



Friends,

May is a time of great festivity and celebration. We are celebrating the Great Fifty Days of Easter as we head toward Pentecost in June. The Resurrection of Jesus is perhaps the most profound event

that shapes our faith as Christians, so it takes us a few weeks to fully enjoy and digest that watershed event in human history. Because Jesus died and rose again, a great cosmic victory of God over sin and death has been won, full of excitement, joy, power, and mystery.

May is also one of the loveliest of months when the weather is warm, school is winding down, and the beach beckons. We think of the glory of God's generous creation as we remember our recent Creation Celebration, and as we give thanks for the beauty of the world around us. Picnics, weddings, graduations, and beach trips come into view.

From May 23-June 1, Elizabeth and I will also be joining Bishop Shelton and other North Carolina United Methodists on a journey tracing the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. We will travel to many of the places where Paul established churches that we read about in the New Testament. Some of our Highland folks are going along as well, which makes it all the lovelier. We look forward to this Continuing Education time of fellowship, learning, and renewal.

**Blessings!** 

Pastor John



#### May 4

"Overwhelmed by Grace" John 21:1-19

In this passage, Jesus arranged a face-to face meeting with Peter. At the crucifixion, Peter denied knowing Jesus. In this postresurrection appearance, Jesus lavishes abundance on Peter in every sense: the abundant catch, the sense of restoration and forgiveness, and the new direction in life.

#### May 11

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" *Psalm 23 John 10:22-30* In this beloved Psalm, we are reminded of Jesus, the good shepherd, who cares for our needs abundantly, skillfully, and lovingly.

#### May 18

"Something to Look Forward To" *Revelation 21:1-6* Sometimes life is so difficult. God gives us direction and guidance to make tough decisions, but God also promises a beautiful new beginning too wonderful to describe.

#### May 25

Rev. Kevin Quick preaching

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

# We've got an exciting summer planned for kids this year...secure your child's spot in VBS and our NEW Music & Arts Camp today!



Vacation Bible School August 4-8, 2025 9 AM- 12 PM Ages 3-rising 5th grade Register now!



Get ready to hit the road with this year's travelthemed VBS!

VBS is always a great week of fun and learning filled with snappy tunes, engaging crafts, fabulous stories, games, snacks, and even science experiments! Highland's VBS is open to all children 3-years-old through 5th grade (completed). This year's VBS will be held August 4-8 from 9-12 each day.

We need lots of volunteers to make VBS happen. If you would be willing to help with any aspect of VBS please sign up via the QR code or contact Amy Takahashi.



# CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Sing a New Song! Sing and Arts Camp! Nusc and Arts Camp!

Music and Arts Camp August 4-8, 2025 12 PM-5 PM Ages K-5



We are excited to offer a Music & Arts Camp this summer along with VBS. The Music & Arts Camp is open to elementary-aged children. The cost for the camp is \$120 and enrollment is limited to 50 (we already have 21 signed up...so be sure to secure your spot now!). Contact Amy Takahashi or Rev. Kevin Quick with questions.



We are pleased to welcome Tom Shelton to serve as our choir clinician. Tom is a native of Greensboro, NC and currently on the faculty of the Westminster Choir College and he directs the children and youth choirs at Princeton United Methodist Church. Tom has been the guest leader for children and youth choirs across the country. Tom is also an accomplished choral composer. We are very fortunate to have Tom join us to provide leadership for our first Music and Arts Camp!

Highland's own Kathryn Hood will serve as our artist-in-residence for hands-on art projects at this year's camp. Kathryn is currently working on her Masters of Fine Arts at UNC Greensboro. Kathryn will bring an enthusiasm for expressing our faith through art and collaboration.



# YOUTH NEWS

#### Youth Service Weeks Summer 2025

**Highland Service Project** (HSP) is our high school mission trip. With 30 plus years of tradition and a passion to serve, our high schoolers and adult leaders head to the Wilmington Area to work with WARM (Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry). We do construction, repairs, painting, siding, flooring, and anything else to make a difference. We spend the entire week at the Matthew House on the sound in Wrightsville serving, worshiping, and having a ton of fun!

