



Highland Highlights

Highland Presbyterian Church | October 2026

Fall Forum and Concert with David LaMotte Sunday, October 4

Highland welcomes David LaMotte, award-winning musician, storyteller, speaker, and longtime advocate for peace and justice, for an afternoon and evening of conversation, community, and music.

4:00 p.m. | Forum in Highland's Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. | The Loop Pizza Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. | Concert in the Fellowship Hall

Come for one part or stay for the whole evening. This event is free and open to everyone, so invite a friend, neighbor, or family member and join us for this special opportunity at Highland.



Bearing Fruit That Lasts Stewardship in Highland's Life and Ministry

In John's Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you that you should go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

He reminds us that our lives are not meant merely to sit on a shelf. We are called to bear fruit—to make a difference, to nourish others, and to participate in God's work in the world.

Stewardship is ultimately about just this—encouraging the generous sharing of time, talent, and treasure so that Highland can bear lasting fruit as a congregation. Your Stewardship Committee encourages you to look inside this issue of *Highlights* to see opportunities for fruit-bearing ministry—and to consider how your commitments for 2027 will enable us to bear lasting fruit in the year to come.



**See inside for
fruit-bearing
opportunities!**

Dedication Sunday | November 15

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

October 4, World Communion

Matthew 15:1–11

Exodus 16:1–3, 17:1–7

Sermon: Randy Harris

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

October 18

Exodus 32:1–14

Matthew 22:1–14

Sermon: Randy Harris

Sacrament of Baptism

October 11

Psalms 78:1–8

Philippians 4:1–9

Sermon: Debbie Layman

October 25

Psalms 96:1–9

Matthew 22:15–22

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, no later than noon on Saturdays to make arrangements for the next day. On Sunday morning, park in the Activity Building parking lot, and someone will meet you with a wheelchair.

Highland's New Member Class

If you are interested in joining Highland and would like to attend our upcoming New Member Class on October 11 at 2:30 p.m., please contact either Debbie Layman or Randy Harris for more information.

October at a Glance

October 4

- World Communion Sunday and Offering
- 5 Cents a Meal Offering
- Pasta Sauce for Crisis Control
- Fall Forum and Concert

October 11

- New Member Class
- Blessing of the Animals
- Mums' Night Out

October 18

- Congregational Lunch & Celebration of our 80+ Year-old Members
- CROP Walk

October 23–25

- Middle School Service Weekend

Weekly

- Christian Education for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
- Worship 11:00 a.m.

Prayers for...

Perrin Kelly, Baptist; Bill Lambert, Home; Wendell and Jayn Schollander, Arbor Acres; Nash Lindsey, The Oaks; Rachel Priddy, Home; Betty Sink, Home; Carolyn Sellars, Home; Mac Smyth, Home; Curtis Patterson, Home; Les and Esther Preston, Salemtowne; John Anderson, Hospice at Salemtowne; Jim and Lucy Lancaster, Home; Jerry Cole, Arbor Acres; Emelda Lawing, Hospice at Home; Rich and Connie Smith, Home; Ruth Banbury, Carriage Club.

Bless You

Each week we invite you to pray for members of our Highland family.

We pray not because anything is wrong, but because we care about one another.

- Week of October 4, please pray for Zack, Cindy and Alta Brown; Rob Greene; BJ Swing; Jim and Kathy Wilson.
- Week of October 11, please pray for Sam Bowman and Alexa Martin; RD and Jean Fortner; Anne Dowell; Alex Hunt; Stewart Swing; Sue Womble.
- Week of October 18, please pray for Marshall Beane; Mary Bland; Kristen Brown; Thomas and Mary Layton Bullock; Langdon, Brandon and Wyatt Byrd; David Christenbury.
- Week of October 25, please pray for Richard and Susie Andrus; Lauren Corbett; Mike and Lola Culler; Bob and Myra Hannah; Alice Michalove; Nargish Murchison.



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

Gratitude

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for all of the visits, calls, meals, rides, and more that embraced us during our transitional period following the complete loss of my eyesight. Lucy and I both cherish our Highland Family and appreciate all of you. Life can still have its overwhelming moments, but we are slowly finding our way. Thank you all for being the loving and caring church family that you are.

