

Highland United Methodist Church

RIDGE RIDER

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,
At church on Sundays and at fellowship events lately, I've been remembering what it was like when I first met you, and how lovely it has been to get to know you these last four years. You have gently

allowed me to get to know and love you, to share faith in Jesus with you, and to proclaim together with you the love of Christ for every person. I will miss you. And if it's okay with you, even though I won't have the privilege of being your pastor anymore, I hope I'll have the privilege of being your friend in Christ.

My last Sunday will be June 14, and over the following two weeks we'll be completing our move to 207 N. Wynn St., Murfreesboro, NC 27855 (pictured right). Karen in the church office has my email address and phone number, and she'll be happy to share them with you if you ask. Call or come to see us if you'd like to.

Your new pastor, the Reverend Tuck Taylor, will be moving into the parsonage at the end of June. I am grateful to God and to Bishop Shelton for leaving you in such capable and loving hands. I am looking forward to living with my darling Elizabeth in Murfreesboro and pastoring the United Methodist Church in Edenton, NC, but I will miss you!

For the first two Sundays in June, I'll be preaching about "The Power of Faith" from my meditations in Rome. I hope you'll be able to join us.

With Christ's love to each of you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

Pastor John



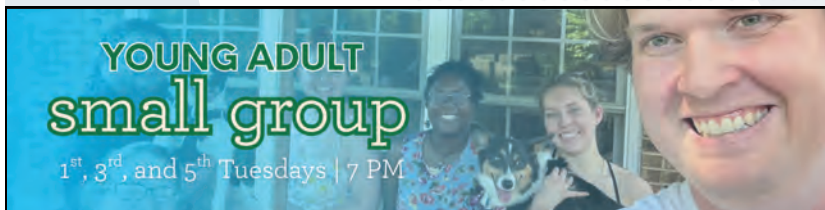
FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR JOHN

Sunday, June 14
3 pm | Conference Room

Please join us for a farewell reception for Pastor John. Light refreshments will be served, and you'll have the opportunity to thank John for his ministry with us and to wish him well in his next chapter.

Blank cards will be available at the reception if you'd like to write one there, or if you can't make it, you can drop a card off at the church office.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Young Adult Small Group

First, Third, & Fifth Tuesdays, (June 2, 16, & 30), 7 PM
Young adults (~22-40) are invited for fellowship, Bible/book studies, and occasional social events. Contact Rev. Kevin Quick for more information: kevin@highlandumc.org.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, June 9, 7 PM, Buffalo Brothers

Join us for faith-filled conversation, pizza, and a pint! All are welcome. Let Rev. Janet Baucom know you're coming and she'll save you a seat: janet@highlandumc.org.



Stonewall LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group

Thursday, June 18, 7 PM, Library

Please join us every third Thursday for discussions with friends, family, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Questions? Contact LJ Coward at ljcoward@gmail.com.



Methodist SASS
(Summer Adult/Youth Sunday School)
June 21 - August 16, 10 AM, Conf. Room

All youth and adults are invited to join us this summer for a Sunday School series exploring the character and distinctives of our United Methodist faith and practice. Each week's lesson stands on its own, so come as often as your summer schedule allows.

JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 7: Rev. Dr. John Tyson
June 14: Rev. Dr. John Tyson
June 21: Rev. Janet Baucom
June 28: Rev. Kevin Quick

FYI...



Rev. Tuck's first official day with us is July 9, and her first Sunday in the pulpit is July 12.


NCCUMC Annual Conference

Please be in prayer for the folks representing Highland at the North Carolina Annual Conference in Greenville, NC, June 18-20: Rev. Dr. John Tyson, Rev. Janet Baucom, Tripp Pearce, Diane Racey, Mary Lee Ransmeier, Bob Seaton, and Mary Jo Van Lente.



Stay In-the-Know!

Subscribe to our weekly E-News to receive updates about these and other Highland events in your inbox every Wednesday.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL

Highland
United Methodist Church



Vacation Bible School

June 22-26, 9 AM-12 PM

Children ages 3 (as of June 22, 2026) through 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for a week of fun and learning at Vacation Bible School.

