

# Welcome to the Highlands United Methodist Church

A joyous welcome to you!  
We are glad each of you has come to worship the Lord.

## The 9:09 Bluegrass Service

Welcome

Music “This is the Day”  
“Shall We Gather at the River”

A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross

Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer

Joys

A Time to Offer our Gifts to God

Music “Wings of a Dove” 909 Band

Scripture Acts 1:11

A Word of Faith On Not Looking Up Toward Heaven

Music “Calling You”

Sending Forth

Closing Music “I’ll Fly Away”

Bishops Carter and Willimon  
to preach at HUMC in June

We have a unique opportunity to hear from two of the leading voices in The United Methodist Church in the coming weeks, as we welcome the resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, Bishop Kenneth Carter, and retired bishop of the Alabama - West Florida Conference and current Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Duke Divinity School, Bishop Will Willimon.

**Three Week Sunday School Class - May 21st, May 28th and June 4th at 10am in the Parlor.** You’re invited to join Pastor Randy for a conversation around Bishop Kenneth Carter’s latest book, *Unrelenting Grace - A United Methodist Way of Life* during the Sunday School hour, beginning this Sunday, May 21st. Copies of the book will be provided. Bishop Carter will be preaching at HUMC on **June 11th**.

**June Book Study** - You’re invited to join Pastor Randy in June for a conversation Bishop Will Willimon’s latest book, *Don’t Look Back - Methodist Hope for What Comes Next*. Copies of the book will be provided. Please contact Pastor Randy if you’re interested. Bishop Willimon will be preaching at HUMC on **June 25th**.

## Church Happenings:

**Summer Eucharist** - Our weekly service of Holy Communion from **June - August begins Sunday, June 4th**. The service begins at **8:30am** in the church sanctuary, and will be approximately 20 - 30 minutes in length.

**Joy Group** ~ Our JOY Group (Just Older Youth) meets for lunch and fellowship on **Thursdays at 11:30am** in the F&FC.

**Children & Youth on Wednesdays** - All children and youth (elementary - high school) are invited to join us after supper on Wednesdays for fun and fellowship.

**Blood Drive** ~ **Monday, May 22nd**, from **10:00-2:00pm** in the old Fellowship Hall. To make an appointment call Kristy at 526-3376, ext. 107 or call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HighlandsUMC.

**UMM Breakfast** - The next Methodist Men’s Breakfast will be **Saturday, June 10th @ 8:30am**. Come join us for great fellowship and food. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

**Vacation Bible School** ~ **June 19-22 - 5:15-8:00 pm** (Dinner Included) - Ages 3-Rising 6th Graders. Adult volunteers are needed to lead a station or be a group leader. Please let Elizabeth Gordon know if you can help by Sunday, June 4th at 828-200-0805 or elizabethrobyn244@gmail.com.

**Author's Tea** ~ **Saturday, July 29th** - We're looking for volunteers. Please call Barb Recktenwald at (612) 730-8776 or email at bjarstudios@gmail.com or Gay Kattel at 526-2746.

**The rose on the altar** is given in honor of the birth of Cecilia Louise Brown, daughter of Caleb & Amanda Brown, granddaughter of Michael & Lori Wasco.

**Duke Student** - We’re delighted to welcome this summer’s Duke Student, Nicole Kallsen. Nicole will spend 10 weeks in Highlands this summer, from **May 28th - August 6th**. She’s excited to meet you and is looking forward to being in ministry this summer with our HUMC family.

**Denominational Conversations With Pastor Randy** - In addition to meeting one-on-one with anyone with questions or concerns about the current season of The United Methodist Church, along with providing weekly links to “Ask the UMC - Is the United Methodist Church Really?....” Pastor Randy is offering periodic opportunities for group conversations around denominational questions. The next “Denominational Conversation with Pastor Randy” will be **Thursday, June 8th at 5:30pm**. We will meet in the Old Fellowship Hall.

## Ministry Bags

Each month we collect items for different ministries. For the month of **May** we're collecting we're collecting dog & cat food, treats, toys, and bedding for the Humane Society.

## Wednesday Night Supper and Program

Join us for Supper at **5:15pm** in the F&FC for a prepared meal. Then plan to stay for this week’s program, as Don Germano begins a series on the “The Seven Signs of Jesus in John’s Gospel.”

**Attendance on May 14th** 909 - 168 11:00 - 59

## Giving

Here’s a report of your faithful giving  
on May 7th -

**General Operating Fund** -  
\$7,517.00

**Internal Restricted** -  
Pastor’s Fund - \$250.00  
Highlands Emergency Council - \$100.00  
Bear Ministry - \$25.00  
Children’s Discretionary Fund - \$20.00  
Youth Discretionary Fund - \$20.00

**Our 2023 year-to-date financial report  
through April** -  
**Income** - \$93,979  
**Expenses** - \$155,757 ( -\$61,778)

## Current Studies and Small Groups

### Pastor’s Summer Sunday School Class

With a very busy summer schedule, Pastor Randy’s Summer Sunday School Class will begin a bit later this year. The tentative start-date is **July 16th**. This Summer we will read selected works by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books will be provided. Please let Pastor Randy know if you would like to be part of the class - randyhumc@icloud.com.

### Seekers Sunday School Class

The class is currently studying the book of Romans. Meeting time - **Sundays at 10:00am** in the financial secretary’s office. Contact - Steve Bruner - stevebruner@gmail.com.

### Bob Hood's Sunday School Class

The class is doing a new study, “Blessed. A study of Revelation” on **Sundays at 10:00am** in the former Scout room. Contact - Bob Hood at bobhood3@gmail.com.

