

RIDGE RIDER



February is a time when we naturally think about important relationships. Since everybody is flawed and has issues, good relationships benefit from mindful spiritual attention. This month, we will look at some of the most powerful teachings from scripture about relationships.

I hope you'll also join us on the last three Wednesday nights in February and March for conversations sparked by my book on outgrowing the idea that being LGBT+ is a sin. The book deals carefully and reverently with scripture and demonstrating how it has been misinterpreted in the past. There is also a chapter from the respected research biologist, Dr. Gregory Prince, explaining the science behind gender identity. Books are available for purchase (\$17) at the front desk or you can purchase on Amazon.

John



February 5-26

February 5: Messy Church takes over Wednesday Night!

see p. 2 for more info

February 12-26:

- Meal service starts at 5:45 PM
- Make reservations by noon on Monday
- Kids eat free every week!
- Activities for everyone following the meal!
 - Book Study with Pastor John
 - Beginner's Handbell Choir
 - Youth Bible Study



Restoring Relationships

February Sermon Series

February 2

Focus: The Significant Other

I Corinthians 13

Paul gives us all a refresher on what real love is. It's good to compare this template to our own relationships to see where we're getting it right and where we might improve.

February 9

Envy isn't Helping

Psalm 37

Sometimes envy gets in the way of relationships. This teaching gives us a way to get beyond envy, to love freely and to enjoy the good things God has given us.

February 16

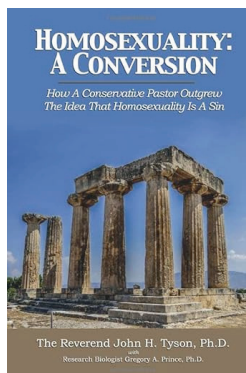
Rev. Kevin Quick preaching

February 23

Forgive

Genesis 45:3-11

Jesus models and teaches radical forgiveness. Under the right circumstances, the ability to forgive, forget, and start fresh can be powerful.



Join Pastor John for a study of his book on Wednesday Nights beginning February 12!

monthly groups

UMM Breakfast

Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Join us for breakfast and fellowship, and to hear from Cullen Whitley about the Disaster Response Team's experiences in Western NC post-Helene. Contact Scott Loftin for more info: s@theloftins.net.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, February 11, 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.

Mommies Group

Sat., February 15, 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.

Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship

Tuesday, February 18, 11:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Highland's Office Admin Karen Winters will share information on using Realm (Highland's online church directory) - a great way to stay connected as a church family. Bring your cell phone! Karen will help individuals connect to Realm on the spot, and make pictures for your Realm account. Lunch will be catered by Chicken Salad Chick (\$15 per person) - please sign the roster at the reception desk or call the church by Sunday, Feb. 16 to reserve your spot.

The Stonewall Fellowship

Tuesday, February 25 | 7 PM | Parlor
As a Reconciling Ministries congregation, this group continues the affirmation of and outreach to the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. All are welcome! Contact Mark Cox for more information: markymarkcox@aol.com



**It's church,
but not as you know it.
You're invited!**

Feb. 5 | Mar. 9 | Apr. 13

Messy Church

Wednesday, February 5, 5:30 PM

(don't worry about getting here exactly on time)

Everyone is invited to join us for our first Messy Church! We'll start with a taco bar, enjoy music from our handbell choir, and then move to a variety of hands-on activities that will help us explore our theme for the evening. We will be headed home by 7.



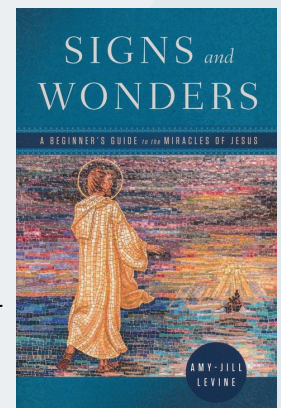
Messy Church is a chance for families to spend time together, having fun, experiencing Christian community, sharing in yummy food, and learning a little about God in the process. The "Messy" part comes not only from the crafts we do (which do get rather messy!) but also the fact that community can be a bit messy! We have messy lives and creative minds and that is something to be celebrated.