~ Jim and Lucy Lancaster

October Birthday Blessings

1 David Alley	9 Dotty Hill	15 Scott Thornton	24 Betty Sink
1 Emily Parker	9 London Pickett	16 Bob Eberle	25 Rose Lynne Bowman
3 Alison Eppley	9 William Shields	17 Grover Gore	25 Calli Patterson
4 Liz Bragg	9 Anne Wilson	17 Carrie Scott	25 Cathy Richardson
4 Thomas Bullock	10 Tom Arcury	17 Wendy Wagoner	25 Kate Stott
4 Jean Loftis	10 Laura Collins	18 Ralph Burroughs	26 Jim Lancaster
4 Rachel Riley	10 William Heidtmann	18 Robyn McElwee	27 Kyle Davis
4 Madeline Ronsheim	11 Susie Andrus	18 Audrey Nelson	27 Mary Kay Eberle
5 Banks Pickett	11 Sarah Pitcher	19 Nancy Nelson	27 Laura Gillis
5 Jack Smith	11 Becky Reynolds	20 Christopher Layman	27 Lauren Kent
6 Nicole Sodko	11 Barbara Whitley	20 Stephan Reavis	27 Sarah Mixon
7 Clara Bryant-Prosterman	12 Melanie Adams	20 Betsy Spencer	29 Jim Cesta
7 Michael Eberle	12 Lola Culler	21 Drew Fisch	30 Hayes Henderson
7 Tom Jones	12 Erin Doyle	21 Mary Mendenhall	31 Molly Henning
7 Scott Miller	13 Matt Hux	21 Wil Pitcher	31 Will McElwee
7 Laura Mixon	13 Courtney Plaisted	22 Leslie Kamtman	
7 Lucas Payne	14 Matt Brandon	23 Kristine Elliott	
9 Ann Bergelin	15 Aidyn Burke	24 Ken Chalk	



Service Opportunities



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

World Communion Peacemaking Offering | October 4

Our annual PCUSA World Communion Peacemaking Offering provides a concrete way to contribute to the work of peacemaking in our communities, region, and world. Within the denomination, this offering funds the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Twenty-five percent of the offering given will stay in Winston-Salem. Our Global Service Committee has decided to use our twenty-five percent to support Action4Equity. This program works in solidarity with others in our community to activate systems change and shift policies, practices, and power structures, so that every Black child thrives in Forsyth County. Please support this offering and this local way of bringing more peace to our community and world!



Highland and Temple Emanuel's Food Pantry

Twice each month, Highland and Temple Emanuel provide groceries for Moore Elementary students and families. Our October donation item is rice. To volunteer or learn more, contact Dawn Nelson.

Earth Care Team Needs Compost Volunteers

Help Highland care for creation by collecting compost after Sunday worship. Most weeks, it's simply coffee grounds and paper towels. It's a small job that makes a real difference. To join the volunteer list, contact Debbie Layman.

CROP Walk | October 18

We hope you plan to join us for the annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday afternoon, October 18. Hunger at home and around the world is on the rise, and we need folks of all ages to be part of our Highland team! If you are not able to walk with us, we will have ways for you to support our walkers through prayer and a financial gift. We need you as a walker or supporter! To sign up, please go to the News and Events page of our website; a link there will take you directly to Highland's Team page to sign up or to make a donation.



Mission Fair | November 15

Save the date for Highland's annual Mission Fair and Congregational Luncheon. Meet representatives from many of our mission partners and discover ways to help make a difference in our community and beyond. Watch for lunch registration details and invite a friend!

All Church Opportunities



Blessing of the Animals | October 11 | 4:00 p.m.

All creatures great and small are invited to Highland's annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 11! Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, birds, or other beloved pets for a joyful gathering as we give thanks for the animals who share our lives and remind us of the goodness of God's creation.

For everyone's safety, please bring pets on a leash or in an appropriate carrier. If your animal would be happier staying home—or if you are remembering a beloved pet who has died—you are welcome to bring a photo for a blessing instead. Come celebrate the furry, feathered, scaly, and wonderfully unique members of our families!

