HI, WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

Welcome guests! We're glad you're here. All first-time guests are invited to pick up your free gift in The Commons (lobby) or The Passage (outside The Crossing). It’s our way of saying thanks for joining us today. If you have questions, look for those wearing a Highland lanyard.

We have Bible Classes for all ages at 10:00am. Head to the Welcome Center in the Commons and we can give you more information. We have more Guest Info on the back.

NEXT STEPS
If you’re new to Highland and want to learn more about us we invite you to attend our Next Steps. For details contact Eric Gentry at eric.gentry@highlandcc.org.

1. SIGHTSEER: Today / 10:00am / B119
2. ADVANCE: January 5 / 10:00am / A129
3. ENGAGE: January 12 / 10:00am / A129

www.HighlandCC.org/NextSteps

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time celebration. We learn this from the angel’s opening statement to the shepherds of Bethlehem. God had wonderful news for us that would cause us all to rejoice, celebrate, and throw a party: “I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10.

The good news of Christmas is worth celebrating for three reasons. It is personal: “I bring YOU.” It is positive: “GOOD news of great joy.” And it is universal: “for ALL the people.” It doesn’t matter who you are, what you’ve done, where you’ve been, or where you’re headed — this news is for you.
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

*Today*
This morning, there will be no Sunday School classes. The Connection service will worship at 10:15am.

EPHESIANS JOURNAL BIBLES

Our January series is on Ephesians called “One.” We have in our possession 50 Ephesians Journal Bibles and will be available to Highlanders today. The goal is to get Highlanders to read Ephesians, 1 chapter per week, during the series, and to reflect on what they read. Cost is $5 and you can pick them up at a table in The Commons and Passage.

SERENITY TOWERS

The Serenity Towers ministry is looking to recruit more volunteers. Serenity Towers is an apartment building located at 400 South Highland street. There is a chapel on the ground floor where we lead a communion service on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Volunteers usually only serve there once every few months depending on the number of people on the schedule. Can you lead a few songs? Can you lead a short message from the scriptures and serve communion to 10 - 12 people? If you can, we would like to put you on the rotation schedule. Contact Jeff Atnip at jeff@jeffatnip.com or 901.262.1326.

END OF YEAR GIVING

As we approach the end of 2019, please consider the following points regarding your year-end gifts to Highland. Gifts are deductible when Highland receives the gift,

- Checks that are mailed and postmarked on or before December 31, 2019 are considered 2019 gifts
- Electronic giving gifts received the morning of January 1, 2020 will be reported in 2020.
- Checks received in the plate on Sunday January 5, 2020 are considered a 2020 gift even if the check is dated in 2019.

Highland will not be mailing 2019 contribution statements this year. If you need your statement, please email your request to Kristen Betts at kristen.betts@highlandcc.org after January 2, 2020.

WOMEN

WOMEN OF GRACE CLASS

*Sundays / 10:00am / Room A134*
3 Wise Women who are integral to the story of the birth of Jesus will be the basis in the Women of Grace class this month. Mary displays an obedient heart as she accepts her role as God's servant to serve as the birth mother for the Son of God. Elizabeth handles her late-in-life pregnancy with grace as she supports Mary and serves as her confidante. Anna, widow and prophetess, recognizes the baby Jesus as the promised Messiah and tells the people in the temple about his arrival. Join us as we prepare our hearts for Jesus and the celebration of his birth.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

*January 15th – 29th / 7:00 pm*
The Gift of Presence: how bringing mindfulness to our daily life can be a blessing to ourselves and others. Led by Highland members Amy and Scott Ballentine. Amy is a psychologist and mindfulness teacher who owns and operates the Memphis Center for Mindful Living. Stress and busyness are affecting us as families and individuals in very hurtful ways. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, join us for this 3-week experiential class that will incorporate mindfulness practices along with discussion and brief talks on how the cultivation of a mindful presence can bring greater peace, joy and connection with God and others in our life. This class is for both men and women.

