



# Highlights

Highland Presbyterian Church  
2380 Cloverdale Avenue  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012  
Volume 59, Issue 1

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[www.highlandpres.org](http://www.highlandpres.org)  
January 12, 2025

## Ordination and Installation Service

### Sunday, January 12, 11:00 Worship Service

Highland looks forward to celebrating our annual ordination and installation service for our new Deacons and Elders in the Class of 2027. We will ordain and install Megan Ayscue, Leslie Craig, Rebecca Schwartz, Jim Wilson, and Jim Xu as Deacons, and Hannah Duane and Tory Gentry Daniel as Elders. We will also install to active service those who have been previously ordained: Andy Scott, Carol Templeton, and Steve Zorn as Deacons, and Kathy Black, Ken Chalk, Emily Collins, Richard Howerton, Leslie Kamtman, and Elizabeth Skinner as Elders.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful time in worship. We are grateful for their commitment to their faith and to Highland!



## Annual Congregational Meeting

### January 26, following Worship

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation and the corporation for Sunday, January 26, following the 11:00 worship service. The purpose of the congregational meeting is to act on proposed changes to the terms of call of our pastors; to elect congregational representatives to the congregational Nominating Committee; and to receive reports of the standing committees and the 2024 financial and membership statistical reports as information.

Because we are incorporated, we are required by law to have a very brief corporation meeting each year. The annual reports of committees will be available on the website or for pick up in the Gallery Hall or Narthex prior to the meeting.

## Worship

11:00 a.m.

### January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon: Randy Harris

### January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5

John 2:1-11

Sermon: Debbie Layman

### January 26

Isaiah 52:7-12

Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: Randy Harris

## Highland Worship Online

There are several ways to access worship:

- Click the link in the Sunday morning email;
- Go to Highland's website and find the "Highland Worship Online" page;
- Subscribe to Highland's YouTube channel where the worship videos are posted (Highland PCWS).

On our Worship Online page, there are links for the Bulletin, a virtual "Friendship Pad," as well as a virtual "offering plate."

## Wheelchair Assistance on Sundays

If you or a loved one need assistance on Sunday mornings to church school and/or worship via wheelchair, please contact Mike Culler, 336-413-8414, remember-church@gmail.com, no later than noon on Saturdays to make arrangements for the next day. The morning of, you would park in the Activity Building parking lot, and someone would meet you with a wheel chair.



## Inclement Weather Policy

As winter begins, please remember that announcements of cancellations of worship or other programs will be made through email, WXII (both on TV and [www.wxii.com](http://www.wxii.com)), and through a link on Highland's website.



Office hours are Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Randy Harris, *Pastor*, Ext. 210,  
rharris@highlandpres.org

Debbie Layman, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 212,  
dlayman@highlandpres.org

Courtney Stevens, *Associate Pastor* Ext. 218,  
cstevens@highlandpres.org

Heather Ferguson, *Director of Christian  
Education*, Ext. 204,

hferguson@highlandpres.org

Chris Gilliam, *Director of Music*, Ext. 202,

cgilliam@highlandpres.org

Susan Bates, *Organist*, Ext. 202,

sbates@highlandpres.org

Joy Hohmann,

*Business Manager.*, Ext. 205,  
jhohmann@highlandpres.org

Gidget Payne,

*Administrative Coordinator*, Ext.  
201, gpayne@highlandpres.org

## **First 2025 Fling Fellowship Meal**

**Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.**

We hope you will join us for our first mid-week fellowship meal of 2025. These monthly meals are a great time to check in with your Highland family – and to have a much needed break from the routine. The cost is \$10 per person with a maximum of \$30 per household. Our menu for January 29 will be a baked potato bar. This Meal will be prepared by Marshall Harris and friends. If you would like to volunteer for a Fling Team (prep or clean up!) contact [Debbie Layman](#). Sign up for the January 29 meal on our website or by calling the church office, 336-724-6303.



## **Winter Walks Return, January 12, 2:00 p.m.**

Our Winter Walks were big hits last year, and we look forward to the fellowship and exploring again this season. Our first walk will be **Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m.** We will discover Reynolda Gardens and Trails. On this walk, we will explore what is growing in the winter gardens and throughout the winter landscape. Get cozy at Dough-Joe's Doughnuts & Coffee for coffee, tea, and treats afterward.

