





A few weeks ago I came across this list of "Ten Other Things You Might Give Up for Lent" and thought it worth sharing with you. It is written by Rev. Magrey deVega (Senior Pastor, Hyde Park UMC). As we live into the Lenten season, I pray that we will continue to make intentional time to reflect, confess, and bless.

A fellow pilgrim,



"Ten Other Things You Might Give Up for Lent" are loosely based on a personality-type indicator called the Enneagram, which has been inordinately helpful to me over the years. May this list prompt you toward a holier and healthier life in Christ.

1. Give up the need to be right all the time.

Business author Patrick Lencioni said, "People don't need to feel like they are right, as much as they need to feel like they've been heard." Yes, claim your voice, assert your convictions, and engage the issues that matter to you. But once you've been heard, consider the possibility that you might have something to learn from those who disagree with you. That's often how we learn our most important lessons in life. (James 1:19)

2. Give up your reluctance to ask for help.

It is true that giving up something for Lent requires discipline, will, and self-mastery. But it also requires the recognition that we cannot always be self-sufficient. You are not superhuman. You do not have inexhaustible reserves. Turn to loved ones for support, seek the wise counsel of others, and don't be afraid to ask for help. (Psalm 69)



March 3: Third Sunday in Lent

"What Makes Jesus Angry?"

John 2:13-22, Key Verse: 2:15

Main Idea: Jesus becomes angry when the poor and oppressed are exploited by those with power.

March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent

"Guardrails on the Road to Salvation"
Exodus 20:1-17 10

Key verses: Learn the 10 Commandments Main idea: The 10 Commandments are guardrails on my path to salvation.

March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So"
Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22, Key verse: Psalm 107:2a
Main idea: Who have you told about your salvation
lately?



March 24: Palm Sunday

"The Mind of Christ in You"
Philippians 2:1-11
Key Verse: 5
Main Idea: Embracing God's will
brings purpose and joy.
To meditate on: What cross does
Jesus want me to bear?

March 31: Easter

"Love's Redeeming Work is Done"
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18
Key Verse: John 20:18 "Mary Magdalene went and
announced to the disciples, 'I have
seen the Lord;' and she told them that he had said
these things to her."
Main Idea: Christ's redeeming work on the cross is

manifest to humankind in his resurrection.

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3. Give up your fear of failure.

Mother Theresa said, "God does not call us to be successful; God calls us to be faithful." You may sometimes gauge your self-worth by what you have achieved and how you have succeeded. You might subconsciously depend on the affirmation of others to feel good about yourself. But your worth does not equal your work, nor are you defined by your failures. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

4. Give up comparing yourself to others.

Forget the Joneses. They are not worth keeping up with. Find contentment in what you have, and in who God has created you to be. You do not need the envious admiration of others. You need not be defined by what you do not have. And you don't have to evaluate your life in comparison to others. It's not worth it. (James 4:2-3)

5. Give up the need to have things all figured out.

Dance with your doubts. Embrace mystery. Accept that you do not and cannot know it all. Recognize that some of the greatest things in life are those which cannot be explained or fully understood. Things like God's love for you, and how God is with you even when you don't believe it. (Romans 11:33-36)

6. Give up your fears of the future.

I get it. These are frightening times for many people. There is great nervousness about the way things are in the world. And I would guess that you are dealing with fears yourself. We all have our fears, but no one has to be defined by them. God is a God of hope. (Matthew 6:33-34)

7. Give up anesthetizing yourself to pain and suffering.

The long shadow of suffering lingers in many forms: loneliness, grief, abandonment, betrayal. None of us are immune from them, and our instinct is to numb ourselves from the pain, sometimes in self-destructive

ways: addictions, accumulating possessions and escapist pleasures, and cocooning ourselves from the rest of the world. These might anesthetize us in the short term, but they prevent us from allowing that pain to help us to stretch, grow, and trust in God. (Romans 5:3-5)

8. Give up the need to be in control.

This one is at the heart of the season of Lent. It is a reminder that we ultimately are not in control of what happens to us. We cannot control others, and we can hardly claim to have full control of ourselves and our future. Let the Covenant Prayer of Wesley be your guide, to remind you that you are not your own; you belong to God. (Matthew 16:24-25)

