

## Welcome to the Highlands United Methodist Church

A joyous welcome to you! We are glad each of you has come to worship the Lord. We are a hearing looped church. Ask an usher if you need help with your hearing device.

## The 9:09 Bluegrass Service

### Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The 9:09 Band Members

Music "Away in a Manger"  
"The First Noel"

### Special Announcements\Joy Time

A Time to Offer our Gifts to God

A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross

Music "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Scripture Lesson for the Day Isaiah 35:1-10

A Word of Faith

Music "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Sending Forth

Closing Music "I'll Fly Away"

## HUMC Faith & Fellowship Center

### Foreign Currency Collection

Most folks who have traveled out of the USA have come home with a small amount of foreign money they had left over from their trip. Bring all that leftover foreign currency to HUMC. It doesn't matter what country it is from or how old it is. Coins and paper money from any country is wanted. We will convert all that money & add it to the generous donations we have already received to help pay for our new Faith and Fellowship Center. Put your foreign currency in an envelope & mark the country name on it. Then drop it in the collection plate on Sunday or drop it by the church office. Thanks for your generosity.

**New Challenge Gift** ~ Highlands United Methodist recently received a challenge gift of \$5,000 for the new Faith and Fellowship Center. The donor will make the gift if the challenge can be matched by December 31. The prospective donor would prefer that several people participate in this worthwhile effort, if possible. If you feel called to help out, we would be very appreciative. Just note that your donation is a matching gift on the check or an accompanying note.

**Disciple Bible Study 1** "Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" is an extensive 34 week study of the Old and New Testaments, which includes daily reading assignments and a weekly 2 hour group gathering. Pastor Randy will lead a new study beginning in January. The cost for the study manual is \$40.00. Please contact Pastor Randy if you're interested.

**Every Penny Counts...** So far the change from the piggy banks has totaled \$2,072.73, which goes to the Capital (Land/Building) Fund. Thank you!

**Attendance on** December 4: 9:09-96 10:50-159

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## The Mountain Top Ringers,

HUMC's handbell choir, play a variety of familiar carols for our 10:50 worship service on **Sunday, December 11th.**

## The Highlands Community Christian Chorale

**Sunday, December 11th at 5:00pm** at The Presbyterian Church with a reception following Sunday's presentation.

**Church-wide Caroling** Join us on **Tuesday, December 13th** as we spread Christmas cheer through song! Meet at HUMC at 3:15pm to carpool to Chestnut Hill, Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Home, & homes of our church family to participate in some good ole' Christmas caroling. Wear something festive!

## The Mountain Top Ringers

**Wednesday, December 14th – 6:00pm** The Mountain Top Ringers present their annual Christmas concert, *Ring Christmas Bells*, in the Sanctuary right after supper.

## Chancel Choir Cantata

**Sunday, December 18th** – during our 10:50 worship service. This year the Chancel Choir presents "Mass of the Shepherds", a cantata by Karl Kemper

## Blue Christmas Service/Longest Night Service

**Sunday, December 21st at 6:00pm**

The holidays are often the loneliest time of the year for those who have experienced loss in their lives. These losses can be the death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, death of a dear pet, loss of health, or any of the other losses people deal experience. The Blue Christmas/Longest Night service allows us to grieve the losses, to acknowledge our pain, and to take comfort in God's abiding love and care for us. Everyone is welcome to attend this ministry of our local churches.

## Christmas Carols

Come join us on the front porch of the sanctuary on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm as we sing Christmas carols. Everyone is invited to join in.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

**Saturday, December 24**

**5:00pm** a Family-Friendly Candlelight Service

**7:00 - 8:00pm** Drop-in Communion

**11:00pm** a Candlelight Service

## Christmas Day Merry Christmas!

Join us at 10:00am for a service of Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

All are invited to come.

**You can order a Poinsettia** for the 10:50 worship service on Sunday, December 18th on the church website, the kiosk, or pick up a form at one of the Information Stations.

**Proctors Needed** at the Highlands School. Please call 526-2147 to volunteer.

## Ministry Bags

For the month of **December** we're collecting canned tuna, canned chicken, canned salmon, spaghetti sauce, any dry pasta, macaroni & cheese, canned green beans, canned corn for the **Emergency Council**

## Church Studies & Activities: Everyone is Invited!

### Monday

**Joy Group for Seniors** from 11:30-1:30pm. For more info call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167. On December 15th, meet at the church to go to the Batson's home for Joy Group.

### Tuesday

**Men's Breakfast Club** meets at the Sports Page from 8:30-9:30am.

**Women's Emmaus Group** meets at 11:00am in the church parlor.

**Women's Bible Study** Join us at 7:00pm in the parlor for a 7-week study called *The Armor of God* By Priscilla Shirer. We view and discuss the DVD and study book lesson.

**Home Study Group** meets at 7:30pm each Tuesday at the Motz's house. The Lectionary Texts for the week are discussed.

### Wednesday

**Men's Emmaus Group** meets at 12:30pm.

**Wednesday Night Activities 6:00pm - Childcare provided**

**December 14** ~ Handbell Program

**December 21** ~ Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

**December 28** ~ No Activities

### Thursday

**Joy Group for Seniors** from 11:30-1:30pm.

**Intercessory Prayer Ministry** ~ Will resume on January 12, 2017

**Family Night Supper** on Wednesday will be a prepared meal. Please make your reservations on the attendance register today or call the office no later than 4pm on Monday. Menu: Italian meal

**Anyone interested in exploring church membership** at HUMC is invited to meet with Pastor Randy tomorrow, Monday December 12th at 7:00pm. We will meet in the parlor.