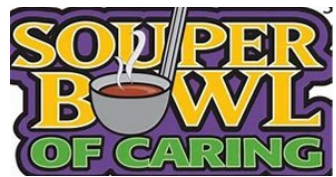
Mark your calendars for our second walk which will be Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 p.m., and our third walk which will be March 9. We hope you will join us for these fun gatherings!



## **Souper Bowl of Caring Offering, February 9**

**Following Worship, Chili Luncheon, Fellowship Hall**

Highland's youth are gearing up for the Souper Bowl of Caring, a tradition that goes beyond football and fun to unite the community for a greater cause: fighting hunger. This year, we are supporting City with Dwellings and Moore School Food Pantry with non-perishable food items and donations. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 and collect 500 food items.



After worship, join us for warm chili and grilled cheese sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall. We will have three kinds of chili: beef, white, and vegetarian. We hope the flavors and good fellowship will draw you to join us in addition to supporting our youth!

# Acoustic Café, Sunday, February 23

Mark your calendars for our 2025 Acoustic Café in which we celebrate God's gift of music through the leadership of musicians from our congregation.

Beginning at 4:00 p.m. we will enjoy live music from singers and songwriters from our church family. Something salty, something sweet, and a stellar coffee and tea bar will enhance our afternoon. Plan to bring a friend for this delightful afternoon!



## Coffee & Conversation Tuesdays

On Tuesdays, Randy, Debbie, Courtney, or Heather will be hanging out at Panera, Cloverdale Avenue, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. for conversation with whomever shows up. We hope this will be a fun and varied group and invite all to consider stopping by. We are meeting at Panera during the cold winter months so that we can enjoy the warmth inside! When temperatures warm up again, we will return to Camel City Coffee. We hope you will stop by to check-in with your staff and meet other Highlanders.



## Joy for Our January Birthdays!

13 Morgan Gillis	18 Ellen Doyle	21 Elizabeth Gee	26 Tom Seaver
13 Susan Janke	18 Ellen Lafferty	21 Jerry Greene	27 Emelda Lawing
13 Anne McLain Laws	18 Lexie Maddux	21 Hugh Wright	27 Carrie Swing
14 Phil Wilson	18 Jay Plaisted	23 Katherine Campbell	28 Anne Dowell
15 Sara Quandt	18 Caroline Wright	23 Claire Gillis	29 Susan McBurney
15 Mary Ellen Smyth	19 Jan Penick	23 Barbara Summerlin	29 Debbie Patton
16 Andy Tyson	19 Kevin Spainhour	24 Marilena Conrad	29 Natalie Sevin
17 Gabriel Bryant-Prosterman	19 Jim Swing	25 John Eckart	29 Courtney Stevens
17 Laura Clay	19 Johnnie Taylor	25 Diana Smyrl	
17 Skip Pickett	20 John Halverson	25 Linda Thorup	
	20 Jud Milam	26 Cissie Anderson	



**Special Birthday Blessings** to Anne Dowell as she turns 95 on January 28.



## News and Notes

**In Our Prayers:** *Carol West*, Forsyth; *Pam Pepper*, Home; *Jean Donnan*, Home; *Nicole Gottfried*, Home; *Gilmour Lake*, Memory Care, Arbor Acres; *Leslie Sizemore*, Home; *Emelda Lawing*, Home with Hospice; *Curtis Patterson*, Home; *Parks Berryhill*, Salemtowne Healthcare; *Esther and Les Preston*, Home; *Jim Womble*, Heritage Woods; *John Anderson*, Salemtowne Memory Care; *Ruth Banbury*, Carriage Club Assisted Living (Charlotte).