Snappy tunes, hands-on science experiments, engaging Bible stories, and creative games and crafts will fill the morning.

An extended day option is available for families who need full-day care. The extended day program is \$100, and is available for children who have completed kindergarten. Register today! (QR).



Register



Volunteer

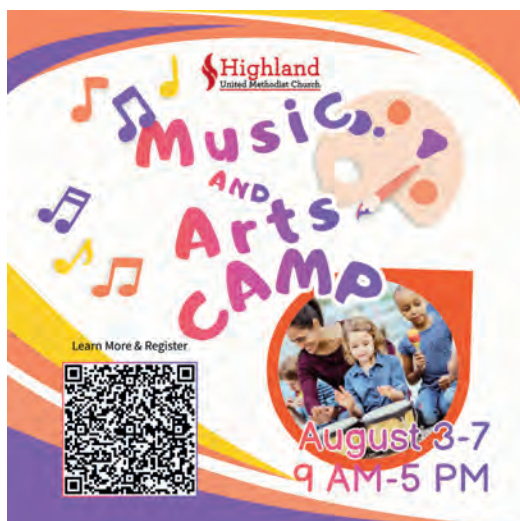
VBS PREP FEST!!

It takes many hands to prepare for Vacation Bible School! Adult and youth volunteers are invited to join our "Prep Fest" on:

- Tuesday, June 16 9:30-12
- Wednesday, June 17 9:30-2 Lunch provided!
- Thursday, June 18 9:30-12 (as needed)

We get so much work done during Prep-Fest, but it feels like a party!

Let us know which day(s) you plan to attend Prep-Fest at the Volunteer QR above.



Music & Arts Camp

August 3-7, 9 AM-5 PM

Music and Arts Camp is back! After a great first year, we're coming back with a full-day offering for children who love to express themselves through the creative arts!

Campers from last year will remember how much fun they had learning from choral clinician Tom Shelton, and we're thrilled to welcome him back this year! We're also excited to welcome Carrie Rivera, art teacher at Carver Elementary in Cary, as our Artist-in-Residence!

Cost: \$225 for the week, with discounts for multiple children (\$200 per sibling). For kids rising first grade and above! Register today! (QR).

Service

HSP: July 12-17

High School Service Week in Wilmington

City Servants: August 10-14

Middle School Service Week in Raleigh

Highland Youth Summer

2026

Bible Study

— June 17 & 24 —

— July 22 & 29 —

— August 5 —

5 PM



FUN

King's Dominion: June 16

8 AM - 8 PM

Traveling Game Night: July 26

4 - 8 PM

Frankie's, bowling, trampoline park, & dinner

Beach Day Trip: August 1

8 AM - 6 PM



Come by the church for
Milkshakes

— June 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 —

11:00 - 4:00



YOUTH

JUL 12-17 2026



HSP
High School

SERVICE

SIGN UP NOW!

City Servants
A week in Raleigh filled with service and activities

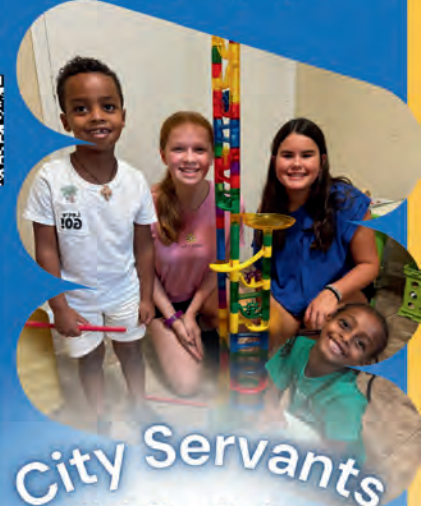


Highland Service Project (HSP)
One week in Wilmington, NC working with WARM NC



WEEKS

AUG 10-14 2026



City Servants
Middle School



**CUB SCOUT PACK 357 CAR
WASH
SATURDAY JUNE 13
HERE AT HUMC
FROM 9:30-2
All Donations Will Benefit
"Scouting 357"**



Backpack Buddies

Thursday, June 4, 1 PM, Conference Room

All are welcome to join as we pack 55 backpacks for Lacy students filled with food for the weekend.



