

HIGHTERIAN

The Rabbi's Gift!

There was once a monastery that had fallen on hard times. It was once part of a great order which, as a result of religious persecution in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, had lost all its branches. It was decimated to the extent that there were only five monks left, the abbot and four others, all of whom were in their seventies.

Deep in the woods surrounding the monastery was a little hut that the rabbi from a nearby town used for a hermitage. One day, it occurred to the abbot to visit the hermitage to see if the rabbi could offer any advice that might save the monastery. The rabbi welcomed the abbot and commiserated with him. "I know how it is," he said, "the spirit has gone out of the people. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore." The old rabbi and the old abbot wept together. They read parts of the Torah and spoke quietly of deep things.

The time came when the abbot had to leave. They embraced. "It has been wonderful being with you," said the abbot, "but I have failed in my purpose for coming. Have you no piece of advice that might save the monastery?" "I am sorry," the rabbi responded, "I have no advice to give except to tell you that the messiah is one of you."

When the abbot returned to the monastery, his fellow monks gathered around to ask, "What did the Rabbi say?" "He couldn't help", the abbot answered. "The only thing he did say, as I was leaving—it was something cryptic—was that the messiah was one of us. I don't know what he meant."

When the other monks heard the rabbi's words, they wondered what possible significance they might have. "The messiah is one of us? One of us here, at the monastery? Do you suppose he meant the abbot? It must be the abbot, he has been our leader for so long. On the other hand, he might have meant brother Thomas, who is certainly a holy man. Or maybe he meant brother Elrod, who is very grumpy, but also very wise. I don't think that he meant brother Phillip, he's too passive, but then he always seems to be there when you need him. Of course, he didn't mean me, did he? Perhaps he did."

As they contemplated the possibilities, the old monks began to treat each other and themselves with extraordinary respect, just in case one of them was the messiah.

Because the forest was so beautiful, people occasionally came to visit the monastery. They would have picnics or just wander along the old paths, most of which led to the dilapidated chapel. They sensed the extraordinary respect that surrounded the five old monks, permeating the atmosphere. The visitors began to come more frequently, bringing their friends with them. Some of the younger men who came to visit, began to engage in conversations with the monks. After a while, one of the men asked if he could join them. Then another, and another.

So, thanks to the rabbi's gift, within a few years the monastery had once again become a thriving order and a vibrant center of light and spirituality in the realm.

This short story is taken from the Prologue of M. Scott Peck's book "The Different Drum".

How does HPC appear to others? Do we would look for our Lord in each other? Do we respect the gifts and perceived weaknesses we each have as part of God's plan? Let us encourage each other!





OFFICE INFO

Phone

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Email:

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am—2:30pm

Christian Educator

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News from the Pews

In Our Prayers

Please continue to pray for those in our congregation who are experiencing health issues or other situations that need intercession. Keep those on our weekly prayer list in your prayers as well.



Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Jane McLeod in the passing of her sister, Marjorie Streib. Marjorie resided at the Woodlands and was a friend to many here at HPC. Please remember the family in your prayers.



Baby Congrats

Congratulations to Missy Obiozor and Kevin Dorey on the birth of Emmanuel Joseph Dorey, born January 11, 2019, weighing 9 lbs. exactly, and 20.5 inches long. Proud brother is Elijah Dorey. Proud grandparents are Tim and Anna Laura Dorey.



Updated Church Directory

Don't forget there are copies available of an updated Church Directory available in the front foyer and church office. Should copies run out, we will make more! If you have information that needs to be included or updated, please call the church office (304-522-1676).



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 — Lunch following worship

There will be a soup lunch after worship this **Sunday, February 3**. Please bring a crock of soup to share. Crackers and drinks will be provided.

— ALSO —



The Youth will be collecting canned goods and/or cash that will go to a local food bank. Please place cans in the glass foyer or mark donation "Souper Bowl".





