

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 2019, the New York Times bestselling nonfiction book was *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. I haven't read it, but it sounds like it's about her life and how she has become the woman she is today. I noticed many of the other books on the nonfiction bestselling list were also biographies, autobiographies, or memoirs of famous people. People seem to have a fascination with learning about others so that we can become successful like them.

Not that there is anything wrong with reading and learning from other people, but sometimes we get too focused on fallen, sinful people, and forget that in the gospel accounts we have 4 biographies of the Savior of the world. When we read the gospels we get to witness the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ. Not only can we learn about Jesus when we read the gospels, but the Holy Spirit uses the word of God to speak to us and transform us to become more like Christ. Of all the people in the world, He is the one we should want to become more like.

New Years is often a time of New Year's Resolutions. While there is nothing wrong with New Year's Resolutions, we should question why we are making a certain resolution and what we want to accomplish through it. The greatest question we should be asking ourselves is not *what* do we want to *do* in 2020, instead, *who* do we want to become? Really there are only 2 options. Do we want to become more like Christ? Or do we want to become more like the world? Every day, multiple times per day, we have opportunities to choose to become more like Christ or more like the world. We can choose to become light in the darkness, or we can become part of the darkness. We can choose to speak truth, or we can choose to speak lies. We can choose to be people of life, or people of death.

I hope that in 2020 we all choose to become more like Christ. I hope we choose to be light in the darkness. I hope we choose to speak truth and be people of life. Thankfully we don't have to do this on our own. We have the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. The Holy Spirit works within us as individuals, and also within the community of the body of Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can become more like Christ and encourage others to become more like Christ.

This month we will be talking about who we want to become in 2020. I hope we choose to become more like Christ. I hope we will be open to how the Holy Spirit wants to move within us and transform us this year so that we become more and more like Jesus and less and less like the things of this world. I hope not only we as individuals, but Highlands as a whole would be open to seeing what kind of church the Holy Spirit is calling us to become as well. How can Highlands shine the light of Christ? How can we speak truth in the world? How can we be a people of life and bring others into life in Christ?

Who will you become in 2020? Who will Highlands become in 2020? I'm excited to see what transformation the Lord will do in and among us this year. I'm excited to see how we will become more like Christ. I hope you are too.

Blessings,
Pastor Katie

January Sunday Schedule 2020

- 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

January Activities:

- 1/5 - First Fruits & Communion Sunday
- 1/5 - Potato Bake & Financial Reporting
- 1/6 - Friendship Circle - 1:30pm - Office Conf. Room
- 1/7 - Finance Mtg. - 5:30pm - Office Conf. Room
- 1/7 - Child Protection Training - 7pm - San Jose UMC
- 1/8 - Bible Study - 10am - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/8 - Musician Rehearsal - 5pm - Sanctuary
- 1/8 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Bldg.
- 1/8 - Campfire - 7pm
- 1/9 - Bible Study - 2pm - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/9 - Bible Study - 6pm - Steven's Home
- 1/13 - Mission Monday - 10am - Education Bldg.
- 1/14 - Leadership Mtg. - 5:30pm - Fellowship Hall
- 1/15 - Bible Study- 10am - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/15 - WDCD Board Mtg. - 11am - Education Bldg.
- 1/15 - Musician Rehearsal - 5pm - Sanctuary
- 1/15 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Bldg.
- 1/16 - Bible Study - 2pm - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/16 - Bible Study - 6pm - Steven's Home
- 1/22 - Bible Study- 10am - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/22 - Community Dinner - 5pm - Fellowship Hall
- 1/22 - Highlands Youth-Assist with Community Dinner
- 1/22 - Musician Rehearsal - 5pm - Sanctuary
- 1/23 - Bible Study - 2pm - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/23 - Bible Study - 6pm - Steven's Home
- 1/23 - Child Protection Training - 7pm - Yulee UMC
- 1/27 - Deadline for Newsletter Articles
- 1/27 - Mission Monday - 10am - Education Bldg.
- 1/28 - Prime Timers - 11am - Wesley Fellowship
- 1/28 - Missions Mtg. - 6pm - Office Conference Room
- 1/29 - Bible Study - 10am- Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/29 - Musician Rehearsal - 5pm - Sanctuary
- 1/29 - Highlands Youth - 5:30pm - Education Bldg.
- 1/29 - Campfire - 7pm
- 1/30 - Bible Study - 2pm - Adult Classroom/Ed. Bldg.
- 1/30 - Bible Study - 6pm - Steven's Home
- 1/31 - Friday Night Movies - "Fireproof"- 6pm - Fellowship Hall

