

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

*...when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there...*



Our Sunday morning worship services during October will continue to be pre-recorded and placed on YouTube. 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 each week, to all guest participants, and to Kay Greenhaw for so beautifully piecing everything together.

### Worship Schedule this Month

October 4: *World Communion Sunday*  
Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches

October 11: *19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Masyn Evans Clements preaches

October 18: *20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches

October 25: *21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches

October 1, 2020

Just over 20 years ago I stepped off of a plane from Oklahoma City to Austin, TX. My flight had been delayed so when I stepped got off the plane there was no one there to meet me in the gate (this was pre-9/11) and I realized I didn't know anyone and didn't know what to do. I went to the airport phone and had Gregg Wilson paged. He and Edna Nation met me at the baggage claim and from that moment on I felt at home in Austin.



*Rev. Kimble & her 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flowers*

Through the years you've been so patient and supportive of my ministry. When I would have this crazy idea that we could have drive-in movies in the back of the building you jumped in and we had movies in the back. When I wanted to take church-wide ski trips you were all on board and we headed to New Mexico. When I said, "I'm a preacher" you still gave me the opportunity to preach and then discover I loved preaching. You've supported me as we've traveled this amazing journey through life and through ministry.

I guess the most amazing part of my time here was meeting Mr. Roy Kimble. We met the first meeting I had with the deacons. He asked a crazy question about where the story of Zacchaeus was in the Bible. My new friend Dee Dee Wilson had warned me so I was able to answer his question. We became fast friends and eventually realized we were a perfect fit. I was blessed to fall in love with Roy and his two boys Logan and Carter. Since that time we've grown into the family we are today and I look back on the years and see God's hand in every moment of our time together.

The Church @ Highland Park has been so much more than my job, my ministry and my calling, it's been my life! I love my time with each and every one of you. I've loved watching children grow up, I've baptized several of you, I've been blessed to be part of marriages, I've been moved to walk through grief with many of you, and I've watched our church learn to love and grow together.

Thanks for allowing me to be a part of you! Thanks for loving me and my family. Thanks for supporting me and trusting me. I love you all with all my heart.

Peace,  
Cheryl

October 1, 2020

Dear friends -

How are you this week?

I want to thank everyone who participated in the [celebration video for Cheryl](#) - it was so wonderful to see everyone's faces and also a great way to tell Cheryl how much we appreciate her. What a wonderful gift she has been to our church. Huge thanks to Kelley, Kay and the entire staff for working so hard to pull that together and to Cheryl: we look forward to celebrating with you in person ASAP!



*Rusty Shelton, 2020 Council Chair*

I also want to take a moment and wish my good friend and one of the absolute cornerstones of our church, Roy Kimble, a happy 70th birthday on the 5th. We love you, Roy, and look forward to celebrating with you again very soon.

September has been a busy month for The Church at Highland Park. In particular, Cheryl & Masyn's important Wednesday night series, Paragon Prep starting, continued virtual Sunday School and great missions work across the congregation. We also started planning for a return to in-person services (likely beginning outside - we're watching numbers with an eye on early Nov.) and had a major motion that passed during the Church Conference, where we decided to take the step of pushing back the start of the Church Calendar from the current January 1 - January 1 format to a new calendar, which will be June 1 - May 30. This is something that has been discussed for years and years and the pandemic has given us a good opportunity to implement this. (*Full report from the Church Conference is included in following pages.*)

We have a lot of other important stuff happening and I wanted to make sure you have the rundown:

1. **We're in the *Austin American-Statesman!*** There was a big article in the Statesman about my Dad's new book that features our (new) church name and provides a great overview of it. [Click here](#) to read it and keep an eye out for details on the virtual book launch event, which will be Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 PM.
2. **Website Progress** - We are making great progress on the new Highland Park website - we hope to have it to share with you very soon.
3. **Paragon Prep** - They are back in session with both in-person schooling & virtual learning, and we're coordinating closely with them on inside and outside classes.

