

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

Near or far,  
we're thankful for  
you, wherever  
you are.

Happy  
Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 1st, was probably one of the most exciting Sundays I've had in years! After 33 weeks of our worship services being virtual, and preaching to a camera, I had faces to look at. There were voices singing together, the sound of Larry Lake on the piano and Kristin Werner on the guitar. My heart was filled to overflowing and the presence of God was so evident.

I must say I was a bit overwhelmed when we first decided to have service out in front of the church. How would this all work? How do we organize everything? How do we keep everyone separate and safe? Is this idea completely crazy? I brought it up at staff beforehand and everyone got busy to figure this out. What an amazing staff we have! Kelley got everything organized (you know lists are her thing) and ordered hand sanitizer and communion cups filled with juice, she got the bulletins ready, got us banners for the tables, made a page on the website, and probably a hundred other things. Masyn and Brandon, along with Don Dillard, worked with me to get what we needed for sound and live streaming. Abby prepared items for the children so they could participate and Becky helped make sure the building would be ready for us and that our janitors would have everything clean and sanitized. Joe Stafford jumped in and made sure there was a stage and a way to get to the stage and he helped with traffic flow and parking for those who wished to stay in their car.

After that first service many people stayed and helped clean up and move everything back into the building. All of this is to say that it took a lot of people to make this work...and work it did! I can't thank the staff enough for all the hard work to make the outdoor service a reality. I can't thank all the volunteers enough for their continued hard work as we continue each week to set up and take down all the equipment and items needed to make the service happen.

I'm so blessed to work with a staff who jump in and do whatever needs to be done, so we not only can have a service but so we can be church together. I love working with each one of them and I know that even though we still have a long road ahead of us until we can be back to "normal", you each have the church in your heart and prayers and we will continue to do great things. I know this hasn't been the year we imagined for ourselves, but I'm thankful for the way that we've shown up for one another and our church's mission. Thank you Highland Park for your continued support and for allowing us to serve side by side with you.

Peace be with you and Happy Thanksgiving,  
Cheryl Kimble

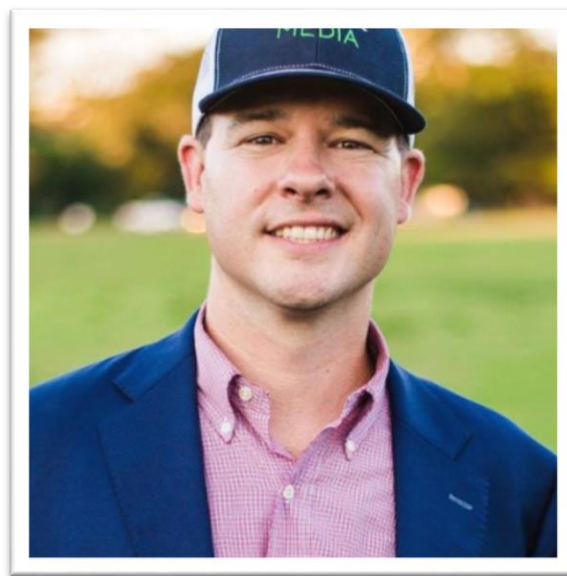


November 26, 2020

Dear friends,

I wanted to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

It's definitely the most unique & challenging Thanksgiving that I have experienced in my lifetime but at the same time I'm not sure I've ever needed the holiday as much as I do this year. In addition to a welcome break with my family, it also serves as a reminder to be thankful of what we have. Even amidst a pandemic where our lives have been changed on almost every front, we have much to be thankful for, including Highland Park.



*Rusty Shelton, 2020 Council Chair*

As I think about Highland Park I think back to all of the foundational memories and experiences that helped shape who I am. I am thankful that my kids now have a chance to experience their own journey through Highland Park. Through this pandemic I've been so grateful to our staff for their great attitudes, tireless work ethic and commitment to continue the mission of this Church amidst incredible challenges. I've also been thankful for our Church Council and the work they stayed committed to doing prior to having any idea what 2020 would hold.

Most of all, I'm thankful for you - our community at Highland Park. You have not only continued supporting the church but you've been positive and open to new ways to experience church and new ways to be church to each other. We're so thankful for you this Thanksgiving.

I'm also thankful for the lessons we have learned this year and the trajectory those lessons will put our church on once we get to the other side of this. I'm excited about that future while being thankful this week for each of you.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Rusty



## Outdoor Worship & Livestream continues - 11 a.m. on Sundays

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. As the weather gets colder, don't forget your jackets and/or blankets! 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.



