

## Weekday Opportunities in Christian Education & Faith Formation

**Presbyterian Women**, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke–Acts*, Monday Afternoon Circle, 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (Contact: Ellen Doyle or Carolyn Birk), Tuesday Morning Circle, 10:00 a.m. in-person only (Contact: Annie Cahoon)

**Faith & Film**, 2nd Mondays, 7:00 PM at The Sherwood Restaurant, Sept. 11 —*Silver Linings Playbook* (Contact: Randy Harris)

**Poverty Book Study**, *Poverty, by America*, 4th Mondays, 7:00 PM on Zoom (Contact: Debbie Layman)

**LGBTQ Book Group**, *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, Fall gathering in November, watch for more details (Contact: Debbie Layman)

**Men's Breakfast Study**, *The Wired Word*, 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 AM in-person only in the Fellowship Hall (Contact: Randy Harris)

### Lamentations and Laughter: A Fellowship for Men

**Maturing Gracefully**, Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m., in-person only, in the Activity Building, Room 5 (Contact: John Woodmansee)

**Midweek Morning Prayer**, 1st Wednesdays of the month, 8:00 AM on Zoom (Contact: HPC Staff)

**Women's Thursday Morning Study**, *The Gospel of Mark*, 10:00 a.m. (Contact: Heather Ferguson)

**Lunch & Learn**, *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*, Sundays, 12:30 PM in-person only the Ardmore Room (Contact: Randy Harris)

**Young Adult Study Group**, a variety of books, Thursdays, 7:30 PM (Contact: Courtney Stevens)

### Highland's Adult Christian Education Committee

Grady Elliott, Chair

Tim Collins, Vice-Chair

Barbara Bowman

Heather Ferguson, staff

# Highland Presbyterian Church



## I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING

Christian Education &  
Faith Formation  
For Adults  
Fall 2023

## Sunday Christian Education & Faith Formation for Adults

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do **a new thing**;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

**I will make a way** in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Just when we need it most, Isaiah reminds us of God's never-ending love for all of creation. Now God is calling us into a new thing and longs for us for us to enter into the creative process along with God. What will we do with this new thing? How will we approach the possibilities being transformed? Where will we be a part of God's healing of our broken world and follow this new way?

Renowned Christian Educator Craig Dykstra says, "The life of Christian faith is dynamic and moving, led and shaped by the Spirit." Adults' faith is never static. Just as with children and youth, our faith fluctuates and changes as long as we live; and through Christ, it is always being made new.

Responsible and committed discipleship requires regular attentiveness to the ever-changing condition of our minds, bodies and souls. Our Adult Education offerings provide multiple pathways for connection. Informed by the core convictions of our denomination and our particular congregation, our forums, classes, book groups and retreats give Highlanders opportunities for everything from growth in biblical literacy to inspiration for Christ-centered engagement in the issues of our day to the nourishment of silent prayer. There is no right way for everyone. So let the Spirit lead you to the places that make your heart soar.

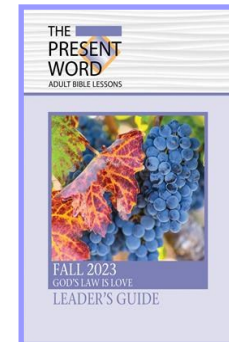
### How Do We Gather at Highland

Opportunities for gathering will be via Zoom, in-person, or both (Hybrid). Some gatherings will be outside on the slate patio, on the church parking lot, or the playground area that is being transformed for being together. Zoom links for virtual gatherings will be found in the Sunday morning email, Highlights, the highlandpres.org website, or through special emails for particular groups. You can always reach out to the staff or pastors if you need help.

## Sunday Mornings Classes for Adults Beginning September 17, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

We are excited to introduce the fall line-up of educational and formational opportunities for Highland adults and guests. All classes will be offered both **in-person and via ZOOM** unless otherwise specified. Please feel free to contact Heather Ferguson, [hferguson@highlandpres.org](mailto:hferguson@highlandpres.org), if you have any questions.

**The Present Word** is an adult Bible study that uses the Uniform Series which is a way to study the Bible over a six-year period. Each quarter works its way through different books of the Bible and focuses on a different theme. As you study each passage of scripture you discover its deeper meaning and how it is relevant to our world today.