**DONATE
BLOOD** 

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, June 11, 10 AM-3 PM

Make your life-saving appointment at redcrossblood.org using sponsor code 'highlandumc.'



School's Out for Summer!

Thursday June 11, 2:30-3:30 PM

We'll be handing out freeze pops on the front lawn to students on their way home from the last day of school...come and join us!

GROW WITH US!

Our beautiful Victory Garden is in its 17th Growing Season!

We'd be delighted to have you join us on a garden workday! We're there every Saturday from 9-11 AM to tend to God's creation, enjoy each other's fellowship, and make a difference in our community.

We've donated over 1,500 pounds of produce to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle so far in 2026!

 Highland
United Methodist Church

Community Victory Garden

Saturdays, 9 AM

1,500 lbs of produce donated so far in 2026!





Out!

RALEIGH PRIDE

Join Us at the OUT! Raleigh Pride Celebration

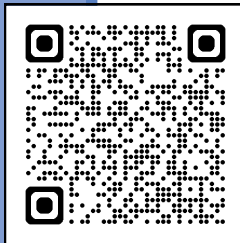
Saturday, June 27, 10 AM-7:30 PM, Downtown Raleigh

We're excited to announce that Highland UMC will once again have a booth at this year's Out! Raleigh Pride celebration in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 27! This is a beautiful opportunity to share God's love, extend radical hospitality from our Highland family, and show our support for the LGBTQ+ community.

We're looking for friendly, compassionate volunteers to help staff our booth throughout the day. Whether it's greeting visitors, handing out resources, giving out popsicles, or just being a welcoming presence, your time and heart will make a big difference! ❤️

The Details

- Event: OUT! Raleigh Pride
- Date: Saturday, June 27
- Location: Fayetteville Street / Downtown Raleigh, NC
- Volunteer Shifts: Shift times 10 am – 12 pm, 12–2 pm, 2-4 pm, 4-6 pm, 6-7:30 pm
- No experience needed—just a spirit of love and inclusion! All are welcome to serve.
- Follow the QR Code to sign up! →
Let's join together to celebrate God's inclusive and affirming love!



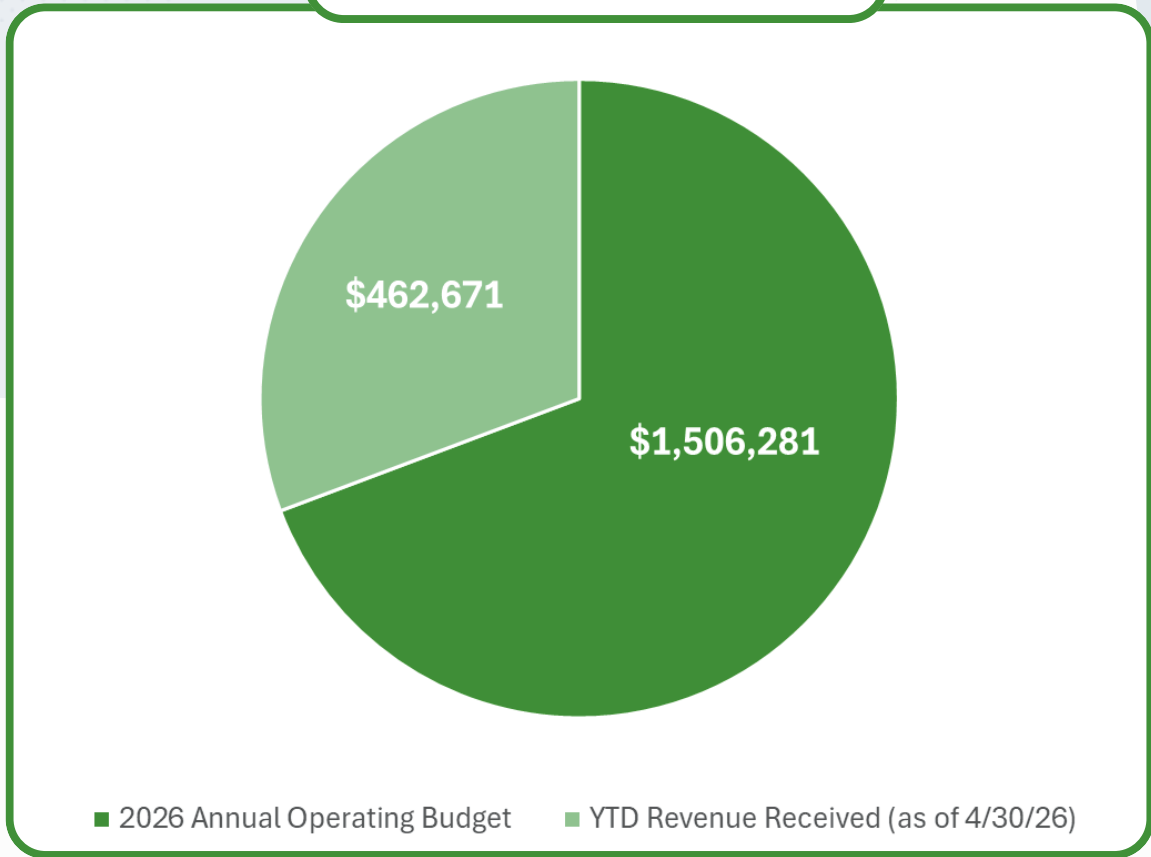
Highland is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network

