

Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School on Zoom at 8:45a
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal at 9:45a
Hybrid Worship Service at 11a
Youth Sunday School on Zoom at 6p

Special Events

Saturday, September 18

Saturday Book Club at 10am

Sunday, October 3

World Communion Sunday

Monday, October 4

Monday Night Book Club at 6p (Zoom)

Wednesdays, October 6– November 10

12p SALT Class in person & Zoom

Sunday, October 6

Micah 6 Drop In Center meal

Saturday, October 16

Saturday Book Club at 10a

Sunday, October 17

Church Conference at 12p

Looking back at the summer and forward to the future...



You hear all the time that churches are afraid of change. I guess that comes from the fact that for most churches, especially traditional Baptist churches, the process they go through for change takes a while. It might not be that they're afraid of change, it's just that change takes a while. Well whoever said that churches were afraid of change never met the Church @ Highland Park.

Since March 1st, 2020, Highland Park has been changing and morphing into this new and exciting place to be. It all started with our name change. That was something we had been talking about for a long time but at the beginning of 2020 the Council began to talk seriously and you all went along with basically no questions asked. Then the pandemic hit and we were forced to change the way we did a lot of things. The staff worked from home and the church went to online recorded services and then the staff live streamed the service. Then we went outside to worship and finally we came inside and wore masks. Currently we are still wearing masks, worshiping in person and live streaming. The staff also worked on a new Web-site that launched in the midst of working from home and we changed our church year from Jan-December to June-May.

Over the last few months some new changes have been happening. Gary Nicholson, the brother of Kay Greenhaw, is an architect who goes into churches and evaluates them, looking for ways they could improve first impressions. After going through all his recommendations we've made many changes and even some that came out of our Council meetings. I thought I would share a few in case you haven't noticed.

- We placed new flags at the entrance and up the drive to help visitors know where the entrance is. They say All are Welcome and All are Worthy.
- We added a huge entrance sign that people could see the minute they turned into our parking lot.
- We hung a huge banner that you can see the moment you walk in the door. It says "Our Vision: To Follow Jesus Christ by Embracing All."
- We've added new lighting in the atrium hoping to make it brighter. (Thanks Joe for your help with this)
- We removed 5 back pews to make an area where families with young children can sit in family groups. This is to help with small children who are staying in the Sanctuary during Worship. This is to protect all from Covid.
- We are working to help improve signage inside and around the building.
- Putting together gift bags for visitors with a new church mug, a new flyer and a new bag with the church logo on it.

Some of the things we are still working on is refinishing and painting the side walls in the Sanctuary, trying to make the platform ADA accessible, and making sure everything in the building has our new name on it.

In the last few weeks we've hired Kathy Stanley as the Director of Operations and we've hired Chris Vineis as our new Music Director. We're still in search of a part-time evening custodian.

It's been a busy year and a half and so much is happening. Never let it be said that the Church @ Highland Park is afraid of change because we've been changing rapidly and it's all good! Share us with your friends, come back to services (but wear a mask please) and let's be the church God has called us to be!



Rev. Cheryl Kimble

WORSHIP INFORMATION

On Sunday mornings, guests are asked to wear masks, respect signage and social distancing. The service is also livestreamed for those who wish to remain at home.

Find The Church at Highland Park on YouTube or Facebook or visit our website at thechurchathp.org/worship-services to see past services that are archived.



ALTAR FLOWERS



Now that services have returned to the Sanctuary, we are offering the opportunity for folks to dedicate flowers in memory or honor of loved ones or maybe just because you want to add beauty to the sanctuary. They are available anywhere from \$50-\$75 and ordered by the church office. Please visit our website at thechurchathp.org/forms/altar-flowers-request to reserve a date and enter your specific request.

The Church Council has decided that due to the rising number of Covid cases, Sunday School classes are going to be postponed until further notice and children will be staying with their families during worship instead of going back for extended session.



