

Highland United Methodist Church

RIDGE RIDER

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



Friends,

So many scriptures celebrate the beauty and wonder of creation. Genesis and John's Gospel tell us that God through Christ created the world out of nothing, separating darkness from light

and the seas from dry land. God brought order from chaos and called his creation "good." As summer comes, many of us will celebrate the goodness and beauty of creation. Beach season is upon us with sun and ocean breezes. The cool mountains beckon us to the other side of the state. Flower gardens are in glorious bloom, and the Farmers Market is overflowing with infinite variety.

Some of us do our best praying, and our closest communion with the Lord as we enjoy creation. Perhaps you enjoy having your prayer time on your screened porch in the morning, or as you walk along the beach. Or maybe the nighttime moon and stars set to the music of cicadas sends your spirit to the heavens. Either way, as you enjoy the outdoors this summer, I invite you connect your heart with our munificent creator. He made it all for his glory and our enjoyment.

Blessings!

John



June 1

"The Power and Freedom God Gives"

Acts 16:16-34

Rev. Janet Baucom, preaching

June 8

Pentecost

"Filled and Flooded with New Life"

Acts 2:1-21

At the beginning of summer, we see life surging and teeming all around us. This is a spiritual metaphor for God's power within us to bring new life.

June 15

Trinity Sunday

"God's Love Poured into Our Hearts"

Romans 5:1-5

Through God's abundant love, we are made God's children, and joint-heirs with Christ.

June 22

"Offering Isaac"

Genesis 22:1-14

God offered his only begotten Son for us. Sometimes, we must choose whether to offer God that which we value most.

June 29

"Freedom In Christ"

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Freedom is always hard-won. Spiritual freedom is no different, because it requires courage, trust, and determination not to be bound by any power but Jesus'.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Church Picnic

Sunday, June 8, 4-7 PM, Laurel Hills Park

Come early, visit, play, and stay to either play kickball or cheer on our players! Hot dogs, paper goods, and drinks (water and lemonade) will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! We'll start eating around 5:30 PM.

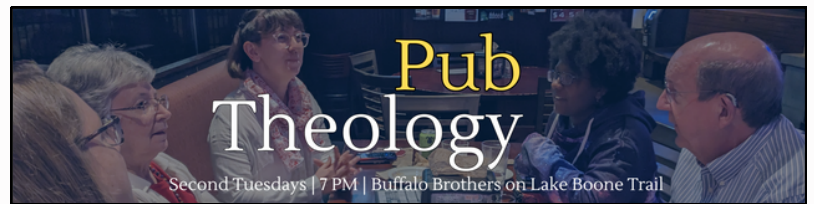
We do need a few folks to pitch in to make it all happen! We need a few people to help prep the hot dogs and transport the equipment from Highland to Laurel Hills, and we need a few more people to help put everything back afterwards. Follow the QR code to sign up.



Pub Theology

Tuesday, June 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.



Annual Conference Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 11 AM, Sanctuary

Please be in prayer for our clergy and lay people who will represent Highland at the North Carolina Annual Conference on June 12-14 in Greenville, NC: John Tyson, Janet Baucom, Kevin Quick, Aaron Brothers, Pam Brothers, and Diane Racey. All are invited to gather in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, June 11, as we pray for the North Carolina Annual Conference—its leaders, pastors, and laity—and the work they will do together in Greenville.

Rev. Kevin's Ordination Service

Saturday, June 21, 7:30 PM

Our beloved Rev. Kev will be officially ordained as a Deacon in full connection to the UMC on June 21 during the Western NC Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. Please be in prayer for him and share your well wishes as you are able. We will send out a link to the service live stream in the June 18 E-News.

The Stonewall Fellowship

Tuesday, June 24 | 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.

Summer Sunday School for Adults & Youth:

The Updated (2024) Social Principles

June 22-August 3, SS Hour, Conference Room

All Highland adults and youth are invited to join us in the Conference Room during the Sunday School hour on June 22 - August 3 for a study of the United Methodist Church's newly adopted and extensively rewritten Social Principles. Join us as we explore our denomination's efforts to speak to issues in our contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological standpoint.

Led by Rev. Janet Baucom, Rev. Kevin Quick, and Allison Morgan, our sessions will be very interactive and include lots of discussion around the table. (We'll skip July 13, HSP Sunday - one service at 10 AM and no Sunday School hour.) Questions? Contact Rev. Janet Baucom: (janet@highlandumc.org).

**THE STONEWALL FELLOWSHIP:
AN LGBTQIA+ GROUP AT HIGHLAND
FOURTH TUESDAYS | 7 PM | PARLOR**

CHILDREN & YOUTH



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 travel-themed 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



Music and Arts Camp

August 4-8, 2025

12 PM-5 PM

Ages K-5

Learn more
and register!



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.



School's Out for Summer!

Friday, June 13, 2:30-3:30 PM

We'll be handing out freezie pops on the front lawn to students on their way home from the last day of school...come and join us!

SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

There is no shortage of opportunities for middle and high schoolers to have a fun and meaningful summer with Highland friends!

End-of-Year Party

June 1

4:30 PM

Senior Sunday

June 8

Highland Service Project (HSP)

High School Service Week

July 6-11, Wilmington, NC

Costa Rica Mission Trip

July 19-26

City Servants

Middle School Service Week

August 11-15



Visit highlandumc.org/youth for more info on all upcoming events and activities

Join Us at the OUT! Raleigh Pride Celebration

Saturday, June 21, 10 AM-7:30 PM, Downtown Raleigh

We're excited to announce that Highland UMC will once again have a booth at this year's Out! Raleigh Pride celebration in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 21! This is a beautiful opportunity to share God's love, extend radical hospitality from our Highland family, and show our support for the LGBTQ+ community.

