



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00 P.M. SERVICE



Artist: Dorothea Spain

### ALL ARE WELCOME

*Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.*

*This Advent & Christmastide, the following are given to the glory of God*

**Sanctuary Chrismon Tree:**

In honor of Ben and Alice Thistle, and Marion, Roe, and Frances Jacques, given by their grandparents, Renee Peacock & Steve Bair.

**Front Lawn Christmas Tree:**

Given by PJ & Steve Ellis

**Sanctuary Advent Wreath:**

In memory of John & Ann Roberts, given by Valerie & Warren Nash and family

Given by Scott & Laura Williams

**Greenery in the Chancel and over the High Altar:**

In memory of Robert & Carol Forrester, given by The Forrester family

In memory of our parents, Barbara & Jim Short, given by their family

In memory of our parents, Bobbie & Wayne Smith, given by their family

In honor of Jack & Lisa Reed, given by The Forrester family

In honor of Rick Phillips and The Choir given by Dr. Brian L. Bellenger

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Don & Kelley Neal

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Les & Mitchie Neel

Given by Kathy Burdette, Jeff & Celia Davenport, and Mark Chambers & Joy McPherson

**Wreaths in the Sanctuary:**

In honor of Reggie Holder and PJ Ellis, given by Suzanne Hoye

Given by Mark Chambers & Joy McPherson

**Wreaths on Exterior Doors:**

In memory of Judy Mills, given by The Soong family

In memory of Dr. Charles Tyndal, given by Tutter Tyndal

In memory of Abigail L'Eplattenier, given by Dick & Lynn L'Eplattenier

In honor of Nancy & Eric Barkemeyer, given by Dan & Nancy Hill

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Les & Mitchie Neel

In honor of the welcoming congregation of Highlands UMC, given by the Five Points Business

Alliance and Five Points South Neighborhood Association

**Poinsettias:**

In memory of Jimmy Lennon, given by Dinah Hughes

In memory of Betsy Smith Watson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

In memory of Thomas Neal Johnson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

In honor of Kathi Ash, given by Betsy Mackin

In honor of Sarah and James Darby, given by Matt Darby

In honor of Ms. Nancy Harris, given by The Soong family

Given by Cinda York

**Additional Greenery:**

In memory of Kenneth Heath, and Ann & Michael Shacka, given by Sonya Heath Shacka

In honor of Bess, Reed, Mack, and Sam Forrester, given by Tate & Kirk Forrester

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, given by the Highlands Children's Program

In honor of Lauri Soong and the Atrium Catechists, given by the Highlands Youth Program

Given by Ann Day Hunt and Denise Williams

# MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

## THE CHOIR OF HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RICHARD C. PHILLIPS – CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST

December 24, 2023 – 4:30 PM

CAROLS FROM THE TOWER BELLS

*Kara Cargile, chimer*

PRELUDE

*Chorale Prelude on GREENSLEEVES*

*Richard Purvis (1913-1994)*

*Text, UMH 219*

*Richard Phillips, organist*

**The congregation will stand for the procession. All may sit once The Choir is seated.**

### ANTHEMS

#### While By our Sleeping Flock We Lay

*While by our sleeping flock we lay, there came an angel, bright as day;  
Awake with joy! Wake with joy!*

REFRAIN: *Joy! Joy! Joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!*

*Spake then the angel, "News I bring of Israel's long expected King!"  
Great be your joy! Be your joy! REFRAIN*

*Grace, truth and right his rule attend; his Kingdom knows no earthly end.  
Great be your joy! Be your joy! REFRAIN*

*Peace upon earth, goodwill toward men; Let the world shout the loud Amen!  
Come, share our joy! Share our joy! REFRAIN*

*Hugo Jüngst (1853-1923)*

*Text, English version: Henry Wilder Foote*

#### In the Bleak Mid-Winter

*Austin Hamilton, baritone soloist*

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

*Arranged by Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)*

*Text, Christina Rossetti*

## Baloo Lammy

*Written in honor of my child's birth, Lucy Phillips in 1993 and rescored for full choir this year for her 30th birthday.*

REFRAIN: Baloo, baloo, baloo lammy.

*This day to you is born a Child of Mary meek the Virgin mild that blessed bairn.*

*So, loving and kind shall now rejoice both heart and mild. REFRAIN*

*A star appeared this blessed morn and unto us a Child is born to heav'n.*

*He'll lead us from near and far so follow, follow that wondrous star. REFRAIN*

TRANSLATION: Baloo, Lammy – Lullaby, Little Lamb

Richard Phillips (b. 1959)

Text, Traditional Scottish Carol

## Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Opus 75, No. 2

Brett Huffman, snare drum | Dylan Higgs, tambourine

*This anthem was put in the music library to the glory of God and in memory of Benard L. Hilton, given by The Choir.*

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance*

*To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance;*

REFRAIN: *Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love, This have I done for my true love.*

*Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance*

*Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. REFRAIN*

*In a manger laid, and wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance*

*Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. REFRAIN*

*Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance,*

*My Father's voice heard I from above, to call my true love to my dance. REFRAIN*

John Gardner (1917-2011)

Text, Traditional English Carol

## Who Would Send a Baby

*This anthem was given to the glory of God and in memory of Sonny Holt, given by his wife, Janet Holt.*

*Who would send a baby to heal a world in pain?*

*Who would send a baby, a tiny child?*

*When the world is crying for the promised one, who would send his only son?*

*Who would send a baby to light a world with love?*

*Who would send a baby, a tiny child?*

*When the world is hoping for the promised one, who would send his only son?*

*Who would choose a manger to cradle a King?*

*Who would send angels to sing?*

*Who would hang a star in the sky above to shine on the gift of his infinite love?*

*Who would send a baby to bless a world with peace?*

*Who would send a baby, a tiny child?*

*When the world is yearning for the promised one, who would send a baby?*

*Who would send a baby? Who would send his only begotten Son?*

Mary Kay Beall (b. 1943); Arranged by John Carter (b. 1930)

Text, Mary Kay Beall

## Carol of the Bells

*Hark! how the bells; sweet silver bells, all seem to say, "Throw cares away."  
Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold.  
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling.  
One seems to hear, words of good cheer, from ev'rywhere filling the air  
O, how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale,  
Gaily they ring, while people sing song of good cheer, Christmas is here!  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end their joyful tone to ev'ry home.*

M. Leontovich: Arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

Text, Peter J. Wilhousky

\*HYMN 240

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*The Choir and Congregation*

MENDELSSOHN  
Descant Setting: Sir David Wilcocks

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

*After the choir procession, the congregation may be seated.  
The service will continue with the opening preludes.*

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## WE WELCOME OUR GUEST MUSICIANS TO HIGHLANDS!

*Roderick George is an active performing artist on operatic and concert stages,  
and the head of the voice area at the University of Montevallo.*

*Pei-Ju Wu, violin, is a member of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.*

*Chris Culpepper, trumpet*

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON  
LITURGISTS – REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS  
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS  
VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

*\*Those who are able, please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.*

*Serving for Altar Guild:* Valerie Nash  
*Serving as Ushers:* Mark Chambers, Michael Lalor  
*Serving as Acolytes:* Adelia Arnold, Camille Baxley, Lillian Rand  
*Serving as Lay Reader:* Lewis Rand  
*Serving as Communion Stewards:* Romona and Jim Shannon  
*Sacred Dancer:* Elisabeth Anne Archer

### PRELUDES

*Chorale Prelude on ADESTE FIDELIS*  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)*

*Chorale Prelude on STILLE NACHT*  
*Silent Night*

*Franklin Eddings (b. 1934)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

### \*HYMN IN PROCESSION 234

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**  
*Verses 1-3 and 6*

ADESTE FIDELES  
*Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks*  
*Organ Improvisation: Richard Phillips*

### \*COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*Let us pray: Almighty God, by the birth of your Holy Child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