9. Give up the need to make everyone happy.

It's not like you can, anyway. You may have a knack for understanding what others want from you, but you must also claim your own convictions and understand your limitations. Your job is not to be all things to all people and please everyone you know. God calls you to live a life of integrity, and God, after all, is the only one you need to please. (Galatians 1:10)

10. Give up all the non-essential noise in your life.

This may be the toughest one of all to give up, but it may be the key to a deeply moving Lenten season for you. Your life is inundated by competing voices and blaring noises from the culture around you. Pay attention to your breath. Take walks. Drive without the radio on. Set the cell phone down when you're at the family table. Watch less television, and look people in the eye when you talk to them. Most of all, pray to God, "Silence all voices but your own." Turn down the volume of your life, and connect to a God who knows you better than you know yourself. (Psalm 46:10)

Blessings to you on your Lenten journey!

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Wednesday Night LIFT

Wednesdays thru March 20, 6 PM, Bradley Hall

We only have a few weeks left for LIFT. Please join us on Wednesday at 6:00 for a great meal, conversation, and fellowship around the table. Please make a reservation by noon on Monday for each week. We need volunteers to help get the meal on the table each week and a few more to help with the clean-up afterwards. Make your reservation and sign up to volunteer at highlandumc.org/lift.

What's for supper?

- March 6: American Goulash (ground beef, tomato sauce, macaroni-a big pot of YUM!)
- March 13: ham, mac & cheese, salad
- March 20: shepherd's pie



Mommies Group

Saturday, March 9, 10 AM, Conference Room

Moms of young children are invited to join us for coffee and conversation on the second Saturday at 10:00. Childcare is provided!

At our March meeting we will be taking a look a some great Easter books/ideas for young children. To RSVP or for more information please contact Amy Takahashi (amy@highlandumc.org).



Time Change Breakfast

Sunday, March 10, 8:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Set your clock forward by an hour and plan to
get to church extra-early on March 10 for our
Time Change Pancakes! We will serve
pancakes and sausage, juice, and coffee before
the Connection Service. Meal service will start
at 8:30 and finish at 8:50. We will stop in time
to get Bradley Hall squared away in time for the
Connection worship service at 9:00.

If you would be willing to help make the breakfast happen please contact Amy Takahashi. (amy@highlandumc.org)

Pub Theology

Tuesday, March 12, 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.

Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship

Tuesday, March 19, 11:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Our own Hal Barnes will present a program on innovations with the Raleigh Police
Department in Community Policing. Hal is a volunteer with this program and will share about his work. Chicken salad croissants, fresh fruit, potato salad, beverages and desserts will be offered for \$15 per person. Please sign the reservation sheet at the reception desk or call the Church Office to reserve your spot by Sunday, March 17.

Youth Group Happenings

Sundays, March 3 & 17, 5 PM, Regular Youth Group Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Bible Study
Fri.-Sun., March 15-17, Confirmation Retreat
Our youth program is as active as ever with regular meetings, a new Bible study, and so much more! Please be in prayer for confirmands and mentors as they retreat together mid-March. Check out highlandumc.org/youth to for more info on all upcoming events.

Stay Connected

Subscribe to our weekly E-News to stay up-to-date on all these events, find registration links, and more!



CHILDREN'S NEWS

Sunday School Celebrations

We are celebrating a great year in our Preschool Sunday School class. Our preschool class (ages 3-Pre-K 5's) meets at 10:00 in Room 104 and is led by Cathy Zachary.





When asked about teaching Cathy (pictured left) says, "One of my favorite things is being able to introduce Bible stories to the children at such a young age and make a difference in their lives. They come into the classroom so excited. I love it!"



In March we will welcome two new class members! Hattie Pierce and Avery Barrick will be joining the class as they turn three-years-old. Welcome to Sunday School, Hattie and Avery!





Dinner with the Disciples

Friday, April 5

Children and their families are invited to join us for a "Dinner with the Disciples." We will share a meal and conversation with Jesus' followers who will share their experiences of following Jesus and the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Additional details will be in our children's newsletter and the website.



Vacation Bible School

June 24-28

Children ages 3 (as of 6/24/24) through 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for a great week of fun and learning. Snappy tunes, silly

skits, engaging crafts, plus games, snacks, and stories make for a week-long summer adventure. This year's theme is Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God. Register today via the QR code below.

We need volunteers to help lead, guide, teach, feed, and make memories! We are looking for youth and adult volunteers. To learn more please visit highlandumc.org/children.





Special Guest Youth Choir Epworth Choir (Grades 7-12) First UMC Cuyahoga Falls, OH Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM

Highland had the pleasure of hosting this choir back in 2019, and we're delighted to welcome them back during their 2024 Spring tour.

Under the direction of Dean Wagner, The Epworth Choir sings each Sunday at First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. First founded back in 1936 and touring since 1966, the choir still maintains the tradition of singing standard choral music. This year's tour program includes music of Handel, Patterson, Beck, Wagner, Gilbert Martin, and selections from the Lenten Sketches of Joseph Martin.

Your Hospitality Needed

We're looking for volunteers who can:

- 1. Help prepare dinner on Tuesday, March 26
- 2. Help prepare breakfast on Wednesday, March 27. and/or
- 3. House the youth and adults on Tuesday, March 26

There will be 20 youth and 6 adults, and we are looking for folks who can host two or more people in their homes.

If you are available to provided hospitality to this group, please contact Rev. Kevin Quick at kevin@highlandumc.org.



Ridge Rider | March 2024

GIVE & SERVE



Habitat for Humanity Build begins March 9!

Sign up now via the QR code above! This year we will be building with a large group of people focusing on two homes but doing finishing touches on others as well. Our partners this year are:

- Interfaith Coalition
- SouthWest Wake Coalition

Along with having around 7 people each Saturday build day, we will also be providing part of lunch for half of the workdays. If you would like to help with lunches, please contact Tripp Pearce (willjpearce@gmail.com) for dates and amount of food to prepare.

Food and Clothing Donations for Centennial Campus Middle School Students in Need

Highland's missions team is sponsoring an ongoing donation drive of food and clothing. A donation basket will be available at each Sunday service. Most pressing needs are adult sweatpants size S-XL. Other donations of non-perishable food (granola bars, Pop Tarts, ramen soup, canned pastas like ravioli or beefaroni, and cans of fruit or soups are favorites) and clothing are accepted.





Join Highland's Community Garden Crew as we celebrate the 15th season of this beautiful garden.

The garden crew meets every Saturday at 9 AM, and you're invited! Questions? Contact Donna Wolcott: donna.wolcott2@gmail.com.

Blueberry Pruning Lesson March 16

Cullen Whitley will be presenting his ever-popular blueberry pruning lesson on March 16--don't miss it!



Ridge Ridge I March 2024

GIVE & SERVE



The HSP Team is sponsoring a "tool yard sale" to replenish the HSP Endowment Fund. HSP is a yearly service project for high schoolers that includes a full week of service in another part of the state (this year it's Wilmington). All proceeds from the sale will allow for more youth to attend HSP.

Most of the tools are in good to very good shape and will be priced to sell. A partial list includes: heavy duty extension cords, jigsaws, circular saws, reciprocating saws, power miter saws, drills, saw horses, work lights, shop vacs, small tools (screwdrivers, chisels, pliers, utility knives, etc.) and much more. We even have 3 large Knack tool storage boxes (5'x2'x2' and 4'x2'x2').

The congregation will have first dibs on everything at a 25% discount off sticker prices on Friday, March 22, from 10 AM-3 PM. The sale will open up to the general public on Saturday, March 23, from 10 AM-3 PM, and any unsold items will be sold at "fire sale" prices on Sunday, March 24, from 12-2 PM. Any remaining items will be donated to WARM (our current HSP partner in Wilmington) and Wake Habitat after the sale is over.

If you would like to help out during the sale or have any questions about it, please contact Scott Loftin (s@theloftins.net). Come support our future HSP programs and youth and gobble up some great deals that last weekend in March!

Creation Celebration Spring Festival

Sunday, April 21, 3-6 PM

What happens when you mix a Highland parking lot party and Earth Day? You get a Creation Celebration that will be fun for everyone. Save the date and plan to help, attend, and invite your neighbors!



The United Methodist Men will hold a spring BBQ, along with the Highland Bake Sale, on Friday April 19. Forks Catering will again be preparing our BBQ, potatoes, slaw, and hushpuppies. We'll have water and iced tea to drink (eat-in only). Lunch will be served (eat-in or take out) from 11 AM-2 PM, and dinner will be served from 5-7 PM (or whenever we run out of BBQ). Plates will still be \$10/each. We are excited to announce 2 changes for this BBQ:

- In an effort to be more earth-friendly, we will be using compostable plates/containers that are made from recycled materials.
- We will be taking bulk BBQ pre-orders. To pre-order, Scott Loftin (s@theloftins.net) between April 5-12. Pre-ordered bulk BBQ will be available for pickup all day on April 19.

Please mark your calendars now and start bugging your neighbors, co-workers, family, friends, and people-you-meet-on-the-street to come enjoy our BBQ and bake sale on Friday April 19.



Highland Bake Sale

Friday, April 19, 11 AM-2 PM, 5 PM-7 PM

The Highland Bake Sale is back! Proceeds from the sale will benefit The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Backpack Buddies program. Please sign up to bake, help and save the date! More details will come later.

Sign up sheets to donate baked items and to help with the sale will be found:

- At the reception desk
- Narthex/Bradley Hall
- Online (check your E-News)

Contacts: Toni Downey 919-218-4275, Ann Morgan 919-781-6691, Effie Ann Clayton 919-389-7923

Ridge Rider | March 2024

GIVE & SERVE

From the Finance Office

We are thrilled to report that 2023 ended with a budget surplus of \$116,054. A combination of careful spending and extravagant generosity led us to this wonderful place, and we are so grateful to all who had a part in our being good stewards of our finances for the glory of God.

This budget surplus comes after several years of deficit budgets, and, to simplify a complex matter, we owe ourselves money. The finance committee will be working diligently to ensure that this budget surplus is appropriated responsibly and in the best interest of our church. We aim to be fully transparent with our financial decisions and will keep you posted as decisions are made. If you have questions, please reach out to Deanna in the business office.

2024 Approved Budget

Contributions \$1,133,027.00 Other Receipts \$286,860.00 TOTAL REVENUES \$1,419,887.00

Compensation & Benefits (Clergy & Staff) \$755,000 Administrative Expenses \$94,200.00 Shared Ministry & Church Council \$287,652.00 Property \$283,035.00 TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,419,887.00

2024 Highland UMC Scholarships Available

Qualified applicants are invited to apply for these scholarships by April 15, 2024:

- The Robert R. and Betty M. Gardner Memorial Scholarships for students demonstrating financial need.
- The Grace George Memorial Scholarship for Highland students pursuing a postsecondary degree in education.
- The Mulwee Scholarships for graduating Highland high school seniors who have participated in music programs during high school.

Visit the Highland website for more information and an application: highlandumc.org/ministries/scholarships/

GIVE ONLINE

Your giving makes ministry happen!



January 2024 Finance Update

We wrapped up January a little over budget (~6k). This is typical, as we have large quarterly expenses due at the beginning of the year. This is encouraging when considering our YTD 2023, when we were over budget by ~\$9k. This positive trend is bolstered by the 8.6% increase in income from this time last year.

Gen Fund Contributions	\$66,854.59
Other Income	\$35,132.14
Total Revenues	\$101,986.73
Expenses	
Ministries	\$18,415.34
Compensation	\$56,395.82
Admin	\$6,464.94
Property	\$27,401.78
Total Expenses	\$108,677.88
Net Income	-\$6,691.15



Questions about Finances?

Contact Finance Manager, Deanna Clack: deanna@highlandumc.org

CHURCH FAMILY

















CHURCH FAMILY















Welcome Our New Office Administrator, Karen Winters!

Hi, my name is Karen, though most people call me Otter, the name my niece gave me when she was learning to talk. I am also Mom to Eli (my fabulous teenage son) a potter, a reader, a puzzle solver, a Pez collector, and a Star Wars fan. Before coming to Highland I worked at a law office as a title researcher. I've also been a stay-at-home mom, bookstore clerk, and crafts teacher. I have been

blessed by volunteering in community and church activities all my life, having been taught the importance of helping others by my wonderful parents. I'm incredibly happy about joining the Highland family and hope y'all will swing by the office to say hello!

Karen is with us part-time and will generally be in the office from 9 AM-1 PM, Monday-Thursday. Her email address is karen@highlandumc.org and her phone extension is 106.



