

Highlands United Methodist Church News

Week of February 17, 2026



Ash Wednesday



Please join us as we mark the beginning of the forty day season of Lent with our annual Ash Wednesday Service this Wednesday, February 18th at 6pm in the Faith and Fellowship Center, immediately following supper at 5:15pm.

Thanks for Donating Blood

We're grateful for everyone who came out to donate blood yesterday (Monday, February 16th) in the Faith and Fellowship Center. We're happy to partner with the American Red Cross in this vital ministry. With your help we received 24 units!



Measurable Goals for 2026

Volunteers Welcomed!

At our annual leadership retreat recently, seven measurable goals were set for the coming year. Please join us in prayer for these goals, and if you feel called to provide leadership or support with any of these goals, please contact the church office. Thanks!

1. Explore and Implement "Respite for All" if feasible.
2. Fully funded budget
3. Increase in active membership / attendance
4. Increase in-reach activities to current members
5. Develop and implement building security plan
6. Update Directory
7. Implement new visitor / member process

Congratulations to our "Trivia Night with Mike" Winners

This past Wednesday we enjoyed one of our very popular programs, "Trivia Night With Mike." This time it was the Valentine's Day Edition, and as always we spared no expense when it came to prizes. Valentine's Candy for all. Congratulations to the winning table, and thanks Mike Murphy for another fun evening.





Coat Drive

Our Winter Coat Drive is from Now - March 15. Please drop off new or gently used coats, scarves, and hats in the F&FC Donation Box.

JOY GROUP

The JOY Group is our Just Older Youth! Come and join us for some good food and fellowship. Thursday at 11:15am.



Biblical Storytelling Guild

Would you like to begin learning biblical stories by heart, either for your personal devotion or to share during a worship service? If so, please contact Pastor Randy. A certified biblical storyteller with the Network of Biblical Storytellers since 2012, Pastor Randy is looking to start a biblical storytelling guild at HUMC. If you're interested, or if you have any questions please contact Pastor Randy - randyhumc@icloud.com.

March / April Upper Rooms

The current edition of The Upper Room Devotional is available now at HUMC in the F&FC and outside the church office.



FEBRUARY MINISTRY BAGS

Gordon Center for Children



Construction Paper (all colors)

Glue: sticks & liquid

Copier Paper (white & colored)

White Cardstock

Markers

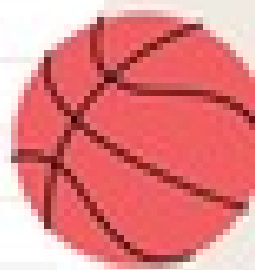
Washable Paints

Children's Books (Hardbacks)

Hand Sanitizer

AA & AAA Batteries

**Craft Items: buttons, felt,
cotton balls, stickers, yarn, etc.**



Financial Giving

Thank you for your continued support of our shared ministry through your tithes and offerings! Whether you bring your offering to an in-person worship service, send your financial support through the mail, or utilize the online giving option on our website, please know your gifts are deeply appreciated and vital to the ongoing life and ministry of HUMC.

The following link will take you directly to our online giving page -

<https://www.sksgiving.com/App/Giving/humc>

Here is a report on your faithful giving for February 8th:

Internal Restricted Funds:

Pastor's Fund - \$510.00

Summer Camp - \$400.00

Children's Discretionary - \$200.00

Library - \$100.00

Youth Discretionary - \$20.00

General Operating Fund

\$40,655.00

(Includes \$100 Memorial for Evelyn Hall)

Our 2025 Year End financial report:

Income - \$832,041

Expenses - \$765,122 (+ \$66,919)

Celebrate!

Join us in celebrating the following upcoming birthdays and anniversaries.

Happy Birthday to:

February

16 - Anne Barone

- Judy Smart

17 - Sara Mac Germano

18 - Keenan Lewis

19 - Wayne LaCoe

23 - Richard Betz

- Emily Crowe

- John Gordon

24 - Keith Hall

- Mary James

25 - Gloria Padgett

- Michelle Pendergrass

26 - Andrea Gabbard

29 - Debbie Brock

Happy Anniversary to:

February

19 - Keith and Janice Hall

22 - Chip and Mac Ramsay

25 - Bob and Sandy Carlton

Thanks for your generous financial support

As you can imagine, missing two in-person worship Sundays in a row in January can have a negative impact on a local church's finances. Thank you for continuing to support the life, work and ministry of HUMC with your tithes and offerings.

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday
NIGHT
SUPPER 5:15pm

Upcoming Programs

February 18th - Ash Wednesday Service

February 25th - "Tonight's Special Guest - Police Chief Andrea "Sissy" Holland"

Join us this Wednesday, February 18th for our weekly Family Night Meal and Program. This week's menu includes Brunswick stew, salad, cornbread, and dessert. Then plan to stay for our annual Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm as we mark the beginning of the forty day season of Lent.

This Week at HUMC

Tuesday, February 17th - Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15am**
- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

Wednesday, February 18th - Family Night Meal (F&FC) - **5:15pm**
- Ash Wednesday Service (F&FC) - **6pm**

Thursday, February 19th - Joy Group (F&FC) - **11:15am**

Sunday, February 22nd - **First Sunday in Lent**
- Breakfast (F&FC) - **8:30am**
- 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) - **9:09am**
- Traditional Service (Sanctuary) - **11am**

Coming Soon...

Tuesday, February 24th - Trustees Meeting - **5:30pm**

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 Craig at
highlandsumc@icloud.com
to be a part of this ministry .

Have a Prayer Need?

If you have a prayer need you would like
to share with the HUMC Prayer Circle
please contact the church office
at 526-3376.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU!

Current Studies and Small Groups

Being part of a small group is a very helpful way of staying connected to our church family. Please take a look at the current opportunities available. If there is a group you'd be interested in joining, please reach out to the contact person.

Home Lectionary Study Group

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

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

This group meets for breakfast and fellowship at the Blue Bike on **Tuesday** mornings at **8:15am**.

Seekers Sunday School Class

This class is currently studying the Books of Galatians, Ephesians, and Hebrews. Meeting time - **Sundays at 10am** in the former financial secretary's office. Contact - Steve Bruner.. stevebruner@gmail.com.

Bob Hood's Sunday School Class

Bob's class will take place **Sundays at 10am** in the parlor., and they will be discussing the Book of Acts - Contact - Bobhood3@gmail.com.

Our Services are Live Streamed!

via our **Facebook Page**, <https://www.facebook.com/highlandsunitedmethodist>, to be uploaded later on our **website** <https://www.highlandsmethodist.org> and **Youtube channel**, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1_zqPcu78pLdiGdLbY1-IA

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



Know of someone who needs to receive the HUMC News by mail?

If you know of any HUMC family member who does not have access to our weekly email distribution who would like to receive a copy by mail, please let the church office know - highlandsumc@icloud.com.

Our mailing address is

PO Box 1959,

Highlands NC 28741.

(828) 526-3376

The following link will take you directly to our online giving page -

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"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights..."

Matthew 4: 1-2a