

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



THE HIGHLANDER

March 2017

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I vividly remember the green school tray. My friend's piece of cake sat on the light lime green school tray. "Aren't you going to eat that?" I asked as she was about to get up and turn in her tray. "Oh no, I have given up sweets for Lent." "Lent? What is Lent," I asked?

I was in ninth grade and had just begun attending a youth group at an United Methodist Church. My friend, a member of the youth, explained to me this odd and wonderful journey of Lent.

Lent is the forty day period before Easter. During these forty days, we reflect, remember, and repent so we may be drawn closer to Jesus and his love for us on the cross and empty grave. People often choose some discipline, some action, during these forty days to help them be aware and awake to God's presence that loves us so much that he will face sin and death...and win. Some people "give up" something, like my friend that year with her cake. Others "take up" something—they do some extra action.

Some questions to ponder and pray over in deciding your Lenten act:

** When I wake up on Easter Sunday morning, how will I be different? *Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next 40 days? *Is there anyone I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation? *What are some things in my life that I tell myself I need but I don't? Can I give one or two of them up for 40 days? *Why am I giving this particular thing up? How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?*

I doubt my friend considered those questions as a ninth grader. But, the act of "giving up" her cake meant she and Jesus were doing something together. Jesus was part of her daily life. And she witnessed to me about this Messiah that calls us to be different in the world.

I wonder what you and I will do for Lent? Lent begins March 1, but if you are holding this in your hands after that, that's okay—you can start now. Jesus works really well under pressure; he has a fast turn around. Ponder and pray and listen for what God has to say! May you be drawn closer to Christ's amazing love.

See you on Sunday.

Amy

Schedules

Acolytes

March 5 Garrett Weaver
March 12 Sam Krauss
March 19 Logan Custer
March 26 Graham Weaver

Greeters

Fred Guilliams

Nursery

March 5 Crystal Weaver
March 12 Sherri Krauss
March 19 Cindy Jamison
March 26 Sarah Haskins

Piano

Barbara Guilliams

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, **March 20** at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served by Barbara Guilliams and Joyce Sledd.

Youth

The youth group wants to first say THANK YOU again for supporting our Super Bowl sub sale... you all are AMAZING! I don't have \$ totals yet but we sold 168 subs!! In addition, we had an entire table of desserts donated/sold. Woo Woo!!

At our Feb youth meeting discussed the need for the youth to decide the vision for what they want from their youth group. This led to a discussion on whether the passion, desire and energy to do the Easter Walk to the Cross existed. It was agreed that the youth would like to put their efforts towards another project. They were asked to bring ideas to the March meeting. *(There was interest expressed in having a "whole church" led Easter event/walk- a meeting is scheduled Feb 26th after service to discuss)*

The next youth group meeting will be **Friday March 3rd 6pm at Highland**. We will have a devotion, planning session and then a game night. Pizza & salad will be provided. Bring your own drink and any snacks you wish to share. All are welcome, bring a neighbor, bring a friend!!

SAVE THE DATE!! Look for more information on a youth sponsored church fellowship social dinner **April 22nd**.

We were reminded several times over the past few weeks that it is a privilege to lead such a great group of kids, one we are very thankful for. They bring so much laughter and pure joy to the soul!

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

Bag It: A Worship Series for the Season of Lent

This Lent, New Hope and Highland United Methodist will have a special worship series called "Bag It!" One way to help pray and repent for 40 days is to use a Lenten Bag. Thanks to many wonderful women at Highland UMC, you can take a Lent Bag, sewn just for you. During Lent, on Sunday mornings, we will explore a Bible story about a bag and how it helps us turn to God. An informational hand out can be found at the church for ideas on how to use the bags.

Ash Wednesday (March 1): *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 and Job 14:1-17* Bag It"

First Sunday of Lent (March 5): *Luke 4:1-13* "What's in the Bag?"

Second Sunday of Lent (March 12): *Haggai 1:5-7* "Giving Up our Grab Bags"

Third Sunday of Lent (March 19): *1 Samuel 17:33-49* "Finding Ourselves Out of a Paper Bag"

Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 26): *Genesis 44, selected verses* "Doggy Bags"

Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 2): *Ezekiel 12:1-7* "Letting the Cat out of the Bag"

Pam Sunday of Lent (April 9): *Matthew 26:1-16* "Left Holding the Bag"

Journey of Lent: Opportunities for Worship and Study

Ash Wednesday Service: March 1, 2017

(Noon) Highland United Methodist Church

(7:00 p.m.) New Hope United Methodist Church. A joint worship service with Bethany Church of the Brethren and Highland United Methodist Church.

Lenten Bible Study at Bethany Church of the Brethren: The Easter Experience by Kyle Idleman

Dates: 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/6 - all beginning at 6:30.

Maundy Thursday: April 13, 2017

(6:00 p.m.) Piedmont Presbyterian Church with Highland UMC and New Hope UMC

(6:30 p.m.) Bethany Church of the Brethren: A foot washing service

Good Friday: April 14, 2017 (6:00 p.m.) Piedmont Presbyterian Church

Walk to the Cross: April 15, 2017 (TBA) Be watching the bulletin for more information. If you wish to help, please contact Keith Brubaker and Terry Jamison.

Easter Egg Hunt: April 15, 2017 (TBA) Highland United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday: April 16, 2017

(TBA) Callaway Community Cemetery for Community Sunrise Service.

Breakfast at Piedmont (8:30 a.m.) New Hope UMC and (10:00 a.m.)

Highland UMC

A special musical program with Highland UMC and Piedmont Presbyterian Church will be offered.

