

RIDGE RIDER



Friends,
This may be one of the best Christmases ever here at Highland. There are fun things to do together, and reflective things to do personally. The music will be glorious and uplifting. The evening activities will be warm and lovely. The worship will connect your heart to the Lord and to others. I'm glad we all get to spend this Christmas together.

Blessings,



John

The *R*'s of *Christmas*

December 1: Reflect

Luke 21:25-36 | Thessalonians 3:9-13

Advent is a time to reflect on what is working in our life, and what is not.

December 8: Repent

Luke 3:1-6 | Malachi 3:1-4

Advent is a time to make a decisive turn for the better.
Cantata (11:00) "Appalachian Winter"

December 15: Rejoice!

Isaiah 12:2-6 | Philippians 4:4-7

Advent is a time to rejoice in God's plans for us.

December 22: Relax

Bluegrass Lessons & Carols

Combined Service at 10 AM

Advent is a time to relax and celebrate the good news of Jesus.

Christmas Eve: Reveal

5 & 7 PM

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Eve is a time to bask in the glow of God's great love revealed in Jesus.

December 29: Report

Luke 2:15-20

Christmas is a time to tell others how good the Lord is.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Highlanders

HUMC Senior Adult Fellowship



Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship

Saturday, December 7, 1:15 PM

HIGHLANDERS TRIP TO NUTCRACKER

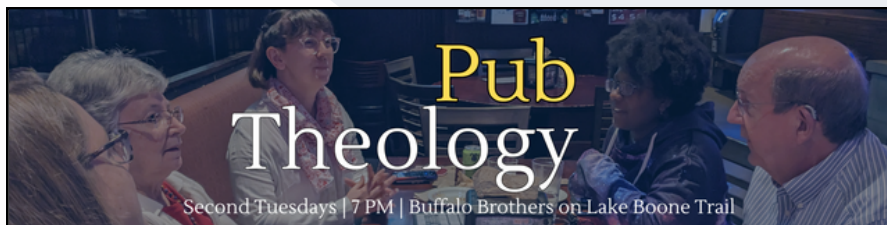
BALLET: We have 20 tickets reserved for the NCSU Stewart Theatre production of The Nutcracker by the City Ballet.

All Highland members are welcome! Participants can catch a ride the church bus to this event; we'll leave the parking lot at 1:15 PM. Tickets are \$20 each, payable to HUMC with "Nutcracker tickets" on memo line (if paying by check - may also pay online). Please make your reservation by signing up at the reception desk.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, December 10, 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
Second Saturdays
8:30 AM

UMM Breakfast

Saturday, December 14, 8:30 AM, Pam's Farmhouse

Join us for breakfast at Pam's Farmhouse Restaurant on Western Blvd. Contact Scott Loftin for more info: s@theloftins.net.

Coming in 2025
MESSY
church

Friday, January 10

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Sunday, March 9

Sunday, April 13

Messy Church is a new way of doing church for those who want to connect with faith and the faith community, but for whom the traditional ways and times of doing church don't work. Every Messy Church will include a hands-on exploration of a biblical story/theme, a time to celebrate through creative worship, and fellowship around the table as we share a meal.

If you would like to be part of the Messy Church planning team please contact

Amy Takahashi (amy@highlandumc.org).



2025 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Stewardship Update

We are pleased and grateful to report that our 2025 Stewardship Campaign has yielded pledges in the amount of \$926,339. We have received 150 pledges, 25 of which are new this year!

If you would like to make a commitment to supporting the work of God through Highland for 2025, it is not too late to submit an estimate of giving. Every pledge gives us the opportunity to dream bigger and do more ministry together. Make your pledge online via the QR code or contact Deanna Clack in the business office: deanna@highlandumc.org.



Questions about Finances?

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

GIVE ONLINE

Your giving makes ministry happen!



Welcome House RALEIGH

Highland is a longtime partner of the Welcome House Raleigh, a temporary reception housing ministry for refugees and immigrants who do not have a place to live upon arrival to the United States.