Birthdays for FEBRUARY

- 2/2 Jane Hastings
- 2/4 Lois DeMattie
- 2/5 Lexie Thompson
- 2/7 John Justice
- 2/8 Claire Curtis
- 2/11 Karen Albers
- 2/12 Ann Hagan
- 2/15 Libby Ball
- 2/17 Gwen Tygrett
- 2/17 Martha Woodward
- 2/21 Abby Parks
- 2/22 Jim Curtis
- 2/24 Maggie Franks
- 2/25 Mike Barbera
- 2/27 Otto Daniels
- 2/27 Bradley Morgan

MARCH

- 3/1 Glenn Stotts
 - 3/2 Mike Hager
 - 3/3 Erma Lee Scott
 - 3/4 Patty Justice
- (more in March newsletter)*

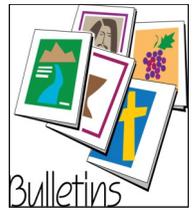


CITY MISSION DINNER is SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17



SERMONS ON THE WEBSITE

AT THE PRESENT TIME, SUNDAY SERMONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR AUDIO ON THE WEBSITE. HOWEVER, THE BULLETIN AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR EACH WEEK WILL BE POSTED.



If you would like to be added to the **EMAIL GROUP** that receives the Sunday prayer concerns each week, please contact the church office: 304-522-1676.
If you would like to be added to the **PHONE CHAIN GROUP** that receives calls for a specific concern upon request, please contact Joanne Yingling: 304-736-8029.



During this time of transition we want to do our best to keep up with any hospital visits, pastoral needs, or other situations that might need attention within the congregation. We certainly don't want to miss an opportunity to minister to someone if there is a desire for contact. Please call the church office (304-522-1676), Sarah Specht (304-690-6667) or Jim Musgrave (304-736-3241) to keep in touch.



*Dear Church,
Thank you, Highlawn, for your love and support during the passing of my sister, Marjorie Streib. I was the fifth child and Marge helped me along when I was a baby, always keeping up with me.*

It was nice to feel the support of both churches, Highlawn and Beverly Hills Presbyterian, at the memorial service. We appreciate the good food as well. It was a good memory. We love you all.

—Jane McLeod



Highlawn Presbyterian Church WINTER WEATHER POLICY



WEEKDAYS:

If **Cabell County Schools** are closed or released early due to inclement weather, **ALL activities for that day will be cancelled.**
(Dinner, Bible Studies, Choir Rehearsal, etc.)

SUNDAY:

Should inclement weather occur on a Sunday morning—
Sunday School will be cancelled and if Worship should need to be cancelled, we will work to inform everyone.

We will also try to post any schedule changes on the HPC website (www.highlawnpc.org) and HPC facebook page.



Please continue to pray for the Interim Pastor Search Committee:

- Howard Aulick,
- Maggie Franks,
- Sally Lowe,
- Paulette Mabry,
- Sarah Specht,
- Denny Thompson
- and
- Mertie Woolcock.



Announcements



Have a Heart for Mission Dinner

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15
6:00 PM

HIGHLAWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUGGESTED \$10 DONATION
(or what you wish to give)

MISSION RECIPIENT:
BLUESTONE CAMP & RETREAT

This is an annual fundraising event sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of the church. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the ministry of Bluestone Camp. Come enjoy an evening with camp-like fun and décor, meet Mark Miller and other staff members from Bluestone and help support this ministry of our Presbytery.

Please RSVP to the church office (304-522-1676), Shelia Brownfield (304-654-2924), Pam Curtis (304-544-9463), or Mertie Woolcock (304-942-7144).

PW Circles

WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY &
FELLOWSHIP

Thursday,
February 14,
1:30 or 7:00 PM



Bible Study: "God's Promise: I Am With You"
Lesson Six—God with Us Through Our Trials

ACTIVITIES

2/15 Have a Heart for
Mission Dinner

FEBRUARY MISSION

Have a Heart for Mission
recipient:
Bluestone Camp
& Retreat



ATTENTION ALL WOMEN WHO ATTEND HIGHLAWN
To Celebrate the Gifts of Women,
make plans to attend the following events here at HPC.

Saturday, March 2
11:00am to 2:00pm

"Savor the Word Ministries"
Workshop & Luncheon

*"Savor the Word Ministries" is a 2-hour dynamic
scripture memorization workshop
led by Vicky Tardy and Crista Hoffman.
For more information go to savortheword.org*

You are welcome to bring family and friends!
Lunch will be provided and reservations are needed.

Please call Pam Curtis at 304-544-9463
by Sunday, February 24.

Sunday, March 3
11:00am

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Worship Service
Rev. Jean Sutton, Guest Minister
Theme—The Grace of God Has No Boundaries



Announcements

HPC on

MISSION

City Mission Dinner—Thanks to everyone who helped with the January City Mission dinner. We had a great crew of potato salad makers who worked on the Friday before the dinner. We also had a nice group of workers after church and also servers at the mission. Thank you to our sweet cooks who send the desserts we serve.