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.
5. **Virtual Sunday School continues on Sunday** – We will gather at 10 AM on all Sundays in October and my Dad will continue the study on the Book of James for the month of October.
6. **Join Us for Church on Sundays** - Keep an eye out for an email Sunday morning with a link to this week's service - these services have been such a great way to 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.
7. **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.
8. **Children's Ministry** - Abby Byrd sends out weekly emails to the families with Bible lessons and exercises for our youngest members. I know Sadie has really been enjoying these. [Contact Abby](#) if you or someone you know would enjoy these emails.
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

[rusty.shelton@gmail.com](mailto:rusty.shelton@gmail.com)



October 1, 2000  
*Rev. Cheryl Kimble*

Many congratulations & thanks to our staff members who celebrate work anniversaries this month. We love & appreciate you very much!

October 20, 2019  
*Masyn Evans-Clements*

October 21, 2019  
*Becky Dillard*

## Walt's Book Release and Launch

Church member Walt Shelton's new book *The Daily Practice of Life* is being released this month! 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.

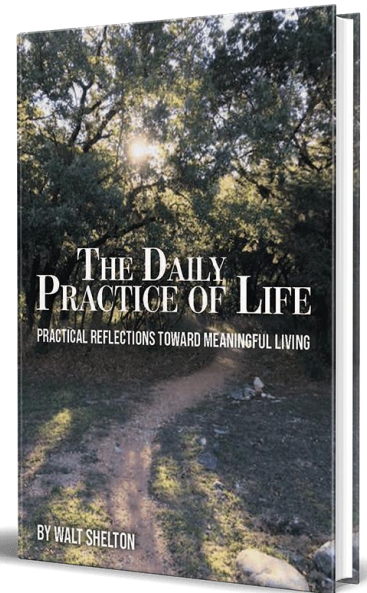
The book was even recently featured in the *Austin American-Statesman*. This [big, beautiful article](#) includes a lot of information about Walt's education and writing history and many of his influences. Here's a schedule of what is happening this month:

**October 6:** Publication Date

**October 13:** Release Date

**October 15:** Virtual Launch Party, 5-6 PM

*^More information coming soon!*



There are multiple sources for ordering the book. We encourage you to seriously consider supporting two local options:

**Black Pearl Books** [Click to follow order link](#)

**BookPeople** [Click to follow order link](#)

If you are interested, please take a look at Black Pearl Books' [website](#) and its unique history and strong policies consistent with Highland Park's priorities, including inclusivity, equality, and the pursuit of racial and social justice.

Our congrats to Walt on this accomplishment and our thanks to him for sharing his wisdom and insight at The Church at Highland Park these many years.



Thanks to all who joined us for the Regularly Scheduled Church Conference over Zoom on Wednesday, September 18, 2020. It was a very productive meeting. One of the main items of new business was a motion put forth by Church Council Chair, Rusty Shelton, which recognizes that during this quarantine experience and extra challenging year, it would be very difficult to form a new Nominating Committee, pull together a stewardship campaign, select a new Council, and compose a new budget.

The official motion from Rusty was:

*I move to suspend Article V of The Church at Highland Park's Bylaws, relating to Elected Positions and Elections, until June 1, 2021, except for Section E, relating to Nominating Committee, which I move to suspend until the February Church Conference, during which church members will elect members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will present nominations for the 2021 elected positions at a Called Church Conference in March 2021.*

The congregation was very supportive of the idea to suspend the Bylaws and push back forming a Nominating Committee to early 2021. There was a lot of discussion on the proposed dates and positive feedback toward an ongoing idea to shift the church's fiscal year to June 1 - May 30. After a good discussion it was agreed upon that this seems like the best time to finally make that shift.

