

**Welcome to Highlands!**

*Hospes venit, Christes venit - When the guest comes, Christ comes.* Join us in the Greeting Space following 10:30 AM worship for a time of fellowship and an opportunity to visit with each other. Visitors are especially encouraged to come by for a small gift and to learn more about the Highlands family.

**Invitation to Sunday School**

Make the most of the new year and join a Sunday School class! We have three terrific Adult classes, a great youth class, and Atrium for children. Sunday school classes begin at 9:30 AM. To learn more about Sunday School options at highlands, visit [www.highlandsumc.net/grow](http://www.highlandsumc.net/grow).

**Important Youth Group Dates in January**

All youth are invited to our next youth group meeting today at Highlands, from 4 to 6 PM.

All senior high youth who plan to be in leadership for this year's Discovery Weekend should make plans to attend a practice session on Sunday, January 12 from 1 to 2:30 PM. Please find time to work on your talks before the meeting!

All youth will meet on Sunday, January 19 at Woodlawn UMC from 4 to 6 PM. Senior Highs will finalize Discovery Weekend plans at this meeting; it is very important that Sr. Highs who plan to attend Discovery Weekend attend!

Discovery Weekend, our spiritual formation retreat for youth, is January 24-26 at Camp Sumatanga. Discovery Weekend is open to all youth, grades 6-12. Registration is open until midnight: [www.highlandsumc.net/discovery](http://www.highlandsumc.net/discovery).

For more information about youth events at Highlands, contact Henry Gibson at [henry@highlandsumc.net](mailto:henry@highlandsumc.net).

**Jefferson County Memorial Project Training**

Join us on Saturday, January 18 from 10 AM to NOON to learn more about Brian Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative & National Monument for Peace and Justice, and Jefferson County's history of past racial terrorism and lynchings. The Jefferson County Memorial Project will be helping to educate on past events and advocate for social justice in the present and future. Come to this informative event and help move our county forward. Learn more about the JCMP online at: [www.jeffersoncountymemorial.com](http://www.jeffersoncountymemorial.com).

Contact: Reggie Holder [reggie@highlandsumc.net](mailto:reggie@highlandsumc.net)

**Stop the Bleed Workshop - January 18**

Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action that encourages the public to train, equip, and empower themselves to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. In our recent Gun Violence Awareness Workshop, Dr. Jeff Kirby of UAB encouraged all to receive this lifesaving training. Training will take place on Saturday, January 18 from 2 to 4 pm. For more information, contact Nancy Barkemeyer or Reggie Holder.

Contact: Reggie Holder at [reggie@highlandsumc.net](mailto:reggie@highlandsumc.net)

**Working Laptop Computers Needed**

Highlands is partnering with Birmingham-Southern College's Bunting Center and Desert Island Supply Company, a non-profit creative writing program for students based in the Woodlawn neighborhood, that offers free after-school workshops plus in-school programs for area schools centered around creative writing, by collecting working laptop computers to be used at DISCO's after-school coding workshop, called Disco Tech. Five to eight kids will participate once a week for five weeks in a program which aims to familiarize the child with computational thinking, introducing the building blocks of programming languages, improving logic and problem-solving skills, beginning structural and algorithmic thinking, learning to anticipate and respond to problems, boosting processing skills, and connecting creativity to coding. The only features that the laptops need are the ability to connect to the internet; Chromebooks or something simple is perfect. We are unable to accept desktops due to space limitations. Contact Reggie Holder at [reggie@highlandsumc.net](mailto:reggie@highlandsumc.net) with any questions or to arrange drop-off of your working laptop.

**Online Church Directory**

For the past year, Highlands has been using an online church directory, ShelbyNext. Through it, our members can see contact information and photos of other Highlands members, as well as our calendar and other ways to be involved in the life of the church. If you have not been using ShelbyNext and would like to learn more, please contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at [maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net](mailto:maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net). If you have not updated your church directory photo recently, you may do so in the ShelbNext app or by sending in a new photo to [photos@highlandsumc.net](mailto:photos@highlandsumc.net).

**KEEP IN PRAYER...**

Brian Bellenger	Marie Jeff	Barbara Short	Lisa, sister of Angela Chramer
Britton Buckner	Ross Mason	Pat Smith	Jack DeWitt, father of Kate Darden
Mary Jean Box	Judy Mills	Carol Stephens	Mark Carleton, brother of Lynn Hairston
Mary Frances Cofield	Brook Morris	Abby Thompson	Sharon Self, mother of Michelle Jones
James Daniels	Frances Owens	Kathleen & Tommy Thompson	Judy Trench, mother of Bart Trench
Don Delashaw	Nina Reeves	Sharon Turner	The United Methodist Church
Sonny Holt	Christian Riley	Chuck Tyndal	
Pamela & Paul Huck	Nancy Sawyer	Gene Wahnefried	

Contact information for those on this list is available from Deb Welsh at [deb@highlandsumc.net](mailto:deb@highlandsumc.net) or 205-933-8751, ext. 211

**Discovery Weekend Youth Retreat**

Later this month, our youth group will gather together for Discovery Weekend, our annual youth spiritual formation retreat, at Camp Sumatanga. One of the most meaningful experiences of Discovery Weekend is reading letters of encouragement and support written by family, friends, and members of our church family. Please take a moment over the next few weeks to write a note, card, or letter to our Highlands youth to support them in their spiritual journey. Sample letters are available if you need a little help getting started. Letters may be brought to the church office or emailed to Mary Elizabeth Neal at [maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net](mailto:maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net) no later than Friday, January 24 at NOON. Thank you for supporting our youth! Participating youth are:

Nathan Jones  
Sam Jones  
Gradie Lowery  
Austin Meredith  
Lillian Rand  
Cade Smith  
Victoria Thompson  
Norah Trench  
Ryenne Trench  
Ruby Utz  
Lillie Corinne Welch  
Hannah Wheeler  
Virginia White

Highlands United Methodist Church  
[office@highlandsumc.net](mailto:office@highlandsumc.net)  
205-933-8751

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
@HighlandsUMC

Office Hours

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

Get email 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.