The RMN is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.

Pride 2025



From the Finance Office



2026 Annual Operating Budget	\$1,506,281
YTD Revenue Needed (33%)	\$497,073
YTD Revenue Received (as of 4/30/26)	\$462,671
% Annual Budget Received	30.72%

Questions about Finances?

Contact Finance Director,
Deanna Clack:
deanna@highlandumc.org or
919-787-4240 ext 108



GIVE ONLINE

*Your giving
makes ministry
happen!*

CHURCH FAMILY

June Birthdays

06/01	Martha Vann Alford, Matthew Richards, Eric Townsend	06/09	Floyd Morgan, Jim Rhew, Jo Ann Swartz	06/19	Paula Broome, Barbara Knight
06/02	Adam Mottershead, Clere Noneman, Paige Wilkinson	06/10	Ola Mae Cimerro, Pam Hood	06/20	Lee Brooks, Billy George
06/03	Patty Baird, Susan Eure	06/11	Ann Wells	06/22	Don Templeton
06/04	Robin Pendleton, Cindy Popal	06/12	Bob Seaton, Eddie Wood	06/23	Janet Baucom, Grace Letchworth, Anne Lacey Seaton
06/05	Vaan Tuang, Tate Wilkinson	06/13	Mary Kathryn Brewer, Connor La Rocca	06/24	Liz Coward
06/07	Nina Capriglione, Hoie Vet Miller, Aidan Smearman, Betty-Shannon Prevatt, Meghan Quick	06/14	Janelle Haseman, Karen Wallace	06/25	Kristy Kretzschmar, Braeden La Rocca
		06/16	Nathan Franklin, Leiko Takahashi	06/26	Sally Page
		06/17	Emily Rodgers	06/27	Harriet Mills, Johnnie Walker
		06/18	Doug Kearns, Mary McLeod	06/29	Colin Loftin, Jim McCarthy

Please Remember In Prayer

Brady Beck (Bev and Keith Beck's son)	Vance Clayton	Hugh Liner	Betsy Pridgen
Brenna Bennett (Chet Mottershead's sister)	Bill Correll	Jeanine Lueke	John Robinson
Henri Braun	Beth Deaton	Georgie McKenzie	Harriet Roland
Paul Braun	Linda Edwards	Mary McLeod	Bill Shelton
Mary Kathryn Brewer	Phyllis and Alex Edwards	Linda Moran	Jeanne Shorter
Bart Bridges (Betty Bridges' stepson)	Ben Franklin	Floyd Morgan	John R. Shutt
Mark Brownie (Cecil & Cavell Brownie's son)	Dennis Goodson (Brenda Hudson's brother)	Brenda Murphy (Joyce Hicks' sister)	Inabelle Sides
Archie Clark	Judy Hagwood	Kenley Myers	Janet Stuber
	Glenda Johnson	Robin Pendleton	Conor and Sarah Mann Willcox
	Richard Johnson	Billie Poole	

We pray for families in the Raleigh community and beyond who are being deported by ICE.

