

Highland Park Church of God

A New Life Fellowship

“Connected in Christ, Serving in Spirit, Growing in New Life Together”

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Web Site: www.highlandparkcog.org

District Website: www.chogeast.org
National Website: www.chog.org



February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Regular Sunday Schedule: 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Morning Worship 3:30-5:00 PM Youth 5:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>*** Embrace Grace will begin on April 4th.***</p>			1 (I Cor. 10)	2 (I Cor. 11) 8:00 AM Ladies' Prayer 7:00-9:30 PM Basketball Outreach Ground Hog Day	3 (I Cor. 12) 10:00 AM DVPF
	<p>Youth Mid-Winter Advance</p>					
4 (I Cor. 13) 11:00 AM Communion Youth Mid-Winter Advance-No YF No Choir Rehearsal	5 (I Cor. 14) 7:00 PM Ladies' Crafts at Laura's	6 (I Cor. 15) 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Arvin) SHAN Sandwiches 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	7 (I Cor. 16) 6:15 PM Families Making an Impact	8 (Ruth 1)	9 (Ruth 2) 8:00 AM Ladies' Prayer 7:00-9:30 PM Basketball Outreach	10 (Ruth 3) 10:00 AM Community Ecumenical Service to Honor First Responders Held at St. Mary's Church
11 (Ruth 4) Soup Luncheon and Distribution of Door Hangers Following Worship	12 (1 Samuel 1) 2:00 PM Puppet Rehearsal	13 (1 Samuel 2) 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. 6:15-7:30 Fat Tuesday Pancake Party	14 (1 Samuel 3)  Ash Wednesday	15 (1 Samuel 4) 6:30 PM Growth Group	16 (1 Samuel 5) 8:00 AM Ladies' Prayer 7:00-9:30 PM Basketball Outreach	17 (1 Samuel 6)
18 (1 Samuel 7)	19 (1 Samuel 8)  PRESIDENT'S DAY	20 (1 Samuel 9) 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Bill W.)	21 (1 Samuel 10) 7:00 PM Lenten Service (Here)	22 (1 Samuel 11) 6:30 PM Growth Group	23 (1 Samuel 12) 8:00 AM Ladies' Prayer 7:00-9:30 PM Basketball Outreach	24 (1 Samuel 13)
25 (1 Samuel 14) <i>Shower for Talia</i>	26 (1 Samuel 15)	27 (1 Samuel 16) 10:00 AM Staff Mtg.	28 (1 Samuel 17) 7:00 PM Lenten Service (1st Baptist)			



