

Highland United Methodist Church

Amy E. Pannell, Pastor
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*We are an open community of Christians sharing Christ's love and helping each other
to develop and strengthen their relationship with God.*

December 4, 2016

Prelude

The Ministry of the Acolytes

Welcoming our Guests,

Sharing Ministry Opportunities and Celebrating Special Days

Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prepare For Worship: Ringing of the church bell

Choral Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Our Advent journey of preparation continues.

People: We need to get ourselves ready to receive God's most precious gift.

Leader: Lord, help us to be strong and ready to follow you.

People: Open our hearts and spirits this day.

* Hymn of Praise "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH pg. 196

Opening Prayer

**God of hope and encouragement, we come to find a time and space to slow
down, to reflect on what our true preparations should be. We need to prepare
our hearts to receive the gifts of love and hope. We need to prepare our
minds to focus on your promise that a messiah will come and nothing will be the
same. May we do so now, in our time of worship. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Special Music

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon "Immanuel: Being With Blended Families" Rev. Amy E. Pannell

Responsive Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 2) UMH pg.211

Sharing of Joys and Concerns (At this time you are invited to share how we can pray with
you and for you or someone you care about this week)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Celebration of Communion (See Insert)

Opening Our Lives to Grace: Confession and Pardon

The Great Thanksgiving

All are welcome! This is Christ's table, come just as you are. When you come, reach out your hands, and a piece of bread will be given to you. Dip the bread into the cup. You may be served at your seat. The elements of grace is bread or gluten free communion wafers. The cup is filled with sugar free, grape flavored water.

The Offering; Prayer and Offertory

*The Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow...)

UMH pg. 95

* Closing Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH pg. 206

* Benediction

* Postlude

“*” indicates congregation standing, if able

GREETERS

December – Mitch Webb &
Graham Weaver

NURSERY

December 4 – Crystal Weaver
December 11 – Sherri Krauss

ACOLYTES

December 4 – Davis Moran
December 11 – Garrett Weaver

USHERS

December 4 – The Women
December 11 – The Youth

CHURCH LIFE

Today, Sunday, December 4 – The PPRC (Pastor Parish Relations Committee) will meet after worship. This meeting is for all members including the incoming members effective 1/1/17. The purpose of this annual meeting is to discern the yearly United Methodist question: "Do Amy's gifts and graces match the needs of the congregation? How is God leading us to serve together for a new year? If not, then what is God leading us to do?" A prayerful process of questions is given by the Virginia Conference to follow in making this decision. As always, Pastor Amy and the PPR welcome your prayers and sharing. Please see Pastor Amy or any of the committee members (Terry Jamison, Audrey Daniels, Caroline Guilliams, Alton Hall, Chuck Hall, Sarah Haskins, Vicky Hodges, Eric Krauss, Judy Prettyman, Earl Akers and Mitch Webb) for your questions, more information, and sharing. Thank you.

Today, Sunday December 4 – There are **crafts available** for you to shop today in the fellowship hall. Crafters will be there from 11:30 – 1:00 today. Please come and check them out before you leave today.

Monday, December 5 – The **Adult Choir will meet at 7:00**. This will be our Final Rehearsal for our Christmas Presentation, so please be here if possible. Thank you. (This will be our last rehearsal until January 9)

Sunday, December 11 – Special Christmas Presentation during morning Worship Service. Potluck dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by Our Family Night. Please come and Worship with us next Sunday!

Saturday, December 17-- Bishop Sharma Lewis will be in Martinsville to listen and share with YOU! For more information see the handout by the entry way of the church building. Please RSVP to Pastor Amy.

Sunday, December 18 - Memory Angel Tree – If you would like to place an angel on our Memory Tree in memory of someone who has passed away this year, please **purchase an angel in white, silver, gold or clear** and we'll present them on December 18 during worship. **Please get the info to Tricia Custer by Wednesday, December 14** so the info can be printed on our yearly booklet. Thank you.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve. There are many ways to experience Christ's birth on Christmas Eve. Highland UMC: Come by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to receive communion. New Hope UMC will have a candlelight worship service at 7:00 p.m. Piedmont Presbyterian Church: Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. Gogginsville UMC Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. (Possibly an 11:00 p.m. service--check their website)

Thank you all for your support of youth events. The ongoing project of collecting for shoeboxes was a great success! 25 boxes were filled, wrapped, prayed over and delivered during November. We could not have done this without you all. We pray that the children receiving these gifts will find joy in their contents. Thanks also for supporting the pie fundraiser. The youth had fun working hard to make these tasty treats and we hope you enjoyed eating them! The youth wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy .New Year!!

As members of this congregation, we will faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers (see the prayer list), our presence, our gifts, our service (see announcements) and our witness (all you do and who you are.)” We are thankful that you have blessed Highland United Methodist Church with your presence and your gifts:	
11/20/16	63 Present for Worship and \$1,130.00 received in Gifts
11/27/16	56 Present for Worship and \$1,425.50 received in Gifts

Prayer Requests

November 27 – The Family of Danielle McPherson, Kenny and Jean Bernard, The Family of Drew Webb, Joyce Sledd, The Family of Jean Guilliams, Families of Bus Accident in Tennessee, Thanksgiving for special members present in Worship

November 20 – Kenny Bernard & Jean, The McPherson Family, Joey Hyatt, Jr.; Betsy Guilliams Haynes, Shirley Burkett, Mildred Jamison Boitnott, Caleb Chowning, College Students traveling for Thanksgiving

November 13 – The Family of Danielle McPherson, Kenny & Jean Bernard and Rhonda Sedovy, Alvin Gibson, Joey Hyattt, Jr., Bethany Goad, Jerry Jamison, Andrea Krauss, The Family of Junior Smith, Chuck Hall

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