



Highlights

Highland Presbyterian Church
2380 Cloverdale Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012
Volume 59, Issue 11

Phone 336-724-6303
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www.highlandpres.org
November 2, 2025

Fall Clean Up Day, November 1

We hope many of you will join us 9:00 a.m.–noon on Saturday for our annual Fall Clean Up/Refresh Day. We have jobs of all types that do not require special skills, just the desire to make things look clean and fresh as we approach the season of Advent and Christmas.



Stewardship Dedication Sunday

For Such A Time As This, November 16

Highland's Stewardship theme for 2025-26 is *For Such a Time As This*. This theme speaks to the importance of the church's ministry in both ordinary and extraordinary moments, reminding us that God has brought us together to this time and place for sake of vital ministry.



On Sunday, November 16, we will dedicate our commitments of money, time, and talent for 2026 as we anticipate another full year of ministry. It is our hope that the generosity that has sustained us in years past will continue, and grow, that we may be a community of love and service together in this year to come!

Stewardship packets will soon be in the mail and online. Please plan to bring your completed Pledge Card and Time and Talent forms with you to worship on November 16, or complete them online through Highland's website!

Advent Begins November 30

On Sunday, November 30, we begin the season of Advent and a new year in the life of the Church. Our Advent season this year at Highland will be shaped around the tradition of the *Jesse Tree* which traces God's work through women and men and special events in the biblical story as they lead us to Jesus. We hope you find many ways to take part in this season of light and life with us! See inside this issue for more information.



Don't forget to 'Fall Back', November 2!

But, if you forget, we have great Sunday Church School Classes to pass that extra hour before Worship!



Worship at 11:00 a.m.

November 2

All Saints Sunday

Psalm 42

Romans 8:18–30

Sermon: Randy Harris

November 9

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 8:11–18

2 Corinthians 9:1–15

Sermon: Randy Harris

November 16

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Psalm 150

Luke 17:11–19

Sermon: Randy Harris

November 23

Reign of Christ Sunday

Philippians 4:4–9

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Sermon: Debbie Layman

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.



Notice Nature Walk with Highland Friends

Sunday, November 9, 2:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us at 2:00 p.m. on November 9 for another Highland Notice Nature Walk. Time in nature is good for our physical and spiritual health! We will meet at C. G. Hill Memorial Park (5600 Balsom Road in Pfafftown) and together walk the trail. We will stop along the way and notice the gifts around us. We hope you will join us as we enjoy fellowship and God's creation!

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 Montoya, *Associate Pastor* Ext. 218,
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Heather Ferguson, *Director of Christian Education*, Ext. 204,

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

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Gidget Payne,

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

Churchwide

Highland “Mums” November 2 Night Out

Highland mothers of children and youth ages 0 to 18 years, are invited to an evening of making connections, enjoying tasty snacks, sharing "Mum" insights, and building a circle of support and friendship among other Highland Mums. Whether you are



expecting your first child, getting ready to send your little one to 1st Grade, or savoring that last year of high school, this gathering is for you! Please join us on Sunday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Carrie and Jim Swing: 115 Staffordshire Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Use this QR code to let us know you will be coming.

November Fellowship Meals

Wednesday, November 5, 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 16, noon

We look forward to gathering as a church family to share meals together in November.

We hope you will join us for our November mid-week Fling fellowship meal on Wednesday, November 5. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. Feel free to invite a friend to join us!

On Stewardship Dedication Sunday, following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall again, this time for a catered luncheon. Watch for sign up details or call the church office, 336-724-6303, to reserve your spots.

All meals will be \$10 per person with a maximum of \$30 per household. Fellowship meals are a great time to invite someone who wants to learn more about Highland!

