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District Website: www.chogeast.org
 National Website: www.chog.org

Highland Park Church of God

A New Life Fellowship

“Connected in Christ, Serving in Spirit, Growing in New Life Together”

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March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 (1 Sam. 18) 11 AM Communion SHAN Lunch Bags 7 PM Cont. Service— Bill Dilks 3rd Speaking 1 PM Glou. Parade	2 (1 Sam. 19) 6-7:30 PM Youth	3 (1 Sam. 20) SHAN Sandwiches 6-8 PM Feast & Faith 7 PM Crochet Club	4 (1 Sam. 21) SHAN Pick Up	5 (1 Sam. 22) 6 PM Bible Study 7 PM Grief Share	6 (1 Sam. 23) Noon Joy Lunch 7-9 PM Basketball Outreach at GMS	7 (1 Sam. 24) Ronald McDonald Breakfast
8 (1 Sam. 25) Daylight Saving Ends Choir Songs Trustees' Mtg. 7 PM Panel Discussion 	9 (1 Sam. 26) 6-7:30 PM Youth	10 (1 Sam. 27) 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6-8 PM Feast & Faith 7 PM Crochet Club	11 (1 Sam. 28)	12 (1 Sam. 29) 6 PM Bible Study 7 PM Grief Share	13 (1 Sam. 30) 7-9 PM Basketball Outreach at GMS	14 (1 Sam. 31) 6 PM Joint Service with Tetelestai (Spanish Church)
15 (2 Corinthians 1) Baby Dedication <i>Donations Due</i> Choir Practice Council Meeting 7 PM Growth Group	16 (2 Corinthians 2) 6-7:30 PM Youth	17 (2 Corinthians 3) 6-8 PM Feast & Faith 7 PM Crochet Club St. Patrick's Day 	18 (2 Corinthians 4)	19 (2 Corinthians 5) Noon Senior's at Diner 6 PM Bible Study 7 PM Grief Share	20 (2 Corinthians 6) 7-9 PM Basketball Outreach at GMS 7 PM Youth BINGO Fundraiser Spring Begins	21 (2 Corinthians 7) 
22 (2 Corinthians 8) Choir Songs 7 PM Contemporary Worship Service	23 (2 Corinthians 9) 6-7:30 PM Youth	24 (2 Corinthians 10) 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6-8 PM Feast & Faith 7 PM Crochet Club	25 (2 Corinthians 11)	26 (2 Corinthians 12) 6 PM Bible Study 7 PM Grief Share	27 (2 Corinthians 13) 7-9 PM Basketball Outreach at GMS	28 (2 Samuel 1) 9 AM Easter Cleanup / Mulch Day
29 (2 Samuel 2) Choir Practice Change the World 7 PM Contemporary Worship Service Palm Sunday 	30 (2 Samuel 3) 6-7:30 PM Youth	31 (2 Samuel 4) 6-8 PM Feast & Faith 7 PM Crochet Club	*2-4 PM Tetelestai Hispanic Church Service in Fellowship Hall			

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DEB...

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. –Hebrews 12:1

March brings us St. Patrick's Day, the first day of Spring (Praise the Lord!) and the season of Lent. Lent is a recognition of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness as He prepared to begin His ministry. He followed the Spirit into a place and time of communion and reflection, a time away from all other voices and all other distractions so He could hear the voice of God.

I love this verse from Hebrews 12. We have been talking about the new thing God has for us in 2026. I believe that before God can do a new thing, there may be some old things we need to strip off. There may be some weight that is holding us back. There may be some sin that is tripping us up. That can happen with us both individually and as a church.

Whether or not you give up meat or coffee or chocolate or social media, I pray that you will take some time alone with God, undistracted, so that you can hear His voice. Draw near to Him. Ask Him to help you recognize the things you need to let go of in your life. Ask Him to show you the race ahead and submit to His training and preparation so you can run with endurance.

Spring brings us the end of winter and the budding of new growth, new life. I pray that for each of you and for the church. As we journey through Lent, stripping off the old, we do so with the sure hope that God has something new...new growth, new beauty, new life! Spring is coming!

