

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

Proudly presenting...

Outdoor Services @
Highland Park
beginning Nov 1, 2020



Photo by Alana Mallard

November 1st – All Saints Sunday – was the first outdoor and livestream service and it was overall a huge success. Members there in-person and those watching from home truly enjoyed the experience. A bell was rung as the names of the saints we've lost this past year were read and God was glorified by our worship time together.

A BIG THANK YOU to the staff & volunteers who worked so hard to make the outdoor services possible: Cheryl Kimble, Kelley DeCleene, Joe Stafford, Don & Becky Dillard, and Masyn & Brandon Evans-Clements.

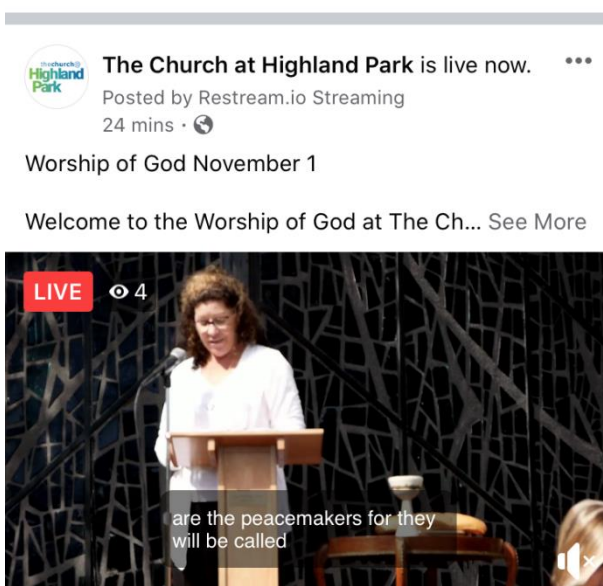
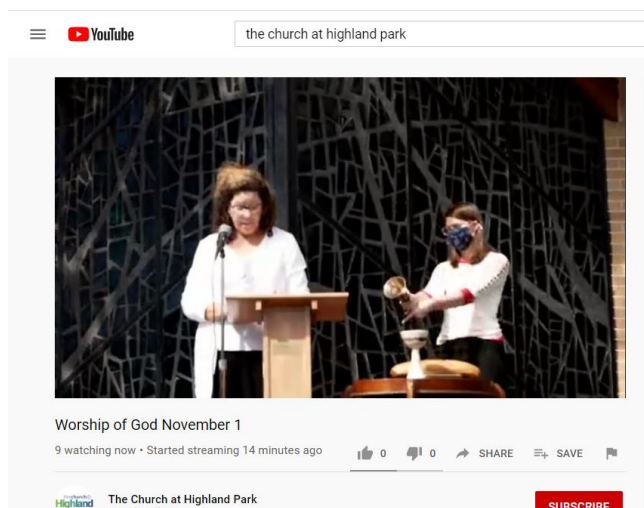


IN PERSON



Photo by Alana Mallard

LIVESTREAM



Outdoor Worship and Livestream will continue for the foreseeable future.

Those who feel comfortable are invited to come to the church on Sunday mornings to attend our outdoor service. You may find a designated parking spot and remain in your car or you may park and find a socially-distant square in front of the Teague Chapel. If you plan to get out of your car, please bring masks and chairs, although we have back-ups should you forget yours. There are two tables along the side of the seating area where you can pick up any worship elements for that morning, along with a drop off box for those who wish to turn in their offering in person.



Visit our website at www.hpbcaustin.org/outdoor for more details about the outdoor worship service.

LIVE STREAM INFORMATION

The service will be simultaneously live-streamed on Facebook & YouTube. You need a Facebook account to watch it there, but an account is not required to watch it on YouTube, only access to the internet. Access either page at 10:55 a.m. on Sunday mornings and you will see the Live Stream happening. Links will be emailed out on Sundays.

[Click here to go to the church's YouTube Channel](#)

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



November 5, 2020

Dear friends –

How are you this week?

