

Highland United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 34  
Callaway, VA 24067



## THE HIGHLANDER

April 2017

I am looking forward to Easter. I am sure you are, too. My heart holds many in our community who are enduring illness, facing or healing from surgery, grieving loved ones, experiencing changes in employment, or struggles. Easter gives us hope all year long that God is alive in all we go through. Easter is a celebration of Jesus' unstoppable and eternal power released into our lives and world.

I remember a story I heard by a Texas United Methodist pastor, Rev. Wayne Reese. His first Easter in 1960, he pastored four congregations. The night before Easter, after an event, one of the youth needed a ride home. Rev. Reese returned the youth to their home, but on the way back to the parsonage, he realized he had forgotten to fill up his gas tank that day. His car died— out in the middle of nowhere.

Rev. Reese walked for what seemed like two hours—turns out it was really 30 minutes. He came upon a Texas Roadhouse. There were some folks playing pool and with motorcycles out front and the leather they wore—they looked like a motorcycle gang. Not knowing who this stranger was, they invited Rev. Reese to play pool.

Rev. Reese figured these guys took a look at him and thought he was a good one to beat and get a little money. Little did the guys know but Rev. Reese had played pool before going into seminary. He played and won! This Roadhouse gang called this stranger a “shark” and wanted to know what had brought him there, that night.

Rev. Reese explained his situation: he was a pastor of four churches and tomorrow was Easter. He ran out of gas and needed a ride. “What’s Easter?” asked one of the men named Roy. “Honestly,” Roy explained, “I have never been to church and I want to know the story of Easter.”

Rev. Reese thought a moment and then began. There was this guy named Jesus. Gathered around him was twelve friends, his gang. They roamed the country side helping others, teaching about peace, justice, love and God. Jesus did great things. The authorities wanted to get him. They tried to find ways to capture or kill him. Rev. Reese continued telling about Jesus. And then he said, “One night, one of the gang ratted out Jesus to the authorities. They caught Jesus and hung him on a tree, killing him. But, two days later when the gang went to the tomb to check on him, he was not there. God has raised Jesus from the dead and given him new life. Now, Roy, that’s the story of Jesus and that’s the story of Easter.”

Roy responded, “Man that is an awesome story.” Rev. Reese said, “And I believe in an Awesome God.” Suddenly, there was silence in this Texas Roadhouse in the middle of nowhere. One of them finally said, “Let’s go get some gas and get this preacher home.” The gang gave him a ride, filled his car with gas and took off without a word.

The next morning, Rev. Reese reached the fourth congregation he served for Easter celebration. As they sang the first hymn, they heard the loud roar of motorcycles. In walked seven guys, dressed in leather. Rev. Reese recognized them as Roy and the other guys from the night before, from the Roadhouse. The usher of the church looked at these visitors and asked, “Can I help you? Roy said, “Hey, we’re here to hear the “shark” tell the story of Easter again.”

May we hear the story of Easter again....and may we find ourselves in places where we can share that story!

See you on Sunday,

Amy

## Journey with Jesus

Please be in prayer about the following special events taking place this April! If you are able, please be present and bring a friend. May you find and experience Jesus. "More Than a Carpenter: a Musical for Easter" on Sunday, **April 2** at 2:00 p.m. Piedmont Presbyterian Church Highland UMC and Piedmont Presbyterian Church will present this moving, dramatic experience of Jesus' life and power. A fellowship reception will follow.

Thursday, **April 13**, Thursday "Maundy" means "New Commandment." On this night, we remember that Jesus, kneeling and washing his disciples' feet said, "I give you a new commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you." There are two wonderful worship experiences that night for you to choose to attend: Piedmont Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m.--Songs, scripture, and a hand washing service with Rev. Nadia Stropich and Rev. Amy Pannell.

Thursday, **April 13**, Bethany Brethren Church at 6:30 p.m.-- Songs, scripture, special food, and a foot washing service with the Rev. Jessica Slusher.

Good Friday, **April 14**, Piedmont Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m. On this day, Jesus took his last breath. What is so good about that? For early Christians, "good" meant "holy." Come and hear from "eye witnesses" who were there that night when the world was changed forever as Piedmont presents "Good Friday?" written by Rev. Nadia Stropich. Through the eyes of Peter, Caiaphas, Judas, Pilates wife, one unnamed soldier, Simon of Cyrene, an unnamed centurion, and Joseph of Arimathea. We will experience Jesus' love for us in a new way. The program will run about an hour and half.