**City Servants** is a week-long summer ministry for our middle schoolers 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 Friday at Wet'n Wild Water Park!



YOUTH



# 

# WEEKS AUG 11-15 2025



# MONTHLY GROUPS

#### UMM Breakfast

#### Saturday, May 10, 8:30 AM, Pam's Farmhouse

Join us for breakfast and fellowship. Pam's Farmhouse is cash only--dutch treat. All are welcome.

#### Pub Theology

#### Tuesday, May 13, 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.

#### **Circle 1 Meeting**

#### Monday, May 12

End of year dinner. Contact Christine Taylor (mickeytiggernc@gmail.com) for details

#### **Circle 7 Meeting**

#### Monday, May 12, 6 PM, Pearce Home

End of year Potluck of salad and desserts at Ann Pearce's house. (6:00 pm) Contacts: Effie Ann Clayton (effieannclayton@gmail.com) and Diane Racey (nana2lhpl@gmail.com).

#### **Mommies Group**

#### Saturday, May 17 | 10 AM | Conference Room

Enjoy fellowship with other moms of young children. Childcare available upon request. Contact Amy Takahashi: amy@highlandumc.org.

#### Highlanders Senior Adult Fellowship Tuesday, May 20, 11:30 AM, Bradley Hall

The Reverend Joey Shelton will be our guest speaker at the May 20 meeting. Rev. Shelton is a vibrant speaker, is currently an Associate Pastor at Horne Memorial UMC in Clayton, and is married to Bishop Connie Shelton. The menu will be baked ham, potato salad, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, drinks, and desserts for \$15/person.

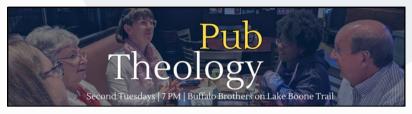
Sign the roster at the reception desk or call the church by Sunday, May 18 to reserve your spot.

### The Stonewall Fellowship

#### Tuesday, May 27 | 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.







Circle Meetings Second Mondays

Mommies Group

United

Women

in Faith

Saturday, May 17 10 AM Childcare available

Highlanders HUMC Senior Adult Fellowship Third Tuesdays, 11:30 AM



THE STONEWALL FELLOWSHIP: An LGBTQIA+ Group at Highland Fourth Tuesdays | 7 PM | Parlor

# GIVE & SERVE



### Food Drive

#### Sunday, May 4, 2-5 PM

Bring canned goods/non-perishable food items to be donated to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. You can bring them with you to church that Sunday morning or stop by the front entrance from 2-5 PM on May 4.

Volunteers needed! Do you have an hour or two to spare on May 4 to staff the food drive-thru? Let Rev. Janet know you'd like to help: janet@highlandumc.org.



#### Monday, May 5th 7 - 8:30pm

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church 952 Morphus Bridge Rd Wendell

Join us as we dive into the often-forgotten history of how our federal, state and local governments segregated American cities and the lasting impact it has today.

The event will include a viewing of Richard Rothstein's short documentary "Segregated by Design" as well as discussion groups and action items to advocate for better housing policy.

#### co-hosted by

Pastor Asa Bell Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Pastor Wallace Johnson Wendell United Methodist Church





#### Comments from previous participants



"It was a **dynamic** discussion with a diverse group of people who expressed different perspectives."

"All need to know the history of the challenges and discrimination in our history and its continuing impact today."





Please

**RSVP**!



# Offering of Letters in Partnership with Bread for the World

From May 4 - 18, our Micah 6:8 Team is inviting Highland to write letters to their elected officials about legislation that impacts our fight against hunger. Resources and sample letters will be made available on our website and everyone is invited to bring their letters as an offering in worship on May 18. Won't be in worship on the 18th? Leave your letters in the Micah 6:8 box in the church office. All the letters will be hand-delivered the following week. Stay tuned for more details!



#### Library Book Sale: Only \$1 Each!

From May 4-6 adult fiction and nonfiction books that have "aged out" of our Library will be for sale in the hallway outside the church offices. Funds raised will help us purchase new books to update our collection. There will be a collection box for your cash and checks. Thanks for supporting your Library! *Please note: we are not accepting book donations for this sale.* 



#### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Thursday, May 22, 10 AM-3 PM, Conference Room Make your life-saving appointment at redcrossblood.org using sponsor code 'highlandumc.'

