

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John W. Bowling

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

Come, Now is the Time to Worship; God Is Here;
Lead Me to the Cross; Step By Step; No Turning Back

*Praise Team: Chris Pinelo, Angelena Stephens, JR Brumley,
Rick Marquardt, Sally Osborn*

MORNING PRAYER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

*(At this time, children 4yrs through 5th grade are dismissed to go upstairs for Sunday School.
Parents, please pick up your child in room 207 upstairs following worship.)*

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERING MUSIC

Last Hope; Abide

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 4:1-11

MESSAGE

THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW

Rev. John W. Bowling

Courage to be in the Wilderness

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

Step By Step; The Blessing

BENEDICTION*

*Please stand as you are able.

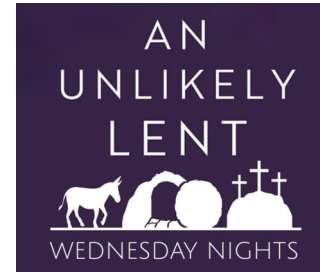


Special thank you to today's **Ushers & Greeters**,
Ron Jump & Mark Browe
Your service is greatly appreciated!

Lenten sermon series: The Courage to Follow. Jesus invites us to follow him, but let's be honest – that requires courage, not bravado. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is choosing faith in the presence of fear. During this series we'll explore having the courage to follow!



The Flower arrangement on the Altar today
was given by the Circle 13 sisters
In honor of Linda Dobson for her 20 years
of work as treasurer of Circle 13



You're invited to a **new Wednesday Night study for Lent, An Unlikely Lent.** In this study, we'll explore the often overlooked people who encountered Jesus during his journey to Easter. [We hope you will RSVP on our website](#) and find the ways that God is moving, even in the margins.

Join us **Wednesday, February 25th** for the first annual **HUMC SOUPer Wednesday Potluck.** Church will provide salad, dessert, and drinks, while we bring a variety of soups to share with our church family. An online sign-up is located on our website, or you may email Kaitlin Stephens Guenther (knstephens85@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list. We can't wait to see you and enjoy a soup-er evening together!"



Everyone is invited and encouraged to enjoy the **church breakfast Sunday, March 1.** It will take place between the 9:30 and 11:00 services in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee, pancakes, sausage, bacon and juice. This special gathering is sponsored by the Men's Breakfast Club, which meets the first Saturday of each month.

PRELUDE	In My Beloved God	Dieterich Buxtehude
GREETING	Rev. John W. Bowling	
CALL TO WORSHIP		
The Spirit leads us—not only into comfort, but sometimes into the wilderness. We come seeking the God who meets us there. When the way feels uncertain and the path feels long, God is faithful. When we are drawn to take easier roads, Christ shows us a better way. Come, let us worship the One who strengthens us even in the wilderness. We worship with honest hearts and courageous faith. Amen.		
HYMN #269*	Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days	
PRAYER FOR LENT #268		
DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN		
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MORNING PRAYER		
LORD’S PRAYER		
MINISTRY OF GIVING		
OFFERTORY	My Faith Looks Up To Thee	Karl Osterlund
DOXOLOGY*		
ANTHEM	Jesus Paid It All	Arr. Brad Nix
SCRIPTURE	MATTHEW 4:1-11	
MESSAGE	THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW Courage to be in the Wilderness	Rev. John W. Bowling
HYMN #128*	He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought	
BENEDICTION		
CHORAL AMEN		
POSTLUDE	Risoluto No. 3	Eric Thiman

*Please stand as you are able.



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YOUTH MINISTRY



Join us for a **new Sunday School Class** for our Middle School and High School Youth. We'll dismiss during the 9:30 service and enjoy an hour of learning and fellowship.

We are hosting an **Informational & Planning Meeting** on **TONIGHT from 6-7:30 PM**. This will be a time to learn about our vision for youth ministry, share ideas for future activities and events, and explore opportunities to volunteer and get involved. Whether you're a parent, youth, church member, or simply passionate about supporting youth, your voice matters and your presence is welcome. Dinner will be provided.

If you're an adult who would like to help with **Monday Morning Prayer** or **Sunday School Class** please email Madeline, at youth@highlandmethodist.com.

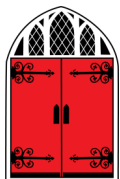
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



You're invited to Children's Ministries **Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, March 21 from 9-11**. For just \$12 per person (children under 1 are free with a paid adult), we'll enjoy a delicious breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, Kountry Kritters petting zoo, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Register by March 14th on highlandmethodist.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

- Lynn E—recovery
- Vern H—healing
- Halimah—health concerns
- Gary S—health concerns
- Annika—health concerns
- The Kemplin Family—Zach passed away on 2/17
- The Hanneken Family—the loss of Rhonda's dad on 2/17
- T. Sticks—health concerns



Highland United Methodist Church
www.highlandmethodist.com
859-441-0587
office@highlandmethodist.com
Guest wifi password: HumcLoves

Highland United Methodist Church

February 22, 2026 9:30am

First Sunday in Lent



Grow – Follow – Love

At Highland United Methodist Church, we are a community of imperfect people who exist to **grow** God's kingdom by **following** the examples of Jesus and **loving** with purpose.

We are deepening our spiritual understanding by embracing diversity, enriching lives, mindfully serving, and bringing joy through music and friendship. As United Methodists, we inclusively welcome everyone and follow the Wesleyan call to do no harm, do good, and love God.