### \*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Angels We Have Heard On High**  
*Refrain*

GLORIA

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**I Saw Three Ships in Sussex**  
*Elisabeth Anne Archer, dancer*  
*Richard Phillips, organ*

*Malcolm Riley (b.1960)*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PSALTER

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-12

Anglican Chant: Alan Gray (1855-1935)

*Cantante Domino*

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.*

\*SEQUENCE HYMN 219

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Verses 1

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

\*GOSPEL LESSON

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Lesson

Luke 2:1-20, KJV

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

\*THE NICENE CREED 880

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he  
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leslie Williams

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Musical Communion Setting: Elise Eslinger (b. 1943)

## \*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION & PEACE

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The Communion Table is open to all who are in love with God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in this broken world.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### O Holy Night

The Choir

Roderick George, tenor soloist

Pei-Ju Wu, violin

Richard Phillips, organ

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night, when Christ was born.

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night, when Christ was born.

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

Arranged by Hugh Thomas (1912-2002)

Text, Adolphe Adam

## \*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

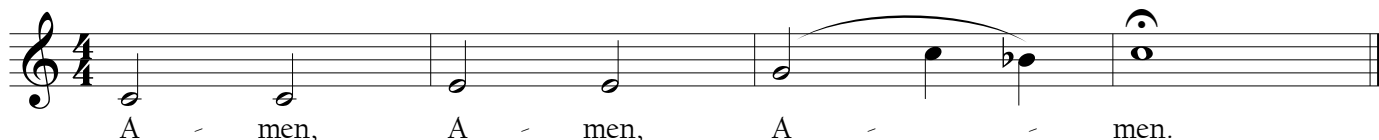
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...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### THE FRACTION ANTHEM

#### Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*The Choir*

*Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be. He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he.  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Congregants are welcome to kneel at the chancel rail for prayer before returning to their seats. Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table.

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*The congregation is invited to sing along with The Choir on the hymns*

#### COMMUNION MOTET

#### Away in a Manger

*The Choir*

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.*

Arranged by Walter L. Pelz (b. 1926)

Text, Traditional American

#### COMMUNION HYMN

#### O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*The Choir and Congregation*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

COMMUNION HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*The Choir and Congregation*

It came upon the midnight clear, the glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold,  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

COMMUNION HYMN

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

*The Choir and Congregation*

*Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks*

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

*Loving God, on this night you have made known to us again the power and advent of our Lord Jesus Christ: Confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

\*HYMN 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Verses 1 & 4*

*Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne*

**Please follow in procession to the front lawn.**

VOLUNTARY

*Fantasia on ADESTE FIDELES*

*Frederick H. Candlyn (1892–1964)*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright; Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!  
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light; Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

\*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

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 *Christmas at Highlands*  

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*The Church Office will be closed December 25-26, 2023.*

*Sunday, December 31, 2023 – The Sunday of the Epiphany*

*9:00 AM – Community Breakfast for New Year’s Eve*

*10:30 AM – Service of Lessons and Carols*

*– There will be no Sunday School, Atrium, or Nursery. –*

*The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.*



**All are invited to prayerfully consider giving to support the ministries of Highlands in 2024.**

**Complete a pledge card or make your pledge online at [www.highlandsumc.net/pledge](http://www.highlandsumc.net/pledge).**

*All pledges are requested by today.*

### **Welcome to Highlands!**

Thank you for joining us in worship today! If you would like to learn more about the ministries of Highlands, please fill out an information card found in the pews, or speak with a member of our staff in the coming week. We welcome the opportunity to be in conversation with you.

*Staff contact information – [www.highlandsumc.net/staff](http://www.highlandsumc.net/staff)*

### **Community Ministries New Year's Eve Breakfast**

Ring in the New Year with a Community Breakfast on Sunday, December 31 in the Fellowship Hall. Both church members and guests from our Community Ministries program are invited to enjoy a New Year's sit-down breakfast from 9 to 10 AM. We will wrap up in time to move upstairs together for worship at 10:30 AM. We have several volunteer opportunities, including providing doughnuts, fruit, and pastries, serving, hosting tables, and setup and clean up. If you'd like to help out, contact Mark Chambers. We hope you'll join us for breakfast!

*Contact: Mark Chambers – [markc205@yahoo.com](mailto:markc205@yahoo.com)*

### **Church Retreat - February 17-18, 2024**

Join the Highlands family at Camp Sumatanga for a relaxed time of fellowship, community, and worship this Presidents Day Weekend – February 17-18, 2024. There will be activities for the whole family, plenty of time to spend in nature, worship, and tons of fun! Registration is open now at [www.highlandsumc.net/church-retreat](http://www.highlandsumc.net/church-retreat) or scan the Happening at Highlands QR code.

Cost: Adults – \$125 | Children and Youth – \$60  
 Children under 2 free; \$350 registration cap per family

### **2023 Year-End Giving Guidelines**

Please consider this important reminder regarding giving to Highlands. In order for contributions to be tax deductible for 2023, they must:

**By mail:** be postmarked on or before December 31.

**Online:** be completed by midnight (CST) December 31 at [www.highlandsumc.net/giving](http://www.highlandsumc.net/giving).

**Hand Delivered:** be delivered to the church office no later than 4 PM on Friday, December 30 or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 24.

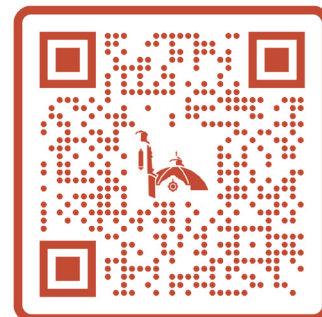
If you would like to make a gift of stock to the church, we have accounts with Charles Schwab and Morgan Stanley. Please contact Tyra Pirtle in the church office ([finance@highlandsumc.net](mailto:finance@highlandsumc.net) or 933-8751 x103) and she will provide you with the church account number and transfer codes. Your contributions to the church are greatly appreciated!

### **NEW! Happening at Highlands Link Hub**

Check out all the great things that are “happening at Highlands” and find links to event registration forms, volunteer sign ups, this week's worship bulletin, and more – all in one convenient place.

*Links include:*

*Generosity of Spirit Pledge Form  
 New Year's Eve Breakfast Info  
 Church Retreat Registration  
 Community Ministries Wish List  
 The Highlands UMC Podcast  
 Contact Information Updates*



### **KEEP IN PRAYER**

Kathi Ash

Peggy Carey

Martha Satterwhite

Leo Bolack, grandson of Jettye and Jon Davis

Denny Bearce

Susan Gaskin

Carol & Arthur Stephens

Billy Ray, father of Suzanne Hoye

Britton Buckner

Nina Reeves

Kathleen Thompson

Bill White, brother of Reina McFarlin

Gayle Byrne

Nancy Sawyer

Tutter Tyndal

Suzanne Norris, mother of Steve Norris

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Jennifer Shelor and family in the death of her father, Neil Shelor; to Tutter Tyndal and family in the death of her sister, Anne Cook Langstaff; to the family and friends of Pat Quellhorst.

*Contact information for those listed is available on the ShelbyNext Membership Directory. For help connecting to the directory, visit [www.highlandsumc.net/shelbynext](http://www.highlandsumc.net/shelbynext) or contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at [maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net](mailto:maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net).*



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

## ALL ARE WELCOME



A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – [rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org)

*Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ to be sent into the world to share the Gospel and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.*

*Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.*

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### INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

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### OFFERING

#### *Cash or Check Giving:*

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks.  
Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

#### *Electronic Giving:*

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit [www.highlandsumc.net/giving](http://www.highlandsumc.net/giving) to give using a debit, credit card, or bank account.

#### *Sustainable Giving:*

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at [finance@highlandsumc.net](mailto:finance@highlandsumc.net).



SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S  
HAPPENING AT HIGHLANDS!

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