

# 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	Geri Crowe, Wilma Gordon, & Barbara James	
Music	<i>“Give Me That Old Time Religion”</i> <i>“I Shall Not Be Moved”</i>	
Special Announcements\Joy Time		
A Time to Offer our Gifts to God		
A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross (During this time you may bring your Ministry Bag to the altar.)		
Music	<i>“Silent Night”</i>	
Scripture	Matthew 3:1-12	
A Word of Faith		
Music	<i>“Down by the Riverside”</i>	
Sending Forth		
Closing Music	<i>“I’ll Fly Away”</i>	

### Ministry Bags

Each month we collect items for different ministries. For the month of **December** we're collecting: pasta and sauces, canned milk, canned vegetables, and canned meat for **The Emergency Council**.

Thank you to everyone who supports our monthly ministries.

**Attendance on December 1st** 9:09-132 10:50-71

**If you would like to read scripture** in the 10:50 service please contact Sonja in the church office.

**The altar flowers** in the sanctuary this morning are given by Gwen Futch in honor of Sidney's 80th birthday.

**Birthday Wishes to** (December 8) Tom Stribling; (December 9) Claire Neely; (December 10) Carol Bailey, Bill Hall, Pamela Potts; (December 13) Jack Mayer

**Now Hiring - Nursery Worker** ~ 8:30am-12:00 every Sunday morning during worship services, Wednesday nights from 5:45 - 7:00pm, and various events. See Christine Murphy for more details.

**Women's Brunch** ~ Saturday, **January 25th** from 10:00-1:00pm. Featuring Lee Lyons-Master Story Teller. \$15 per person or \$120 per table of 8. All proceeds benefit the HUMC F&FC Fund. Contact Gwen Futch for reservations at 843-267-8559.

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your tithes and offerings on the website: [www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)

You can also give on the kiosk in the Faith & Fellowship Center

# Giving

Operating Fund ~ Year-to-Date - 10/31/19		
	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$601,480	\$623,540
Expenses	\$598,290	\$644,720
Net Income (deficit)	\$3,190	(\$21,180)
Faith & Fellowship Center ~ Year-to-Date - 10/31/19		
Bank Loan Balance	\$1,135,630	
Unrestricted Capital Cash	\$338,990	
Balance Due	\$796,640	

## Sunday School for All

### Adult Sunday School Classes

**The Apostles' class** meets in the church parlor and is led by Wiley & Sarah Sloan. (9:30am)

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



**The 10:10 class** meets in the scout room and is led by Bob Hood. (10:00am)

**Crossroads** meets between services ~ 20's -50's - Study-Social Activities-Service Projects

**Children's Sunday School** - Meet in the Children's Sunday School Room at 10:00am.

**Youth Sunday Chats!** - Meet in the Youth Center between services.



To receive Pastor Randy's **daily email devotions**, "Ruminations and Reflections", please email him at [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com)

To receive **church email updates and news** please email Sonja at [highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com)



**Like us on Facebook** ~ Can't make it to church on a Sunday? You can now watch our worship services each Sunday on Facebook. Look for the latest happenings and church news.

Scan the **QR Code** on your smart phone to go to the church website Find out about upcoming events, ministries, how to serve and much more.



# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Breakfast with Santa** ~ On Saturday, **December 14th** join us for a very special family tradition! Families are invited to gather at 8:30am for breakfast followed by a visit from Santa Claus! Reservations are requested as space is limited, so please call the church office at 526-3376 by Wednesday, December 11th. Suggested donation of \$10 per family

**The Highlands Community Christian Chorale** Saturday, **December 14th** & Sunday, **December 15th** at 5:00pm at The Episcopal Church with a reception following Sunday's presentation.

**You can order a Poinsettia** for the 10:50 worship service on Sunday, **December 15th** on the church website, the kiosk, or pick up a form at one of the Information/Donation Stations.

**Church-wide Caroling** ~ Join us on Wednesday, **December 18th** as we spread Christmas cheer through song! Meet at HUMC at 3:30pm 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** will present their annual Christmas concert on **December 18th** at 6:00pm - right after our regular church supper. This concert will feature Christmas songs, both sacred and secular, a few familiar sing-alongs, some special children's songs, and a surprise (shhhh) ending.

**Blue Christmas Service/Longest Night Service** Saturday, **December 21st** at 5:00pm - 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. This year the service will be held at the Presbyterian Church

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
**Tuesday, December 24**

**5:00pm ~ a Family-Oriented Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Come and bring the entire family for a festive celebration of Jesus' birth. This service will include our Paper Bag Pageant - a kid-friendly, interactive version of lessons and carols where all children present are invited and welcome to participate as we celebrate Jesus' birth. 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 service will provide the opportunity to greet Christmas Day at the Lord's Table. The approximate length of this service will be 15 - 20



The 10:50am Traditional Worship Service  
Second 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 Canon in D -Johann Pachelbel, arr. Sharon E. Rogers

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Keith & Janice Hall

Opening Prayer

†Advent Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH #230

Scripture Reading Romans 15:4-13 pew Bible, p.163

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed UMH p.881

Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory Christmas Dreams -Linda R. Lamb  
(During this time you may bring your Ministry Bag to the altar.)

†Doxology Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #94  
(sung to the tune of The First Noel)

†Offering Prayer

†Hymn of the Word “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice” TFWS #2089

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 Hear Our Prayer -George Whelpton

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 Bring a Torch -Jeanette Isabella, arr. Linda R. Lamb

Scripture Reading Matthew 3:1-12 pew Bible, p.2

Sermon Revival at the River

†Hymn of Faith “Bless Be the God of Israel” UMH #209

Dismissal with Blessing "Star-Child"

Postlude Hallelujah Chorus -G.F. Handel, arr. John A. Behnke



Check out our  
Donation Stations  
across from the church  
office and in the F&FC.

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 women 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

**Prayer Bear Ministry** - Gently used small stuffed bears

**Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic** - new toothbrushes and sample size toothpaste

**Humane Society** - food and treats for dogs and cats

**9:09 Potluck Breakfast ~ December 29th** will be potluck at the 9:09. Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share by 8:30am.

**Happy Anniversary to** (December 9) John & Marjorie Crowe

**Wednesday Evening Activities for Youth**  
6:00-7:00pm ~ Meet in big preschool room.

**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. Will not have a meal on December 24th & 31st or January 7th.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** - If your birthday or anniversary is not listed in the bulletin please contact the church office with your dates!

Post Office Box 1959, Highlands, North Carolina 28741 ~ (828) 526-3376  
website: www.highlandsmethodist.org

Parsonage (828) 526-2465 ~ e-mail addresses: Church: highlandsumc@icloud.com, Randy: randyhumc@icloud.com, Christine Murphy: christinehumc@icloud.com:  
Les: les.h.scott@gmail.com, Keith Crawford: finsec13@gmail.com, Kristy Lewis: kkltarheel@yahoo.com CCLI # 1455665

**Church Staff:** Rev. Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor; Les Scott, Minister of Music; Sonja DeFoor, Office Manager; Keith Crawford, Financial Secretary; Christine Murphy, Director of Children & Youth Ministries; Sherry Bruner, Pianist; Marlene & Gary Nix, Sextons; Kristy Lewis, Food Services Director; Terri Kennedy, Nursery Attendant

**The 9:09 Service:** Sermon: Randy Lucas; Worship Leader: Ken Knight; Greeters: Team 4; Technologist: Elizabeth Gordon

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

**10:50 Worship Leaders:** Sermon: Randy Lucas; Minister of Music: Les Scott; Accompanist: Sherry Bruner; Lay Reader: Paula Gordon

**Serving our 10:50 Service:** Ushers: Team 1: Team Leader: Nin Bond; Team Members: Richard Melvin, Ken Knight, Bob & Nancy Sutton

Second Sunday of Advent



LOVE God. Offer CHRIST to All.

Highlands United  
Methodist Church  
December 8, 2019