all of our recent guest participants.



## Worship in September

Rev. Cheryl Kimble will be preaching during the month of September and our worship services will continue to feature the musical gifts of church members. Sunday, September 6, we are so excited to hold a Promotion Sunday here at The Church at Highland Park! Our Youth Group will be expanding by two members, Alex Byrd and Blaine Kimble, as they have started the 6th grade and will be joining us in all our activities. We are so happy to welcome them, and include them from here on out!

# *From the Pastor...*

September 1, 2020

Last week, we lost a giant in my mind. When I first arrive at Highland Park, Ray Burchette was just a name. My mentor, Gene Garrison, had told me that Ray was a great man and I respected his opinion. It was several months before I had the opportunity to meet Ray and Mona, but I remember it like it was yesterday. Following a service I walked into the Narthex, Ray reached out his hand and introduced himself. From that time on Ray has been a friend.



*Rev. Cheryl Kimble*

Through the years we've done funerals together, shared meals, seen each other at events, and even watched a Baylor football game together. I was extremely blessed after being named pastor that Ray told me how excited he was for me and for Highland Park. He encouraged me, supported me, and he listened to me when I needed an ear.

Through the years I've had the opportunity to visit Ray in Colorado. He's told me stories about Highland Park, about the churches' role in Austin, as well as the development of the various camping associations. I had the opportunity to learn so much about Highland Park, about ministry, and about being a pastor.

I've enjoyed hearing stories about Ray and Mona over the last week. I've had many couples tell me about Ray officiating their weddings, and even one couple's story of being introduced to each other by Ray. I recognize that Ray has played such an important part in the life of Highland Park. That's exactly why he was named Pastor Emeritus, because he was a big part of who Highland Park is today.

I will miss Ray. I'll miss being able to pick up the phone and hear his voice. But he is and will always be a part of our church. I just have to walk down the hall or stand in the pulpit and feel his presence. He was a giant to me and I'm blessed to call him friend.

## FROM OUR COUNCIL CHAIR...

Dear friends -

I miss seeing you at church and I'm hopeful we will all be back together soon.

August was a tough month for Highland Park. We lost two of the most pivotal figures in the history of our church in Nancy Lamb and Ray Burchette. We deeply mourn both. While they may not be with us anymore, their legacy and imprint on the mission of Highland Park will continue to make an impact on into the future.



*Rusty Shelton, 2020 Council Chair*

On top of those seismic losses, we also had individual church members who had losses of family members and friends close to them. Normally we would be there to hug them, offer a shoulder to lean on and be present with them. We can't do that on the level we want to right now but we can still call and check in, provide a listening ear and support them through this unique time of grief.

Against a backdrop of grief, anxiety and stress, we're also heading into a new season that brings with it hope (and hopefully cooler temperatures). This fall I'm cautiously optimistic that we're going to have a chance to get back together in person. If Austin's numbers continue trending the way they are, the council will be looking at when it's safe to return to church. Our hope is ahead of the holidays but we'll have to see how things look.

Until then, let's continue to be The Church at Highland Park in the best way we can virtually. I think we're all doing a great job together. I know our staff and many across the church are going above and beyond to carry us through this unique time and I have confidence we're going to come back even stronger than before.

Here is this month's rundown:

1. **Church Business Meetings** - A quarterly Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 6 PM on Zoom. You are encouraged to attend if you can. We will select the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee and approve minutes from past meetings. Then, our next Church Council meeting will take place Sunday, September 27 at 9 AM on Zoom. Any and all members that would like to join us are welcome to do so.
2. **Important New Class from Cheryl & Masyn** – Our ministers are teaching a new weekly class called "*What Now? A Faithful Christian Response to Racial Injustice.*" It's focused on having healthy conversations about the racial and social issues impacting our country. It will take place on Zoom each Wed at 7 PM through the end of this month.

