

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>13</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Worship 9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday Study – “How Can Christmas Be a Time to Make Peace with Others?”</b> <b>Session Meeting</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>Bible Study 1:00 p.m.</b>  <b>AA 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>Ladies’ AA 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>Men’s AA 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>	<b>19</b> <b>John Dye &amp; Mike Groves Yard Crew</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Worship 9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Christmas Reception - Pastor Kelly Farewell</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Bible Study 10:45 a.m.</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>AA 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>Ladies’ AA 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>  <b>Men’s AA 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>AA Noon</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Bill &amp; Mary Lambert Yard Crew</b>

**Highland Presbyterian Church**  
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## Highland Presbyterian (PCUSA)



- Here you will find opportunities to
- Connect with God in spirit and in truth,
  - Connect with the Community of Faith in worship, study, and fellowship,
  - Connect with the Neighborhood Community in friendship and service.

**Connect with God in spirit & in truth**

### Worship Leaders for December 13, 2015

Interim Pastor ..... Rev. Linda L. Kelly  
 Liturgist ..... Rev. Dr. Alan Cutter  
 Ushers..... Mike and Connie Leonard  
 Hospitality..... Mike and Connie Leonard  
 Music Director..... Dr. Kit Loong Yee (Raymond)

*And the peace of God,  
 which surpasses all understanding;  
 will guard your hearts and your minds  
 in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:7*

From Pastor Kelly:



*Christmas is now fast approaching.* Amidst the bedlam of the season, perhaps Bethlehem seems a far distant place. Yet, so many years ago, into another corrupt and confusing time in an obscure corner of the empire, a nondescript couple comes to that small town in obedience to a decree issued a world away. The entire earth-shattering event is captured in four verses. The couple comes to their ancestral home. The engaged yet pregnant woman senses it is her time; the baby is born, wrapped snugly and placed in a feeding trough because there was no room for them in the inn. This Christmas season, I urge you to take time to stand outside the stable and look in at the scene of the impoverished baby, wrapped in rags. Perhaps your response is, “They’re never going to believe this!” In this Christmas season, let’s ponder these things to discover how best we can share the good news in the new year.

### Reception

Our annual Christmas reception will be next Sunday, December 20, following worship. Come be with your HPC family for this enjoyable holiday tradition. We will be honoring Pastor Kelly for her time with us and her service to us as our Interim Pastor.

Meat trays will be available for making sandwiches. You may volunteer to bring an appetizer or dessert for all to share.

### Christmas Eve

Our Christmas Eve Service, will **begin at 5:30 p.m.** on Thursday, December 24, and will blend **Scripture, Stories, Carols, Communion and Candlelight.** The Service will be followed by a time of fellowship.

**Several readers are needed in order to make this service meaningful. If you would be willing to be a reader on Christmas Eve, sign up on the sheet available in the Narthex and/or speak to Pastor Kelly. Thank you!**

### Check it out

- ✓ Session will meet today following Sunday Study.
- ✓ The Sunday Study today is the third special presentation from Rick Warren’s *The Purpose of Christmas* DVD series. Come and hear “How Can Christmas Be a Time to Make Peace with Others?”
- ✓ In our Tuesday study this week we continue our exploration of Advent through the eyes of Mary, Jesus’ mother, using *Not a Silent Night*, Adam Hamilton’s DVD series. In this session we will look at “Mary, Full of Grace,” the story of the Annunciation, using the biblical text of Luke 1:26-33.  
**Note that Tuesday study this week will begin at 1:00 p.m.**
- ✓ Next Sunday, the fourth and last Sunday of Advent, we look at the birth narrative of John the Baptist as the forerunner for the Messiah. Next week’s sermon title is “Born in the Geriatric Unit” using as its texts Luke 1:39-45 and 1:57-66.
- ✓ **Our Christmas Joy Offering** will be received on December 20.
- ✓ **Gift of Literacy to Magnolia Woods First Graders** – this week.

### Pastor Kelly

This week Pastor Kelly will be in Baton Rouge **today, Tuesday, and Thursday.** If you would like to contact her at any time, please feel free to call or text her at **337-849-2212** or to send her an email at **[lindalkelly@cox.net](mailto:lindalkelly@cox.net)**.

### Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Shelby and Mary Etta Brown, David Cook (Billie Dean’s son-in-law), Eva Fuller, Catherine Hackney, Joe Heath, Lexi and her parents Audrie & Jacob John, Jeanette Lambert, Jean Nasse, Jane Payton, Kirby Perry, Mary Perry, Ms. Dell Perry, ***Karen Pride and family***, Earl Rabe, Irlee Redmann, Deanna Lewis Sklar, Bonner Stewart, Mike Tucker, the Congregation and leaders of Matanzas Central Presbyterian Church (Cuba), First Presbyterian Church of Iberia Parish, the Congregation and leaders of Highland Presbyterian Church, and the Pastor Nominating Committee of HPC.  
***(New names added to prayer list are in bold italics.)***