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23, 7:00 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Members and friends of Highland, leaders and friends from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations around Winston-Salem will gather at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4055 Robinhood Road) to express our thankfulness together, to celebrate the goodness of what we have in common in this time of deepening division and mistrust, and to

reaffirm our commitment to share and serve for sake of the poor and suffering in our midst. Highland members and friends are encouraged to **bring canned yams as an offering** for our neighbors who live with hunger or food insecurity. A monetary offering will also be received.

♥ Service Opportunities

Hunger Offering

On **November 2**, don't forget to bring your gifts for our monthly Hunger Offering: pasta sauce for Crisis Control and your 5 Cents a Meal for our Presbytery! Thank you for your donations supporting neighbors who hunger in our community and around the world.



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 **November**, we are asking for donations of **canned soup or stuffing mix**.

Women's Shelter at St. Timothy's November 15, 2025 through March 1, 2026

On November 15 this year (two weeks earlier than before) the women's overflow homeless shelter will reopen in the Fellowship Hall at St.

Timothy's and stay open through March 1. because you have been so generous in the past, Highland has again 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 sign up for a 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, for the link.



Thank you for your prayerful support and your practical support as we work with our unhoused neighbors in need.

Small Ways to Support Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools

Did you know that you can link your Food Lion MVP card, Lowes Foods Fresh Rewards card, and your Harris Teeter VIC card to Ashley Elementary to help them earn money? Each time you shop there after your card is linked, the school will receive a portion of your bill (at no cost to you!). This is an easy way to support these neighbors in need. Reach out with questions to [Emily Collins](#).

Another easy way to provide support is to donate the food of the month to our food pantry for Moore Elementary. (See article above.) Contact [Dawn Nelson](#) with questions.

Gingerbread Houses for Ashley Kids

Highland again is collecting gingerbread house kits for the Ashley Elementary families. Our goal is to collect 50 kits by November 30.

The school is hoping these kits will all be the same size (E-Z Build, 2.2lb). You can find ones like the picture on sale at Harris Teeter, Lowes, and Walmart. If you prefer, you may sign up for the amount you would like to provide, send or drop off a check at Highland, and we can purchase them for you. (Kits average \$10-15 depending on the store). Thank you for helping support these kids and teachers!



Shepherd Center Christmas Gift Bags

We will be collecting items once again for Christmas gifts bags which The Shepherd's Center is putting together for low income seniors. Watch your email for a sign-up sheet so you can provide these items for our neighbors in need: individual paper towel rolls, laundry detergent (32 loads or less), and hand soap (8-12 ounce containers). Donations are needed by November 23



The bags will be shared at a special meal we are hosting on Saturday, December 6. We are looking for volunteers to help staff this joyful event, so please check your calendars, and let [Debbie Layman](#) know if you would like to help host that night!

Alternative Giving Coming in Advent

We look forward to our tradition of offering an Alternative Giving focus during the Advent season. Watch for details in an upcoming email from the Global Service Committee. Gifts will include support for children through giving to the WSFCS Futures Fund and Black Mountain Counseling for their work with children impacted by Hurricane Helene. Watch for more details! We hope you will plan on these alternative gifts as a meaningful way to honor loved ones near and far.



Gratitude for CROP Walk Support

Friends, once again you showed up to support our neighbors in need. Thank you to all, near and far, who helped us reach our goals for this year's CROP Hunger Walk. As of this printing, we have raised over \$8,500, down from this time last year, but donations continue to come in. The local recipients are grateful: Crisis Control Ministries, Sunnyside Ministries, and the Community Coat Closet.



Thank you on their behalf, especially now as additional funding is cut for those in need.

Soup as a Way of Sharing Care

Highlanders, we have been blessed with soups of all kinds made by Highland member Margo Searls-Begy, and we want to get the word out about it! These are available for you to pick up as needed ~ share a couple with a neighbor following surgery, deliver some to a caregiver who is exhausted, supplement a meal you deliver to a family who has a new baby. Each soup container has the ingredients listed on the label to ensure they are diet/dietary restriction friendly! They can be found in the Activity Building freezer.



