

# Highlawn Presbyterian

## HIGHTERIAN

### Reflection from Pastor Dana

#### *Closed and Open*

This cartoon got me thinking this week about how churches and Christians tend to be "open" or "closed" about certain kinds of things. As we move into our 6th?? 7th?? week of pandemic social distancing, I'm certainly wondering how much longer it could go on, but am firmly committed (as is the HPC Session) to doing what is safest for our whole congregation. I'm not much fond – but who is? – of our need to meet at a distance. As someone who relies a lot on non-verbal cues in meetings/gatherings, I'm experiencing "Zoom fatigue" (it's a real thing... see an article here: [Zoom Fatigue Article](#)) But I'm also grateful for both the technology that enables us to see and hear one another remotely, and also for my previous experience with such technology (unlike some colleagues who have had to learn these new skills on top of all the other disorienting experiences of the pandemic!).



used by permission from [cartoonchurch.com](http://cartoonchurch.com)

Until now, ministry was still very doable without resorting to very much technology (beyond email, cell phone calls, and texting perhaps). And as many of us know, the "old dogs/new tricks" adage, while perhaps not universally true, at least suggests that we tend to struggle with certain kinds of new learning as we grow older. To what extent, I wonder, is that related to our overall mindset about life? And how does that play in to the ways we "do church?" Studies show that those who strive to be receptive to new ideas and new possibilities are mostly successful, though when our anxiety kicks up, the openness tends to shut down.

With that in mind, I wonder how we might begin *now* thinking and imagining how things may be different when we no longer need to be socially distant? What has our time outside the church building suggested to us about congregational priorities and resources? About the church as a "people" rather than as a "place?" In light of new awarenesses, how might we do some things differently going forward?

Early responses to the Vision Team questionnaire suggest that lots of folks wonder how else we might make our building available to the community. While we have a solid commitment to missions of other kinds, what if we also looked for new ways that our facilities might strengthen work that others are doing on God's behalf in our neighborhood and the community? And not just our building, but what about other resources? Faith-Health Appalachia is considering creating a transportation program

Continued from previous page...

for kidney dialysis patients, many of whom have problems getting to appointments. The use of our church van might help encourage other churches to participate.

What other kinds of opportunities might show up for us if we keep a shared focus on openness? Who might have imagined a few months ago that 60+ HPC members would show up weekly for virtual worship and that such worship would be, in the words of one elder, "meaningful and spiritual?"

The building is closed – at least for a while longer – but the church is open. How will we stay open – open to God's leading and to new ways to be in mission even as our world and its needs continues to change?

Faith, Hope, Love,

Dana

---

To keep in line with our social distancing, our office hours are being spread out during the week. If you need to come to the church in person for some reason, call first to ensure someone is there to let you in. Someone will be in the office most days, though the times may vary. Jennifer will be in the office each Friday from 10am-2pm. Please use good judgement when leaving your home for any reason, and protect yourself and others by wearing masks, using gloves, washing hands, etc.



---

## Zoom Instructions



**To join HPC gatherings on Zoom:  
Using a smartphone, tablet (iPad), or  
computer:**

Click on the meeting link below. If you have previously installed Zoom, your browser will ask permission to open Zoom. (Say yes). If it's the first time using Zoom, it will ask permission to install it. (Say yes) It will also ask for permission to access your microphone and camera. (Say yes)

Each time you join a meeting, you can just click the link and it will take you to Zoom.

**Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/652527532>

**Using a telephone:**

Dial either of these numbers, and then enter the Meeting ID (below) and the # sign (to the left of the 0).

1 253 215 8782 US or; 1 301 715 8592 US

**Meeting ID:** 652 527 532



If you have missed any of the services, either in person or since we've been meeting on Zoom, check out our website to catch up.

Go to  
**www.highlawnpc.org**  
then click on the **Sermon**  
tab and click on the week of  
your choice.

Each Sunday service will  
likely be available by  
Monday afternoon.

Even though we can't be together in person, we can still join in doing important work. Take some time to pray along with me this week.

*Sarah*

## A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

### PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



### PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

### PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



### PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

### PRAY FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



### PRAY FOR CHURCHES

Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

JOHN 14:27



Thank you for the cards and calls of congratulations of our recent marriage . We love you all and look forward to when we can all be together again.

