

Highlands United Methodist Church News

August 11 - August 17, 2026



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?"

What is Joy to You?

"Joy is looking back, remembering the good I was blessed to be a part of."

- Randy Caton

"Joy is sitting on the deck watching God's beautiful creations with his mountains in the background. Thank you for helping me reflect on simple precious moments."

- Gary Grimes

"JOY is that happiness and excitement I experience in life as a result of knowing Christ.....JOY is shared much the same way as LOVE."

- Bob Willson

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.

New Women's Bible Study

New ladies Bible Study Class begins August 18th, Tuesday Nights from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. We will meet in the parlor.

This is an 8 week class called: "The Names of God," by Kristi McLelland. The class is led by Jan Potts and Meridith Watson.



Beware of Fraudulent Correspondence

Some members of our HUMC family have recently received an email correspondence with both Pastor Randy's name and the church name from a fake gmail account. Perhaps it's a good time to remind everyone that no representative of HUMC will ever reach out (via email or text) requesting gift cards or financial aid of any kind. Please also be wary of any email or text purporting to be from church staff asking you to reply regarding an unspecified matter. If you are unsure about any correspondence, please contact the church office directly. Unfortunately this happens from time to time. Thanks to those who have made us aware of this fraudulent activity.

Directory Deadline!

Please contact Craig in the office to submit your information and picture for the directory. The deadline is MONDAY, AUGUST 17th.

New Highlands Cashiers Players Play

The new Highlands Cashiers Players Play is "Grace and Glorie" by Tom Ziegler and directed by Jayne Pleasants. Its s showing from August 27 - September 6. Grace and Glorie by Tom Ziegler is a tender, life-affirming drama about an unexpected friendship between Grace Stiles, a dying woman determined to remain in her rural mountain home, and Glorie, a busy hospice worker from the city assigned to care for her. As their time together unfolds, the two women—seemingly opposites—find common ground through honesty, humor, and shared strength.

Methodist Men's Breakfast

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be on Saturday September 12th @ 8:30.

"September's speaker will be Steve Daniels. In high school, Steve was making a living doing renderings for architects, and then he took a year of drafting, receiving his diploma in mechanical drafting. Five days later, he joined the Air Force, and his background talents were quickly discovered as he was assigned to Langley Air Force Base as a staff artist for the Commanding General of Tactical Air Command. There, he created artist concepts for top-secret aircraft and advanced weapon systems. Please join us as he shares how his training, his time in the Air Force, and his faith all intersected throughout his career. He will even bring some of his designs."

Please join us. Saturday September 12th @ 8:30

Bring a friend! 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'. A red heart is formed by a line that starts from the bottom of the bag, loops around, and ends at the top of a white circle containing a red cross. To the right of the heart and cross, the text 'American Red Cross Blood Drive' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the heart and cross, the text 'Save a Life, Give Blood' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'Monday, August 17th', '10:00 - 2:00pm', and 'In the Faith & Fellowship Center' in white, 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**

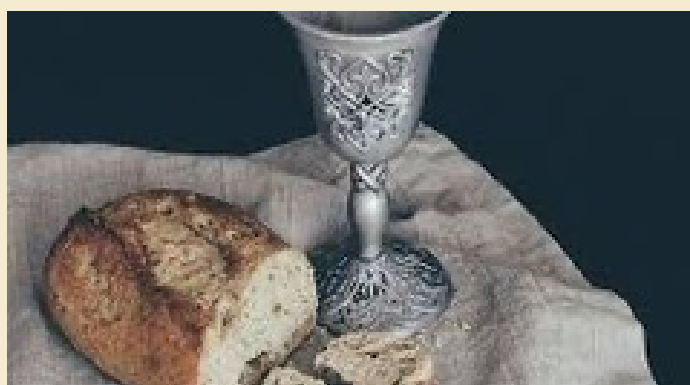
“Door Keepers in the House of God”

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 three remaining Summer Eucharist Services this year, August 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 August 2nd:

Internal Restricted:

Backpack Ministry - \$1,058.00

Library - \$100.00

Pastor's Fund - \$25.00

Operating Fund:

\$17,944.00

Our 2026 June year to date financial report

Income - \$326,253.06

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



Celebrate!

Happy Birthday to:

August

17 - Ann Marie Delong

- Alex Osteen

- Janet Young

19 - Ransom Bozeman

- August Mehder

20 - Eliza Tate

22 - Patti Moschouris

- Mike Murphy

24 - Joseph Gallo

28 - Emilly Gabbard

- Cecil Hines

- Luke Osteen

- Barbara Recktenwald

29 - Buz Dotson

30 - Ruthie Cole

- Christine Murphy

31 - Martha Schweitz

Happy Anniversary to:

August

15 - Randy and Kathy Lucas

- Tony and June Sullivan

20 - Gary and Carol Forrester

28 - Fred and Elizabeth Motz

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

Wednesday at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Night Family Meal and Program

Join us for good food and fellowship this Wednesday, August 12th at 5:15pm. It's breakfast for dinner this week! Then plan to stay for this week's program at 6:00pm, as we meet the cast and crew of Highlands Cashiers Players next production, "Grace and Glorie."

Upcoming Programs

August 12th - "Meet the cast and crew of 'Grace and Glorie'"

August 19th - "Tonight's Special Guest - Don Germano"

JOY GROUP

Just Older Youth (JOY) Group will be held on Thursday, August 13th at 11:30am.



Christmas Card Ministry

Each year we send Christmas cards to those serving in the military. Cards and instructions are located on the Faith and Fellowship donation station.



This Week at HUMC

Week of August 11 - 17.

Tuesday, August 11th - Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15am**
- SPRC Meeting (Parlor) - **4pm**
- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

Wednesday, August 12th - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **4pm**
- Wed Night Family Meal and Program (F&FC) - **5:15pm**

Thursday, August 13th - JOY (Just Older Youth) Group (F&FC) - **11:30am**
- Stephen Ministry Training (F&FC) - **4pm**

Sunday, August 16th - **Twelfth 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**

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

Coming Soon...

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

Wednesday, August 19th - *Highlands School Teacher Breakfast* - **8:30am**

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

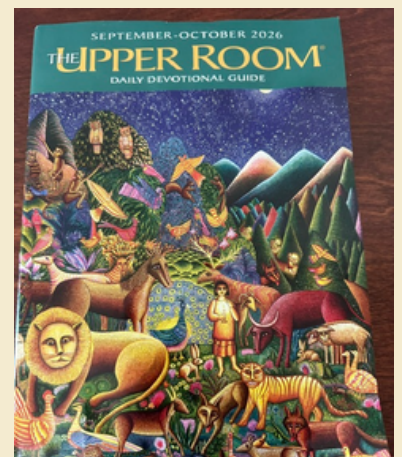
The HUMC News is emailed every Tuesday. It is also placed on our website. Let us know if you'd like to be on the email distribution.

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

**September/October
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 visiting 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 physical 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>

"Joy can come in when you least expect it. But it is more than just a feeling, it is an argument for life itself."

Kate Bowler