

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



THE HIGHLANDER

April 2018

Why?

Since the fall of 2017, some of Highland's youth and young at heart/older members have been gathering for a meeting I call "Why?" Why come to church? Why be part of a church? The third Sundays of the month, members have honestly and genuinely shared with respectful listening youth. We start off with a "get to know you question." "What makes you laugh?" "What is your favorite sport?" "What is your favorite music?" "What do you like to do for fun?" I did this in part so each youth could have a chance to share their name. But, I found out each time the young at heart/older members already knew the youth's name; lovingly speaking them and smiling with genuine care. Their prayers for the youth by name is evident.

Weeks before the third Sunday, I have met with the young at heart/older members. We go through questions I offer to ask; I also ask their permission to talk about certain painful parts of their life. Each person has been so open and willing to share—even if it hurts, they know it is part of their story and journey with God. The older members have generously shared about what their life is like, who they are, how faith is part of them, and then that final question: why do you come to church? For one couple it was why do you keep coming to church when there has been painful times? Another, why do you come to church when you feel like an outsider?

This experience has helped me remember why I am part of the church. I have been so deeply moved by the youth who come, listening so intently when they have homework, friends, and activities. Their questions are genuine and compassion has registered on faces. I have been so deeply moved by the older members/young at heart who are willing to share themselves. A few have been very emotional. Because life is not easy. If Jesus became real for us, then we can be real with each other so we can cope, not feel alone, and experience the real God for us all. In the early days of the church, they were sharing life together. Here we are thousands of years later, and life is still being shared—we know we can be helped by each other—support each other—and help each other with the why's of life.

I wished we had had time to have so many more members share with the youth. Highland—each person—each of YOU—have a story to tell of why you come to church—why God is in your life—why you are here today.

As we celebrate that Jesus Christ rose from the grave and he gives us power and promise in our stories—I wonder what is your why? Whose story will you listen to? Who will you share your story with?

Schedules

Acolytes

April 1 Hannah McPherson
April 8 Bailey Grace Haskins
April 15 Zoey Guilliams
April 22 Emma McPherson
April 29 Davis Moran

Greeter

Shelby Nemeth

UMW

The UMW will meet on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 7:00 p. m. Refreshments served by Tricia Custer and Pat Webb.

YOUTH

Highland Youth Group Presents: the “Church House Rock” Dinner

You’re invited to put on your “blue suede shoes” and join us for a youth sponsored “church house rock dinner.” “It’s now or never” to come for good games, good food, good people and a good time! All are welcome, so you can bring your “little sister,” “a big hunk O’ love,” or even a “hard headed woman.” We promise no matter who you bring they’ll have fun. The King said it best himself, “Rock and roll music, if you like it, if you feel it, you can’t help but move to it,” (Kind of like the Holy Spirit!) So please, “don’t be cruel” and leave us crying in the chapel”; come support our youth—dine, sing, and move to some rock n’ roll. FRIDAY—APRIL 13th 6:30 pm Highland Fellowship Hall.

Church Women United (CWU)

CWU in Virginia will hold its **2018 Assembly/Leaders’ Council April 23-25, 2018** at Chanco on the James, an outdoor ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. Chanco is a spiritual place for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.

“Telling the Untold Story,” is this year’s theme. We will look at our lives as a subplot to God’s story – the grand story of God - by looking at Joseph’s life story.

Conversations will include CWU’s story, each other’s story, and social media technology. There will be leadership training in citizen action and ecumenical action. Spiritual growth opportunities include daily devotions and Bible study.

Methodist Women have been strong supporters of CWU since our beginning in 1941. There are active local CWU units in Danville and Roanoke.

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive ecumenical women’s movement. We celebrate unity in diversity and work for a world of peace and justice.

In today’s cultural climate, CWU may be one positive example of how women of faith can join hands and build bridges for a better tomorrow.

Check out our website at churchwomen.org and our mission statement under the “about us” tab. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Audrey Daniels, Vice President, CWU in Virginia
adan13ls@live.com

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Community Fundraiser for Dean Blankenship

Saturday, April 14, 2018 -- Neighbors helping neighbors! Help with the medical bills for Dean Blankenship and family. Come together for community at its best! Hotdogs, chips, and drinks will be offered. There will also be a cake walk, silent auction. If you would like to donate a cake or items or your time, contact Ronnie and Joyce Guilliams or Dot Webb.

Dementia/Alzheimer's Informational Meeting

Free information and tips on interaction, communication, caregiving, and available resources for those suffering from Dementia and/or Alzheimer's. Carolyn Scales, with the Southern Area Agency on Aging will be the presenter. There will also be a question and answer period to address any personal concerns. April 19, 2018 at 7 pm at Fieldale United Methodist Church: 36 Patrick Avenue, Fieldale. Please call 673-6355 for more information.

Address for Eva Wooldridge: 3102 Cedar Meade Drive Roanoke, VA 24014 (Eva is staying with her granddaughter April)

Prayer List

Barbara Guilliams
Joyce Sledd
Family of Eddie Peters
Ronnie and Sue Bernard
B. L. Furrow
Kelly Moran
Dean Blankenship
Woods Family
Linda Higgins
Robert Webster
Sonny King
Twins of Amy and Matt Frye
Carol Lee
Family of Cheryl Hodges

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