So, here's the plan:

- Nominating Committee will be formed at the February Church Conference
- The Nominating Committee will present nominations for the 2021 elected positions at a Called Church Conference in March 2021
- The Council-elect will work alongside current Council in April and May with a formal changeover June 1st

In the future, it will give new Councils the ability to spend two months sitting in on existing council meetings so they are fully up to speed and allow for a summer ease-in versus diving in right at the start of the year. It will also give the current Council some time to (hopefully) bring some of the visions they had in early 2020 to fruition.

If you have any questions at this time, please reach out to Rusty or Cheryl. Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support of this church and its work toward God's mission.

Finance Service Group Chair, Nancy Osgood, gave this financial report during the September 18 Church Conference:

August 31, 2020 reports reflect a continued support of the members through contributions. Contributions are \$8,250.00 above our budget.

Through August our rental income is \$5,250.00 below anticipated budget. Our two major leases have been consistent, but all small events were cancelled since March. Beginning in September Paragon Preparatory has requested a reduction in their lease because of the reduced number of students. This will reduce the amount of rental income through the remainder of the year by \$16,875.00. We can assume that the miscellaneous rentals will reduce by another \$4,000.00. Many of our expenses are fixed and cannot be eliminated even though the building is closed. Utilities have dropped considerably which offset the improvements made to the building to accommodate Paragon, like new doors, closets, and other updates. Ministry expenses were cut during this time and that \$10,000 savings paid for the new website that is being created. All Mission commitments have been kept and there is still \$5,000 that was budgeted for the Intergenerational Mission Trip which had to be postponed.

The next four months will present several unforeseen expenses. Rearrangement required for having school during the pandemic has moved Paragon from the back building into the main building, so we will be using the back building for most of our outside group meetings. To accommodate this we will be required to build a ramp compatible with ADA. Estimated cost is \$3,000.00. Additional custodial needs will be required which could be as much as \$8,000.00 more than we now pay. There are some legal fees with altering the contract with Paragon and some name change items which could be \$5,000.00. Live-streaming equipment has been discussed as a way to continue with services during this time and equipment for that might be \$3,000.00. An air conditioning repair was done in March for \$5,000.00 paid now, and replacing choir room HVAC system is required and will cost \$7,100.00.

To summarize, through August unforeseen expenses have been offset by savings imposed by our shut down. The next four months project a \$21,000.00 loss in revenue and unforeseen additional expenses of \$31,000.00 or \$52,000.00 we will need to cover. I have not included the PPP loan which allowed us to pay all employees through the spring and summer. Out of caution we were holding that amount aside until forgiveness could be assured. When the government allows that to be completed it will give us access to that money.



## *Looking ahead to November...*

We have some exciting things on the horizon! The Church Council has approved and the church staff is hard at work to offer multiple in-person gatherings during the month of November. Please be aware that all of these gatherings are optional and there is no pressure to attend anything in person. In fact, we're working to have our church events live-streamed so you can attend from home if you prefer. For now, please take note of the information for your household.

### **Outdoor Services, proposed to start on November 1, 2020**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

- Service at very front of the property closest to Balcones Drive. It will be also live streamed and/or recorded.
- Please only come if you are comfortable with it. There is no expectation that you have to come.
- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> will feature All Saints Recognition and socially-distant, sanitary communion.
- You are strongly encouraged to wear masks and kids can wear their Halloween costumes on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>!
- Sunday School will stay online for now, and will change time/possibly day of the week
- Leadership is keeping a close eye on numbers and hopes to make a decision regarding next steps by the middle of October

### **Presidential Election Polling Place on November 3, 2020 (in back building)**

**Time: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

- We are glad to be able to provide a polling place in the back building of the property (former Steve Matthews class facility), kept apart from the Paragon pods in the main building.
- October 5 is the last day to register to vote in Texas. Early voting takes place from Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020. Election Day is November 3, 2020.
- Visit the [Texas Secretary of State website](#) to find out your voter registration status, poll location, early voting locations, registration information, and key Election Dates
- Please make your plan now on how you will vote in the upcoming election.