The staff worked very hard to remove a few pews at the back of the Sanctuary and create a kid-friendly space where families can sit in their family "pods". There will be activities and a snack available. Children age 3 and above are asked to wear masks and maintain social distance from those not in their family. Purple dots at the front of the Sanctuary help direct this during Chiming and Children's Sermon.



On August 15 during worship, students and teachers were recognized and blessed before the new school year. The Church has many former youth and members who are teachers making this Sunday a very special time to honor their profession. Cheryl reminded us that, for many, their love of teaching was fostered by their helping with Vacation Bible School and teaching on mission trips as youth. Please continue to pray for teachers and students as they continue to handle the challenges of Pandemic learning.



Each teacher was given a \$100 gift card from the Church, a huge bag of school supplies that the **Mission Service Group** helped collect from the church members. The gift card was for the teacher to use to buy needed items for their classrooms. Just for fun the teacher received a \$15 Sonic card.

Cheryl,

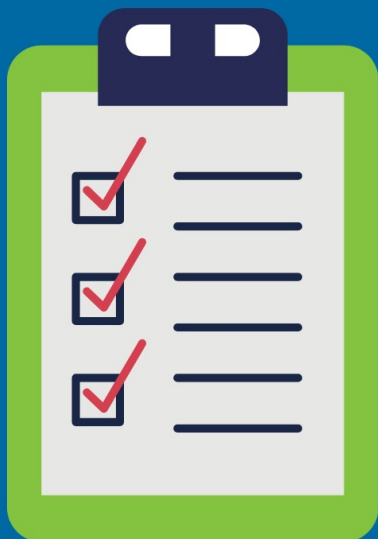
I am so thankful to you and the congregation for honoring educators and for the very generous donations. I am so proud to see so many amazing people that I worked with as teens to pursue a career in education and proud to be part of a church that recognizes their great work. -Andy



Highlights from administrative service group summer projects.

- There have been many repairs to our facility over the summer months: Atrium lights and upstairs lighting partially addressed. Plumbing—leak in basement repaired, decision yet to be made about fixing or replacing water coolers.
- The wall-attached shelf and desk in the Assistant's office collapsed. Fortunately, no one was sitting at the desk at the time and the computer was inside a file drawer and not damaged. The wall has been repaired, and office repainted.
- Entrance Door Mats were ordered for each entrance (thank you Mary Ellen Sullivan, Kelley DeCleene, Becky Dillard, and David McGrath for working on this project). They are made of 100% recycled PET fibers with 20% recycled tire-rubber backing. Paragon Prep will be paying half of cost.
- A large new locking postal box has been installed near the Teague Chapel, providing security for the church and Paragon Prep and convenience for postal workers. This location will allow Paragon Prep to close the parking lot during school hours from the corner at Meals on Wheels around to the Art Hive (back building).
- The bus has an electrical problem that slowly drains the battery. The mechanic suggested it be taken to an RV repair shop because of the complicated wiring.
- A new fire safe box was purchased to replace use of safety deposit boxes. Persons who are no longer at the church had signatory access, which caused major problems. Fortunately, Nathan Thane had access. Thank you, Gary Farmer, Nancy Osgood, and Nathan Thane, for working on this.
- Paragon Prep is back in session and is actually using more square footage than before due to Covid precautions. Paragon is a great partner and we are glad to have them back this year.
- Service Wizard has made multiple trips to the Church over these hot months. The largest repair was fixing one of the Sanctuary's Condenser units. These units will eventually need to be replaced as parts are no longer available. Thermostats are slowly being replaced as they need repairs.
- The renewal of Cabo Bob's lease (parsonage) is currently being negotiated.

Following worship on October 17, 2021



QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE



Abby Byrd
3rd anniversary was
June 24th

Marcia Melendez
2nd anniversary is
September 15

Carolyn Dolittle
2nd anniversary is
September 17

New Staff



Dr. Jill Nennmann joined as our Organist on May 16. Jill worked nearly fifteen years as a statistical and financial analyst after earning a Bachelor in Mathematics and Master of Business Administration. After discerning a call to music ministry, she left her corporate career to complete the Bachelor in Church Music, Master of Music in Organ Performance and a Doctorate of Sacred Music degrees. Jill moved to Austin in 2018 to be closer to her two grown sons, one daughter-in-law, and granddaughter.