NEW YEAR’S DAY MINI RETREAT

*Wednesday, January 1st*
Can’t do Wednesday nights but interested in learning more about mindfulness practices and how they can bless you? Amy Balentine will be leading a mindfulness retreat on New Year’s Day from 10-2 pm at her Center for Mindfulness.
To learn more or register, go to www.memphiscenterformindfulliving.com. Space is limited to 9 participants.
HOPEWORKS BREAKFAST
Saturday, February 8th / 8:30am
Brad Martin will be our keynote speaker at the HopeWorks Breakfast at Highland on Saturday February 8th at 8:30am. Brad was the former interim president for the University of Memphis and has been a leader in the Memphis community for decades. We hope you will save the date for this important event.

OUTREACH CONTRIBUTION
Thank you for giving generously the past two weeks. You have given $266,040 towards our goal of $290,000. We know that this is short of our goal, so we would like to encourage you to give if you haven’t been able to give. Please mark on your check “outreach contribution” in the memo line or you can give online at www.highlandcc.org.

MISSIONARIES CHRISTMAS GIFTS
Your Christmas gift will be sent with our Christmas best wishes. Make checks to Highland Church of Christ with “Missionary Christmas” in the memo line. You can also give online through our eGiving at www.highlandcc.org.

NICOLE’S NEWS
NIGHT TO SHINE
Night to Shine registration begins December 1 for new volunteers. Returning volunteers contact Nicole Curlin at nicole.curlin@highlandcc.org or 901.661.4339 for the early registration link.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
In need of a volunteer buddy on the 2nd and 4th Sunday to help in Kingdom Kids. If interested, please contact Nicole Curlin at nicole.curlin@highlandcc.org or 901.661.4339.

NEW COLLEGE MINISTRY MEETS TODAY
Today / 10:00am / Room A129
The College Class will meet in room A129 at 10:00am this morning. A129 is in the hallway on the far left side of the building (if you’re facing the building from Houston Levee).

WINTERFEST GATLINBURG
February 14-16, 2020
Winterfest has become a big influence that encourages our teens to follow Jesus. It’s the biggest youth rally we attend (over 10,000 teens). It’s also the only youth rally we attend. Featuring the best speakers, worship, story tellers, and entertainment, Winterfest is a unique weekend for students to grow in their faith. We have the buses and hotel rooms reserved. All we need is YOU. Online Registration is now open at www.highlandcc.org/winterfest.
GUEST INFO

A GIFT FOR YOU
All first-time visitors are invited to pick up a “Hello!” welcome kit in The Commons or The Passage. Our way of saying thanks for joining us today.

VISITOR’S CLASS
The Sightseer class on Sunday mornings is specifically designed for guests. It meets at 10:00 a.m. during Sunday School in the room A-119.

REACH GROUPS
Reach Groups are small groups that meet in homes every other week. Pick up a flyer in the Commons to learn more.

KINGDOM KIDS
Worship services for children in the 2 yr. old class through kindergarten. Dismissed from church during Kids’ Collection in both services. All children will meet in the Great Hall, and then dismissed to their classrooms. Parents may pick up children in the classrooms.

MINISTRIES
We love serving people and making a difference in the community. Pick up a Ministries flyer in the Commons to learn how to become more involved in serving others.

COMMUNION
Because Jesus is so central, we take communion every Sunday.

GIVING
We take a collection each Sunday to fund our ministries. There is no expectation, but an invitation, for you to join in this giving.

NEEDS & PRAYERS
If you have a need or prayer request, share it privately on a Connection Card or publicly by visiting a leader during the song after the message.

MEETING TIMES
Sundays
8:30 a.m. - Chapel & Life Center Worship
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:15 a.m. - The Connection
11:15 a.m. - Chinese Worship Service

Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. - Classes

LIFE CENTER

Joy to the World
Welcome / Call to Worship
Angels We Have Heart On High
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Communion / Prayer for Bread
Away in A Manger
Communion / Prayer for Cup
What Child Is This
Kids Collection / Kingdom Kids Dismissal
Prayer for Offering
Emmanuel

When Hope Was Born: Immanuel / Eric Gentry (Matthew 1:18-25)
Silent Night
Family News

NOTES:

MATTHEW 1:8–25

Questions/comments about this lesson? Email Eric: eric.gentry@highlandcc.org.
Visit www.highlandcc.org/media for sermon audio and manuscripts.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 15

ATTENDANCE
AM Worship Services: 916
Sunday School: 696

FINANCIALS
Contribution: $55,247
Budget: $48,723

Visit our website for more info: www.highlandcc.org