

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2022 NEWSLETTER

Pastor Katie's Message

March 2nd is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a spiritual season of journeying to the cross on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. It is often a time where people will give up things like certain foods or even nonfood things like media consumption. By fasting from these things they then instead direct their time and thoughts toward God. Many people also use this season of Lent as a time to take on a new spiritual practice. This Lent we will be learning about various spiritual practices to help us grow in our relationship with Christ.

In our relationships with people, we have better relationships with people the more time we spend with them. The same is true with our relationship with God. We will feel closer to God the more time we spend with God. And just like with people, we have different ways of communicating - text, email, phone call, Facetime, sending a card, spending time in person or doing an activity together. All of these things help us in our relationships with people. And similarly, this can be said of our relationship with God. Different spiritual practices help us to be open to hearing from God. Some of these spiritual practices are prayer, meditation, silence, solitude, service, Bible Study, worship, confession, fasting and many more. These practices are often referred to as a "means of grace." It is a means by which we can open ourselves up to God to experience God's grace in our lives. These practices are not the end goal in and of themselves. They are simply a means to help us get to that end goal of knowing and loving the Lord more deeply.

So as we journey together this Lenten Season discovering different Spiritual Practices, I encourage all of us to try different ones, to see which ones help us grow in our relationship with Christ. We will find that some of us connect better with the Lord through different spiritual practices. That is ok. It's good for us to discover whatever personally helps us to grow in our relationship with Christ. In scripture we see Jesus himself using these spiritual practices to meet with his Father. So if Jesus himself used these practices to commune with his Father, why wouldn't we think we should as well?

At the end of March, you have the opportunity if you would like to dive a little deeper into Spiritual Practices to join us on our Spiritual Growth Retreat at Epworth by the Sea. There is still time to sign up



If interested, please contact Kathy Walther or myself. This will be a wonderful time to learn about spiritual practices, but also take time to put these spiritual practices into place and see how the Lord speaks to you. We would love to have you join us. And if cost is a worry, please come and talk to me. Do not let this deter you. We have scholarships available.

Whether you can join us on our retreat or not though, I encourage you to take this Lenten Season as a time to take on new spiritual practices, even just one. Perhaps you want to take on daily study of scripture, or a daily practice of gratitude journaling. Maybe you want to commit to weekly serving in some capacity. Or perhaps you want to go on prayer walks in your neighborhood. Maybe you want to try taking daily time for silence and solitude, either in your home, or outside in creation. There are truly so many different ways to connect with the Lord.

My hope for all of us is that Lent would not be a season of just going through the motions. I hope that we would not just come to church on Sunday (though that's a great start) but not connect with God throughout the week. My hope is that all of us would take this Lenten Season as a time to draw near to God in new and fresh ways. May we be hungry to come and meet with God. May we yearn for a deeper connection with the Lord than we already have. And may we act on that hunger and yearning this Lenten Season. Let us open ourselves to know and love the Lord more deeply this Lent.

God Bless,
Pastor Katie



Highland, Members Give to Others - A Truly Beautiful Thing

During the fourth quarter of 2021 we did a fundraising drive for the Tornadoes in Kentucky. These people were hit hard and you responded.

We were able to send **\$1,021**, which will be split between Mayfield First

United Methodist Church of Mayfield, Kentucky and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.)

If you wish to give more, more is always welcome!! Just mark your gift with KY Tornadoes.



Spiritual Growth Retreat

Who: Everyone
When: March 25th and 26th
Where: Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island



*****March 11th is last day to reserve your room.*****

All who wish to grow spiritually and in community are invited.

We will gather for dinner at Epworth at 5:00 PM on Friday.

Breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday.

We will leave the retreat center mid-afternoon on Saturday.

We have reserved rooms in the Pitts/Booth motel which is close to the main building and dining area.

Rates for the weekend include lodging Friday night and three meals:

Single accommodation	\$142.66
Double accommodation	\$ 91.31 per person
Triple accommodation	\$ 74.20 per person
Quad accommodation	\$ 67.97 per person



For information concerning content of the retreat, please contact Pastor Katie Harrington.

To sign up for the retreat, please contact Kathy Walther.

For those of you who were planning to attend the retreat last April, these rates are slightly higher than the 2020 rates. Contact Kathy Walther if you cannot attend the retreat in March. Kathy has all the information concerning who signed up for the Spring retreat and the amount already paid.



Hope from Prison Ministry

I received this beautiful letter today in the mail and knew I wanted to share it with you. I also want to thank everyone who supports our ministry with a financial gift or those who write letters that changes men in prison. The grammar and words might not be 100%, but come from this man's heart.
LoriAnn and Kathy

Psalm 145:18 - "The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon Him in Truth"

Greetings!

Peace and Blessings to all of Highlands Congregation! I'm sending special condolences to all the ones who passed from COVID-19 and praying that God heals each and every one that suffered any illness or sickness. May peace be upon the families that took losses and strength be provided to them so they could stand strong and move forward in life remembering their loved ones. God loves you and will continue to keep you in his covenant and protect you with a spirit realm. Keep your faith in God and avoid Satan at all costs. Glory be to God that the battle is not ours; it's the Lord's!

