

# Highlands United Methodist Church News

Week of February 3, 2026



## A Big Super Bowl Weekend at HUMC

### 2026 Leadership Retreat Saturday, February 7th 10am - 2pm

We'll gather for our annual Leadership Retreat in the Faith and Fellowship Center this Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Everyone on our 2026 Leadership list is encouraged to attend, and any members of our HUMC family are welcome!

### Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th Combined Worship, 10am (F&FC)

This Sunday, February 8th we'll have a special Super Bowl Sunday Combined Worship Service at 10am in the Faith and Fellowship Center. Breakfast will be served at 9am. We will also celebrate Holy Communion together. And since we haven't been able to worship in-person for the past couple of weeks, it will be like a mini-reunion!

Feel free to wear your favorite team jersey or colors. At the close of the service we'll give away jerseys from this year's Super Bowl teams

Please join us for this special time of worship and fellowship!



# **Blood Drive**

## **CRITICAL SHORTAGE!**

**Our next HUMC Blood Drive will take place on Monday, February 16th from 10am to 2pm. Please contact Kristy to make a reservation.**

## **A Winter Wonderland**

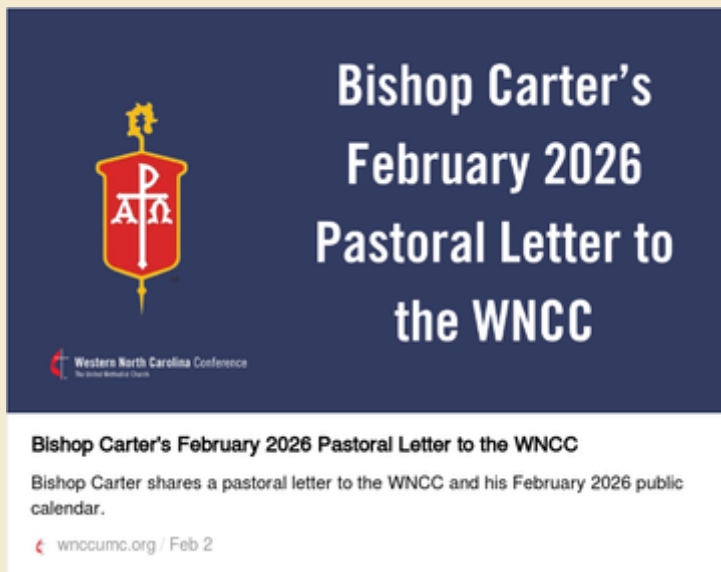
**Here's hoping you were able to enjoy the lovely snow here in Highlands and surrounding areas this past weekend. After worshipping virtually the past two Sundays due to winter weather, we are so looking forward to worshipping together as one church family this Sunday. Please make every effort to join us in-person if you can for our combined worship service in the Faith & Fellowship Center at 10am.**

## **Thanks Bryson's Grading!**

**A big "thank you" to Mike Bryson and his crew for scraping the circle drive and lower parking lot of the Faith & Fellowship Center. That is a huge help. Thanks Mike!**



# A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Ken Carter



We invite you to read Bishop Carter's February letter to the people of WNC at the following link -

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-feb-2026-pastoral-letter-19603426>

## Thanks for your generous financial support

As you can imagine, missing two in-person worship Sundays in a row 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.





## Coat Drive

**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

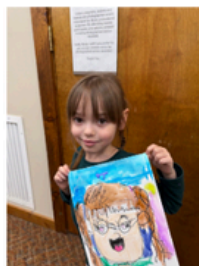
**Would you like to begin learning biblical stories by heart, either for your personal devotion or to share during a worship service? If so, please contact Pastor Randy. A certified biblical storyteller with the Network of Biblical Storytellers since 2012, Pastor Randy is looking to start a biblical 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).**

## January / February Upper Rooms

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

# Winter Fun in Children's Ministry

Before the ice storm hit, the After-School program enjoyed a warm day at the library creating self-portraits.



# 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 January 25<sup>th</sup>:

### Internal Restricted Accounts:

Pastor's Fund - \$850.00

Afterschool - \$250.00

Children's Discretionary - \$5.00

### General Operating Fund:

\$510.00

(no in-person worship January 25th)

## 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

4 - Sabrina Cashion

- Micah Ye

5 - Melanie Carter

6 - Allan James

- Diane Riddle

7 - Linda Edwards

- Joanne Jolly

- Bonnie Potts

8 - Keven Gabbard

9 - Gina Cogswell

10 - Al Bolt

- Emily Buskirk

- Wilma Gordon

11 - Hudson Tilley

## Happy Anniversary to:

### February

3 - Paul and Linda Schowalter

6 - Joe and Annie Barone

# Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday  
NIGHT  
SUPPER 5:15pm

## Upcoming Programs

February 4th - **POTLUCK SUPPER**

"Tonight's Special Guest - Police Chief  
Andrea Holland"

February 11th - "Trivia Night with Mike"  
(Valentines Day Edition)

February 18th - Ash Wednesday  
Service

Join us this Wednesday,  
February 4th for our  
weekly Family Night Meal  
and Program. This week is  
POTLUCK. Please bring your  
favorite dish to share, then  
plan to stay for this week's  
program - "Tonight's  
Special Guest - Highlands  
Police Chief Andrea  
Holland."

## This Week at HUMC

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15am**

- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Family Night **POTLUCK** meal and Program (F&FC) - **5:15pm**

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** - Joy Group (F&FC) - **11:30am**

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** - 2026 Leadership Retreat (F&FC) - **10am - 2pm**

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> - Super Bowl Sunday!**

- Breakfast - (F&FC) - **9am**

- Combined Worship Service with Holy Communion (F&FC) - **10am**

**Coming Soon...**

**Wednesday, February 18th** - Ash Wednesday Service (F&FC) - **6pm**

**The beginning of the forty day season of Lent**

# 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>

*"Is not this the fast that I choose, to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"*

Isaiah 58:6