

Thursday, April 1

Cultural Transformation Class with
Walt Shelton on Zoom at 5:30p

Friday, April 2

Good Friday Service on Zoom at 7p

Sunday, April 4

Indoor Easter Service at 11a
Share Your Table for Micah 6

Monday, April 5

Monday Book Club on Zoom at 6p

Thursday, April 8

Class with Walt on Zoom at 5:30p

Sunday, April 11

SS @ 9a | Worship @ 11a | Youth @ 6p

Wednesday, April 14

Church Council Mtg on Zoom at 5p

Thursday, April 15

Class with Walt on Zoom at 5:30p

Saturday, April 17

Sat Book Club outdoors at 10a

Sunday, April 18

SS @ 9a | Worship @ 11a | Youth @ 6p

Tuesday, April 20

Social Hour Zoom at 1p

Thursday, April 22

Class with Walt on Zoom at 5:30p

Sunday, April 25

SS @ 9a | Worship @ 11a | Youth @ 6p

Wednesday, April 28

Church Conference on
Zoom at 5 p

Christ is Risen!!

Risen Indeed!!



Easter Morning 2021

Photo by Abby Byrd

April 6, 2021

This year's Easter service was probably the best Easter service I ever remember. Our sanctuary was so beautiful, the music was amazing, and the congregation was inspirational.

I remember trying to get excited last year about preaching to a camera and it was sad. This past Sunday looking out and seeing your faces (well your eyes at least) made all the difference in the world. I was so excited as I watch people enter and was even elated to see a few visitors. I was buzzing around making sure everything was ready so when I stood in the pulpit for the welcome, the tears began to flow.



I've known I missed seeing you all. I've dreamed about us being back together. We did everything possible to make worship meaningful while we couldn't be together. We watched numbers and Rusty and I talked weekly about "when". All of the waiting and planning couldn't begin to prepare me for that moment, standing before you! It was moving.

You have all done an amazing job of staying community during all of this. The Zoom gatherings, the phone calls, text and emails, the outdoor worship, all of it has kept us The Church @ Highland Park, but being together in worship reminded me why we need to join together each week. I've been a different person this week, smiling, singing, and feeling prepared for all I had to do.

I'm thankful for each of you! I thank God for how you serve, how you support, how you encourage, how you love one another. You truly are the Body of Christ and I'm honored to be your pastor.

Thanks be to God,
Cheryl

April 6, 2021

Dear Highland Park -

It was so great to see so many of you back in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday this past weekend.

We're certainly not back to normal yet, but seeing the kids chime, hearing the choir sing, and watching the kids chase each other after the service with confetti eggs was the closest I've felt to Highland Park normal in a while and it was good for the soul.

I wanted to share with you that we have made the decision to move forward with indoor services from here forward (assuming continued positive progress on numbers and vaccines).

We wanted to see how things went on Easter before making a decision on whether to continue to offer indoor services. This was not an easy decision for the Church Council and we welcomed (and had) input on both sides of the discussion.

However, when we look at all of the options, we decided to continue making an in-person, inside option available to our members because we feel confident we can do so in a way that provides a high probability of safety for those who choose to attend, with significant distancing, open windows and the many other precautions that we have in place.

Despite the success of outdoor services, we also believe the experience, attendance, and impact is greater with a more traditional environment for the service and serves members who do want to come back inside while continuing to make the full experience available to those who don't with a virtual option.



Sadie Shelton and Ava Byrd on Easter morning

All of the safety measures that were in place for the Easter service will remain in place with one exception - we will not require an advance reservation for those who choose to attend because we feel confident we can space attendees without a problem.

We also will continue to ask members to be responsible in not attending if either
(A) they are in a high-risk category and haven't gotten a vaccine or
(B) they have been exposed or aren't feeling well and could put others at risk.
If either of these is true for you please continue to attend virtually.

To be clear, the measures that we have in place don't rule out transmission or issues but, alongside a continued positive trend down in cases in Austin, we think they limit the potential for problems to a level where we feel it's responsible to make in-person, inside services available to those who choose to attend.

