



HighPres

RADICAL KINSHIP IN CHRIST

Tidings
July - September 2025



SUMMERTIME '25 @ HIGHPRES CHURCH: ENJOYING GOD



**Highlands Presbyterian Church
Annual Church Picnic
July 20, 2025
Games, Food, Fun, and Fellowship**

Summer Reading Program

During June and July we are offering a faith-based book reading opportunity for children and teens. They are encouraged to choose and read faith-encouraging books from our Book Borrowing Table or Children's Library, or to choose faith-based books from home or library. After reading a book, children and teens are asked to fill out a short report (forms in Fellowship Hall) and place it in the acrylic report box. Prizes are given to children and youth who read two or more books.

Our summer book-borrowing tables are well stocked with new books. Pastor Paul has selected several faith-encouraging books to be borrowed for children, youth, and adults.



We are in our “SUMMERTIME ’25: ENJOYING GOD” through September 7. Summer is a great time to focus on faith in a more relaxed (maybe) way!

- On Sunday, July 6 we will begin a **new summer sermon series, “Strong Hope, Strong Guidance,”** from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
- We will continue to worship until September 14, at 10:00 AM, in Fellowship Hall in a **special coffee-house setup** with snacks and beverages available throughout the morning.
- We will have **special activities sheets for 1-3 year olds and older elementary students** during worship this at our CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY TABLE in Fellowship Hall.
- Adults are invited to **our new Bible discussion, “INTEGRITY IN A WORLD OF PRETENSE,”** on the New Testament book of Philippians, beginning July 20. It’s in the Church Lounge at 8:45 AM Sunday. The group continues to meet throughout the summer. Pastor Paul is the discussion leader.
- Come to our **ALL-CHURCH BARBEQUE on Sunday, July 20**, after worship. Bring food to share. We’ll provide the barbequed meat! We’ll be in Fellowship Hall and have games outside for all ages with bubbles, water balloons, and volleyball.
- **THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY at the church and on the church grounds** is Saturday, September 20, from 11 AM to 2:00 PM. The Chicagoland Accordion Academy will be playing Disney tunes (among others). We will have great games, Pleasantview Fire Protection Area fire trucks, and good food.
- Check out our **summer book display table** in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Paul has selected several faith encouraging books to be borrowed for children, youth and adults. Also children and youth can participate in a **summer reading contest**. Read 2 books and submit a brief report (report box in Fellowship Hall) and receive a Barnes and Noble gift card to buy a new book for you.
- Each Sunday Pastor Paul will introduce a new faith-based book to encourage personal growth.

Church Finances Update

At the end of May our pledged giving was \$51,698.75 (Jan-May 2024 pledged income: \$47,943.91; Jan-May 2025 budget target: \$57,647.00). Total Operating Funds income (excluding investments) was \$66,447.68; total Operating Funds expenses were \$75,526.01. We are grateful to God for the generosity of our church members!

Mission/Special Projects Giving (through May 2025)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Migrant Family project (Riverside, IL): | \$764 |
| Mendenhall, MS project: | \$1,254 |
| Community Garden | \$1,152 |
| Defibrillator project: | \$1,208 |
| Deacons Fund: | \$832 |
| Pentecost Offering: | \$99 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing: | \$965 |

Sunday School Teachers

Many thanks to all of our volunteer Sunday School Teachers who help our children and youth learn about Jesus. You are a deep blessing to us all!

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, July 13, at the close of worship, for the purpose of acting on the report of the Nominating Committee to elect officers.

Summer and Fall 2025 Sermon Series

SUMMER 2025 SERMON SERIES: **“STRONG HOPE”**

(Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7)
Pastor Paul and Eli Tyler

Sunday, July 6
“Salt and Light”
Matthew 5:13-16

Sunday, July 13
“Getting Right with Others”
Matthew 5:21-26

Sunday, July 20
“Getting Even”
Matthew 5:38-42

Sunday, July 27
“Love for Enemies”
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, August 3
“Religion in Public”
Matthew 6:1-8

Sunday, August 10
“Don’t Worry”
Matthew 6:25-34

Sunday, August 17
“Judging Others”
Matthew 7:1-6

Sunday, August 24
“The Narrow and Wide Gates”
Matthew 7:13-14

Sunday, August 31
“Avoiding Deception (Especially Self-Deception)”
Matthew 7:15-23

Sunday, September 7
“The Wise and Foolish Builders”
Matthew 7:24-29

HighPres Fall 2025 Sermon Series

STRONGER

Becoming Stronger in Key Areas of Our Lives
The Book of Joshua

Sunday, September 14
“Stronger in Trust”
Joshua 1:1-6

Sunday, September 21
“Stronger in Courage”
Joshua 1:7-11

Sunday, September 28
“Stronger in Kindness”
Joshua 2:12-14

Sunday, October 5
“Stronger in Freedom”
Joshua 3:5-13

Sunday, October 12
“Stronger in Gratitude”
Joshua 4:4-7

Sunday, October 19
“Stronger in Community”
Joshua 5:1-3, 8-10

Sunday, October 26
“Stronger in Priorities”
Joshua 5:13-15

**If you should be in need of a pastoral care visit and/or communion for a home-bound member,
please contact the church office at 708-246-1911 or office@highpres.org.**

NEW BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING AT OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY (CHURCH LIBRARY) AND SUMMER BOOK BORROWING TABLE (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

These new books were purchased with donations.

