

RIDGE RIDER



Grace and peace to you, Highland, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our journey through Lent has begun. These forty days are inspired by Christ's fasting and

testing in the wilderness, and we are called to dwell in this season, focusing on one or more spiritual disciplines that serve as pathways to deeper intimacy with God. Although we can enjoy each moment during Lent, we will reach a climax with Holy Week and Easter. Holy Week immerses each one of us in the pivotal events of Jesus' passion.

Palm Sunday, March 29 this year, commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, greeted by people waving palm branches. It's recorded in John's Gospel to have happened a week before Christ's death and resurrection. I think it's remarkable that we went from "Hail him!" to "Nail him!" fairly quickly—just as quick as the wind can change direction (or dry pockets appear in the sky while the rest of the state gets lots of snow!)

Maundy Thursday, April 2 this year, marks the Last Supper and Jesus' demonstration of servanthood in washing his disciples' feet. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," pointing to Jesus' new commandment to love one another. On this night, Jesus kneels before his friends, takes up a towel, and shows us what love looks like when it stops talking and starts serving. We'll observe the day with a worship service at 7 PM, including Holy Communion.

Good Friday, April 3 this year, brings us face-to-face with the cross. This is the day we sit with the weight of what happened: the betrayal, the trial, the crucifixion. It's not a comfortable day. We don't rush past it. We linger here because the depth of God's love doesn't make sense unless we first understand the depth of what was given up. The cross reminds us that God chose to enter into our suffering rather than stand apart from it. Our 7 PM Good Friday Tenebrae service will feature readings that draw us into this story at the cross.

And then we finally have Easter, April 5 this year! The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and everything changes. Resurrection doesn't erase what happened on Friday; it transforms it. The scars remain, but they no longer have the final word. This is the heartbeat of our faith: that death and darkness are real, but they are never the end of the story. God is always doing a new thing, even in (and especially in) the places where we least expect it.

So, as we walk through these forty days of Lent, I encourage you to engage each moment of Holy Week with us. Wave the palms. Gather at the table. Sit with the cross. Wait in the silence. And when Easter morning comes, let the joy of resurrection wash over you. Not as a feel-good ending, but as the bold declaration that love wins, that grace is real, and that God is not finished with us yet. See you in worship, Highland!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin".

Kevin

LENT

Feb 18-Apr 2

Renewed in Mercy

March 1

Allison Morgan

Guided by
the Promise

March 8

Rev. Kevin Quick

Companion for
the Journey

Journeying in Grace

March 15

Rev. Dr. David Stark

Redemption Road

March 22

Rev. Kevin Quick

 **Highland**
United Methodist Church



HOLY WEEK 2026

PALM SUNDAY

March 29

9 AM Connection

9:45 AM Sunday School

11 AM Traditional Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2

7 PM

Worship & Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3

7 PM

Tenebrae Service

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5

9 AM Connection

9:45 AM Sunday School

11 AM Traditional Worship

Young Adult Small Group

First, Third, & Fifth Tuesdays, (March 3, 17 & 31), 7 PM
Young adults (~22-40) are invited for fellowship, Bible/book studies, and occasional social events. Contact Rev. Kevin Quick for more information:
kevin@highlandumc.org.

UWF Circle Meetings

Monday, March 9

Circle 1 (11:45 AM): The ladies of Circle 1 will meet in the Conference Room to pack flu kits for Alliance Medical Ministry. This is a fun event for a great cause--all are welcome! Contact: Carol Thomas (tcarol@me.com).

Circle 7 (7 PM): The group will meet in the Conference Room to learn about Myra's Angels, a local non-profit dedicated to supporting children who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness in Wake County. Contact: Debbie Carroll (d2carroll@aol.com).

Pub Theology

Tuesday, March 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.

United Methodist Men Breakfast

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m., Bradley Hall

Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a presentation from Gaston Warner, CEO of Zoe Empowers. Zoe Empowers works with vulnerable youth and their families impacted by the global orphan crisis.

