

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

It's the most wonderful time of the year! At least I think so anyways. Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday. Jesse and I are even more excited about Christmas than normal since this year will be Ellie's very first Christmas. We're thinking up all of the traditions we want to start with Ellie, even though she won't remember a thing. This year our sermon series for Advent is *The Christmas Story*, not to be confused with the classic Christmas movie *A Christmas Story*. We won't be talking about Red Ryder BB guns and shooting your eyes out. Instead, we'll be looking at *THE* one and only Christmas Story that truly matters, the very first one, the birth of Christ.

As excited as Jesse and I are about celebrating Ellie's first Christmas, I can't imagine how excited the world was for that very first Christmas. The Israelites had been hoping, praying, and waiting for a Messiah for as long as they could remember. Even if it was only the Jewish people who knew a Messiah would come one day, truly all of creation had been hoping for a Messiah since the fall. All of creation had been hoping for the day when a Savior would come and enter into our brokenness and restore us to wholeness. That's what happened that first Christmas. God entered our world through a little baby and became Emmanuel, God with us.

There's a line I love in the Christmas Carol *O little Town of Bethlehem* that says, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." In Jesus we meet the hope of the world; the one all of creation has been yearning for all these years. He was just a little baby, innocent and helpless, and yet he was and is the hope of the world. He came to dwell among us so that one day we can be with Him.

This month we'll be digging into The Christmas Story, and reflecting on what Christmas means for our lives. We will be reminded that Jesus was the greatest miracle baby ever born. I personally know what it's like to hope and pray for a miracle baby. And yet Ellie's miracle birth pales in comparison to the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We'll remember that Jesus is the hope of the world, the greatest miracle the world has ever known. My hope is that no matter how many Christmases we have celebrated, we will still all have the excitement of new parents celebrating a first Christmas. We will all be filled with hope and awe as we reflect on that very first Christmas, the most exciting one of all.

Blessings,
Pastor Katie

December Sunday Schedule 2019

- 9:00 am Seeker's Sunday School Class - Education Bldg
- 9:00 am Children's Sunday School Class - Education Bldg
- 9:45 am Coffee and Fellowship - Narthex
- 10:00 am Blended Church Worship - Sanctuary

December Activities:

- 12/1 - First Fruits & Communion
- 12/1 - Young Adults - 6:30pm - Parsonage
- 12/2 - Friendship Circle - 1:30pm - Fellowship Hall
- 12/3 - Finance Team Meeting - 5:30 - Office Conference Room
- 12/4 - Advent Study - 10am - Education Building
- 12/4 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Building
- 12/4 - Campfire - 7pm - Outside Behind Office
- 12/5 - Advent Study - 6pm - Walther Home
- 12/8 - Young Adults - 6:30pm - Parsonage
- 12/9 - Mission Monday - 10am - Education Building
- 12/10 - Leadership Team Meeting - 5:30pm - Fellowship Hall
- 12/10 - SPRC Training - 7pm - Garden City UMC
- 12/11 - Advent Study - 10 am - Education Building
- 12/11 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Bldg.
- 12/11 - Campfire - 7pm - Outside Behind Office
- 12/12 - Advent Study - 6pm - Walther Home
- 12/13 - Christmas - Friday Night Movies - 5:30pm - The Star or The Nativity Story.
- 12/15 - Young Adults - 6:30pm - Parsonage
- 12/17 - Prime timers - 11am - Ellen Masculine's Home
- 12/18 - Advent Study - 10am - Education Building
- 12/18 - WDCB Board Meeting - 11am - Educational Building
- 12/18 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Bldg.
- 12/18 - Campfire - 7pm - Outside Behind Office
- 12/19 - Advent Study - 6 pm - Walther Home
- 12/20 - Blue Christmas Service - 6pm - Sanctuary
- 12/22 - Young Adults - 6:30pm - Parsonage
- 12/23 - Deadline for Newsletter Articles
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service - 6pm - Sanctuary
- 12/25 - Christmas Day - Office Closed
- 12/26 - Office Closed
- 12/27 - Hispanic Church Revival - 7:30pm - Sanctuary
- 12/28 - Hispanic Church Revival - 6:30pm - Sanctuary

