



The Festival of Three Kings

Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4 PM at Birmingham Southern College

Gifts need to be dropped off at the church by Wednesday, December 6 at NOON.

To volunteer for the day of the Festival, contact Deb at deb@highlandsumc.net.

Communion Rail Offering

Christmas can be a hard time for some. Many of our community ministries friends have lost or are separated from their families and feel that loss especially during the holidays. As we celebrate, let us also remember. Let's remember that the first Christmas was not an easy one for the Holy Family. What would a gift of a warm blanket have meant to Mary? A soft hat on the baby Jesus' head? A fresh orange after Joseph's long journey? We can still offer those gifts as we remember... The communion rail offering in December goes to our Community Ministries Christmas Day meal. We offer our guests fresh fruit, blankets, socks, hats, and gloves along with their breakfast meal on Christmas morning. Monetary donations and/or contributions of these items are welcome.

Advent Service Project

All Highlands families are invited to participate in an Advent service project benefiting the UAB Student Food Pantry. Eligible UAB students benefit from both the short-term relief of receiving food and hygiene items, as well as connection to additional resources and ongoing support through the Student Pantry. Each participating family will collect items each day, following a special Advent calendar. Supply packets containing a collection bag, shopping list, and Advent calendar are available today in the Greeting Space and outside the Atrium. Donation bags may be returned to the church on Christmas Eve.

Advent Devotionals

Our daily Advent devotional emails begin today. To sign up, text ADVENTDEVO to 84576 and follow the prompts. For more information or to get help signing up, contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net. Devotionals are also available on social media by following @HighlandsUMC on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Advent Study Opportunities

Join us this Advent in study and preparation for the coming of the Christ Child!

Wednesday Evenings at 6 PM

Studying *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* by Adam Hamilton, led by Warren Nash
Meets at Highlands and class members' homes

Thursday Mornings at 10 AM

Studying *Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles* by N. T. Wright, led by Beth Douthit
Meets at Highlands in Room E209

Youth Group Shopping Trip - Today

All youth are invited to shop for the Festival of the Three Kings today from 4 to 6 PM. Dinner will be provided. Carpool will meet at 3:45 and return around 6:15. Volunteers are needed to drive and assist with shopping. Contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net for more information or to volunteer!

Men's Fellowship Lunch - December 4

Join the men of Highlands at Dave's Pizza in Homewood for lunch and fellowship on Monday, December 4 at 11:30 AM. Contact Mark Chambers at marke205@yahoo.com for more information. All Are Welcome!

Sight Seekers - December 7

The Sight Seekers will celebrate the start of the Christmas season with a Colonial Christmas Lunch and tour at American Village. Enjoy a delicious luncheon in the East Room of the White House with hostess Martha Washington and tour the American Village which includes several vignettes with talented, costumed historical interpreters. Meet at Highlands at 9:00 AM. Cost is \$20. To make a reservation, call the church office at 933-8751 or drop a note in the offering plate today.

KEEP IN PRAYER ... Virginia Timmons; Nancy Sawyer; Brook Morris; Kathleen Kauffman; Patricia Gerber; Lisa, sister of Angela Chramer; Pamela Huck; Mark Carleton, brother of Lynn Hairston; Denise Jordan, sister of Cheryl Williams; Martha Council; Ernest Statham; Judy Trench, mother of Bart Trench; Sharon Turner; Britton Buckner; John Patrick Maya; Brian McFarlin; Dan Sibley; the Izcaray family; Stan Hart

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - December 18

The Highlands Men's group will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Red Kettle on Saturday, December 18 at Belk's at the Summit. We will be at both entrances and need lots of help. Families are encourage to participate. Sign up today in the Greeting Space today or contact Mark Chambers at markc205@yahoo.com or 205-821-2770.

Christmas Eve Hospitality Bags - December 22

For the last couple of years, Open Table has sponsored Christmas bags that are picked up at the Christmas Eve service and delivered to people who have to work on the holiday. This year we are asking for snack items to place in the bags. Individually wrapped snack crackers, cookies, nuts, or candy are needed. Donations may be brought to the church by Wednesday, December 20th. If you have any questions, contact Michele Nailen at mnaillen@yahoo.com or 205-2329-0180 (call or text).

Children's Christmas Pageant Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 24. We are especially looking for volunteers who are not parents or grandparents so that families of children in the pageant may sit in the congregation. If you are interested in helping with the pageant, contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net.

Community Ministries Christmas Day Breakfast

Christmas Day breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 9 to 10 AM. We need breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice, and milk. Drop off items during the Christmas Eve services or bring them on Christmas morning. If you can't serve but want to help, please consider making a donation to the Community Ministries fund to purchase blankets, gloves, hats, and socks. To sign up to serve, contact Deb Welsh at deb@highlandsumc.net.

Stephen Ministry Book Study - January

The Stephen Ministry system trains and organizes lay people to provide a caring ministry for their local church congregation. Annie Green and Deb Welsh attended an intensive Leader's Training Course this past summer and would love to tell you more. Our kick-off event will be a 5-week book study, beginning January 10, using the book *Christian Caregiving, A Way of Life*. The study will be led by Annie Green, Deb Welsh, and Mikah Hudson. Anyone who would like to learn more about this new ministry is invited to attend. For more information, see one of the leaders or visit www.stephenministry.org.

Stewardship Pledges for 2018

To date, we have received 113 pledges toward our goal of 150, totaling \$663,164. If you have not turned in your 2018 financial pledge, cards are available from the ushers, or at www.highlandsumc.net/connections

2017 Year-End Giving Guidelines

Please consider this important reminder regarding giving to Highlands. In order for contributions to be deductible for 2017, they must:

- By mail:** be postmarked on or before December 31.
- Online:** be completed by midnight (CST) December 31.
- Hand Delivered:** be delivered to the church office no later than 3 PM on Friday, December 29 or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31.

If you would like to make a gift of stock to the church, we have accounts set up with Charles Schwab and Morgan Stanley. Please contact Ann Day Hunt in the church office (ann@highlandsumc.net or 933-8751 x103) and she will provide you with the church account number and transfer codes. We greatly appreciate your contributions to the church!

Highlands United Methodist Church
office@highlandsumc.net
205-933-8751

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram,
or Twitter @HighlandsUMC

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Closed for lunch 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Get updates from Highlands!
Text HIGHLANDS to 84576

To include an announcement in Happening At Highlands, please submit information to the church office by Wednesday at noon.