### **Womanfest Day on November 7, 2020 in Austin, Texas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a break for lunch**

- This year's Womanfest retreat will be a one-day event here in town, also with a virtual option.
- The speaker will focus on the Enneagram personality theory
- Registration and cost coming soon. Cost will include lunch and speaker fee.

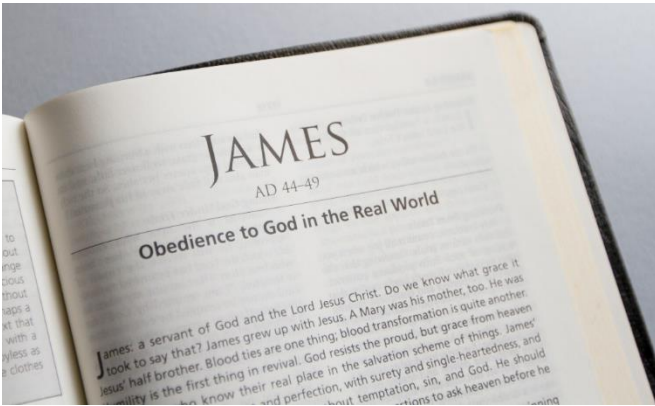
### **BCCM Food Drive and HEB Gift Card Drive**

- During the month of November, our Missions will focus on collecting non-perishable food donations and \$25 gift cards to HEB for the Baptist Community Center's Fall Food Drive and Thanksgiving meal.





During October and November, Christian Education classes will continue to be offered online only. Here is a list of our current offerings.



### **Bible Study, with various topics – 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.

During the month of October, the class is studying the Book of James. Walt Shelton has provided this class outline:

#### **Study of the Book of James**

- A. Introduction and Probable Context**
- B. Unique Nature of the Book (sometimes called the only NT "book of wisdom")**
- C. Key Emphases**
  - 1. "Partiality" is hypocrisy**
  - 2. Handle all forms of speech with great care**
  - 3. The "rich" vs. the "poor"**
  - 4. Faith vs. works -- different from or consistent with Paul's perspective?**
  - 5. Authentic wisdom**
  - 6. Wrap up of James**

### **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.



## Youth Sunday School Class – 11:00 a.m. on Sundays over Zoom

Last month, two new 6<sup>th</sup> graders joined the youth group and joined their Zoom Sunday School. Their Zoom currently takes place at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays and recently the group has been discussing the role of the Bible in our lives.



Abby and daughters Ava & Ella

### Children's Ministry – Weekly emails

From Abby Byrd, Children's Ministry Coordinator:

In an effort to keep the children of our church engaged, I have changed up the weekly Sunday School format to a short video of me doing some exercises with them and then teaching a lesson that hopefully relates to their lives right now. I know we all miss seeing their sweet faces and can't wait to get back together again!

Email Abby at [familylife@hpbcaustin.org](mailto:familylife@hpbcaustin.org) to receive emails.



WHAT NOW?

A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN  
RESPONSE TO  
RACIAL INJUSTICE

In a six-week class on Zoom, Rev. Cheryl Kimble and Masyn Evans-Clements facilitated discussion around racial injustice in our country, titled "What Now? A Faithful Christian Response to Racial Injustice." Those in attendance all agreed the class was necessary, educational, and meaningful.

Christian Education Service Group Chair, Donna Reisenbigler writes:

*I was really affected by our Racial Injustice class! I realize, as I'm sure most of you do also, that racism does indeed exist! I am not a racist - so how do I become a part of the movement to get at the root of the problem and stop its growth? First, "realize" the seriousness of the problem, "see" it, "listen" to what's happening around us and the repercussions, "speak-up" about the injustices, "participate" in peaceful community/group efforts to halt the poisonous growth of hatred and white supremacy! I never truly realized how deep seeded this evil thinking is and now know that if we allow it to continue the roots will keep growing, especially if we water them with complacency and inactivity. The injustices will grow with increasing speed and in progressively evil ways until our democracy and God's wonderful plan of His kingdom here on earth will be distorted by our behavior. I hope more of our Highland Park friends and beyond will feel a God-given urge to step up and do something. Be an advocate for those of different color, and DO; see, listen and learn, participate, VOTE, pray, and LOVE. We must learn to LOVE (and that's a language all people understand) and realize that the extent of its application in today's world determines the future of our beloved democracy and our hope for peace.*