Kathy Stanley joined the staff as our new Director of Operations, July 26. Kathy has been a part of our congregation for 31 years and her daughters and their families are also a part of us. Kathy has worked as an Office Manager many years of her career and we're excited that she has agreed to take on this new endeavor.



Chris Vineis will be joining us as Director of Music on September 12. She is pursuing her masters degree in Choral Conducting at the Butler School of Music. She received her bachelor's degree in Music Education with a vocal emphasis from Oklahoma State University. She received Kodály certification at the University of Oklahoma. Chris has worked with many youth choirs, including the Conspirare Youth Choir and OSU Youth Choir. At OSU, Chris served as a soprano section leader for two years, where she directed rehearsals and sectionals with their top choir, Concert Chorale. She was a frequent featured soloist in recordings with Concert Chorale and the Spirit of OSU Jazz Ensemble. Chris toured Austria and Germany with the OSU Concert Chorale. Chris sings with the professional ensemble New American Voices and is described as a lyric-coloratura soprano. She studied conducting and private voice with Z. Randall Stroope.

Kelley DeCleene concluded her time of service as Director of Church Operations on September 3. She was honored in worship on August 22. She has been such an integral part of the many ministries of the Church and will be greatly missed. Please continue to pray for Kelley and her family during their next chapter of life.



Dear Highland Park,

Thank you for everything over the last almost 11 years as I served as your Director of Church Operations. It has been an honor to serve you, God, and all of the people who enter the Balcones buildings each week.

When I first came to work here, I was an engaged 22-year-old embarking on one of her first “real jobs”, and your community has lovingly supported me as I got married, bought a house, sent my husband to grad school, survived car wrecks, pandemics, and ice storms, and had two incredible children, Mason (5) and Juliet (3).

The job hasn’t always been easy but I am grateful for all the lessons that I learned about myself. There were plenty of hard times to get through, but I’m thankful for all of the lessons I learned about working with others — listening and loving even when it gets messy and tricky. I’m grateful for the example, patience, and love that Cheryl and Kevin both provided to me as I learned about church work and grown-up life and how to be like Christ to all we encounter.

I have honed so many of my God-given skills during this time and learned new ones along the way. I’m grateful for the endless opportunities to be creative, problem-solve, tinker, collaborate, delegate, and, of course, organize. I have loved being able to be a part of opening up this big building to so many groups, meetings, schools, and events. This building is a blessing to countless people throughout our community and I’ve loved being able to play a part in making it all happen. I have also loved working alongside you all in so many missions and life-giving projects. I will carry the missional spirit of Highland Park with me always.



There are so many memories to cherish from this decade together. A few favorites include Nancy Lamb's pride in rolling out the vacuum wedding present you gifted Logan and me; chaperoning the mission trip and having the youth burst in to sing "Happy Anniversary to you" while I was Facetiming Logan on our 2nd wedding anniversary; sliding down snow slides at the Snow Days; the sweet children of Highland Park sitting at our feet as we opened baby gifts at our shower; the gorgeous Sip N See in honor of Juliet's birth; seeing Mason sing VBS songs in the Sanctuary, and so, so much more. But mostly, I cherish getting to know you all and getting to be your friend.

