



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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 • TWENTY FOURTH 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.

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Opening Gates

Sarah A. Pierce

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

One: People of God, bless the Lord,

All: bless God's holy name.

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

All: so great is God's steadfast love for us.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have failed
to live in harmony with those around us.

Too often, we have been self-righteous in our attitudes,
closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions.
It is easy for us to shun those whose ways we do not understand,
and to despise those who do not endorse our convictions.

Forgive our discord and conceit,
and help us to be more gracious in our regard for others,
that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*JOYFUL RESPONSE

Glory to God

GTG 583

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***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

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 103:8–13

Page 554

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 18:21–35

Page 20

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

SERMON

Forgive and ~~Forget~~ Remember

Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

***HYMN 442**

Just as I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ralph Burroughs

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

Sometimes A Light Surprises

Craig Courtney

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings; it is the Lord
who rises with healing in His wings: when comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God's salvation,
and find it ever new; set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing, but He will bear us through: who gives the
lilies clothing will clothe His people too: beneath the spreading heavens no
creature but is fed; and He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wanted fruit should bear,
though all the fields should wither nor flocks nor herds be there;
yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice; for,
while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

*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 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*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.

*POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful

Christina Harmon

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

Today's Chancel flowers are in loving memory of her husband, Pierce Johnson, by Nancy Johnson. Pierce loved native flowers and today's arrangement was created using native North Carolina flowers.

The rose on the Lectern is in celebration of the birth of Pierce Reynolds Hansen, son of Kathleen and Kyle Hansen, and brother of Mitchell.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, please pray for Carolyn and Michael Birk; Michael Eberle; Pam and Fred Kahl; Emily, Jim and Libby Sartin; Doug Turner. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, please pray for our neighbors who provide healthcare for those in need through the *Community Care Center* and the *Shalom Project*.

CALENDAR

Sunday September 13

- 9:30 a.m. Potluck Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Stepping Stones, AB 8
- 12:30 p.m. Officer Preparation, Ardmore Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Kick-Off, Fellowship Hall

Monday September 14

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 5:45 p.m. Stewardship Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Film, Sherwood Restaurant

Tuesday September 15

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

Wednesday September 16

- 10:30 a.m. Caregiver Support Group, Ardmore Room
- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
- 5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Room 100

Thursday September 17

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 5:45 p.m. Community Service Committee, Ardmore Room

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

Special Fall Forum, October 4: We are excited to announce that we have author and musician **David Lamotte** leading a Forum in our Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Following the Forum, we will enjoy dinner together at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:30 p.m., all are invited to enjoy a wonderful concert by David. Reservations are required for the meal, but not for the Forum or Concert. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to this wonderful event!

CROP Walk: Save the date for the annual walk that will take place on October 18. All are encouraged to participate by either walking or by making a monetary donation. Watch for more information coming soon!

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



Service

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

Moore Food Pantry: For the month of September, we are asking for donations of canned beans (no green beans please).

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, 11:00 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.

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.

Youth

Youth Fall Kick-Off: join us this afternoon, September 13, 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we begin our new season together.

Adults

Fall Sunday Church School Offerings

9:30 a.m., beginning September 20:

The Present Word, Room 124

Lectionary Café, Salem Room

Parents' Coffee & Conversation, Room 126

You Are Changing the World, Whether You Like

It Or Not, Ardmore Room

Little Steps, Big Faith, Highland's Chapel

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!