

A decorative header featuring several bright yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers, arranged in a slightly curved line across the top of the page.

August

Highlawn Presbyterian

August 2021

HIGHTERIAN

“A Fresh Start”

You have probably seen the ads on TV or the products in the stores: it is time to shop for Back-to-School supplies. There is something I have always loved about shopping for back-to-school supplies. The pack of freshly sharpened Ticonderoga yellow #2 pencils, the crayons that still fit neatly in the box, the spiral notebook – empty and waiting to be filled with class instructions or filled with doodles about a new crush, the packet of pens which you promise you won’t chew the ends of this year, or the divider tabs that you swear will help keep you better organized – but seldom does. Shopping for school supplies always seemed to offer me a sense of hope. There was always hope that this would be the year – the year you learned to read, the year you memorized all the states and their capitals, the year you learned to conquer Algebra. Those new school supplies were the hope for a fresh start, a clean slate.

As we get older, it seems like those opportunities for a fresh start become fewer and fewer. We may even long for those back-to-school days when every year seemed to offer us a chance to start over. Even though we may not be buying school supplies, we still have the offer of a fresh start. The book of Lamentations reminds us, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,

“therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

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God's mercies never come to an end – they are new every morning. I don't know about you, but I am so thankful that God's mercies never run out. They are a river that never runs dry. Each morning that I wake up, there they are, waiting for me. It is the mercies of God that allow me to have a fresh start. I no longer need the new box of crayons, or the coolest spiral notebook. I have something even better that offers me a new start. The never ending faithfulness of God allows me to have a fresh start every day. God's love and faithfulness never end.

Each time you see an ad for back-to-school on TV, take a moment and thank God for the fresh start you've been given and pray that the children in our lives would know God's great love for them.

Sharon



The Presbytery of West Virginia

cordially invites you

to the installation of



Reverend Sharon Bell

as Pastor for
Highlawn Presbyterian Church

on

Sunday, August 22, 2021

at 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall

Highlawn Presbyterian Church

2814 Collis Avenue

Huntington, WV 25702



Looking ahead: Upcoming PWV & PWV-supported events

Older Youth Retreat

The Nurture Committee and Youth Council are already making plans for the 2021 Older Youth Retreat, for 9th-12th graders and the adults who work with them, at Bluestone Nov. 19-21. Adrian Pratt, former pastor at Fayetteville and Beckley, will be the keynote presenter. Please share the date with high schoolers in your congregation. It promises to be a great weekend!

Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor Preparation Program

A newly revised Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor (ALP/CP) Preparation Program will begin with Presby Prep in January 2022. Some of the changes include that Presby Prep courses will meet on Zoom rather than in person, for approximately 3 hours once a month on Saturdays (and potentially on a different day for those not available on Saturdays); computer literacy is required. These courses are also suitable for those who would just like to know more about our Presbyterian beliefs, history, worship, polity, and more. Complete information about this program will be available in early fall. If you are interested in participating or you have any questions, please contact Susan Sharp Campbell at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com.

2022 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium for those in grades 8-12 this fall will be held in Indianapolis July 24-27, 2022. The theme, When Did We See You?, is from Matthew 25:31-46. The presbytery is planning to take a delegation of youth, along with the required number of adults. More information will be available in the fall, but start considering how you might help the youth of your congregation attend this potentially life-altering event.

Offerings increase, prices stay the same at Davis & Elkins

In keeping its commitment to provide a high-quality education at an affordable price and remaining attentive to economic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Davis & Elkins College will freeze student tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, there will be more choices for academic fields of study available this fall, and there are scholarships specifically available to Presbyterian students from the state.

If you would like to be added to the email list for the Presbytery's Newsletter, please visit this website:

office@wvpresbytery.org



CALLING ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

*Our Circles will start meeting next month
and we'd love to have you join us!*

The Day Circle, with Moderator Neva Baldwin, meets at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall and the Evening Circle with Moderator, Sally Lowe, meets at 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. We meet on the second Thursdays of each month from September thru May.

