



Highterian

Pastor's Note

With bellies still full of turkey and pumpkin pie, we jump head first into the Advent season. We'll sing the old familiar Christmas songs and admire the beautifully decorated church. We'll wonder how it is time for Christmas again. (Doesn't it seem like we just celebrated?) These are part of the rhythms of the Church. They are as old as time and as cherished as long-time friends.

Just like we can depend on the seasons to change from Summer to Fall, and Fall to Winter, we can count on the seasons of the Church to change as well. The season of Advent can easily get swept aside and replaced with the fervor of Christmas. We are ready to sing all the songs, exchange all the presents, eat all the cookies.

And we might do all those things. But we do it, knowing that we can't celebrate completely, not just yet.

When parents are preparing for the birth a child, there is usually a period of "nesting," in which they make sure that everything is going to be ready for the baby. They wash all the bedding and clothes, paint the nursery, assemble the stroller – everything that needs to be done to prepare for the baby's birth. Advent is our period of "nesting." It is our time to prepare for what is coming.

The good news is that unlike first-time parents, we know what to expect. We know what this celebration is really all about. So how will your prepare? Maybe read an Advent Devotional with your family? Maybe call a friend who needs company? Maybe make an extra donation to a charity in need? There are so many things that we can do to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ. I pray that during Advent, you will focus on preparing your heart for the joyous celebration that awaits and plan to join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm for our Candlelight Service.

— *Rev Sharon Bell*

Wednesday Night Dinner (Dec. 6)
featuring...



**Crocks and
Carols**

Soups and Desserts are needed
as a large crowd is expected

**let Pam Curtis know if/what you will be bringing*



Renaissance
SINGS
Christmas in Motion

CHRISTMAS
2023

Highlawn Presbyterian Church
Monday December 11th
7:30 pm

Presbyterian Women: Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus

Sacred Encounters

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Lesson Four of our Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is entitled... Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus. The main idea of this month's lesson is Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith.

Women were significant players in the early church. Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus appeared. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends on women and men, and they all speak of the risen Christ. Lydia, a purple cloth merchant in Philippi, welcomes Paul and his companions into her home so that they can teach there. At the end of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul sends greetings to his co-workers in Christ and about a third of the people named are women. We are all familiar with the story of the "two sisters". You know, Martha is busy with tasks while Mary sits at Jesus' feet, listening to his teachings. For the first century this is revolutionary. There are no women rabbis. Men sit at their teachers' feet to learn but women are forbidden to do so. Is Jesus training Mary to spread the Gospel?

Jesus is an apparent reason for the tension between the two sisters. Their relationship was special because it is mentioned in all four of the Gospels. Come join us as we learn even more about the "sisters" and their importance to society.

Both groups meet on the second Thursday of each month in Fellowship Hall from September to May. Can't or don't really want to commit to every month attendance? Feel free to come join us when you can and when it fits your schedule.

If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Neva, Sally, or myself. Hope you will consider joining us. Thank you.

— *Shelia Brownfield, Moderator of HPC Women*

There will be a Christmas Luncheon at 12:30 on 12/14

Next Meeting
December 14th

Neva Baldwin is the moderator of the 1:00pm Group
Sally Lowe is the moderator of the 7:00pm Group

City Mission Holiday Desserts

Please bring your desserts on Sunday December 17. This array of holiday goodies will be delivered to the City Mission to brighten their meal! This dinner will be in Honor of Mertie and Charlie Woolcock.



Joy Gift Dinner

Join us on December 17th at 5:30 to watch the children's production and enjoy a meal as we collect the Christmas Joy Special Offering



Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 pm (Dec 24th)



Harmony House Rapid Rehousing

November has been an extra-special month for donations to the Harmony House Rapid Re-housing Program. Donations help formerly homeless individuals and families move into an apartment with some necessary supplies. November items donated included hand towels and washcloths, comforter sets, nine fleece blankets, food containers, and glasses. A “special elf” delivered several boxes of kitchen supplies including pots and pans, dishes, and silverware. Another person has encouraged a friend to donate furniture to the Harmony House program. Working together we are helping many families with a start to a new life in a place they can call home. November deliveries also included many clothing items for their shelter, jeans, jackets, sweatshirts, underwear, and fifty hand-knitted hats.

