

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	David & Cathy Hodgson	
Music	<i>“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”</i> <i>“The First Noel”</i>	
Joys		
A Time to Offer our Gifts to God		
A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross		
Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer		
Special Music	<i>“Mary Did You Know”</i>	909 Band
Scripture	Luke 1:26-38	
A Word of Faith	The Annunciation	
Music	<i>“Mary’s Boy Child”</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 currently leading an Advent study on the book, *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World*, by Dr. Michael Brown. We still have a few books available. You're welcome to join us in the parlor today and December 24th at 10:00am.

**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!

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

**Happy Birthday to** (December 20) Ethan Tate, Meridith Watson; (December 22) Grace Crowe, Doug Holder; (December 23) Alexandra Clark

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

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**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.

**UMM Breakfast ~ UMM Breakfast** - Our next Methodist Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, January 13th @ 8:30am**. Come join us for great fellowship and food. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Supper

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper at **5:15pm** in the Faith and Fellowship Center for a prepared meal.

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.

**Attendance on December 10th** 909 - 97 11:00 - 43

Prayer List

**Short Term:** Carolyn Bruce, family of Jean Cleveland Holt , Jeanne Smith, Robert Terrio

**Long Term:** Kathi Kelley Atkins, Amy Henderson Brown, Phil Caldwell, Dan Chapman, Evie Crowe, Sara Mac Germano, Jeff & Edith 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

Report on your faithful giving  
on December 3rd -

General Operating Fund -  
\$62,955.00

Internal Restricted -  
Pastor's Fund - \$750.00  
Highlands Emergency Council - \$100.00  
Library - \$100.00  
Gordon Center - \$50.00  
Help for local family - \$50.00  
Children's Discretionary Fund - \$20.00  
Youth Discretionary Fund - \$20.00

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

The group is taking a break until Spring. Contact - Debbie Brock at debbiedharris@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*.



**Happy Anniversary to** (December 19) Mike & Becki Bryson; (December 20) Jeff & Melanie Carter; (December 21) Lance & Gwyn Hardin (December 22) Jim & Virginia Nix

**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.



The 11:00am Traditional Worship Service

Third 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	The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came -Basque Carol/arr. Shackley	
Welcome		
Opening Prayer		
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	Dr. Mike & Kandyss Cordle	
†Hymn	"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"	UMH #215
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 Bell Anthem	Carol Medley	arr. John Dare
†Doxology	"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"	UMH #95
†Offering Prayer		
Anthem	Children, Go Where I Send Thee	arr. Emily Crocker
Scripture	Luke 1:26-38	
Sermon	The Annunciation	
†Hymn of Faith	"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	UMH #196
Dismissal with Blessing		
Postlude	The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came [GABRIEL'S MESSAGE] -Basque carol/Clearman	

The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary  
this morning are given...



In memory of **Our Parents** by Bob & Nancy Sutton.  
In memory of **Carol Burel, Robert H. Burel, Carl E. Crowe, and Bernice S. Crowe** and in honor of **Wanda Hawthorne and Sue Burel** by Michael Burel & Michael Crowe.  
In memory of **Mary Powell Bell** by Griffin & Glenda Bell.  
In memory of **Jeanie Anderson** by Michael & Lori Wasco.  
In memory of **Marie Reiter** by Michael & Lori Wasco.  
In memory of **Robert & Ardis Morton and John Gordon** and in honor of **Wilma Gordon and Elizabeth Gordon** by Dana & Paula Gordon.  
In memory of **Dick Edwards and Rock Smith** by Jeanie Edwards & family.  
In honor of **Our Kids & Grandkids** by Dabs & Jan Potts.  
In memory of **Donna & Jack Dunlap and Imogene & Dr. Steve Worthy** by Joan & Peter Worthy.  
In memory of **Clifford Talley** by Jerri Talley & The Bloedows.  
In memory of **Phillip Carlton** by Elaine Carlton.  
In memory of **Junior Crowe, Frank Hanks, & Melvin Gasaway** by Chery Crowe Jenkins.  
In memory of **Ronnie Crowe** by Terri Crowe & family.  
In memory of **Clark & Doris Picklesimer** by Terri Crowe & family.  
In honor of **Jim & Diane Riddle, David & Cathy Hodgson, Fred & Elizabeth Motz, Terri Crowe, and Bob & Susan Hood** by Don & Sara Mac Germano.  
In memory of **Loved Ones** and in honor of **my family and friends** by Wilma Gordon.  
In memory of our **Loved Ones** and in honor of **our sons & their families** by Wayne & Geri Crowe.  
In memory of **Herbert James** and in honor of **my family** by Barbara James.  
In memory of **Herb James** and in honor of **Barbara James** love your children & grandchildren.  
In memory of **Joan Edwards Pieper & Joe Mracek** by Jeanie Edwards & Family.  
In honor of **Cathy & David Hodgson** by Diane & Jim Riddle.  
In memory of **Dorothy S. Leftwich, Luther W. Hall and John W. Hall** by Dennis & Fran Leftwich.  
In memory of **William A. Berg** by Cynthia R. Berg.  
In memory of **Clarence & Marie Mawyer** by Ed Mawyer.  
In honor of **The HUMC Family** by Glenn Morris & Margaret Tooke.

Post Office Box 1959, Highlands, North Carolina 28741 ~ (828) 526-3376  
website: [www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)  
Parsonage (828) 526-2465 ~ e-mail addresses: Church:  
[highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com), Randy: [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com), Christine:  
[christinehumc@icloud.com](mailto:christinehumc@icloud.com); Keith Crawford: [finsec13@gmail.com](mailto:finsec13@gmail.com), Kristy Martin:  
[kkltarheel@yahoo.com](mailto: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 17, 2023