# <u>GIVE & SERVE</u>

#### Safe Sanctuary Training

#### Sunday, May 18

All volunteers and staff who work with children and youth must complete the Safe Sanctuary training and background check process every 2 years. If you plan to help with children or youth ministry over the summer or in the fall and you did not complete/update your Safe Sanctuary training in

2024, please plan to attend the session on May 18. If you cannot attend or if you are not sure if you need to attend, please contact Neil Smith or Amy Takahashi.

# **First Aid Training**

#### Sunday, June 22, 1-3:30 PM

Highland will offer First Aid training led by CPRCarolina. This 2.5-hour course will cover the basics of first aid. Those who complete the course will receive an American Heart Association course completion card valid for 2 years.

The cost of the course is \$50/person. Participants are invited to help defray the expense of the class. You can sign up to participate via the QR code.



CPR training will be offered on Sunday, August 17.



#### Welcome House Groceries for **Refugee/Immigrant Families New to the Raleigh Area**

Each guarter, Highland Partners with Welcome House Raleigh to provide groceries for refugee/immigrant families who are new to the U.S. This is a wonderful way to support our refugee/immigrant brothers and

sisters during very tenuous times. We're seeking another shopper and financial donations for our next event in June. Follow the QR code



for more information and to sign up. Welcome House RALEIGH Questions? Contact Rev. Janet Baucom (janet@highlandumc.org).

#### Volunteer with Meals on Wheels

Want to see someone smile? Deliver Meals on Wheels and that will be your reward! Highland has six teams who



deliver Meals on Wheels to seniors on the third Friday of each month. Meals are picked up on the Dix Campus between 10 am and 10:30 am and each team delivers 6-12 meals. Routes are usually completed in a couple of hours and the feeling of satisfaction lasts long after that!

We need substitutes and well as regular participants and Meals on Wheels is always seeking volunteers to help in a number of ways, not just meal delivery. If Fridays don't work for you, you can certainly volunteer for other delivery days. Proof of how much satisfaction we get from this small amount of effort is that most of our Highland teams have been delivering meals for 20 years or more!

If you're interested in being a part of this wonderful mission, contact Judy Allen: 919-606-4294, jbxandie@aol.com. Learn more about Meals on Wheels at wakemow.org.



#### Sanctuary Flowers

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. There are many dates still available for 2025. Use the QR code to sign up for a date.

#### Stay In-the-Know!

Subscribe to our weekly E-News to receive updates about these and other Highland events in your inbox every Wednesday.



Love. Serve. Share. With Us.

# GIVE & SERVE





### CELEBRATING OUR Garden

Our beautiful Victory Community Garden is going strong in 2025! Every Saturday, volunteers from Highland and the wider community gather to tend to God's creation, enjoy each other's fellowship, and harvest produce to donate to Plant-a-Row for the Hungry.

We'd be delighted to have you join us on a garden workday! We're there every Saturday from 9-11 AM.











# GIVE & SERVE

	February Finance Report	Budgeted	Actual as of 3/31/25 (25% of year)
R E V E N U E	General Fund Pledges	\$934,320	\$234,314 (25%)
	2025 Other Revenue	\$515,257	\$87,429 (17%)
	TOTAL	\$1,449,577	\$321,723 (22%)
	Total Expenses	\$1,449,577	\$324,602 (22.4%)
	Difference (Revenue-Expenses)		-\$2,859
-			·

## From the Finance Office

#### Simplify Your Contributions with Recurring Gifts

As summer approaches, we want to remind our church family about the positive impact of setting up recurring online giving. By making regular contributions, you help our church plan for and support our ministries, outreach programs, and community events. Whether you give a small amount each week or a bigger donation each month, every gift counts and makes a difference.

Recurring giving has many benefits for both you and the church. It makes the giving process easier, so you don't have to remember to bring a checkbook or wallet every week. Setting up recurring giving takes just a few minutes, and after that, you don't need to manage your donations actively.