Each month, the staff determine a few of the most-needed housing items that are in short supply. December needs are:

Cleaning Supplies
Shower Curtains
Fitted Twin Sheets
Towels
Cereal Bowls

Staff and the new residents welcome new or gently used and clean items. Donations may be brought to the church and left in the “wagon display” in the Narthex or brought to the Blessings Room across the hall from the office. Please place items on the table under the Harmony House sign in the room. If anyone has questions about this mission, you may call Linda Hansen, 304-421-0860, or speak with any member of the Mission Committee, Anne Myers, chairperson.

— *Linda Hansen, Mission Committee*



November was a busy month!

We blessed Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes for children around the world.



We blessed Salvation Army Stockings for local children. We have gotten together for 5 work days. Next and last packing party of the year Sunday December 3 following worship. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Salvation Army is very grateful that we donated 143 Christmas stockings for local children!



The Children's Home Society thanks us for our continued donations. We sent 30 pillows with handmade cases, 25 blankets, 18 duffle bags and back packs, 7 suitcases, a baby seat and play mat, along with tons of clothes and blankets earlier in the month. More recently warm clothes and shoes for small children along with some toys and miscellaneous items were donated!



Thank you to everyone who sews, crochets, shops, donates, organizes, sets up and cleans up, packs, delivers and prays for our varied mission projects!

Feel free to peek into the Blessings Room from time to time. It is amazing to see it constantly fill up, be cleared and fill up again! It is definitely beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

— *Nancy Estler*

Encouraging and supportive are just two words that describe how our church friends surrounded our family as we grieved the loss of Charlie. Thank you is insufficient to express our appreciation for the prayers, cards, food, and concern shown. As the song says, "We are family...the family of God."

— *Woolcock Family*

City Mission Meal Prep!



Hospice of Huntington – LifeCare AdultDay

has opened a new medical adult day care center. In order to invent creative and meaningful activities for participants they are seeing ongoing donations of the following items:

Magazines

Newspapers

Coupons

Washcloths

Books

Occasion cards

Costume jewelry and jewelry boxes

Old purses and wallets

Small jars

Calendars (no matter the date)

Silverware (doesn't need to match)

Coasters

Plastic Containers with lids

Miscellaneous craft supplies

Wood and leather crafts

Neck ties

Sandpaper

Games

Puzzles

Adult coloring books

Colored pencils and markers

— *Martha Woodward*



Happy Birthday

- 12/2 Brian Specht
- 12/3 Janet Harbour
- 12/4 Max Specht
- 12/7 Debby Stoler
- 12/13 Ben Blackman
- 12/15 Jetson Meyers
- 12/21 Isaac Specht
- 12/25 Nancy Estler
- 12/27 Shawn Bragan
- 12/29 Jack Blackman
Tara Barbera
Ann Schurman

