

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (8:30 am) Worship at New Hope
(9 am) Sunday School
(10 am) Worship at Highland
(6:30 pm) Wesley Covenant Group at Sarah Haskins
MONDAY Birthday Party for Benny Fisher and Clyde
(7 pm) Choir *Every Monday, except 3rd*
WEDNESDAY Superbowl Subs Form Due
FRIDAY (6 pm) Youth Group Game Night
February 4 (After Worship) Pick Up your Super Bowl Subs
(After Worship) Walk to the Cross Planning Meeting
(5:30 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's
Episcopal Church *Every First Sunday Night of Month*
February 11 (9 am) Devotions and Doughnuts in FH *Every 2nd Sunday*
February 14 (Noon) Ash Wednesday Service at New Hope
(7:00 p.m.) Community Ash Wednesday Service at
Highland. Piedmont and Bethany will join us.
February 20 Newsletter Information due to Pat Webb
February 21 (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany COB *3rd Wed*
March 10 Youth Group Trip to Snow Plex and Dinner at CB
March 11 (After Worship) Highland Council Meeting
March 12 Egg Making Begins!
March 17 UMW Prayer Breakfast
March 19 (7 pm) UMW *Every 3rd Monday (No meetings Jan. or Feb)*
March 24 (10 am) Easter Egg Hunt at Highland
March 25 Daylight Savings Time
March 31 (6 am) Walk to the Cross
April 1 (TBA) Sunrise Service at Callaway Cemetery
Snacks and Fellowship at Highland
(8:30 a.m.) Easter Worship at New Hope
(10:00 a.m.) Easter Worship at Highland
April 7 Dinner Served and Offered by the Youth
June 3-7 Vacation Bible School
July 13-15 Highland Church Camping Trip at Smith Mountain Lake

Ash Wednesday Services

“I heart God” this Valentine’s Day! Come for a very special, worship service February 14. We will gather to sing, pray, and hear scripture as we confess our need for God’s help and celebrate how God does help us. A special part of this worship is to receive an ashy mark of the cross on our foreheads. For thousands of years God’s people have used ashes as an S.O.S or “911” to God—ashes are a way of saying, “I need your help God and I am ready for your help.” The ashes in the sign of the cross is God’s promise and response—God is helping us and will help us. There are two opportunities to worship: Noon at New Hope UMC and 7:00 p.m. at Highland UMC. The 7 pm service is a joint service of Bethany Church of the Brethren and Piedmont Presbyterian Service. If you have questions, see Pastor Amy.

Church Camping Trip at Smith Mountain Lake State Park, July 13-15

Crystal Weaver shares Now is the time to book your spot for the Church Camping Trip! “Please let me know if you would like a site and I will get you the necessary info needed to pay for your reservations. Most sites are site-specific and are \$74.50. We have two sites that are non-site-specific that are \$68.18 (one is a back-in & the other is a pull-thru). Sites will go quickly, let me know ASAP!! Crystal Weaver, 540-651-2085 or crystalweaver04@yahoo.com

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

***Please write down these names shared in worship so that
together we can pray for them this week.***

Update On the Commission on the Way Forward

On Wednesday, (1pm to 4 p.m.), I “attended” on the computer—a live stream event from our Conference about the latest work on the Commission on the Way Forward. Thank you to Highland for providing such wonderful internet service so I can work on your behalf.

A Time Line: The Commission has two more meetings (they have had seven). In the next few months the Council of Bishops will be reviewing proposed solutions the Commission is suggesting. The Council of Bishops may or may not adopt the suggestions. If they do adopt, the plan is translated into four main languages of our world wide church. Once translated, the plan will be released in July. This is all in preparation of the called General Conference in February, 2019.

There is so much unknown. This is why I continue to encourage us to pray and not play a guessing game. There is a lot that is unknown because there are many possibilities of what could happen. The Bishops may or may not adopt the recommendations. The General Conference may or may not adopt the changes. And the Holy Spirit could surprise us all with an action no one expected.

Here is what we know and remains the same: this is about Jesus’ church finding a way forward so we can share his good news. The divisions over one issue have been going on for at least 44 years. The Commission on the Way Forward is not about changing what people believe but finding a way forward in people believing differently. What unites us is our unity in Christ. The Love of Christ can hold us in our differences.

If you have questions or need a listening ear, I continue to be here for you. There are great resources and reading if you would like to learn more. Just see me. I continue to share with you information as soon as I receive it. I have tried to share along the way. If you have missed any information, you can find it on the prayer wall. I was led to create a prayer wall. This prayer wall is....at Highland it is outside the pastor’s office door. At New Hope it is in the entryway of the church (by the Trinity Mission Box).

God speaks to me through both congregations. The idea of this prayer wall came from both. At New Hope, Wayne Bussey asked

me the other week about the Temple. We got to talking about the Wailing Wall. This is one of the few structures left from Jerusalem’s destruction. People today go to this wall to “wail,” cry and pray. Some people write down their prayers and put them in cracks in the wall.

Over at Highland, by the door of the Pastor’s Office, there is a ceramic pair of praying hands. In the past year the pair of hands reminds me of a song by Carrol Roberson that has helped my Aunt as her daughter, my cousin, continues to struggle with alcohol addiction.

So, on Wednesday afternoon, “attending” this meeting about the Way Forward and coping with all my emotions that come with each meeting, God put together my recent experiences at New Hope and Highland—wailing walls and a pair of hands—to be led to create a prayer wall. I used the color red because that is a color for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the birth of the Church. May you find the wall a place for information and an encouragement for us to keep praying. Thank you. In Christ’s Care *Rev. Amy Pannell*

“One pair of hands formed the mountains,
One pair of hands formed the sea
And one pair of hands made the sun and the moon,
Every bird, every flower, every tree
One pair of hands formed the valleys,
The ocean, the rivers and the sand
Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith in the one pair of hands

One pair of hands, healed the sick,
One pair of hands raised the dead
One pair of hands calmed the raging storm
And thousands of people were fed
One pair of hands said I love you
And those hands were nailed to a tree
Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith into one pair of hands

Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith into one pair of hands Put your faith into one pair of hands

LIVING GOD'S WORDS