

thechurch@
**Highland
Park**

a glance in the
MIRROR
WIBBOB

Vol. LXIV Issue XII Dec 2020

Thank you for how you've continued to be church during these challenging times.



God Will Make a Way

The Season of Advent
@ Highland Park

From the Pastor...

This Advent season certainly hasn't been like any other Advent we've ever experienced. For 27 years I've been involved in planning Advent worship and every year it happens about the same way. *What do we want the theme to be? What musical events do we want to happen? What events for children, youth and families do we want? How do we make Christmas Eve new and special?*

Well 2020 wasn't the year for a lot of those things. We can't be together...at least not close together. There can't be fellowship events, the choir can't sing together, no festive children's or youth activities (well I hear there will be a fun youth Zoom party this year), and this thought of not having a Christmas Eve service really saddened my heart. So what do we do?

The entire staff and our Worship planning team decided we would make 2020 Advent a year to remember. First, let's start Advent off with our members getting a Christmas Card delivered to their front yard, then let's have outdoor worship with beautiful music from our members, special stories of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, decorations to grab the attention of the passersby, and Advent devotions sent to our computers to move our hearts.

Then a message from Dustin Struhall, our former Music director and continued friend, to ask if he could do a Christmas Carol Concert on our wonderful organ and live-stream it for the last Sunday of Advent. I was floored - what a beautiful and meaningful gift to our church. What a continued blessing Dustin has been to our congregation!

Our theme of "God Will Make A Way" has touched many, from our own folks to friends who read devotions online to local clergy who just passed the signs on Balcones Drive. God continued to show us His way as we leaned in to new things.

Advent has been better than I could have ever imagined a few months ago. Highland Park has been so open to the changes we've needed to make. I'm excited to have a Christmas Eve service outside with lights, hot chocolate, beautiful music, and friends both present and virtually. God certainly provides when we open our hearts and minds to the spirit.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Cheryl Kimble





JOY

WISHING YOU
Hope, Peace,
Joy & Love
THIS
Advent &
Christmas!
the church of
Highland Park

A gift from the Highland Park staff and Church Council found its way into the yards & hearts of church members.

You're invited to a livestream

CHRISTMAS HYMNS CONCERT

**Begins at 6 p.m.
on December 20, 2020
Livestreamed
on Highland Park's
YouTube & Facebook**



*with Dustin
Struhall*

LIVE STREAM INFORMATION

[Click here to go to the church's YouTube Channel](#) (No account required)

[Click here to go to the church's Facebook page](#) (Account required)



A BIG thank you to those who have provided beautiful music during our Advent worship services, including Kristin Werner, Cayla Cardiff, and Philip Prasek.



Worship of God on the First Sunday of Advent



Worship of God on the Third Sunday of Advent



Worship of God on the First Sunday of Advent



Worship of God on the Third Sunday of Advent



“Light It Up Campaign”

A million-watt THANK YOU to Joe Stafford and the electricians at GTM Electric for installing permanent LED lights in the Sanctuary steeple and Teague Chapel. It's gorgeous and glorifying!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Christmas Eve Worship

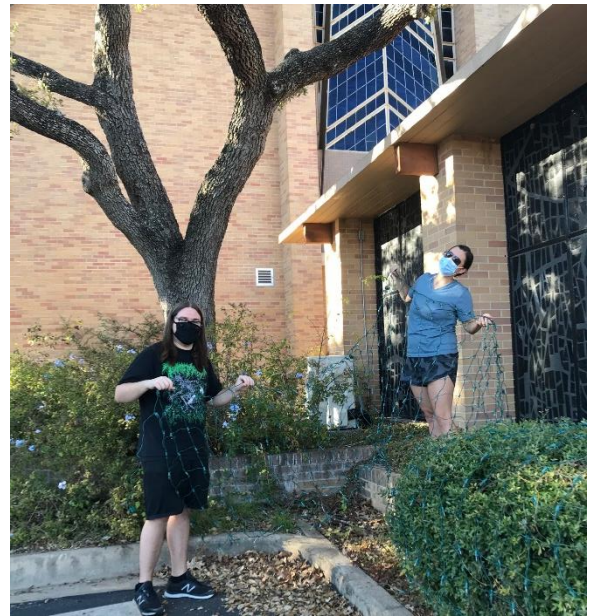
OUTDOORS ON

December 24 @ 6:00 pm

- Rev. Kimble preaches
- Gathering Music @ 5:30 pm with Dustin Struhall and hot cocoa with the HP kids
- Candlelit hymns by the chapel

Thanks to the Highland Park staff and their family members for hanging Christmas lights in the Teague Chapel Courtyard ahead of our Christmas Eve Service.

