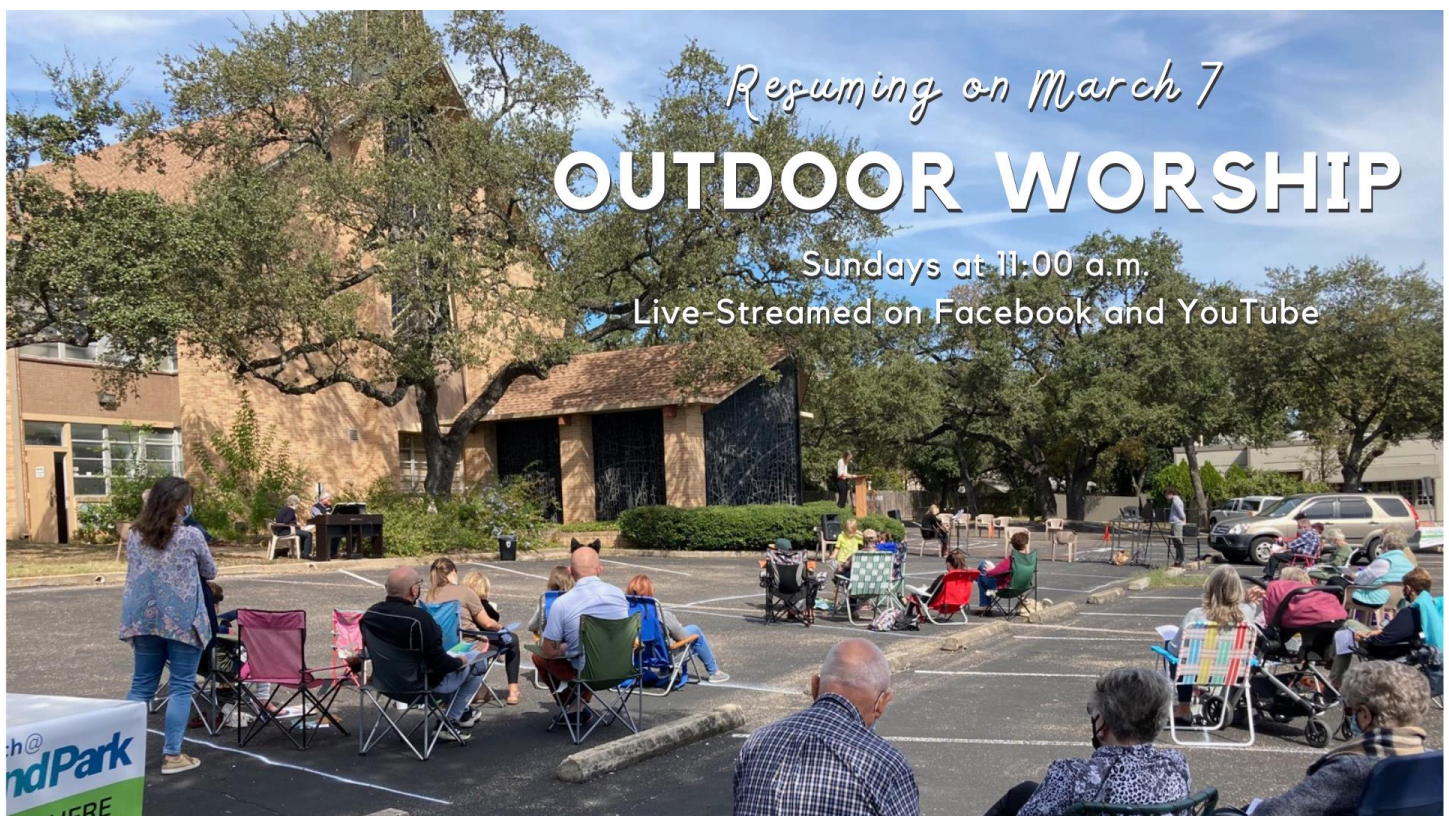


*Thank you for how you've continued to be church during these challenging times.*

Lent is the liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. It is a season of self-examination and reflection, and the purpose is for Christians to consider the suffering and sacrifice Jesus endured for our sake.





We are so excited to resume outdoor services on Sunday, March 7. All procedures will be the same as last fall with social distancing and masks, and the service will be livestreamed for those who wish to remain at home.

Visit our website at [thechurchathp.org/sundays-current](https://thechurchathp.org/sundays-current) for more details about the outdoor worship service.

#### Schedule for Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School on Zoom

10:45 a.m. Abby Byrd holds Children's Time nearby Teague Chapel

11:00 a.m. Outdoor and Livestream Worship

6:00 p.m. Youth Sunday School on Zoom

#### 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)





# *From the Pastor...*

Dear Highland Park,

We could not possibly know, one year ago, how long we would be going through this pandemic. We are so lucky that as a church we have been able to keep things going, including mission projects, virtual Sunday school hours, pre-recorded and livestream services, and even some outdoor in-person services. That has been 100% due to you: The Church @ Highland Park. You've continued to give, attend, and support everything we've done. I want to express my gratitude to you and ask for your help.