Photo by Abby Byrd

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

Children are invited to meet Children's Ministry Coordinator Abby Byrd on the left side of Teague Chapel at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday for activities before the service begins. During the service, Abby gives a Children's Sermon to connect the kids with the overall message. Abby also has some special ideas to involve the children as we get closer to Christmas. Questions or ways to get involved can be directed to her at [familylife@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:familylife@hpbcaustin.org).

Visit our website at [www.hpbcaustin.org/outdoor](http://www.hpbcaustin.org/outdoor) for more details about the outdoor worship service.

## LIVE STREAM INFORMATION

The service is simultaneously live-streamed on Facebook & YouTube. Access either page at 10:55 a.m. on Sunday mornings and you will see the Live Stream happening. Links will also be emailed out on Sundays.

[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)



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 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 6-12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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# WOMANFEST

## *The Enneagram of Personality*

Womanfest 2020 was a one-day event on November 7, held in a socially-distant capacity in Sapp Hall and online over Zoom for those who wished to remain at home.

Even though Womanfest looked different this year, we managed to pull it off and have some thought provoking time together.

Meghan Becker, enneagram expert, joined us and discussed the enneagram numbers and we each discovered what our number is. We used the time to learn about ourselves, how we view the world, how we use our personalities to steer through our lives, and how to better relate to those around us. A good time was had by all!

~ Abby Byrd, Family Life and Fellowship Chair



Photos by Alana Mallard



## FALL FOOD & GIFT CARD DRIVE

Thanks to all who contributed to the month-long drive for non-perishable food donations and \$25.00 HEB gift cards for the clients of the Baptist Community Center Mission in East Austin. Along with Paragon Prep, we sent both an overflowing truck bed and full carload of donations to help stock the Food Room and twenty-three gift cards for the families to enjoy their own Thanksgiving meal at home. Thanks to Alana Mallard for making her front picnic table a socially-distant drop-off spot, to the Paragon 7<sup>th</sup> graders who helped sort, and to church members and staff who helped out with this big project: Donna Reisenbigler, Amanda Haley, Maddy Bewley, Cheryl Kimble, Kelley DeCleene, Masyn & Brandon Evans-Clements, Don Hartman, and Joe Stafford. And thanks to YOU for giving!



Photos by Masyn Evans-Clements and Lindsay Hay



## Update from the Personnel Service Group

Starting December 1, 2020, our Minister for Youth & Outreach, Masyn Evans-Clements will move from part-time to 30 hours per week. Congrats, Masyn!

## Updates on the Property Service Group

After returning to the building and property, Paragon reported that the tube slide in the wooden playground had a crack and bow. After assessment, it was determined to need to be replaced for safety. Our thanks (and Paragon's thanks) to **Fred & Barbara Worley** who generously donated the "Funnel Tunnel" replacement. The kids have already had many happy test slides!



**Thank you Fred and Barb Worley  
for the new twisty slide!**



## The Season of Advent

Sunday, November 29 begins the season of Advent. Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continues through the day before Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation, contemplation, and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

This year, our theme for Advent is *God Will Make a Way*. It's easy during this difficult year to lose track of the hope, peace, joy and love in our world. If we will allow it, God will make a way for us to experience each one of these things even during hard times. May we be open to letting God work in & through our lives this Advent season.



While things might be different in many ways this year, we are delighted to still bring you the Advent booklet of devotions, a beloved Advent tradition at Highland Park. Devotions will be sent out over email and posted daily on Facebook.

## Christmastime Missions

Our first Christmastime Mission will be our annual participation in the Stocking Stuffing for the Baptist Community.

**Nov. 29 & Dec. 6:** Stockings handed out at church

**Dec. 6 & 13:** Filled stockings can be returned to the church



Starting November 29, you may pick up a stocking, which contains the list of suggested items and a Ziploc baggie of felt decorations to glue on. Decorated and filled stockings may come back on Sundays Dec. 6 or Dec. 13, and then they will be taken to the Baptist Community Center Mission to be distributed to the kids. Alana Mallard has also agreed to provide a drop off spot on her picnic table the week between the two Sundays – please call or text her before you come.

**Special note:** If you are unable to pick up a stocking at church, you may purchase and fill another large stocking with the items and bring it by. The more, the merrier!



## 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.

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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

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