ADULTS

- DOES GOD REALLY LOVE ME?: A GAY CHRISTIAN'S PILGRIMAGE IN SEARCH OF GOD IN AMERICA by Jeff Chu
- PRESENT OVER PERFECT: LEAVING BEHIND FRANTIC FOR A SIMPLER, MORE SOULFUL WAY OF LIVING by Shauna Niequist
- THE HEART OF JESUS: HOW HE REALLY FEELS ABOUT YOU by Dane Ortlund
- PLEASE SORRY THANKS: THE THREE WORDS THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING by Mark Batterson
- THIS HALLELUJAH BANQUET: HOW THE END OF WHAT WE WERE REVEALS WHO WE CAN BE by Eugene Peterson
- AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN: RACISM, WHITE PRIVILEGE, AND THE BRIDGE TO A NEWAMERICA by Jim Wallis
- THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY by John Mark Comer
- WRESTLING WITH DOUBT, FINDING FAITH by Adam Hamilton
- 20 MYTHS ABOUT RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AMERICA by Ryan P. Burge
- A CRAZY, HOLY GRACE: THE HEALING POWER OF PAIN AND MEMORY by Frederick Buechner
- I'VE SEEN THE END OF YOU: A NEUROLOGIST'S LOOK AT FAITH, DOUBT, AND THE THINGS WE THINK WE KNOW by W. Lee Warren, M.D.
- MOSTLY WHAT GOD DOES IS LOVE YOU by Savannah Guthrie

ADULT CLASSICS

- MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING by Viktor E. Frankl
- EMBRACING HOPE by Viktor Frankl
- BIRD BY BIRD: SOME INSTRUCTIONS ON WRITING AND LIFE by Anne Lamott
- MAKING SENSE OF GOD: FINDING GOD IN THE MODERN WORLD by Tim Keller
- THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE: WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR? by Rick Warren
- WHAT ARE PEOPLE FOR? By Wendell Berry

EARLY ELEMENTARY

- WHY IS THERE A CROSS? by Kathleen Bostrom
- IS GOD ALWAYS WITH ME? by Crystal Bowman
- WHEN GOD MADE THE WORLD by Matthew Paul Turner
- THOUGHTS TO MAKE YOUR HEART SING by Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago

LATER ELEMENTARY AND TEENS

- BIBLE FORCE: THE FIRST HEROES OF THE BIBLE by Tyndale House Ministries
- HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD by Louie Giglio
- THE ACTION BIBLE: FAITH IN ACTION EDITION by Crux Studios
- BEREN AND LUTHIEN by J.R.R. Tolkien
- WHY AM I FEELING LIKE THIS?: A TEEN'S GUIDE TO FREEDOM FROM ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION by David Murray
- HOW CAN I FEEL CLOSER TO GOD? By Chris Morpew
- COURAGE TO SOAR: A BODY IN MOTION, A LIFE IN BALANCE by Simone Biles

Missions Outlook and Perspective

The 2025 Pentecost Special Offering, 40% of which is kept for our HPC local discretion and 60% is sent to the national Presbyterian Church (USA), will be the last time this separate offering will be taken. In 2026 it will be merged with the Peace and Justice Special Offering.

This change is among several that are trickling either up or down the missions organizational ladders affecting our congregation's outlay.

While we endorse and support our contemporary operational needs such as furnace repairs, roofing replacement, parking lot maintenance, and a defibrillator as these needs arise, we have a long history of endorsing and supporting needs of the wider world through the following:

- “Four of four” Special Offerings to PC(USA), our national body (not all congregations donate to all four),
- PC(USA) World Mission, supporting individual missionaries, mission teams to Mississippi,
- Marian Medical Mission, building wells in Africa,
- Church World Service (Blanket Sundays and school and hygiene kits, refugee support), appeals of Church Women United,
- MAP International, a Christian organization that provides medical supplies to people in need worldwide,
- Community Renewal Society (social justice advocacy).

Back to more local needs, we have donated to local organizations such as follows:

- Pillars,
- BEDS Plus,
- New Worshipping Communities in the Chicago Presbytery,
- The Caring Place,
- The Leadershop,
- local pantries, including delivering end-of-day bagels,
- Companions, a prison ministry,
- Interfaith Partners, now CARS (Community Assisted Rides) free ride service,
- Meals on Wheels,
- National Alliance for Mental Illness—Suburban,
- Exodus World Service (Welcome to America and Grocery Pack for Aurora family).