We made the decision toward the end of last year to make a change that we have been talking about for years. We decided to make our church year - both fiscal and leadership - go from June to May instead of January to December. This change was particularly important this year because we were not at a place in October to select a new Council or prepare a new budget. In the future this new schedule will help us plan during a time of year that's not so busy.

One reality of that fiscal year shift is that we kept last year's budget in place and asked our congregation to continue giving at 2020 levels to carry us to a new pledge drive, which will take place ahead of the launch of our new fiscal year June 1st.

What we need now from you as a congregation is:

1. Please continue to support Highland Park as you are able and, if possible, at a level that equals your 2020 pledge so we can keep to the budget we have in place
2. Be in prayer about what you might pledge to Highland Park for June 2021 through May 2022.
3. When ready, [please click here to complete your pledge card online](#).

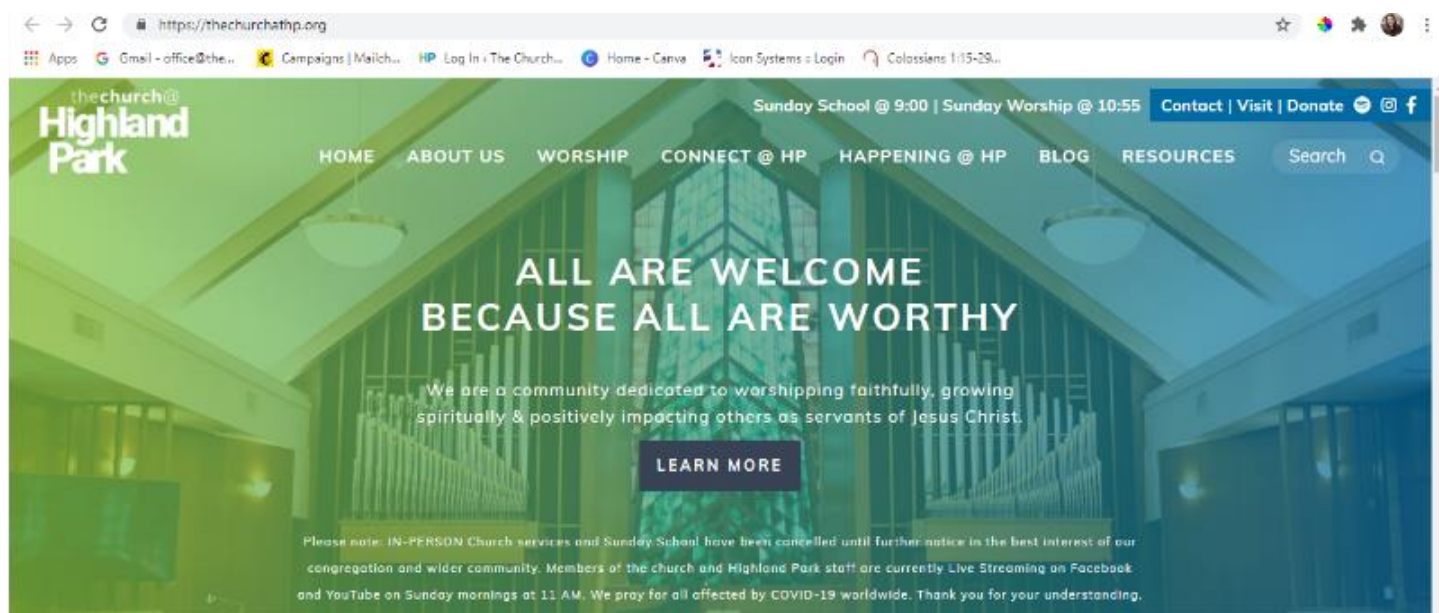
Again I want to say THANK YOU. You've stood by the staff, allowed us to work from home for our safety, kept all of our mission projects funded, participated in all the activities we've tried and all the ways we have provided worship, and you've reached out to each other to show love and care. The Church @ Highland Park is one special place.

God's peace to each of you,  
Cheryl Kimble



# We have a new website!

We are so excited to announce our new domain and website to go along with the name change from last year!



Our new website is [thethechurchathp.org](https://thethechurchathp.org)

Please check it out and enjoy! A huge thank you to Masyn Evans-Clements and Kelley DeCleene, along with help from Cheryl Kimble, Rusty Shelton, Kade Keith, and Hannah Neas, for all of their hard work on this site. We worked with local company Alter Endeavors to design and build this site.