Joy for Our November Birthdays!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Sandra Mikush | 10 Adam Eberle | 19 Julianna Murphy | 26 Ethan Kummer |
| 1 Garry Russ | 11 Ellis Barksdale | 19 Olivia Searce | 26 Katie Pepper |
| 1 Pam Webb | 11 Finn Barksdale | 20 Marc Gillis | 26 Gillian Thomas |
| 2 Richmond Griner | 12 Bill Kay | 20 Gordon Jenkins | 27 Betty Dominick |
| 2 Ed Parker | 12 Will Maddux | 20 Claire Keever | 28 Robin Taylor |
| 2 Anna West | 13 Betty Barnum | 21 TR Bowers | 28 Elizabeth Veconi |
| 3 Megan Ayscue | 13 Anna Huneycutt | 21 Maggie Carroll | 29 Michael Kamtman |
| 4 Ross Broadway | 13 Mary Julia Smith | 21 Ann McInnes | 29 Ani McElwee |
| 4 Janice McBride | 13 Caitlin Thomas | 22 Shari Dallas | 29 Olivier Sevin |
| 4 Cathy McCall | 16 Bruce Ayres | 22 Jon Johnson | 30 Caroline Dallas |
| 6 Kelley Gondring | 16 Perrin Kelly | 22 Amanda Sullivan | 30 Dick York |
| 6 Nancy Lake | 16 Lili Loftis | 24 Piper Millsaps | |
| 6 Ryan Michel | 16 Amelia Murray | 24 Les Preston | |
| 6 Emma Parker | 16 Jeff Reynolds | 25 Phil Powell | |
| 7 Emily Jordan | 17 Kim Sink | 25 Jason Whitler | |
| 8 Owen Searce | 18 Daniel Havens | 26 William Doughton | |
| 10 Patrick Burke | 18 Molly Williams | 26 Libby Graves | |



Special Birthday wishes to Ann McInnes as she turns 90 on November 21.

Annual Advent Event

Sunday, November 23, 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

This year's Advent Event is going to have a frosty flair! Instead of gathering in the Fellowship Hall, we'll be bundling up and enjoying the outdoors in Highland's Gathering Garden. To keep warm, we will have outdoor heaters and a cozy firepit. We've planned fun activities for the kids and teens, while the picnic area will be perfect for adults to mingle and soak in the festive spirit. Under the Pergola, we'll be crafting Christmas Joshua Trees. Plus, we'll have light breakfast snacks, along with coffee and hot chocolate to keep everyone energized! *Please note: we will have no regular Sunday school on November 23.*



News and Notes

In Our Prayers: *Peggy Tyson, Trellis; Gary Simes, Home; Bill Lambert, MD Anderson; Bill and Libby Graves, Bermuda Village; Jerry Cole, Strickland Rehab at Arbor Acres; Emelda Lawing, Home with Hospice; Pierce Johnson, Home; Parks Berryhill, Salemtowne Healthcare; Esther and Les Preston, Home; Jim Womble, Heritage Woods; John Anderson, Salemtowne Healthcare; Ruth Banbury, Carriage Club Assisted Living.*

In Memoriam:

- ☞ Barbara Hardin, October 19, mother of Sandra Mikush
- ☞ Bill Hill, October 26

Congratulations to Emily Black and Anais Ovalle on the birth of their son, Sebastian Rafael Ovalle-Black, October 2. Proud grandmother is *Kathy Black!*

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 NOVEMBER 2, please pray for Corinne Bass; Tim, Emily, Laura, Mag-

gie and Ellie Collins; Peggy Dunlap; Rose Fischer; Bob and Myra Hannah; Alice Michalove; Joe and Harriet Mitchener; Barbara Summerlin; Pam Webb.

For the week of NOVEMBER 9, please pray for Bobby and Jane Boles; Zack, Cindy and Alta Brown; Mike and Lola Culler; Jean Donnan; Elizabeth Gee; Rob Greene; Nargish Murchison; BJ Swing; Jim and Kathy Wilson.