Congregational Lunch and Birthday Celebration | October 18

Following 11:00 a.m. worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, cake, and a joyful celebration of Highland members who are 80 years old and older. Our meal will be a burger bar (beef, chicken, and portobello) catered by The Loop. Watch for the meal sign-up, or call the church office to reserve your spot. We hope you will come celebrate with us!



Advent Devotion Writers and Artists

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 Stevens.



Highlights Is 'Under Construction'!

Highland's staff has been working hard to migrate the design and editing of our *Highlights* newsletter from Microsoft Publisher to Canva, as Publisher is no longer available. As we learn this new software, we are also reconsidering matters of style and content for *Highlights*. Until we have settled on our new design, you may see variations from one issue to another. Please let us know what you find helpful!



Children

Nursery Care

Highland's Nursery cares for children from infants to 4-year-olds during beginning at 10:45 a.m. during the worship service. Located on the 1st floor near the Chapel and Magnolia Street entrance, the Nursery has age-appropriate toys, puzzles, and books. Children are cared for by professional staff and volunteers trained under Highland's Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. This fall, a special Nursery is also available beginning at 9:15 a.m. for parents who are attending the *Little Steps, Big Faith* class during the Christian Education hour.



Children's Sunday School and Choir

Sundays | 9:30–10:45 a.m. | Location: 3rd Floor

Welcome to *God's Good Neighborhood*, where all are welcome! Sunday school for Preschoolers (ages 3-Kindergarten) and Godly Play and Neighborhood Workshops for 1st–4th graders. At 10:15, all children gather in the Children's Music Room for singing, bells, and so much more! Parents pick up in the Choir Room at 10:45 a.m.. Contact Diana Smyrl or Carrie Swing for more information.



Friday Fun Night

Friday, October 23 | 5:30–7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Children enjoy food, games, activities, and plenty of surprises while parents enjoy an evening out or finally run errands! For our October gathering, we will decorate pumpkins. Friends are always welcome. Contact Diana Smyrl for more information.



Stepping Stones: A Junior Youth Program

Sunday, October 11 | 12:00–1:30 p.m. | Location: Room AB8

Stepping Stones is the bridging program for Highland 3rd–4th graders, getting them ready for the rhythms of Youth Group. We share a meal, followed by fun Bible games, interactive hands-on activities and service projects, and a special time of sharing concerns for prayer. Contact Barbara Bowman for more information.

Youth

Intertwined: Growing Faith, Friendship & Community

This year, our youth are exploring what it means to be woven together in Christ—building deeper friendships, growing in faith, serving our neighbors, and discovering the joy of belonging to a community that shows up for one another.



Middle School Service Retreat

October 23–25

Our Middlers are heading to CROSS Missions at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte for a weekend packed with service, faith, fun, and time together! We'll serve our neighbors, explore the city, grow closer as a group, and make plenty of memories along the way.



**CROSS
MISSIONS**

A ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church

Corn Maze Youth Fellowship

October 25 | 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Youth are headed to the Alpha and Omega Corn Maze. Meet at the church to carpool as we get a little lost together and enjoy the fall fun.



Youth Sunday School

Sundays | 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Middle and high school youth gather each Sunday for conversation, scripture, questions, laughter, and space to explore what faith means in everyday life.

Middlers are exploring the New Testament, while Senior Highs are diving into big faith questions—beginning with, “What is heaven?”



Help Us Care for Our Youth

Youth ministry takes a whole church! Parents and congregation members can support our young people by sponsoring a Sunday School breakfast, praying for our youth and advisors, and sharing the sports, concerts, plays, and other activities where we can show up and cheer them on. Contact Courtney to share a youth activity or sponsor a breakfast.

Young Adults

Join us on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. for conversation, connection, faith, and fun. We gather in a variety of locations throughout the month from breweries and coffee shops to homes, service projects, and church spaces so each week looks a little different. Whether you're new to the group or have been coming for a while, there's always a place for you.

October 1 | Southern Drift Brewery Service Night

October 8 | Carolina Classic Fair

October 15 | Music Bingo at Fiddlin' Fish

October 22 | Bible Study at Footnote

October 29 | Pumpkin Potluck

Recurring Gatherings

Men's Breakfast

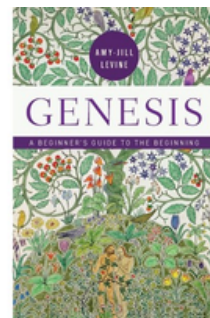
Third Wednesday | 7:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join the men of Highland for this wonderful monthly gathering. We share a delicious \$3 breakfast together and discuss hot topics while getting to know one another better. Whether you are on your way in to work or just starting your normal Wednesday of retirement, we hope you will join us!

Thursday Women's Bible Study

Weekly 10:00–11:30 a.m. | Ardmore Room

It's Bible study and so much more. Looking ahead, beginning November 5, join us for fellowship and prayer as we explore Amy-Jill Levine's *Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*. Together, we'll revisit familiar stories from Creation to Joseph and discover their meaning for life today. Women of every age and stage are welcome. Books will be available in the Gallery Hall after October 29.



Faith & Film: *A Walk in the Woods*

Monday, October 12 | 7:00 p.m. | The Sherwood Restaurant

Watch *A Walk in the Woods* (2015), then join us to explore the questions, meaning, and glimpses of faith within the story. The film is available to view or rent on Amazon Prime. Led by Randy Harris.

Coffee & Conversation Tuesdays

Tuesdays | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | Camel City Coffee

Drop in for coffee and lively conversation with Randy, Courtney, or Debbie at 110 Oakwood Drive.



Highland Ukuleles

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

Life is more fun with a ukulele! Beginners and experienced players are welcome, and loaner ukuleles are available. To join the fun, contact Barbara Bowman or Heather Ferguson.

Lamentations & Laughter

Wednesdays | 11:00 a.m. | AB 5

This weekly men's gathering offers honest conversation, encouragement, and plenty of laughter, even through life's difficult seasons. All are welcome! Questions? Contact John Woodmansee.



Highland Mums' Night Out

October 11 | 7:00–8:30 p.m. | Home of Dawn Nelson

November 1 | 7:00–8:30 p.m. | Home of Lyn Hux

Mothers of children and youth are invited for fellowship, snacks, and conversation about the joys and challenges of parenting.

Friends are always welcome!

Save 20% on Book Group Reads

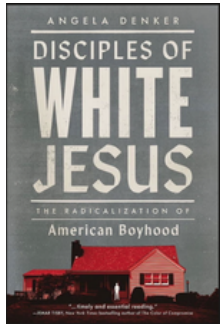
Receive a discount off your book group purchase at Bookmarks by mentioning that you are with a Highland book club when ordering.

Listening to Black Voices

Tuesday, October 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Wake Up Running by Walter Fluker

Fluker spoke recently at the Divinity School at Wake Forest—and was a seminary classmate and good friend of former Dellabrook Presbyterian pastor Carlton Eversley. We'll plan on covering the introduction and first three chapters. *Led by Randy Harris.*



Matthew 25 Book Group

Monday, October 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Salem Room and Zoom

Our fall selection is *Disciples of White Jesus: The Radicalization of American Boyhood* by Angela Denker. This is a comprehensive look at the rise in radicalization among young white men in America, especially focused on the role of right-wing Christianity in the increase of religion-based hatred and violence. *Led by Debbie Layman.*

Poverty Book Group

Mondays, October 26 and November 30 | 7:00 p.m. | Salem Room

Feeding the Other: Whiteness, Privilege, and Neoliberal Stigma in Food Pantries by Rebecca de Souza. De Souza shows how neoliberal stigma plays out in practice through a comparative case analysis of two food pantries in Duluth, Minnesota. *Led by Debbie Layman.*



Interested in Ringing Handbells?

Have you ever wanted to try handbells? Our handbell choir is looking for new members! We meet on Wednesdays from 5:15–6:15 p.m., and while some basic music knowledge is helpful, beginners are welcome! No handbell experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn, make music, and have fun together! If you're interested or would like to learn more, please reach out to Haley Chapman.

Sunday Morning | Christian Education for Adults



You Are Changing the World, Whether You Like It or Not

David LaMotte challenges common assumptions about how societal change happens and what role individuals play in it. Drawing on stories from his work and interviews across Guatemala, India, South Africa, Australia, Palestine, the U.S., and Bosnia, LaMotte dismantles narratives that leave people feeling powerless to act. Written in an accessible, story-driven style, the book helps readers discern their own potential for impact and how to begin—making it valuable for anyone who wants to live a life of purpose. Books are available in the Gallery Hall, \$15.

