

Highlands United Methodist Church News

August 4 - August 10, 2026



Congratulations Craig



Craig Eister celebrates his one year Anniversary as our HUMC Office Manager on August 4. We are looking forward to many more years to come!

Considering Joy

What is joy to you? Throughout the month of August we're engaging in a month-long conversation around our capacity for joy, even in the midst of life's challenging circumstances. In addition to a sermon series by Pastors Randy and Christine, we'll encourage the conversation in various ways. Check out the "Considering Joy" post-it-note walls in the Faith and Fellowship Center and Church Sanctuary. Plus, we're looking to put together brief testimonial videos (10-15 seconds) about joy. We're collecting quotable-quotes to use in the Sunday morning slides loop, as well as our website, Sunday bulletins and weekly HUMC News. Contact the church office if you'd like to help, as you consider the question - "What is joy to you?"

Community Table - TODAY

You're invited to join your neighbors at the Community Building at 6pm for our community meal. Enjoy the food and fellowship!

Love Offering for Emily

Emily Moss has served as our Chancel Choir Director for the past several months. Her final Sunday with us in that role will be Sunday, August 30th. We'd love to show our appreciation for her good work among us with a love offering. If you would like to participate in the offering, please make checks out to HUMC and place "Love Offering" in the memo line. If you give online, please select "Other" and write-in "Love Offering." We'll present the offering to Emily during the 11 o'clock Traditional Service on August 30th.

In Search of Part-time Choir Director

With Emily's impending departure, we're seeking a chancel choir director for our weekly Sunday traditional worship services at 11am. Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 4pm. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying for this position, please have them contact Pastor Randy - randyhumc@icloud.com.

Thank you for your support of our Pastor's Fund

A few weeks ago Pastor Randy shared that, due to a particularly large number of requests in recent months, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund was depleted. Thanks to your generosity, in July we received \$13,025 in donations for the Pastor's Fund and we are once again able to respond to requests for financial assistance. The Pastor's Fund is one of many ways HUMC seeks to be in ministry to our community. Thank you for your generous support.

Methodist Men's Breakfast

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be Saturday August 8th @ 8:30.

Our guest speaker this month will be Colonel Paul Schowalter, USAF retired. Paul flew 135 combat missions over North Vietnam and Laos with the 'Triple Nickel' Fighter Squadron, the top MiG-victories unit in Vietnam. Paul was decorated many times for his outstanding skills and currently serves as the Highlands American Legion Post Commander. Come join us as Paul will share experiences from his time in the cockpit and his military career.

Breakfast by Kristy

Bring a friend, spouse, neighbor !

All are welcome!

Red Cross Blood Drive



The graphic features a red blood bag on the left with a white label containing a barcode and the letter 'A'. To its right is a white circle with a red cross. A red line connects the bottom of the blood bag to a red heart shape, which then continues as a line to the right. To the right of the heart and line, the text 'American Red Cross Blood Drive' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

**American
Red Cross
Blood
Drive**

Save a Life, Give Blood

Monday, August 17th
10:00 - 2:00pm
In the Faith & Fellowship Center



Back to School Blessing Service

Our Back to School Service of Blessing will be held Tuesday, August 18th at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

High School Teacher Breakfast

HUMC is providing breakfast for our Highlands School teachers on Wednesday, August 19. Please see Kristy for instructions if you would like to provide a dish.

Ministry

August Ministry Bag *Disaster Relief*

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"

Galatians 6:2

Disasters impact between 100-200 million people each year across the world. And recently, we have seen more and more impact locally, even as we still continue to recover from Hurricane Helene. Please help us fulfill the word of God by helping our neighbors and preparing for times of emergency.



NEEDS:

- Cleaning Products
- Lysol Wipes
- Diapers
- Garbage Bags
- Buckets
- Shovels
- Flashlights
- Batteries

Ministry

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CRAFT BAZAAR

Hot Dog Lunch
Homemade Jellies, Jams, & Breads
Homemade Crafts
Silent Auction & Gift Baskets
AND MUCH MORE!!



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
HUMC MINISTRIES
& CHRISTMAS PARADE CAMELS



OCTOBER
3
2026



10 AM-
2 PM



HUMC
315 MAIN ST
HIGHLANDS

www.highlandsmethodist.org

 828-526-3376

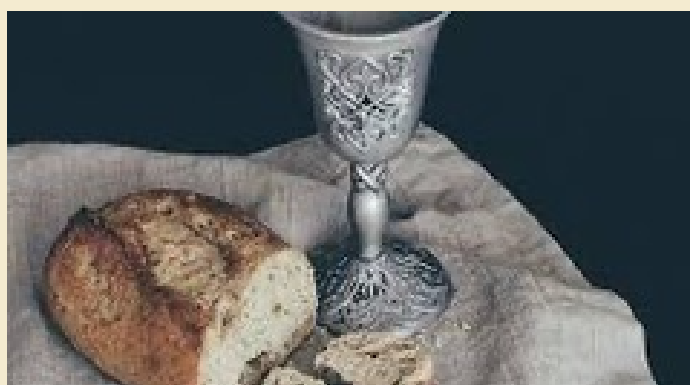
“Door Keepers in the House of God”

If you'd like to come sit in the sanctuary during our weekday office hours for an hour or two, please let Craig know. We'll open wide the doors and put out a sign of welcome. You can bring a book or just sit quietly and rest. What a gift to provide an opportunity for folks to spend sometime in this sacred space.



Summer Eucharist, Sundays at 8:30am

There are four remaining Summer Eucharist Services this year, August 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. You're invited to join us for brief service of Holy Communion in the church sanctuary.