Planning to attend? Use the QR code above to sign up. No time to RSVP? Come anyway!

Women's Bible Study

**Mondays beginning February 24, 10 AM,
Room 209**

Join us for a study of Amy-Jill Levine's *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. Interested? Contact Rev. Janet Baucom (janet@highlandumc.org) for more information.



Women's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2025

The women of Highland are invited for a weekend retreat at the Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center near Asheboro, NC. We're welcoming Rev. Liz Roberts as our guest speaker. Liz currently serves as the director of the Raleigh Wesley Foundation. 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) or Amy (amy@highlandumc.org). Registration and additional details available via the QR. The last day to register is Sunday, February 16.



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

2025 Winter Retreat



Dinner & Silent Auction

Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to Costa Rica

Sunday, February 22 | 6 PM

Enjoy appetizers while bidding on useful items and services! Can't make it? Donate below now:

Donate now!



YOUTH

JUL 6-11 2025



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 11-15 2025

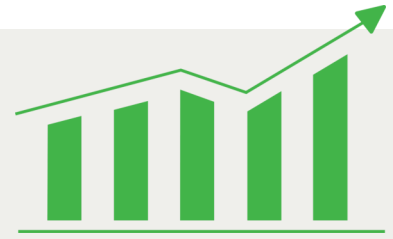


City Servants Middle School

From the Finance Office How to Maximize Your Stock Gifts

As we reflect on our blessings and the importance of giving, we want to remind you of some fantastic opportunities to contribute to our church in a way that can be beneficial for both you and our community.

Did you know that you can donate appreciated stock to the church? This method may be tax advantageous compared to selling the stock and donating the proceeds and could help you to avoid paying taxes on the appreciation of those assets. Instead of selling the stock, which could trigger capital gains tax, donating it directly lets you transfer the full value to the church, effectively maximizing your contribution. Additionally, if you are 70½ or older, you may also consider giving from your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). By donating your RMD directly to the church, you can avoid paying taxes on those amounts, making your giving even more impactful. These giving methods are a great way to support our church's mission while also making strategic financial decisions. If you have any questions or need guidance on how to make these contributions, please reach out to your tax professional or you may contact Deanna Clack in the finance office at 919-787-4240 ext. 108.



Questions about Finances?

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

GIVE ONLINE

*Your giving
makes ministry
happen!*



Community Victory Garden

Our 16th Growing Season starts February 15! Join us each Saturday from 9-11 AM to enjoy the outdoors, meet new friends, and tend to God's creation. Questions? Contact Donna Wolcott: donna.wolcott2@gmail.com



Third Tuesday Social Justice Forum

Sponsored by the Highland Micah 6:8 Team
Tuesday, February 18, 7 PM, Conference Room

Topic: The Humanity of Migrants and Immigrants:
How do we respond in these times?
Contact Joe Burton, (jburton41tta@gmail.com),
Co-Chair of the Micah 6:8 Committee, with
questions.

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.

FOOD DRIVE
Sunday, February 2
2 - 5 PM
Can you help? Contact
janet@highlandumc.org

A Thank You from our Disaster Response Team

To Our Dear Highland Family and Friends,

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the magnificent support that this church has bestowed upon our Disaster Response Team. In a lifetime of attending Highland, I have never witnessed such an immediate and passionate response to a disaster like the one this church has had to Hurricane Helene.

The NC Conference of the UMC calls us “The Hazard Tree Team.” This is because we perform tree jobs that no other team in our Conference can safely handle. We were the first team called to respond to this disaster and have responded four times. Our base of operation has been Spruce Pine UMC. Our team has slept on cots in tents, in classrooms, the church bus floor, church pews, the sanctuary floor, and in trailers. We have had to carry everything that we could possibly use or need with us – there were no stores open to procure supplies. We are continuously procuring needed arboricultural equipment to respond to hazard tree situations.

