



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Harris

Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman

Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens

Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan

Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson

Director of Music: Chris Gilliam

Organist: Susan Bates

Music Associate: Haley Chapman

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www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

JULY 19, 2026 • SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

As we light candles
on the Retable,
place the Bible at
the Lectern, pour
water in the
Baptismal Font,
and set the
Communion Table,
we are reminded of
the presence of
Christ in Word
and Sacrament.

(*) When this
symbol precedes an
element of the
service, you are
invited to rise
in body or spirit.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Springs of Salvation

Margaret Sandresky

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is great, and we will give honor.

All: God is good, and we will say thanks.

One: God is joy, and we will express our praise.

All: God is love, and we will share that love.

One: With honor, thanks, joy, and love,

All: let us worship the Living God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wise, eternal God, you know all things.

You know when we yield our lives to you,

and when we seek rather to please ourselves.

We confess that we have not served you alone,

but have followed other voices, and yielded to other masters.

We have seen ourselves as righteous in our own eyes,

while we magnify the sin of those around us.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Draw us nearer to you, that we may love you more dearly,

and serve you more faithfully, we pray in Christ's name.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*JOYFUL RESPONSE

Glory to God

GTG 583



The good news of God's forgiving love calls for our response of praise, and for words of peace and welcome to one another.

*A TIME OF SHARING GOD'S PEACE

*RESPONSE 301

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

THE WORD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Peter McNair Ayscue

PRESENTATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

GTG p.35

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Baptism is a rite of profound significance. It is the symbol of initiation into the household of faith, a sign of cleansing from sin, and a dramatic proclamation of dying and rising with Christ. Baptism is ... the mark of belonging to a community of saints that extends beyond time and space. Baptism signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit working among us to comfort, strengthen, and empower us in God's service.

✠ *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship.*

THE BAPTISM

WELCOME

One: Peter has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

*HYMN 484

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

RUSTINGTON

Water on the human forehead, birthmark of the love of God,
Is the sign of death and rising; through the seas there runs a road.
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: There is water in the font.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Ephesians 1:3-14

Page 192

One: The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 21:8-21

Page 17

One: The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Grace Beyond Our Choosing

Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The grace of God
calls for a response!

Our giving is
offered in a spirit of
gratitude for
God's blessings.

ANTHEM

Day by Day

Thomas Keesecker

Day by day, dear Lord, of you three things I pray: to see you more clearly,
to love you more dearly, to follow you more nearly day by day.

Day by day, dear Lord close by me always stay: from death you have freed me, in
mercy you lead me, with heaven's bread you feed me day by day.

Day by day, dear Lord walk with me on the way: in truth ever guide me,
from wrong ever hide me, Your faithfulness beside me day by day.

Dear Lord walk with me day by day.

*DOXOLOGY

GTG 608

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 31

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

MONKLAND

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Life is short, and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.

All: So let us be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

One: Let us go out into the world in peace, have courage,
hold onto what is good, and return no one evil for evil.

**All: May we strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,
help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,
and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

One: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

All: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Christian worship
and service does
not end at the con-
clusion of the
Service for the
Lord's Day. The
Church is called to
follow its risen
Lord into the
world!

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome by baptism Peter McNair Ayscue, son of Megan and Spencer Ayscue.

Today's Congregational Meeting is for the purpose of taking action on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee regarding Deacons and Ruling Elders for the Class of 2029.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. **FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19**, please pray for Tim and Rose Lynne Bowman; Grover, Ladema, Bo and Maddie Gore; Judy and Alex Pozniak; Jim and Carrie Swing; Rachel, Evan, Miles and Holland Young. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. **FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**, please pray for our neighbors who provide support and care for older adults through *Senior Services* and *The Shepherd Center*.

CALENDAR

Sunday July 19

- 9:00 a.m. Present Word, Room 124
- 9:00 a.m. Deeper Dive, Room 126
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Lemonade in the Shade, Patio
- 1:15 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 4:00 p.m. Summer Documentary, *Bad Faith*, Fellowship Hall

Monday July 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

Tuesday July 21

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Christian Education Committee

Wednesday July 22

- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
- 5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126

Thursday July 23

- 4:00 p.m. Membership Committee, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Moms of College Aged Kids Dinner

For more information about the events in this calendar, please pick up a copy of *Highlights*, the church newsletter, in the Narthex or Gallery Hall.
Check www.highlandpres.org, for changes or cancellations.



WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

We extend a warm welcome to all who come to this sanctuary today. May you find in this place and among the people gathered here grace and peace from the living Christ who has promised to be present with us. To learn more about Highland, scan the QR code with your phone.



If you are visiting with us today, please include your contact information on the Visitor Card that you can find in the pew rack. You may place the card in the offering plate when it is passed. If you are a college or graduate school student, add your school name to the card as well.

Large-print Bibles, bulletins, and hearing aids are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

A Loop Assisted Hearing System is in place in Highland's Sanctuary. You can access this service by switching your hearing aid's T-coil to "On" and adjusting the volume control if needed; you may also request a headset from an usher.

Childcare is available during the worship service. Highland has a safe and engaging Nursery for our youngest children (ages 0-5 years) on the first floor of the Education Building. We have a professional child care provider along with several volunteer Highland members who have all been trained with our Child and Youth Protection Policy. Age-appropriate toys, books and activities keep your child engaged as parents and grandparents attend the worship service. If you need help locating the Nursery, please ask a Greeter.

We offer online ways to give in addition to our traditional giving in the offering plate. To give via smart phone, you may text the word *highland* to 73256 or scan the QR code. We are thankful for your generous sharing!



We are a Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to engage actively in the world around us, helping our faith come alive. As a Matthew 25 congregation we pledge to work on *building congregational vitality*, *dismantling structural racism*, and *eradicating systemic poverty*. Learn more at pcusa.org/matthew25.

We are an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We pledge in our *worship* and discipleship to celebrate God's grace and glory in creation. Our *education* strives to encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation. We seek to manage, maintain, and upgrade our *facilities* to respect and cherish all creation, and our *outreach* will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

LIFE AT HIGHLAND

Churchwide

Lemonade in the Shade: During the summer, following worship all are invited for fellowship and lemonade on the Narthex Patio. This is a wonderful, informal way to meet other Highlanders and greet visitors. *Today, the Membership Committee is providing cookies to enjoy with your lemonade.*

Bad Faith 2026 Screening: Today, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Together we will watch *Bad Faith 2026*. This documentary provides an eye-opening look at the history and political inner workings of Christian Nationalism. Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Director of the NC Council of Churches will facilitate the discussion following the screening.

To sign up for meals, service work, and more, scan this QR code.



Service

Collection boxes for all the following Drives can be found in the Gallery Hallway. Thank you!

Moore Food Pantry: For the month of July, we are asking for donations of cereal.

Moore Food Pantry School Supply Drive: Through August 2, we will be collecting school supplies for children of Moore Elementary. We are asking for donations of backpacks, composition books, colored pencils, pencils, erasers (pencil top and rectangular), colored two pocket folders, washable markers, glue sticks, crayons, hand sanitizer, scissors, headphones, and pencil pouches or pencil boxes.

Forsyth Prison Ministry: Highland has a partnership with Forsyth Prison Ministry,

and they need help stocking their hygiene closet. Now through August 2, we are collecting full sized bars of soap, full sized stick deodorant, travel size toothpaste and travel size shampoo.

The Earth Care Committee is collecting used sneakers for GotSneakers. Learn more about this wonderful recycling program by visiting their website www.gotsneakers.com.

Children

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.

Children, join us in the PrayGround! This is a friendly space in the balcony for children ages 5 and up to worship while enjoying quiet and engaging activities such as puzzles, storybooks, and coloring sheets.

Youth

Quest for the Best: Pizza continues July 26, at The Loop.

Adults

Summer Sunday Church School Offerings:

9:00 a.m. *The Present Word*, Room 124

9:00 a.m. Deeper Dive: A Summer Series of Faith-Shaping Video Podcasts, Room 126

Coffee & Conversation,

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Camel City Coffee, 110 Oakwood Drive
Join us for drop-in conversation with friends and Highland staff. All are welcome!

Faith & Film, Monday, August 10:

Join us at the Sherwood Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. as we discuss *Project Hail Mary* (2026).