

RIDGE RIDER

New Beginnings



Why is New Year's such a big holiday in so many cultures? Of course, there has to be a designated day for the new year so our calendars will stay in sync with the seasons, but why is that a reason to celebrate?

Perhaps it is because of the important psychological and spiritual opportunities the new year gives us for a fresh start. Fresh starts are hugely important! They are a way to put behind us the mistakes we've learned from in the past, and to try again with a little more wisdom and a little more determination. A fresh start also can be a blessing for frayed relationships.

On January 12, we'll have an opportunity to celebrate a fresh start with our Baptismal Remembrance Service. It is a time to remember that we have been baptized, forgiven, accepted, and claimed as God's own. That gives us new beginnings in a thousand joyful ways.

God bless you in the New Year!

John

New Beginnings

January
Sermon Series



In the life and teachings of Jesus, we find a pattern and path toward new beginnings.

January 5

Matthew 2:1-12

"New Year/New Path"

The Rev. Dr. John Tyson, preaching

The Wisemen travel far to worship Jesus, and joyously return home on a different road. Full grown adults, as well as the young, find a new way in Jesus.

January 12

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

"A Fresh Start"

The Rev. Dr. John Tyson, preaching

At the age of 30, Jesus embarks on a whole new path which may have worried his Mom.

January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5

"Hope for Better Days"

The Rev. Janet Baucom, preaching

God's love and faithfulness means we can believe in new beginnings, even when we've been through the toughest of times.

January 26

Luke 4:14-21

"Leaving Home"

The Rev. Dr. John Tyson, preaching

Ever gone back home and realized you just can't stay? You've outgrown the people and their limiting ideas of who you are. Jesus gets you.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

@ Highland
United Methodist Church

LIFT Returns January 8!

LIFT Winter Semester runs from Jan. 8-Feb. 26

- Meal service starts at 5:45 PM
- Make reservations by noon on Monday
- Kids eat free every week!
- Activities for everyone following the meal!

Choose your Wednesday Night Activity (6:30-7:30 PM)

Adult Bible Study with Rev. Janet: "Caring for God's World"

All are invited to join Kathy Langfield and Rev. Janet Baucom for a four-week study on how we are called to care for God's world. We will meet after dinner on Wednesday nights, January 8 - 29, 6:30 - 7:30 PM. We'll explore a biblical basis for environmental stewardship and care of all God's creation, review part of the UMC's newly revised Social Principles, and consider practical steps we can take as individuals and as a church to stop doing harm and help heal our world.

Youth Bible Study (Contact neil@highlandumc.org for more info)

Beginner's Handbell Choir (Contact kevin@highlandumc.org for more info)

...or just visit with friends!



Messy Church is an all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. At Messy Church today's busy households of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith.

Everyone is welcome as they are. Whether you are single or partnered, young or old, tidy or messy, have questions or doubts, are filled with joy or struggling with life you will be welcomed at Messy Church.

Messy Church is FUN.

All ages gather to engage in activities, crafts and games that bring the month's biblical story to life.

Messy Church is FOOD.

Each Messy Church includes a meal: sitting at table with new and old friends, sharing the stories of our real and messy lives!

Messy Church is FAITH.

Following the activities, all ages join in short celebration with an interactive bible story, music and prayer.

Highland's Messy Church will be a moving target for a few months as we experiment to find the best gathering time for our community. **Our first Messy Church will be on Friday, January 10. We will gather between 5:15-5:30.** Since we are meeting at the end of the work day, we will start off with our meal so that we have the energy and focus to fully participate in the activities and celebration time. There is no charge to participate in Messy Church and you don't need to make a reservation-just come and bring a friend!

Please note: Messy Church is not a drop-off program. Children should be accompanied by their parents/grandparents. Families get to participate together.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

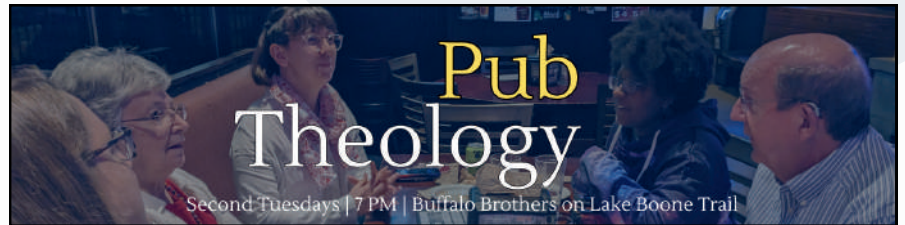


UMM Breakfast

Saturday, January 11, 8:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Join us for breakfast and fellowship.
Contact Scott Loftin for more info:
s@theloftins.net.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, January 14, 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