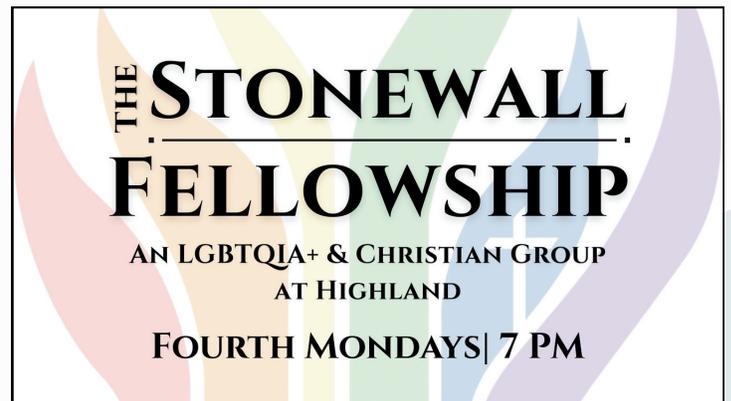
Through a three-year, locally led program, participants become safe and healthy, skilled for long-term success, and able to lead meaningful lives within a supportive community.



First Wednesday Community Dinner

March 4, 5:45 PM, Bradley Hall

Everyone is invited to join us for dinner. This month's menu is a meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert! This meal is FREE, and reservations are appreciated but not required. After dinner, we'll work together to pack bags for Backpack Buddies at Lacy Elementary – helping alleviate hunger in our own community.



Stonewall LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group

Monday, March 23, 7 PM, Library

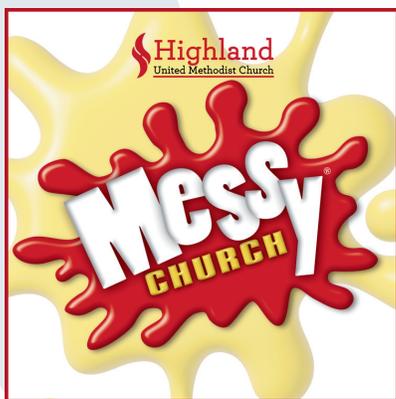
Please join us every fourth Monday for discussions with friends, family, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. You do not have to be a member of Highland to attend. Meetings will be topic-focused or "whatever is on your heart." LJ Coward is the group's new leader, who is a licensed counselor and a member of the LGBTQ+ Community. For more information, please email her at ljcoward@gmail.com and put 'Stonewall' in subject line.

Stay In-the-Know!

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



CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Messy Church

Friday, March 20, 5:30 PM, Conference Room

Life is messy--we get that! Messy Church is an opportunity for us to be church together, even if our socks don't match. We will start with supper at 5:30, then enjoy a variety of hands-on activities to help us explore our theme for the evening. We'll close with an informal worship celebration. Everyone is welcome!



Vacation Bible School

June 22-26, 9 AM-12 PM

Children ages 3 (as of June 22, 2026) through 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for a week of fun and learning at Vacation Bible School.

Snappy tunes, hands-on science experiments, engaging Bible stories, and creative games and crafts will fill the morning. An extended day option is available for families who need full-day care. The extended day program is \$100, and is available for children who have completed kindergarten. Register today! (QR).



Music & Arts Camp

August 3-7, 9 AM-5 PM

Music and Arts Camp is back! After a great first year, we're coming back with a full-day offering for children who love to express themselves through the creative arts! Campers from last year will remember how much fun they had learning from choral clinician Tom Shelton, and we're thrilled to welcome him back this year! Cost: \$225 for the week, with discounts for multiple children (\$200 per sibling). For kids rising first grade and above! Register today! (QR).



Save-the-Date:

Creation Celebration

Sunday, April 26, 4-6 PM

The perennial favorite returns! Details to come. Volunteers needed!

Contact
amy@highlandumc.org.