Once per quarter, Highland will help provide groceries for the families currently living at Welcome House. Here's how to help: You can sign up to do the grocery shopping (you'll have a complete list provided) and deliver the groceries to Welcome House OR you can make a donation to help cover the cost of the groceries. Our next commitment is for Wednesday, December 4. Questions? Contact Donna Wolcott or Rev. Janet Baucom. Sign up to help here:



Join Highland in supporting Pride for Parents this Christmas season. Pride for Parents is an annual toy and gift sale designed to benefit hard working families at Christmas. Through donations of new and gently used toys and gifts, they offer quality affordable merchandise to families in Wake County. They will sell (not give) toys and gifts to families who can afford to pay a small price.

Donate: Toys, bikes, helmets, games, books, clothing for infants thru teens, Money or gift cards and we will purchase new items for the store

Volunteer: Help by sorting and pricing toys, stocking shelves, greeting shoppers, helping shoppers with selections, gift wrapping or providing snacks for volunteers

Additional information can be found at pfpwake.org.

Donations for Centennial Campus Middle School

non-perishable food items
& clothing
Every Sunday



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

Highland's missions team is sponsoring an ongoing food and clothing donation drive for Centennial Campus Middle School. Non-perishable food (granola bars, Pop Tarts, ramen soup, canned pasta like ravioli or beefaroni, and cans of fruit or soup are favorites) and clothing are accepted. Donations can be dropped off in the marked box outside the church offices. These items are currently of particular need: Hoodies (all sizes, including Youth large and XL) Leggings/sweatpants (Youth Large-Adult XL) granola bars, deodorant.

AS EACH HAS
RECEIVED A

gift

USE IT TO

serve

ONE ANOTHER,
AS GOOD

stewards

OF GOD'S

VARIED GRACE:

1 PETER 4:10



American
Red Cross

Blood Drive Highland United Methodist Church

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

Thursday, December 19, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

CHURCH FAMILY



A Beautiful Gift in Memory of Rev. James Carroll Lee

If you've been in our newly renovated narthex lately you've likely noticed among the many changes that there is a beautiful quilt hanging on the southern wall. It is thoughtfully inscribed with words from Highland's mission: "Love, Serve, Share." Here's some background about this piece that adds so much to our entry way

"Transcending Light."

Design and construction by Sharon Lee
Custom quilted by Donna Sontag

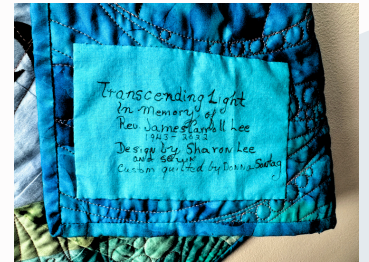
Among the fabrics included are pieces given to Sharon by Ellen Fortenberry, Georgie McKenzie and Peggy Reaugh.

September 2024

In memory of Reverend James Carroll Lee

God's light shines for all people. As we love God, his light shines through us. As we serve God, his light shines on those we serve. As we share God's light, it moves like a wave among all who are welcomed into it and bubbles up to spread throughout our community and the world.

May Highland UMC continue to be God's light to all who seek it.



Remembrance Tree Dedication

Sunday, December 1, 5 PM

The Remembrance Tree is a tradition brought to Highland by Amy Massey. Each year during Advent, we are invited to purchase a light for the Remembrance Tree in honor or memory of a loved one. In years past, the tree has been an impermanent decoration on our lawn throughout December. We are excited to bring a new, permanent, living tree to Highland's grounds to serve as The Remembrance Tree going forward. You are invited to join us on Sunday, December 1, at 5 PM for a short service of dedication of the tree in Amy's honor. The service will be held by the tree which is planted near the limited mobility parking by the front entrance of the church.