September 9 will be our first meeting this year. Our Bible Study is entitled **"What My Grandmothers Taught Me"**.....and we will be learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. If you subscribe to the Horizon's Magazine, you automatically receive the study book. If you don't subscribe to Horizon's, you can order a study book by calling or texting your circle leader:

Neva @304-544-0712; Sally @ 304-633-5707

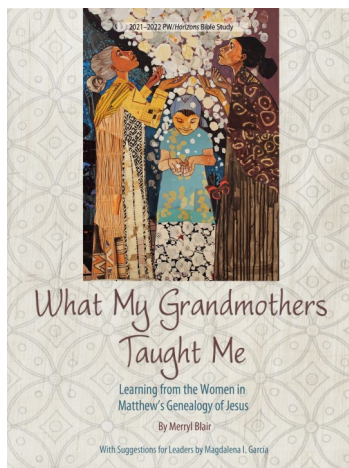
or our Treasurer, Tara Barbara @ 304-751-0063

*The book costs \$10 and you can pay for your book at the first meeting. Tara must place the book order by **August 16** so be sure to let one of these ladies know you need a book by that date.*

*While we do have fun and enjoy our friendships,
our first and foremost emphasis is studying and
learning about the bible.*

Hope you will consider joining us!

- Shelia Brownfield



YOUTH GROUP News

I'm so glad to be back! I had a great summer but I always miss my Highlawn family!! Keep an eye out for newsletters, emails and texts because we have some fun stuff starting back up this fall and I don't want you to miss out on any of it!

We got a grant to help fix up the church's "back yard" area, but we'll need some parents to help us get it ready. Hopefully once this heat breaks we can get a work crew together to make a fun space for all of us to hang out.

In September we will finally get to start having Sunday School, Youth Group and Wednesday Night Dinners again! We'll get more of that information to you as we figure things out at the church.

I've talked to Sharon and if there's enough interest we would like to have a Confirmation class meet this year. So, if you have a child who would like to be confirmed at Highlawn let me know so I can make sure you know about it.

As always, if you have any questions give me a call. I think this is going to be a great school year and I can't wait to start it with you!

Sarah Specht

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

The Hovah Hall Underwood Shelter is located in a beautiful rural setting in Ona. It is an emergency shelter for children who are "in the system", but do not have a foster family home. Ann Schurman, Anne Myers and Nancy Estler toured the facility in July. We were welcomed by our contact and friend Belinda, Regional Resource Director. Olivia, the director of the shelter was happy to show us around and answer all our questions.

We were impressed with everything we saw there. The Children's Home Society is a non profit private organization. They have both state and national accreditation. They rely on Medicaid funding for needed therapies and DHHR provides a small amount for room and board. CHS must rely on fundraising, grants, and donations to cover other expenses. We saw a caring staff, engaged with children. Living quarters were neat and their storage of clothing and toiletries was well organized. Children often arrive with just the clothes on their backs or with belongings in a garbage bag. The Shelter keeps clothing on hand and always provides suitable luggage or duffle bags when they leave.

The Shelter is fortunate to have an air conditioned indoor gym. It could always use a new or better equipment like a new volleyball net and balls, basketballs, ping pong tables, etc. We were very impressed with the "Level 3 Room". It is a cheerful space with comfy chairs, books, games, TV and popcorn maker. It is used as a reward for positive behavior.

We learned that there are gaps in the system. Children in the system move around a lot making it difficult to make friends and have a feeling of stability. Children age out of the system on their 18th birthday whether they have a support system, home or have completed high school. Because of their non-traditional lives, most do not know how to drive, apply for a job, manage money or a bank account, cook or sew on a button.

We are exploring ways we as a church can meet the various needs of these children. We will continue to solicit donations of money and supplies but we are also looking into ways to share our skills, our time and our love with these children.

Duffle Bags and Laundry Bags Give foster kids dignity

Blankets Most requested gift

Hoodies Adult Small and Medium Favorite item of clothing

Pillows/Pillowcase Something of their own to take with them when they leave

\$5 Gift Cards to McDonalds, Taco Bell

Sports Balls/ Supplies

Games

Art Supplies

Tie Dye kits

Books and DVDs

Popcorn for their popper

Kids Clothing ages 10 -18 new and gently used

Socks Underwear Sports Bras

Toiletries

School Supplies

Food items for Neighborhood Food Pantry

Clothing of all sizes for Neighborhood Clothes Closet

Clothes hangers and Shopping Bags of all kinds



July Donations

The last time the folks from Children's Home Society came to pick up donations we learned that the kids at the Emergency Shelter missed having a basketball hoop. We shared that information with our church family and the response was immediate. A number of folks responded and a new hoop was purchased and delivered! Thanks for being so generous and caring HPC!