I am speaking for the incarcerated brothers when I say this: Thank you for everything you have done for us; for all the support and love you have given us. It's partly because of you that we're able to keep hope alive, keep our faith strong in God. The letters, messages, and study topics from Sister LoriAnn and Pastor Kathy and others...We are ambitious, motivated, encouraged and we really, truly appreciate everything from the heart.

I wish nothing but positivity, great health, peace, love, joy happiness, and spectacular blessings upon you. Thank God for each other, enjoy each moment with your sisters and brothers of Christ, and cherish each day as if it's your last. Love one another and keep one another on their walk with God, lead and guide by example to help one another without having any other interior motives. God loves us all and wants us to love our neighbors as we love Him.

In the name of Jesus, May God bless Highlands Church. Enjoy yourselves and Happy New Year. God Bless Us All!

Your brother in Christ, Chedrick

Money Raised for Ammancio Cuba Parsonage

During the month of December we decided to collect funds as our December/Holiday Project, so that the parsonage in Ammancio Cuba, our Sister Church, could finish their parsonage. (We worked on that parsonage when we were there in 2017.) The home they currently occupy has been sold and they have saved longer than expected.

Highlands you responded greatly!!

We raised over \$3,500!!

This is a tremendous gift and now Ammancio can finish the parsonage to a place where they can move in, and finish anything else needed.

Highlands, your love shined brightly and on behalf of our Sister Church and Pastor Osmar, they are thrilled for the gift and they have much love for our Church!

Flower Chart

Flowers for the Altar

For the second quarter, we have only three dates where people have signed up for flowers.



Please sign up for your dates in April May and June during the next week or two in the Narthex!

We love flowers in our church.

Do You Have Crosses?

Do you have any crosses around your home that you aren't using or would like to find a good home for? We are collecting crosses over the next two months to do a collage wall with crosses. Please contact either Lori Ann or Louise if you have any questions.



Highlands United Methodist Church

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 10 am to 2 pm

March
2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00 PM Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00 PM Young Adults - Parsonage	28	1	2 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary & Online	3 6:00 PM Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 First Sunday - First Fruits Communion 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00 PM Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00 PM Young Adults - Parsonage	7 4:00 PM WDCD Board Meetings via Zoom	8 5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting - Zoom	9 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10 6:00 PM Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	11 Deadline for Reserving Rooms at Epworth Retreat 6:30 PM Community Activity Night	12 Daylight Savings - Spring Forward
13 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00 PM Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00 PM Young Adults - Parsonage	14	15 6:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom	16 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	17 St Patrick's Day 6:00 PM Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	18 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM Community Movie Night	19
20 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00 PM Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00 PM Young Adults - Parsonage	21 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	22	23 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Community Drive In Dinner - Jesse	24 6:00 PM Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	25 Church Office Closed Retreat at Epworth	26 Retreat at Epworth 12:30 PM Spanish Church Special Services Celebration
27 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00 PM Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00 PM Young Adults - Parsonage	28	29 6:00 PM Missions Meeting - Zoom	30 10:00 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 7:00 PM CAMPFIRE	31 6:00 PM Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	1 Church Office Closed	2

Calendar Above

This is an experiment to see if you prefer the listed calendar as we've done for years, or if you can read and prefer the calendar above. Which do you prefer. I will move forward with the number of votes received.



Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month.



March Happy Birthday

Church Members:

- 3/2 - Chloe Loudermill
- 3/8 - Owen Wingate
- 3/12 - Parker Loudermill
- 3/15 - Ken Risberg
- 3/24 - Kyle Sell
- 3/27 - Kathy Walther

PLWM Members:

- 3/27 - Abner Knight, Jr.
- 3/28 - Mark Allen Smith

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
That your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
For wisdom, discernment, and compassion
To guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at
risk and in fear that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

Archbishop of Canterbury in England
Archbishops Justin Welby & Stephen Cottrell

Scott McNeill Confirmed & New Member



Recently our own drummer and son of
Cindy and Bob McNeil was confirmed
and joined the church as a new
member. We are proud to have you as
a new member!! Congratulations
Scott!!



April 27th - 6PM - 8PM

For all those going into the 5th
grade this fall or older are invited
to join us for Youth Group.

Please come for food, fun and
games!



What is coming up in March?

3/13-Daylight Savings

3/17-St Patrick's Day



Community Activity Night

March 11th - 6:30PM -

Fellowship Hall

Trivia Night

**Community Dinner -
Drive Through
Wednesday,
March 23rd
5:30-6:30PM**

Volunteers are always welcome!
You can assist with planning,
cooking, serving, or being a runner
to hand out the prepackaged
dinners. For this month, contact
Tammy Crofts for more
information.



Friday, March 18th

Doors Open at 6:00PM

Movie starts at 6:30PM

Highlands Fellowship Hall

Movie:



**To
Be
Announced**

**We will be serving Sodas and
Popcorn for \$1.00 each.**