Have you heard? We hosted our first outdoor service at Highland Park Nov 1st and we're so excited to be gathering in person in a socially-distanced outdoor environment for as long as it's safe moving forward.

For those who don't feel comfortable coming back in person, please feel ZERO pressure to do so. We have invested in equipment that will allow us to give you a live-stream of outdoor services for in-home viewing. This will be the first time we have ever live-streamed services outside and we're going to be learning some lessons. If for whatever reason the stream of the service has issues, we will be recording it and will send that out as a back-up option.



Rusty Shelton, 2020 Council Chair

This is a new endeavor for all of us and I want to recognize the tireless work of the staff in researching, planning and executing this to set us up for success. They have invested so much time and energy in this and I'm just really proud of them, alongside the council. Thanks as well to all of you who stepped up to help with set-up, teardown and other "jobs" that help us succeed.

For those who will be joining us at the church in the coming weeks that want a few more details to help you prepare, Kelley set up a [really helpful page](#) on our website where you can learn more.

As we take this next step together I want to take a moment, on behalf of Highland Park's staff and Church Council, to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support of the church this year and patience as we have worked together to navigate this pandemic. We're not out of the woods yet by any means but we're adapting to it together. Our expectation is that we'll stay outside for some time until numbers come dramatically down, so please make sure you have some good cold weather clothes and hot chocolate/coffee available for future services.

Alongside in-person services, there are a lot of other important stuff happening and I wanted to make sure you have the rundown:

1. **Womanfest this weekend!** - This Saturday-only event will take place Nov 7th from 9-3 PM and will be available as a socially distant in-person experience or virtual option. We're so excited to have Meghan Becker, an Enneagram expert

leading the event. Thanks to Abby Byrd and her helpers for planning this great event for the women and friends of this church.

2. **Website Progress** - The Highland Park team is working hard to fill in the content of our large site and hopes to launch the new site just in time for Advent!

3. **Paragon Prep** - All grades are back with about 50% of their families choosing in-person learning. During the week, the back of the parking lot is blocked off so the school can be outside as much as possible. Paragon is polling families and likely to move from half days to 3/4 days next week.

4. **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 or dropping your offering into one of the boxes we'll have on hand at outdoor services (no passing of the plates mid-pandemic).

5. **Virtual Sunday School continues on Sunday** - We're shifting virtual Sunday School for adults to 9:00 AM to allow those who want to attend in-person the time to get to the church. The Zoom link will continue to be emailed out on Sunday mornings.

6. **Virtual Sunday School for Youth continues on Sunday** - Masyn and the youth families have decided on Sundays at 6:00 PM for Youth Sunday School going forward.

7. **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

Opportunities to discuss the Bible, life, current events, books, and more are available to all ages. With the addition of the in-person/livestream services on Sunday mornings, our Sunday School classes have shifted their times and/or activities. Visit with Christian Education Service Group Chair, Donna Reisenbialer if you're interested in leading another Christian Education opportunity.



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

As we look toward Advent, the Adult Sunday School class, led by Walt Shelton, will begin a multi-week unit comparing and contrasting the beginning of each Gospel (2 with Christmas narratives and two without). They will be considered in probable historical order -- Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John -- along with issues related to comparing and contrasting them. This is done most years in the class that Walt leads, in the Journey class, and it is a good annual practice leading up to 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 and Wes Glazener to hang out over Zoom, catch up, and have a short Bible study. Email masyne@hpbcaustin.org if you're interested in joining.

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. Currently, the group is meeting virtually and mostly focusing on catching up and supporting one another during this time. They look 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, 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. Upcoming discussions will be Michael Pollan's *Botany of Desire* on Dec. 7 and *Nature Underfoot* on January 4. Contact Don Hartman if you'd like the Zoom information.