If you were in worship during Advent, you saw several videos about our missions out West, and how they have turned out to be much, much more than hazard tree abatement. Our primary mission is to provide a loving and caring Christian presence wherever we go.

While doing disaster assessments, our team has come across situations that we could do nothing about; however, we saw individuals and families that lost everything, including loved ones. We were able to make small donations to some these people to help them solve some problems and just “get by.”

True Saints make this possible by the private donations to me here at Highland. Thank you, my friends. Your donations make it possible for us to do the things that you heard about in the videos. (Use the QR code below to view the YouTube playlist for the Disaster Response Team’s “Stories from the West.”).

Our team plans on returning as many times as it takes to assist with this disaster, but housing is still limited in the region. We are currently awaiting new deployment marching orders.

I do not possess the necessary vocabulary to adequately thank you all for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. May God bless you all as you have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to those that have been placed in harm’s way.

Climbing For Christ!
Cullen Whitley

Watch the
video series



Mission Sunday March 2, 2025

Mark Your Calendar!



Join us for this special Sunday!

- 10 AM: One Combined Worship Service
- 11 AM: Pack 10,000 meals
- 12 AM: Lunch

Wear your work clothes to church! Plan to stay after Worship to pack meals and have lunch together in Bradley Hall!

We need to raise \$4,000 between now and March 2 for this event! Donate NOW via the QR code:



 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY

February Birthdays

02/03	Richard Moore
02/05	David Hood
02/07	Vicky Earp, Amy Takahashi
02/08	Mary Bugger, Kennan Mottershead
02/09	Beverly Marchi
02/10	Madeline Driver
02/12	Henry Taylor

02/13	Caroline Crouse
02/14	Susan White
02/15	Linda Taylor, Harriet Roland, Magara Boisvert
02/16	Jeff Mann, Patrick Horn
02/17	Alice Shearin
02/20	Kerry Havner, Gail Flowers, Alice Fowler, Nem Vung, Don Sian Uap

02/21	Shirley Rocha, Carter Mills
02/22	Janine Wood
02/23	Minda Griffin
02/25	Angela Robbins
02/27	Virginia Childs, Reid Gray, Owen Cole
02/28	Mike Dove, Colin Bross, Sophia Lieng

Please Remember In Prayer

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)
 Archie Clark
 Vance Clayton
 Bill Correll
 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

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
 Stephen Warren
 (Amy Massey's friend)
 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Left: Suzy Gwarges, Brad & Luqa Owen
 Above: Mary Lee Ransmeier, Beth Deakle, and Cindy Lowe

All joined December 15, 2024

FEBRUARY EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Youth Group

February 2 & 16 | 5 PM

Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser

February 22 | 6 PM | see p. 4

Food Drive

February 2 | 2-5 PM | see p. 4

Messy Church

February 5 | 5:15 PM | see p. 2

UMM Breakfast

February 8 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Pub Theology

February 11 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros.

LIFT/Wednesday Night Activities

February 12, 19, 26

5:45 PM | Bradley Hall | see front page

Mommies Group

February 15 | 10 AM | Conf. Room

Community Victory Garden Workdays

Every Saturday at 9 AM | see p. 4

Highlanders

February 18 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Social Justice Forum on Immigration

February 18 | 7 PM | Conf. Room | see p. 4

Women's Bible Study

Mondays beginning February 24
10 AM | Room 209 | see p. 3

Stonewall Fellowship

February 25 | 7 PM | Parlor

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.

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

Don't Miss the Deadline!

E-News Deadline

Tuesdays at Noon

March Ridge Rider Deadline

February 17

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.

 **Highland**
United Methodist Church

1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

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