



LIVING THE DREAM

A few years ago, George and I hosted a college baseball player for the summer. His name was JT. JT played on the Wilson Tobs and was a delightful young man. No matter what was happening with the success of the team or his personal performance, and even after he sustained an injury, when we asked him how he was, he would always say, with a huge smile on his face, "I'm living the dream!"

Well, I am quite literally, living the dream!

The dreaming began in early February when Bishop Shelton called me about a possible move. She shared with me information about "a church" (without saying the name or divulging any identifying information), and since that day I have dreamed: first about what church it could possibly be, and as I learned more details, and finally the name on April 10th, the dream became more detailed, more exciting.

And now I am here, actually living the dream among you, the people of Highland UMC, officially a part of the faithful, inclusive mission and witness of HUMC. I've been overwhelmed by the welcome and love you have offered me. I must say, the reality of living it is even better than the imaginations of living it.

Jesus calls us all to "live the dream," the dream of the Kingdom "on earth, as it is in heaven." He casts this dream in his very first sermon when he proclaims, and claims as his own, the words of Isaiah:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
(Luke 4:18-19).*

Highland UMC has been living this dream for decades. Through times of great fruitfulness and hard challenges, you have nourished and sustained the dream. Now I have the joy of joining with you in imagining, and living into, the ways God is continuing to call Highland UMC to be a sign, instrument, and foretaste of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for so warmly welcoming George and me into the Highland UMC fold. We both look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

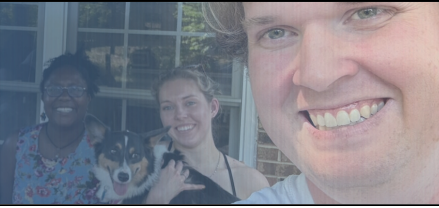
Love and blessings,

Tuck

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

YOUNG ADULT small group

1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays | 7 PM



Young Adult Small Group

First, Third, and Fifth Tuesdays, (August 4 & 18), 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.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, August 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.

Pub Theology

2nd Tuesdays | 7 PM | Buffalo Bros. on Lake Boone



THE STONEWALL FELLOWSHIP

AN LGBTQIA+ & CHRISTIAN GROUP

Stonewall LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group

Thursday, August 20, 7 PM, Library

Please join us every third Thursday for discussions with friends, family, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Questions? Contact LJ Coward at ljcoward@gmail.com.

Methodist SASS

Sundays at 10 AM • Conference Room

Summer Adult/Youth Sunday School continues through August 16.



August 2 — Music & Worship



August 9 — Advocacy



August 16 — Holy Communion

Adult Sunday School

Restarts August 23

Adult Sunday School Classes provide an opportunity for learning, for fellowship, and for discussion about living the Christian life.

1

The Upper Room Class

Classroom 209 • Informal gathering and coffee begins at 9:30 am
Monthly Bible printed study guides provided. Classes include open discussion about the meaning of the assigned scripture plus Christian living.

2

SALT Class

Room 304 • Discussion-based class of 50- and 60-somethings seeking individual growth and church/community involvement.

3

Seekers Class

Room 305 • DVD studies on the Bible and Christian living, with lively discussion led by class members.
The class also enjoys dine-outs and seasonal gatherings with food and fellowship.

Visit highlandumc.org for more information.

Music and Arts Camp

August 3–7 • Closing worship and concert Friday, August 7 @ 4:30

The congregation is invited to join us for the Music and Arts Camp closing worship service and concert. We will gather in the sanctuary at 4:30.



Sunday School Celebration

Sunday, August 23 • 10:00 AM

For children and parents!



Back to School Party!

Sunday, August 23 • 4:00 PM

Everyone is invited as we celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new school year. We'll have ice cream and crafts and tons of fun!



Messy Church Returns!

Friday, August 28 • 5:30 PM

Join us on Friday, August 28 for our first Messy Church for this program year. We'll start at 5:30, enjoy a tasty meal, explore our theme through hands-on activities and close with a time of celebration.

Messy Church is food, faith, and fun—and it's for you!