We welcome any input you may have on this decision and hope to see you back at Highland Park when you feel it's safe for you to return. Until then, we'll continue to serve you virtually and want you to know how much we appreciate your support during this challenging year.

Thanks,
Rusty Shelton





Easter Morning 2021

Photo by Becky Dillard

Sunday Schedule @ Highland Park

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

11:00 a.m. Indoor & Livestream Worship in the Sanctuary (Childcare provided)

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

We are so excited to offer safe, indoor services on Sundays in the Highland Park Sanctuary. Guests are asked to wear masks, respect signage and social distancing. The service is livestreamed for those who wish to remain at home.

LIVE STREAM INFORMATION

Find The Church at Highland Park on YouTube or Facebook to watch the livestream service each Sunday morning, or visit our website at thechurchathp.org/worship-services to see past services that are archived.



Thank you to all were involved in the planning and production of our outdoor services during the month of March 2021. *Photos by Abby Byrd and Alana Mallard*

Musicians

Kristin Werner
Cayla Cardiff
Dustin Struhall
Hannah Neas

Sound Volunteers

Brandon Evans-
Clements
Don Dillard
Dustin Struhall

Set-up Volunteers

Don Dillard
Joe Stafford
Roy Kimble
Brandon Evans-
Clements

Liturgists

Holly Eades
Kristin Werner
Walt Shelton
Kathy Stanley

and of course,
our great
Staff!





Long-term Volunteers Needed

The **Servant Service Group** has looked a little different this last year but we all look forward to hopefully moving back to a more in-person ministry.

One of the areas of this ministry that has remained active is the **CIRCLE OF TOUCH**. The church's membership is divided into groups of 5-6 individuals/families. Each group is assigned a Touch

Leader who takes responsibility to try to keep these folks in touch with the church. The Touch Leaders often will send cards or emails for birthday or holidays. Touch Leaders also make calls or send cards/emails when there is an illness, birth, etc. We also reach out to our group when there is a special service or announcement from the church. The Touch Leaders help members stay connected to the life of the congregation, and help the church stay connected with the lives of our members.

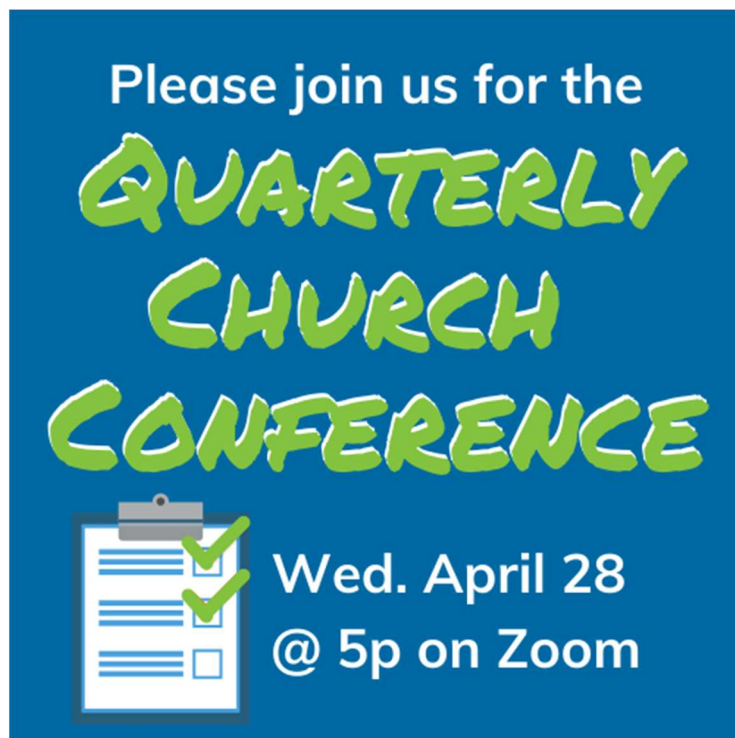
The Servant Service currently has five groups that do not have a leader. Would you please consider being a Touch Leader? Please reach out to chair Kathy Stanley at KathyCStanley@gmail.com or 512-507-8285 if you have any questions or if you would be a Touch Leader. Hope to hear from you soon.



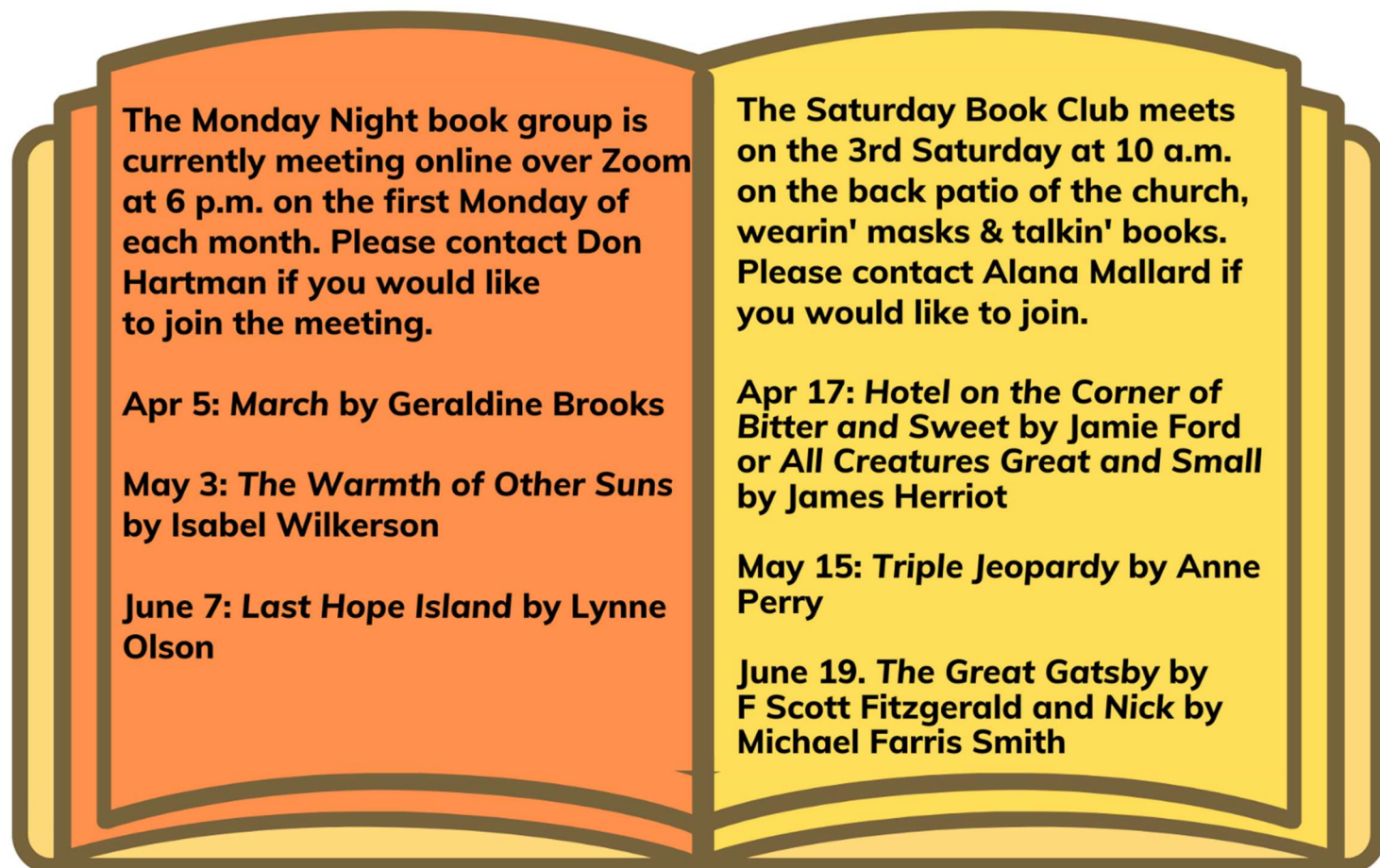
"My Touch Leader, Carolyn Coleman always seems to know the right time to send a card my way. She has helped me learn to be a better Touch Leader."