Bible Studies

- Sun-Young Adults Bible Study-6:30pm -Parsonage
- Wed. morning Bible Study -10 am - Education Bldg.
- Thurs. evening Bible Study - Steven's home - 6 pm

Highlands United Methodist Church
1955 Broward Rd., Jacksonville, Florida 32218
Phone: (904)757-7909, **Email:** office@humcjax.com
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9 am to 1 pm

**TOTAL REFERRALS FROM HUMC in October**

Households	225
Adults	270
Children	179
Disabled	29
Total	478

TOTAL SERVED FOR NCSC in October

Families	234
People	509
Seniors	103
Children	196
Disabled	99
Veterans	27

**Blessings from Gwen**

Thank You

Thank you for the many prayers you sent our way on

behalf of our father, Robert Harrell. We are so appreciative of your support. I truly believe that you were a blessing and help in getting us all through this experience.

Ann Harrell Zipperer

November Community Thanksgiving Dinner - 11/20/19

74 guests
22 volunteers

Next Month December 18th Ham & Trimmings

Please note this is the third
Wednesday due to Christmas -
Not the fourth Wednesday as usual

**Thank You Nickie!**

We all wanted to take a moment to thank you for two years of service as our Office Administrator. You always went above & beyond. We will miss you.



Thank You!

Thank you to all of you at Highlands and especially to the Seeker's Sunday School class for praying for our son, Daniel. He is at home now with his family and receiving care. He had a couple of definitely scary moments over the past weeks and he is very grateful for all the prayers and loving support.

David Gill

December Anniversaries

12/3 - Mark & Eileen Thompson
12/7 - Jim & Gina Sell
12/19 - Paul & Mary Ellen Hutchins

December Birthdays

12/1 - Darlene Natzke
12/6 - Shawn Bryson
12/7 - Dave Sistrunk
12/14 - Desire Dimitrice (PLWM)
12/15 - James Norcross (PLWM)
12/16 - David Collier (PLWM)
12/16 - Thomas A. Prins (PLWM)
12/16 - Pete L. Puleo (PLWM)
12/22 - Eva Mathews
12/23 - Jonathan Chila
12/24 - Noelson Andrevil (PLWM)
12/31 - Kent Wofford

Poinsettias

Order yours today

Cost \$8.00

Give in honor or memory of someone special.



December 2019 - Holiday Events



**December 2nd
Friendship Circle
Christmas Party
For all Women
1:30pm
Fellowship Hall**



**December 20th
Blue Christmas Celebration
6pm - Sanctuary**

**December 13th
Friday Night Movies
5:30pm - Fellowship Hall
The Star (Animated)
The Nativity (Non-Animated)**



**December 22nd
Christmas Caroling
& Pizza
5pm -
Church**



**December 18th
Community Dinner
5pm - Fellowship Hall**

**December 24th
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
6pm - Sanctuary**



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 PM, Wreaths Across America will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

Please help our location lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by donating \$15.00 per wreath. You can give one in honor or memory of a special person. Please make your donations using the form available in the bulletin or the Narthex.

We will be going as a church to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, please sign up in the Narthex. We will be leaving the church at 11:00am to go in the van because parking will be limited. Please invite your friends and family to join you.

Thank you so much for supporting Jacksonville National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America!

Welcome to our newest Members

Katherine & Bill Howell



ADVENT STUDY

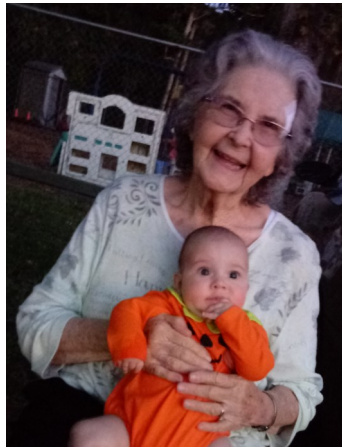
This season there will be two opportunities to study Advent with Pastor Katie. One group will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Adult Sunday School room in the Education Building.. December 4, 11, and 18.



The other group will meet on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM: December 5, 12, and 19 at the Walther's home. This meeting includes a pot-luck supper. YUM! Great food!