### In Memoriam:

- ✠ Wes Mcgraw, November 21
- ✠ Craig Woosley, December 21

**Bless You!** ~ Our prayers for one another. Each week we invite you to pray for members of our Highland family. We will pray not because anything is wrong, but because we care about each other.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, please pray for Miles Abernethy; Nina, Charlie and

Sailor Beck; Beverly Edwards; Paul and Jessica Fischer; Brett, Wendy, Riley and Berkley Hoge; Emma, John, Whitten and Henrietta Parker; Garry and Penny Russ; Sara Taylor; Scott, Cheryl, Rebecca and Samantha Walker.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, please pray for Kathy Black; Karlen, Bailey and Jackson Boring; Eben, Missy, Maggie and Micah Carroll; Meghan Parsons; Jeff, Becky, Max, Abby and Seth Reynolds; Terry Sink.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, please pray for James and Barbara Bowman; Jerry Cole; Ken and Ednamae Fisher; Tory Gentry Daniel; Jean Swanson; Benton and Jelena Williams; Mary Julia and Jack Smith; Mary-Hollis Williams.

*The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24*



## Updated Contact Information Request

If you or a family member have changed contact information in the past few months, please contact [Gidget](#) or [Joy](#) in the church office to provide them with your current information. Cell phone, home telephone line, email address, home address, etc.

## Highlights Newsletter

If you would like to start receiving Highlights online only and no longer receive a mailed and printed version, please contact [Gidget](#) and let her know. Thank you!

## 2025 Offering Envelopes Available Now

We have our 2025 offering envelopes now available for pick up in the church office. Please come by between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday or on Sunday!

## ♥ Service Opportunities

### Moore School Food Pantry

Highland, alongside Temple Emmanuel, supports Moore Elementary School by providing a food pantry for students of Moore School and their families. For the month of **January**, we are asking for donations of **grits and oatmeal**.



### Sign Up Today for the Women's Shelter at St. Timothy's Now through February 28, 2025

The women's overflow homeless shelter is open in the Fellowship Hall at St. Timothy's and will stay open through February 28. Highland has agreed to partner with St. Timothy's financially, through volunteer support, and through donations of meals and to-go bags. Please prayerfully consider how you can help and be prepared to sign up for a monthly or weekly meal team, a hospitality / check-in shift, or snack / to-go bags. You can sign up now by visiting the [Support Our Unhoused Neighbors page](#) of our website, [highlandpres.org](http://highlandpres.org). Thank you for your prayerful support and your practical support as we work with our neighbors in need.



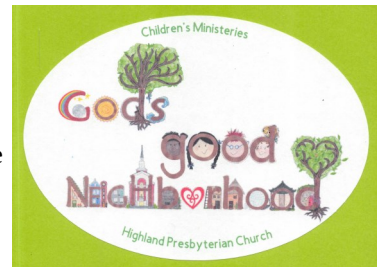
## ☀ Children

### God's Good Neighborhood

On Sunday mornings, Highland's Preschoolers gather for stories from the "God Loves Me" series, including arts, activities and creative play. This is a wonderful time of learning about God's love and how the church is a safe and loving place to be.

Elementary aged children are welcomed into *God's Good Neighborhood*, located on the third floor. Every other Sunday, children will experience a biblical story beginning in Godly Play. The following week the children will move to a different workshop to experience the same story from a different perspective through things like Art, Drama, Cooking, or even Cinema. *God's Good Neighborhood* is the place where children and leaders grow in faith and understanding of what it means to be the people of God.

At 10:15 a.m., all children will go to the Worship Center (third floor, White Door) for Children's Choir. Parents can pick up children there at 10:45 a.m.



## Friday Fun Night

Friday, January 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar today for the next Friday Family Fun Night at Highland when parents can drop children off and enjoy the evening with Highland friends or running errands.

In Highland style we will have tasty food, fun games and activities, surprises around each corner, and friends are always welcome! Reach out to [Heather Ferguson](#) for more information or if you would like to volunteer for a Friday event.



## Youth

### Youth and Parents Sexuality Retreat

January 12

Join us for a transformative day designed to explore how faith connects with the beauty and complexity of our bodies and relationships. This retreat offers separate sessions for parents, middlers, and senior highs, led by an experienced outside facilitator. Parents will gain tools to guide their youth with confidence, while youth will discover how faith celebrates their identities and relationships. Together, you'll build stronger connections through shared learning and meaningful conversations. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in understanding, love, and respect – together!

