

Pastor's Note



The Heat is ON!...Or, at least it will be. For a little fun audio to go along with this article, scan the QR code for some musical accompaniment.

If you've been around Highlawn Presbyterian for any length of time, you have noticed the difficulty we have had controlling the temperature in our facility. This church has a boiler system that was installed approximately two years after Jesus walked the earth. (OK, maybe not that long ago, but it *has* been here for decades.) In fact, this boiler, located off the basement, has served this church very well for a very long time. But, as we know, nothing lasts forever. Some of you may remember a loud sound that occurred last Spring during worship. Apparently, that was the sound of the boiler system saying farewell.

For the last several years, our session has discussed the fact that this boiler system was on its last leg and it was only a matter of time before a costly replacement was going to be needed. When it became clear that the time was now, our Building and Grounds committee members worked very hard to determine what to do next.

After research, prayer, and discussion, the session has voted to install a new and more efficient boiler system. This process, which includes the removal of the old (and very heavy) boiler system will be done by Scott Sullivan, Inc. It will also include replacing the air handler, air conditioning unit, and expensive removal of old asbestos. It is expected to take at least one month to complete this project. We do not have a start date yet, but we will let you know as soon as one is scheduled.

Like me, I imagine that many of you are thinking to yourselves, *OK*, how much is all of this going to cost and how are we going to pay for it? The answer is \$116,000. The session has approved the trustees to enter into a loan with City National Bank to cover the cost of the new system. The expected monthly cost will be approximately \$900. That being said, it is our hope and prayer that many of you will offer a one time (or recurring) financial gift to help offset this cost. We recognize that many of you are already giving generously to this church and now we are asking that you give even more.

It is our understanding, that in the long run, this new boiler system, along with our solar panels, will allow our facility to run in a more much efficient manner. It all BOILS down to this: like our own homes, our church home needs constant maintenance and that maintenance can be costly from time to time. The session and I are doing our best to be good stewards of the gifts you share with this church. As we move forward, please consider a donation to this project. (You can write "boiler" on your checks, or mark it on your offering envelope.) This winter, we hope you can leave your parka at home and we can worship together in our nice, warm sanctuary.

Harmony House is so very appreciative of the support by members and friends of Highlawn Presbyterian Church during the month of July for their Rapid Re-Housing mission in the community. Our church has worked to help provide for a recently housed family of seven. Betty Barrett has worked getting donations of beds from Woodlands, and Nancy Estler has spearheaded the gathering of other housing needs and donations for the family. Two vans picked up HPC donations this past week, including bed sheets, pillows, towels, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, plastic crates with drawers for storage and personal items including diapers, and games, backpack and supplies, and toys for the five children. Also, some basic food items were delivered for the family.

According to the Re-Housing Director, Misty Golden and her staff, items needed for the month of **August** include **can openers**, **spatulas**, **brooms**, **mops and buckets**, **toilet brushes and plungers**, **and cleaning supplies**. This list includes the items in short-supply right now. They very much appreciate our continued efforts to supply their day shelter with clean and gently-used shoes and seasonal clothing. New underwear and socks are always most welcomed by their clients. During this hot summer weather, cases of bottled water are also needed.

Donations may be brought to the church and placed in the "wagon display" in the Narthex or taken to the Blessings Room on the Harmony House table. If anyone is house cleaning/down-sizing and has furniture or other large items to donate, Harmony House is able to pick up from your home. For a furniture pickup, please contact Linda Hansen (304-421-0860) or Nancy Estler (304-633-2604), and they will assist with pickup plans. For other questions about this mission, please speak with any member of the Mission Committee, Howard Aulick, chairperson.



— Míssíon Commíttee



5 Key Tips for Back-to-School

1. Prioritize routines:

Summer schedules are often more relaxed, so it's crucial to gradually transition back to school-year routines, especially for sleep, meals, and morning and evening activities.

2. Family calendar:

A shared calendar, whether digital or physical, helps everyone stay organized, especially with extracurricular activities, appointments, and school events.

3. Encourage independence:

Empower kids by letting them take ownership of tasks like packing their backpacks, choosing outfits, or completing homework independently, fostering responsibility and boosting confidence.

4. Healthy habits:

Focus on balanced nutrition, adequate sleep, and physical activity to optimize energy levels and concentration for school.

5. Open communication:

Regularly check in with kids about their feelings, concerns, and academic progress. Create a safe space for them to express themselves and address any challenges they may be facing.

REFIT Every Thursday in August 11am in the Fellowship Hall

Cabell County Schools Begin <u>Wednesday August 13th</u>





Session Meeting
Thursday, August 7th
6:00pm

Men's Breakfast

August 30th at 8:30am



COMING SOON...



Sewing Party We practiced Karen's "magic hem" and worked on building our supply of pillow cases. Our next Work Party will be for working on *Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*. I am hoping to schedule it for the first week in August.

Early in July there were so many new kids clothes in the **Blessings Room**, that I couldn't wait for **Children's Home** to pick them up. I packed up a duffle bag and a large shopping bag and delivered them myself. They had just requested kids' summer clothes. I guess I shouldn't be surprised those showed up at just the right time!

Later in the month, **Children's Home Society** picked up kids clothes, workbooks, toys, linens, 3 pair of new shoes, women's clothing, a backpack, latch hook kit, placemats, and a framed picture and other miscellanea.

Harmony House Due to the brutal heat we are experiencing they posted a need for sunscreen and bug repellent. We sent 12 cans of bug repellent, 24 tubes of sunscreen and 5 sun protection hats. Now they are asking for shoes and underwear for men and women. We have sent donations of all these items recently.