Facilitators: Janny Gauss, Terry Sink, Elizabeth Skinner and Debbie Layman

Location: Ardmore Room / Through October 18

Little Steps, Big Faith

From brain science to language development and social skills, we've never known more about how children's minds develop in the first five years of life. Yet with all the information available, Christian parents may find themselves confused about how to apply these learnings to daily life with their children.

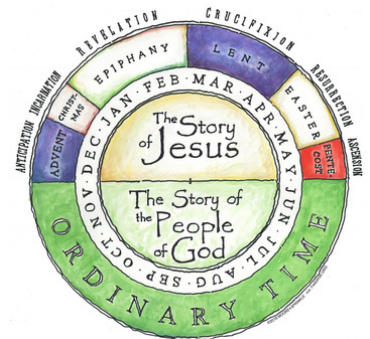
In *Little Steps, Big Faith*, early childhood expert Dr. Dawn Rundman navigates the research to arrive at surprising insights about how very young children experience God, and how parents can use science to teach faith. *Facilitators: Melanie Adams, Haley Chapman, Wendy Eppley, Jan Morgan, Heather Ferguson and guests*

Location: Chapel / Through November 15

The Lectionary Café

The Lectionary Café is a warm, welcoming gathering of folks seeking to engage more deeply with the Lectionary text (scripture focus) each Sunday. The group shares an informal and lively discussion that 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



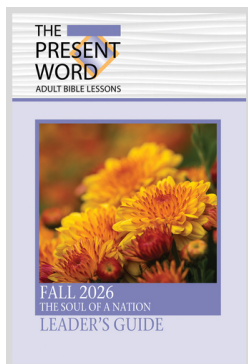
The Present Word Class

All are invited to share in the Present Word 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, including our personal faith, values, relationships, and social responsibilities.

The fall study will focus on the stories of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel. Join this class in person or via Zoom. *Facilitators: a variety of Highland members*

Location: Room 124



Parents' Coffee & Conversation

After getting children and youth 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. Parents with children and youth of all ages are welcome. Come for the conversation and enjoy our fresh, fair-trade coffee!

Location: Room 126



New Elective Classes Begin October 25

Soul Food: Feasting on the Wisdom of Others

A fall series of thought-provoking and inspiring video podcasts on a variety of topics. Faith stories of struggle, grace, hope, and love (laced with humor). Including:

- *Learning to Walk in the Dark* with writer and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor;
- *Finding Faith Later in Life*, columnist David Brooks;
- *Spiritual Misfits: When Faith Doesn't Always Fit*, journalist-turned-pastor Jeff Chu;
- *Separation of Church and Hate* with comedian and broadcaster John Fugelsang

Interviewers: Kate Bowler, Fr. James Martin, and John Dear. No book or preparation required. Just your presence!

Facilitator: Jane Sobie

Location: Room 127

On the Road to Empathy

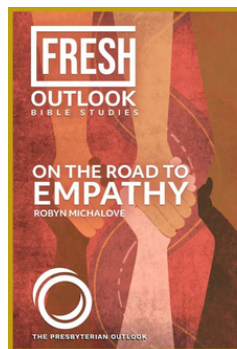
In a moment when empathy is often misunderstood and sometimes dismissed as weakness, “On the Road to Empathy” invites churches to return to Scripture and rediscover empathy as a deeply Christian practice.

This four-session Fresh Outlook Bible Study (written by Rev. Robyn Michalove) uses the powerful metaphor of the road to explore how empathy is formed, challenged, and transformed through encounter.

Drawing on stories from Luke’s Gospel and the Book of Acts, participants are invited to walk alongside biblical characters, examine their own socialization and blind spots, and practice holding one another’s stories with care and curiosity.

Facilitators: Richard Howerton and Joe Blankinship

Location: Ardmore Room



Connect with Us

Rev. Dr. Randy Harris

Pastor

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Gidget Payne

Administrative Coordinator

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Office Hours

Monday–Thursday

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.



**Highland's Friday
Fun Night
Next Gathering October 23**



Highland Presbyterian Church
2380 Cloverdale Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012