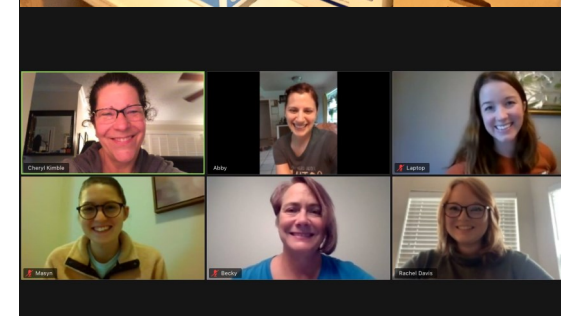
I will miss Roxanne's broccoli cornbread, Nancy O.'s spaghetti sauce, DeeDee's frito salad, Barbara's eggplant casserole, Helen's sugar cookies, Judy's and Susan's chocolate sheet cakes, and so many other amazing recipes. I will miss regularly seeing my wonderful volunteers up in the office who have all become such dear friends. I will miss Kristin's original songs at the Plum Pudding Festivals and being able to vote downstairs from my office. I will miss Alana and Jack coming to say Hi up in the office, fun lunch deliveries from Roy, accomplishing so much while still having so much fun with Dustin, the great folks at Paragon, and all of you wonderful people.

Please don't hesitate to reach me by my personal email or phone. I would love to stay in touch. As I depart this job, Logan begins a new position at a different branch of his company, Mason starts Kindergarten at a new school, and Juliet enters PreK at her childcare center. This is a season of transition for our family & we are hopeful and excited for the future. I know that God put Highland Park in my life to support me through this amazing decade, and I feel incredibly blessed to have been a part of this community.

Thank you for all you've provided to me — professionally and personally — during these formative years. I wish the church all the best in fulfilling God's mission for The Church at Highland Park.

It's not goodbye, it's see you later.

Much love,
Kelley DeCleene



Even in the hot summer months, our **Missions Service Group** was busy being the hands and feet of Christ:

- We collected \$225 for the Family Eldercare Fan Drive
- We prepared dinner for the Micah 6 Youth Drop in Center on July 25 (Our next time to cook this dinner for street-dependent youth is Oct. 10)
- We prepared and packaged a 50-person luncheon for Drive-A-Senior Northwest.
- We brought food donations for Share Your Table
- We donated school supplies for the Church at Highland Park teachers



Another year of Covid means Drive a Senior Northwest did a delivery Senior Day Out on Aug 26 when SIS sponsored a salad lunch for 52 clients and volunteer drivers with a variety of salads and cornbread from HP bakers and makers Roxanne, LaNell, Donna, Barbee, Michelle's daughter Madison, Cathy G, Nancy O, Edna, and Alana. Director Carla Young said daughters and moms of National Charity League provided desserts. Roy Kimble serves on the board of Drive a Senior Northwest

Mac Mckaskle, a familiar face to many Highland Park volunteers at God's Family Dinner on Thurs. nights and Micah 6 Street Youth Drop-In, has retired. Mac originated the Sunday drop-in center more than 7 years ago & expanded it to bad weather nights and a Saturday drop-in. Mac plans to retire to Mexico.

Alan Richards is the new director for the Micah 6 street youth program, and Sarah Cronin is the new manager of Micah 6 food pantry. Barry Smith continues as Micah 6 director.

Please contact Michelle Poncik if you can sit in on Zoom meetings of the Micah 6 board. The board meets every other month on the last Wednesday of the month, and the next meeting is Sept 29.

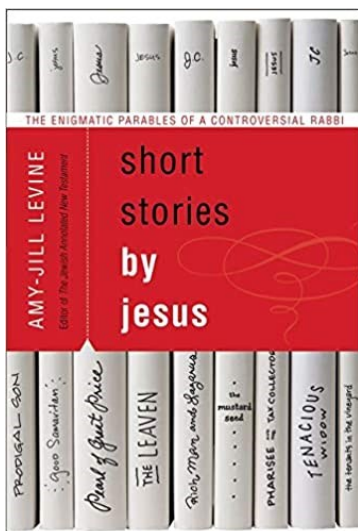


nami Walks YOUR WAY

Each year, Highland Park participates in the NAMI Walk to end the stigma surrounding Mental Illness. This year, the virtual walk will take place on September 25, 2021. There are three ways you can join our efforts:

- Join our team by registering on our team page
 - Donate to the cause on our team page
 - Walk "Your Way" on September 25





NEW S.A.L.T. Class! Rev. Cheryl Kimble & Masyn Evans-Clements are teaching a new Study And Lunch Together class over the book "Short Stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine.