Messy Church is an all-ages-included opportunity to explore and grow in faith.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Finding Our Strength in God

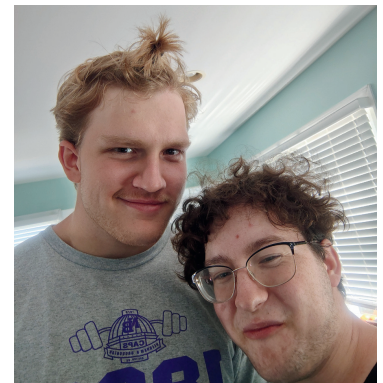
From June 22-26, Highland welcomed more than 50 children for Vacation Bible School! Many of the children who attended came from the wider Raleigh community, making VBS an important part of Highland's outreach ministry. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, these children experienced a week filled with fun, friendship, and the reminder that they are loved by God.



HIGHLAND SERVICE PROJECT 2026

A Week of Faith in Action

From July 12–17, our youth spent a meaningful week in Wilmington serving the local community through our annual Highland Service Project. Working alongside WARM NC, they helped make home repairs and accessibility improvements for residents in need. Through worship, service, and community, HSP 2026 was a powerful reminder that God works through willing hearts and helping hands.



YOUTH

Peter Baucom, Gracie Brewer, Saxton Cullet, Avery Culley, Katherine Currie, Julia Dilley, Anthony Douglas, Madeline Driver, Carter Kivisto, Fiona Lockett, James Riordan, Andy Schemitsch, Ava Schemitsch, Grant Shaffer, Maddie Townsend, Violet Townsend, Owen Whitfield, Glenn Wright

ADULTS

Neil Smith, Emma Dilley, Jennifer Dilley, Mary Kathryn Brewer, Diane Racey, Christine Taylor, David Hood, Pamela Hood, Scott Loftin, Ella Corbett, Eric Townsend, Adam Culley, Edward Shutt

 **Highland**
United Methodist Church

AUGUST

YOUTH EVENTS

**BEACH DAY TRIP**
AUGUST 1
8 AM-6 PM

**HIGHLAND YOUTH SUMMER BIBLE STUDY**
AUGUST 5
5 PM

Grow in faith. Build friendships. Make a difference.
≥ YOU BELONG HERE. ≤



Scenes from HSP Sunday

On Sunday, July 19, we came together as a family of faith to worship, share a meal, celebrate the amazing work of our youth, and hear their stories of serving and growing in faith together.

LGBTQ+ AFFIRMING MINISTRY

OUT! RALEIGH PRIDE

Sharing God's Love
with Everyone—No
Exceptions!

Highland joined faith communities from across the Raleigh area at this year's OUT! Raleigh Pride festival to share God's love with all. We handed out freezie pops, played games with festival-goers, and, most importantly, bore witness to our commitment to the full inclusion of all God's children in the life and ministry of our church.

We are grateful to Highland's LGBTQ+ Affirming Ministry for the time, energy, and care they invest in this ministry—not only at Pride, but throughout the year as they help our church live into its calling of radical hospitality and welcome.



MYRA'S ANGELS DONATION DRIVE

➤ JULY 12 – AUGUST 23 ➤



Myra's Angels is a local nonprofit that provides clothing, comfort items, and essential supplies to children and families experiencing crisis.



PLEASE DONATE **NEW** ITEMS ONLY.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

UNDERWEAR



- Girls: Sizes 8, 16, 18



- Boys: Sizes 8, 10, 12



- Men's: S, M, L, XL



- Women's: M (6)



ADDITIONAL REQUESTED ITEMS



- Pajamas & sleepwear (newborn–Adult XXL)



- Socks (all sizes)



- Medium & large stuffed animals



- Coloring books



- Diapers & baby wipes



- Toiletries



- School supplies



- Children's books & journals



DONATION BIN

LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX



*Thank you for helping us
share God's love with our community
through practical support and care.*



Highland
United Methodist Church

Sponsored by the
LGBTQ+ Affirming Ministry

OFFERING OF LETTERS

in partnership with Bread for the World

Help urge our Senators to delay new SNAP cost-sharing in the 2026 Farm Bill.

WHY IT MATTERS



Food should be a right, not a privilege.



The Farm Bill affects hunger relief in the U.S. and around the world.



A delay to new SNAP cost-sharing could help prevent disruptions in food assistance.

3 WAYS TO JOIN IN



AUGUST 2 — LEARN
We'll introduce Bread for the World and the Offering of Letters in Sunday School and worship.