- Alana Mallard

We hope you'll join us online for these important Church Business Meetings:



All interested readers are welcome at our monthly Book Clubs:





Help us provide the Drop In Center Meal on April 25

The Church at Highland Park will provide dinner for the Micah 6 Youth Drop-In Center on Sunday, April 25. We will follow the COVID-19 protocols as outlined by the Center to prepare and drop-off the meal to the 15-30 street dependent persons who come to this weekly meal.

Michelle Poncik, our board rep at Micah 6, is heading this effort for the meal on April 25th. See the volunteer opportunities below and please text Michelle to get involved. **Alana Mallard is willing to have her house be the drop-off and pick-up point again.** Food is due to Alana's house on Sunday, April 25 by 2:00 p.m. so that it can be picked up & delivered to UBC by 3.

At this time we are asking for:

- **Volunteers to prepare food.** Michelle will make chicken spaghetti for 30, and we're looking for additional volunteers to prepare a vegetable, salad, bread, and/or dessert at 30 servings each. Please text Michelle to sign up.
- **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, please email office@thechurchathp.org to communicate about your donation.
- **Volunteer to drive the food to University Baptist Church by the UT campus.** We need one person to pick up the food at Alana's and take it to UBC. You call when you arrive at UBC's back drive and volunteers/workers will come outside take the items from you.

Looking ahead to next month...

May 2 through May 23

Participate in the
Spring Food Drive for the
Baptist Community Center Mission

Saturday, May 8

Join the Highland Park Team for
the Texas Alzheimer's Walk
8:30a -12p @ Camp Mabry

**Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our members and friends,
our last two Mission opportunities were great successes!**

Every year, the CROP Hunger Walk raises funds for local agencies that address hunger as well as the global projects of Church World Service. We couldn't have the walk at Camp Mabry this year so Church World Service's Kevin Murphy encouraged congregations and groups to walk wherever they are – but not just as a fundraiser for CWS, but also as a way to do some good in other ways.

This year, Highland Park decided to combine the CROP Walk with another service project put on by our Earth Covenant Ministry (Missions Service Group). Members and friends were invited to raise funds online and then come to the church on Sunday, March 7 to spiff up our block of Balcones Drive through our commitment to Keep Austin Beautiful's Adopt-A-Street program. Members of the church, members of our chartered Ship 410, and staff filled up six big bags with trash from Balcones and Parkcrest, and our team raised \$435 in donations. All in all, the 2021 Austin CROP Walk raised \$77, 292, surpassing last year's total!