It is a 6-Week study on Wednesdays at noon beginning October 6. The study will be available in person in the church library or over Zoom. *Be sure to bring a brown bag lunch and your book!* Visit our website at thechurchathp.org/classes/salt-ssbj for more information about the class and acquiring the book.

Sunday School on



Adult Bible Study

led by Walt Shelton on Zoom
8:45 a.m. on Sundays

The class is doing a study of
the Book of 1 Corinthians.

Youth Sunday School Class

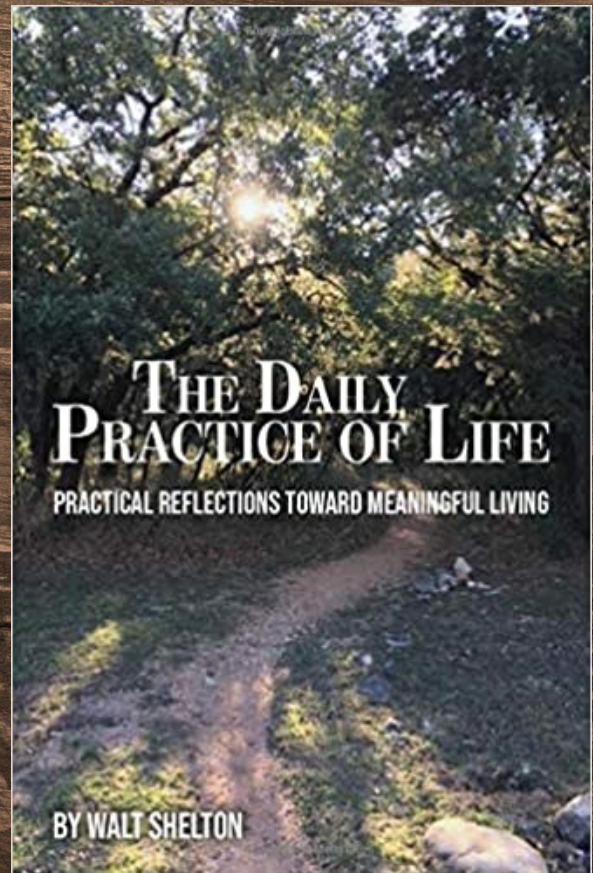
Taught by Wes Glazener
& Masyn Evans-Clements
ages 6th-12th grade
6:00 p.m. on Sundays
on Zoom

Monday, Oct 4

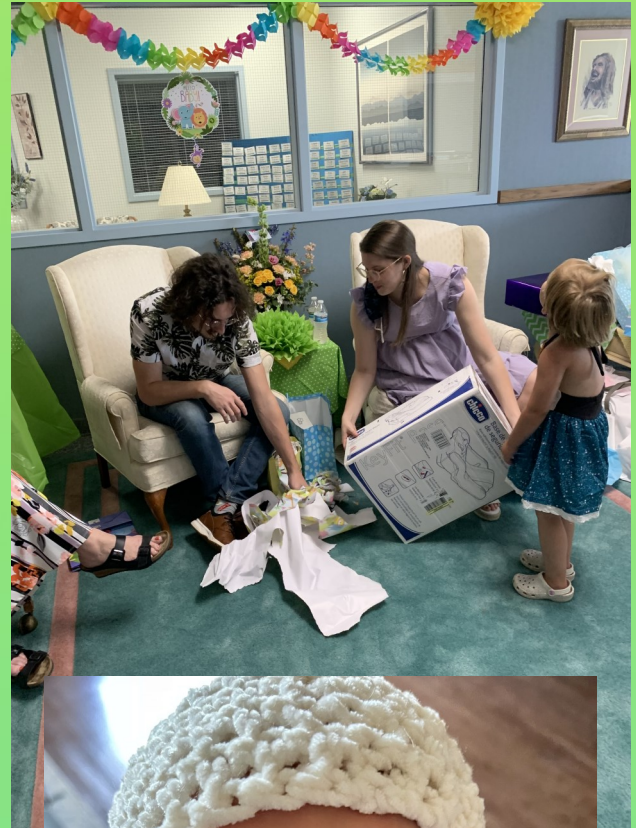
BOOK CLUBS

Saturday, Oct 16

Highland Park's resident author, Walt Shelton, was recently featured in a Q&A interview. Watch the interview on YouTube under the title "Author Q&A with Walt Shelton". Watch to learn more about his book, and share with your family and friends. We eagerly await Walt's next book!