AUGUST 9 — WRITE
We'll share instructions for writing a letter to Senators Tillis and Budd.



AUGUST 16 — OFFER
Bring your letter to worship to be included in the offering.

Use your voice. Help address hunger.

FOOD DRIVE

for Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Sunday, August 2

2-5 PM

Help stock the shelves and feed our neighbors by donating nonperishable food items.



Want to volunteer? Contact Rev. Janet

 janet@highlandumc.org

 Highland
United Methodist Church

Community Victory Garden

Saturdays, 9 AM

**1,500 lbs of
produce donated
so far in 2026!**



GROW WITH US!

Our beautiful Victory Garden is in its 17th Growing Season!

Join us on a garden workday every Saturday from 9-11 AM to tend to God's creation, enjoy fellowship, and make a difference in our community.

We've donated over 1,500 pounds of produce to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle so far in 2026!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through June 30, 2026

Thank you for your faithful generosity that supports Highland's ministries and mission.



46.52%

BUDGET RECEIVED

of Annual Operating Budget



48.38%

BUDGET SPENT

of Annual Expense Budget



(\$28,008)

CURRENT DEFICIT

Expenses exceed revenue

2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY	AMOUNT
 Annual Operating Budget	\$1,506,281
 Revenue Received (as of 6/30/26)	\$700,658
 Revenue Goal through June (50%)	\$753,141
 YTD Expenses (as of 6/30/26)	\$728,666



As of June 30, Highland has received 46.52% of its annual operating budget and spent 48.38%.

Revenue is currently **\$52,483** below the projected giving pace for this point in the year,

while expenses exceed revenue by **\$28,008**.

Your continued faithfulness makes a lasting impact on the ministries and mission of our church.



Second-quarter General Fund pledge statements were emailed on July 15.

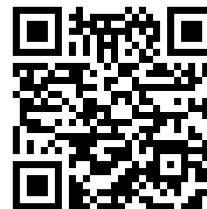


Questions about Finances?

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



Give Online



Your giving
makes ministry
happen!

CHURCH FAMILY

August Birthdays

08/02	Cathy Zachary
08/03	Roman Parker
08/04	Ann Morgan
08/06	Julia Dilley, Janet Mahoney, Thet Lieng, Phil Lieng, Ken Martin
08/07	Rick Jernigan
08/09	Ina Simpson
08/10	Kelly Bryant, Todd Kretschmar
08/11	Cecil Brownie

08/12	Reba McPherson, Jim Crouse
08/13	Evan Baucom
08/15	Paige Petters
08/16	Barry Rodgers
08/17	Bill Shelton, James Gordon Morrison
08/18	Linda Gardner
08/20	Quang Lieng, That Mung
08/21	Linda Piper, Mary Newcomb

08/22	Linda Burton, Hunter Gray
08/23	Colby Hagen, Ann Jacobson, Sofia Smearman
08/25	Hal Earp, Susan Charlton
08/26	Sarah Jean Letchworth
08/28	Donna Parker, Cathy Stuart, Johanna Wilson, Kelsey Miller
08/30	Cavell Brownie, Henry Sink
08/31	Betty Jones, Jack Noneman

Please Remember In Prayer

Bill Babcock
Brady Beck
(Bev and Keith Beck's son)
Brenna Bennett
(Chet Mottershead's sister)
Henri Braun
Paul Braun
Mary Kathryn Brewer
Bart Bridges
(Betty Bridges' stepson)
Mark Brownie
(Cecil & Cavell Brownie's son)

Archie Clark
Vance Clayton
Bill Correll
Beth Deaton
Murray Downs
Linda Edwards
Phyllis and Alex Edwards
Ben Franklin
Dennis Goodson
(Brenda Hudson's brother)
Glenda Johnson

Richard Johnson
Hugh Liner
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
Bill Shelton
Jeanne Shorter
John R. Shutt
Inabelle Sides
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, Gabriel Doub



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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. Tuck Taylor at 919-787-4240 ext. 103, leave your message, and she 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. Tuck Taylor**
tuck@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**
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Director of Finance: **Deanna Clack**
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Facilities Manager: **Tom Lamb**
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Office Administrator: **Karen Winters**
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