Walk to the Cross, Saturday, **April 15**, beginning 6:00 a.m. at Highland UMC -- meet at Highland UMC—in the sanctuary for a short devotional at 6:00 a.m. Then, we will begin our prayer journey with God all the way to the cross at the Callaway Cemetery, where we will lay down our crosses and burdens and have a meaningful communion. A fellowship breakfast will follow at the Callaway Fire Department. Also, if you would like to participate in this spiritual journey but are unsure about doing the actual walk, there will be a ride for you. Thank you for participating and encouraging others to be there. Questions: Call Keith and Jennifer Brubaker at (540)483-5579 or Terry and Cindy Jamison at (540)420-9782.

Easter Egg Hunt and Egg-cellent Activities Saturday, **April 15** at 10:30 a.m.-- Highland UMC. Come out to search for eggs in the egg hunt, make a craft and enjoy a snack. You only need to bring your basket for collecting eggs! Any questions call Crystal Weaver at (540)651-2085 or email her at [crystalweaver04@yahoo.com](mailto:crystalweaver04@yahoo.com).

Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, **April 16** at 6:30 a.m. our community will gather for a Sunrise Service! This worship will be held at the Callaway Community Cemetery (8000 Callaway Road). In case of rain we will meet at Piedmont Presbyterian Church. This year we are excited that the Rev. Jessica Slusher, pastor of Bethany Church of the Brethren will be preaching and Piedmont Presbyterian Church will provide the music.



## Schedules

### Acolytes

April 2 - Jared Jamison  
April 9 - Hannah McPherson  
April 16 - Abby Krauss  
April 23 - Levi Haskins  
April 30 - Emma McPherson

### Greeters

Shelby Nemeth

### Nursery

April 2 - Donna Guilliams  
April 9 - Cindy Jamison  
April 16 - Crystal Weaver  
April 23 - Sherri Krauss  
April 30 - Sarah Haskins

### Piano

open

### UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **April 17** at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Tricia Custer, Crystal Weaver and Pat Webb.

### Youth

Saturday, **April 22** - 5:30 p.m. The youth would like to invite you to their "Love You to the Moon and Back" space-themed dinner here at Highland's Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the hallway for you to sign up and choose your meal's meat (chicken, salmon, or steak). There will be a planet-themed cheese ball buffet table, dinner with your choice of meat, and of course, don't forget to save room for the overflowing lava cake, followed by a game of Bingo. There will be a donation basket available for contributions. If you have any questions, please see Eric Krauss.

Calling all campers!!! The church camping trip will be Friday, **July 21 - Sunday, July 23** at Smith Mountain Lake State Park. Sites are still available. Contact Crystal Weaver for more information and/or to reserve your site.

## OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Wednesday, **April 19** at noon – Community Lunch at Bethany Church of the Brethren

Sunday, **April 23** – Finance Committee will meet after morning worship service

Sunday, **April 23** – Disciple I will meet at 4:00 p. m. Lesson 30.

Sunday, **April 30** – Worship Committee will meet after morning worship

Sunday, **April 30** – Disciple I will meet at 4:00 p. m. Lesson 31

Vacation Bible School – Plan and Pray! **June 4-8, 2017**

### **Prayer List**

Dawn Hall  
Dot Webb  
Cheryl Bailey  
Barbara Guilliams  
B L Furrow  
Randy Underwood  
Jeremy Weaver  
Chris Craighead  
Family of Timmy Wray  
Newton Guilliams  
Family of Aubrey Hicks  
Tom Godsey  
Charles Hunt  
Carl Akers  
Tony Green  
Carrie Fisher  
John and Dana Akers  
Dave Campbell  
Connie Hayes  
Melissa O'Dell  
Family of Farren Webb  
Deborah Webster

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

April 1 B - Johnnie Pendleton  
April 2 A - Randy and Pam McPherson  
B - Trevor Stanley  
April 3 B - Levi Haskins  
April 6 A - Lynnne and Kelly Moran  
April 7 B - Teresa Moran  
April 8 B - Kelly Moran  
April 9 B - Bob Gaubatz  
April 12 B - Cheryl Guilliams  
April 13 B - James Webb  
April 15 A - Junior and Peggy Hodges  
April 18 B - Mildred Jamison  
B - Bailey Grace Haskins  
B - Marie Stanley  
April 20 A - Alan and Pam Messenger  
April 21 A - Billy and Shelby Moran  
A - Wayne and Marie Stanley  
April 25 A - Jeff and Donna Guilliams