If you haven't set up automatic online giving through our secure platform, REALM, we encourage you to do so. If you already have recurring gifts set up, remember you can choose to cover the processing fees when donating by credit card.

Need help activating your REALM account? Contact Karen Winters (karen@highlandumc.org or 984-247-2123) or Deanna (deanna@highlandumc.org or 984-247-2125). Thank you for your support and generosity!

#### **Special Sunday Offerings**

As a part of the body of the United Methodist Church, Highland participates in Special Sundays throughout the year. We'll keep you updated on giving and upcoming Special Sundays here:

Human Relations Sunday (January)	\$230
UMCOR Sunday (March)	\$1,280

#### **Upcoming Special Sundays:**

Native American Ministries Sunday (May 4) United Methodist Retirement Homes (May 11)

Please consider giving generously to these important initiatives of our denomination. Visit https://umcmission.org/special-sundayofferings/ to learn more.

#### **Questions about Finances?**

Contact Finance Manager, Deanna Clack: deanna@highlandumc.org or 984-247-2125

# CHURCH FAMILY

















Circle 1 Flu Kit Assembly | Messy Church | Blood Drive | Fauré *Requiem* Love. Serve. Share. *With Us*.

# CHURCH FAMILY

05/03	Chris Richards	
1	Georgie McKenzie, Andrew Tucker, An <mark>d</mark> erson La Rocca	
05/06	Mike Hughes, Robert Hearn, Brenda Hudson	
	Helen Morrill	
05/08	John Hunter, Junko Taka <mark>hash</mark> i	
05/09	Anna Yarborough, Ae Bug <mark>ger</mark>	
05/10	Judy Allen	

## **May Birthdays**

05/12	Isabella Knight	
05/13	Kathy Langfield, Douglas Templeton	
05/17	Glenda Johnson	
05/18	<mark>De</mark> bbie Car <mark>roll, Ken Schuster,</mark> Ila Krueger	
05/19	Bud Drigge <mark>rs, Scott Deuel</mark>	
05/20	Ann Pearce, Anna Letchworth	
<mark>05/21</mark>	Kay Burgess, Aidan Croni <mark>n-</mark> Hudgins	

05/22	Andrew Wilkinson, Maddie Driggers	
05/23	Camilla Matzinger	
05/27	Thad McDonald, Debbie Sykes	
05/28	Sharon Lee	
	Kay Driggers, Lanny Piper	
05/30	Vance Clayton, <mark>E</mark> llen Fortenberry	
05/31	Joy <mark>ce Faucette, J</mark> ohn Shutt	

### **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) Henri Braun Paul Braun Mary Kathryn Brewer 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) 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 Robin Pendleton Billie Poole Betsy Pridgen John Robinson Harriet Roland Pat Scott Bob Sexton Jeanne Shorter Meg Smither Janet Stuber Cullen Whitley Conor and Sarah Mann Willcox

We pray for families in the Raleigh community and beyond who are being deported by ICE.

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 Carlyle Teague who died April 1, 2025.

Our sympathy to the Takahashi family upon the death of Yoshi's father, Etsuya Takahashi, on April 10, 2025.

# MAY EVENTS

#### AT-A-GLANCE

Food Drive May 4 | 2-5 PM | see p. 5

**Church Council Meeting** May 4 | 7 PM | Conference Room

**UMM Breakfast** May 10 | 8:30 AM | Pam's Farmhouse

> **Circle Meetings** May 12 | see p. 4

**Mommies Group** May 17 | 10 AM | Conference Room

**Pub Theology** May 13 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros.

> Women's Bible Study Mondays | 10 AM

Youth Group May 18 | 5 PM | see p. 3

**Highlanders** May 20 | 11:30 AM | Bradley Hall

**Blood Drive** May 22 | 10 AM-3 PM | Conference Room

> **Stonewall Fellowship** May 27 | 7 PM | Parlor

Victory Garden Workdays Every Saturday at 9 AM | see p. 7

#### 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

June *Ridge Rider* Deadline May 19

#### 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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