For the week of NOVEMBER 16, please pray for Melanie Adams; Richard, Susie, Ty and Whit Andrus; Emily Black, Anais Ovalle and Sebastian Rafael Ovalle-Black; Drew Bowers; Sam Bowman; Jean and RD Fortner; Anne Dowell; J Don and Margie Smith; Jim and Sue Womble.

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, please pray for Marshall Beane; Mary Bland; Kristen Brown; Thomas and Mary Layton Bullock; Laura, Brandon and Wyatt Byrd; David Christenbury; Lauren Corbett; James, Gillian, Mallory and Caitlin Thomas; Darlene Williamson; Nancy Wolfe. *The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24*



Writers and Artists for Advent Devotions



As we prepare for the season of Advent, Highland is once again creating our annual Advent devotion booklet. This treasured resource is written and illustrated by members of all ages in our congregation. We invite you to share your voice through reflections, prayers, artwork, or memories as we wait together and watch for Christ's coming. If you are interested in contributing as a writer or artist, or would simply like to learn more about what's involved, please contact [Courtney Montoya](#).

All devotions and artwork are due NO LATER than November 16.



Children

Children's Fall Sunday Mornings

Sunday School for Children at Highland (9:30–10:45 a.m., 3rd Floor)
Preschoolers (2–4 Years) Growing in Grace & Gratitude (9:30–10:15)

God loves children. But how can we convey this special love to young children? First, by modeling that love to everyone. Second, by sharing the stories of God and God's people (all of us) with children so that they are written on their hearts. We share these stories through music, story time, and activities that stretch their hearts and minds. We also teach about God's love when we surround children with loving adults. This is the goal of our preschool teaching team as well as church staff and pastors. Your preschoolers will love **Growing in Grace & Gratitude!**

Elementary Ages (K–4th Grade)—Godly Play & Neighborhood Workshops (9:30–10:15 a.m.)

We are excited about a new form of the workshop rotation model, to which we have added an anchoring element of Godly Play, a Montessori-based storytelling experience. Over a two week rotation, children will experience the a biblical story beginning in Godly Play. Every other week the children will move to a different workshop to experience the same story from a different perspective through things like Art, Drama, Cooking, and Mission, even a 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.

All Children—Highland's Children's Choir (10:15–10:45 a.m.)

Following 45 minutes of Sunday School, children of all ages will head to the Children's Choir Room where they are joined by Haley Chapman, Highland's Children's Choir Director. This room is also located on the 3rd floor. The Children's Choir sings in worship periodically to share their love for God and love for music. Contact [Haley Chapman](#) for more information.

4th Friday Fun Night, November 21

Friday, November 21, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Mark you calendar today for the next 4th Friday Family Fun Night at Highland when parents can drop children off and enjoy the evening with Highland friends or running errands. *This month it will fall on the third week due to Thanksgiving.* 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.





Youth

Youth Fellowship in November

November 2

Youth Fellowship 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Fall celebrations continue! All youth are welcome as we share a service projects, faith learning, and have dinner together.

November 16 All Youth Agape Meal 5:00–6:30 p.m.

An Agape meal (the Greek word for “love”) is a shared feast that goes all the way back to the early church as a way God’s people gathered to show care, gratitude, and friendship. We’ll share food, laughter, and stories together, remembering that every table can be sacred when we come with open hearts. Bring something simple to share and come hungry for connection – this is a meal where *everyone* belongs.

November 23 Lunch Out at the Loop

Youth Sunday School Is Changing

We will start each week together with **Youth Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.** in the Activity Building for food, friends, and a chance to catch up before the morning begins. From there, things are going *so well* that we’re now **splitting into Middle School and Senior High groups** for deeper conversation and connection. It’s not too late to join us! Each week stands on its own, so whether you’ve been with us since the start or are just dropping in now, there’s a place for you!

