

Highlands United Methodist Church News

Week of January 6, 2026



We Extend Christian Sympathies

to the family of Evelyn Hall. Evelyn passed away at Chestnut Hill recently. A Celebration of Evelyn's life will be held this Saturday January 10th at 2pm with a reception to follow. Let's keep her husband Bill, and all of Evelyn's family in our prayers. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Bill Hall c/o Chestnut Hill - 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands NC 28741.

A Pastor Letter from our Bishop Ken Carter

Please click on the link below to read Bishop Carter's encouragement and recommendations for spiritual growth in 2026.



<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-jan-2026-pastoral-letter-19556942>

Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday we'll gather at the baptismal font to remember our baptism as we observe Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Please join us at either our 909 or 11am Service for our annual Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant.



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

Our JOY Group resumes its normal schedule this week. Come and join us for some good food and fellowship this Thursday, January 8th 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.



LEGO CLUB
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
JANUARY 7TH - FEBRUARY 11TH
DINNER 5:15PM: FAITH & FELLOWSHIP CENTER
LEGO FUN 6-7PM: OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Coming
Soon**
in 2026



HOLY IMAGINATION
2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday Mornings
@9:30am
Ages 5 - 10 years old
Starting January 18th

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 28th

Internal Restricted Accounts:

Food Pantry - \$6,000
Pastor's Fund - \$4,450
Gordon Center - \$2,000
Youth Discretionary - \$1,250
Children's Discretionary - \$1,000
Altar Guild - \$400
Igniting Ministry - \$350
Choir - \$300
Library - \$100

General Operating Fund:

\$64,881.55

Our 2025 Year-to-date financial report through November -

Income - \$620,897
Expenses - \$699,222 (-78,325)

Celebrate!

Join us in celebrating
the following upcoming
birthdays and anniversaries.

Happy Birthday to:

January

7 - Jimmy Nix
9 - Don Germano
- Cindy Reed
- Jeff James
- Lynn Long
10 - Elaine Carlton
- Richard Dunn
- Lora Speed-Beegle
11 - Travis Brooks
12 - Fred Motz

Happy Anniversary to

January

11 - Jim and Lorine Spencer

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year" written in a golden, cursive script font on a white background.

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday
NIGHT
SUPPER 5:15pm

Upcoming Programs

Jan. 7th - "Life Lessons for 2026"
with David Hodgson (Part One)

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

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



We resume our normal weekly schedule after the holiday break, with our Family Night Meal and Program at 5:15pm this Wednesday, January 7th. Please prepare your favorite dish and bring it to share for our potluck supper. Then plan to stay for the first of a three-part series by David Hodgson, "Life Lessons for 2026."

This Week at HUMC

Tuesday, January 6th - Day of Epiphany

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

Wednesday, January 7th - Family Night Meal: POTLUCK (F&FC) - 5:15pm

Thursday, January 8th - Joy Group (F&FC) - 11:30am

Saturday, January 10th

- A Celebration of the Life of Evelyn Hall (Sanctuary), **2pm**

Sunday, January 11th - Baptism of the Lord Sunday

- **Congregational Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant**
- 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) - **9:09am**
- Traditional Service (Sanctuary) - **11am**

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-IA

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.sksgiving.com/App/Giving/humc>

"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him."