

**Welcome to Highlands!**

Join us in the Greeting Space following 10:30 AM worship for a cool cup of warm hospitality and information about the Highlands family. *If you are interested in hosting one Sunday this summer, please contact Kathleen Lalor at [kbllalor@gmail.com](mailto:kbllalor@gmail.com)!*

**Church Office Closed - September 3**

The Church Office, Child Development Center, and Community Ministries will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!

**Men's Fellowship Lunch - September 5**

Join the men of Highlands at Dave's Pizza in Homewood for lunch and fellowship on Wednesday, September 5 at 11:30 AM. For more information, contact Mark Chambers at [markc205@yahoo.com](mailto:markc205@yahoo.com). All Are Welcome!

**Acolyte Training Lock-In - September 8**

Those who wish to serve in worship as an acolyte this year are invited to an overnight training event on Saturday, September 8, beginning at 5 PM. This event will include meals at local restaurants, acolyte instruction, a tour of the bell tower, fun and games, candlelight communion, and a sleepover at the church! Acolyting is open to adults, youth, and children in 4th grade or older. All current acolytes are requested to attend! We are especially looking for ADULTS to serve this year; adults may attend training sessions without having to spend the night. Registration is open at [www.highlandsumc.net/acolyte-training](http://www.highlandsumc.net/acolyte-training). For more info, contact Brian Bellenger at [bellengerb@gmail.com](mailto:bellengerb@gmail.com) or Mary Elizabeth Neal at [maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net](mailto:maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net).

**Youth Group Meetings Resume - September 16**

Join us at Highlands on Sunday, September 16 from 4 to 6 PM for our first meeting of the new school year with our friends from Birmingham Cooperative Youth Ministries, comprised of Woodlawn UMC, Avondale UMC, East Lake UMC, St. Junia UMC, and Beloved Community Church. Youth Group meetings are from 4 to 6 PM on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month. Each meeting takes place at a different member church. To learn more about our youth program, and find a schedule of dates and locations, visit [www.highlandsumc.net/youth](http://www.highlandsumc.net/youth).

**Alabama Men's Hall of Fame - September 18**

Founding Highlands' member, Robert Sylvester Munger, will be inducted into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame in a Ceremony Luncheon on Tuesday, September 18 at 11:30 AM at The Club. Highlands members are invited to attend. Tickets are \$35 by reservation on or before September 10. You may visit [samford.edu/go/amhf](http://samford.edu/go/amhf) to learn more.

To attend, contact Rebecca W. Mason at 205-968-0967 or [rebecca@shelbysys.com](mailto:rebecca@shelbysys.com).

**Saturday Supper Sisters - September 29**

All women of Highlands are invited to the next meeting of the Saturday Supper Sisters on Saturday, September 29 at 5:30 PM at Brat Brot on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 29<sup>th</sup> Street for food, fun, and fellowship. For more information, contact Jody Stewart at [jodywstewart@gmail.com](mailto:jodywstewart@gmail.com).

**People In Motion - Tuesdays**

People in Motion offers a dance class at Highlands each Tuesday at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Each class costs \$10 and is open to adults of all ages and abilities – no previous dance training required. Scholarships are available to those in need of financial assistance. Come join in for an hour of fun, fellowship, and dance! Contact Cynthia Brennan at 205-213-7322 or [cacmjp@bellsouth.net](mailto:cacmjp@bellsouth.net) to learn more.

**The Call to Small**

This fall Growing Ministries will be implementing a number of new small group opportunities at various times and locations – at the church, in homes, and at coffee shops. Some groups may center around a meal or cup of tea while others may feel more like a book club or arts circle. These small groups will replace Wednesday evening programming. We are in the process of developing our first four small groups, to be announced in the next few weeks. Groups will cover a broad range of topics and interests, from Bible studies to prayer circles or book readings to crafting. Kathleen Lalor, Malcolm Carmichael, Jettye Davis, Sandi Simmons, and Reggie Holder are coordinating this small group project and are eager to hear your interest and ideas for a small group. Have a book or topic you would like to invite others to explore with you? Want to digger deeper into scripture? Would you be willing to host a group in your home or corner of your favorite coffee shop? Let us know!

**Life and Faith Strengths Workshop - Oct. 27**

Maybe you've heard about the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in classes or workshops here at Highlands or even in your workplace or school. Exploring your results from this internationally acclaimed instrument can be a powerful way to connect with who you are at your God-given core and reclaim what will give you a greater sense of being fully alive! Participating in an assessment workshop can also be an important step in discerning how God is calling you in your discipleship journey here at Highlands.

Please consider committing to be a part of this insightful, and often liberating workshop on Saturday, October 27 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Whether this will be your first exposure to the Strengths approach or a refresher course, all adults are invited! Kathleen Bynum Lalor, an experienced Strengths facilitator, will lead the workshop and can offer you more details and provide access to the assessment.

**KEEP IN PRAYER...**

Virginia Timmons  
Nancy Sawyer  
Brook Morris  
Pamela Huck  
Sharon Turner  
Brian McFarlin  
Stan Hart  
Dan Sibley

Therese Avant  
Yvonne Norton  
Don Delashaw  
The Izcaray family  
Chuck Tyndal  
Judy Mills  
Kathleen and Tommy Thompson

Ed Hoye, father of Jim Hoye  
Lisa, sister of Angela Chramer  
Mark Carleton, brother of Lynn Hairston  
Denise Jordan, sister of Cheryl Williams  
Judy Trench, mother of Bart Trench  
Lisa Mason Gay, sister of Creighton Mason  
Katherine Bethune, grandmother of Michael Prewitt

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

**The Way Forward for the United Methodist Church**

The Council of Bishops have now released the report of the Commission on A Way Forward. The full report is available for download at [www.highlandsumc.net/way-forward](http://www.highlandsumc.net/way-forward).

Highlands will hold a series of meetings this fall to better explain the report and look toward the called General Conference meeting in February 2019. All are welcome and invited to attend these sessions. It is recommended that you attend all three sessions of this series.

**Session 1: What Do We Believe?**

October 7 at 9:30 AM – Highlands Fellowship Hall

– OR –

October 11 at 6:30 PM – Home of Martha Council

**Session 2: What Are the Proposed Plans?**

October 14 at 9:30 AM – Highlands Fellowship Hall

– OR –

October 18 at 6:30 PM – Home of Jim and Romona Shannon

**Session 3: How Will This Affect Highlands?**

October 21 at 9:30 AM – Highlands Fellowship Hall

– OR –

October 25 at 6:30 PM – Home of Steve and Lisa Alexander

Additional, there will be a Central District meeting with the Bishop and our District Superintendent to talk about the report on Monday, October 15 at 6:30 PM at St. Mark in Vestavia. This meeting is open to the public.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend these important meetings about the future of our denomination.

Highlands United Methodist Church  
[office@highlandsumc.net](mailto: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 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.