

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	The Moore Family	
Music	<i>“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”</i> <i>“Put Your Hand in the Hand”</i>	
Joys		
A Time to Offer our Gifts to God		
A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross		
Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer		
Introduction of Guest Speaker		
Special Music	<i>“Breath of Heaven”</i>	Jennifer
Scripture	Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8	
A Word of Faith	Comfort in the Wilderness	
Music	<i>“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”</i>	
Sending Forth		
Closing Music	<i>“I’ll Fly Away”</i>	

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Michael Brown and his wife Page to HUMC this morning. Dr. Brown is a gifted preacher. In addition to serving large United Methodist Churches in the Western North Carolina Conference, Michael served as senior minister of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City for many years. He has been featured on national television specials for ABC, NBC, and PBS. His sermons have been viewed in 167 countries via live-streaming. He currently teaches biblical studies at High Point University and leads preaching cohorts at Duke Divinity School.

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 are provided. The class meets in the church parlor on Sunday morning at **10:00am**. If you would like to be part of this study, please let Pastor Randy know - randyhumc@icloud.com.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wreaths Across America Ceremony and Wreath Laying -
December 16th at the Highlands Rec Park - **12 noon**. Shuttle to the cemetery is 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 with 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 ~ **January 7th - 4:30-6:30pm** in the F&FC. 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.

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!

Toys for Tots - Boxes are ready for donations! Accepting new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls of all ages. **Toys are especially needed for boys & girls ages 8 - 12.**

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 prepared meal.

Report on your faithful giving
on November 26th -

General Operating Fund -
\$18,904.10
Internal Restricted -
Christmas Families - \$900.00
Highlands Emergency Council - \$100.00
Pastor's Fund - \$50.00
Children's Discretionary Fund - \$45.00
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 studying "The Chosen" season 3 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
Through December 24th in the church parlor on **Sundays at 10am**. We are reading and discussing Dr. Michael Brown's book, *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World*.



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, rice boxes, & canned meats for the Emergency Council.

Community Table - **The Community Table will resume in Spring.**

The 11:00am 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.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Glenn Morris & Margaret Tooke

†Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH #211, vs. 1-4

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 *Carol of the Bells* arr. M. Hayes

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

†Offering Prayer

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Anthem *The First Noel* arr. Joyce Eilers

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Sermon Comfort in the Wilderness

†Hymn of Faith “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMH #213

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude *Holly and the Ivy* arr. J. Rouse

Blood Drive ~ Monday, January 29th - 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.

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**.

Attendance on December 3rd 909 - 121 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 10) Carol Bailey, Bill Hall, Pamela Potts; (December 13) Jack Mayer; (December 15) Nin Bond; (December 16) Sherry Bruner, Miranda Dotson

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, Jeanne Smith, Robert Terrio

Long Term: Kathi Kelley Atkins, Amy Henderson Brown, Phil Caldwell, Dan Chapman, Evie Crowe, Sara Mac Germano, Jeff & Edith Gordon, Dennis Gordon, Chris Green, Bob Heim, Sarah Hibbits, Bob and Sammie Houston, Jeff James, Carol King, Jenny Lomax, Stewart Manning, Dana Martin, Ruth McLarty, Rhyne Michael, Mary Millard, 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, Tubby Zachary

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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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



LOVE God. Offer CHRIST to All.

Highlands United
Methodist Church

December 10, 2023