

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		
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	Craig, Doug, & Caroline	
Music	<i>“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”</i> <i>“I Am Bound for the Promised Land”</i>	
Joys		
A Time to Offer our Gifts to God		
A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross		
Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer		
Music	<i>“Christmas Time’s a Coming”</i>	909 Band
Scripture	Mark 13:24-37	
Holy Communion		
A Word of Faith	Keep Awake	
Music	<i>“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”</i>	
Sending Forth		
Closing Music	<i>“I’ll Fly Away”</i>	

**Christmas for a Cause** - Please visit our giving trees in the FFC lobby or outside Sonja's office. The envelopes list some of the ministries we support. Choose one of ministries, or one of your own, and write a check to HUMC. Place your envelope in an offering plate or return to the office, and we will mail all of the donations!

**Advent Book Study** - Pastor Randy is leading an Advent study on the book, *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World*, by Dr. Michael Brown. Books will be provided. The class meets in the church parlor. If you would like to be part of this study, please let Pastor Randy know - randyhumc@icloud.com. Dr. Brown will be preaching at HUMC on December 10th.

**Toys for Tots** - Boxes are ready for donations! Accepting new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls of all ages.

**Coat Drive** - HUMC is partnering with the Highlands Mountain Top Rotary Club and other area churches to provide coats for children and adults this winter. Please bring your coat donations to the box provided in the lobby of the Faith and Fellowship Center. Thank you!

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Breakfast with Santa** ~ On **Saturday, December 9th** 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!

**Wreaths Across America Ceremony and Wreath Laying** - **December 16th** at the Highlands Community Building - **12 noon**. Shuttle to the cemetery provided.

**You can order a Poinsettia** for the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, **December 17th**. Please complete the insert in the bulletin.

**Children's Christmas Play** - "A Christmas Surprise" by Jennifer Carter. The Play will be performed **Wednesday, December 20th** at **6pm** (following supper). Actors are the After-School Children... Christine Murphy is the play director and Jan Potts is Music Director.

**Sunday Morning - December 24th**

Christmas Eve breakfast potluck. Dust off your favorite Christmas casserole recipes and bring to share for Christmas Eve breakfast at **830am**. (F&FC)

909 Bluegrass Worship Service - **9:09am** (F&FC)

11:00am Traditional Worship Service - **11:00am** (Sanctuary)

**Christmas Eve Services**  
*All held in Church Sanctuary*

**5:00pm** - Family-Oriented Candlelight Service

**7:00pm** - Christmas Eve Eucharist (approx. 30 min.)

**9:00pm** - Lessons and Carols (approx. 30 min.)

**11:45pm** - Midnight Eucharist (approx. 15-20 min.)

**Covenant Renewal Service**

On **December 31st** join us as we ring in the New Year in this special combined worship service.

**Coffee & pastries** will be available.

**10:00am** - Combined Worship (F&FC)

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

**Messy Church ~ Today - 4:30-6:30pm** in the F&FC. Theme: "Messy Christmas". Join us for a worship service like no other! **All-Ages**, Creativity, Celebration, Fellowship and Food!

**UMM Breakfast** ~ There will be **NO** breakfast meeting in December.

**Church Membership** - If you would like to explore Professing, Affiliate or Associate Membership at HUMC, please let Pastor Randy know -randyhumc@icloud.com

**Wednesday Night Supper**

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

**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**.

Report on your faithful giving on November 19th -

**General Operating Fund** - \$6,008.00

**Internal Restricted** -

Pastor's Fund - \$820.00

Highlands Emergency Council - \$400.00

Food Pantry - \$20.00

Children's Discretionary Fund - \$20.00

Youth (Food) - \$37.00

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

**Income** - \$471,124.56

**Expenses** - 561,946.82 ( -\$90,822.26)

Current Studies and Small Groups

**Seekers Sunday School Class**

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

**Bob Hood's Sunday School Class**

The class is doing a new study, "Creed, Exploring the Apostles' Creed" by Adam Hamilton 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**

They meet on **Tuesdays at 7:00pm** in the Parlor. December 5th will be the last meeting for a couple of months. Contact - Debbie Brock at debbieharris@gmail.com or Sara Mayer at scmayer@nctv.com.

**Pastor Randy's Advent Study**

December 3rd - 24th in the church parlor on **Sundays at 10am**. We will be reading and discussing Dr. Michael Brown's book, *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World*.



**Community Table** - Join your community friends **Tuesday, December 5th** at the Community Building for a good time of food and fellowship at **6:00pm**. **This will be the last Community Table until Spring.**

**Blood Drive** ~ **Monday, December 4th - 10:00-2:00pm** in the F&FC. To make an appointment call Kristy at 526-3376, ext. 107 or 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HighlandsUMC.

The 11:00am Traditional Worship Service

First 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.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Usher Team

†Hymn “People, Look East” UMH #202

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 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus -Pritchard/Wilson

†Doxology “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95

†Offering Prayer

Anthem Come, Come Emmanuel  
-Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becky Slagle Mayo

Scripture Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Keep Awake

A Service of Word and Table II UMH p.12

†Hymn of Faith “Soon and Very Soon” UMH #706

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude Sleepers, Wake! [Wachet Auf!] -Walther

Attendance on November 19th 909 - 123 11:00 - 48

Calling all Crafters - (or those who want to learn or just meet new people). Starting in January we will be having craft days and nights once a month. If you have craft ideas to share please contact Jodie Zoellner or Kristy Martin. We will be making crafts through the year for our 2024 Fall Bazaar on September 28.

Happy Birthday to (December 3) Cynthia Codespoti, Mary Evelyn Feibelman; (December 5) Dori Moschouris; (December 7) Mike Bryson; (December 8) Tom Stribling; (December 9) Claire Neely

Happy Anniversary to (December 9) John & Marjorie Crowe

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: Carolyn Bruce, Rachael Schuelke, Jeanne Smith, Robert Terrio

Long Term: Kathi Kelley Atkins, Amy Henderson Brown, Phil Caldwell, Dan Chapman, Sara Mac Germano, Jeff & Edith Gordon, Dennis Gordon, Chris Green, Bob Heim, Bob and Sammie Houston, Jeff James, Carol King, Jenny Lomax, Stewart Manning, Dana Martin, Rhyne Michael, Jan Morarity, Verlin Morton, Chris Mullins, JC Norris, Myrtle Page, Judy Pendergrass, Michelle Pendergrass, Lila Pollard, Anne Prince, Vangie Rich, Erika Taylor, Elaine Tilson, Susan Valentine, Cile & Bob Vickory, Olan Vinson

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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Parsonage (828) 526-2465 ~ e-mail addresses: Church:  
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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; Marcia Franklin, Chancel Choir Director



Highlands United Methodist Church

December 3, 2023