So many wonderful donations they barely fit into their pick up truck!

30 blankets, 30 pillows with pillow cases, baby items, beautiful clothes, children's books and DVDs, 12+ duffle bags., school supplies, food items plus other wonderful miscellanea.

Harmony House

Lots of books, clothing, towels and sheets, toiletries, household items





Mission Opportunities for July/August Focus

⇒ Making Pillow Cases
for the Veterans Home

⇒ Making Dresses for Haiti

⇒ Shopping for School Supplies
for Christmas Missions

Dress a Girl Around The World Appalachia

Hello Everyone,

I just wanted to send you an update on the Appalachian Trip my husband and I took to Mullens, WV. We were able to take 213 dresses about 150 pairs of boy shorts along with school supplies, toothpaste/brushes, toiletry items, few toys, fleece blankets/scarves. What a blessing. I met with the Elementary School Counselor and she could not get over how much we brought them. She could not thank me enough and wanted me to thank each of you so so much. She was very moved. I want to plan to go back. So I want to also thank you for your heart and passion in making dresses and boys shorts. It was good to see and hear 1st hand how the need is great there. I posted a few pictures on my Dress A Girl Cincy/Dayton facebook page if you want to see them. There will also be a trip coming up in November that we will be sending out dresses to Guatemala as well as sending some for Operation Christmas Dresses. Ladies, I am so moved how God has blessed this ministry. WE are quickly approaching our 5,000th dress that we will have sent out since 2018. WOW!!! This would not be possible without people like you. I have the saying in my home that says: When we serve others, we serve Jesus! You too, are serving Jesus and what a blessing. Thank you all so very much. Have a blessed week

Judy

(This is the woman who collected and delivered our dresses to WV Mission)



I would also like to recognize Dr. Greg Crews for his generous donation of 8 dozen colorful children's toothbrushes! I told him about our Christmas Mission Projects and asked if he could donate.

Thank you, Dr. Crews!

- Nancy



Thank you so much for opening your doors to our group this week. We were able to see God move in the hearts and lives of our participants and we appreciate you giving us a space for that. We look forward to serving with you in the future.



HUNTINGTON, WV
JULY 10 - JULY 17, 2021

**MISSION
SERVE
2021**



Mission Serve
Many were the
blessings!







HIGHLAWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2814 Collis Avenue
Huntington, WV 25702
Phone: 304-522-1676

July 14, 2021

Dear Family and Friends at HPC—

As we begin the process of blossoming from our Covid-19 retreats, I'm excited about our new changes. Rev. Sharon Bell begins her tenure as our minister just as we begin to come together for worship and for ministries of this congregation. One of the "new" items we offer to each of you is the ability to make contributions and financial gifts by electronic payment. The ability to utilize this can be found on our church's web page. It is not replacing our pledge envelopes or the collection of our Sunday offerings; it will simply be another method of supporting our church.

Directions for using this electronic system are simple.

- ♦ Just visit our website: www.highlawnpc.org
- ♦ On the homepage you will see a picture that says, "Donate Now"
- ♦ Directly below that is another box that says "Click Here".
- ♦ Once you click on that, you will be taken to the online donation system where you can add your Bank Card information.
- ♦ When finished, you will receive an email with a receipt of your donation.

Any gifts received will be included into the summary that each of you receive at year-end regarding your HPC gifts.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Sunday worship this coming year. If you should have any questions at all, please contact me by telephone at 304-544-2962.