And a special thank you to Alana and Zach Mallard for donating the lights!



Virtual Christian Education

Opportunities to discuss the Bible, life, current events, books, and more are available to all ages. At this time, all educational opportunities, except for the youngest children, are remaining online.

Visit with Christian Education Service Group Chair, Donna Reisenbigler if you're interested in leading another Christian Education opportunity.



Adult Bible Study, varied topics – 9:00 a.m. on Sundays over Zoom

The Adult Sunday School class, led by Walt Shelton, is comparing and contrasting the beginning of each Gospel (two with Christmas narratives and two without). They are being considered in probable historical order -- Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John -- along with issues related to comparing and contrasting them. This unit will conclude on the Sunday after Christmas.

Youth Sunday School Class – 6:00 p.m. on Sundays over Zoom

The Youth Sunday School class will shift to 6:00 p.m. on Zoom on Sunday evenings. This group of 6-12th graders meets with Masyn and Brandon Evans-Clements to hang out over Zoom, catch up, and have a short Bible study. Email masyne@hpbcaustin.org if you're interested in joining.

- Youth Christmas Party on Zoom on Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. •

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. The group meets virtually and is mostly focusing on catching up and supporting one another during this time. The group sets their next meeting at the end of each meeting by talking about conflicts and coming up with an agreed date, so meetings vary by day and time. Contact any member of the class or the Balkums if you're interested in joining.

Monday Night Book Club – 6:00 p.m. on 1st Mondays over Zoom

Any and all interested readers are welcome at this virtual book discussion on the first Monday of each month. The next discussion will *Nature Underfoot* by John Hainze on January 4. Contact Don Hartman if you'd like the Zoom information.

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Missions Service Group

*** A Very Merry Christmas! ***

Deepest thanks to all who decorated and stuffed stockings for the Baptist Community Center Mission. Even with having to operate differently with the pandemic and a rainy day drop-off, Donna Reisenbigler was able to take a generous load of stockings over to the BCCM. The stockings will be distributed in a safe way to the families who frequent the ministries of the Baptist Community Center Mission. Thanks to all who contributed!



*** UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY***

Sunday, January 3rd is our next time to provide the suppertime meal for the Micah 6 Youth Drop-In Center. Our procedure will again follow best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

At this time we are asking for:

- Volunteers to prepare food. We plan to do a meal for 30 people with a meat entree, green vegetable, salad, bread, and dessert.
- Donations toward the meal. If you're not in a place where you can prepare or deliver food, but you would like to contribute to the effort, email office@hpbcaustin.org.
- Alana Mallard is willing to have her house be the drop-off and pick-up point again. This has worked well in the past and folks loved seeing one another and visiting, socially-distant with masks.
- Alana Mallard will be the coordinator for this meal, so please text or email her to volunteer.



One of the Boy Scouts of Troop 410 finished his Eagle Scout Project this month – installing a rain collection water tank near the butterfly garden on the north side of the Sanctuary. With the approval of Highland Park’s Administration and Property Service Groups and with the helpful eye of Alana Mallard, McCallum High Senior Will Russo and his 13 volunteers, scouts and parents held two weekend workdays to remove and cut back a few plants, fashion a base, and install a large rain-collecting tank that will provide water to the area all year. Our thanks to Will for his work in fundraising, acquiring, and installing the tank in our garden.



Financial Report for November 30, 2020

The Church at Highland Park comes to the end of unusually challenging year with losses in rental income, a new website underway, and many requirements for changes and repairs to the building and upgrades to allow us to live stream our services with our financial health intact. Due to our loyal pledgers and some very generous gifts we have met all of our challenges.

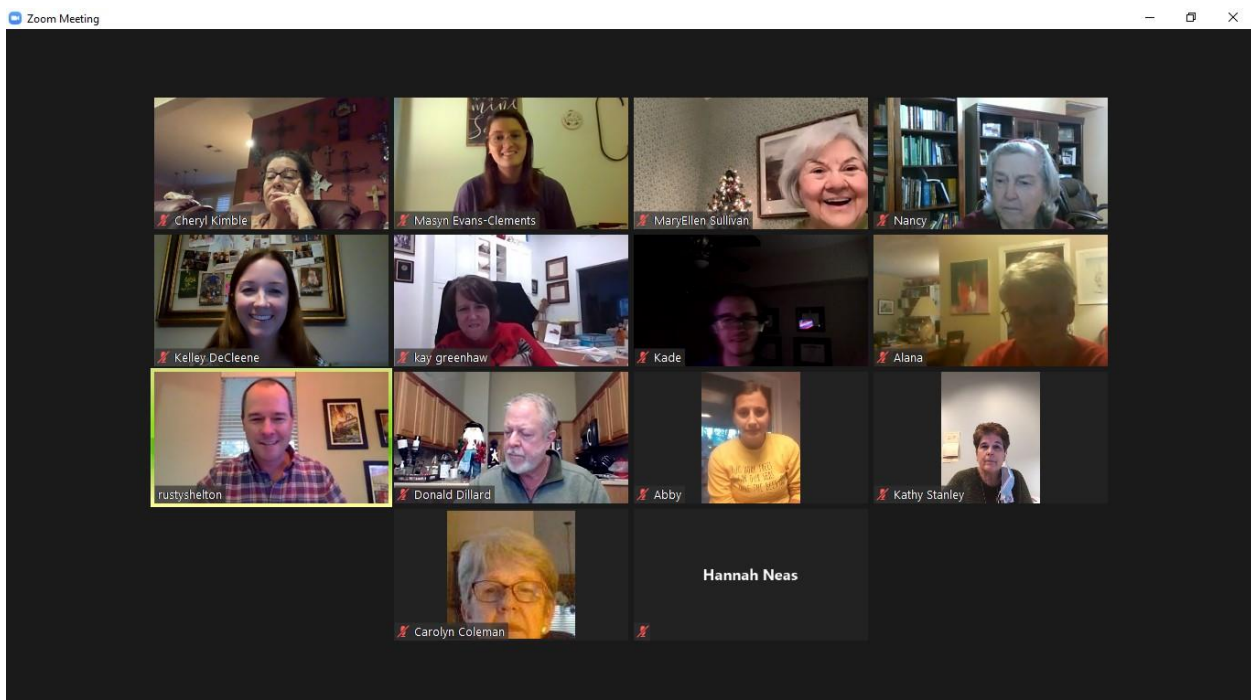
Our total contributions are \$40,000 above our budget for the year and due to the reduction in Ministry spending, and even with all of the unscheduled repairs of HVAC, ramps, Website, name change costs, and live stream equipment, we have been able to increase the hours for our Youth Minister and yet maintain a surplus of \$18,536.23.

Since we are technically operating on an 18 month year, we have not worked on a budget since we are going to continue the current budget until June 2021 and hopefully will have a new council to consult with at that time.

The PPP loan remains unresolved, but the first loans have begun to go through the forgiveness process. We did not qualify at this time since we did not get our loan until May. We hope to hear from them in the next few weeks and will keep you informed.

I thank Church Bookkeeper Carolyn Doolittle for all of her expertise and the detail she provides on the reports she provides.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Osgood
Finance Ministry Chair



Church Council Meeting on December 16, 2020

Celebrations during the time of COVID-19



Louise Sutton was born this year to Sarah Nelson and Dave Sutton. Louise is the first grandchild of Brenda and Russ Nelson. Congrats to everyone!



Kade Keith graduated this summer with his Master's of Computer Science from Stanford.



Amanda Haley and Jeff Neely were married on December 19, 2020. Rev. Cheryl Kimble performed the service.

Brandon Evans-Clements graduated this December from Texas State University with a Master's of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy.



Did you get our text?

Highland Park has a text message service through our bookkeeping system. This service is reserved for important messages to the congregation, such as cancelling an event due to inclement weather.

If you have not received the last 2 messages, and wish to receive future informational texts from the church, please [email or call the church office](#).

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.

Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor
Masyn Evans-Clements, Minister for Youth & Outreach
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

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