The staff will also have new emails to go along with the new domain:

Cheryl: [ckimble@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:ckimble@thethechurchathp.org)

Masyn: [masyne@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:masyne@thethechurchathp.org)

Kelley: [office@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:office@thethechurchathp.org) or [kdecleene@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:kdecleene@thethechurchathp.org)

Becky: [assistant@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:assistant@thethechurchathp.org)

Abby: [abyrd@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:abyrd@thethechurchathp.org)

Carolyn: [accounting@thethechurchathp.org](mailto:accounting@thethechurchathp.org)

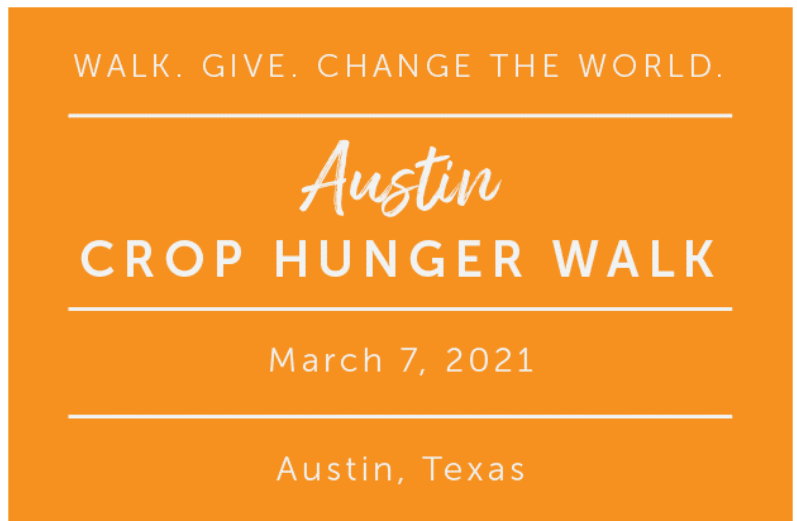
All of the old email addresses and the previous website address will route to the old ones, so even if you forget to use the new one (or your device auto types the old), you'll still get to the right place.

We're very excited for many of the features of the new website and how it will serve our church and our greater mission of serving God in Austin & beyond.

# Missions Service Group

On Sunday, March 7, we are participating in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Services and help families who are struggling with hunger. Now more than ever, these funds are needed for our most vulnerable populations.

In addition to this important cause, the Missions Service Group is also hosting a Balcones Drive Clean-up on the same day. Team members will walk their CROP Walk while picking up trash and recycling on the streets nearby the church. Our walk that day will provide greater food security in communities around the world **AND** "Keep Austin Beautiful".



*That sounds awesome! How can I join in?*

1. Join our team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/the-church-highland-park>. You can walk at home in your own neighborhood, join the clean-up team, or just walk in spirit. Once you've joined, share your page with family and friends so our fundraising can go even further.
2. Donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/the-church-highland-park> or with one of our individual team member. Checks may also be mailed to the church with the memo 'CROP Walk'.
3. If you'd like, come to the church anytime on Sunday, March 7 from 12:30 – 3 p.m. where we'll have grabbers and safety vests for those who'd like to pick up trash on the streets nearby the church. Be sure to take pictures so we can share with our partner agencies.



# Cultural Transformation: An Open Discussion of Respect, Inclusiveness, Racial Harmony, and the Pursuit of Justice

Please join us for an inclusive, open, and diverse 6-week Thursday evening Zoom discussion of selected portions of *The Daily Practice of Life: Practical Reflections Toward Meaningful Living* (CrossLink 2020), led by the author and longtime church member, Walt Shelton.

This discussion, titled "Cultural Transformation: An Open Discussion of Respect, Inclusiveness, Racial Harmony, and the Pursuit of Justice" will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (CT) on Thursday evenings beginning March 25.

These discussions are free and open to all. Please register (at no cost) at [thechurchathp.org/classes/cultural-transformation](https://thechurchathp.org/classes/cultural-transformation) by March 20 and invite friends or anyone you think might be interested in these important and timely topics to also register.

On the registration page, you will have the opportunity to request a signed copy of the book through the church for \$20.00. The author will write a message and sign your book, and the church will mail it to you before the start of the class. You may also visit the Progressive Christianity Resources website for options to purchase the book yourself (paperback/Kindle).

Whether you observe Happy Hour or refrain from it during the latter portions of Lent this year, or don't observe Lent, please enhance your experience by joining a vibrant and diverse opportunity for a practical discussion of these important contemporary topics.

NEW ZOOM CLASS  
THURSDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.  
MARCH 25-APRIL 29

THE DAILY  
PRACTICE OF LIFE  
PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS TOWARD MEANINGFUL LIVING



# 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 are available online.

Visit with Christian Education Service Group Chair, Donna Reisenbigler 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**

The Adult Sunday School class, led by Walt Shelton, is currently in a study on the book of Colossians, with a few spin-off topics. This study will continue through the middle of March or later.

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

The Youth Sunday School class is held at 6:00 p.m. 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@thechurchathp.org](mailto:masyne@thechurchathp.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. 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 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. Contact Don Hartman or [info@thechurchathp.org](mailto:info@thechurchathp.org) if you'd like the Zoom information. Our meeting dates and books through the spring and summer:

April 5 - *March* by Geraldine Brooks

May 3 - *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

June 7 - *Last Hope Island* by Lynn Osborn

July 5 - *The Body* by Bill Bryson

August 2 - *Capt. Putnam for the Republic of Texas* by James L. Haley



## 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 wish to receive these 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

thechurch@  
HighlandPark