

RIDGE RIDER



Friends,

We have come to the holy season of Lent. Lent can be a powerful time of spiritual renewal, or it can just be a few weeks when we wait for warmer weather. The difference will be determined by you. Spiritual renewal

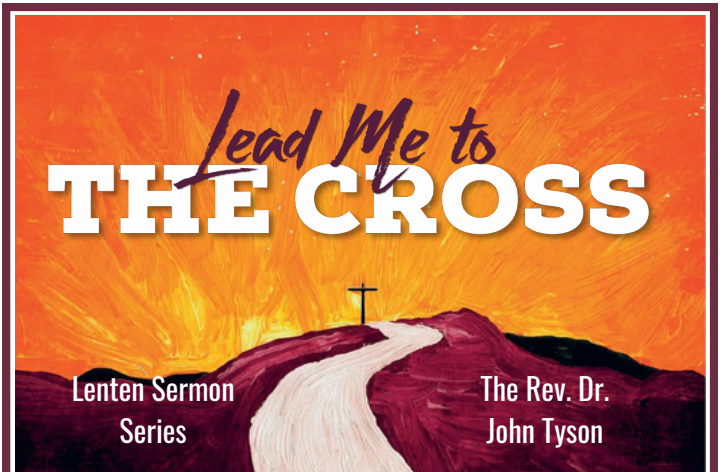
obviously requires the work of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is not the variable in this equation. The Holy Spirit always wants to bring us spiritual renewal. The variable is us.

There are a few themes of Lent which are hugely important to spiritual renewal. These themes deal with sin, guilt, atonement, faith, forgiveness and redemption. The world is certainly not interested in these topics, nor is the worldly Christian. The world believes there is no such thing as sin, but only "mistakes." The world believes a sense of guilt is an unhealthy social construct. The world believes there is no God who is heartbroken by our sin and offended by our rejection; therefore, there is no need for divine forgiveness. The world views the cross of Christ as a pitiful miscarriage of justice at best and as a primitive human sacrifice at worst. Rather than believing in a provident Heavenly Father, the world prefers to believe in "the Universe," a nameless, faceless, astral servant making no demands as it manifests positive energy and desired outcomes.

I invite you to make this a holy Lent, a transformational season, as we journey with Jesus to the Cross. In the next six weeks, we will ponder together the holy mysteries of sin, guilt, atonement, salvation, faith, and eternal life. I hope you will be with us.



In Christ's love,



Lead Me to the Cross

Lenten Sermon Series

March 5

Ash Wednesday (7 PM)

"Why Did You Do It?"

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9

"Dealing With Temptation"

Luke 4:1-13

Holy Communion at 11 AM

March 16

"Leaning Into Trouble"

Luke 13:31-35

March 23

"Seeking God"

Isaiah 55:1-9

March 30

"Seeking Forgiveness"

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Ash Wednesday
Service

March 5
7 PM

monthly groups

UMM Breakfast

Saturday, March 8, 8:30 AM, Pam's Farmhouse
Join us for breakfast and fellowship at Pam's Farmhouse--dutch treat; cash only.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, March 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.

Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship

Tuesday, March 18, 11:30 AM, Bradley Hall
Join us for lunch and a program presented by Owen Stone, Community Development Manager with WeSurv, a network of bonded and insured workers who can assist with a variety of tasks around the home and lawn. The menu will be chicken pastry, green beans, sweet potatoes, slaw, rolls and dessert (\$15 per person). Sign the roster at the reception desk or call the church by Sunday, March 16 to reserve your spot.

Mommies Group

Saturday, March 22, 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, March 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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

@ Highland
United Methodist Church

March 5-26




March 5: Ash Wednesday Supper and Worship
Supper at 5:45, Worship at 7

We're having a baked potato bar!

It's free but please RSVP using the QR code (left)

March 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 (continuing the study on his book *Homosexuality: A Conversion: How a Conservative Pastor Outgrew the Idea that Homosexuality is a Sin*)
 - Beginner's Handbell Choir
 - Youth Bible Study

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

March 9 | April 13

Messy Church

Sunday, March 9, 4 PM

Everyone is invited to join us for our second Messy Church gathering on Sunday afternoon, March 9! We'll begin with an interactive worship experience and then have dinner together (chicken tenders & mac 'n cheese!) before we part ways.