Bible Studies

- Sun-Young Adults Bible Study-6:30pm -Parsonage
- Wed. morning Bible Study -10 am - Education Bldg.
- Thurs. afternoon Bible Study - 2pm - Education Bldg.
- Thurs. evening Bible Study - Steven's home - 6 pm



TOTAL REFERRALS FROM HUMC in November

of Referrals 224

Adults 265

Children 263

Disabled 30

Total 558

TOTAL SERVED FOR NCSC in November

Families 223

Individuals 554

Seniors 98

Children 262

Disabled 96

Veterans 20



Blessings from Gwen

December Community Dinner Ham Dinner - 12/18/19 70 guests 19 volunteers

Next Month Community Dinner Shepherd's Pie January 22nd



2020 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2020 is out on the door between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at your convenience.

Please note, if no one signs up, we won't have flowers, as we do not have budget money to provide flowers.



January Anniversaries

Charlie & Annette Davis

January Birthdays

1/6 - Mitchell Womack - PLWM
1/7 - Javoney D. Roberts - PLWM
1/9 - Lazarius D. Webb - PLWM
1/12 - Marilyn Ossman
1/12 - Sydrick Reynolds - PLWM
1/13 - Annette Davis
1/13 - Thelma McClendon
1/17 - Loretta Scribner
1/20 - Robert Roakas - PLWM
1/20 - Robert H. Terry - PLWM
1/21 - Evelyn Davis
1/24 - Joann Overstreet
1/26 - Alin Prophete - PLWM
1/29 - Joshua Zelaya - PLWM
1/29 - Marge Shafer



Christmas Cards Before you Put Yours Away.....

Please send a Christmas Card
to our Missionaries:

The Hursts
6301 Sequoia Drive
Midland, TX 79707

Elise Hurst had heard an idea from another missionary. They get the cards from her parents, and then they open them next year in Indonesia. Let's send some Christmas Cheer to them!

Marie Wells has asked
that if you feel led to
write , please drop a note to:

Jonathan E. Chila
P. O. Box 453059
San Diego, CA 92145



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



Highlands Spiritual Growth Retreat

Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island

Save the Date - April 3 & 4, 2020

We have reservations at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island for Friday Evening, April 3rd and Saturday April 4th. Our Meeting Room will be the Tabby House which is located behind the Main Office and Dining Room.

We have 20 rooms reserved in Pitts/Booth Motel. The cost per person for the retreat is:

Single	\$135.69
Double	88.26
Triple	71.30
Quad (4)	67.42

This cost includes Friday night lodging, Dinner on Friday Night, Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday.



HUMC FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE IS

A GATHERING OF
FELLOWSHIP, FUN, PROGRAMS, DEVOTIONS,
PRAYER, AND MISSION. Our Mission Programs collected approximately \$2,412 worth of goods for Prison Ministry, WCDC, Food Pantry, Children's Home, Community Dinner, Children's Church, and The Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Box Project. We have 15 active members and 4 active shut-ins. Please come and join us on the first Monday of the month at 1:30pm In the Office Conference Room.



Children's Church

Children's Church at Highlands would like to thank the Friendship Circle and the Congregation for the all the supplies.

With Love and Blessings,
Tammy and the children.

Florida Children's Home needs our financial support as well as our prayers in order to continue their mission here in Florida. Please pray on how you can best support them in 2020.



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME
ESTABLISHED 1908

Thanks to everyone who helped in supplying the items for the stockings and who helped stuff the stockings. The stockings were provided to the Food Pantry parents and the diners at the Community Dinner to give to their children for Christmas. Special thanks to Tammy Crofts who organized this project and who gave out stockings for three weeks to the Food Pantry Parents.



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS GIVEN OUT - 144

Potato Bake

What is It & Why do I want to Come?

The Potato Bake is a tradition here at Highlands over the past few years. In the past, it was a first of the year fundraiser to raise money to finish paying apportionments. (Apportionments are the annual payments we make to the District. This goes to pay for clergy support, conference administration, to fund international Methodist Missions and a host of other things.) However, in the past few years we have been able to pay off our apportionments early. (Yeah!)

This year our Financial Chair, Shawn Bryson, will again be presenting our 2020 budget, including the plans for Faith Promise. He will be giving a short talk about our plans for 2020.

The proceeds from this year's Potato Bake will be going to support our Prison Ministry.

So why come??