3. **Website Progress** - The team has been working hard to fill in the content of the website which is a big undertaking because our website is large. We should only be a few weeks away and we can't wait to show it to you.
4. **Paragon Prep** - Paragon started virtual school on August 17 and it is going well. They are finding their usual fun and creative ways to stay connected as a school body and teach their students through this time. They are keeping an eye on the numbers of cases in our area to determine when they can safely open for in-person classes in a pod system.
5. **Please Continue Supporting HP** - I want to thank each of you for continuing to give to the church through this challenging time - we are hanging in financially in a much better way than many churches and it's a testament to each of you that we're able to continue to maintain all of our financial commitments through this challenging time. As a reminder, you can support our church by donating [online via credit card or e-check here](#) or mailing a check to the church.
6. **Virtual Sunday School continues on Sunday** - We are gathering Sunday September 6 at 11 a.m. instead of the usual 10 a.m. The plan is to wrap up the current unit ("Living out of or into Faith") and transition to a study of the Book of James. Later this fall and into the Advent season, the focus will be on the beginnings of each of the four New Testament Gospels in their probable historical order. The class will compare and contrast them, including the two with Christmas narratives, and consider other related issues.
7. **Join Us for Church this Sunday** - I have really been enjoying seeing our musically-talented members participate in our services recently. Our staff does a great job of helping us stay connected with our faith during this time and I want to again thank all who are pouring so much time and energy into them. Keep an eye out for an email on Sunday mornings with a link to that week's service.
8. **Virtual Classes for Youth and Young Couples** - Masyn Evans-Clements continues to lead an 11 AM Zoom Sunday School class for youth aged 6th-12th grades and David and Kim Balkum facilitate a group for young couples usually twice a month at 7 PM over Zoom. [Contact Masyn](#) if you're interested in joining either.
9. **Please Let Us Know if You Have Emergency Needs** - We have some members who may be in a situation where they are low on supplies, food or other vital items and are not able to get access to those items. If you are in this position, please contact the church and we'll do everything we can to help you get what you need.

Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas on ways we can best steward our congregation through this challenging period.

Thanks,  
Rusty

# Virtual Christian Education

Things may have shifted online, but there are still many opportunities to gather and grow in Christian Education together. Contact [office@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:office@hpbcaustin.org) if you would like to receive Zoom information about these classes. The current offerings are:

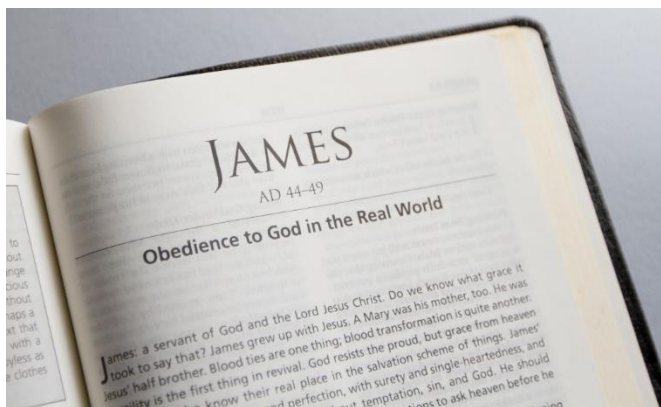
## Racial Injustice Response Class – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays over Zoom

Our ministers Rev. Cheryl Kimble and Masyn Evans-Clements are leading this discussion-based classes called *What Now? A Faithful Christian Response to Racial Injustice*. Suggested video or reading materials are emailed out weekly and all are welcome to join the discussion with open hearts, open minds, and listening ears.



## WHAT NOW?

A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN  
RESPONSE TO  
RACIAL INJUSTICE



## Bible Study, with various topics – Usually 10:00 a.m. on Sundays over Zoom

This class is led by Journey Sunday School Class teacher, Walt Shelton, and all are welcome to attend and participate. Sept. 6 will wrap up the "Living out of/or into Faith" unit. Beginning Sept. 13, the class will begin a study on the Book of James.