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 to sign up. No time to RSVP? Come anyway!



United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Scholarships

Highland's newest scholarship, the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, was established in 2024 by Richard and Ruth Moore for post-secondary students attending a United Methodist-related college or university.

The United Methodist Dollars for Scholars program requires that a student's home church provide support in the amount of \$1,000, which is matched by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation to become \$2,000, and is matched again by the participating United Methodist-related institution to become \$3,000!

Go to highlandumc.org/ministries/scholarships for additional information and to apply.

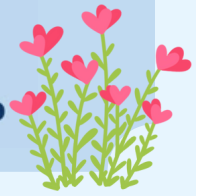
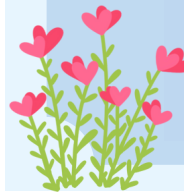
Applications and all requested materials are due March 10, 2025.

Spring 2025 Youth Calendar

3/2 Rise Against Hunger Service Sunday

3/9 Youth Group
3/23 Youth Group

4/13 Youth Group
4/20 Easter (No Youth Group)
4/27 Youth Group



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

January Revenue Report

General Fund Pledges	\$934,320
2025 Other Revenue Budgeted	\$515,257
Total 2025 Budgeted Revenue	\$1,449,577
YTD Revenue Received thru 1/31/25 (8% of yr)	\$100,203 (7% of annual budget)

Questions about Finances?

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

Community Victory Garden

Our 16th Growing Season has commenced! 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



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.



Service Sunday March 2

One Service at 10 AM

Rev. Janet Baucom preaching

Meal Packing at 11 AM

Lunch together afterward!

Wear your work clothes to church

Register ahead of time

Our fundraising goal is \$4k...

can you help us reach it?

Sign Up &
Donate



All in to
help save lives!

Blood Drive

Highland United Methodist
Church

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

Thursday, March 20, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



GIVE & SERVE



Messy Church | Highlanders | Community Victory Garden | National Hot Chocolate Day

Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY

March Birthdays

03/01	Cullen Whitley
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
03/09	Bev Beck, Sarah Griffin
03/11	Pat Cronin
03/13	Logan Earp

03/15	Jennifer Alford
03/17	Irv Pearce, Kevin McCarron, Hon Tuang Sian Thang
03/18	Walker Seaton
03/21	Brett Yarborough
03/22	Susan Taylor, Katherine Robbins
03/23	Hugh Liner, Chuck Stuber
03/24	Amy Massey

03/25	Pam Brothers
03/26	Dot McGee, Garrett Loftin
03/27	Bob Page, Karen Davis
03/29	Lana Lusic
03/29	Steve Broome, John Hearn, Bill Correll, Noah Earp
03/30	Quinn Carter, Jack Martin
03/31	John Tyson, Doug Phelps

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)
 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)
 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 condolences to the family of Doug Hoffman, who died February 4, 2025.

Our condolences to the family of Jane Webb, who died February 10, 2025.

MARCH EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Rise Against Hunger Service Sunday

March 2 | 10 AM | see p. 4

Ash Wednesday Supper & Worship

March 5 | 5:45 Supper, 7 PM Worship

UMM Breakfast

March 8 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Messy Church

March 9 | 4 PM | see p. 2

Youth Group

March 9 & 23 | 5 PM | see p. 3

Pub Theology

March 11 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros.

LIFT/Wednesday Night Activities

March 12, 19, 26
5:45 PM | Bradley Hall | see p. 2

Highlanders

March 18 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall

Blood Drive

March 20 | 10 AM | Conf. Room | see p. 4

Mommies Group

March 22 | 10 AM | Conference Room

Stonewall Fellowship

March 25 | 7 PM | Parlor

Community Victory Garden Workdays

Every Saturday at 9 AM | 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

April Ridge Rider Deadline

March 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.



1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID

Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 381

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