We're looking for friendly, compassionate volunteers to help staff our booth throughout the day. Whether it's greeting visitors, handing out resources, giving out popsicles, or just being a welcoming presence, your time and heart will make a big difference! ❤️

The Details

Event: OUT! Raleigh Pride

Date: Saturday, June 21

Location: Fayetteville Street / Downtown Raleigh, NC

Volunteer Shifts: Shift times 10 am – 12 pm, 12–2 pm, 2–4 pm, 4–6 pm, 6–7:30 pm

No experience needed—just a spirit of love and inclusion!

All are welcome to serve.

Follow the QR Code to sign up!

Let's come together to celebrate God's inclusive and affirming love!



FORWARD TOGETHER

Holy Conversations about Highland's Commitment to Inclusion

Our recently formed Inclusion Working Group will begin its work this Summer to help us effectively and mindfully practice our commitment to inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community. If you've missed any of the decisions, events, or processes that led us to our current position, keep reading to understand what we're trying to accomplish and why.

Highland's Inclusion Working Group: What You Need to Know

- Highland's Staff Parish Relations Committee recently proposed entering into a contract with Rev. Trish Archer, a Deacon in full connection with the UMC, to facilitate a series of Holy Conversations about how we bear witness to our commitment to inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community. Trish was recommended to Highland by the District Superintendent.
- This proposal was approved by the Church Council in a called meeting in April 2025.
- This work will be led by a newly appointed Inclusion Working Group (IWG), comprised of Highland members representing a wide spectrum of viewpoints on this topic. Trish will also facilitate the work of the IWG.

- The IWG will begin its work in Summer 2025. The goal of the IWG is to develop a covenant around which we practice our commitment to inclusion. It is important to note that this work is in no way intended to dial back our commitment to inclusion or reverse any existing decisions regarding inclusion. Rather, the group seeks to develop a deeper sense of understanding, respect, love, and unity among our membership, which will ultimately help our church grow stronger.

We encourage you to be in prayer for the process and please know that you will be updated as it unfolds. Be assured you will have ample opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns in appropriate forums as a part of this process. If you have any questions in the meantime, you are encouraged to speak with a member of our clergy.

For a deeper understanding of the events and circumstances that have led us to this work, keep reading by scanning the QR code:



From the Finance Office

April Finance Report		Budgeted	Actual as of 4/30/25 (33% of year)
R E V E N U E	General Fund Pledges	\$934,320	\$270,018 (29%)
	2025 Other Revenue	\$515,257	\$169,864 (33%)
	TOTAL	\$1,449,577	\$439,882 (30%)
Total Expenses		\$1,449,577	\$437,417 (30%)
Difference (Revenue-Expenses)			\$2,465

Questions about Finances?

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

Stay In-the-Know!

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



First Aid Training

Sunday, June 22, 1-3:30 PM

Highland will offer First Aid training led by CPR Carolina. 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.



Community Victory Garden Workdays

Every Saturday, 9-11 AM

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.

11 AM Service Ushers Needed

Interested in volunteering with a great group of people and trying something new? We could use your help ushering at the 11 AM worship service! Flexible scheduling is an option based on your availability. Contact Eddie Wood at edgar3wood@gmail.com if interested.



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.

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY



Circle 7 Party | Women's Bible Study Potluck | Community Victory Garden | Charles Kollmeyer Baptism

Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

CHURCH FAMILY

June Birthdays

06/01	Martha Vann Alford, Matthew Richards, Eric Townsend	06/10	Ola Mae Cimerro, Pam Hood	06/20	Lee Brooks, Billy George
06/02	Adam Mottershead, Clere Noneman, Paige Wilkinson	06/11	Ann Wells	06/22	Don Templeton
06/03	Patty Baird, Susan Eure	06/12	Bob Seaton, Eddie Wood	06/23	Janet Baucom, Grace Letchworth, Anne Lacey Seaton
06/04	Robin Pendleton, Cindy Popal	06/13	Mary Kathryn Brewer, Connor La Rocca	06/25	Kristy Kretzschmar, Braeden La Rocca
06/05	Vaan Tuang, Tate Wilkinson	06/14	Janelle Haseman, Karen Wallace	06/26	Sally Page
06/07	Nina Capriglione, Hoie Vet Miller, Aidan Smearman, Betty-Shannon Prevatt	06/16	Nathan Franklin, Leiko Takahashi	06/27	Harriet Mills, Johnnie Walker
06/09	Floyd Morgan, Jim Rhew, Jo Ann Swartz	06/17	Emily Rodgers	06/29	Colin Loftin, Jim McCarthy
		06/18	Doug Kearns, Mary McLeod		
		06/19	Paula Broome, Barbara Knight		

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
Georgie McKenzie
Dennis McLain
Mary McLeod
Dot McGee
Linda Moran
Brenda Murphy
(Joyce Hicks' sister)
Kenley Myers
Robin
Billie Poole
Betsy Pridgen

John Robinson
Harriet Roland
Pat Scott
Bob Sexton
Jeanne Shorter
Meg Smither
Janet Stuber
Laura Wheeler
Cullen Whitley
Conor and Sarah
Mann Willcox
Cathy Zachary

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

Sympathy to Don Templeton and family upon the death of his father, Walter Templeton, on April 30.

Our sympathy to the family of our sister Grace Catherine Hillman, who died recently.

Our sympathy to the family of our brother Paul West, who died May 4.



1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID

Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 381

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

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.

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