### Home Lectionary Study Group

A weekly study around the upcoming week lectionary readings. Meeting time - **Tuesdays at 7:00pm**. Contact - Fred Motz at bigbearpen@gmail.com

### Men's Tuesday Breakfast

This group meets for breakfast at the Blue Bike on **Tuesday** mornings at **8:30am**. They are currently studying They are currently studying the book, *The Generosity Habit* by Matthew Kelly.

### Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

The group is doing a 6-week study by Beth Moore is titled *The Quest: an excursion toward intimacy with God*. Come join us for the DVD lessons followed by discussion in the church parlor. They meet on **Tuesdays at 7:00pm** in the Parlor. Contact - Debbie Brock at debbiedharris@gmail.com or Sara Mayer at scmayer@nctv.com.

**Community Table** - Come join us on the **first Tuesday** of every month at the Highlands Community Building at **6pm** for a great time of food and fellowship!

The 11:00am Traditional Worship Service

Ascension Sunday

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.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

†Processional Hymn "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" UMH #312

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed UMH p.881

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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.

Joys

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jesus Shall Reign -Hatton/arr. Organ, Lovelace & Morgan

†Doxology "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #94

†Offering Prayer

Anthem Canon of Praise Pachelbel/arr. Hopson

Scripture Acts 1:11

Sermon On Not Looking Up Toward Heaven

†Hymn of Faith "In Christ, There is No East or West" UMH #548

Dismissal with Blessing

Choral Acclamation Alleluia. Christ is Risen. Crowe

Postlude Crown Him With Many Crowns -Elvey/arr. Swann

Name Tags ~ If anyone would like a name tag please contact the church office.

Happy Birthday to (May 21) Anne Tate; (May 23) Kyle Gabbard; (May 25) Kenneth Crowe; (May 27) McKinley Moseley, Deborah Scott

Happy Anniversary to (May 24) Paul & Ruth McLarty, King & Janet Young; (May 26) Art & Vicki Heller

Altar Flowers - The Altar Guild of HUMC welcomes the gift of flowers for our worship services. Flowers may be given to remember or honor loved ones, to give thanks, or to celebrate a special event. The cost for altar arrangements is \$60. Please fill out one of the forms beneath the calendar, outside Randy's office, and place in Sonja's box across from the church office.

Have a Prayer Need?

To put someone on the Prayer List please call the church office (526-3376) or Joy Still (526-8097). Please provide an address of the person(s) for whom you are requesting prayer so we may send a card to let them know we are praying for them.

We will keep names on the Short Term list two weeks & the Long Term list four weeks. At the end of two or four weeks your loved one will be removed from the list. Please contact the church office again for your loved one if you wish for them to be put back on the list. This way we can be sure our list is kept up to date.

Prayer List

Short Term: Dan Gordon, Jon Michaels, Jeff Miller, Dr. Selby

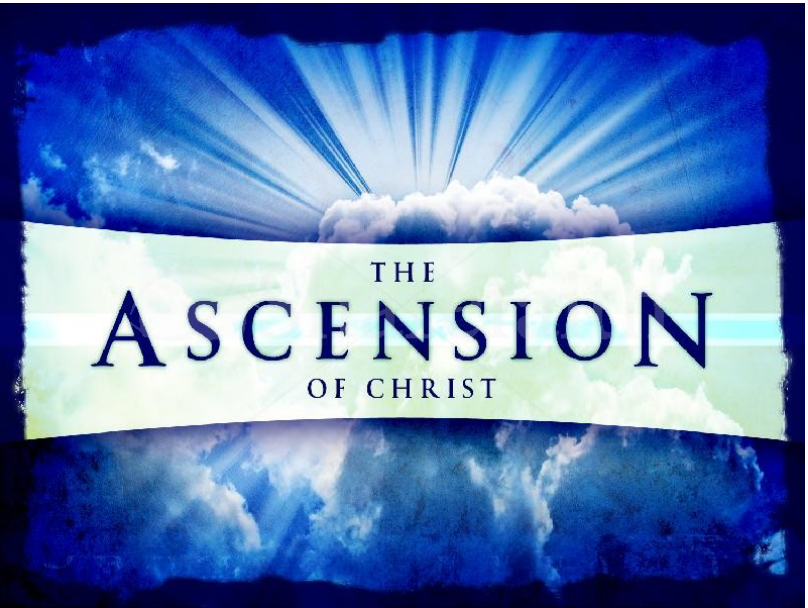
Long Term: Lisa Bullard, Mary Beth Brody, Phil Caldwell, Dort Casey, Dan Chapman, John & Gisele Hall, Judy Gooding, Bob & Gail Granger, Joyce Griffin, Lauren Harrel, Kim Hay, Bob Heim, Sarah Hibbits, Bob and Sammie Houston, Jeff James, Carol King, Nancy LaCoe, Trent Lehrkamp, Dana Martin, Verlin Morton, JC Norris, Judy Pendergrass, Michelle Pendergrass, Anne Prince, Erika Taylor, Mike Thompson, Olan Vinson

Join Our Prayer Circle

We welcome you to join our Prayer Circle to lift up those who are in need of prayer. Prayer requests are emailed to the Prayer Circle as they come in. Please email Sonja at highlandsumc@icloud.com to be a part of this ministry.

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, Keith Crawford:  
finsec13@gmail.com, Kristy Martin: kkltarheel@yahoo.com CCLI # 1455665

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor; Sonja DeFoor, Office Manager; Keith Crawford, Financial Secretary; Sherry Bruner & Susan Clearman, Pianists; Marlene & Gary Nix, Sextons; Kristy Martin, Food Services Director; Michael Crowe, Interim Volunteer Choir Director



LOVE God. Offer CHRIST to All.

Highlands United Methodist Church

May 21, 2023