We pray for peace, we pray for wisdom for world leaders, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, and we pray for all those impacted by war.

Please also remember in prayer those serving in our military: Erich Dix, James Noneman, Matthew Bawden, Ryan Shorter, Margarita Shorter, Gabriel Doub

HOLDING IN PRAYER THOSE WHO MOURN



Our condolences to the family of Barbara Bunch, who died on Wednesday, May 6.

CHURCH FAMILY



Messy Church • BELONG NC Carnival • Creation Celebration

Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY



Backpack Buddies • Circle 7 End-of-Year Party • Confirmation Sunday Church Picnic

Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

JUNE EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Young Adult Small Group

June 2, 16, & 30 | 7 PM | see p. 2

Backpack Buddies

June 4 | 1 PM | Conference Room

Youth Summer Events

Service-FUN-Bible Study-Milkshakes

see p. 4

Pub Theology

June 9 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros. | see p. 2

Blood Drive

June 11 | 10 AM-3 PM | see p. 5

Last Day of School Freezie Pops on the Lawn

June 11 | 2:30 PM | see p. 5

Cub Scout Car Wash

June 13 | 9:30 AM | p. 5

Farewell Reception for Pastor John

June 14 | 3 PM | Conference Room | see p. 1

VBS Prep-Fest

June 16-18 | see. p 3

Stonewall Fellowship

June 18 | 7 PM | Library | see p. 2

Methodist SASS

(Summer Adult/Youth Sunday School)

Begins June 21 | 10 AM | Conf. Room | see p. 2

VBS

June 22-26 | see p. 3

HUMC @ OUT! Raleigh Pride

June 27 | see p. 7

Community Victory Garden Workdays

Saturdays | 9 AM | see p. 6

CONTACT US

Main number: 919-787-4240

Pastor: **Rev. Dr. John Tyson**

john@highlandumc.org | ext. 103

Minister of Discipleship: **Rev. Janet Baucom**

janet@highlandumc.org | ext. 105

Minister of Music: **Rev. Kevin Quick**

kevin@highlandumc.org | ext. 102

Director of Children's Ministry: **Amy Takahashi**

amy@highlandumc.org | ext. 104

Director of Youth Ministries: **Neil Smith**

neil@highlandumc.org | ext. 109

Director of Communications: **Stephanie Sanders**

stephanie@highlandumc.org | ext. 122

Director of HCC: **Gretchen Shaffer**

gretchen@highlandumc.org

Director of Finance: **Deanna Clack**

deanna@highlandumc.org | ext. 108

Facilities Manager: **Tom Lamb**

tom@highlandumc.org | ext. 107

Office Administrator: **Karen Winters**

karen@highlandumc.org | ext. 106

Pastoral Emergencies

During church office hours, please call the church office to contact one of our ministers. If you are unable to reach a pastor or if it is after hours, contact the Rev. Dr. John Tyson at 919-787-4240 ext. 103 and leave your message. He will contact you as soon as possible.

Spread the Word

Please submit content for the website, the Ridge Rider, and the weekly E-News to Stephanie Sanders at stephanie@highlandumc.org.

Let's Get Social!



@humcraleigh



@highlandraleigh



@highlandumc-raleigh

Don't Miss the Deadline!

E-News Deadline

Tuesdays at Noon

July Ridge Rider Deadline

June 12

Don't Fall Prey to Scams!

Highland Staff will NEVER send you an email or text asking you to purchase gift cards on their behalf. These messages are from scammers impersonating people you know. Any such messages should be ignored and reported to the FTC.



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Raleigh, NC 27607

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