Photos by Alana Mallard

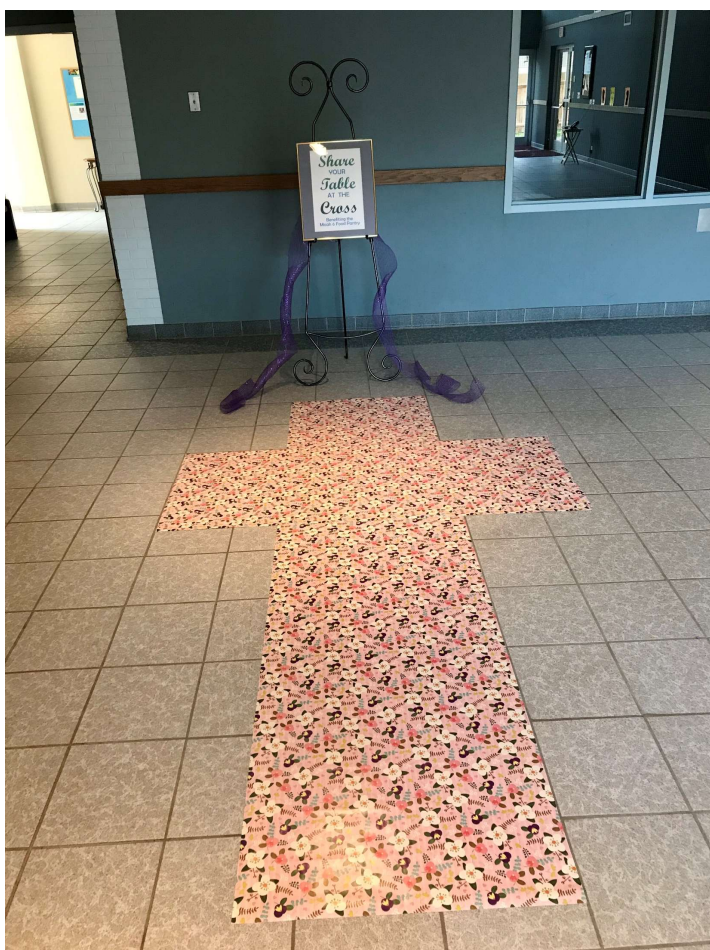


LaNell Coltharp, 3 members of Ship 410, and Roy Kimble get ready to pick up trash.



Kelley, Logan, Juliet & Mason DeCleene show off their vests and grabbers.

On the first Sunday of each month we share the Lord's Table with communion and ask those in attendance at church to share the blessings of their table by bringing non-perishable donations for a local food pantry. Having our usual flowering of the cross on Easter morning seemed a little challenging with the needs to remain socially-distant, so the Mission Service Group encouraged folks to bring extra donations that morning in lieu of bringing flowers. Rather than adorning a wooden cross, we asked folks "Share your Table at the Cross" of paper in our Atrium.



Alana and Jack the Dog dropped off a car full of donations to an appreciative Micah 6 Food Pantry manager, Sam.



The Children's Ministry, led by Abby Byrd, put on an Easter egg hunt for the kids following the Palm Sunday Service on March 28, 2021.



SOCIAL HOUR ZOOM

**Tuesday, April 20
at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom**

An unstructured time for
members to visit and
catch up with one another



Save the Dates for Children's Ministry Summer Activities!

JUNE 6-9: HP "Let's Get Together" Mini Camp

- Half-day camp from 9-noon, Mon thru Wed
- Mostly outdoors at the church
- For ages 3 through graduated 5th graders
- Cost is \$10/child for supplies

SUNDAY, JULY 18: Field Trip after church

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18: Swim at Cheryl's



Adult and youth volunteers are needed for the HP Mini Camp from June 6-9. Please contact abyrd@thechurchathp.org if you're able to help out on those three mornings.

At this time, all educational opportunities are remaining online. Visit with Christian Education Service Group Chair, Donna Reisenbigler if you're interested in leading or have an idea for another Christian Education opportunity for the church.



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

During the time of the pandemic, the adult Sunday School classes have consolidated into one class, taught online on Zoom by Journey Class teacher, Walt Shelton. In March and April, the class is studying and discussing the Easter accounts and related issues in the probable historical order of the Gospels. All adults are welcome.

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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 6-12th 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 if you're interested in joining.

Young Couples Class – Meets bimonthly over Zoom

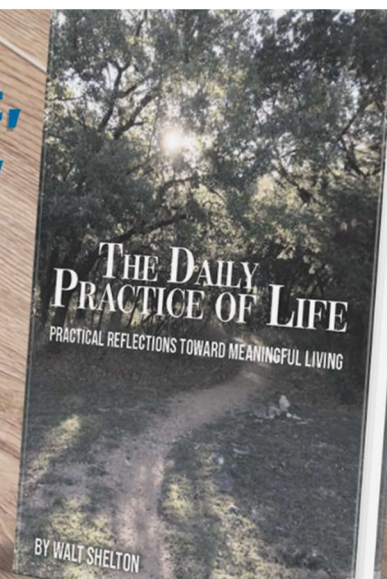
David and Kim Balkum facilitate this class, which is open to couples who are undergoing similar life issues. The group meets virtually and is mostly focusing on catching up and supporting one another during this time. The group sets their next meeting at the end of each meeting by talking about conflicts 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.