Middle School Youth Service Retreat

November 7–9

Pray for our middle school youth and adult leaders as they travel to Charlotte for a weekend of service and learning. Throughout the retreat, our group will partner with local agencies to serve with open hands and compassionate hearts. The kids will be packing meals, sorting donations, and engaging directly with Charlotte’s ministries of care. Youth will reflect on what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life not just through projects, but through relationships, justice, and joy. Along the way, we’ll share meals, worship, and plenty of laughter as we grow in faith and community together. Please keep our group in your prayers for safe travels, meaningful encounters, and hearts open to God’s work in the world.

Young Adults

Young Adult Ministry

Meeting Weekly on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Folks in their 20s and 30s are invited to gather each Thursday evening in a variety of locations for a weekly connection of community and faithful conversation. Together we share in reflections, prayer, and conversation while also serving in our community and enjoying times of rest and fun. Each week offers a new way to grow in Christ and in connection with one another. Come as you are and bring a friend. There's a place for you here. Reach out to [Courtney Montoya](#) for more information.

- ◆ November 6: Service Night at Radar Brewing
- ◆ November 13: Chili dinner—bring a topping!
- ◆ November 20: Vespers and Creative Rest in the Chapel

Adults

Coffee & Conversation Tuesdays

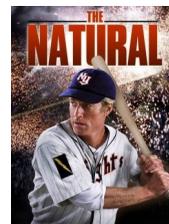
On Tuesdays, Randy, Debbie, Courtney, or Heather will be hanging out at The Bagel Station (during November) from 10:00–11:00 a.m. for conversation with whomever shows up. This is a fun and varied group, and the conversation is always interesting. We hope you will stop by to check-in with your staff and meet other Highlanders.



Faith & Film: *The Natural*

November 10, 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 November is *The Natural* (1984). It is available to rent or purchase on multiple streaming platforms. Contact [Randy Harris](#) for more information.



Men's Breakfast

November 19, 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 email [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. This small group of Highland men have been gathering together for quite a while and they hope that Highland men (and friends) of all ages will join them as they look for a share laughs about this thing called life!



Highland Ukuleles

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

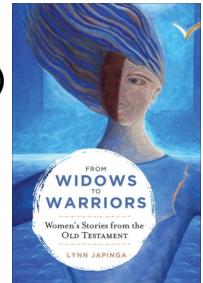
Come and join us for some fun, regardless of your age or skill level. If you don't have a ukulele, let Heather Ferguson know and we can arrange for you to borrow one. We're all learning and having a great time together. Our group is growing and we hope you will try it out! For more details, please contact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



Thursday Morning Women's Study

10:00–11:30 a.m., Ardmore Room (November 6–December 18)
Women's Stories from the Old Testament

For too long the women of the Bible have been depicted in one-dimensional terms. On one side are saints, such as Mary, while on the other are "bad girls," such as Eve and Jezebel. Just as often, the female characters of the Bible are simply ignored. However, the women of the Bible are complex, multidimensional individuals whose lives are inspiring, funny, and tragic in ways too many of us never hear.

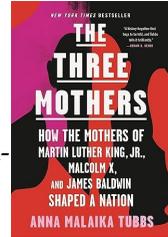


In the book *From Widows to Warriors* scholar Lynn Japinga acquaints us with the women of the Old Testament. From flawed heroes like Ruth and Rahab, to fierce fighters like Deborah and Jael, to tragic characters like Jephthah's daughter and the unnamed concubine of the book of Judges, readers will encounter a wealth of foremothers in the faith in all their messy, yet redeemable, humanity. If you are looking for a Bible study group that will fill a longing for wisdom, friendship, and prayer partners, please join us!

Books will be available in the Gallery Hall for \$15. Please contact [Heather Ferguson](#) to be added to our email list.

