

In worship this week:

November 27, 2016

Preacher: Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith

Music Director: Dr. Kit Long Yee (Raymond)

Liturgist: Tom Tucker

Youth Liturgist: Haleigh Thompson

Ushers: Sherry Hutchinson and Mary Martin



Flowers this morning are presented
to the glory of God.

Joys and Concerns of the HPC Family

Immediate Church Family*:

Doris Baugh; Catherine Hackney; Betty Lancaster;
Mary Perry; Deanna Lewis Sklar; Brad Smith, Janie
McElwee-Smith, and "Sampson and Isaac" Smith.

Extended Church Family*:

Cary Bargas (friend of the Leonards); Brandon
Behrmann (Carol's nephew); family of Gloria Boone
(Catherine Hackney's sister); Austin Casey (Bagents'
grandson); family of Jimmy Day (friend of the Cut-
ters); Eva Fuller (Inez Geoghegan's niece); Joe Heath
(friend of the Leonards); Leigh Ann Larguier (niece of
Ed McKnight); Rhonda Matthews (friend of the
Lancasters); family of Jane McElwee; Earl Rabe
(friend of Rick Gurtner); Neomi Robinson (Mary Per-
ry's helper)

**New names added to the prayer list this week are in italics.*



*Connecting us with one another,
our community, and the world...*

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This week in PCUSA Mission:



'COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'

In Luke 2:41-52, Joseph and Mary search desperately for their young son Jesus. There is a certain irony here: Jesus' parents think he is *lost*, when at a deeper level he has *found* his calling, which is "to be about his father's affairs."

In Luke's Gospel, the "father's affairs" entail expanding people's understanding of family and community. It starts in this story itself. Jesus' parents have a particular understanding of his place in the family, and he challenges that notion by envisioning for himself an identity that reaches beyond his family. Throughout the third Gospel, Jesus subverts the narrow identities attributed to him and claims for himself a more expansive identity.

Luke's Gospel was instrumental in my discipleship and calling early on as I saw my horizons expand and community constantly redefined. Indian society and in some ways the American society too, is structured around exclusive identities. Luke's Jesus challenges us to re-imagine ourselves and our sense of who our "neighbor" truly is. As Christians, we are to watch faithfully for a God who is on the move, transforming our view of God and the world in which we live, and embrace identities that are inclusive liberative.

Columbia Theological Seminary is "educating imaginative, resilient leaders for God's changing world." We do not fully know how God will use us in the future or what that future will look like. We move from fences that are limiting and destructive to bridges which liberate, heal and expand...

For more information, go to:

[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/
November-27/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/November-27/)

Welcome!!!

Highland Presbyterian Church is a vibrant tree in God's grace-filled orchard. Deeply rooted in God's life-giving presence here on earth, this tree extends its branches to support one another in faith and reach into the world around it to produce fruit. Whether you are seeking God's presence through questions or service, discussion or fellowship, there is a home for you at Highland.



Connecting with our pastor, Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith

Cell Phone: 314.283.7596

Email: revjaniehpc@gmail.com

Instagram and Twitter: @jmcElweesmith

Her regular office hours are 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thought for the Week:

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

- Desmond Tutu

Calendar

Monday, November 28:

12:00 p.m. AA

Tuesday, November 29:

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

12:00 p.m. AA

7:30 p.m. AA

Wednesday, November 30:

12:00 p.m. AA

7:00 p.m. Ladies' AA

Thursday, December 1:

12:00 p.m. AA

8:00 p.m. Men's AA

Friday, December 2:

12:00 p.m. AA

Saturday, December 3:

Yard Crew –Mike Leonard & Brandon Lithgoe

Sunday, December 4: *Advent II*

9:30 a.m. Worship

Greening of the Sanctuary following worship

Upcoming Opportunities at HPC

- **Next week's sermon:** “The Dream Isaiah Saw” on Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12.
- **Tuesday Bible Study:** Resumes at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday November 29 with the study of Mark.
- **Greening of Sanctuary:** Following worship on Dec. 4 we will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.
- **Books for Christmas:** HPC will continue our tradition of providing 2 books for each first grade student at Magnolia Woods. We are seeking everyone's help by either purchasing books on your own or by contributing funds to help purchase books from the Scholastic Books Warehouse. Place contributions in the offering plate and indicate “Books for Christmas” in the memo line of your check.

Focus on HPC: *Advent Devotionals*

The season of Advent begins today! This means candles glowing, prophetic messages, and a wondrous star leading us to Bethlehem.

For us in the church, the time of preparation both mirrors the excitement of our culture and has its own distinctive facets. Advent means coming – marking the coming of Christ, the fulfillment of God's promise to always be with us. As we anticipate the arrival of the Christ child with high expectations, we are invited to engage God's promises to God's people anew.

To help us in this endeavor, our Christian Education Ministry at Highland has purchased a special advent calendar for each family in the church. “A Journey of Memories” is a resource by Presbyterians Today and includes a short devotional for each day of this special season leading up to Christmas. We hope that this calendar will encourage and inspire you during this season of hope.



Highland Presbyterian Church (USA)

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