Please check the bulletin for more information

Wednesday, March 1-- Christians around the world celebrate **Ash Wednesday** with worship! On this day we come to God, acknowledging our sin and mortality and receiving the promise of Jesus' forgiveness and eternal life. A cross, with ashes, is put on our forehead to show we come to God and God claims us and is at work in our lives. There are two opportunities to worship. **Noon at Highland UMC and 7:00 p.m. at New Hope UMC.** The evening service is a joint service with Bethany Church of the Brethren. Come and be blessed!

Sunday, March 12 – Administrative Council meeting following the morning worship. All are welcome to attend.

C.R.E.W.

The next project for our outreach service group, Christians Ready, Eager, and Willing, will be **March 11th**. Volunteers will meet at 8am at Highland for a potluck breakfast, then head to a local house to assist with chopping and stacking wood, yard work and whatever else is needed. All ages welcome, just show up, there will be a job for anyone with a willing spirit!

If you know of people in need of small home service projects please reach out to any Highland church member, we are ready, eager, and willing to show God's love through our hands!!

Threads of Kindness

Highland's clothing ministry continues to help those in need in our community. In February, a family in Callaway lost their home and belongings in a fire. The staff at Callaway Elementary put them in touch with a parishioner of Highland who was able to furnish many items through Threads of Kindness. Because of the donations received, the hands-on support, and especially the prayers we were there in a moment of great need. At this time, we are accepting donations of youth and men's items

Prayer List

Kitten Guilliams
Family of Amber Hall
Family of Jimmy Guilliams
Becky Loan
Allison and Abigail Rude
Andrew Snead
Aleana O'Dell
Johnny Guilliams
Kenny and Jean Bernard
B. L. Furrow
Maynard Harris
Stacy Holloway
Joey Hyatt, Jr
Family of Lucy Norton
Richard Wilkes
Earl Akers
Steve Guilliams
Carolyn Jefferson
Johnny Moore
Janet Willis
Virginia Shepherd
Family of H. B. Woods and Church Family
Jonathan Custer
Caroline Guilliams
Newton Guilliams
Jerry Jamison
Alan Messenger
Mark Newbill
Bob Prettyman
Elizabeth Rutrough
Family of Jeffery Simmons
Kathy Sink
Dot Webb

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 5 A – Frank and Joyce Mills
March 6 A – Mitch and Pat Webb
B – Dale Stanley
March 7 B – Carrie Moran
March 8 B – Alton Hall
March 9 B – Davis Moran
March 10 B – Jason Hall
March 11 B – Robin Morris
March 13 B – Andy Daniels
B – Terry Jamison
B – Robert Bradbury
March 14 A – Andy and Audrey Daniels
B – Perry Moran
March 23 A – Alton and Peggy Hall
March 26 B – Zach Agee
March 27 A – Donald and Donna Janney
March 27 B – Tiffany Moran
March 28 B – Amanda Rude

Each and Every Day, Faith and Farming Intersect

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1

Where I come from in rural Southwest Virginia, encompassed in what is known as the “Moonshine Capital of the World,” lies the minuscule yet humble community of Callaway. This is where I was born and raised. Here, there seems to be a sort of generalization: With faith comes farming and with farming comes faith.

Within this small town, there are hundreds of hard-working, simple folk, many of whom farm. There are many cattle farms in this area, be it dairy or beef, and many of them have diversified over the years to include swine, poultry, and/or grains and crops. Not only do farmers here usually have a strong faith in God, they also tend to have a strong faith in what they do. With that said, their crops and livestock usually bring forth bountiful fruits.

Faith and religion in general can be a touchy subject at times, but for this purpose, we all have a varying degrees of farming as a foundation. I believe that as followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to shine His light through our thoughts, actions, and, yes, even our work mannerisms. If we have faith in the almighty God, whom we cannot physically see, shouldn't we also have faith in the tangible crops and livestock He has placed right before our eyes? Likewise, if we have hope in the Lord's omnipotent power to perform vast miracles and care for us all through our day-to-day ventures, we ought to have a hope that our farming exercises will be successful as well. God has a wonderful plan greater than anything we can imagine. If there's a severe drought, torrential flood, or damaging blight, there's a driving force for all these things. In the same sense, extraordinary weather, a timely harvest, and vibrant rainbows only reiterate God's promises to mankind. Though trials and temptations do arise, we as Christians should not grumble and gripe, but rather rejoice and reseed with seeds of gratitude for all that we have been blessed with.

I heard a story not long ago of a farmer who had a large, beautiful, and well-producing homestead. One day the farmer's preacher came by the farm to examine the operation. Impressed with what he saw, the preacher exclaimed “Oh my, what a beautiful farm you have! God has blessed you with so much and one can clearly see the products of your labor!” The farmer meekly replied, “You should have seen the place when God had it by himself.”

God has graciously allowed us use of His world, and even by using the land around us in ways we may see as sufficient, we are still altering His magnificent handiwork. As we go about it, our daily lives, may we make every effort to take tremendous care of God's wonderful creation; He has made it available for our use, not abuse.

Danielle Craighead is a senior at Ferrum College in Virginia, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness. She has worked for a local creamery and currently is a “milk maid,” as her grandparents like to call it, on their third-generation dairy farm. She plans to use her faith as a firm foundation when she starts her own agribusiness after graduation.

(Danielle is the daughter of Tim and Rissa Craighead and granddaughter of Wayne and Betty Blankenship. She wrote this for AgDaily. It was shared with Mitch and I by her parents over dinner and I just had to share with you all.)