Listening to Black Voices Book Group

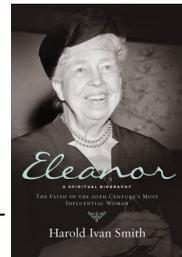
Join us via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. November 18 as we continue reading and reflecting on the experience of our African American neighbors and consider what our faithful responses might entail. In November we will discuss the final half (from page 105 to the end) of *The Three Mothers*, by Anna Malaika Tubbs. Copies of the book will be available for a 20% discount at Bookmarks bookstore, 634 W. Fourth Street, #110, Winston-Salem. If you are interested, please contact [Randy Harris](#).



Matthew 25 Book Group

***Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*, by Harold Ivan Smith**

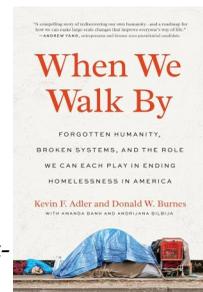
Our Matthew 25 Book Group will meet on Monday, November 17 to discuss the second half of our fall read, *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*. “Eleanor Roosevelt is remembered as a formidable first lady and tireless social activist. Often overlooked, however, is her deep and inclusive spirituality. Her personal faith was shaped by reading the New Testament in her youth, giving her a Jesus-centered spirituality that fueled her commitment to civil rights, women’s rights, and the rights of all “little people” marginalized in American society.” Contact Bookmarks or order your copy or click on the “book clubs” section of their webpage and look for Highland’s Matthew 25 Book Group. You will receive 20% off when ordering there. Contact [Debbie Layman](#) with questions.



Poverty Book Group

***When We Walk By*, by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes**

Our Poverty Book Group will gather on Mondays, November 24 and January 26 to discuss our fall read. “*When We Walk By* takes an urgent look at homelessness in America, showing us what we lose – in ourselves and as a society – when we choose to walk past and ignore our neighbors in shelters, insecure housing, or on the streets. And it brilliantly shows what we stand to gain when we embrace our humanity and move toward evidence-based people-first, community-driven solutions, offering social analysis, economic and political histories, and the real stories of unhoused people.”



Contact Bookmarks (and tell them you are ordering for a Highland Book Club) to order your copy or click on the “book clubs” section of their webpage and scroll down for Highland’s Poverty Book Group. Write in the “Comments” section that you are with Highland’s Poverty Group. You will receive 20% off when you order through Bookmarks’ Book Club program. Contact [Debbie Layman](#) with questions.



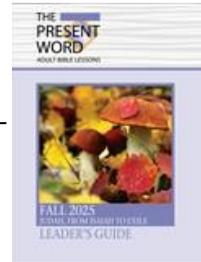
Fall Adult Christian Education

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

The Present Word Class, Room 124 and Zoom

All are invited to share in the Present Word Sunday School Class where our goal is to:

- ◆ Explore the Bible as the primary source for understanding our Christian faith and the changing needs of the church;
- ◆ Respond in faith and love to God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ;
- ◆ Confront the concerns of the gospel to include our personal faith, values, relationships, and social responsibilities.

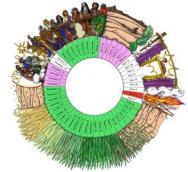


The fall quarter invites us to discover and appreciate how God, through prophets and other leaders, gave help and guidance to the people of Judah so that we may come to see the hand of God in our own lives and all human affairs. Join this class in person or via Zoom. Zoom link shared weekly in the Sunday morning email from Highland.

Facilitators: A Wide Variety of Class Members and Guests from the Congregation

The Lectionary Café Salem Room

The *Lectionary Café* is a warm, welcoming gathering of folks seeking to engage more deeply into 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.



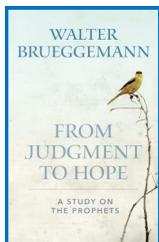
Facilitator: Mike Culler

Parents' Conversation and Coffee Room 126

After getting children settled into their Sunday school classes, parents are invited to gather in Room 126 on the first floor 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. On the first Sunday of the month we will have a special speaker, video, or other resource for deeper conversation on faith formation in the family and related topics. Other Sundays will offer free time to connect and maybe even share "best practices" in this amazing thing called Parenthood!