Gary Baldwin, Finance Committee Chair



August 19 **Session Meeting**

August 22 4:00 Installation
for Rev. Sharon Bell

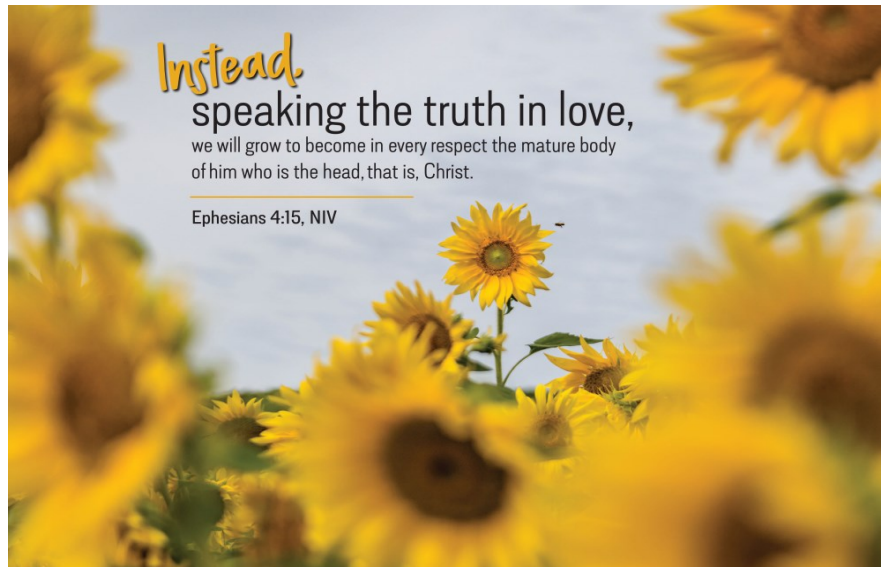


Birthdays for This Month

8/03 Lester Williams
8/09 Carla Lapelle
8/10 Jim Cyrus
8/10 Michelle Coletta
8/12 Katie Thompson
8/13 Betty Thornton
8/13 Rex Stoler
8/14 Ellie Hager
8/15 David Reynolds
8/17 Paxton Thompson
8/20 Lexie Bremar
8/20 Dylan Lovejoy
8/26 Lakin Thompson
8/28 Sharon Bell

Birthdays for the Beginning of Next Month

9/01 Kim Shockley
9/04 Howard Aulick
9/04 David Meadows
9/04 Oliver Fearing
9/07 Connie Maynard-Walker



If you have a new email address,
mailing address or other new
information, please send to the office
at:

office@highlawnpc.org

Thank you !



Please cut out and keep this
information handy



Rev. Sharon Bell

Cell: 304 - 444 - 3000

Email: sharonsbell@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:

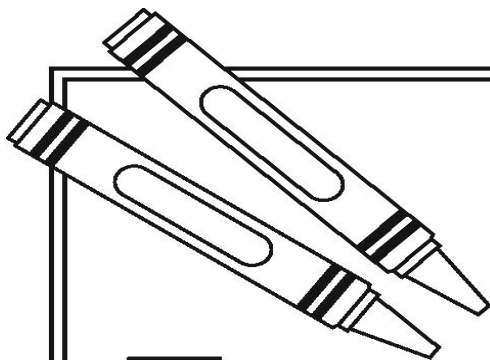
MONDAY—FRIDAY

9am—1pm

Phone: 304.522.1676 Email:

office@highlawnpc.org

Web: www.highlawnpc.org



Just for **KIDS**

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that people would starve without physical bread to eat and water to drink. But he also knew they would die spiritually if they weren't fed by him.

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV) and write the Bible verse on the dashes.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes
bread comes I in
he hungry go He
life me me never
to never the of will
who will thirsty who

t e l r s u v w a m x y z a b t h e i
j k l m b r e a d n p o f q r l i f e
d H e e f g h i w h o j k l m n p q r
b c d f c o m e s g h i j t o k l m e
n w i l l o p q r s t u n e v e r v w
z y z b c a g o b c d e f g h i j k l
m h u n g r y n a n d o p q r s t u v
w x y z a b c d e f g h i j h e k l m
w h o n o b e l i e v e s p q r s t u
v w x y z i n a b c d e f g h i j k l
m n o p q r s t m e u v w x y z a b c
d e f w i l l g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y n e v e r z a b c d b e
f g h i j k l m n o p q t h i r s t y

“

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Answer: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV