

RIDGE RIDER



General Conference will convene in Charlotte, NC, from April 23 to May 3. This body of clergy and lay United Methodists from around the world typically gathers every four years, but because of the COVID pandemic has not met since 2016.

The General Conference is the only body with the authority to change the church's governing rules and policies as found in the Book of Discipline.

I attended the 2016 General Conference as an observer, and it was eye-opening. I had always known that the United Methodist Church is a world-wide body of Christian people, but I had not realized just how world-wide it was! It was amazing to see large delegations of people from all over the world in one enormous arena (when GC was over, they had a hockey game in that space the next night). Attending helped me realize that those from other countries were not a small percentage of our denomination, but a huge part. This brings challenges, because the context for ministry is so different in Africa, Russia, and the U.S., for example. One of the important questions that will come up this year is "Regionalization." If approved, it would allow regions in different parts of the world to have more autonomy over their ministry in their particular context.

Eight clergy and eight lay people will represent the North Carolina Conference at this month's meeting. Please pray for them. Learn more at: resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020.

Blessings,



APRIL WORSHIP

4/7: The Universe Laughs

Luke 24:13-49

Key Verse: 24:31: "Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight."

Main Idea: There is freedom to suffer, laugh, and play when we follow Jesus.

To Think About: Where has Jesus revealed himself to me?

4/14: The Joy of Being Sought by Jesus

John 20:19-31

Key Verse: 20:27: "Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'"

Main Idea: Jesus comes to us when most needed, and perhaps, least expected.

To Think About: When have I experienced joyful encounters with Jesus?

4/21: The Joy and Care of Creation

Psalms 96, Genesis 2:4-17

Key Verse: Gen.2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Main Idea: Creation is a wonderful gift from God. He has tasked us to both use and care for it.

To Think About: How might God want us to take care of his creation?

4/28: The Joy of Union with Jesus

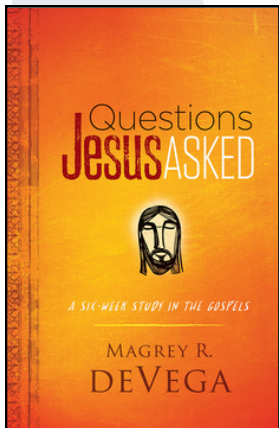
John 15:1-8

Key Verse: 4: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me."

Main Idea: When I stay connected with Jesus, I have joy and peace.

To Think About: What practices connect me with Jesus? What practices disconnect me?

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Women's Bible Study

Mondays beginning April 8, 10 AM, Room 209

All women are invited to join us for our next study, *Questions Jesus Asked* by Magrey deVega, beginning April 8. The Women's Bible Study meets on Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, in room 209. Interested? Contact Rev. Janet Baucom for more information (janet@highlandumc.org).

Pub Theology

Tuesday, April 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.



Highland United Methodist Men *Breakfast*

Saturday, April 13
8:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Mommies Group

Saturday, April 13

10 AM

Childcare available



Mommies Group

Saturday, April 13, 10 AM, Conference Room

Hey Mommies! Join us at 10 on Saturday morning, April 13 for a time of coffee, conversation, and support. Childcare is available by request. For more information or to request childcare, please contact Amy Takahashi (amy@highlandumc.org).

Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship

Tuesday, April 16, 11:30 AM, Bradley Hall

Hal Barnes will present a program about his work as a Community Policing volunteer with the Raleigh Police Department. We'll enjoy a lunch of Angel Chicken, green beans, sweet potatoes, slaw, rolls with butter, beverage and dessert for \$15 per person. A gluten-free version of Angel Chicken will also be available. Please sign the Reservation Sheet at the reception desk or call the church office by Sunday, April 14 to reserve your spot!

Highlanders

HUMC Senior Adult Fellowship



Stay Connected

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



CREATION

Celebration

FOR ALL AGES!

Sunday, April 21 | 3-6 PM

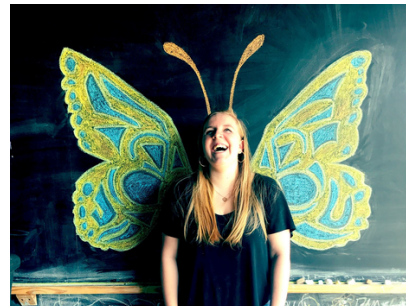


Creation Celebration

Sunday, April 21, 3-6 PM

In honor of Earth Day, Highland invites our families, friends and neighbors to join us for a celebration of God's good creation on Sunday, April 21 from 3 to 6. Storyteller Willa Brigham, a drum circle led by One Tribe Rhythms, and chalk artist Taylor Coleman will be our guests. We will have presentations on container gardening and native plants as well as tours of our fabulous community garden, children's games, activities, and treats.

We need many volunteers to help as we welcome our community to this celebration. Please consider how you can help and sign-up via the QR code (right).



Volunteers Needed!

Dinner with the Disciples

Friday, April 5

Out of town for Holy Week and Easter? No worries, we are saving our special "Dinner with the Disciples" for the weekend after you get back from spring break!

This year's event will be a bit different as children and their families will get to do a little problem solving and sleuthing to find the secret room where the disciples are gathering. Families with children of all ages are welcome to participate, but the event is especially geared for elementary-aged kids.

Reservations are required! Please make a reservation via the QR code.



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.

We need adult and youth volunteers to help lead, guide, teach, feed, and make memories! Contact Amy Takahashi if you can help: amy@highlandumc.org.



Growing Together Through Bible Study



We kicked off a new High School Bible Study this semester. Bible Studies are an excellent way to dive deeper, ask questions, have a safe space to wonder, and connect with Jesus in the middle of the week when we often are at our busiest and most stressed.

Intentionality has been the theme for our 8-week Bible Study. Our lessons have covered topics on being jaded, welcoming God's kingdom like a child, judging others, empathy, and so much more.

Learning about the real Jesus and his life and teachings from 2,000 years ago and applying lessons from parables to our own lives has been beyond rewarding for our youth and myself. We do our best to understand what it meant to the people surrounding Jesus in his world, and then we responsibly see how it could change our lives now. The opportunity to dive deep for an hour or more with the youth while talking authentically about our feelings, lived experiences, and current life has been a blessing. It has been an amazing two months, and we are excited to continue our Bible Study in the summer and fall.

-Neil Smith, Director of Youth Ministries



Youth at Bible Study



Confirmation Retreat
more photos on p. 8 & 9

Confirmation Retreat

Over the weekend of March 15, 18 youth and adults traveled to Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC, for a confirmation retreat. It was a time for learning, bonding, and growing in faith together. This wonderful group of young people is set to be confirmed during worship on May 19.

Upcoming Service Projects

Miracle League of the Triangle

Our Youth will be volunteering with The Miracle League of the Triangle on Saturday, April 13. This amazing program was founded to help special needs children to enjoy playing baseball.



City Servants 2024

City Servants is a week-long summer ministry for our middle schoolers (June 17-21) where we work within our community to make a difference. We spend the first half of the day working and doing service on various projects and the last half of the day playing games, going on outings, and more. After a long week of work, we spend all day on Friday at Wet 'n Wild Water Park!

Highland Service Project

HSP will be in Wilmington, North Carolina, working with WARM this year. WARM's mission is to repair, rebuild, and make homes accessible, and to inspire service, generosity, and hope. The service week is July 7-12. We will work and do service Monday - Thursday. After a full week of service we will have a free day on Friday to go to the beach! This is a high school service project for rising 9th-12th graders.



APRIL YOUTH SCHEDULE | EVERY SUNDAY | 5 PM
Middle School-Bradley
High School-Youth Room

Visit highlandumc.org/youth for more info
on all upcoming events and activities

GIVE & SERVE

Victory Garden -15th Season-

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.



All Blood Types Needed

Blood Drive

Highland United Methodist Church

Held in the Conference Room
1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Make an appointment

Habitat for Humanity Build

Our Habitat build is officially underway and will continue through June 1. Sign up to build here. →



← Power tools not your thing? You can still help by providing lunch on our designated Saturdays.

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. 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.



It can take up to 500 years for a pen to decompose in a landfill?

Friendly reminder that there is a spot outside the church office where you can donate old eyeglasses and recycle writing implements (not just markers). Let's do our part responsibly dispose of these items in care for God's creation!



FRIDAY, APRIL 19 11 AM-2 PM | 5-7 PM FUNDRAISER TO END CHILD HUNGER




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 until we run out). 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, email 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.

Volunteers are need for baking, setting up, and selling at the Bake Sale! See details at right.

Bake Sale Details

- Volunteers needed to contribute baked goods, set up, and sell
- Drop off Baked Goods from 5-7 PM on Thursday, 4/18 or from 8-10:30 AM day-of
- Set up begins at 8:30 AM on 4/19
- Sales assistants are needed from 11 AM-2 PM and 5-7 PM
- Sign up sheets located at reception desk, narthex, and Bradley Hall
- Sign up online → 
- Questions? Contact



Toni Downey: 919-218-4275

Ann Morgan: 919-781-6691

Effie Ann Clayton: 919-389-7923



Proceeds Benefit the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Backpack Buddies Program

BackPack Buddies is designed to provide children experiencing food insecurity with nutritious, kid-friendly, pre-packed meals for the weekend—when they would not have access to a school's free lunch and breakfast. The Food Shuttle works with school guidance counselors and social workers across a seven-county service area to help identify students with the greatest risk of food insecurity to be recipients of Backpack Buddies. Learn more at foodshuttle.org/backpackbuddies.

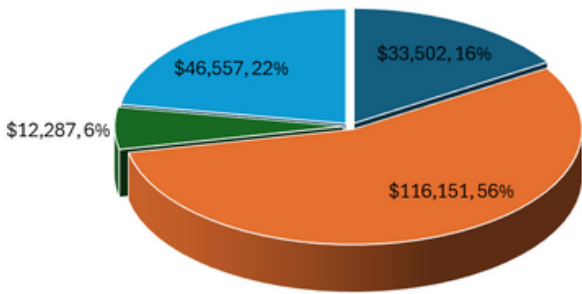
From the Finance Office

February 2024 Finance Update

We are still tracking a bit behind budget, which is typical for this point in the year. This small gap will continue to close as beginning-of-year expenses begin to balance with income.

Quarterly contribution statements will be hitting mailboxes soon! We remain ever-grateful for your extravagant generosity towards the work of God at Highland UMC.

Feb 2024 Expenses



Gen Fund Contributions	\$143,244
Other Income	\$60,842
Total Revenues	\$204,087
Expenses	
Ministries	\$33,502
Compensation	\$116,151
Admin	\$12,287
Property	\$46,557
Total Expenses	\$208,497
Net Income	-\$4,410

Questions about Finances?

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

GIVE ONLINE

Your giving makes ministry happen!



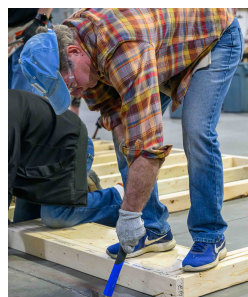
2024 Highland UMC Scholarships Available

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/

CHURCH FAMILY



CHURCH FAMILY



CHURCH FAMILY

April Birthdays

04/02	Jenny Johnson
04/03	Paula Berryann, Janet Stuber, Joyce Hicks
04/05	Larry Wilson
04/06	Bonnie Anderson, Matt Tucker
04/08	Dot Anderson, Laang Suan Lian, Kenley Myers
04/09	Meliene Bawden, Angie Martin, Lauren Krueger
04/10	David Beam, Ryan Baucom
04/11	Carolyn Shropshire, Hilary Wilkinson

04/12	Vickie Dunn, Leslie Hobbs
04/14	Dale Matzinger, Dudley Marchi
04/15	Isabella Templeton
04/16	John Cummings, Zeb Alford
04/17	Tripp Pearce, Alexandra Ellison
04/18	Rick Richards, Caroline Dove
04/19	Malinda Stallings, Laura Black
04/21	Kevin Flowers, Brian Dilley, Sarah Wallace
04/22	Perry Safran, Fabio Buitrago, Madison Hagen

04/23	Bob Smith, Karen Hudson
04/24	George Dodson
04/25	Alice Perry, Peggy Kearns, Paul Blomquist, Joyce Tynes
04/26	Margueritte McDonald
04/27	Hal Barnes, Gretchen Shaffer
04/28	Karen Seymour, John Robinson, Ann Vodicka
04/29	Inabelle Sides, Carol Blue, Nancy Zweigart
04/30	Jeanine Lueke, Dee Maronpot, Steve Brown, Joshua Crouse, Hadley Myers

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

Glenda Desmond
 (Marcia Nance's sister)
 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
 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

Holding In Prayer Those Who Mourn

We offer sympathy to the family of Graham Anderson (wife Dot, daughters Hope and Martha, and their families) upon his death on March 12, 2024.

We offer sympathy to the family of Mary Ward upon her death on March 17, 2024.

We offer sympathy to Amy Takahashi and family upon the death of Amy's mother, Alecia Stanley, on March 19, 2024.

APRIL EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Prayer Shawl Ministry

April 4 & 18 | 10 AM | Parlor

Blood Drive

April 4 | 10 AM-2:30 PM | Conference Room
see p. 5

Dinner with the Disciples

April 5 | 6 PM | see p. 3

Youth Group

April 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5 PM | Bradley/Youth Room
April 13 | Miracle League Service Project
see p. 4

Pub Theology

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

UMM Breakfast

April 13 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall | see p. 2

Mommies Group

April 13 | 10 AM | Conference Room
see p. 2

Highlanders

April 16 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall | p. 2

BBQ/Bake Sale Fundraiser

April 19 | 11 AM-2 PM, 5-7 PM | see p. 6

Creation Celebration

April 21 | 3-6 PM | p. 3

Community Victory Garden Workdays

Every Saturday | 9 AM | see p. 5

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: **Stephennie Sanders**

stephennie@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 Stephennie Sanders at stephennie@highlandumc.org.

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!



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@highlandumc-raleigh

Don't Miss the Deadline!

E-News Deadline

Tuesdays at Noon

May Ridge Rider Deadline

April 15



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