Highland Highlights

Highland Presbyterian Church | November 2026

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

November 15



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."

On Sunday, November 15, we will dedicate our commitments of money, time, and talent for 2027. It is our hope that the generosity that has sustained us in years past will continue, and grow, as we anticipate fruitful ministry in the 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 15, or complete them online through Highland's website.



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!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 22, 7:00 p.m., Highland Prebyterian Church



Nine congregations--including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and non-creedal--will gather at Highland on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. 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 our vulnerable neighbors. 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 for Crisis Control Ministry will also be received.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

November 1
All Saints
Psalm 34:1-10
Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon: Randy Harris
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

November 8
Deuteronomy 8:11-18
Matthew 25:14-30
Sermon: Randy Harris

November 15
Psalm 98
John 15:9-17
Sermon: Randy Harris

November 22
Reign of Christ
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon: Randy Harris

November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8; 16:5-8
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 "Highland Worship Online";
- 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.

Advent Begins November 29

On Sunday, November 29, 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 idea of how each of the Gospel writers would have celebrated Christmas in their homes. 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.



November at a Glance

November 1
- All Saints Sunday
- 5 Cents a Meal Offering
- Pasta Sauce for Crisis Control
- LGBTQ Film Discussion

November 4
- Fling Fellowship Dinner

November 8
- Fall Stroll @ Salem Lake

November 13-15
- Senior High Fall Retreat

November 15
- Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- Mission Fair & Congregational Lunch

November 20
- Friday Fun Night

November 22
- Advent Event
- Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

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

Prayers for...

Bob Collette, Home; Curtis Patterson, Home; Anne Dowell, Salemtowne Rehab; Nargish Murchison, Home; Carol Healy, Davie Rehab in Mocksville; 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; Les and Esther Preston, Salemtowne; John Anderson, Hospice at Salemtowne; Jim and Lucy Lancaster, Home; 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 November 1,** please pray for Bill, Sheila, Kylie and Sienna Lambert; Martha Neely; James, Gillian, Caitlin and Mallory Thomas; Darlene Williamson; Nancy Wolfe.
- **Week of November 8,** please pray for Jeff, Debbie, Jake and Tori Patton; Megan Bryant, Dan Prosterman, Clara, Sam and Gabriel Bryant-Prosterman; Wendell and Jayn Schollander; Carol West.
- **Week of November 15,** please pray for Melanie Adams; Emily Black, Anais Ovalle and Sebastian Ovalle-Black; Elizabeth Gee and Jerry Cecil; Joe and Harriet Mitchener; Sharon Wilmoth and Piper Milsaps.
- **Week of November 22,** please pray for Miles Abernethy; Paul Fischer; Brett, Wendy, Riley and Berkley Hoge; Emma, John, Whitten and Henrietta Parker; Garry and Penny Russ; Sara Taylor.
- **Week of November 29**, please pray for Kathy Black; Eben, Missy, Maggie and Micah Carroll; Jeff, Becky, Max, Abby and Seth Reynolds; Scott, Cheryl, Rebecca and Samantha Walker.

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

November Birthday Blessings

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



Service Opportunities

Our Lady of Salem Women's Shelter

On October 26, the women's overflow homeless shelter (Our Lady of Salem) reopened in the Fellowship Hall at St. Timothy's and will stay open through March 1. (It opened early this year because of the sudden closure of Bethesda Center.) Highland looks forward to our annual partnership 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, with the link. Thank you for your prayerful support and your practical support as we work with our unhoused neighbors in need.



Highland and Temple Emanuel's Food Pantry

Twice each month, Highland and Temple Emanuel provide groceries for Moore Elementary students and families. For November, we are asking for donations of dried beans. To volunteer or learn more, contact Dawn Nelson.

Shepherd Center 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 bars of soap, 10-12oz body lotions, and 10-12oz. hand soap. Donations are needed by November 22. The bags will be shared at a special meal we are hosting on Saturday, December 5. We are looking for volunteers to help staff this joyful event, so please check your calendars, and let Debbie know if you would like to help host that night!

Gingerbread Houses for Ashley Elementary Students

Highland again is collecting gingerbread house kits for the Ashley Elementary families. Our goal is to collect 75 kits by December 6. The school is hoping these kits will all be the same size (E-Z Build, 2.2lb). You will 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!