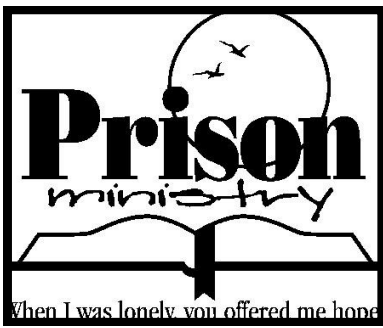
Pastor Katie will hold an open discussion on Advent as presented in her December sermons. There is no book for this study.

This is a great time to come and visit one of the small groups. If you have any questions, please see Kathy Walther or contact her at 904-751-1753 or 904-993-3422



Halloween 2019





Prison Ministry is Working!

We recently received a great letter from one of the prison inmates on how the Prison Letter Writing Ministry has affected his life... and here is a summary of that letter from Larry Haney:

"I thank God and pray for the health of your ministry every day. What you are doing is helpful to the ones that truly need it. It has had a big impact on me and my walk with the Lord. I gave my life to Christ last year around February. I was really under attack by the devil. I was beaten up pretty badly and I was ready to give up. I was writing to friends and family, but no one responded. I thought no one cared. I cried out to the Lord please help me. While I was crying out to God, I heard these words, Trust me my son, really trust me and I got you!"

I still didn't hear from home, but a brother in Christ was getting ready to go home. He gave me this address to PLWM and said that he was a member of this church and that you were like family to him. LoriAnn, I really needed that and I sat down and wrote you in February of 2018. In March, I got a letter that said, Happy Easter. It put a smile on my face and I was amazed to see that someone actually cared and took the time to do something like that. Then April came and I got a bunch of beautiful pictures from Cuba which was truly amazing. Lori Ann, you sent me a "Ready for Work" brochure. You said that this program came highly recommended and keep it in mind if Jacksonville is in your future. At the time you sent this, I was bothered about where I was going to go and how I was going to be successful. Then I got a letter from the Seeker's Sunday School class which really moved me. I wanted to thank you for all you and your church does for the Prison Letter Writing Ministry. It really touched my heart when my birthday was listed in the newsletter and then I see that you used the excerpt from my letter. It is in Trusting God and believing in Him which brings you through whatever it is you are going through. Christ gave me another family. He has shown me in amazing ways how He cares and His love for us.

I want to thank you so much for everything you and your team do for us. I pray that God will bless your health and all the members that are behind you. Just know that you are making a difference in the lives in this dark place. Your light shines and gives joy, peace, and happiness to God's people. God bless you all.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus, Larry Haney

Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Don't forget to turn in your Fifth Sunday Offering
On December 29th



132 Christmas Stockings Filled for the Food Pantry Children

Thanks to all who stayed after church on 11/24 to help stuff the stockings. Tammy will be giving them out during the month of December at the Food Pantry.



FIREPROOF

January 31st

Friday Night Movies

Highlands United Methodist

Doors open at 6 pm

Movie starts at 6:30

Popcorn, sodas, slice of pizza,

Small Hot Dogs are \$1.00

And Large Hot Dogs are \$2.00

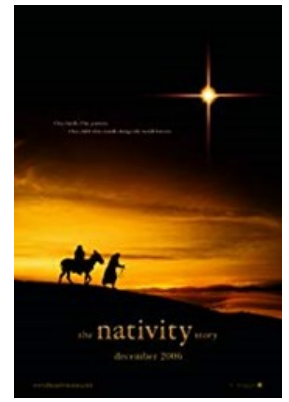
Free lemonade and ice tea.

Friday Night Movies

November 22, 2019

"Facing the Giants"

10 Movie Goers
Attended



December 13th at 5:30pm

(Half an hour earlier than normal)

Your Choice of:

THE STAR (Kid's Animated Film)

THE NATIVITY STORY (Adults)

Highlands Mission Day Out Sat, Nov 16 - Good Times



Kathy Walther & Andy Walther



Jean Harrell



Carol Stevens



Patrick & Paige Kirby
Dale Parker & George
Daniels



Pastor Katie & Ellie



Pidgeon Peas



Jesse Harrington &
Program Director Tim
Lovelace
Working on the new
Pavillion for Guest
Use



Hannah, Our Guide



Jean Silbsy



A child is born to us, a son
is given to us, and authority
will be on his shoulders.

He will be named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.