From Judgment to Hope: An Introduction to the Prophets Sundays, through November 16, 9:30–10:30 a.m., Ardmore Room

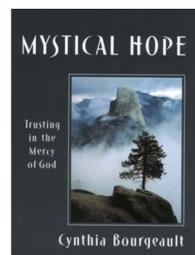


Who were the prophets of ancient Israel? What did they say or do, and what difference did their prophetic work make in their world? What might they have to say to us as we seek to make our way through our world? And in what ways might they shape the way we view the world, and our place in it?

We will explore the so-called Major Prophets and Minor Prophets, as well as the prophets of the Persian Age. *Facilitated by: Randy Harris*

Mystical Hope: Trusting in the Mercy of God Sundays, through November 16, 9:30–10:30 a.m., Room 127

"Mystical hope is not tied to a good outcome, to the future. It lives a life of its own, seemingly without reference to external circumstances and conditions." In five interwoven meditations, *Mystical Hope* shows how to recognize this hope in our own lives, where it comes from, how to deepen it through prayer, and how to carry it into the world as a source of strength and renewal. *Facilitated by: Heather Ferguson.*



Advent Sunday Morning Class Opportunities

November 30–December 14, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Jesse Tree: An Intergenerational Experience to Deepen the Meaning of The Coming Christ Child, Fellowship Hall

A Jesse Tree is a Christmas tradition that visually represents Jesus' family tree, starting from Jesse, the father of King David, and tracing the lineage through the Old and New Testaments to the birth of Jesus. During Advent, we will add an ornament each day to a tree (a special bare-branched tree we will make at this year's Advent Event) to represent a different biblical story, helping us prepare for Christmas by teaching the history of God's people. Children (Kindergarten–4th Grade) and adults will participate together in this unique, intergenerational faith-forming class.



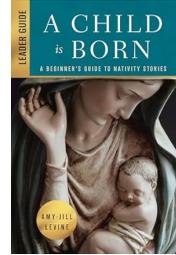
A Child is Born: A Beginners Guide to the Nativity Stories (In-person and via Zoom)

Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating three-week Advent study. The book discusses the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Christmas story in the final chapter. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth and how the birth resonates and gives new meaning to those earlier stories. Transform your Advent season with fresh insights and inspiration from *A Child is Born*. Books will be available for this class in the Gallery Hall for \$15.



Community and Global Service Climate Corner

Our Memorial Garden planting has happened! Bashavia Gardens put in numerous pollinator and native plants which will turn in to a happy home for many helpful species and which will beautify our Magnolia Street presence. We hope you will walk by and enjoy the beauty. Our Earth Care Team is working on signage which will help us (as well as our neighbors walking by) to learn more about the garden. Let Debbie Layman know if you would like to be part of the "Help Our Garden Grow" Team!



Christmas Wreaths & Poinsettias

Remember your loved ones by dedicating an Advent door wreath or a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service. **Orders for wreaths (\$20) must be received by November 23 and orders for poinsettias (\$18) must be received by November 30.** Please fill out the form below, make check payable to HPC, noting "Wreaths-poinsettias" in the memo and mail them to the church office or place in the box located in the Gallery Hall.



Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of wreaths _____ Number of poinsettias _____

Will you take poinsettia(s) with you after the Christmas Eve service or would you like for it to be delivered to a Highland member in need? *If no choice is circled, we will automatically reserve it for delivery.* LEAVE / TAKE

Dedication: Given to the glory of God and in memory / honor (*Circle one*)

of _____

by _____

Your relationship _____

You may also fill out a form online here: <https://www.highlandpres.org/advent-wreaths-christmas-eve-poinsettias-order-form/>