



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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2380 Cloverdale Avenue
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OCTOBER 4, 2026 • TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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OCTOBER 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Peacemaking

Hayley Lampkin Blythe

PRELUDE

Gather Us In

arr. John A. Behnke

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People will come from east and west,

All: from north and south,

One: and will eat in the kingdom of God.

All: Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us,

“where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures,

drawn as we are to possessions that moth and rust will destroy.

We cling to power and privilege whenever we can.

Set us free, O God, and teach us to trust in you alone;

through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer, we pray.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

*RESPONSE

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE



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.

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

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SABBATICAL COMMISSIONING FOR HEATHER FERGUSON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 15:1-11

Page 16

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 16:1-3, 17:1-7

Page 62

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

SERMON

Grateful, Anyway:

Randy Harris

Overcoming the Challenge of Nostalgia

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Confession of Belhar*, PCUSA

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family.
And we believe that this unity of the people of God
must be manifest and active, in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord,
for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and
the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

Our song of
“welcome” affirms
our belief that the
risen Christ breaks
down the walls by
which we may
otherwise be
separated.

*The Confession of
Belhar* comes from
the Dutch Re-
formed Mission
Church in South
Africa in the 1980s,
where it was written
as a response to
apartheid. It was
adopted by the
PCUSA in 2016.

The grace of God
calls for a response.

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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD (*INCLUDING 5 CENTS A MEAL*)

ANTHEM

Prayer for Shalom

Kyle Pederson

God, we ask you bring shalom so peace may dwell in ev'ry home;
Heal us all that we may know the wholeness of your great shalom.
To my friends and family, shalom; to the stranger who I see, shalom;
to those I'll never meet, shalom; to all humanity, shalom.
We pray the world may be restored, full of grace and fully yours. Shalom.

To my enemy I pray shalom; to the refugee I pray shalom.
Heal the hurt that tears the soul; hold our hearts and don't let go.
We pray the world may be restored, full of grace and fully yours. Shalom.

God's peace to you, and grace and truth, a place where you will
be made new. Shalom.

*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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*HYMN 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues ...

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung by all*)

GTG 595

*The choir will sing the response in Spanish,
then the congregation will sing in English:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

The prayer continues ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GTG p. 35

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: We are a people blessed by the Holy Spirit.

All: We will go to be a blessing in the world.

One: We are the face of Jesus.

All: We will go to be love and compassion to all.

One: We are the family of God.

All: We will go to serve God's family in every place.

One: May the blessing of the Triune God go with us.

All: Amen!

*POSTLUDE

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Beach Spring

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten- and nut-free bread is available at the station to the right of the Lectern.

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

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome to worship leadership Beth Martin, organist

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, please pray for Zack, Cindy and Alta Brown; Rob Greene; BJ Swing; Jim and Kathy Wilson. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, please pray for our neighbors who provide short term assistance for basic life necessities for those in need through *Crisis Control* and *Sunnyside Ministries*.

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church. Today, churches of many different denominations in all parts of the world will partake of the Lord's Supper together so that, on this day, "the sun will never set" on a communion table without people celebrating the Eucharist there. Our hymns and other service music this day are drawn from Christian communities around the world.

Today's bulletin cover is *The Best Supper* by Jan L. Richardson.

CALENDAR

Sunday October 4

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Fall Forum, Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Forum Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. David LaMotte Concert, Fellowship Hall

Monday October 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Communication, Salem Room

Tuesday October 6

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee

5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
6:00 p.m. Mahjongg for Beginners, AB 8
6:00 p.m. Property Committee, Room 127
6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Committee

Wednesday October 7

11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 100

Thursday October 8

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
6:00 p.m. Mahjongg Open Play, AB 8
7:00 p.m. Young Adults, Carolina Classic Fair

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, Today, October 4: We are excited to host author and musician David LaMotte as he leads a Forum in our Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will take place at 5:30, and the evening culminates with a concert at 6:30.

Blessing of the Animals, October 11, 4:00 p.m., Gathering Garden Playground: 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.

CROP Walk: The annual walk takes place on October 18. All are encouraged to participate by either walking or by making a monetary donation.

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 October, we are asking for donations of rice.

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

Children

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m., Faith Formation for Children: Classes for children, 3 years old through 4th Grade, are

located on the third floor of the Education Building.

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.

Youth

Middle School Service Retreat, October 23–25: Middlers, join us for a weekend at Cross Missions in Charlotte! We'll serve alongside local organizations, explore the city, grow in faith, and have plenty of fun together. Register through the weekly youth email.

Young Adults

Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. October 8, join us for an evening at the Carolina Classic Fair. Contact Courtney for more meeting details.

Adults

Sunday Church School Offerings 9:30 a.m.:

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, 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!