LET
everything
THAT
HAS breath
praise
THE Lord.
PSALM 150:6



Worship
& Praise



Day of Service



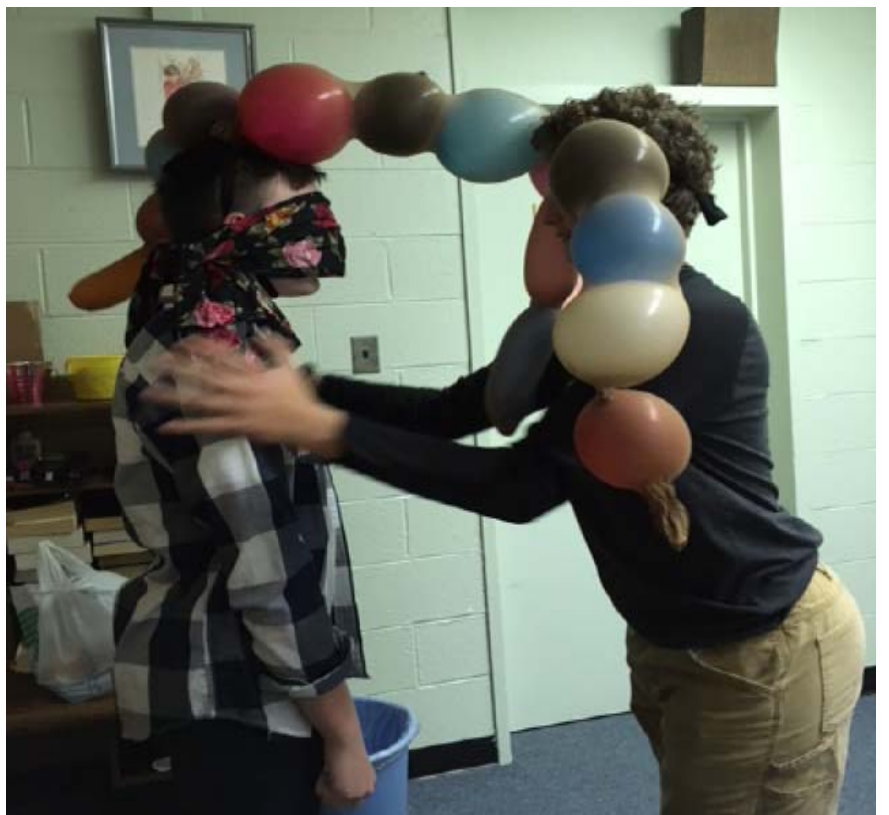






Such Talents!





Ladies Christmas Party

2017







FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Church Family and Friends,

I have given a lot of thought and prayer about what to preach in the coming months at Highland Park Church of God. After 18.5 years of preaching, new topics can seem elusive at times. It is sort of like writer's block – call it preacher's block. One of the ways that I deal with these times is to borrow from the thoughts and sermons of other preachers. I found an excellent 8-week sermon series on LifeWay's website written by Pastor Jerry Gifford, which was available for download. I am using it as a framework and resource for the months of February and March. We will begin a series entitled, "Building Lasting Relationships in Our Lives: Lessons from Ruth." I am excited about the lessons that the Book of Ruth can give to us. The Book of Ruth is set during the time of the Book of Judges, which we read in our January Chapter-a-Day reading cycle. While Naomi is the central figure of the drama, Ruth is undoubtedly the hero. One commentator called it the finest example of Jewish story found in the Old Testament. It is succinct, well structured, well written, and full of good moral lessons. In Jewish tradition, the book belongs among the five festal scrolls (*Megilloth*) and is read during the Feast of Weeks, a celebration of the harvest season. Early Christian writers, such as Ambrose, emphasized how Ruth's loyalty to Naomi went beyond the requirements of law and thus earned her a place in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. One prominent Hebrew word, *chesed*, is used to describe both Ruth and Boaz in their treatment of others. The crucial turning point in the drama occurs midway (2:20). "And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, 'May he be blessed of the Lord who has not withdrawn his kindness (*chesed*) to the living and to the dead.' Again, Naomi said to her, 'The man is our relative; he is one of our closest relatives.'" (NAS) The Hebrew term is often used to describe the LORD's steadfast love or unswerving, faithful commitment to the good welfare of Israel. Older translations of the scriptures preserve this thought of committed love that acts in the best interests of and for the good welfare of the recipient. It reflects the love that God has for each of us in sending His Son to redeem us. So invite folks out to learn the lessons that the Book of Ruth has for each of us about building lasting relationships in our lives.

Blessings and Love,

Pastor Bill





A New Way to Give

TITHE.LY

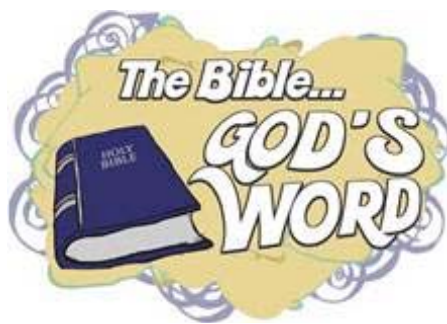
**Download the app from your app store or click the “Give” button on the church website!
(www.highlandparkcog.org)**

It is really simple. Just use your smart phone to download the app and set up your giving through that. If you wish to give using your computer, just go to our church website and click the “Give” button on the top right. This will take you to Tithe.ly where you can set up your account.