Cultural Transformation: An Open Discussion of Respect, Inclusiveness, Racial Harmony, and the Pursuit of Justice WITH AUTHOR, WALT SHELTON

**FOLKS ARE
WELCOME
TO JOIN
ANYTIME!**

**Thursdays.
thru April 29
on Zoom
@ 5:30 p.m**

thechurch@
HighlandPark



Financial Report for April

January through March contributions have continued to be very good with contributions nearly \$12,000 over our anticipated receipts. Rental income continues to be less than anticipated by nearly \$6,000, leaving us with \$6,000 excess income over budget.

Ministry Programs and Property expenditures remain under budget. Even utilities have remained lower than expected with the school back in session, possibly because some of their classes remain outside. Some of these savings are somewhat misleading on our reports, because our budget rolled over from last year and was not changed (i.e. camp payments that would have occurred early and mission payments not yet paid).

The approval of the PPP loan remains in the hands of the Small Business Administration and Wells Fargo Bank. The rules were relaxed and we have no reason to believe it will not be forgiven. The savings, the generosity of our members and the loan proceeds provide a positive view of our finances.

Stewardship Campaign is ongoing...

Our new fiscal year begins in June 2021 and we're still working to put together an updated budget. It would really help the Administration Service Group and Finance Chair to produce the budget if we have the most accurate pledge information from the congregation.

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 visit thechurchathp.org/pledge to submit your pledge amounts confidentially to our church bookkeeper.

In addition to playing the organ and assisting the sound team on Sundays, Dustin Struhall has been volunteering his free time during the week to assisting the church with some much needed upgrades in the Sound and Technology realms. Thank you, Dustin!

1) Sanctuary Upgrade - Why and What

Our sanctuary sound system was last upgraded in 2009. The analog console served us well until we started Live Broadcasting. A Behringer X32 Compact Digital Console was purchased in order to more finely tune the sound being fed into the Live Broadcast and the recordings made of services. During the freeze, a capacitor in one of the amplifiers that powers the speaker cluster at the top of the sanctuary failed. We replaced it with an identical brand new one.



2) Building/Admin IT Upgrade - Why and What

Technology is the central line of business operations at all times and the pandemic showed us that our current setup needs to be evaluated. The admin & pastoral team need to have access to the tools to be able to do their jobs. The office computers and network have been graciously built and managed over the years by passionate volunteers. We are looking to purchase laptops as an upgrade to the current decade old desktops. The church network now needs to support not only the staff but outside rentals and the media needs for the new sound console and live streaming. In addition, our current phone system is an on-campus only solution. A new VOIP system will provide the familiar office deskphone combined with mobile apps for flexibility of workspace. This assessment and core upgrade to our infrastructure will empower our staff with the resources they need to serve the mission and the members of the church at the highest level.

Six scouts have been recognized recently as Eagle Scouts by Troop 410. Our congrats to these young men and their families on these accomplishments.



Louie Dunning built four bat houses for McCallum High School.



Liam Kressin built a kiosk to hold maps & info at an entrance to Bull Creek Greenbelt.



Graham Randle made a Sanctuary Circle at St. Francis School.



Nicholas Reedy designed and built outdoor pet feeding stations for Meals on Wheels.



Will Russo installed a rainwater collection tank at our church.



Wes Savage built ten dog houses for Meals on Wheels.

Upcoming events for some of our partner groups:

- Pack 55 will hold their annual Pinewood Derby outdoors on 4/17
- Paragon will have a mostly outdoors Open House on 4/24

thechurch@ Highland Park

5206 Balcones Drive

512-453-6603

thechurchathp.org

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