Highlands United Methodist Church News

November 24-30, 2026



Happy Thanksgiving!

May you enjoy meaningful time with family and friends this week. May your table be bountiful, may your memories be a blessing and may your heart be filled with love and gratitude.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner Today at 6pm

Please join your friends from the community for our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, today, Tuesday November 24th, at 6pm in the Highlands Rec. Center. Special thanks to Kristy for organizing this special annual community event again.

Thanksgiving Week Schedule

Please take note of the following schedule changes this week -

Church office hours - Tuesday, 9am - 4pm (regular hours)
Wednesday, 9am - 12noon
Thursday - closed
No Wednesday night meal or program
No JOY Group

Highlands Tree Lighting Saturday at 5pm

The community kicks off the holiday season with its traditional tree lighting at Founders Park this Saturday, November 28th, at 5:30pm. Our very own HUMC Bell-Ringers, under the direction of Dr. Michael Crowe, will perform for the event and Pastor Randy will share the birth narrative from the Gospel of Luke.



"The Gift of Respite" Friday, December 4th

On **Friday, December 4th from 10am - 2pm** we are offering “The Gift of Respite” for families impacted by dementia. We will celebrate the season and share meaningful time together through fellowship, fun and good food. Please contact Craig in the church office for more information or to volunteer!



Coffee Chats with Pastor Randy
Thursdays at 10am



Pastor Randy is enjoying having some one-on-one conversations over coffee on Thursdays at 10am. We can chat about faith, the Bible, or simply life in general, just conversations over coffee. If you'd be interested in scheduling a coffee chat with Pastor Randy, please contact Craig in the church office.

In Search of
Part-time Choir Director

We continue 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.

Mah Jong Monday

returns on Monday, **November 30th from 5:15pm to 7:15pm.** Please RSVP to Craig in the Church Office.

Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on **Monday, December 7th from 10am to 2pm** in the Faith and Fellowship Center.

Christmas Happenings

Christmas Parade



Join us as HUMC takes place in the annual Highlands Christmas Parade. Please see Julie Jared to volunteer.

HUMC volunteeers will gather at 9am Parade starts at 10am.

Wreaths Across America

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Marking Graves with Surveyor Flags
Friday December 18 at 11:00AM
Highlands Cemetery meet at the Flagpole

Wreaths Across America Day
Saturday December 19
Meet at Highlands Community Building
At 11:30AM, Ceremony starts at 12 Noon

Christmas Happenings



Christmas Eve Services



We will have the following services this Christmas Eve:

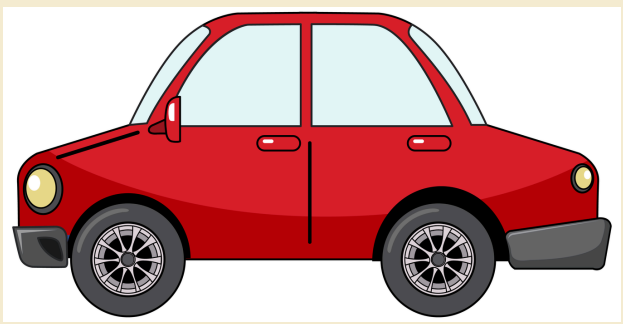
5 pm- Family Oriented Candlelight Service
7pm - Christmas Eve Eucharist (30 mins)
9 pm - Lessons and Carols (30 mins)
11:45 pm -Midnight Eucharist (15-20 mins)

Ministry



Leaving Town for the Season?

Please remember **the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry** when cleaning out your pantries/freezers/homes as you get ready to depart Highlands for the season. Those in need will certainly be grateful you did!



Ministry

November Ministry Bags

Macon County Elves



Mission Statement

Macon County Elves is a volunteer-led organization dedicated to bringing holiday joy to children and families across Macon County, North Carolina.

We believe in the power of community, compassion, and local giving — ensuring that every donation, every toy, and every act of kindness stays right here at home.





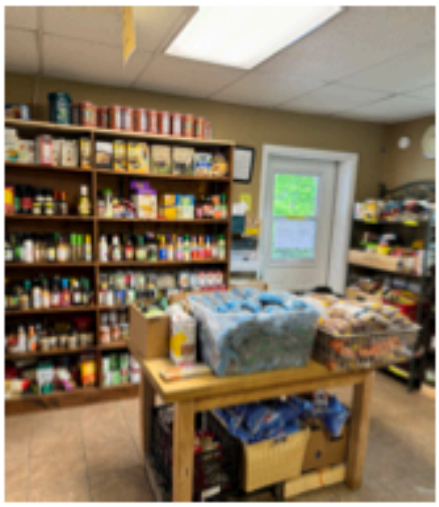
Needs

UNWRAPPED new toys for local boys and girls of all ages!