- A Baked Potato Lunch, you don't have to cook or clean up afterwards.
- Learn about the 2020 budget and plans.
- Support the Prison Ministry
- Enjoy the company of other church members and friends.



2020 Pledges

If you have not made your 2020 Tithing Pledge, you can do this before 1/12/2020.



Just include your pledge card in the offering plate or send in the envelope provided. The cards are available on the credenza in the Narthex.

It is important for us to know how to budget money for the entire year and your pledge does this. If your circumstances change, no problem, just contact Lori Ann Prange to change your pledge.

Prison Notes

During the holidays, we received many notes from the inmates thanking Highlands for our programs.

Here are a couple of notes we received:

- ♦ To All the Blessed at Highlands, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, and support, the letters, newsletters, cards, and the love you share means so much to so many. May all of the families of Highlands and Ammancio Methodist Churches be blessed through the new year. God Bless, Merry Christmas, and Feliz Navidad! James Norcross
- ♦ May the Peace of God always be in your hearts! In the name of Jesus, Have a blessed Holiday filled with Love, peace, joy, and lots of laughter. Thank you for all you do. God bless you all, Thomas Prins

All of the prisoners are so thankful for the Christmas cards. Many thanks to all of you who colored cards and who supported the ministry so that we could do this for them. God Bless to All!

Meet Our Missionaries - The Hursts

We at Highlands support two Missionary Families from our Faith Promise Mission Fund. This month we are spotlighting the Hursts who are in Indonesia, where the country is 88% Muslim. Indonesia is an unreached people group since less than 2% even know the name of Jesus. This will be our second year of supporting the Hursts. Next month you'll meet the Torres from our Sister Church in Cuba.



Mom & Dad - Elise & Josh
Kids:
Shepherd, River, Judea, & August

**Living in Indonesia,
 South East Asia**

**August their youngest was born in Indonesia
 and is Ellie's age.**



Message from the Hursts:

We are so thankful for your prayers and financial support! Josh has 2 more units out of 9 for language study. I am continuing at a slow pace, but have had the opportunity to teach a seminar at a birth clinic. This is a perfect opportunity to practice language, connect with families, and talk about surrendering everything to our Savior & trusting Him. Our kids are adjusting so well despite the emotional challenges of convincing our 2 oldest that Indonesia is now "home". Our 2 youngest are growing like crazy & love all the attention from the locals. Thanks again for your continued support.

Josh & Elise Hurst





Friday Night Movies

Highlands United Methodist

January 2020 Pg 6

Friday Night Movies

December 13, 2019

“The Star” &
“The Nativity”

10 Movie Goers
Attended

Doors open at 6 pm

Movie starts at 6:30

Popcorn, sodas, slice of pizza,

& small hot dogs are \$1.00

Large Hot Dogs are \$2.00

Free lemonade and ice tea.



FIREPROOF

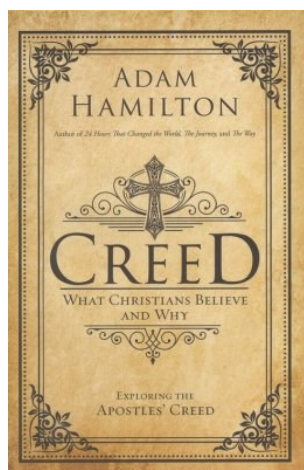
January 31



OVERCOMER

February 28

Bible Study Groups - Which One Fits Your Schedule?



Creed

Study of Apostles Creed

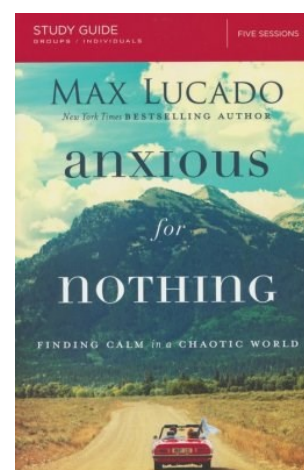
Wednesday Mornings 10AM

Adult Sunday School Room

Beginning January 8th -

February 12th

Bruce Stevens, Facilitating



Anxious for Nothing

By Max Lucado

Thursday Afternoons 2pm

Adult Sunday School Room

Beginning January 9th -

February 6th

Kathy Walther, Facilitating

A Study of the Book of Ephesians

Thursday Evenings

6pm - Pot Luck Supper - 7pm - Bible Study

The Stevens Home

Begin. Jan 9th - Feb. 20th

Ike Mathews, Facilitating



**NO SIGN UP NEEDED
CALL KATHY WALTHER FOR A
BOOK OR
COME TO THE FIRST CLASS!**