New Children's Choir

Sundays, 10:45 AM, Room 201

All our "littles" (age ~3-Kindergarten) are encouraged to stay for a few minutes after Sunday school to sing in our new Cherub Choir. Whitney White and Lily Darais will be providing the musical leadership. Questions? Contact amy@highlandumc.org.



MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

YOUTH CHURCH BASKETBALL LEAGUE



SUPPORT OUR TEAM!
ALL GAMES ARE HELD AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT 112 S
SALISBURY ST. IN DOWNTOWN RALEIGH

1, 8 YOUTH GROUP
15, 22 SUNDAYS @ 5 PM

4, 11, BIBLE STUDY
18, 25 WEDNESDAYS @ 5 PM

20-22 CONFIRMATION
RETREAT

CHECK YOUR YOUTH
NEWS FOR DETAILS
AND UPDATES



YOUTH NEWS
SIGN-UP

2/28 1:30 PM
VS. CHRIST CHURCH

3/7 2:30 PM
VS. CHRIST CHURCH

3/14 FINAL TOURNAMENT
GAME TIMES TBD

YOUTH

JUL **12-17** 2026



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 **10-14** 2026



City Servants
Middle School



BUILD WITH US



highlandumc.org/serve/habitat



Donate!

Right now, our most pressing need is donations. We're raising \$32,500 to help build a new home for a local family. To date, we've raised about 10% of our goal. Donate today via the QR code!

Save-the-Date!

Highland's designated build date is set for Saturday, April 18! Stay tuned for details on how to help.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, March 12, 10 AM-3 PM

Make your life-saving appointment at redcrossblood.org using sponsor code 'highlandumc.'

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be part of creating a sacred space for Sunday morning worship? We need volunteers to join the altar guild to help fill candles with oil and change the altar cloths. Volunteers work on a rotating basis, about 2-3 months of the year. If you're interested, you can contact Debbie Sykes at 919-848-7731.

2026 Highland UMC Scholarships Available

Qualified high school seniors are invited to apply for these scholarships by April 15, 2026:

- The Robert R. and Betty M. Gardner Memorial Scholarships for students demonstrating financial need.
- The Grace George Memorial Scholarship for Highland students pursuing a postsecondary degree in education.
- The Mulwee Scholarships for Highland students who have participated in music programs during high school.

For more information and scholarship applications, visit the Highland website:
highlandumc.org/ministries/scholarships

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

From the Finance Office

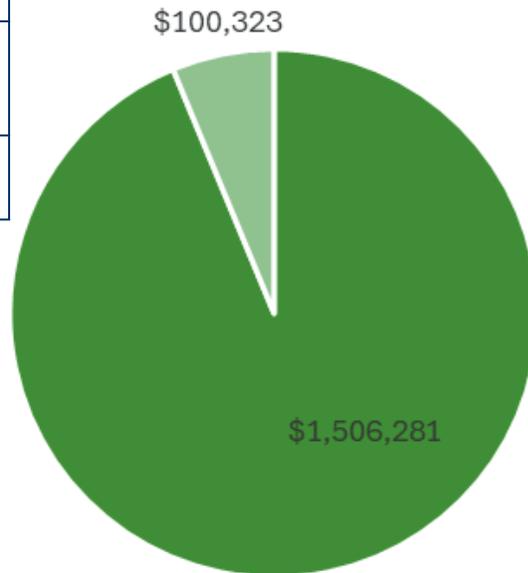
Dear Highland Family,

The Finance Committee, in collaboration with the Stewardship Committee, is honored to serve you during this budget year. As part of our commitment, we will provide regular updates on the church's financial progress along with other important financial information.

We are deeply grateful for your generous giving and faithful pledges. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to us or contact Deanna Clack in the church finance office at 984-247-2125 or deanna@highlandumc.org.

In Christ,
 Don Carroll, Finance Committee Chair
 Frank Gray, Stewardship Committee Chair

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2026 Annual Operating Budget | \$1,506,281 |
| YTD Revenue Needed | \$125,523 |
| YTD Revenue Received (as of 1/31/26) | \$100,323 |
| % Annual Budget Received | 6.70% |



Questions about Finances?