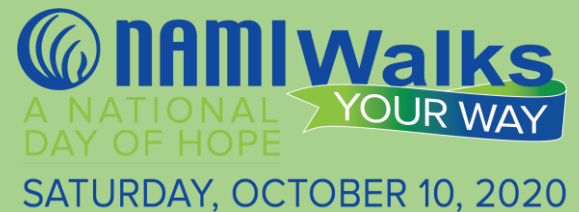


Highland Park's is providing the suppertime meal for the Micah 6 Youth Drop-In Center on Sunday, October 11.

Our procedure will again need to be adjusted due to COVID-19, but things have worked smoothly the last few times. 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](mailto:office@hpbcaustin.org).
- **Alana Mallard is willing to have her house be the drop-off and pick-up point again.** This worked well last time and folks loved seeing one another and visiting, socially-distant with masks.
- **Michelle Poncik**, our board rep at Micah 6, is heading this effort for the meal on October 11th. Please text her to volunteer.

This year the NAMIWalk will look a little different, but those facing mental illnesses in our community will still benefit from the services we support. **On Saturday, October 10, 2020 the NAMIWalks will be a virtual experience and will happen all across the country at the same time.** Becky Dillard is our team captain & this year it's called NamiWalks Your Way!



NAMIWalks Your Way means what it sounds like: participants get to make it 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 hashtags #NotAlone and #MentalHealthForAll.

There are a number of ways that you can be a part of this:

- **[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)** and advocate for mental health awareness/support on social media
- **[SUPPORT US](#)** and help those facing mental illness and their families.

*Together we can make a difference for people affected by mental illness.*



### "Overflow the Courtyard" with University Presbyterian Church

We are proud to participate in this effort with our friends at UPC. The items will benefit the Micah 6 Food Pantry, Drive a Senior, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. **- SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR DONATION DETAILS -**

- **Alana Mallard has offered her front courtyard as a place for Highland Park folks to drop off donation items on Sunday, October 11 until 3:00 p.m.**
- The driver taking the food to the Youth Drop-In Center at UBC will take the other donations to UPC in the same trip.
- Thanks in advance for the generosity and love you show for your neighbors in need. Please let Alana Mallard know if you have any questions.



**UNIVERSITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual Donation Event  
“**Overflow the Courtyard**”

Sunday, October 11  
between 2 pm and 4 pm

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A drive-through collection event to support  
the Micah 6 Food Pantry and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**Micah 6 Food Needs**

Frozen Dinners (lean cuisine, banquet, etc.)  
Canned Meat (spam, chicken, tuna)  
Crackers  
Instant oatmeal  
Fruit cups  
Canned chili  
Canned vegetables  
Canned beans



**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** needs pre-assembled hygiene kits to assist with hurricane recovery efforts. Please bring only the items listed below, assembled in a gallon-size ziplock bag. We will not be able to assemble these kits.

1 hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)  
1 washcloth  
1 wide-tooth comb, removed from package  
1 nail clipper, removed from package  
1 bar of soap (bath size, in wrapper) 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)  
10 Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

We invite all area churches, members, and friends to bring your donations on **October 11 between 2 pm and 4 pm**. Volunteer workers may sign-up through Micah 6 at <https://www.micah6austin.org/volunteer>

Invite your friends, share with your neighbors, and come help us “Overflow the Courtyard!” on  
**Sunday, October 11 between 2 pm and 4 pm**

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**