DEC
1

Advent Wreath Workshop, Christmas Crafts & Potluck

Sunday, December 1, 5 PM

Everyone is invited to join us in Bradley Hall for our annual soup and sides pot-luck supper and Advent wreath workshop. We will have craft activities, and individuals and families can make an Advent wreath to use at home.

DEC
15

Mo
Sun

Join us for
Morav
includes
holiday
share ho

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 8, 11 AM

The Highland Choir will be joined by an expanded Orchestra to present "Appalachian Winter" by Joseph Martin. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements, celebrating the legacy of early American carols and hymnody.

DEC
18/23

Sto

Wed., De
Children
Child
Takahashi
play on o
on t

DEC
8

Journey to Bethlehem Living Nativity

Sunday, December 8, 5 PM

Join us on a guided journey to the birthplace of Jesus. You'll be counted by Roman Centurions for the census, meet the Bethlehem innkeeper, and pet live animals while you interact with the Holy Family...all while drinking delicious hot chocolate. You don't want to miss this spectacular event...invite your friends!

Highland members are needed to make this happen. Sign up at highlandumc.org/advent.

DEC
18

Come
Wedn

Join us for
"Come
sanctua
telling o
everyone
are requi
angel, or
wise o
neighbor
God's so



DEC
22

Caravan Lovefeast

Sunday, December 15, 7 PM

For our rendition of a traditional Caravan Lovefeast. This service includes special refreshments, lots of music, and opportunities to see how we have seen God at work in our lives.

Stories in the Stable

Sat. 12 & Mon., Dec. 23, 10:30 AM

Children and families are invited to join Children's Ministry Director Amy [Name] for Christmas stories. Stay and enjoy our playground after Story time on the 23rd! All are welcome.

As You Are Nativity

Wednesday, December 18, 6 PM

For a pizza party followed by the "As You Are Nativity" in the sanctuary. This is our community retelling of the Christmas Story where everyone gets a part and no rehearsals are needed. Come be a shepherd or an angel, one of the animals or one of the wise men. Bring your friends and family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who invites all of us to come as we are.

Bluegrass Service & Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 22, 10 AM
COMBINED WORSHIP

Sing along to all of your holiday favorites...Bluegrass style!

This service of Lessons & Carols will be a highlight of your Christmas celebrations.

We will worship together during one COMBINED service at 10 AM and enjoy lunch together in Bradley Hall following worship. Bring a friend!

DEC
24

Christmas Eve

Communion & Candlelight Services

5 PM

This interactive service is tailored to all ages. We'll experience a creative retelling of the Christmas Story, take communion together, and sing hymns by candlelight.

7 PM

This service is traditional in format, including the liturgy and message you're used to hearing on Sunday mornings. Our Highland Choir will be featured. We'll partake in the sacrament of Communion together and sing hymns by candlelight.

Visit highlandumc.org/advent for more details and updates on Advent offerings.

CHURCH FAMILY



Habitat House Dedication

Earlier this year, Highland participated in another Habitat build (we've partnered with Habitat for over 30 years!). The project has come full circle and Highland staff and members were present at the Dedication event on Saturday, November 16. Families will be moving into their homes soon. We are grateful to everyone who participated in our Habitat build; whether you hammered nails, served lunch, or donated, your efforts are life-changing for these families!



Family Promise Volunteer Honor Awarded to Highland Member

On November 12, Family Promise held a fundraiser concert here at Highland. As a highlight of the evening, our own Elizabeth Beam was honored with the Deaton Appreciation Award for her years of service as a Board member for the organization. This is the second year this honor has been awarded, with the first being given to Highland's George and Beth Deaton, for whom the award is named. Congratulations Elizabeth, and thank you for your dedication to this important work in our community!



Welcome New Member!

We are thrilled to welcome LJ Coward to the Highland family. LJ officially joined the church on November 10 during the Connection service. She's been visiting with us for several weeks and is already an active member of the SALT Sunday School class. Be sure to welcome her when you see her on Sunday morning!