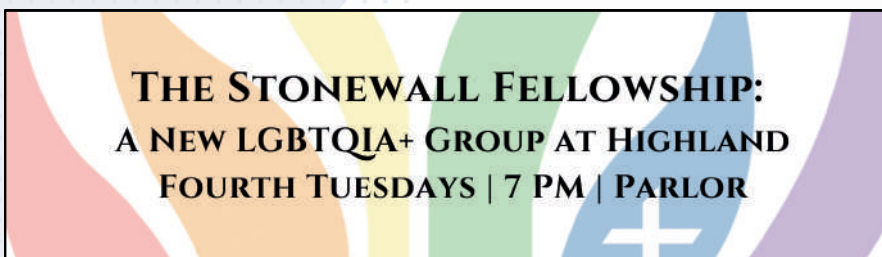
Tuesday, January 21, 11:30 AM

Dr. Christine Khandelwal, Lead Gerontologist at WakeMed Raleigh will present the program on healthy aging and issues with memory. There will be a

time for Q & A. The menu will include chicken pot pie, vegetable medley, cole slaw, rolls with butter, assorted beverages and desserts for \$15 per person. Reserve your spot by signing the roster at the reception desk or calling the church office.

Mommies Group

Sat., January 25, 10 AM, Conference Room
All moms of young children are welcome for coffee & snacks. Childcare available! We'll share ideas, concerns, and encouragement. If you can come and need childcare please contact amy@highlandumc.org.



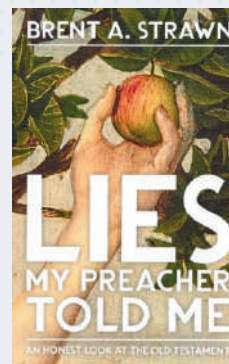
The Stonewall Fellowship

Tuesday, January 28 | 7 PM | Parlor

As a Reconciling Ministries congregation, this group will continue in the affirmation of and outreach to this community and their allies. All are welcome! Contact Mark Cox for more information: markymarkcox@aol.com

Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join us for our next study, *Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament* by Brent Strawn, beginning January 6. 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).



Register now!



Women's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2025

The women of Highland are invited to join Rev. Janet Baucom and Amy Takahashi for a weekend retreat at the Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center near Asheboro, NC. We leave late Friday afternoon and return Sunday afternoon. Come enjoy a weekend of friendship and growing in faith together! Questions? Contact Janet (janet@highlandumc.org). Registration and additional details available online (QR).

Spring 2025

Highland UMC Youth Calendar

1/12 Youth Kick-Off	3/2 Rise Against Hunger Service Sunday	5/12 Youth Group
1/19 Winter Retreat		5/19 Youth Group
1/26 Youth Group		
2/2 Youth Group	3/9 Youth Group	6/1 End of Year Party
2/9 Youth Group	3/23 Youth Group	6/8 Senior Sunday-Pentecost Picnic
2/16 Youth Group		
2/22 Costa Rica Fundraiser: Dinner & Silent Auction	4/13 Youth Group	7/6-11 HSP
	4/20 Easter (No Youth Group)	7/13 HSP Sunday
	4/27 Youth Group	7/19-26 Costa Rica



SAVE-THE-DATE

Dinner & Silent Auction
Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to
Costa Rica
Sunday, February 22 6 PM

Donate now!



From the Finance Office

As we reflect on the past year, the Finance Department would like to extend a warm thank you for your generous donations in 2024 and your commitment to supporting the ministries and missions at Highland in 2025. Just a quick reminder that year-end contribution statements will be mailed out in mid-January. If you have any questions or need to update your address, please reach out to Deanna Clack in the finance office at 919 787-4240 ext 108 or via email at deanna@highlandumc.org.

We also want to acknowledge John Madden for his outstanding leadership as chair of the Finance Committee this past year and we're excited to have Don Carroll step into this role for 2025. Here's to the new year and all the wonderful things God has planned for Highland and our community!

Questions about Finances?

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

GIVE ONLINE

*Your giving
makes ministry
happen!*



Altar Flowers: Sign up Now

Providing a floral arrangement for the traditional worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life while also beautifying our worship space. Sign up via the QR code.



Front Desk Volunteers Needed!

The Church needs your help to make sure the phones are answered during the week. If you can sit at the reception desk on second Wednesdays or third Tuesdays from 9 AM-noon each month, please contact Karen Winters: karen@highlandumc.org.

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.



Highland Prayer Shawl Ministry History

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2006 by the Associate Minister, Heather Lear, along with Jean Shelly and Sally Francios. Nancy Klein graciously took leadership of the group, making it a blessing to all for 15 years. Membership over the years grew to include: Jennie Taylor, Virginia Childs, Doris Kruger, Marietta Gray, Linda Ashbrenner (who came in not knowing how to knit and graduating to making shawls during her time with us), Elizabeth Turner, Emily Saunders, Georgie McKenzie, Jeanne Shorter, Ola Mae Cimmero, Helen Pate, Wanda Easley, and Carol Sexton.



Each Prayer Shawl carried a prayer and blessing for healing. Nancy oversaw that folks going through sickness and heartbreak received a Prayer Shawl, so to feel the love of their Highland church family comforting them as they went through their “valley.”