### Senior High Mystery Trip

January 17–20

The legendary experience continues! A Mystery Trip is the chance to share in community as we brave the surprises of this trip while growing in our faith and as a faith family. In years past we have adventured to zip-line over alligators, worshiped in the largest and smallest churches in America, slept in a cave, hang glided, and more. There is only one way to find out what is planned this year. Lean into the adventure, and [sign up today!](#)

### Parenting the Teen Years: Friendships

February 3, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

Each first Monday of the month let's connect as parents! Join us as we share experiences and explore how to guide our teens in building healthy friendships. Let's support each other on this journey. For the Zoom link or to share questions in advance, reach out to Courtney at [cstevens@highlandpres.org](mailto:cstevens@highlandpres.org).

# Young Adults

Our ministry meets each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in a variety of locations. We gather for fellowship, study, and faithful conversation. Contact [Courtney Stevens](#) for more information.

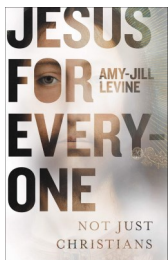
January 9: Vision Board Making at Radar Brewing

January 16: Little Richards

January 23 Shalom Project Food Bags

January 30: *Will and Harper* Film Discussion

## Adults



### Thursday Morning Women's Study

10:00–11:30 a.m., Ardmore Room

***Why Jesus's historic and cultural influence makes him fascinating, provocative, and relevant for everyone, not only Christians***

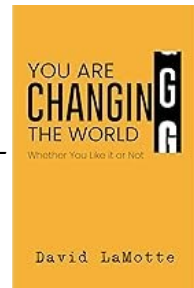
Two thousand years after his birth and death, Jesus of Nazareth continues to be of vital interest. Yet much of the scholarship around Jesus focuses on his religious significance. *Jesus for Everyone* examines his most famous teachings from a fresh perspective, exploring how they have continued to shape ethics and civilization in the West for two millennia. Even for those who reject faith, Jesus's life and his philosophy are important to study, writes renowned biblical scholar and author Amy-Jill Levine, because of the insights they hold for us today. If you are looking for a fun, engaging group of women to study alongside while building life-long friendships, please join us. For more information or to purchase a book for \$15 contact [Heather Ferguson](#).

## New Matthew 25 Book Group

Beginning Monday, January 20

As we begin a new year of ministry together and enter a new season in our country's life, we seek to deepen our roots as a Matthew 25 congregation, focusing on *building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty*. The first book for our new Matthew 25 Book Group will be *You Are Changing the World: Whether You Like it or Not* by David LaMotte. Kathleen Norris has written, "This book serves as an antidote to the hopelessness so many of us feel about our world today." If you are in need of an antidote, join us! Each person will be responsible for purchasing their own book. Reach out to [Debbie Layman](#) with questions or to sign up.

The group will meet monthly via zoom on third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.





## Faith & Film: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*



January 13, 7:00 p.m., The Sherwood Restaurant

Join us for this monthly gathering as we reflect on the visual parables of movies. Our movie for January is *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. It is available to stream on Amazon Prime. Contact [Randy Harris](#) for more information.

## Listening to Black Voices Book Group

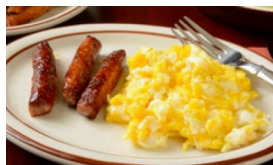
Join us via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. January 28 as we continue reading and reflecting on the experience of our African American neighbors, and consider what our faithful responses might entail. In January we will return to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter From Birmingham Jail," from his book *Why We Can't Wait*. If you are interested, please contact [Randy Harris](#).



## Men's Breakfast

January 15, 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join with the Men of the Church for a time of fellowship and study. Look for an email with details, and contact [Randy Harris](#) if you have questions.



## Lamentations and Laughter

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m., Activity Building, Room AB 5

Lamentations and Laughter is a men's weekly gathering to focus on the positives in life, even during challenging and difficult periods. The idea behind Lamentations and Laughter is to encourage paying attention to one another, to share and be heard, and to listen. All are invited and encouraged to attend! If you have questions, contact [John Woodmansee](#).



## Highland Ukuleles

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Room 126

Life is definitely more enjoyable with a ukulele! Come and join us for some fun, regardless of your age or skill level. If you don't have a ukulele, let Heather Ferguson know and we can arrange for you to borrow one. We're all learning and having a great time together. For more details, please contact [Heather](#).