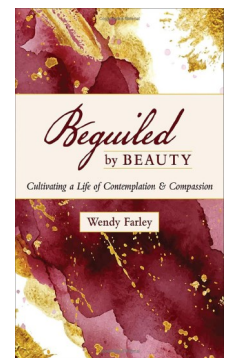


The Fall quarter, *God's Law Is Love*, looks at love in the context of God's law. The lessons focus on New Testament texts that radically reinterpret the significance of the Mosaic law for those who love Christ and respond in faith.

*Location: Room 124 (1st Floor Education Building)*

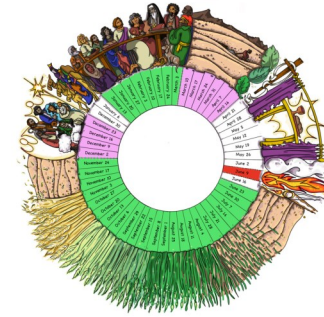
### **Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion**

In her book, *Beguiled by Beauty*, Wendy Farley gently lures us into a world of wonder. We begin to sense the nuance of each detail in the world infused, as it is, with divine goodness. Farley pivots us from one scene to another, showing us ever more instances of inherent beauty even in heart-ache. She invites us to make a shift from a moral obligation to 'do right' to a deep desire for all beings to 'be right'—whole and beloved. As we follow her lead into this theology of compassion, we come to notice that the world we have fallen in love with is our own. We discover that the 'rich, courageous, generous, and joyful' life Farley describes can be our own. This book gives us tools to make it so, helping us into practices of contemplation to center and guide us, opening deep wells of respite in these times of grief and joy.



*Beguiled by Beauty* books are available in the Gallery Hall for \$10 each. *Facilitators: Janny Gauss, Jamie Blankenship, Heather Ferguson*  
*Location: Room 127 (1st Floor Education Building)*

**Lectionary Café** The *Lectionary Café* is a warm, welcoming gathering of folks seeking to engage more deeply the Lectionary text (scripture focus) for each Sunday. The group shares an informal and lively discussion which seeks to draw deep connections between God's intentions for our daily lives and our practices for a more faithful life together.



*Facilitators: Mike Culler and Others*  
*Location: Salem Room (Activity Building)*

**Parents' Conversation and Coffee** After getting children settled into their Sunday school classes, parents are invited to gather in Room 126 on the first floor of the Education Building for coffee and conversation. This is a great time to get to know other parents and compare notes on the joys and challenges of parenthood. One Sunday a month we will have a special speaker, video, or other resource for deeper conversation on faith formation in the family and related topics. On other Sundays



there will be free time to connect and maybe even share "best practices" in this amazing thing called "Parenthood!"

*Location: Room 126 (1st Floor Education Building)*

### **Re-Introducing Highland's Church Library**

Highland's church library has been through some major changes lately, thanks to our new Library Team. Shelves have been refreshed with newly purchased and donated books for all ages and stages of life and faith. The Library Team has even developed a simple, easy, streamlined way to check out books. So stop by the Library the next time you are at Highland. The Library is located on the main floor just beyond the Sanctuary.



### **Equipping the Saints: Highland's Faith Formation Series Sundays, 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.**

Equipping the Saints is a new series of classes offered over the span of three years (*two 10–12 week classes per year, fall and spring*) to equip Highland members and friends with a deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to grow a mature faith foundation. Topics will include the Reformed Tradition and Theology, What Does it Mean to Be Presbyterian?, Practicing Our Faith, and more. Classes will always open to everyone, but the more classes you participate in, the more opportunity you will have for growing your faith foundation.

### **The Unfolding Drama of the Bible (September 17–November 19)**

Beginning September 17, this 10-week class will cover the arc of the ongoing story of God and God's love for all creation. As Presbyterians we believe that the Bible is inspired, that it reveals God to us, and that through it God continues to speak to the church. If we are to understand and share our faith accurately and honestly, it is essential for us to have a solid foundation in biblical knowledge. This class will help participants understand scripture as the unfolding of God's purposeful acts in history and as well as how the Bible's diverse parts are connected.

This class will be held in the Ardmore Room on Sundays, 9:30–10:30 a.m. and as a **Lunch & Learn** format on Sundays 12:30–1:30 p.m. Email Heather Ferguson, [hferguson@highlandpres.org](mailto:hferguson@highlandpres.org), to register for **The Unfolding Drama of the Bible**.

*Facilitators: Randy Harris and Others*