All graduating Seniors received a shawl (in college colors if continuing their academics). Our men and women in the military were sent shawls, letting them know back home that their church family wrapped love and prayers around their shoulders as they served our country. Shawls were graciously donated to the patients of Yoshi Takahashi in his chaplaincy ministry. One of our greatest memories of the group will be the contribution of more than 50 shawls (the work of the PS ladies) to the Western NC people who have suffered from the floods.

Under Nancy Klein’s leadership the Prayer Shawl Group gathered, shared, learned new skills, developed lasting friendships, shared laughter and meals. They also became a “therapy” group to providing support to each other as they knitted, and prayed for others.

We are grateful for all the women who have given so generously and contributed to this wonderful ministry.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD NOURISH our FUTURE

United for our Future



Join Bread for the World as we gather to unite our voices to end hunger!

Build Your Knowledge:
In the morning, join Eugene Cho, President and CEO of Bread for the World and other experts to learn about food insecurity at home and abroad, and how Bread for the World’s Nourish our Future campaign encourages lawmakers to make ending hunger a priority.

Make Your Voice Heard:
In the afternoon, join Bread for the World members from across the state to welcome lawmakers, staffers, and other policy leaders. Together, we will ask them to make ending hunger a priority, and to commit to Bread’s Nourish our Future campaign.

REGISTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

Saturday, January 25, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Highland United Methodist Church



A \$20 suggested donation covers lunch, materials, coffee, and snacks throughout the day. College students are invited free of charge.

GIVE & SERVE



CELEBRATING OUR GARDEN

The 15th growing season of the Highland Victory Garden has come to a close, and we celebrate the many ways this garden strengthens our community.

In 2024, we were able to donate 2,531 pounds of fresh organic produce to Plant-a-Row with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. We'll see you in February for Season 16!



CHURCH FAMILY



ADVENT MEMORIES

On this page:

Our Youth Group has been actively engaged in community service this Advent season, volunteering with Rise Against Hunger and shopping for Christmas gifts for refugee children being cared for by [BELONG NC](#). They also celebrated the season with their annual Christmas Party, a time for food, fun, and fellowship, including a spirited Gingerbread House competition. We are truly fortunate at Highland to have such a dedicated group of young people who are committed to serving our community and fostering a sense of fellowship among themselves.

On the following page:

- Scenes from our Advent Wreath Workshop and Potluck and Journey to Bethlehem Living Nativity, both beautiful events that bring all ages together to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.
- The Music Ministry presented a beautiful Cantata, "Appalachian Winter," on the Second Sunday of Advent.
- Holiday celebrations abounded with Christmas parties for the Seekers Sunday School class, Circle 7, and Women's Bible Study.
- We welcomed the Goldens to our family of faith on 12/1. Daughter Stirling was baptized and parents Carson and Bishop joined through transfer.

Our life together as a family of faith is rich with opportunities to worship, serve, and create community, and we are especially grateful for the special ways we are able to do that together during this season of expectation and hope.

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY



CHURCH FAMILY

January Birthdays

01/01	Charles Noneman
01/04	Wilder Prevatt
01/05	Peggy McCants
01/06	Ruth Coble
01/07	Thang Nun Siam
01/08	Lou Davis
01/11	Carneal Downey
01/12	Elizabeth Sandling

01/14	Marcia Nance, Sean Richards
01/15	Mary Petropoulas
01/16	Collin Heiler
01/17	Pam Blomquist
01/18	Don Carroll
01/19	Roz Thompson, Jonathan Marchi, Heather Lear, Will Prevatt

01/20	Martha Robinson, Susan Rawls, Ellen Tucker
01/21	Joyce Walker
01/24	Richard Poole
01/27	Jack Penny
01/29	B.J. Stallings, Pamela Goss
01/31	Don Sides

Please Remember In Prayer

Nang Dik Tuang
 Bonnie Anderson
 Melva Armstrong
 (Amy Massey's cousin)
 Susan Bailey
 (Doris Kruger's daughter)
 Brady Beck
 (Bev and Keith Beck's son)
 Paul Braun
 Marcia Brugger
 (Jamie Pierce's mother)
 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 the family of Teresa Burt Keith who died on November 21, 2024.

Our sympathy to the family of Pam Brown who died on May 25, 2024.

Our sympathy to the family of Norm Childs who died on December 16, 2024.

Our sympathy to the family of Tom Stocum who died on December 16, 2024.

JANUARY EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Women's Bible Study

Mondays beginning January 6
10 AM | Room 209 | see p. 4

LIFT/Wednesday Night Activities

January 8, 15, 22, 29
5:45 PM | Bradley Hall | see p. 2

Messy Church

January 10 | 5:15 PM | see p. 2

UMM Breakfast

January 11 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Youth Group

January 12 & 26 | 5 PM
Winter Retreat January 17-20
see p. 4

Pub Theology

January 14 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros.

Highlanders

January 21 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Mommies Group

January 25 | 10 AM | Conf. Room

Stonewall Fellowship

January 28 | 7 PM | Parlor

National Hot Chocolate Day

January 31 | 2-3:30 PM

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

**February Ridge Rider
Deadline**
January 20

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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