When making your gift, please indicate any additional information or the breakdown of your gift **in the memo line**. You will receive an e-mail confirmation for your gift.

As with any credit card or e-transaction, there are transaction fees involved. There is a 30 cent per transaction charge plus a percentage fee that the church will pay. Bank account transactions are assessed a 1% fee, and credit/debit cards are assessed a 2.9% fee. (American Express, 3.5% fee.) These fees are paid by the church unless you click to indicate you would like to cover them. Whatever you decide, you will be credited for the full amount of your gift.

If you need assistance, please contact the church office!



***Chapter-a-Day Bible
4-Year Bible Reading
Program ~ Feb. 2018***

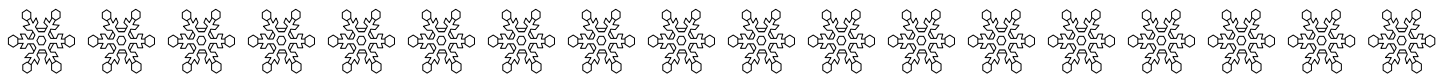
I Corinthians 10-16
Ruth 1-4
I Samuel 1-17



**Wednesday Evening
Lenten Services -**
Beginning at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, March 7, 14, 21. Please see article for details.

Palm Sunday—March 25

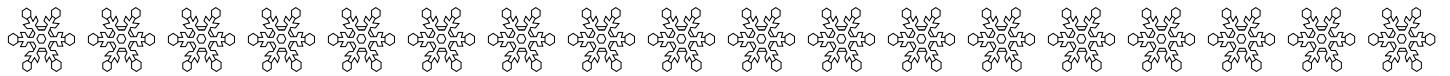
**Feet Washing and Communion
Service—7:00 PM, Holy
Thursday, March 29.**



Winter Snow Policy



If there is snow overnight the evening before a planned morning church event from Monday through Saturday, due to snow removal factors beyond our control, the event will be canceled. If there is no school or early dismissal for the Gloucester City School District, all afternoon and evening activities will be canceled. We will make every possible effort to see that the lot and walks are cleared for Sunday School and Sunday morning worship. Sunday afternoon and evening activities will have winter weather cancellations at the discretion of their appointed leadership.



Sermons



February 2018 Sermon Topics

February 4— “Hidden Dangers that Threaten the Home”

February 11— “Why Do Some Walk Away?”

February 18— “Naomi: Burdened by Bitterness and Barrenness”

February 25— “Ruth: Holding the Family Together when Your World is Falling Apart”



Community Lenten Services ~ 7:00 PM

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host Church</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
Feb. 21	Highland Park Church of God	Rev. Ed Rusk
Feb. 28	First Baptist Church	Pastor Debra Conner
March 7	The Church of the Ascension	Msgr. Wm. Hodge
March 14	St. Mary’s Church	Rev. Rick Gehret
March 21	Trinity United Methodist Church	Rev. Joe Marlin

Thank you

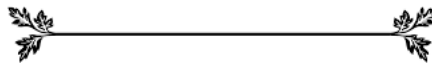


Dear Congregation,

Thank you for all your prayers during this hard time for me and my family,

God bless,

Virginia Johann and Family



Dear Church of God:

Hoping your holidays were as bright and beautiful as you made them for the children and adults you so thoughtfully provided gifts for this year! You were a part of filling over 150 wish lists from programs across Bancroft, and each one experienced the magic of the season through your generosity.

Please know that all gifts were received with great delight. Here is a couple of notes (of many) received:

- ◆ Lucas was out for a few days with the flu. He got a home delivery from Education :-)
- ◆ Jesus was so happy with his gifts. His mom wrote that when he came home, he had his gifts in his hands, he slept with his gifts, and when it was time for school the next day, he was still holding on to his gifts :-)
- ◆ Sammy asked for pants, tee-shirts, Doritos, Skittles and socks. He got everything on his wish list, and the moment he saw his pack of socks, he smiled and hugged them tightly :-)

Each year, the generosity of all of our donors amazes us! With that, we wish you and yours a New Year filled with health, happiness and love!