Ministry

DECEMBER MINISTRY BAG

Highlands Emergency Council



We are a community donation center helping low-income residents, senior citizens, young families, single-parent families, and disaster victims of any age in times of adversity.



Needs: Personal items, Laundry soap, Toilet paper, Baking supplies, Oil, Boxed milk

THANK YOU!

Church Programs

Wednesday Night Family Meal and Program

Wednesday NIGHT SUPPER

NO Wednesday Night Supper this week.



Please note there will be **NO Wednesday night meal or program Wednesday, November 25th.**

We will have Wednesday Night Supper on Wednesday, December 2nd when it will be POTLUCK.

JOY GROUP

There will be **NO JOY GROUP on Thursday November 26th.** Happy Thanksgiving! ,

We will return on Thursday, December 3rd.

JOY GROUP
JUST•OLDER•YOUTH

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 November 15th:

Internal Restricted:
Gordon Center- $2,000.00
Summer Camp - $500.00
Library - $100.00
Youth Discretionary Fund - $50.00
Pastor's Fund - $25.00

Operating Fund:
$10,385.19

Our 2026 October year to date financial report
Income - $579,355.82
Expenses - $583,066.02 (-3,710.20)

Celebrate!

Happy Birthday to:

November

24 - Sara Mayer
25 - Linda Dryman
- Sheri McGauhy
26 - Marlene Nix
27 - Rick Willeford
28 - Jeannie Edwards Jones
29 - Kristy Martin.
- Nancy Sutton

December

4 - Mary Evelyn Feibelman
5 - Dori Moschouris
7 - Mike Bryson
9 - Jacob Brooks
- Claire Neely
- Sharon Newton

Happy Anniversary to:

December

9- John and Marjorie Crowe

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



This Week at HUMC



Week of November 24th – 30th.

Tuesday, November 24th – Men's Breakfast at Blue Bike **– 8:15am**
– Community Thanksgiving (Rec Park) – **6pm**
– Lectionary Home Group at the home of Fred and Elizabeth Motz –**7pm**

Wednesday, November 18h – **NO** Wednesday Night Meal and program

Thursday, November 19th **– Happy Thanksgiving! (Office Closed)**
– **NO** JOY (Just Older Youth) Group (F&FC)

Sunday, November 22nd – **First Sunday of Advent**
– Morning Breakfast (F&FC) – **8:30am**
– 909 Bluegrass Service (F&FC) – **9:09am**
– Holy Imagination (F&FC) – **9:30am**
– Sunday School (Various Locations) – **10am**
– Traditional Service (Sanctuary) – **11am**

Monday, November 30th – Mah Jong Monday (F&FC) – **5:15pm – 7:15pm**

Coming Soon..

Friday, December 4th – *"The Gift of Respite" (F&FC) –* ***10am – 2pm***
Saturday, December 5th – *Highlands Christmas Parade –* ***9am***
Monday, December 7th – *Red Cross Blood Drive (F&FC) –* ***10am – 2pm***
Saturday, December 12th – *Breakfast with Santa (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**.

Womens' Bible Study

.Beginning December 1st, Women's Bible Study will focus on The Scriptures Sing of Christmas, an Advent study by J. Ellsworth Kalas. **Tuesdays at 6:30pm. No Meeting on November 24th.**

Seekers Sunday School Class

This class is currently studying the Books of Philippians, Galatians, and Ephesians. 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

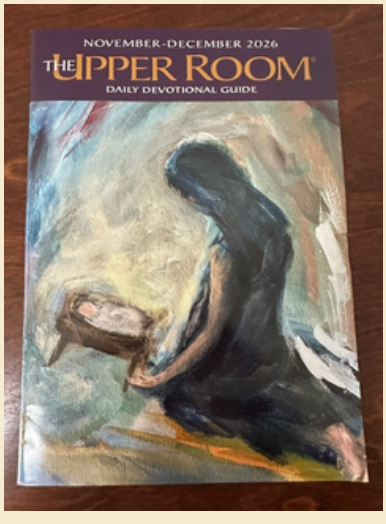
The HUMC News is emailed every Tuesday. It is also placed on our website. Let us know if you'd like to be on the email distribution.

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

November/December 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

"Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home."

Henry Alford, 1844