*Note: The class will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sept. 6, Nov. 8, and Dec. 6.*

## Young Couples Class – Meets bimonthly over Zoom

David and Kim Balkum facilitate this class, which is open to couples who are undergoing similar life issues. Marriage is not a prerequisite and children are not a disqualifier. Class values include a sense of humor, understanding, and acceptance. Currently, the group virtually gathers for fellowship and discussion of current events, and looks to return to book studies when in-person meetings resume at the Balkum's home. The group sets their next meeting at the end of each meeting by talking about conflicts and coming up with an agreed date. Contact David, Kim, Cheryl, or any member of the class if you're interested in joining.



# OUR MISSIONS IMPACT

Thank you to our Sisters in Service group who adjusted from the typical method to still prepare generous lunches for our friends at Drive a Senior Northwest, one of the many branches in the Drive a Senior network. With Roxanne Shelton and Donna Reisenbigler's cornbread, LaNell Coltharp's salads, and Nancy Osgood's green beans, Alana Mallard took chicken and apple sausage to Anderson Mill Baptist on Thursday, August 27, where she, Edna Nation, and our new friend and virtual visitor Sally Lombardo packaged it all up into 50 individual lunches, along with DAS Executive Director Carla Young. Desserts were provided by National Charity League moms and daughters. DAS volunteers then delivered to clients at their homes. Alana was also able to give Mary Ellen Sullivan and Georgia Vasko's additional donations to DAS for their extra expenses during this pandemic time. Thank you, SIS, for how you live out God's love through generous service to others.



# Mission Opportunities

LaNell Coltharp has been in contact with our old mission trip friends in Tohatchi, New Mexico. The Navajo people have been hit hard by COVID-19, and LaNell has coordinated with our Missions and Finance chairs to send our once-a-year Christmas check of \$300 to them now. It may be that we will be able to send more to them soon because this year's church mission trip budgeted funds won't be used. **If you would like to help in this effort, your check to the church or online gift would be welcome as well. Please note on the check or online that it's for the Tohatchi Baptist Church Mission.**

Our Tohatchi trip had many faithful missionaries from Highland Park for many years and our friends are feeling the burden of coronavirus. By the way, LaNell says she remembers the preacher's wife she spoke to recently as a teenager back when Highland Park went to Tohatchi.

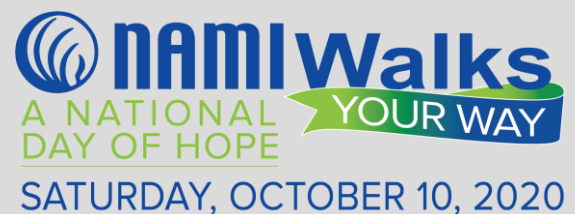


This month, the Austin CROP Hunger Walk is hosting a special online celebration of the 2020 ATX CROP Hunger Walk. As a CROP Hunger Walk participants, we are invited to attend. **The event will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 2:30 pm, via ZOOM and streamed via Facebook Live!**

The event will feature **Sara Hickman**, noted songwriter and story-teller, the MC will be **Simone Talma**

**Flowers**, iACT's Executive Director, and there will be team and fundraiser honorees, as well as door prizes! Finally the event will have a big announcement about the 2021 CROP Walk. All are welcome to join in support - event links will be sent out by email.

This year the NAMIWalk will look a little different. **On October 10, 2020 NAMIWalks will be a virtual experience and will happen all across the country at the same time.** Becky Dillard is our team captain and this year they are calling it NamiWalks Your Way! NAMIWalks Your Way means what it sounds



like: participants get to make NAMIWalks their own. You can walk a 5K—through your neighborhood, around your backyard, on your treadmill. Or you can do something else meaningful and fun to celebrate our virtual walk day. Take photos and videos and share your activity on a favorite social media with the link to your walk fundraising page and the hashtag #NotAlone and #MentalHealthForAll. **Keep an eye out for sign up and fundraising opportunities soon.** Together we can make a difference for people affected by mental illness.