The next dinner will be **Sunday, February 17**. We can always use new workers, whether in our kitchen or downtown. Think about coming and helping out .

Women’s Missions—Friday, February 22, 10:00am—Calling all ladies to a fun work time! Learn how to make pillow case dresses, assembly-line style. Even if you don’t sew, you can cut, iron, or make edgings. We would love to see a nice turnout of workers. Karen Albers will be leading us in this project.

If you have any cute, print cotton fabric that you would like to donate, that would be wonderful. Or, purchase a pillowcase (they usually come in a set of two) from Wal-Mart, Target, etc. — standard or king size. Bring a pair of scissors or an iron too. If you have any questions, please see Ann Schurman or Nancy Estler.



FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS



- This **Saturday, February 2**, the middle and high school students will be participating in a Youth Day of Service. We will meet at the church at 10:00am and then go and do work in our community until 2:00pm. If you participate in the mission work, we would like to invite you back for a Lock-in that evening. The Lock-in will start at 7:00pm and we are asking everyone to bring \$5.00. We will plan the Feb. 3, Sunday morning worship service during the Lock-in.
- There will be **no Monday Youth Group on February 18** because I will be out of town at a conference.
- We have been invited to Old Stone Presbyterian in Lewisburg on **February 22** to participate in their 30 Hour Famine. We will meet at the church on Friday at 4:30pm and will be home around 9:00pm Saturday night. There is a \$40 registration fee and the deadline to register is February 15.

—Sarah Specht

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS DURING FEBRUARY

Local Missions Emphasis

Our Mission Committee invites you to learn about two new exciting programs in our community at our first two February Wednesday night dinners.

On **February 6**, Michael Haney of the new cooperative ProAct, located in the former CVS building on 20th Street, will tell us of the drug combating services offered there.

On **February 13**, we will hear from Brandon Dennison of Coalfield Development, an award-winning approach to jobs in Appalachia.





Announcements

SNACKS IN PACKS

for the Boys & Girls Club

WEDNESDAY, February 27

(Take note of the temporary change of day).

**Assemble snack bags at
11:00 AM in HPC kitchen**

If you would like to contribute snacks, here are some food ideas:

Individually packaged—

fruit snacks, pudding/fruit cups, cereal bars, small cereal boxes,
snack crackers, pop tarts, rice krispie treats, raisins, chips,
Little Debbie snacks.

*You may place items in the Kitchen.
Thank you for giving to this ministry!*



Presbytery of West Virginia **Festival of Faith**

Saturday, April 6, 2019
First Presbyterian Church
Charleston, WV

Keynote Presenter:
Brian McLaren,
author, speaker, activist,
public theologian



Pre-registration deadline by March 18 to Presbytery office to receive pre-registration fee and guarantee lunch & childcare.

Registration forms/info available in church office, glass lobby, or online at Presbytery's website: www.wvpresbytery.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 3

Souper Bowl Lunch

February 15

Have a Heart for Mission Dinner

March 2

PW "Savor the Word"
Workshop & Luncheon

March 3

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

March 6

Ash Wednesday

March 12

Lunch for a Buck

April 6

Festival of Faith
@ FPC, Charleston

April 14

Palm Sunday

April 18

Maundy Thursday

April 21

Easter Sunday
Breakfast @ 10:00am
No Sunday School



The Hawaiian word "Aloha" means both "Hello" and "Good-bye".

HPC says "Aloha" to Jennifer Chapman. Jennifer will be our new church secretary. Jennifer comes to us from Prester Center, where she served as an administrative assistant to the Director of Development. She has a degree in Journalism from Marshall University. Jennifer and her family attend Huntington First Church of the Nazarene where she ministers in the children and youth departments. She is married to Shawn and they have a 17 year old son, Noah, who attends Cabell Midland high school.

HPC says "Aloha" to Suzanne Sutherland, who will be leaving us in the middle of February. She has been a true blessing to the church. Always willing to go above and beyond her normal duties to make sure HPC staff, committee chairs and church members had what they needed to accomplish programs and mission work. Staying beyond normal work hours to meet time lines. Above all, Suzanne did everything with amazing grace and dignity. All of us will miss her. She will be in our thoughts and prayers as she tries to identify God's calling for her in the future.

—Larry Lapelle
Member of the Personnel Committee