Sincerely,

Lea Fortunato and
The Holiday Wish List Committee



KESWICK Mid-Winter Advance, February 2-4, 2018

Youth will be heading to Keswick in Whiting, NJ. Please pray for our students, their leaders, conference and worship leaders. This can be a life-changing weekend and we are claiming just that for our youth!



There will be NO Women's Bible Study during Lent!

Ladies you are encouraged to attend the Community Lenten services on Wednesday nights AND/OR "Know What You Believe" on Thursday nights! Our new study, "When God Doesn't Fix it" will begin in April after Easter!



Growth Group

Our five-week Thursday evening Lenten study this year will focus on developing a relationship-driven approach to Christian Discipleship.

Strong, concerned, and connected relationships are the bedrock of Christian living. Pastors Bill and Deb will aid attendees into better understanding of the essential relationships necessary for spiritual growth and development in our Christian lives. Christianity is a relationship-based religion, and we invite all persons to join us as we deepen our appreciation for our relational God who continually calls us to walk with Him each day of our lives.

Mark Your Calendars: Thursdays, February 15 through March 15, 2018 ~ 6:30 PM ~ At the Church



Community Ecumenical Service to Honor First Responders—Excerpts taken from Glouc. City News

As you may know, 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of Gloucester City's Incorporation. The second event in this year-long celebration will be the Public Safety Appreciation Day and Ecumenical Service to be held on Saturday, February 10, at 10:00 AM.

The Police, Fire & EMS Departments will meet at Fire Headquarters and march down Monmouth Street to St. Mary's Church with their apparatus and vehicles. An Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held at St. Mary's Church "thanking God for our Public Safety personnel and asking His blessings on their continued safety and health, and blessing on their families," Daniel Spencer said.

All current, retired, and family members of deceased Police, Fire, and EMS Departments and their families are invited to attend and participate. All citizens in Gloucester City are invited to the service and asked to come out to St. Mary's Church to thank and pray for our public safety personnel. Everyone who attends the service is invited back to Fire Headquarters (King Street) for a continental breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Children of Promise Update



Another Doctor! - by Dr. Paul Maxfield

We are proud to share the news that formerly sponsored boy, Jacob Ismail Irunde, became Dr. Jacob Ismail Irunde last week in Arusha, Tanzania. He earned a PhD. In Mathematics at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology. We are so proud of you, Dr. Irunde!

And we are so grateful to Jacob's sponsors, Ken and Grada Lockhart, of Anderson, Indiana, who walked with Jacob for many years, supporting, loving, and encouraging him.

Jacob was a little boy from a Tanzanian village. The foundation he received at Aldersgate School in Babati, Tanzania (a Church of God school), and the HOPE that was instilled in him through sponsorship, propelled him to university where he excelled.

This is really what it's all about. Helping children to become all that God has placed in them to become. Miracles like this are taking place in the lives of children all over the world because people are caring, loving, supporting, and encouraging them. I am excited to see what miracles happen in 2018.

Putting a child on a trajectory of hope helps keep them on course and prevents child trafficking and other negative detours that can present themselves. Investing in the life of a child really does change his/her world — and ours.

Letters from Our Sunday School Sponsored Children

Dear Sponsors,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I am fine together with my family. It is also my hope that you are all fine together with your families.

This year, when we did our exams, they told us that the one who will score A in three subjects will have a tour to National Parks. Finally, I scored 3 A's and 2 B's, and I am among those who will go for the tours! We went to Tarangire and Serengeti National Parks. I thank God for that!

I read the Bible, especially during the night. What do you prefer to do during the night? I want to share with you the verse of Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Love,

Eliza Joseph—Tanzania

Dear Sponsors,

We are all fine! After school reopened, we had our monthly test, and I could answer all the papers. I am now attending the 8th grade.

