Highlands United Methodist Church News

Week of January 12, 2026

Love Offering for Marcia

Marcia Reid has served as our Chancel Choir Director for the past two and a half years. She has dealt with health and mobility issues in recent months and feels the time has come to step away from that role. We are grateful for Marcia's leadership and time among us, and we want to offer her a tangible expression of our love and appreciation. Her final Sunday as HUMC's Choir Director will be Sunday, January 25th. We will present her with a Love Offering on that Sunday.

Contributions can be made online at www.highlandsmethodist.org (choose "Other" on the drop-down menu and note "Love Offering."), brought by the church office or placed in the offering plate on the 18th (please note "Love Offering" on the memo line. Contributions should be received by Tuesday, January 20th.

Pastor Randy at the Abbey of Gethsemani

Pastor Randy is away this week for his annual silent retreat in New Haven Kentucky. If the need for pastoral care should arise, please contact Pastor Christine or Craig in the church office.

Human Relations Day Offering
Sunday, January 18th

Human Relations Day is one of six church-wide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. This day invites congregations to strengthen communities, especially those facing poverty, injustice, or lack of opportunity.

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the "beloved community." Human Relations Day calls us to build relationships rooted in dignity, equity, and love. You can learn more and give directly at the following link:
https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving/special-sundays/churchwide-special-sundays/human-relations-day-ministry-article

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

On 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. 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 plan to join us for this special time of worship and fellowship.

Church Office Closed: January 19th

The Church Office will be closed next Monday, January 19th, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

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 this Thursday, January 15th at 11:30am

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.

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.

Coming Soon

in 2026

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 December 28-31 and January 4th, including our 2025 year end financial report:

Internal Restricted Accounts:
Pastor's Fund - $2,010.00
High School Lunches - $2.000.00
Gordon Center - $2,000.00
Music - $1,000.00
Afterschool - $200.00
Summer Camp - $100.00
Youth Discretionary - $120.00
Children's Discretionary - $100.00
UMCOR / Ukraine - $100.00

General Operating Fund:

December 28th - 31st - $113,228.24

January 4th - $5,474.00

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:

January

12 - Fred Motz
13 - Robert Edwards
- Andy Marquez
- Fred Smith
15 - Janet Chitty
21 - Terri Potts
22 - Virginia Nix
24 - Julie Jared
25 - Tim Moseley

Happy Anniversary to

January

11 - Jim and Lorine Spencer
18 - Dave and Sabrina Cashion
24 - Gus and Jan Lard

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday NIGHT SUPPER 5:15pm

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Join us this Wednesday, January 14th for our weekly Family Night Meal and Program. Our menu this week includes Chili, baked potatoes with toppings, salad, and dessert. Then plan to stay for the second installment of David Hodgson's 3 part series, "Life Lessons for 2026."

Upcoming Programs

Jan 14th – "Life Lessons for 2026" with David Hodgson (Part Two)

Jan 21st – "Life Lessons for 2026" with David Hodgson (Part Three)

Jan. 28th – "A Shepherd's Story" by Don Germano

This Week at HUMC

Tuesday, January 13th – Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike **– 8:30am**
– Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz –**7pm**

Wednesday, January 14th – Family Night Meal and Program – (F&FC) – **5:15pm**

Thursday, January 15th – Joy Group (F&FC) – **11:30am**

Sunday, January 18th – 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) – **9:09am**
– Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary) – **11am**

Monday, January 19th – Dr. MLK, Jr. Birthday Observance. **Church Office closed.**

Coming Soon...
Tuesday, January 20th – Finance Committee Meeting– **5:30pm**
Thursday, January 22nd – SPRC Meeting – **5:30pm**
Tuesday, January 27th – Trustees Meeting – **5:30pm**
Sunday, February 8th – Combined Super Bowl Sunday Worship (F&FC) – **10am**

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
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

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.

Bob Hood's Sunday School Class

Bob's class will take place **Sundays at 10am** in the Old Scout room., and they will be discussing Season 5 of 'The Chosen'. Contact - 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-lA*

If you would like to explore Professing, Affiliate or Associate Membership at HUMC, please let Pastor Randy know - 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.

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.skgiving.com/App/Giving/humc

"The next day he (John) saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'"

John 1:29