

## Joy Offering

For more than 80 years Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas time to lift up those who devoted their lives to the mission of Presbyterian Church – USA. The Joy Offering honors God’s promise by making and delivering upon meaningful promises of our own: to church workers through assistance in their time of need and racial ethnic education and leadership development. Joy Offering envelopes will be available in December and collected at the December 20 service. Your generosity is appreciated.



## A Gift of Literacy

The wise men gave out of their treasures and the shepherds gave of themselves. Once again HPC is partnering with Magnolia Woods Elementary to give each first grader a gift of two books for Christmas. The names of the students will be available on the trees on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Take name(s) and return with wrapped books by December 13. If you prefer, we will also be making a trip to the Scholastic Book Warehouse and would be happy to purchase your books for you. Talk to Connie Leonard for details. Books will be delivered to students on Dec 16.



## HPC Christmas Reception



Our annual Christmas reception will be held Sunday, December 20, following worship. Meat trays with turkey, roast beef, and ham will be available for making sandwiches. Volunteer to bring an appetizer or dessert. Join your HPC family for this enjoyable holiday tradition.

### Highland Presbyterian Church

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# Connections Extra

*Advent/Christmas at Highland Presbyterian Church*

*It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* is a song celebrating Christmas that was introduced by Andy Williams in 1963. Now, fifty-two years later, it is recognized as one of the top Christmas songs of all times. The song focuses on “kids jingle belling” and “marsh mellows toasting” and highlights friends coming to call. One phrase that repeats throughout the song is “hearts will be glowing.”

Advent should be a most wonderful time of year too. It’s the liturgical season dedicated to preparing ourselves to receive the true joy of the Holy Season—the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a beautiful season for celebration, renewal, and reconciliation.

Here at Highland Presbyterian Church we will be celebrating Advent and Christmas with treasured traditions and new engaging studies. We’ll set up the nativity scene, listen to Christmas carols by a brass quintet, light the Advent candles, and provide a “Gift of Literacy” to Magnolia Woods first-graders in our traditional ways. There will be two new classes that will allow us study time to contemplate the coming of the Lord. **Tuesday Bible Study** will view the DVD series “*Not a Silent Night*” by Adam Hamilton and **Sunday Study** will rediscover the reason for Advent and Christmas through Rick Warren’s *The Purpose of Christmas*.

Inside you will find a calendar of events that will help you keep up with activities at HPC over the Advent season. A description of some of the activities can be found in this handout. Other details will be provided weekly as the season progresses.

As we begin this most wonderful time of the year may the message in our songs be “Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men.”

## Calendar of Events for Advent

- Sunday, November 22:** Lesson 1 – “*Not a Silent Night*”
- Sunday, November 29:** First Sunday of Advent – Candle of Hope  
Brass Quintet  
Sunday Study: “*The Purpose of Christmas--  
A Time for Celebration*”
- Tuesday, December 1:** Bible Study: Lesson 2 - “*Not a Silent Night*” – 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, December 4:** Greening of the Church - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 6:** Second Sunday of Advent – Candle of Peace  
Communion  
Christmas Tree Trimming  
Food Bank Collection  
Sunday Study – “*The Purpose of Christmas--  
A Time for Salvation*”
- Tuesday, December 8:** Bible Study: Lesson 3 - “*Not a Silent Night*”  
Lagniappe Ladies – 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 13:** Third Sunday of Advent – Candle of Joy  
Sunday Study – “*The Purpose of Christmas--  
A Time for Reconciliation*”  
Session Meeting
- Tuesday, December 15:** Bible Study: Lesson 4 - “*Not a Silent Night*”
- Sunday, December 20:** Fourth Sunday of Advent – Candle of Love  
Christmas Joy Offering  
Annual Christmas Party following worship service
- Tuesday, December 22:** Bible Study: Lesson 5 - “*Not a Silent Night*”
- Thursday, December 24:** Candle Light Service – 5:30 p.m.  
Advent Candle – Christ Candle  
Communion  
Refreshments following service

### Christmas Poinsettias Dedications



The flower of a poinsettia resembles a many-pointed star and that has become a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem. Purchase one or more poinsettias by completing a form found on the table in the narthex and submitting it along with your check (\$15 for each poinsettia) made payable to Highland Presbyterian Church. Place your request form and check in the offering plate by Sunday November 22 or sent to the Church Office by Wednesday November 25.

### Trimming the Tree - Sunday, December 6

Evergreens are a universal feature of Christmas. Evergreens symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus. We adorn our Christmas tree with “chrismons”—ornaments that are symbols for Christ or some part of Christ’s ministry. On Friday evening, December 4, Tom Tucker and Carol Behrmann will prepare the sanctuary for the annual trimming of the tree. Let them know if you can assist. On Sunday, December 6, the congregation will trim the tree with chrismons that have added grace and peace to our Christmas tree through the years.



### Sunday Study for Advent

Why do we celebrate Christmas? What does Christmas mean to your salvation? How can Christmas be a time to make peace with others? Join **Sunday Study** for three special presentations of Rick Warren’s *The Purpose of Christmas* DVD series. Rediscover that the love of God is the entire reason for the season.

### Tuesday Bible Study for Advent



“Not a Silent Night” begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection, then travels back in time as she witnesses her son’s life and ministry, and ends at the beginning with the Christ Child born in a stable. This is a DVD-based study presented by Adam Hamilton, a United Methodist pastor and Biblical scholar. Pastor Kelly will facilitate the study as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our King.