Thank you so much for your monthly support to me receiving school supplies and nutritions. In Pyin Oo Luim, the town where we live, the H1N1 virus is spreading. So, as we are instructed by our teachers, we are washing hands often and using masks to protect ourselves. Please pray for us. May God bless you all!

Love,

Phyo Mg Nay Naign—Myanmar





Operation Birthday



Donate now until February 18th.

Operation Birthday assists families of kids in Gloucester City in having a birthday celebration. There are two ways you can help:

1. **Create a complete birthday bag.** Items must match and can be placed in a gift bag. Each bag must include cake mix, icing, plates, napkins, a birthday sign, candles, and two round disposable cake pans or one rectangle cake pan. You can also add party favors.
2. **Purchase cake mix, icing or candles to be added to other bags.** If you can't create a complete bag, you can donate mix, icing or candles and they will be placed in other bags for the kids.

You cannot donate opened or expired items.

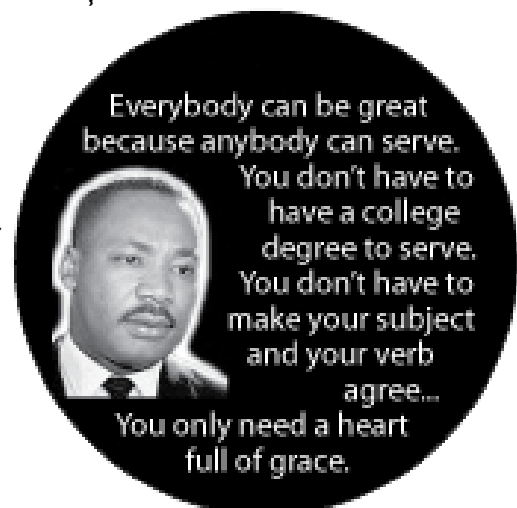
If you have any questions, please call the church office or contact Cindy Kumpel. There will be a donation box in the narthex.



Martin Luther King Day of Service, January 15th

We had an amazing day and accomplished so much. Thank you to everyone for your hard work, service & Christian love!

- ❖ Created bags for S.H.A. N.
- ❖ Wrapped napkins, forks, spoons, salt and pepper packs for Cathedral Kitchen.
- ❖ Cleaned and organized the youth house basement.
- ❖ Cleaned and organized back room of youth house.
- ❖ Scraped and spackled fellowship hall wall and post.
- ❖ Touched up paint in fellowship hall.
- ❖ Covered air conditioner in fellowship hall.
- ❖ Replaced lights.
- ❖ Dusted pews and sanctuary.
- ❖ Repaired wall in upstairs closet.



Opportunities to Serve



Are you a woman who would you like to learn more about becoming a volunteer with SHAN? Join us at our upcoming SHAN Volunteer Meeting on Saturday, February 3rd at 11AM. This one hour informational meeting will be held at 1700 S. Broadway, Camden, NJ 08104 and is a necessary step in starting the volunteer process with SHAN.



Please email rebecca@seedsofhopeministries.org if you plan to attend. Thanks!

February 6th: Making Sandwiches for S. H. A. N.



The Saints Prison Ministry regularly seeks volunteers to step in and share the joy that comes with being used by God in a mighty way. In addition to the athletic teams, our SPM staff is always grateful for help with our birthday card program, clerical work in the office, the preparation of bulk mailings or computer work done from home.

Yes, you read that correctly . . . a pressing need is also one that you can handle from the comfort of your own home! There are 2-3 different tasks to choose from but if you have a computer and a basic knowledge of excel or a background in data entry, you are qualified, regardless of where you live.

These opportunities involve varying levels of time commitments, helping with bulk mailings is a half day about 4-6 times a year, while the computer work is probably 8 hours a month and our clerical needs are much less structured and more “as needed” opportunities. But each volunteer fills a very special role and without the help of our Saints family these important tasks would be overwhelming. Please consider if you can find a few hours a week, a month, or a year that you can offer to help the Saints Prison Ministry reach inmates with the Gospel in 2018. Contact our office at info@saintsprisonministry.org or 609-845-3197 for more information.