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.tinyurl.com/humc-giving>

Here is a report on your faithful giving for July 26th:

Internal Restricted:

Pastor's Fund - \$9,600.00

(Includes a \$5,000 donation by

Lacy and Bill Evans in memory of Lacy's son,

Robert Scott Belleperche)

Backpack Ministry - \$200.00

Library - \$100.00

Children's Discretionary - \$25.00

Choir - \$20.00

Operating Fund:

\$20,608.68

Our 2026 June year to date financial report

Income - \$326,253.06

Expenses - \$359,050.68 (-\$32,797.62)



Celebrate!

Happy Birthday to:

August

4 - Kim Chenoweth

5 - Jan Lard

- Sadie Wood

6 - Gus Lard

8 - Jerry Moore

9 - Sandy Carlton

- Terrence Watson

10 - Gregory Clarkson

- Elizabeth Gordon.

- Jan Potts

17 - Ann Marie Delong

- Alex Osteen

- Janet Young

19. - Ransom Bozeman

- August Mehder

20 - Eliza Tate

Happy Anniversary to:

August

8 - Neal and Martha Purcell

15 - Randy and Kathy Lucas

- Tony and June Sullivan

20 - Gary and Carol Forrester

Celebrate your special event with Altar Flowers. Forms may be found outside the church office, or contact Craig at highlandsumc@icloud.com.

Church Programs

Wednesday Night Family Meal and Program

Wednesday

NIGHT
SUPPER

POTLUCK at 5:15 PM

Join us for good food and fellowship this Wednesday, August 5th at 5:15pm. It's Potluck this week, so please bring your favorite dish to share. Then please plan to stay for another edition of "Tonight's Special Guest." This week's guest will be Teresa Wall. Teresa is a volunteer with the "Respite for All" program at First UMC in Birmingham Alabama, and has been living with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's herself for the past couple of years.

Upcoming Programs

August 5th - "Tonight's Special Guest - Teresa Wall"

JOY GROUP

Just Older Youth (JOY) Group will be held on Thursday, August 6th at 11:30am.





This Week at HUMC



Week of August 4 - 10.

Tuesday, August 4th - Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15a**
- Community Table (Community Building) - **6pm**
- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

Wednesday, August 5th - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **4pm**
- Wed Night **POTLUCK** Meal and Program (F&FC) - **5:15pm**

Thursday, August 6th - JOY (Just Older Youth) Group (F&FC) - **11:30am**

Saturday, August 8th - Methodist Men's Breakfast (F&FC) - **8:30am.**

Sunday, August 9th - **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
- Summer Eucharist (Sanctuary) - **8:30am**
- Morning Breakfast (F&FC) - **8:30am**
- 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) - **9:09am**
- Sunday School (Various Locations) - **10am**
- Traditional Service (Sanctuary) - **11am**

Coming Soon...

Thursday, August 13th - Stephen Ministry Training (F&FC) - **4pm**

Monday, August 17th - Red Cross Blood Drive (F&FC) - **10am - 2pm**

Tuesday, August 18th - Back to School Service of Blessing - **3:30pm**

Tuesday, August 25th - Trustee Meeting (Old Fellowship Hall) - **5:30pm**

Got something to add to the calendar? Please email highlandsumc@icloud.com

Small Groups and Studies

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**.

Pastor Randy's Summer Sunday School Class

During August, Pastor Randy's class will read Allen Levi's popular *Theo of Golden*. Contact Pastor Randy for more information -

randyhumc@icloud.com.

Seekers Sunday School Class

This class is currently studying the Book of Ecclesiastes for 12 weeks starting on August 2. 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 parlor, and they will be discussing the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Contact -

Bobhood3@gmail.com.

Questions?

Contact Craig at highlandsumc@icloud.com.

Prayers

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 , or to share a
prayer need.**

Prayers at the Cross

**During our 9:09 Service, we invite
you to bring your prayer
requests up and place them on
the Cross. The ministerial staff
prays over these requests each
week.**

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY!

Prayer Cards

**Prayer Cards are available at both the 9:09
and 11:00am Services. Names of those on the
prayer cards will be specifically mentioned at
the 11:00am service. Additionally, you are
able to specify if you would like someone
mentioned on the short or long term prayer
lists in our weekly bulletin. You may also
notify the Pastor if you would like a call.**



Prayer Works!

**Please share stories of how prayer has worked in the lives of
you or your friends. Feel free to email Craig at
highlandsumc@icloud.com**

Stay Connected!

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

HUMC News

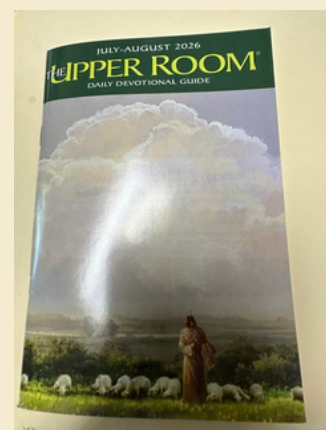
The HUMC News is emailed every Tuesday. It is also placed on our website. Let us know if you'd like to be on the email distribution.

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.

Daily Devotionals

To be a part of Pastor Randy's daily devotionals, entitled "Ruminations and Reflections," please contact Pastor Randy at randyhumc@icloud.com

**July /August
Upper Room
Available**



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



Visitors

Whether you are visitng for one Sunday, or seasonally, you are most
welcome! Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!

Our mailing address is

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

Our physcial address is

315 Main St.
Highlands NC 28741.

highlandsumc@icloud.com

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

<https://www.tinyurl.com/humc-giving>

***"But when the disciples saw him (Jesus) walking on the sea, they were
terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately
Jesus spoke to them as said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'"***

Matthew 14: 26-27