AUTUMN MEMORIES

On the next page, you'll see memories from:

- Our annual Trunk or Treat Celebration when we welcomed many people from the wider community for costumes, candy, creativity, and fun!
- The Pancake Supper & Talent Show put on by our Youth as a fundraiser for the upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica. It was wonderful to be together and enjoy each others' gifts while supporting a great cause.

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY



CHURCH FAMILY

December Birthdays

12/01	John Wilk
12/02	Betty Davis, Diane Penny
12/3	George Deaton
12/4	Aaron Brothers, Shawn Parker
12/5	Mark Poole
12/6	Anna Lockett
12/8	Bob Jones, Julia Cole
12/9	Linda Norris

12/10	Ryan Lockett
12/11	Erik Griffin
12/13	Becky Wood, Kathryn Fish
12/14	Jennie Taylor
12/15	Grace Haven, Jeff Prevatt
12/18	John Penn
12/19	Keith McPherson, Jimmy Johnson, Kaitlin Dunn
12/21	Mary Rodgers

12/22	Tom Wolcott, Suzanne La Rocca, Maddie Townsend
12/24	Emma Claire Martin
12/25	Barbara Jackson, Rebecca White
12/28	Will Horn
12/29	Jack McCarthy, Mitchell Capriglione, Jack McCarthy
12/30	Cleveland Kingsberry, Carl Brothers
12/31	Alex La Rocca

Please Remember In Prayer

Nang Dik Tuang
 Bonnie Anderson
 Melva Armstrong
 (Amy Massey's cousin)
 Susan Bailey
 (Doris Kruger's daughter)
 David Beam
 Brady Beck
 (Bev and Keith Beck's son)
 Paul Braun
 Marcia Brugger
 (Jamie Pierce's mother)
 Teresa Burt
 Jonathan Chapman
 Archie Clark
 Vance Clayton

James Cornell
 (Amy Massey's son)
 Beth Deaton
 Linda Edwards
 Phyllis and Alex Edwards
 Cleo Flowers
 (Kevin Flowers' mother)
 Margie Ford
 Ben Franklin
 Dennis Goodson
 (Brenda Hudson's brother)
 Walter Harvey
 (Grace Haven's brother)
 Mark Haven
 (Grace Haven's son)
 Doug Hoffman

Betsey Huber
 (Doris Huber's daughter-in-law)
 Glenda Johnson
 Doris Kruger
 Jeanine Lueke
 Dee Maronpot
 Amy Massey
 Cliff McCowan
 Georgie McKenzie
 Dennis McLain
 Mary McLeod
 Dot McGee
 Linda Moran
 Brenda Murphy
 (Joyce Hicks' sister)

Kenley Myers
 Robin Pendleton
 Billie Poole
 Betsy Pridgen
 John Robinson
 Harriet Roland
 Bob Sexton
 Jeanne Shorter
 Janet Stuber
 Carlyle Teague
 Jane Webb
 Conor and Sarah
 Mann Willcox

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

Our sympathy to Vickie Adamson and family upon the death of her husband, Mark Adamson, on November 6.

Our sympathy to Pam Blomquist and family upon the death of her husband, Paul Blomquist, on November 8.

DECEMBER EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 1

See pages 6 & 7 for all
Advent/Christmas Activities

Remembrance Tree Dedication Service

December 1 | 5 PM | Parking Lot
see p. 5

Welcome House Shopping

December 4 | see p. 3

Highlanders

December 7 | 1:15 PM
Nutcracker Performance
see p. 2

Youth

December 8 | Rise Against Hunger
December 11 | Shopping for Refugees
December 15 | Youth Christmas Party

Pub Theology

December 10 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros.
see p. 2

UMM Breakfast

December 14 | 8:30 AM
Pam's Farmhouse
see p. 2

Red Cross Blood Drive

December 19 | 10 AM-2:30 PM
Conference Room
see 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

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: **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

**January Ridge Rider
Deadline**
December 9

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.



1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID

Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 381

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