**Birthday Wishes to** (December 13) Jack Mayer; (December 15) Nin Bond; (December 16) Miranda Dotson

**Office Holiday Schedule** - Friday December 23rd and Monday Dec. 26th  
Friday December 30th and Monday Jan. 2nd

**Did you miss the children's cantata, *Come to the Manger*, last Sunday?** Or would you like to hear it again? Or would you like to recommend it to your friends? The children of the Highlands/Cashiers Children's Choir will be singing the piece once more as a Highlands community concert. The performance will be at First Presbyterian Church on December 18 at 3:30PM. The children's choir is accompanied by piano, a handbell ensemble, and a percussion ensemble. The past two performances have been received enthusiastically, so come support our community children's choir.

## join us for sunday school...

Adult classes  
nursery  
provided

**Buck's class** meets at Buck's Coffee Shop and is led by Wiley & Sarah Sloan. (9:30am)

**Seekers** meet in the Conference Room and is led by Steve Bruner (9:45am) Studying The Beatitudes

**The 10:10 class** meets in the Scout Room and is led by Bob Hood. (10:10am) Studying Adam Hamilton's book "Christianity and World Religions"

**Parent Community Class** meets at Buck's. The class is group led. Topic varies weekly. (10:00am)

## The 10:50am Traditional Worship Service

### Third Sunday of Advent

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal; † Congregation standing

Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer and meditation

Large print copies of the hymnals and Bible are available in the narthex.

#### Moments of Informal Worship

#### Pass the Peace

#### Church Announcements

**Opening Voluntary** *O Holy Night* -Adophe Adam, arr.Robert J. Hughes

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** Steve & Sherry Bruner

#### Opening Prayer

†Hymn of Praise *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* UMH #230

**Scripture Reading** **Matthew 11:2-11** pew Bible, p.11

**Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* UMH p.881

#### Children's Time

#### Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory** *Out Under the Sky* arr. Douglas E. Wagner

†Doxology *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

†Offering Prayer and Prayer for the Ministry Bags

†Hymn of the Word *"People, Look East"* UMH #202

#### Sharing of Our Concerns

*(If you would like your prayer request to be added to the prayer list in the bulletin please indicate on the prayer request card.)*

#### Silent Prayer

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Anthem** *Creation Will Be At Peace* -Anna Laura Page

**Scripture Reading** **Isaiah 35:1-10** pew Bible p.663

**Sermon** **What's Your Story?**

†Hymn of Faith *"What Child is This?"* UMH #219

†Dismissal with Blessing *"Star-Child"*

**Postlude** *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen* arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

## Donation Station

Check out our Donation Station across from the church office.

Here we collect items for various missions including:

**Food Pantry** - Items most needed: shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dishwashing liquid, canned fruit,. Anyone in need, either temporarily or regularly, may visit the Food Pantry on Mondays from 3:30 – 5:30pm. The Pantry is located behind HUMC on 3rd Street.

**Homeless Outreach** Sample size or hotel shampoos and soap. These are given to area homeless shelters.

**Life Challenge** - Life Challenge is a Christian Residential Center created to help people with life controlling issues. We support this program by providing gently-used clothing, household items, and small furniture for their Resale Shop in Dillsboro.

**Printer Cartridges:** Collected for Highlands School. Please bring in a Ziplock bag.

**Eye Glasses** - Glasses are for multiple mission projects

**Can Tabs** - collected for the Ronald McDonald House

**Box Tops for Education** - Collected for the Highlands School

**Blank Note Cards** - Used for special projects

## Youth News

**After School** ~ ALL youth, grades 6-12 are invited to come after school on Wednesdays to do homework, have a snack, and simply hang out. Dinner is at 5:15, and at 6pm there is a program or study each week ending at 7pm.

**Attention All Youth** ~ Youth Bible Study on Sundays is at Buck's Coffee Shop from 10:15-11:15. ALL youth grades 6-12 are invited to this time led by Patsy Wilson and Tim Moseley.

**Sunday Youth Fellowship!!** The youth meet at 5pm for Sunday Youth Fellowship. Bring a friend :)

## Children's News

**HUMC Kids' Christmas Party** - We will meet following Wednesday Night Supper at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 14th. Please bring a wrapped, inexpensive gift for a white elephant gift exchange. Please be sure the gift is gender neutral. I hope you'll join us and invite a friend!

**3,4,5 Wednesday Gang** Come join this energetic group and invite a friend :) Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Join us for a Christmas Party on December 14th!

**Sunday School** ~ Elementary aged children meet each Sunday morning at 9:45am in the children's Sunday School room downstairs with Mr. Luke & Ms. Tricia.

**A Nursery** is provided Sunday mornings for children birth- through 4 years of age starting at 9:00am downstairs. Please see an usher or greeter for help locating the nursery.

**The 9:09 Service:** Sermon: Jennifer Forrester; Worship Leader: Tay Bronaugh; Technologist: TBA

**The 9:09 Band:** Lee Ladensack - Vocals & guitar; Dakota Waddell - Bass; Charles Wood - Banjo; Jim Yoder - Mandolin

**10:50 Worship Leaders:** Sermon: Jennifer Forrester; Liturgist: Randy Lucas; Minister of Music: Les Scott; Pianist: Sherry Bruner; Organist: Jane Lineberger; Lay Reader: Mary Ann Ray; Children's Time: Wiley Sloan; Acolyte: Vivian Kennedy

**Serving our 10:50 Service:** Ushers: Team 2: Team Leader:Griffin Bell; Team Members: Bill Reynolds, Frank Buskirk, Tom Stribling, Kenny Youmans, King Young



LOVE **G**od. Offer **CHRIST** to All.

Highlands United Methodist Church  
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December 11, 2016

Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor  
Jennifer Forrester, Assistant Pastor  
Les Scott, Minister of Music  
Randy Harry, District Superintendent  
Paul Leeland, Bishop