Again, back this time to “changes trickling up and down,” certainly a momentous change is in the status of Church World Service, an organization born in the wake of the devastation of World War II when seventeen Christian denominations created a partnership to meet humanitarian need. By 1980 CWS had resettled 350,000 refugees across the US., and today over 850,000, but:

- approximately \$68 million in government grants to CWS have been suspended as of March, 2025, as well as such grants to other major religious refugee supporting denominations,
- the Leadershop was closed in the spring of 2024,
- PC(USA) has withdrawn all world missionaries, including Mark Hare whom HPC chose to support during his work in Central America and who inspired our own community gardens; PC(USA), however, will continue to partner with agents of change in the locations where the above missionaries once worked,
- The Caring Place, once operating out of the east LaGrange Park District Community Center, now operates out of the First Baptist Church of LaGrange, where its director and husband are now the pastors.

Of note to the “changes”: any donations of clothing (adult male, female, or child) or small appliances that you might be considering sending to Goodwill would be greatly appreciated by the clothing pantry now housed in the First Baptist Church of LaGrange or the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago. Please ask this author how these donations easily can be facilitated.

While in the last decade we once supported a tithing perspective of donating one tenth of our annual budget for missions, with a different perspective and facing budget realities, we now limit to \$5000 donations from our budget plus, on occasion, invitations to match specific donations by our HPC congregation.

Betty Tompkin, Missions Committee Moderator

Happenings at HighPres....

Palm Sunday Community Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday



July Birthdays Anniversaries

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Ayla Gordon | 2 | Deanna and Sean Gordon | 31 |
| Brandon Wydra | 5 | | |
| Bruce Wydra | | | |
| Richard Fritz | 8 | | |
| William Fritz | 15 | | |
| Dan Giancesin | | | |
| Amanda Schemenauer | 18 | | |
| Jean Wass | | | |
| Bill Wilson | | | |
| Jim Wydra | | | |
| Judy Buehl | 23 | | |
| John Schroeder | | | |
| Casey Livingston | 25 | | |
| Nick Giancesin | 26 | | |
| Len Wesolowski | | | |
| Perry Johnson | 30 | | |
| Bob Weaver | | | |



August Birthdays Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| Julia Baker | 2 | Margaret and John Rhine | 12 |
| Lizzy Buchanan | 8 | | |
| Judy Evans | 11 | | |
| Robert Fritz | 13 | | |
| Tom Livingston | 14 | | |
| Thomas Fritz | 17 | | |
| Megan Anderson | 25 | | |
| Katie Evans | 26 | | |
| Will Livingston | 28 | | |
| Jean Stewart | 30 | | |
| Steve Heinzelman | 31 | | |



September Birthdays Anniversaries

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| John Carver | 18 | Katy and James Fattaleh | 5 |
| Rob Credit | | | |
| Susan Scheppler | 30 | Judy and Dean Hanaway | 14 |



Prayer Requests:

Pray for our members who are recovering from hospitalizations and injuries, those undergoing treatment for cancer, and all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit:

Elsa Dames, Rick Hessel, Nadine Schweitzer, Sue Sinnard, and Bob Weaver

Our missionaries:

Marion Medical Mission, installer of wells in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia. Special prayers for villages where wells sponsored by Community Garden Funds and donations by HPC members have been installed.

First responders and military:

Ken Heinzelman, Mark Murray, Joe Presley

For District 106

And for all members of the Highlands Presbyterian Church



Upcoming Events in July

- July 3: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- July 4: Independence Day observed, church office closed
- July 6: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
- July 10: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- July 13: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Congregational Meeting at close of worship
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM
- July 17: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- July 20: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Church Picnic
Confirmation class, 2:00 PM
- July 24: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- July 27: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM
- July 31: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom

Exercise classes held as scheduled

Upcoming Events in August

- Aug. 3: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 2:00 PM
- Aug. 7: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Aug. 10: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM
- Aug. 14: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, FH
- Aug. 17: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Session Meeting, 11:45 AM
Confirmation class, 2:00 PM
- Aug. 21: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Aug. 24: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM
- Aug. 28: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Aug. 31: Worship Service, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM

Exercise classes held as scheduled

Upcoming Events in September

- Sept. 1: Labor Day, church office closed
- Sept. 4: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Sept. 7: Worship, 10 AM, FH
Confirmation class, 2:00 PM
- Sept. 11: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Sept. 14: Worship Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
Confirmation class, 11:45 AM
Deacon's Meeting, 11:15 AM
- Sept. 18: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Sept. 20: Annual Block Party, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Sept. 21: Worship Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
Session Meeting, 11:45 AM
Reception of Confirmand into Church
Membership
- Sept. 25: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Zoom
- Sept. 28: Worship Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
Reception of Confirmand in Worship

Exercise classes held as scheduled



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