In Faithful Prayer,

Pastor Deb





Giving Summary

January:

- Budget \$7,798
- Loose \$117
- Capital \$820
- Sunday School \$127
- Flowers \$140
- Bread Box \$5
- Arlene Burkhardt Memorial \$1,000
- Christmas Eve \$197
- CBO \$75
- Attendance Average 51

December:

- Budget \$12,555
- Loose \$338
- Capital \$1,100
- Sunday School \$40
- Flowers \$48
- Dilks Memorial \$200
- Wood Memorial \$100
- Maloney Memorial \$1060
- CBO \$568
- Attendance Average 86



Chapter-A-Day 4-Year Bible Reading Program

March 2026

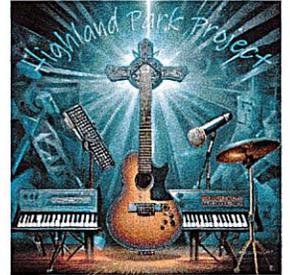
- 1 Samuel 18-31
- 2 Corinthians 1-13
- 2 Samuel 1-4



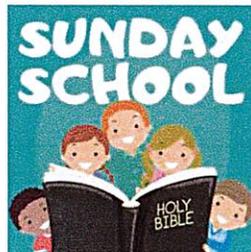
Just
Older
Youth

Luncheon—Noon, March 6

Contemporary Service!
 Sundays March 1, 22, and 29
 March 8 - Panel Discussion
 Featuring: Highland Park Project



Counters: Bill Wiltsey and Rose
Greeters/Ushers (Center Aisle): Rose and Linda
Assistants (Side Aisles): Sean and Amelia



Sunday School K-3:

- 3/1: Autumn & Aiden
- 3/8: Cori
- 3/15: Autumn
- 3/22: Lauren P.
- 3/29: Chelsea

Sunday School 4-6:

- 3/1: Heather & Sean
- 3/8: Bill & Nathaniel
- 3/15: Bruce & Joe
- 3/22: Heather & Sean
- 3/29: Cori

Nursery Workers:

- 3/1: Heddy
- 3/8: Lisa G. and Debbie P.
- 3/15: Audrey & Sandy
- 3/22: Audrey
- 3/29: Laura and Rose



Nursery Ministry

Song Leaders:

- 3/1: Don Conner
- 3/8: Arvin Skramstad
- 3/15: Denise Wooden
- 3/22: Paul Buford
- 3/29: Michael Wooden



If you are not able to serve on your specific date, please contact Sandy or Pastor Deb ASAP.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Connie DeVoe—March 3
Logan Schepacarter—March 5
Julie Hancock—March 6
Autumn Martinez—March 6
Arabella Atlee—March 8
Tracy Cicchetti—March 8
Andrea Smurlo—March 10
Autumn Batulini—March 12
Bert Skipton—March 12
Brittany Burkhardt—March 14
Theresa Weible—March 14
Michael Ritchie—March 19
Sean David Fitzpatrick—March 24
Patty Sims—March 26
Rudy Neisner—March 29
Robin Gregg—March 30
Mary Ann Herbst—March 30
Lee Fountain—March 31

John and Wendy Burkhardt—March 12
Rick and Robin Gregg—March 14
Fred and Eula Gibson—March 25
John and Eleanor Florczynski—March 30



Dear Church Family,

We have had a pretty rough start to 2026. Struggling as snow, cold weather, and illness have caused setbacks in our opportunity to fellowship with one another. Although we may experience setbacks, the Lord never stops working. I am continuously amazed at how God's inspiration continues regardless of what we may be going through. As we have now started the season of Lent, I am reminded of the struggles Jesus went through carrying out the will of His Father. Although a man of many sorrows, trials, and temptations, Jesus lived a life full of love, fellowship, and purpose. Jesus leaned on and drew close to the Father, and the Holy Spirit was with Jesus, and went before Him. So, instead of seeing the darkness that sought to surround the life of Jesus, we have seen a great light that the darkness cannot overcome. Maybe if you haven't thought of what to give up for Lent, a good idea would be to give your time. If you've already committed time to spend intentionally with God, maybe give up a little more. We often think of Lent as depriving ourselves of our physical needs, a form of fasting in recognition of Jesus overcoming the flesh. Often times, though we are reluctant to admit it, the thing that we need to give up the most is our time. Maybe take some of that personal time we spend on social media or late-night binge watching and give it to God intentionally. Put down the phone, turn off the TV and say, "OK God, for the next thirty minutes I'm giving this up to spend time with You because You are the king of my heart." Sometimes when facing struggles, all we have to do is be still and know that He is God because God is faithful and He is working all things together for the good of those who love Him.

I want to thank everyone in this family for supporting the Valentine's Dinner and the Pancake Dinner. God has so much more in store for us in the month of March. We have several opportunities for fellowship, so make sure that you are keeping an eye on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. The joint unity service with the Spanish church will be on March 14th, youth BINGO night will be on March 20th, and more along with all of our regularly scheduled events. Also, towards the end of the month there will be a sign-up sheet available to rent the youth group to work for you to do small labor tasks, household cleaning, odd jobs, and spring clean-up service throughout the month of April. There will be approximately 10 work slots available, so they might fill up fast!

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."

~Hebrews 10:23

In loving service,
Bill Dilks



Youth Fellowship!!
Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
6-7:30 PM at the Youth House

Special Event!!
BINGO Fundraiser
March 20, 7 PM

Gloucester City's St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 1

The church will be participating in Gloucester City's St. Patrick's Day parade. If you would like to march along, please be sure to sign the sheet in the narthex. We are also looking for volunteers to decorate the bus. (Please also indicate this on the sheet in the narthex.) We will be meeting in the fellowship hall for lunch before walking down to the start of the parade. That way, we won't have to wait around so long for the parade to start!! This is always a fun time to celebrate with our community!!

GriefShare

Thursdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Beginning March 5



The pain of grief is one of the most intense feelings we can face. The emotional damage cuts to the soul. It can be overwhelming. You don't have to do it alone.

Grief Share provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The group will meet weekly thru May in the fellowship hall and includes: a video featuring leading grief recovery experts, small group discussion and a workbook to use for your own personal journaling and study. There is no cost to attend.

Grief Share participants from past sessions have built lasting friendships and discovered that "we are not alone" on this journey. There is help. There are resources. We have a BIG God who is the source of all true healing, and we can have the support of friends who walk with us.

If you are experiencing a loss, please join us. You can register on-line through the GriefShare website (www.griefshare.org) or just let Pastor Deb know.

Don't forget to....



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, March 8**





Join Us for “Spanglish” WORSHIP!

Saturday, March 14th / 6:00pm

What is Spanglish worship?? It’s when we bring together the English and Spanish languages, and we bring together our English and Spanish churches, and we worship together as one BIG family of God!

Hanging on to our guiding Scripture (Hebrews 10:19-25) We will enter the “Most Holy Place,” draw near to God, spur one another on and encourage each other. We will sing together; we will pray together, we will hear God’s Word together...and then...we will FELLOWSHIP together.

Following the service, we will share a meal. This is an important aspect of family life: breaking bread together. It will offer an opportunity to get to know one another. We are not two churches sharing space. We are one church, one body, and we come together as one family. I hope you will come and join us!



Please sign up if you are planning to attend so that we will have enough food for everyone. See you on the 14th!!



Bingo Night

Youth BINGO
Fundraiser!

March 20~7 PM

*Please note that this date has been
changed from it's original night.*



**Saturday,
March 28
9 AM**

Everyone is invited to help clean up the church grounds and spruce up the inside of the church as we prepare to celebrate Easter! If you are not able to come out on March 28, please check with one of the trustees (Dalton Graham, Don Conner, Rose Hilliard, Joe Kammauf, and John Koch) to see how you can help on another day.



*Palm Sunday
March 29*



**Change the World
Coin Drop
Sunday, March 29**

March 2026

- 1st- Lunch bags for SHAN following church
(Cindy and Connie)
- 3rd- Making lunches for SHAN-(Sandra/Barbara)
- 4th- SHAN Pick Up
- 7th- Ronald McDonald House Breakfast

Thank you for your donations to Seeds of Hope



Due to the extreme cold and weather, we are extending our collection until March 15th.

*Brand-New 0-12-month baby clothing-must not be used

*Brand-New baby blankets.

*New baby socks

*New bibs-must be new with tags.

*Brand-New diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, baby cereal, pacifiers, and bottles.

*Anything knitted or crocheted for babies or adults: (scarves, gloves, blankets) **Items can be placed in the Narthex.**



The Blessing Hub

The Unforgotten Haven

the wind beneath the wings of all living things

the homeless * the sick * the abused * the struggling * veterans * animals