**Registration is now open for the Central and South Texas Jingle Bell Run & Drive!** This year, this event for the Arthritis Foundation has combined their efforts, saying this year, it is more important than ever that we Don't Stop Jingling! You can attend the Jingle Bell Drive on November 7<sup>th</sup> at [Santa's Ranch](#) and gear up for Virtual Jingle Bell Run weekend December 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be able to track and upload their route and OFFICIAL race time as part of the event. **Now through Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, get \$5.00 off the registration fee at <https://events.arthritis.org/event/jbrdrive>.** Registration includes admittance to the Jingle Bell Drive, Jingle Bell Run t-shirt, jingle bells, medal, swag bag and more! RSVP on the Event's Facebook page [here](#).

## Pandemic Report from Drive a Senior-West Austin



AJ Graff, Food Pantry Manager, shows off the freshly sanitized goods volunteers worked on daily



Members of the UT Austin Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity helping with deliveries



Executive Director, Stephanie Lane, delivering a HUGE donation from the NW Hills community

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Drive a Senior-West Austin ran an Emergency Food Pantry/Delivery program from March 23 to August 27 in response to the pandemic. They wanted to ensure that no senior in Austin went without access to healthy and safe food. It was an incredible adventure and they are very proud to have served the Austin community in this capacity. Over 200 seniors were served with 10,140 lbs of food including fresh meals and over 676 deliveries made, none of it possible without 128 incredible food pantry volunteers. A range of volunteers delivered food from the Drive a Senior food pantry during its five-month run, including Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, National Charity League, Young Men's Service League, Junior League of Austin, and volunteers from Drive a Senior's supporting congregations. Drive a Senior received grants from HEB and City of Austin, which offset expenses for food and refrigeration.

### Announcement:

*Drive a Senior West Austin and Drive a Senior North Central have decided to merge and become one big happy family.*



**The new name will be Drive a Senior Austin (DAS ATX).**

These two agencies have functioned separately for over 30 years and feel now is a great time to bring the two together. Now more than ever, senior transportation needs are rapidly growing, and as one large agency, they will be able to expand services to meet the needs of all of Austin's aging adults. Mary Ellen Sullivan and Brooke Ostrom currently serve on the board of Drive a Senior- West Austin.

DAS-West Austin is launching two new incredibly vital programs design to be permanent supportive services for senior food access. The next page offers brief descriptions of both programs. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please read below and contact 512-472-6339 if you are interested in working to help ensure no senior in Austin goes without food!



# Additional Volunteer Opportunities with Drive a Senior-West Austin:

## Community Food Pantry Delivery

### FROM PANTRY TO DOORSTEP

If you are looking for low-contact volunteer opportunities, here it is! **Anyone is welcome to join.**

Drive a Senior West Austin has partnered with Hope Food Pantry and Micah 6 Food Pantry to be the transportation piece of their food distribution services. These 2 pantries are the first of many sites they hope to provide delivery services for so food can safely get from pantry to the doorsteps of seniors in need of food.

**Deliveries start this month for both pantries on the first and third Tuesdays from 1:30-3:30.**



## INTRODUCING: Senior Sidekicks

### HELP SENIORS GROCERY SHOP AND ORDER GROCERIES ONLINE!

While it is still unsafe for seniors to visit grocery stores, we are giving them the support necessary to safely shop and eat with dignity.

This program will allow us to pair one volunteer with one client to assist them with grocery needs doing one of the following:

- Shop on behalf of a senior and deliver their groceries to their front door
- Order groceries over the phone with the senior for curbside pick-up and delivery by the volunteer, or to be delivered straight to their home
- Assist with teaching seniors how to order groceries/goods online or over the phone. Many of our clients just need a little guidance to become self-sufficient in this new way of shopping

**\*\*We will also include prescription pick-up in a Sidekicks responsibilities when needed\*\***



**WE NEED YOU TO SIGN UP TO BECOME A SENIOR SIDEKICK:**

Please consider signing up to volunteer in this ongoing program. DAS-WA will have all the tools, resources, and training needed to make you a successful Sidekick.