CHURCH FAMILY

March Birthdays

03/01	Cullen Whitley
03/02	Robby Marchi
03/03	Doris Kruger, Marty Babcock
03/05	Rod Rabold
03/06	Lyndon Cope, Emma Dilley
03/07	Jason Pierce
03/08	Les Stallings, Chris Martin, Sarah Fletcher
03/09	Bev Beck, Tianna Perry, Sa <mark>rah</mark> Griffin
03/11	Pat Cronin

03/13	Logan Earp
03/15	Jennifer Alford, Lauren Brothers
03/16	Kathryn McCarthy
03/17	Irv Pearce, Kevin McCarron, Hon Tuang <mark>Sian Thang</mark>
03/18	Walker Seaton
03/21	Brett Yarborough
03/22	Susan Taylor, Katherine Robbins

03/23	Hugh Liner, Chuck Stuber, Go K. Vung
03/24	Amy Massey
03/25	Pam Brothers
03/26	Dot McGee, Garrett Loftin
03/27	Bob Page, Karen Davis
03/29	Steve Broome, John Hearn, <mark>Bill</mark> Correll, Noah Earp
03/30	Quinn Carter, Jack Martin
03/31	John Tyson, Doug Hoffman, Doug Phelps

Please Remember In Prayer

Mark Adamson

Nang Dik Tuang

Bonnie Anderson

Melva Armstrong

(Amy Massey's cousin)

Susan Bailey

(Doris Kruger's daughter)

David Beam

Brady Beck

(son of Bev and Keith Beck)

Paul Blomquist

Paul Braun

Marcia Brugger

(Jamie Pierce's mother)

Ann Chapman

Archie Clark

James Cornell

(Amy Massey's son)

Beth Deaton

Linda Edwards

Phyllis and Alex Edwards

Cleo Flowers

(Kevin Flowers' mother)

Margie Ford

Ben Franklin

Bill George

Dennis Goodson

(Brenda Hudson's brother)

Walter Harvey

(Grace Haven's brother)

Doug Hoffman

Betsey Huber

(Doris Huber's daughter-in-law)

Glenda Johnson

Doris Kruger

Jeanine Lueke

Amy Massey

Cliff McCowan

Georgie McKenzie

Dennis McLain

Mary McLeod

Dot McGee

Linda Moran

Brenda Murphy

(Joyce Hicks' sister)

Kenley Myers

Billie Poole

Betsy Pridgen

Harriet Roland

Jeanne Shorter

Carlyle Teague

Mary Ward

Jane Webb

Conor and Sarah Mann Willcox

Judy Wilson

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



MARCH EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Youth Group

March 3 & 17 | 5 PM | Bradley/Youth Room see p. 3

Wednesday Night LIFT

March 6, 13, & 20 | 6 PM | Bradley Hall see p. 3

Prayer Shawl Ministry

March 7 & 21 | 10 AM | Parlor

Habitat for Humanity First Build Day

March 9 | see p. 5

Mommies Group

March 9 | 10 AM | Conference Room see p. 3

Time Change Breakfast

March 10 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall | see p. 3

Pub Theology

March 12 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros. see p. 3

Confirmation Retreat

March 15-17 | see p. 3

Blueberry Pruning Lesson

March 16 | 9 AM | p. 5

Highlanders

March 19 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall | p. 3

HSP Tool Sale

March 22-24 | p. 6

Holy Week/Easter

March 24-31 | see p. 2

Guest Youth Choir Concert

March 26 | 7 PM | p. 4

Let's Get Social!

Make sure you're following us on our social media platforms and liking, sharing, and commenting on our posts. We depend on you to help spread the word about the good work of Highland to the community!



@humcraleigh



@highlandraleigh



@highlandumc-raleigh

CONTACT US

Main number: 919-787-4240

Pastor: **Rev. Dr. John Tyson** john@highlandumc.org | ext. 103

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Director of Communications: **Stephenie Sanders** stephenie@highlandumc.org | ext. 122

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 Stephenie Sanders at stephenie@highlandumc.org.

Don't Miss the Deadline!

E-News Deadline Tuesdays at Noon

April Ridge Rider Deadline

March 18

♦ Ridge Rider | March 2024



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