Alternative Giving During Advent

We look forward to our tradition of offering an Alternative Giving focus during the Advent season. Gifts this year will focus on support for **children** still coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene through giving to the Black Mountain Counseling, support for our **environment** with giving to the Presbyterian Tree Fund, and support for **migrant workers** in North Carolina through gifts to the North Carolina Council of Churches. We hope you will plan on these alternative gifts as a meaningful way to honor loved ones near and far.



All Church Opportunities

LGBTQ Film Discussion, Sunday, November 1



We will gather at 4:00 p.m. in the Salem Room to view and discuss some short films from the PC(USA) in the *With Love* series. This new series features nearly a dozen individuals who identify as transgender, nonbinary, or gender nonconforming, sharing about their journeys, their identities and their relationships to the church. Their reflections will help us ponder our own welcome here at Highland. All are welcome!

Fling Fellowship Meal, Wednesday, November 4

Our November Fling Fellowship Meal will be a tasty seasonal meal. Plan to join us at 6:00 p.m. for a good meal and great fellowship, and feel free to bring a friend! Our meal will be: turkey or tofurkey, traditional bread dressing, green beans, cranberry salad, pumpkin muffins, and cherry-topped individual cheesecakes. Marty Moore is heading the cook team. Call the church or sign up through your email link to RSVP. The cost for this early-Thanksgiving feast is $10 for adults, $5 for children, and a cap of $30 for a household.

Fall Walk at Salem Lake, Sunday, November 8



Let's get out together and enjoy God's creation in this gorgeous time of year. Salem Lake is a jewel in our community and provides much color and many glimpses into God's handiwork. We look forward to sharing a stroll part-way around the lake together. We will meet in Highland's parking lot at 1:30 p.m. to carpool, or at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot off of Salem Lake Road (turn off of Reynolds Park Road). Feel free to bring your well-behaved dog or a friend!

Annual Advent Event, November 22



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 items. 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 22.

Children

Nursery Care



Highland's Nursery cares for children from infants to 4-year-olds 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.



Children's Sunday School and Choir

Sundays | 9:30–10:45 a.m. | 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, November 20 | 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! Friends are always welcome. Contact Diana Smyrl for more information.



Stepping Stones: A Junior Youth Program

Sunday, November 8 | 12:00–1:30 p.m. | 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

Youth Agape Meal



Sunday, November 8 | 5:00–6:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

All youth will gather for a special Agape Meal as we gather around the table for food, fellowship, and community. Rooted in the Christian tradition of sharing a meal in love, this evening is an opportunity to slow down and celebrate the community we share. Bring a favorite dish to share as we enjoy a potluck-style dinner together. Come hungry and ready to share in the joy of being together!

Senior High Fall Retreat

November 13–15 | On the Lake

Senior highs, let's head to the lake! Join us for a weekend getaway filled with games, adventures, great food, laughter, and time to relax with friends. We'll step away from busy schedules to reconnect, recharge, and explore our faith together. Bring a friend, pack your bags, and sign up for a weekend you won't want to miss!





Youth Lunch Out

November 22 | 12:00–1:30 p.m. | The Loop

Let's grab lunch together immediately following worship. Take a break, enjoy some good food, and catch up with friends before the Thanksgiving holiday. Bring money for lunch and come hungry! Friends are always welcome!



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.



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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.

November 5 | Good Deeds and Good Eats, at the church

November 12 | Ephesians Bible Study, West Salem Public House

November 19 | Katie teaches Mahjong 101

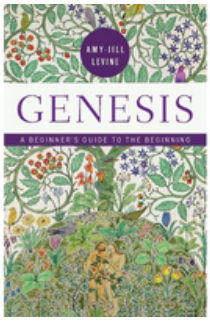
Recurring Gatherings

Men's Breakfast

November 18 | 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 are available in the Gallery Hall.



Faith & Film: *Scent of a Woman*

Monday, November 9 | 7:00 p.m. | The Sherwood Restaurant

Watch *Scent of a Woman* (1992), then join us to explore the questions, meaning, and glimpses of faith within the story. *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.