Children's Ministry – 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

Now that the kids are back at school and we're beginning the holiday season, we're pressing pause on the weekly emails so parents aren't overwhelmed with activities for their kids. Instead, there are socially-distant activities and a children's sermon each Sunday at the outdoor services. Meet Children's Ministry Coordinator, Abby Byrd, on the left side of Teague Chapel at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday.

Saturday Book Club – 3rd Saturday of the month

On October 17, we distanced, masked, & talked books, characters, and authors for more than an hour — a welcome gathering for the Saturday Morning Book Group that hadn't gathered to talk books since its February meeting. And we'll do it again **November 21** when we talk about *Homegoing* by Gyasi Yaa.

Let Alana know if you're interested — we need to keep the group small because of, you know, the coronavirus. And here's what we're recommending: Dottie, all those Agatha Christie mysteries; Sharon, *Everything Inside* by Edwidge Danticat; Sheila, Rick Bragg's *All Over but the Shoutin'*; Alana, *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.



Women of all ages are invited to this year's



WOMANFEST

The Enneagram of Personality

Date: November 7, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: In-person in Sapp Hall or at home virtually

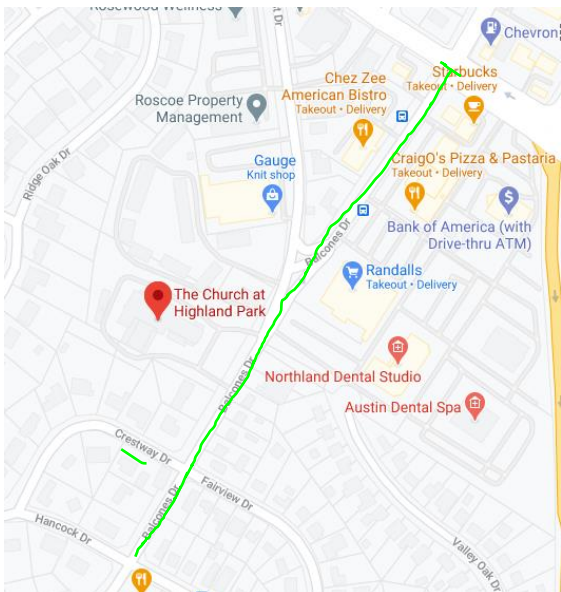
Cost: \$10 for at home; \$20 in person (includes lunch)

FALL FOOD DRIVE THROUGH NOVEMBER 22



This November, we will participate, as we do every November, in the Fall Food Drive for the Baptist Community Center Mission. Now through November 22, we are collecting non-perishable food donations for the BCCM's food room and \$25.00 gift cards to HEB, which will be delivered to the BCCM before Thanksgiving Day. The BCCM is asking specifically for \$25.00 gift cards to HEB only as they wish to offer equal items to the families, in lieu of the typical Thanksgiving dinner held onsite. Collection carts will be available at the outdoor services each Sunday. During the school week

between the hours of 8am-2pm, you can drop donations off with the school's receptionist, who is currently stationed in the room across from the Children's Multi-purpose Room. Monetary donations may also be mailed to the church and the church staff will purchase the gift cards in the amount collected. [Click here to view the suggested donation list.](#)



KEEP (OUR BLOCK) OF AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL! And if you're looking for a service project for your little ones or for your yourself, Highland Park's strip of Balcones Drive is available. We adopted Balcones from Northland to Hancock as part of Keep Austin Beautiful, and Alana Mallard has grabbers, safety vests, plastic bags, and gloves to use for a cleanup. Our commitment is a cleanup each quarter. Let Alana know when you want to help and then stop by her house around the corner from HP to pick up your tools. Thanks for making our world a better place.

Looking ahead to Stockings... The red stockings that we fill and donate to the Baptist Community Center Mission will go out later this month. A list of suggested items will be inside and filled stockings returned to the church. The BCCM will give them out for the children to enjoy at home.



