

## 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**

**Music** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"  
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings"

**Special Announcements/Joy Time**

**A Time to Offer our Gifts to God**

**A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross**

**Music** "Away in a Manger"

**Scripture** Luke 2:1-20

**A Word of Faith**

**Reception of New Members**

**Music** "Joy to the World"

**Sending Forth**

**Closing Music** "I'll Fly Away"

**Today, we're delighted to welcome new members** to our HUMC Family. We gladly welcome Tom & Susan Herring, Paul & Ruth McLarty, and Rick & Sharon Willeford. We give thanks for your presence among us and look forward to growing with you in Christian Discipleship."

#### Ministry Bags

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

**Facebook Live** ~ Can't make it to church on a Sunday? You can now watch our worship services each Sunday on Facebook. Any questions just call the church office.

**Birthday Wishes to** (December 27) Steven Bloedow, Donnie Edwards, Denise Kolousek; (December 29) Beth Bowser; (December 30) Valerie Long

**2018 Disciple Bible Study** ~ HUMC is offering two great opportunities to engage in meaningful Bible Study beginning in January. Disciple Bible Study I (Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study) and Disciple Bible Study II (Into the Word, Into the World). To sign up, or for more information, please email Pastor Randy at [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com) by January 7th, 2018.

**Happy Anniversary to** (December 27) Jason & Samantha Moore

Adult Classes  
Nursery  
provided

Join us for Sunday School...

**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 book of Hebrews.

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

**The 10:10 class** meets in the Scout Room and is led by Bob Hood. (10:10am) They are studying "Desperate Women of the Bible".

## Children's News

**Children's Sunday School Class** ~ Pastor Randy and Kathy are teaching a Sunday School Class for children K - 5. All children are invited for a fun time of learning together. Each Sunday in December, Kathy will meet the children at the Christmas Tree in the Church Sanctuary at 10am and lead them to class. The time for the Children's Sunday School Class is 10:00 - 10:40am. All children are encouraged and invited to come and join in the fun!

**3,4,5 Wednesday Gang** ~ 3rd, 4th, & 5th Gang meet on Wednesday nights after supper from 6-7pm and are taught by Amanda Wasco. Bring your 3rd-5th graders for dynamic, biblically-based activities and instruction!

**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.

## 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.

### 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 7pm in the church parlor for a 6 week study of the book "How Can I See the Light When It's So Dark? Journey to a Thankful Heart", by Linda Douty.

**Home Study Group** meets at 7:00pm 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 27th** - No Activities

**January 3rd & 10th** - Lectionary Text Study with Jennifer Forrester & Fred Motz

### Thursday

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

**Circle of Prayer Ministry** ~ Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.

### Sunday

**Disciple Bible Study** meets at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

# CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

## 5:00pm a Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Come and bring the entire family for a festive celebration of Jesus' birth. This service will include a Children's Christmas Pageant, Holy Communion and candle lighting. The approximate length of this service will be 1 hour.

## 7:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist Service

This 30 minute service of Holy Communion is offered with busy Christmas Eve Schedule's in mind, and will provide you with an opportunity to gather at the altar with your family, and to receive Communion in a quiet and intimate setting.

## 9:00pm a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

This quiet service combines Scripture and congregational caroling. This half-hour service will end in candlelight.

## 11:45pm a Midnight Eucharist

This is a new addition to our Christmas Eve Schedule, and will provide the opportunity to greet Christmas Day at the Lord's Table. The approximate length of this service will be 15 - 20 minutes.

All Christmas Eve services will take place in the sanctuary.



## HUMC Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed December 25th, January 1st and 2nd. December 26th - 29th, the church office will be open 10am - 2pm. Financial Secretary Keith Crawford will be in the office Tuesday, December 26th.

## January Office Schedule

January 8th the office will be closed for a Staff Planning Retreat.

**The Altar Flowers** in the sanctuary this morning are given in celebration of Jason & Samantha Moore's 19th wedding anniversary on December 27th by the Brandon Picklesimer Family.

**There will be no Family Night Supper or Activities on Wednesday.**

**The Community Table** is a weekly meal for everyone in the community. There is **NO cost** and **NO** need to make a reservation. Join us at **6pm each Tuesday** at the Highlands Community Building.

**Church Staff:** Rev. Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor; Rev. Jennifer Forrester, Assistant Pastor, Les Scott, Minister of Music; Sonja DeFoor, Office Manager; Keith Crawford, Financial Secretary; Sherry Bruner, Pianist; Marlene & Gary Nix, Sextons; Ann Rose, Food Services Director; Terri Kennedy, Nursery Attendant; Rev. Tommie Jackson, Pastoral Psychotherapist

## The 10:50am Traditional Worship Service

### Fourth 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.

#### Gathering

#### Welcome/Passing of the Peace

#### Church Announcements

Opening Voluntary *Ave Maria* -Franz Schubert

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Kevin & Nancy Mobley

#### Opening Prayer

†Hymn of Praise *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"* UMH #240

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:26-38** pew Bible, p. 56

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

Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory *Carol of the Bells* arr. Kristin Campbell

†Doxology *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*  
*(sung to the tune of The First Noel)*

#### †Offering Prayer

†Hymn of the Word *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* UMH #220

#### 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.)*

Call to Prayer *Lord, Hear Our Prayer* -Mark Patterson

#### 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 *No Wind at the Window* -John Bell

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:1-20** pew Bible, p. 58

Sermon **The Christmas Gift**

The Baptismal Covenant I UMH p. 33

†Hymn of Faith *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* UMH #218

†Dismissal with Blessing *"Star-Child"*

Postlude *Joy to the World* arr. Marilyn Ham

## 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 Sunday School!!!!** from 10:00-10:45. Come Join us!!!!

**The youth meet each Wednesday night** from 6-7. Everyone's invited to come to dinner before youth at 5:15!

#### HUMC 2018 Church Leadership Retreat

A Church Leadership Retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd from 10am - 4pm at the Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, Georgia. This planning retreat is designed for all members of the Church Council, SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Ministries Team, and anyone else interested in joining in this time of strategic planning and visioning together. Since the Retreat Center will be providing our lunch, we need to supply them with an accurate number of attendees. If you plan to attend, please contact Sonja in the church office at (828) 526-3376, or at [highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com) by Friday, January 26th.

Parsonage (828) 526-2465 ~ e-mail addresses: Church: [highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com), Randy: [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com), Jennifer: [humcjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:humcjennifer@gmail.com), Les: [les.h.scott@gmail.com](mailto:les.h.scott@gmail.com), Keith Crawford: [finsec13@gmail.com](mailto:finsec13@gmail.com) CCLI # 1455665

**The 9:09 Service:** Sermon: Randy Lucas; Worship Leader: Craig Eister; Greeter: Sandy Carlton

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

**10:50 Worship Leaders:** Sermon: Randy Lucas; Liturgist: Jennifer Forrester; Minister of Music: Les Scott; Pianist: Sherry Bruner; Lay Reader: Patti Moschouris; Violin: Melinda Womack; Violin: Debbie Lassiter; Cello: Michael Sebastian

**Serving our 10:50 Service:** Ushers: Team 3: Team Leader: Kenneth Crowe; Team Members: Alan Marsh, Dave Cashion, Luke Osteen, Trisha Smith



LOVE God. Offer CHRIST to All.

Highlands United Methodist Church  
Post Office Box 1959  
Highlands, North Carolina 28741  
website: [www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)  
(828) 526-3376  
December 24, 2017

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