Lamentations & Laughter

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

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



Highland Mums' Night Out

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

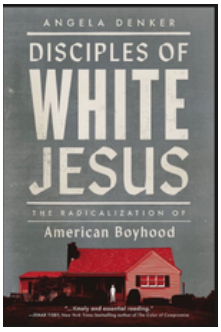
Listening to Black Voices



Tuesday, November 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Wake Up Running by Walter Fluker

For Fluker, "running" is a spiritual practice, an act of resistance, and a way of imagining freedom. In conversation with Howard Thurman, Martin Luther King Jr., Toni Morrison, Harriett Tubman and others, Fluker reveals how the past keeps chasing us, and how we can still choose to run toward hope. We'll plan on covering chapters 4-7. *Led by Randy Harris.*



Matthew 25 Book Group

Monday, November 16 | 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



Monday, 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.*













Sunday Morning | Christian Education for Adults

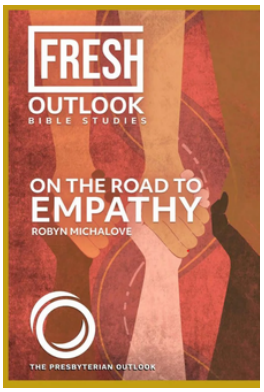
Soul Food: Feasting on the Wisdom of Others

Room 127 | Through November 15
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:

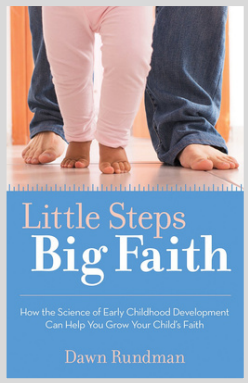
- *Learning to Walk in the Dark* with writer and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor;
- *Finding Faith Later in Life*, columnist David Brooks;
- *The Face of Love*, with global advocate against the death penalty, Sister Helen Prejan
- *Separation of Church and Hate* with comedian and broadcaster John Fugelsang

Interviewers: Kate Bowler, Father James Martin, and John Dear. No preparation required.
Facilitator: Jane Sobie

On the Road to Empathy



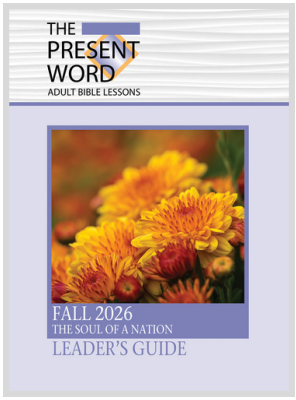
Ardmore Room | Through November 15
"On the Road to Empathy" invites us to rediscover empathy as a deeply Christian practice. This four-session Fresh Outlook Bible Study by Rev. Robyn Michalove uses stories from Luke and Acts to explore how empathy is formed through encounter. Together, participants will examine blind spots, listen with curiosity, and practice holding one another's stories with care.
Facilitators: Richard Howerton and Joe Blankinship



Little Steps, Big Faith

Chapel | Through November 15
Little Steps, Big Faith explores what brain science and child development can teach us about nurturing faith in the first five years of life. Drawing on research and practical insight, Dr. Dawn Rundman helps parents understand how young children experience God and how everyday moments can help faith take root. There is a special nursery available for parents taking this class. The nursery will open at 9:15 a.m. and is located across from Highland's Chapel.
Facilitators: Melanie Adams, Haley Chapman, Wendy Eppley, Jan Morgan, and guests

The Present Word Class



Ongoing | Room 124
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.

Parents' Coffee & Conversation

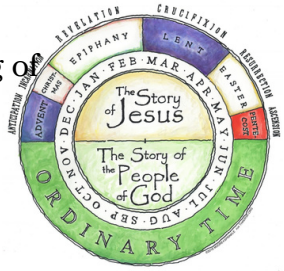
Room 126



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!

The Lectionary Café

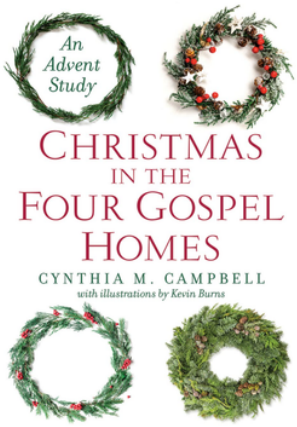
Salem Room



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

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes



Ardmore Room | November 29-December 13

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a house, which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* creatively reimagines the season and inspires new and exciting reflections for Advent.

Join us for this insightful look into the writers of the nativity story. Books available in the Gallery Hall, $15.

Facilitators: Randy Harris, Debbie Layman, and Heather Ferguson

Connect with Us

Rev. Dr. Randy Harris
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Gidget Payne
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Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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) and orders for poinsettias ($18) must be received by **November 22**. Please fill out the form, 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 _____

Highland Presbyterian Church
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Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012