

# HIGHLANDS HIGHLIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HIGHLANDS UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

## LENT IS UPON US

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CINDY

Dear Highlands Family,

The season of Lent is a Christian practice that binds communities of faith to one another across the globe. Lent is not a ritual, but a journey of reflection and repentance ending with renewal. Become – enter into the Presence of God. We are reminded of the simplicity in reconnecting with Christ for spiritual growth. Through the means of grace of fasting, we are enabled to face ourselves, to see our weaknesses and the wounds of our souls. Taking the time of rethinking who Jesus is for us, brings transformation inward and outward. The tombs of our heart are stripped from distractions of the world to bring healing and renewal of the soul. We relearn and recommit to Who is the meaning for life. During this season of Lent, we take time to “Be Still and Know” and to reflect on what is going on within our own soul. As you journey through Lent, take the hand of Jesus and “Come and See.” Be refreshed and reoriented to God’s Presence all over again.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Cindy Long*

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# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

We celebrated Ash Wednesday with a contemplative Taize Worship Service. Ashes were applied and communion taken. The candlelit sanctuary offered a serene place to commune quietly with the Lord. We welcomed many from the church youth. Matthew served as a wonderful acolyte.

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. - Galatians 2:20*



This year's ashes were created from all the prayer cards of the last year. Pastor Cindy and Cori spent an afternoon building a fire and committing our prayers to the Lord. The prayers were consecrated into the ashes we received during the service. Thus, we can all go forth together imbued with the prayers of our church community.





# ASH WEDNESDAY





# MINISTRY FOCUS

## MANNA BAGS

As part of our local discipleship, we distribute bags of toiletries, snacks, and other necessities to unhoused populations. This month we are collecting donations to fill our bags. Please see below for a list of items you can donate. Donations are needed by Sunday, March 19. Completed Manna bags are available in the church narthex. Please take some to share with anyone you may encounter that is in need.

### Donations Needed

- small water bottles
- gallon zip-loc bags
- men's white crew socks
- plastic utensils
- individual packets of crackers or cookies
- pop top cans - sardines, tuna, Vienna sausages, etc.
- tuna packets
- individual granola bars
- sanitizer wet wipe packets
- wash cloths
- individual wrapped bars of soap
- travel size shampoo
- toothbrushes
- travel size toothpaste
- combs
- travel size deodorant
- feminine hygiene products

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you..." - 1 Pet 5:2*



# MINISTRY FOCUS

## ALPHA

Chloe, Eva, and Pastor Cindy attended the Alpha Conference in Ft Lauderdale. They were hosted by local families that are friends of Pastor Cindy. The conference walked through the history of the Alpha ministry and how to effectively implement the ministry in your own church. The ladies came away EXCITED to launch the Highlands Alpha ministry in March!

*Bringing the Kingdom of Heaven into culture and lifestyle.*



Highlands will launch their Alpha Adult and Alpha Youth ministries on March 1. A light meal will be served followed by a talk and discussion centered around faith and questions relating to the meaning of life. We will have honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

**Alpha Adult & Alpha Youth**  
**Every Wednesday, 6pm - 8pm**  
**March 1 - May 10**  
**Fellowship Hall**



## AROUND CAMPUS

### PARKING LOT PAVING

Prayers were answered! The church parking lot has been completely paved. The Lord provided - servant workers were able to complete the entire project for us. (Striping will be completed soon.)



### GODLY PLAY

Kathy shared with the congregation how Godly Play actually happens - with real sand and all! She led a worship service, incorporating the tools and lessons of Godly Play into her message.



### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



For February's Circle, the ladies colored and decorated Valentine's cards. The cards were sent to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home along with a donation from the Circle. Cards were also sent to HUMC's shut-ins. The ladies enjoyed a chili lunch and fellowship.

# FACTS & FIGURES

## NUMBERS

Beyond our traditional giving, the last couple months have blessed us with additional funds from the Potato Bake event and the Estate Sale. These events brought in over \$2400 for us in January and February.

*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*  
-Luke 14:28

Profit & Loss	January	Year to Date
Income	\$14,464.74	\$14,464.74
Expenses	\$9,585.29	\$9,585.29
+/-	\$4,879.45	\$4,879.45

Copies of the meeting minutes for the church Finance and Leadership meetings are in the narthex.

## EASTER LILLIES

We will be taking orders for Easter lilies over the next couple of weeks in anticipation of our Easter Service on April 9. Order forms will be included as inserts in upcoming bulletins. You can also place an order by calling the church office at 757-7909, Mon - Thurs, 10am -2pm. **Please place your orders by Palm Sunday, April 2.**  
The cost is \$10 per plant.





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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2: CHLOE LOUDERMILL  
3/8: OWEN WINGATE  
3/12: PARKER LOUDERMILL  
3/15: KEN RISBERG  
3/26: KYLE SELL  
3/27: KATHY WALTHER

### PRISON MINISTRY BIRTHDAYS

3/22: BOB ELDRIDGE  
3/27: ABNER KNIGHT JR  
3/28: MARK ALLEN

### NO ANNIVERSARIES



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Wed, Mar 1:** Alpha & Godly Play Ministries  
Begin (every Wed, 6pm)

**Sun, Mar 5:** Communion Worship Service  
(first Sunday each month)

**Tues, Mar 7:** Ladies Friendship Circle (first  
Tuesday each month, 1pm)

**Wed, Mar 15:** Registration deadline for  
Children's Home visit

**Tues, Mar 21:** Leadership & Finance meeting

**Sat, Mar 25:** Children's Home "Day on  
Campus"

**Thur, April 6:** Maundy Thursday Taize  
Service, 5:30pm

**Fri, Apr 7:** Good Friday Service. 12pm

**Sat, Apr 8:** Holy Saturday Silent Prayer  
10am - 12pm

**Sun, Apr 9:** Easter Sunday Service, 10am

