

Highlands United Methodist Church News

August 18 - August 24, 2026



Back to School Service of Blessing Today (Tuesday, August 18th) at 3:30pm

HUMC will once again host our community's ecumenical "Back to School Service of Blessing." The service will be held this afternoon (Tuesday, August 18th) at 3:30pm in the Church Sanctuary, and everyone is invited.

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.

Love Offering for Emily Deadline - Sunday, August 23rd

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." **Donations need to be received by Sunday, August 23rd.** We'll present the offering to Emily during the 11 o'clock Traditional Service on August 30th.

“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're encouraging the conversation in various ways. 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. "What is joy to you?"

“What Does Joy Mean to Me”

“Joy is folding bulletins for Sunday worship. Joy is breaking bread with others at church Wednesday nights and Thursday noon. Joy is reaching out by phone to hear a loved one's voice saying ‘Good Morning!’”



- Wilma Gordon

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.

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!

New Women's Bible Study

New ladies Bible Study Class has begun, and is 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.



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**

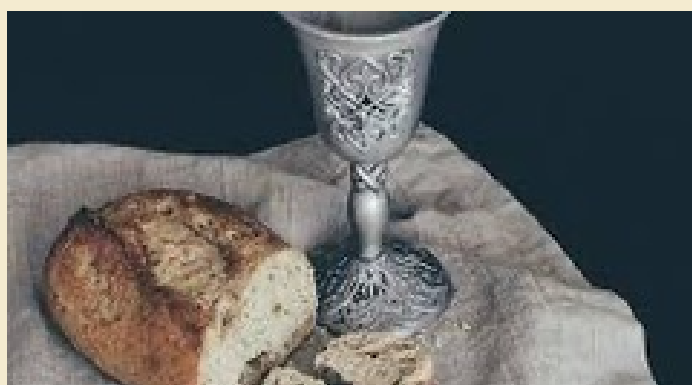
“Door Keepers in the House of God”

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 two remaining Summer Eucharist Services this year, August 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 9th:

Internal Restricted:

Trustees - \$108,328.37 (Kramer Living Trust)
Pastor's Fund - \$570.00
Backpack Ministry - \$550.00
Igniting Ministry - \$125.00
Library - \$100.00
Children's Discretionary - \$20.00

Operating Fund:

\$9,958.76

Our 2026 July year to date financial report

Income - \$382,150
Expenses - \$410,037 (-\$27,887)



Celebrate!

Happy Birthday to:

August

19. - Ransom Bozeman
- August Mehder
20 - Eliza Tate
22 - Patti Moschouris
- Mike Murphy
24 - Joseph Gallo
28 - Emily Gabbard
- Cecil Hines
- Luke Osteen
- Barbara Recktenwald
29 - Buz Dotson
30 - Ruthie Cole
- Christine Murphy
31 - Martha Schweitz

Happy Anniversary to:

August

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

Join us for good food and fellowship this Wednesday, August 19th at 5:15pm. This week Chef Doug is back with Chicken Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Salad and Dessert. Then plan to stay for this week's program at 6:00pm - "Tonight's Special Guest - Don Germano."

Upcoming Programs

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

August 26th - Lisa Youngblood of "Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau."

September 2nd - "Trivia Night with Mike"

JOY GROUP

Just Older Youth (JOY) Group will be held on Thursday, August 20th at 11:30am.



Blood Drive Thank You

A big thank you to all who donated blood in our August 17th blood drive. We were able to collect 24 units of blood!



This Week at HUMC



Week of August 18-24.

Tuesday, August 18th

- Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike - **8:15am**
- Back to School Service of Blessing (Sanctuary) - **3:30pm**
- Women's Bible Study (Parlor) - **6:30pm - 8:30pm**
- Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz - **7pm**

Wednesday, August 19th

- Highlands School Teacher Breakfast - **8:00am**
- Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **4pm**
- Wed Night Family Meal and Program (F&FC) - **5:15pm**

Thursday, August 20th

- JOY (Just Older Youth) Group (F&FC) - **11:30am**
- SPRC Meeting (Parlor) - **4pm**

Sunday, August 23rd - **Thirteenth 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...

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

Tuesday, September 1 - *Community Table (Community Building)* - **6pm**

Thursday, September 3 - *Stephen Ministry Class (F&FC)* - **4pm - 6pm**

Saturday, September 5 - *Pop Up Bagpipers (Front Lawn)* - **4:30pm - 5pm**

Monday, September 7 - *Labor Day, Church Office Closed*

Saturday, September 12 - *Methodist Men's Breakfast (F&FC)* - **8:30am**

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 is reading 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

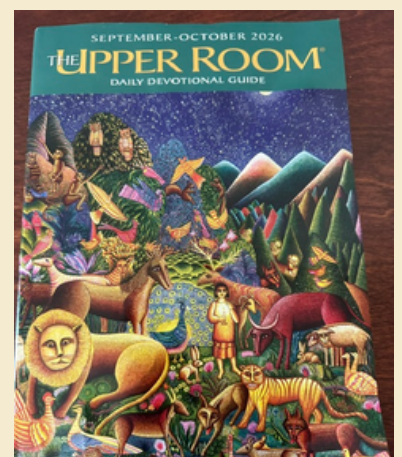
The HUMC News is emailed every Tuesday. It is also placed on our website. Let us know if you'd like to be on the email distribution.

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>

"It is another of life's great mysteries that sadness and joy can coexist so compatibly with one another. In fact, I wonder if, on this side of heaven, either one can be complete without the other."

Theo,

from Allen Levi's "Theo of Golden"