# Dolorosa Gathering

**Sunday, January 26, 4:00–5:00 p.m., Highland Chapel**

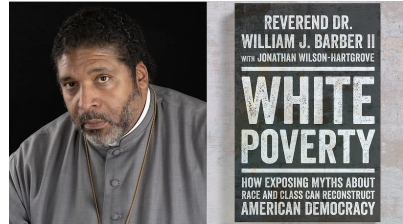
The word, *dolorosa*, in Latin means “sorrowful way.” Jesus shows the way to hope, healing, and wholeness through journeys of sorrow and pain. This season can be particularly grief-filled for those who have experienced loss. If you would benefit from a time of sharing your experiences of grief and your hopes for healing and wholeness with Highland friends on similar paths, we invite you to join us in the Chapel on the 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.



# Spring Poverty Group

***White Poverty*, by William Barber, Beginning February 24**

Our spring Poverty Book Group book will be *White Poverty* by Reverend Dr. William Barber. Dr. Barber began the Moral Mondays movement in our state and now is co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Bishop Michael Curry says of the book: Barber “raises his clarion voice to amplify the cry of America’s poor, especially the invisible majority of impoverished white Americans.” The group will meet for discussion on Mondays February 24, March 24, and April 28. Each person will be responsible for providing their own book. Please let [Debbie Layman](#) know if you have questions or if you would like to join the group.



# Sunday Adult Christian Education

**9:30-10:30 a.m.**

## The Present Word Class, Room 124 and Zoom

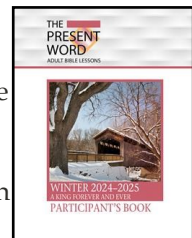
The winter quarter, “A King Forever and Ever,” explores the broad sweep of biblical teachings about God’s reign and connects to Jesus as the earthly exhibition of the divine Kingdom. Beginning with key moments in the history of David’s ancestors, Unit I highlights Jesus’s birth as the “Son of David.” Unit II is a four-week study of psalms that extol the reign of God, while Unit III gives a New Testament look at Jesus’s teaching on “Life in God’s Kingdom.”

Unit I, “Jesus, the Heir of David”

Unit II, “Our God Reigns”

Unit III, “Life in God’s Kingdom”

*Facilitators: A Variety of Class Members and Guests*



## ***The Life and Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer***

A recent movie (*Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin*, 2024) has brought Dietrich Bonhoeffer back into public view. Using the book *Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians* as a guide to his life and work, participants in the class will also read selections from Bonhoeffer's writings as we consider what his work meant in his time, and what he might say to our time. Books are available for purchase in the Gallery Hallway.

*Led by Randy Harris and others*



### **Parents' Conversation and Coffee, Room 126**

After settling children into Sunday school, parents can gather for coffee and conversation. It's a chance to connect, share parenting experiences, and on the first Sunday of each month, enjoy a special speaker or resource on faith and family. Other Sundays offer relaxed time to chat and exchange tips on parenting.

## **Community and Global Service**

### **Climate Corner**

#### **Becoming an Earth Care Congregation**

"Let everyone regard themselves as stewards of God in all things which they possess. Then, they will neither conduct themselves dissolutely, nor corrupt by abuse those things which God requires to be preserved." ~ John Calvin, Commentary on Genesis

In keeping with these words of John Calvin, the PCUSA has developed a process whereby congregations can join in the work of restoration and stewardship of creation. This past August, as an initiative of the Global Service Committee, Highland formed an Earth Care Team to explore the process of becoming an officially designated Earth Care Congregation of the PCUSA. Churches are required to compile a minimum of 25 points in four areas of congregational life: Worship, Education, Facilities and Outreach, focusing on engaging in activities that respect and preserve God's creation. In preparation for submitting the application to be designated an Earth Care Congregation, Highland's team has been examining our actions in all four areas and meeting with existing committees for their input. In January, Earth Care Team members will be presenting information about our application to the Session and Diaconate and asking the Session to affirm the following Earth Care Pledge: "Peace and justice are God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace and through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth."

We look forward to improving our stewardship of the earth as a congregation in 2025 and beyond.

~The Global Service Committee and the Earth Care Team

# Highland's 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