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

■ 2026 Annual Operating Budget

■ YTD Revenue Received (as of 1/31/26)



GIVE ONLINE

*Your giving
 makes ministry
 happen!*

COMMUNITY VICTORY GARDEN



GROW WITH US!

Our beautiful Victory Garden has begun its 17th Growing Season!

We'd be delighted to have you join us on a garden workday! We're there every Saturday from 9-11 AM to tend to God's creation, enjoy each other's fellowship, and make a difference in our community. In 2025, we donated over 2,000 pounds of produce to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle!



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 |
| 03/16 | Kathryn McCarthy |
| 03/17 | Irv Pearce, Kevin McCarron, Hon Tuang |
| 03/18 | Walker Seaton |
| 03/21 | Brett Yarborough |
| 03/22 | Katherine Robbins |

| | |
|-------|---|
| 03/23 | Hugh Liner, Chuck Stuber |
| 03/25 | Pam Brothers |
| 03/26 | Garrett Loftin |
| 03/27 | Bob Page, Karen Davis |
| 03/28 | Lana Lusic |
| 03/29 | Steve Broome, John Hearn, Bill Correll, Noah Earp |
| 03/31 | John Tyson, Doug Phelps |

Please Remember In Prayer

Brady Beck
(Bev and Keith Beck's son)
Brenna Bennett
(Chet Mottershead's sister)
Henri Braun
Paul Braun
Mary Kathryn Brewer
Mark Brownie
(Cecil & Cavell Brownie's son)
Archie Clark
Vance Clayton
Bill Correll

Jim Corning
(Don Templeton's brother)
Beth Deaton
Linda Edwards
Phyllis and Alex Edwards
Joyce Faucette
Ben Franklin
Dennis Goodson
(Brenda Hudson's brother)
Glenda Johnson
Richard Johnson

Sharon Lee
Jeanine Lueke
Georgie McKenzie
Mary McLeod
Linda Moran
Floyd Morgan
Brenda Murphy
(Joyce Hicks' sister)
Kenley Myers
Robin Pendleton

Billie Poole
Betsy Pridgen
John Robinson
Harriet Roland
Jeanne Shorter
John R. Shutt
Janet Stuber
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 condolences to the family of Marilyn Stuber, who died January 26, 2026. A memorial service will be held later this year.

Our condolences to the family of Margie Ford, who died January 28, 2026.

Our condolences to the family of Doris Huber, who died February 4, 2026. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 2 PM at Highland.

CHURCH FAMILY



Winter at HUMC • United Women of Faith Circles 1 & 7 • Backpack Buddies
Youth Basketball League • Youth Bible Study

 Love. Serve. Share. *With Us.*

MARCH EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Youth Events

Youth Group | Bible Study | Basketball
see p. 5

Women's Bible Study

Mondays in Lent | 10 AM | Room 209
Contact Janet Baucom

Young Adult Small Group

March 3, 17, & 31 | 7 PM | see p. 3

First Wednesday Community Dinner

March 4 | see p. 3

UWF Circle Meetings

Circle 1 | March 9 | 11:45 AM
Circle 7 | March 9 | 7 PM
see p. 3

Pub Theology

March 10 | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros. | see p. 3

Blood Drive

March 12 | 10 AM-3 PM | see p. 6

UMM Breakfast

March 14 | 8:30 AM | Bradley Hall | see p. 3

Messy Church

March 20 | 5:30 PM | Conf. Room | see p. 4

Stonewall Fellowship

March 23 | 7 PM | Library | see p. 3

Holy Week Begins

March 29 | Palm Sunday | see p. 2

Community Victory Garden Workdays

Saturdays | 9 AM | see p. 8

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!



@humcraleigh



@highlandraleigh



@highlandumc-raleigh

Don't Miss the Deadline!

E-News Deadline
Tuesdays at Noon

**April Ridge Rider
Deadline**
March 13

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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