



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Highlands Family!

I am grateful and blessed to be serving as your pastor during this next season of Highlands UMC. The joy each of you have brought over these past five weeks has been an out pouring of God's love. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know each of you more as we move forward in the next steps God has planned for us. If I have not had a chance to sit and talk with you, I would love to hear from you. Each of your voices matter as we journey together to complete God's work. I plan to have a presence at the church office on a regular basis that I am trying to work out. So hopefully this month of August, I will begin to feel more settled into my wonderful new home – our church campus and at the parsonage.

Typically, I would not be sharing about myself personally in our monthly newsletter, but I sense you may want to know a little more about your new pastor other than she likes Greek food and sunflowers! First of all I see my appointment here at HUMC as God's calling. God's pastoral calling is my second vocation. Before God calling me into pastoral ministry, God called me back to Him later in my adult life. My first call is to God and second call is as your pastor. This quote from John Cassin explains my faith, "To cling always to God and to the things of God—this must be our major effort, this must be the road that the heart follows unswervingly" (Farina, John Cassian Conferences, p. 42). Without my closeness and love for the Triune God, I am unable to minister to the needs of those God has placed in my life to oversee. I hope you are able to give me this space of what I began to recognize in seminary as a Contemplative life. But be assured that gathering together in community is of strong importance to me as well.

As my first vocation, I worked for a top gas utility contractor for twenty-one years as the billing manager overseeing and leading a staff that reported and billed \$350 million in revenue annually. One of the strongest aspects and most exciting part of my career was the opportunity to build relationships with many people across the states from the laborer in the field to the president of the company, and everyone in between to include our over one-hundred customer base and sub-contractors. There were many transitions of which I had to lead others through and learned to listen well during these periods. I learned to lead with integrity and love others that were different from me. In the morning, we would put on our hard hats and go to work, expecting each person to return safely home to their families. Through my career, I see how God has prepared me to oversee and love His church as a faithful shepherd of His flock. I was blessed through my career and now see the hand of God through it as God guided me even



when I did not realize and know about God's grace.

The last five years I have served God through mostly studying, so He could continue to prepare me for where He was leading – HUMC! I completed my BA in Christian Ministry at Trinity International University in South Florida. Thereafter, God called me to study on the Asbury Theological Seminary main campus in Wilmore, KY. At ATS I received a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Spiritual Formation. During my time at seminary it was a blessing to serve as a teacher's assistant under the Professor of Spiritual Formation, the D.N.A. Coach under the VP of Formation for the 800 + on-line students, and as a Garden Assistant at the ATS Garden of the Nations. My time in Wilmore was fruitful and a great blessing during this season of my life. Such a very special and holy place.

For such a time as this, God has called me to pastor His church – Highlands United Methodist Church in JAX, FL! We are partners together to complete the work God has called us to in our community and the world around us. Let's make disciples through the transforming love of Jesus Christ! You are a blessing.

In Christ, Pastor Cindy Long





**Pastor Cindy Long's
First Sunday at Highlands
June 10th, 2022
Sermon: Partners Matter**

NE District Creation Care Workshop

When

Saturday, September 10, 2022
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (eco-friendly
lunch included.)

Where

Lakewood UMC - 6133 San Jose Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL

What

- Methodist case for Creation Care
- Recycling/Zero Waste
- Church gardening
- 7 steps to greening your church
- Starting a Creation Care Ministry in your local church

Registration

\$10 per person. No
walk-ins please.
Register online or call
Pam @ 904-396-3026.
<https://florida-reg.brtaapp.com/NEDistrictCreationCareWorkshop>



Prime Timers

Meet at Beverly
Stephens' Home

11:00 AM

Tuesday

August 23



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00pm Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00pm Young Adults - Parsonage	1	2 Mission Meeting - Zoom - 6:00 PM	3 6:00pm Youth Group	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 First Sunday - First Fruits Communion 10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00pm Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00pm Young Adults - Parsonage	8 4:00pm WCDC Board Meetings via Zoom	9 6:00pm Finance Meeting - Zoom	10 6:00pm Youth Group	11	12 Church Office Closed 6:30pm Community FUN Night	13
14 10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00pm Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00pm Young Adults - Parsonage	15	16 6:00pm Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom	17 6:00pm Youth Group	18	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Deadline for Newsletter Articles 10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00pm Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00pm Young Adults - Parsonage	22	23 11:00am Prime Timers - Meet at Beverly Stephens Home	24 5:30pm Community Drive In Dinner - Marilyn 6:00pm Youth Group	25	26 Church Office Closed 6:30pm Community Movie Night	27 Garrick Memorial Service 11:00 AM
28 10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 2:00pm Iglesia Senda de Libertad 5:00pm Young Adults - Parsonage	29	30	31 6:00pm Youth Group	1 6:00pm Thursday Evening Bible Study - Zoom	2 Church Office Closed	3

August Anniversaries

No Anniversaries

August Birthdays

8/19 - Eileen Thompson

8/26 - Scott McNeill

8/30 - Paul Hutchins

Prison Ministry Birthdays

8/4 - Christopher Wehland

8/5 - Jeremiah Butler

8/5 - Andres Adorno

8-9 - Paul Hannabury

8/10 - Walter Sanders

8/14 - Phillip Williams

8/22 - Richard Arney, Jr.

8/27 - Billy Deese

8/31 - Samuel Drinkard



Bible Study Groups will begin again in September... stay tuned for more information!!

Currently we have a Wednesday morning group that meets in person at 10am and a Thursday Evening Group that meets on Zoom at 6pm.

Please pray about joining a small Bible Study Group. There is so much to learn from one another and it is rewarding to get to know other Christians. Join the fun, fellowship and learning of Bible Study Groups!!

What is coming up in August?

**Community Dinner -
Drive Through
Wednesday,
August 24th
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 at WCDC for more
information.**



**Friday, August 26th
Doors Open at 6:00PM
Movie starts at 6:30PM
Highlands Fellowship Hall**



**Faith,
Hope &
Love**

**We will be serving Pizza, Big Hot
Dogs, Sodas and Popcorn for
\$1.00 each.**



Community Fun Night

August 12th - 6pm

Come and play Trivia.

Enjoy eats, fun, and fellowship!