Celebrating Baby Evans-Clements!



Highland Park,

We are SO grateful for your support and generosity as we welcomed Millie into the world. She was born August 9 at 12:32am, at 6 lbs 10 oz and 19 in.

We feel so fortunate to be a part of such a loving and caring community, and we can't imagine raising our little girl in any other place. Please know we are so thankful for all of the gifts, emails, and letters sent to our home. We cherished every single word of encouragement and have taken them to heart as we begin our newest adventure: parenthood. We love you Highland Park!

-Masyn, Brandon, and Millie Evans-Clements



Summer Birthdays

June

June 3— Ronald Hattin
June 5— Joe Stafford
June 7— Jude Gamble
June 7— Justin Gamble
June 7— Alexander Rapier
June 21— Masyn Evans-Clements
June 24— Janet Serna
June 28— Sarah Gamble

August

August 1— Suzanne Lowe
August 3— Barbara Lightsey
August 5— Greg Gregory
August 7— Kristin Werner
August 9— Millie Evans-Clements
August 9— Herb Wilson, Jr,
August 13— Susan Magee
August 14— Dottie Denton
August 17— Madeleine Bewley
August 17— Ella Byrd
August 18— Scott Davis
August 19— Cindy Thane
August 22— Rusty Shelton
August 25— Chuck Roberts
August 31— Luke Chandler
August 31— Kathy Stanley

July

July 7— Mary Morgan
July 9— Karson Osgood
July 10— Alex Neely
July 13— Katalina Neas
July 14— Hannah Neas
July 15— Craig Russell
July 18— Martha Burns
July 19— Marie Sherman
July 21— Christi Reid
July 23— JoAnn Nicholson



New Signage @ HP

This summer the staff worked hard to get some signage around the church! This includes the new flags outside in the parking lot that read “All Are Welcome” and “All Are Worthy”, as well as the banners in the atrium and the new visitor bags! We’re so excited about all of these changes!



**"How do I
get involved
right now
at HP?"**

This month:

1

We need Touch Group leaders! Contact Kathy Stanley to learn more or sign up

2

Michelle Poncik needs someone to sit in at the Micah 6 Zoom Board Meeting on Sep 26 at noon. Contact Michelle or the office.

3

You can always donate non-perishable foods to Share Your Table in the Atrium.

Kids' Mini Camp



Since the kids couldn't attend camp this year, Abby planned a 3-day mini camp at church! They had so much fun playing games and getting to hang out together after a long time being apart. Thank you Abby for planning such a fun time for our kids!



Youth Camp 2021



Our youth participating in evening worship



Blaine Kimble competing in and winning the Pool tournament!

Our youth had so much fun at Schreiner University attending Youth Camp with Rev. Cheryl and Roy. The theme was "The Community of Faith". Camp is always a great place for fun and group bonding! We love our youth! Thank you Rev. Cheryl and Roy for taking on Youth Camp for Masyn!



Our sponsors were tuckered out!



In July, HP
kids got to
have fun
together
and jump
at the
trampoline
park!

Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor

Masyn Evans-Clements, Minister for Youth & Outreach

Abby Byrd, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Dr. Jill Nennmann, Organist/accompanist

Chris Vineis, Director of Music

Kathy Stanley Director of Operations

Becky Dillard, Administrative Assistant

Carolyn Doolittle, Church Bookkeeper

Childcare workers: Maddy Bewley and Amanda Haley

Church janitor: Marcia Melendez

the**church**@
HighlandPark