

# Highlands United Methodist Church News

Week of February 24, 2026



## Navigating The Wilderness

This past Sunday on the First Sunday in Lent, Pastor Randy reflected on the inevitable nature of the wilderness. As part of his sermon he shared a list compiled by Bishop Ken Carter regarding navigating seasons of wilderness. The list is provided below.

### Ken's Eleven Rules for Surviving in the Wilderness

1. Don't deny that you are in the wilderness.
2. Don't let the wilderness overwhelm you.
3. Live one day at a time---observe the Sabbath rest.
4. Participate in the Christian community.
5. Keep a journal about what is going on inside you and around you.
6. Live with the great passages of scripture.
7. Do something for someone else.
8. Exercise and get out of the house.
9. Keep visible and tangible reminders of good things.
10. It is in the wilderness that you are most likely to grow.
11. Everything that is broken in this life will not be fixed in this life.



# Measurable Goals for 2026

## Volunteers Welcomed!

At our annual leadership retreat recently, seven measurable goals were set for the coming year. Please join us in prayer for these goals, and if you feel called to provide leadership or support with any of these goals, please contact the church office. Thanks!

1. Explore and Implement "Respite for All" if feasible.
2. Fully funded budget
3. Increase in active membership / attendance
4. Increase in-reach activities to current members
5. Develop and implement building security plan
6. Update Directory
7. Implement new visitor / member process

## Bluegrass and BBQ!

### Reservation Needed

Join us Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm for our Bluegrass and BBQ event in the Faith and Fellowship Center! There will be Food, Fellowship, Music, and Dancing, featuring our 9:09 Band. The event is free to all, but PLEASE RSUP to Kristy so that we may have enough food prepared.

See you there for this wonderful evening!





## Coat Drive Final Weeks!

**Our Winter Coat Drive is from Now - March 15. Please drop off new or gently used coats, scarves, and hats in the F&FC Donation Box.**

## JOY GROUP

**The JOY Group is our Just Older Youth! Come and join us for some good food and fellowship. Thursday at 11:15am.**



## Biblical Storytelling Guild

**Would you like to begin learning biblical stories by heart, either for your personal devotion or to share during a worship service? If so, please contact Pastor Randy. A certified biblical storyteller with the Network of Biblical Storytellers since 2012, Pastor Randy is looking to start a biblical storytelling guild at HUMC. If you're interested, or if you have any questions please contact Pastor Randy - [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com).**

## March / April Upper Rooms

**The current edition of The Upper Room Devotional is available now at HUMC in the F&FC and outside the church office.**

# Game Day @ the Library

A perfect way for After-School to spend a winter day!





# FEBRUARY MINISTRY BAGS

**Gordon Center for Children**



**Construction Paper (all colors)**

**Glue: sticks & liquid**

**Copier Paper (white & colored)**

**White Cardstock**

**Markers**

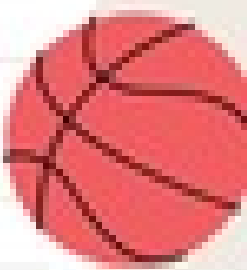
**Washable Paints**

**Children's Books (Hardbacks)**

**Hand Sanitizer**

**AA & AAA Batteries**

**Craft Items: buttons, felt,  
cotton balls, stickers, yarn, etc.**



# Financial Giving

Thank you for your continued support of our shared ministry through your tithes and offerings! Whether you bring your offering to an in-person worship service, send your financial support through the mail, or utilize the online giving option on our website, please know your gifts are deeply appreciated and vital to the ongoing life and ministry of HUMC.

The following link will take you directly to our online giving page -

<https://www.skgiving.com/App/Giving/humc>

## Here is a report on your faithful giving for February 15th:

### Internal Restricted Funds:

Afterschool - \$1,000.00

Summer Camp - \$300.00

### General Operating Fund

\$4,960.00

### Our 2025 Year End financial report:

Income - \$832,041

Expenses - \$765,122 (+ \$66,919)

# Celebrate!

Join us in celebrating the following upcoming birthdays and anniversaries.