Following worship on 12/3 there will be a Congregational Meeting to elect the

Class of 2026 Elders

Terri Effingham
Bob Hansen
Amy Browning

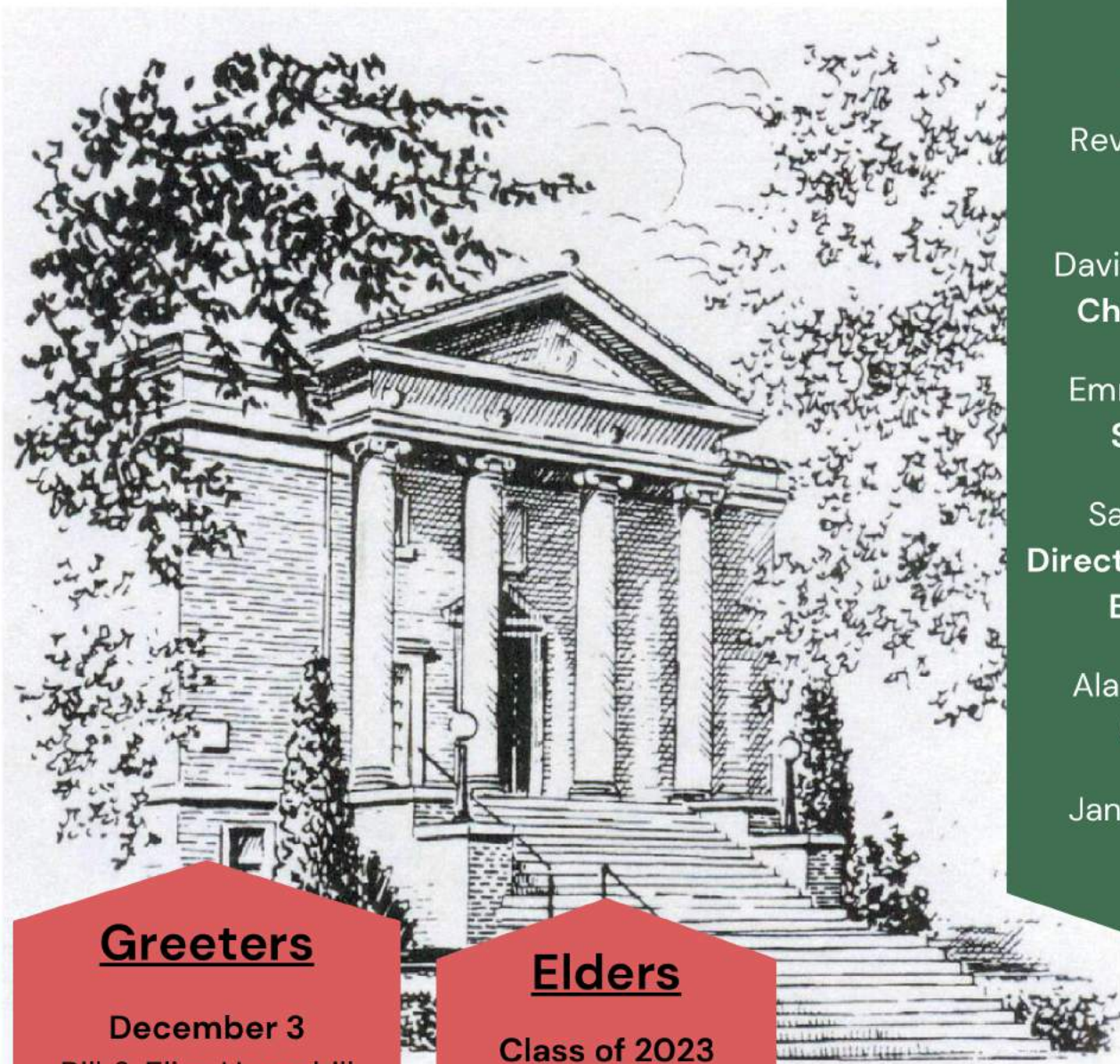
Poinsettia Orders

are due no later than Dec. 6th



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 12/2 John & Ann Schurman
- 12/5 Jim & Connie Musgraves



Staff

Rev. Sharon Bell
Pastor

David Chenoweth
Choir Director

Emma (Em) Rau
Secretary

Sarah Specht
Director of Christian Education

Alanna Cushing
Organist

Jane Armstrong
Sexton

Greeters

December 3
Bill & Eliza Hemphill

December 10
Patty Meadows

December 17
Donna Myers & Jim Lamp

December 24
David & Carol Specht

December 31
John & Ann Schurman

Elders

Class of 2023
Kalyn Dorey
Amy Browning
Anne Myers

Class of 2024
Carla Lapelle
Brian Specht
Debby Stoler

Class of 2025
Gary Baldwin
Pam Curtis
Howard Aulick

2814 Collis Avenue,
Huntington, WV 25702

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

Church Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm