

October *news*



He goes before you

The conversation was one I had rehearsed in my mind repeatedly. I had difficult things to say, a terrible thing to confess. While my heart wanted reconciliation, it wasn't guaranteed; and even if it happened, what would it require of us?

Wishing I could go back to a time before I had hurt anyone wasn't going to help, but if I thought it was possible I would have paid whatever it cost. There were months of hurt that an apology couldn't possibly undo, but the invitation to talk was offered and accepted.

We sat at an outdoor table at Max & Erma's – shortly after ordering a bowl of tortilla soup that I couldn't imagine being able to eat – and I opened up, unsure of how it would go.

The response was more than I could have imagined. Instead of shame, grace was offered. Instead of contemplating what it would cost, forgiveness was gifted. It was a beautiful extension of the love of Christ that I will never forget.

Scripture tells the story of Jacob and Esau and their moment. After the trickery in Genesis 25-27, where Jacob stole Esau's birthright and blessing, Jacob skipped town and went to his uncle Laban's house to escape Esau's wrath. He met his future wife there, along with the other three future wives, and had 11 children by the time we make it to Genesis 33. In this chapter, Jacob has organized a parade of his people with himself skipping to the front to face Esau.

Likely in an expression of humility to Esau, Jacob bowed before him seven times, putting all the eggs in this basket.

Before Jacob left home, decades earlier, Esau was making plans to kill him. The odds weren't exactly in his favor.

But what happened next, he couldn't have possibly predicted.

Genesis 33:4 says, ***"But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept."***

God was working, long before that moment.

When we know there is something difficult we need to do or say, it feels like the easiest, or at least the most enticing, option is to put it off as long as we can. Nothing good can come from that though.

When we choose to talk to God about it first, we can move forward with confidence. In Deuteronomy 31:8, Moses is talking to a nervous Joshua and saying the words we have all needed to hear: ***"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."***

Do you have a confession that you have been avoiding? A question you have been afraid to voice? A decision you are afraid to move forward with?

Whatever the situation, if the Lord is leading you, don't be afraid. Even if the worst happens, knowing you are walking in obedience will make it worth it.

-Jennifer Chapman



Membership Class

Learn more about our story, our denomination and membership...

3 Classes:

Sunday, October 11 - 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 18 - 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 25 - 9:30 AM

Register Now

Attendance does not commit you to membership.



Meeting in the Ministry Center

Second Saturday Prayer

October 10
9:00 AM



Open Gym

Oct 16 6:00 PM

Widow's Luncheon

October 17

CRISIS CARE KITS

Hand Towels



October Collection Item

October Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Gatlin Collier | 10 Ava Wright | 21 Elyssa Franklin |
| 2 Steve Hendrick | 11 John Whippel | 22 Nathan Miller |
| 3 Allison Saxton | 12 Avery Eplion | 23 David Myers |
| 4 Collin Bellomy | 13 Nick Strow | 24 Bethany Lambert |
| 5 Lisa Ellis | 14 Aniyah Smith | 25 Khalise Donahue |
| 6 John Goodson | 15 Jerry Bellomy | 26 Eliza Thomas |
| 7 Justin Freeman | 16 Ginny Davis | 27 Stephanie Donahue |
| 8 Melanie McSweeney | 17 Linda Blough | 28 Gordon Petry |
| 9 Susan McDaniel | 18 Shelia Lanz | 29 Jimma Chaffin |
| 10 Patrick Schaeffer | 20 William Strow | 30 Angie Thomas |
| 11 Ezekiel Phillippi | 21 Isla Absher | 31 Lennon Absher |
| 12 Donnie Jackson | 22 Davida Brooks | |
| | 23 Barb Finley | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Wyatt & Kaylee Collier | 18 Steve & Carol Wells |
| 6 Zach & Kelly Lego | 20 Jason & Brittany Hicks |
| 10 Brad & Sydney McSweeney | Phil & Irene Lanz |
| 22 Ronnie & Davida Brooks | |

BONFIRE & Worship NIGHT @Thomas'

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 5:00 PM

Must sign up to attend!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY Game Night!

Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 PM

CLOSING & CLEAN UP



HIGHLAWN COMMUNITY GARDEN

OCTOBER 25-31

PLEASE REMOVE & PLACE ALL PLANTS & PRODUCE IN THE TRASH BINS PROVIDED.

MISSION OFFERING EMPHASIS

lily's place



HF Homebound Church Family

Marian Crowe
Barbara Finley
Deborah Gibson
Marie Scheff
Melba Sprouse

Oscar Staggs
Tammy Stultz
Eleanor Dean
Ron Davidson (Katie)
Betty Muncy (Judi Cox)
Ron Dallis (Judi)

Let's remember to pray for each one, consider sending a card or even visiting them.





OCTOBER 2026

ALL CHURCH, **HF KIDS**, **HF YOUTH**, **HF WOMEN'S MIN**, **THRIVE**
HIGHLAWN COMMUNITY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Women's Min. Cookout THRIVE- Married Group	2	3 THRIVE-Mom's of Little Ones
4 Leadership Team Meeting	5	6 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	7 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	8	9	10 2nd Saturday Prayer
11 Membership Class Night of Worship & Bonfire	12	13 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	14 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	15 Women's Min. Game Night THRIVE- Married Group	16 Open Gym	17 Widow's Luncheon
18 Pastor Appreciation Sunday Membership Class NDI Meeting	19	20 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	21 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	22	23	24 Highlawn Fall Festival & Community Market
25 Membership Class Leadership Team Meeting/ Pastoral Review	26	27 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	28 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	29	30	31
			HF Men's Fall Retreat			

Connect. Thrive. Serve.

*"Our vision at HF is to be a church that is **CONNECTING** with Christ and people,
THRIVING in Christ and God's Word and **SERVING** Christ and others."*

CONNECTING:

Ministry Center: We're finally there! Still Waters Coffee Co. took-up mobile residence in our Ministry Center with a few "soft openings" and they went well. Thursday the 10th they opened from 5-9 PM and had about 40 people come in. Also, a few early morning Thursdays from 6-9 went well. Some sat and chatted, some pulled-open their laptops and did some work, and lots of connections were made between staff and some old friends as well as some new ones. We are so excited to finally be able to have an opportunity to welcome in our Highlawn and Huntington neighbors and we need your prayers as "we" (as a church) are intentional about making connections.

For those who want to stay in-the-know as to where they will be around the city and in the Ministry Center you can ask to subscribe to texts that will send-out notifications to see where their next "Park the Carts" will be. Or you can do that now by texting "JOIN" to 833-383-7691. For October they already plan to be in the Ministry Center on Thursdays (1,8,16,22,29) and on Saturdays (3 and 9) It's an exciting time to be connected at Huntington First!

Highlawn Ministries: On the 3rd Friday of each month our Student Ministries has been hosting an Open Gym Night that's open to our entire Highlawn Community (and beyond). (Basketball, volleyball, cornhole, 9-Square and board games) It's been a great success in that there have been upwards of 25 in attendance each time since it started in July. Just one more great way to get connected with people who need people and especially Jesus!

THRIVING:

Thrive Groups: Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *"²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (NLT) Taking that Scripture to heart, we have started two brand new Thrive Groups. One is a Young Adult G group led by Pastor Sawyer and they meet every other Thursday evening in the Room 106 (Prayer/Sensory Room). They have met once with 10 people in attendance and have met for dinner as well. The other one is a "Book Club" Thrive Group led by Hannah Miller that begins Monday October 5th at 6:30

and meets in the Ministry Center every other Monday. The 1st book study is the book "Blessed Are the Spiraling". Contact either of these leaders to get plugged-in!

Newcomers Lunch: On October 25 we will begin a new reoccurring event intended to make deeper connections with people who are new to our church. This will be an opportunity for people who are new but have regularly attended to meet the Pastors and the Leadership Team. Please keep this in your prayers as we connect, and in your mind, as you share with your unchurched family and friends about our church. This will be a great way for HF to thrive as we grow and give newcomers the opportunity to find out more about us and get further connected with our Discipleship Ministries.

SERVING:

Trustees Projects: The garage will be getting a new roof, the parsonage will have a bedroom ceiling repaired from water damage, the stairwell will get a new coat of paint (*as will the courtyard doors*), and the Kitchenette in the Children's Ministry area will begin construction in the next few weeks. These are ongoing needs for our facilities to stay structurally sound and to be good stewards of the blessings we've been given, as well as projects that will help us minister as we are growing. Thank you for your continual tithes and gifts that keep us going!

Pastor's Note: There has been some significant growth in the past several months and we are so grateful. First, for the Lord's hand and secondly, for your faithfulness to give and serve. We have had 42 people go from "visitor" to "regular attender" status in the last church calendar year! God is truly faithful! Look for all of the new ways that you can personally be a part of the future here by serving.

I'm also grateful to be your Pastor and it's been my hope and purpose to be able to keep our church body informed about the exciting things happening here at Huntington First. If you ever find yourself in need, or just have a question, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, a Staff Pastor or a Leadership Team member. Let's all go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,
Pastor Marc

WEST VIRGINIA SOUTH DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



PASTOR & SPOUSE

Appreciation MONTH

OCTOBER 2026

"And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

*Thank You for Serving.
Thank You for Shepherding.
Thank You for Saying Yes
to God's Call.*

PRAY
FOR THEM.

ENCOURAGE
THEM.

SUPPORT
THEM.

APPRECIATE
THEM.

BLESS THEIR
FAMILIES.

*Faithful
People
Change
Lives*



FOR THEIR
PREACHING



FOR THEIR
PASTORAL CARE



FOR THEIR
LEADERSHIP



FOR THEIR
FAITHFULNESS



FOR THEIR
FAMILIES



FOR THEIR
SACRIFICE



FOR THE
FUTURE

WE SEE YOU. WE PRAY FOR YOU. WE APPRECIATE YOU.



*You Make
a Difference*