

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 "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"
"Life's Railway to Heaven"

Joys

A Time to Offer our Gifts to God

A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross

Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Music "Company of Friends" Darren & Jennifer

Scripture Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

A Word of Faith Sermon Series - The Parables of Jesus
Sermon #3 - The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Music "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Sending Forth

Closing Music "I'll Fly Away"

Blood Drive ~ Monday, September 25th, 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.

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

Seeking After-school Volunteers

Do you have 2 hours a week to give?

Do you enjoy tutoring and mentoring elementary children?

Do you enjoy reading, hiking, doing crafts/art,
and learning more about our community?

Then the After-School Program is a perfect place to volunteer!

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering for this vital ministry that has been part of HUMC for over 15 years, please contact Pastor Christine (call the office or email christinehumc@icloud.com).

Attendance on July 23rd 909 - 201 11:00 - 62

Church Happenings

Summer Eucharist - You're invited to join us for a brief service of Holy Communion Sundays at 8:30am through August in the Church Sanctuary. These services are 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.

UMM Breakfast - The next Methodist Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, August 12th @ 8:30am**. August' guest speaker will feature HUMC's David Hodgson. His presentation will be "30 Minutes With a Counselor". Come join us for great fellowship and food. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

Ministry Bags

Each month we collect items for different ministries. For the month of **July** we're collecting **school supplies**: notebook paper, scissors, crayons, markers, Kleenex, disinfectant wipes, binder notebooks, & spiral notebooks.

Online Giving - The charge for online gifts will no longer appear on your credit card statement as Servant Keeper. It will either read easyTithe or church today. If anyone has any questions, please let Keith know. Thank you.

A Denominational Conversation 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, Pastor Randy is offering an opportunity for a small group conversation around denominational questions. You're invited to attend "A Denominational Conversation with Pastor Randy" **August 10th at 5:30pm**. We will meet in the Old Fellowship Hall.

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!

Wednesday Night Supper

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper at **5:15pm** in the Faith and Fellowship Center for a potluck supper. Please bring a dish to share.

"Creative Witness" Class concludes - Today is the final class in the summer series led by our Duke Summer Ministry Intern, Nicole Kallsen, Creative Witness. Even if you haven't attended any of the previous classes, you're invited to join in this learning and fellowship together. You can reach her at Nicole.kallsen@duke.edu for more information.

Ministry Minute: If you love doing jigsaw puzzles, please feel free to borrow one from the library in the Faith and Fellowship Center lobby!

WHLC Radio - Did you know Pastor Randy offers a weekly radio message on WHLC, 104.5FM in Highlands? It airs Sunday mornings at approximately **11:00am**.

Here is a report of your faithful giving
for July 23rd -

Giving

General Operating Fund -
\$7,061.10

Internal Restricted Accounts -
Highlands Emergency Council - \$100.00
Library - \$100.00
Joy Group - \$50.00
Pastor's Fund - \$50.00

**Our 2023 year-to-date financial report
through June** -

Income - \$248,970
Expenses - \$323,955 (-\$74,985)

Current Studies and Small Groups

Pastor's Summer Sunday School Class

Pastor Randy's Summer Sunday School Class is now underway. We are currently reading Barbara Brown Taylor's, *An Altar in the World*. Books are provided. If you don't have a Sunday School Class, come and join us. We meet in the sanctuary chapel at approximately **10:00am on Sunday**.

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 **8:15am**. They are currently studying They are currently studying the book, *A Visit from John Wesley* by our own Don Germano.

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

In July and August join us for Ladies' VBS, that is, Vacation Bible Study for Fellowship, Fun and Games. No books! No homework! Just lots of joy and laughter together. Join us each week or plug in when you can. They meet on **Tuesdays at 7:00pm** in the Parlor. Contact - Debbie Brock at debbieharris@gmail.com or Sara Mayer at scmayer@nctv.com.

New Library Books! Come check out a library book! They are located by the Donation Station in the F&FC.

The 11:00am Traditional Worship Service

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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** *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"* UMH #127

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 *Blessings* arr. Melody Bober

†**Doxology** *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"* UMH #95

†Offering Prayer

Anthem *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* Sacred Harp tune
arr. Mark Schweizer

Scripture **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Sermon **Sermon Series - The Parables of Jesus**
Sermon #3 - The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

†**Hymn of Faith** *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"* UMH #452

Dismissal with Blessing

Choral Response *Let Us Go Forth* Crowe

Postlude *Going Home* arr. Brad Nix

Happy Anniversary to (July 30) Dabs & Jan Potts; (August 1) Jim & Sheila Bryson, Jim & Cecil Hines; (August 3) Robert & Jodie Zoellner

Happy Birthday to (August 2) Craig Eister, Davis Moore; (August 3) Matt Clary, Dana Gordon; (August 4) Kim Chenoweth; (August 5) Jan Lard

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: Ward Lawson, Rachael Schuelke, Dr. Selby, Tubby Zachary

Long Term: Charley Bethel, Lisa Bullard, Nancy Bonner, Mary Beth Brody, Amy Henderson Brown, Phil Caldwell, Dort Casey, Dan Chapman, Bonnie Chandler, Chris Crowe, Cristin Foreman, Judy Gooding, Chris Green, Bob Heim, Sarah Hibbits, Bob and Sammie Houston, Jeff James, Carol King, Dana Martin, Rhone Michael, Verlin Morton, JC Norris, Judy Pendergrass, Michelle Pendergrass, Anne Prince, Lauren Smith, Erika Taylor, Bonnie Tyler, 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.

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website: www.highlandsmethodist.org

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

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor; Rev. Christine Murphy, Assistant 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; Nicole Kallsen, Duke Summer Ministry Intern



LOVE God. Offer CHRIST to All.

Highlands United
Methodist Church

July 31, 2023