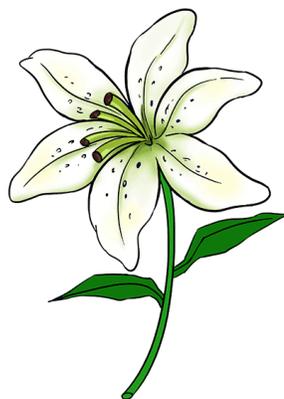
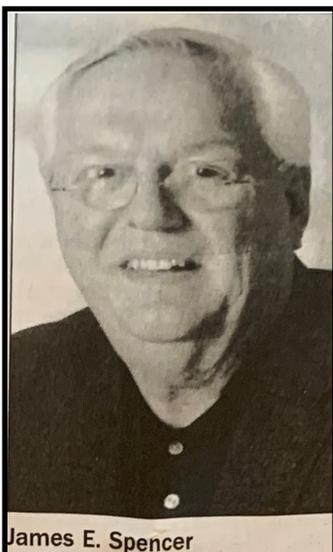
Okey says he really appreciated all the sympathy cards and calls for acknowledging the death of his grandson Jared.

*Carolyn & Okey*

---

We would like to extend our condolences for Patty Justice on the death of her brother, **Jim Spencer**. Patty and her husband John attended Highlawn in the past and plan to join us again if they move back to Huntington.

Please be in prayer for their family.



### Birthdays for May

- 5/01 Kaia Lambert
- 5/07 Richard Brunton
- 5/10 Ashley Thompson
- 5/10 Luke Lovejoy
- 5/12 Mertie Woolcock
- 5/13 Sandra Parker
- 5/17 Sarah Specht
- 5/28 Jordan Jones

### Upcoming June Birthdays

- 6/01 Anne Myers
- 6/02 Tim Dorey
- 6/05 Linda Reynolds





## Mission Info

Missions are still going on!

During this health crisis, there is more than ever a need for outreach, However, distancing and other measures are preventing some of our usual forms of response. In April, we sent a donation to the City Mission for our usual meal. We have not sent snacks to the Boys & Girls Club or Hospice due to restrictions; however, once the restrictions are lifted we anticipate participating in these outreaches again.

One local mission that could use assistance is the Food Bank at New Baptist Church. They are seeing many more people than normal. A check is the simplest way to respond. We will also be sending a check to the City Mission for our dinner, which is scheduled for May 24. We will be talking with Jody Dowell at the Mission and let you know how things are progressing there.

If anyone has any ideas on responses we could make to needs locally or regionally, please share them and we'll see what we can do. When we work together, we are able to do so much more.

*Ann*

---

## A Note from our Vision Team

The Vision Team continues to meet via zoom. We have set a goal for our Pastor Nominating Committee to be in place before September. All of you received, either through e-mail or snail mail, a survey asking for your input. You recently received an e-mail from Dana extending the deadline for completion to May 8. The Pandemic has certainly impacted our ability to meet with and acquire everyone's input. That is why it is important you complete the survey.

We plan to have "cottage meetings". We cannot schedule home meetings or use the church in the immediate future. We are developing questions to schedule Zoom small groups. Meetings will last approximately 1 hour. We know everyone will not be able to use Zoom. Our hope is folks, with the ability, will participate. Those that cannot meet via zoom, we ask you consider writing a short statement describing a "memory/impactful event" you experienced at Highlawn. Anything describing our history/values/meaningful experience will be helpful. Anyone can write such a statement

After meetings, the Vision Team will write our "Mission Study", for Presbytery review. The PNC will then develop our Church Information Form. This will enable recruitment of our next pastor to begin.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We ask for your continued prayers.

Larry Lapelle  
Vision Team

## HPC Financial Report

<b>Income</b>	<b>March 2020</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Total General Offering	\$17,854.70	\$52,467.35
Other Income (Rents, Mission, Wed. Nights, Interests)	\$1,499.21	\$9,635.71
Total Income	\$19,353.91	\$62,103.06
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel & Building Utilities, Maintenance, & Office Expenses	\$19,143.21	\$52,228.48
Christian Education, Dinners, Mission, Rental Maintenance	\$5,347.12	\$18,035.40
Total Expenses	\$24,490.33	\$70,263.88
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$5,136.42)</b>	<b>(\$8,160.82)</b>

**If you have any questions concerning this report,  
please contact Gary Baldwin or Ann Schurman**