Two notes from Alana Mallard,
Missions Service Group Chair:

Thank you thank you thank you — to the cooks of Sunday's Micah 6 street youth drop-in meal, to those who mailed or onlined Micah 6 donations to our church, to those who helped fill Micah 6 food pantry courtyard to overflowing. We filled Kelley DeCleene's hatchback vehicle with the drop-in meal of lasagna, cheesy broccoli, Caesar salad, broccoli cornbread, and homemade snickerdoodle and chocolate caramel cookies. And for UPC's Fill the Courtyard collection, we sent about 20 bags of groceries, a big bag of toothpaste & toothbrushes, disaster response kits, and a dozen reusable bags stuffed with more reusable bags. Another incredibly generous response from the congregation of the Church at Highland Park. Thank you for helping bring the kingdom of God to everyone — no exceptions.



Highland
Park's friends
at Drive a

Senior West Austin dropped off a sweet and spooky thank-you to all the congregation, and Zach and I have been eating the candy on your behalf. Thank you all for supporting this important mission of the Church at Highland Park. Mary Ellen

Sullivan and Brooke Ostrom represent us on the DAS board where Brooke serves as board chair.

Activity on the Highland Park property has been increasing over the last few months, along with property repairs and upgrades. The choir room HVAC unit was replaced, a handicapable ramp was installed on the back building (formerly the Steve Matthews classroom) and a few odds and ends were repaired. Paragon replaced the awning for the little back patio and relocated the Gaga ball pit to make the playground and basketball area more usable for their current P.E. needs.

Along with the school's use and the addition of our outdoor church services on Sunday mornings, we are all using and caring for the building/property as best as possible during a strange and hard time.

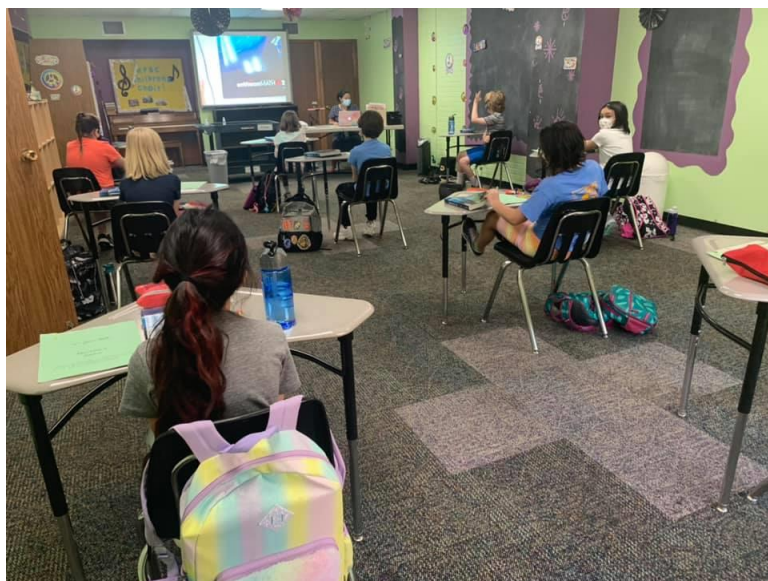


The Church at Highland Park was an election polling place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Due to the record amount of early voting and mail-in ballots, Election Day was not very busy on our campus. The school made it a completely virtual day for their students and teachers so there would be no hassles in the parking lot.



Election Day
November 3, 2020

Paragon is operating with approximately 50% of their enrollment in person and 50% virtual at home. All students and staff on campus wear masks, except when eating, and they operate in a pod system where grades are all kept separate. We have entered into a one school year lease agreement to adjust both the rooms used by the school and the rent collected. While a challenging and weird experience, Paragon is beyond grateful to have been at the Highland Park property during this time, as they would not have been able to spread out and separate as well at their old properties.





Did you get our text?

A test message went out on October 29 to the cell phone numbers we have on file. This service will be reserved for emergency use only, such as if need to cancel an event due to inclement weather.

If you did not receive the text 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

thechurch@
HighlandPark