**To volunteer for either, please call the Drive A Senior-West Austin office: 512-472-6339**



We are delighted to welcome these beautiful babies into our Highland Park family this year. Our sincere congratulations to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings!



*thea marie prasek*

Born April 17 to Philip & Kayla Prasek, and big brothers Silas, Declan & Conall



*finley jane russell*

Born June 2 to Carson & Megan Russell and big brother Hudson

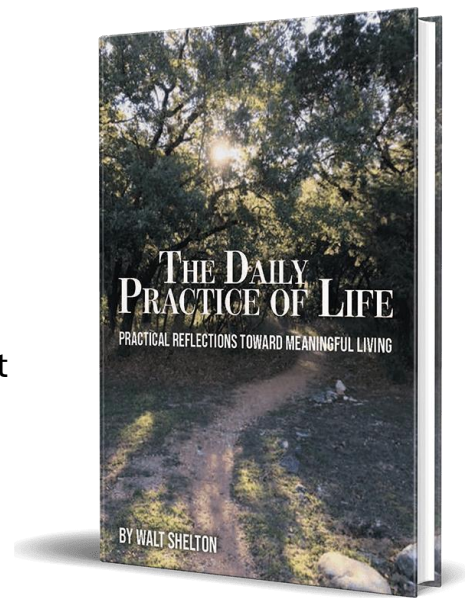


*ella may byrd*

Born August 17 to Abby & Joe Byrd, and big brother Alex & big sister Ava

# EXCITING NEWS

Church member Walt Shelton's new book *The Daily Practice of Life* is set for release in early October! In this book, Walt shares practical ideas on how to foster a meaningful life as a Christian or otherwise. Through the examples that Jesus gave us during his time on Earth, Walt outlines how we can start each day with a step toward qualitative living. Congratulations on the new book, Walt, and thanks for how you lead us through these practices during these times & always.



[Find Walt's book information online here.](#)

Walt also recently interviewed our ministers as part of his blog. Walt speaks to them about daily practices of faith and study in their lives. The interviews are available for reading online, along with Walt's other blog topics.

[Find Cheryl's interview here.](#)

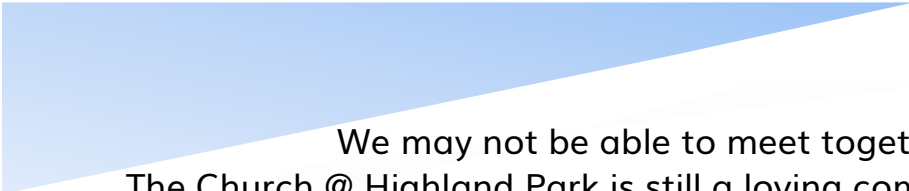
[Find Masyn's interview here.](#)

## REPORT FROM OUR BUILDING



Angel Perez has finished stripping and waxing the floors of the building (a huge project) and is continuing to deep clean other areas, including wiping & dusting the very high fans in Sapp Hall. Thank you Angel for going above & beyond (literally!) in cleaning the building this summer.

The church staff and Property Group members are continuing to work with Paragon Prep to prepare the building for re-opening. The school began classes online on August 17 and will eventually open to in-person classes with each grade separated from one another.



We may not be able to meet together in our building, but The Church @ Highland Park is still a loving community. Do you have a prayer request, update on yourself, or celebration from your family that you'd like to share? Photos are welcome, too! Please [email the church office](#) and we can share with everyone by email, in hopes to keep us socially-connected in this socially-distant world. Please be sure to mention if you are okay with it being shared over the church-wide email, or if you prefer for it to only be shared & prayed over during the Monday staff Zoom meeting.

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Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor  
Masyn Evans-Clements, Minister for Youth & Outreach  
Dr. C. Ray Burchette, Pastor Emeritus  
Abby Byrd, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Kelley DeCleene, Director of Church Operations  
Becky Dillard, Ministry Assistant  
Carolyn Doolittle, Church Bookkeeper  
Childcare workers: Maddy Bewley and Amanda Haley

the**church**@  
**HighlandPark**