## Happy Birthday to:

### February

23 - Richard Betz

- Emily Crowe

- John Gordon

24 - Keith Hall

- Mary James

25 - Gloria Padgett

- Michelle Pendergrass

26 - Andrea Gabbard

29 - Debbie Brock

### March

1 - Susan Clearman

## Happy Anniversary to:

### February

22 - Chip and Mac Ramsay

25 - Bob and Sandy Carlton

# Thanks for your generous financial support

As you can imagine, missing two in-person worship Sundays in a row in January can have a negative impact on a local church's finances. Thank you for continuing to support the life, work and ministry of HUMC with your tithes and offerings.

# Wednesday Night Supper

*Wednesday*  
**NIGHT**  
**SUPPER 5:15pm**

## Upcoming Programs

March 4th- Gordon Center Report,  
Rev. Christine Murphy

Join us this Wednesday,  
February 25th for our weekly  
**Family Night Meal and Program.**  
This week's menu includes Taco  
salads and all the fixings. Due  
to a scheduling conflict we are  
postponing "Tonight's Special  
Guest" interview with **Police  
Chief Sissy Holland,** and look  
forward to rescheduling her  
soon. There will be no program  
this week.

## This Week at HUMC

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** - Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15am**  
- Trustees Meeting - **5:30pm**  
- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** - Family Night Meal (F&FC) - **5:15pm**

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** - Joy Group (F&FC) - **11:15am**

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** - **Second Sunday in Lent (Holy Communion)**  
- Breakfast (F&FC) - **8:30am**  
- 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) - **9:09am**  
- Traditional Service (Sanctuary) - **11am**

*Coming Soon...*

**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** - Bluegrass and BBQ (F&FC) - **5:30pm**

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** - Finance Committee Meeting - **5:30pm**

**Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** - Church Council Meeting - **5:30pm**

# Prayer Circle



## We welcome you to join our Prayer Circle

to lift up those who are in need of prayer.

Prayer requests are emailed to  
the Prayer Circle as they come in.

Please email Craig at  
[highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com)  
to be a part of this ministry .

## Have a Prayer Need?

If you have a prayer need you would like  
to share with the HUMC Prayer Circle  
please contact the church office  
at 526-3376.

# THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU!

## ***Current Studies and Small Groups***

Being part of a small group is a very helpful way of staying connected to our church family. Please take a look at the current opportunities available. If there is a group you'd be interested in joining, please reach out to the contact person.

### **Home Lectionary Study Group**

A weekly study around the upcoming week's lectionary readings. Meeting time - **Tuesdays** at **7:00pm**. Contact - Fred Motz. [bigbearpen@gmail.com](mailto:bigbearpen@gmail.com)

### **Men's Tuesday Breakfast**

This group meets for breakfast and fellowship at the Blue Bike on **Tuesday** mornings at **8:15am**.

### **Seekers Sunday School Class**

This class is currently studying the Books of Galatians, Ephesians, and Hebrews. Meeting time - **Sundays at 10am** in the former financial secretary's office. Contact - Steve Bruner.. [stevebruner@gmail.com](mailto:stevebruner@gmail.com).

### **Bob Hood's Sunday School Class**

Bob's class will take place **Sundays at 10am** in the parlor., and they will be discussing the Book of Acts - Contact - [Bobhood3@gmail.com](mailto:Bobhood3@gmail.com).

## Our Services are Live Streamed!

via our **Facebook Page**, <https://www.facebook.com/highlandsunitedmethodist>, to be uploaded later on our **website** <https://www.highlandsmethodist.org> and **Youtube channel**, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1\\_zqPcu78pLdiGdLbY1-IA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1_zqPcu78pLdiGdLbY1-IA)

If you would like to explore Professing, Affiliate or Associate Membership at HUMC, please let Pastor Randy know - [randyhumc@icloud.com](mailto:randyhumc@icloud.com).



**Know of someone who needs to receive the HUMC News by mail?**

**If you know of any HUMC family member who does not have access to our weekly email distribution who would like to receive a copy by mail, please let the church office know - [highlandsumc@icloud.com](mailto:highlandsumc@icloud.com).**

**Our mailing address is**

PO Box 1959,  
Highlands NC 28741.  
(828) 526-3376

The following link will take you directly to our online giving page - <https://www.sksgiving.com/App/Giving/humc>

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

John 3: 16-17