Harmony House contacted us to ask for help with a family of 7, 5 of them children. Highlawn Presbyterian stepped up in a big way! Donations came in faster than we could make note of them all: Dinette set with 2 chairs, microwave, pots and pans, dishes, flatware, tumblers and sippy cups, kids water bottles, cutting board simple kitchen utensils, kitchen towels, dish soap, paper products, food, clock, trash can, broom and dust pan, 3 plastic chairs, 3 kids chairs, 4 sets plastic storage drawers, crib, sheets and mattress covers, new fleece blankets, comforter and shams, 7 pillows with pillow cases, baby boppy, playmat, toys, stuffed animals, 2 baby dolls, shower caddy, toothbrushes, tooth paste, shampoo, laundry detergent, back packs full of school supplies. And the donations are still coming in!

If you still want to contribute there are a couple items that are always needed such as diapers (3-6 months or next size), diaper changing wipes, diaper rash ointment, disinfectant cleaning spray, 2-3 crib sheets (one is never enough) and kitchen pot holders/mitts.

Duplicate donations such as sheets, blankets, pillows, an adult bed, crib, and pack n play, benefitted both Harmony House and Children's Home.

FYI, Some folks have experienced **difficulty delivering donations** directly to Harmony House due to lack of parking or because of so many people congregating around the entrance. You can always leave your items in the Blessings Room. If you have large items to donate, Linda Hansen or I can help you set up a pick up by Harmony House in their truck.

Did you leave your **exercise weights** behind? We found a number of them marked with names and initials. They seem to be left from an exercise class from several years back. You can pick them up in the Blessings Room or leave them to be donated.

Thank you!

Nancy Estler





FEEDING OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The HPC Mission Committee provides a meal to a group of people once a month. So far this year we've taken meals to Branches (Domestic Violence Shelter), Harmony House, Highlawn Elementary for Teacher Appreciation Day, and in June we fed many mouths at Cabell Lincoln Work Camp.

August 12th is the next meal at Branches. September 9th is at Harmony House. If you would like to be part of this "Feeding Others In Our Community" effort, we would welcome your help in preparing, delivering, or donating to the meal. Individually package crackers or cookies are always needed. Please contact Anne Myers at 304-638-3018 for more information.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for all of your acts of kindness during my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you for the cards, gift cards, calls, visits, gifts, food (Tim doesn't eat this good when I am cooking), and prayers. Everything is so appreciated. Please continue to keep us in your prayers during my recovery.

Thank you again for everything.
With love,
Anna Laura and Tim



Highterian August 2025



Vince McCormick, Sexton

Vince joined the HPC team back in June 2025. He is also the Manager of Dairy Queen in Huntington. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his dog Tiger and hunting.



Brooke Armstrong, Office Manager



Brooke and her husband Mike reside in Proctorville. She has a small antique business in Central City in Huntington. In her spare time, she enjoys thrifting, antiquing, attending estate sales, working in her flower garden and spending time with her 3 grandchildren; Ellie, Henry, and Bryce.

Highterian August 2025

Marpy Birthelay

8/2 Jacqui Lewis

8/3 Lester Williams

8/9 Carla Lapelle

8/10 Jim Cyrus

8/13 Rex Stoler

8/14 Ellie Hager

8/15 David Reynolds

8/20 Dylan Lovejoy

8/25 Linda McClung

8/28 Sharon Bell

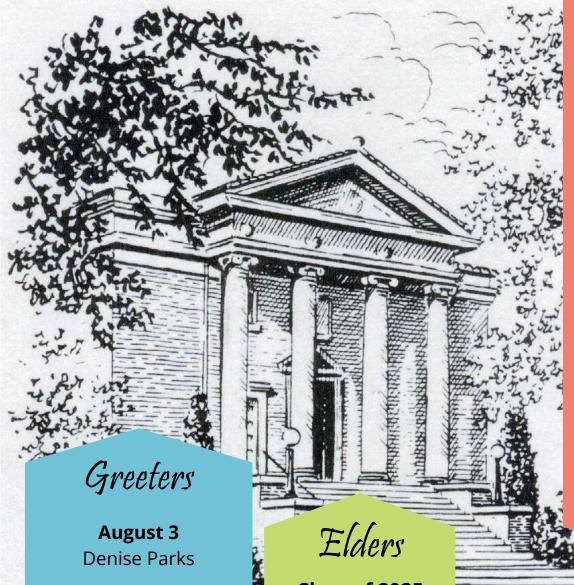
Michael Khoury-Bailey

Happy Amiversary

8/1 David & Patty Meadows

8/24 Bob & Sally Lowe

8/27 Paul & Nancy Estler



Staff

Rev. Sharon Bell
Pastor

David Chenoweth

Choir Director

Brooke Armstrong
Office Manager

Sarah Specht

Director of Christian

Education

Alanna Cushing

Pianist & Organist

Vince McCormick
Sexton

August 10

Alice Browning & Nikki Plymale

August 17

Brian & Sarah Specht

August 24

David Specht

August 31

Mertie Woolcock

Class of 2025

Gary Baldwin Pam Curtis Howard Aulick

Class of 2026

Terri Effingham Bob Hansen Amy Browning

Class of 2027

Carla Lapelle Jane Armstrong Jim Lamp 2814 Collis Avenue, Huntington, WV 25702

Phone (304) 522-1676 Email office@highlawnpc.org www.highlawnpc.org

Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday 10am—2pm