

Vacation Bible School!

All children ages 3 (as of 7/10/17) through 5th grade are invited to join us for this year's Vacation Bible School. Registration is now open at www.highlandumc.org. Now is the time to invite those grandchildren and the kids down the street! And now is the time to volunteer! We need many, many loving hands and hearts to welcome and guide children at our Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in learning about how you can help at VBS please contact Amy Takahashi (amy@highlandumc.org)

Reminder: Our Wednesday evening meal and programming will resume on April 19.

Random Acts of Kindness

Back by popular demand, RAK will return for our Wednesday evening children's activities. We will also be working on a *colossal* art project in preparation for Pentecost.

Join us on Wednesday nights after supper!

Habitat for Humanity House Dedication Ceremony

Come join us on Saturday May 6th at 9:30 am to dedicate the Habitat for Humanity house! Thanks to many, many hands (and good weather) we were able to complete the house ahead of schedule so that Lorita, D'Von and their 3 children can move into their new house.

Many thanks to everyone who came to build, those who helped feed the hungry workers and those who helped fund this home.

Attendance April 16, , 2017

8:30am: 82 8:45am: 85 11:00am: 168 Total: 335

ACOLYTE: Sarah Louise Johnson

CROSS BEARER: Sean Richards

AUDIO: Byron Baird

STREAMING MINISTRY: Bill Babcock, Seth Troxler, HUMC Youth

LAY READERS: 8:30: Aaron Brothers 11:00: _____

PRAYER ROOM: 8:30: Rebecca Turner

11: 00: Linda Cooksey

COMMUNION SERVERS: 8:30: Marilyn Mudge

11:00: Jane and Frank Gray

PASTOR: The Reverend Dr. Alan Swartz

Cell: 919.210.9120 Email: alan@highlandumc.org

www.facebook.com/alan.swartz

PASTOR: The Reverend Charlie Baber

MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: The Reverend Sarah Fletcher

MINISTER OF VISITATION: The Reverend Harold Salmon

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Amy Takahashi

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jo Anne Swartz

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Jeff Whicker

ORGANIST: Marcia Nance

This Week At Highland

Easter Sunday!

He is Risen!

Sunday, April 16

7:00am Sunrise Worship
8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am The Connection (Bradley Hall)
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 17

7:00pm Toastmasters/NAMI/Pick Up Basketball
The Gospel of John Bible Study

Tuesday, April 18

6:30am Men's Bible Study
12:15pm Highlander's Luncheon
7:00pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts
Micah 6:8/Stephen Minsitry
8:00pm AA

Wednesday, April 19

4:30pm Cherub Choir
5:00pm Bells Alive/ Chorister Choir
5:45pm Wednesday Evening Supper
6:30pm HUMRingers/Worship Arts Studio
Bible Blackbelts
7:30pm Connection Band Rehearsal

Thursday, April 20

9:15am Tai Chi
10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:30pm NAMI Board Meeting
6:30pm Star Twirlers
7:30pm OA

Friday, April 21

8:00am Capital Quilters Workshop
9:30am Ladies Bible Study
12:15pm Kiwanis Club

Saturday, April 22

8:00am Capital Quilters Workshop
9:30am NAMI BP Class
8:00am AA



Highland United Methodist Church

1901 Ridge Road, Raleigh NC 27607

919.787.4240 www.highlandumc.org

April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday

8:30 and 11:00am Traditional Worship

8:45am Contemporary Worship 9:45 am Classes for All

**We are an inviting family of faith seeking to love,
serve and share Christ in our community
and the world.**

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

We welcome our guests today. You honor us with your presence. We appreciate you turning all electronic devices to silent mode. All present are asked to sign the fellowship pad on each pew.

**If you are able, please stand for this part of the service.*

PRELUDE *Christ is Risen, Alleluia!* arr. Hayes
Highland Choir & Highland Winds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"* Hymnal #302
(You are invited to come forward to flower the cross.)

*OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Let us pray.

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.
Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection,
by the renewing of your Spirit,
be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Amy Takahashi

MUSIC MINISTRY *"You Are The New Day"* Stopford
Highland Choir

*THE PEACE

Following ancient Christian practice, we greet one another, offering reminders of Christ's peace. Please greet those around you saying:

"The peace of Christ be with you." And responding: "And also with you."



**Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 33

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*SUNG RESPONSE *“Up From the Grave He Arose”* Hymnal #322

**Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph o’er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

SERMON

Embracing Life
The Rev. Dr. Alan Swartz

———— **RESPONSE** ————

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done”*
Hymnal #306

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to the calls of peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

(Please offer silent confession.)

WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: God loves and forgives us, sending the Spirit to guide and sustain us with never-ending love. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*If you haven't offered your commitment card for Making
Space for God, please place it in the offering plate today.*

*Along with our tithe, we are bringing forward the offerings
of the church's Lenten prayers.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Easter Joy
Highland Winds

Helman

*DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”*
Hymnal #94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Hymnal pg.17

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**
...And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*Since we believe that Communion offers the chance for an encounter with
God, all persons, including the children, are invited to participate and
receive the sacrament. At 11:00, we will receive by Intinction. That is, a
server will place the bread in your hand, which you will dip into the chal-
ice. When the bread is placed in your hand the server will say: “The
body of Christ, the bread of heaven.”
When the cup is offered to you the server will say: “The blood of Christ,
the cup of salvation.” Each time you may respond by saying “Amen” or
“Thanks be to God.”*

**If you would prefer a gluten-free wafer for communion rather than
bread, please let one of the servers know.**

———— **SENDING FORTH** ————

*CLOSING HYMN *“Thine Be the Glory”* Hymnal #308

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*Following the dismissal, the congregation is asked to remain
standing for the chimes before departing the sanctuary.*

*POSTLUDE

Toccatà, Op. 42, No. 5

Widor

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by Alice Irby
in loving memory of her mother, Margaret Hudson Joyner.*

***Sympathy** to Suzanne, Alex, Connor, Anderson & Braeden
LaRocca, Rex & Carol Thomas and Morgan & Greg Gojanovich
upon the death of husband and father, son-in-law
and brother-in-law, John La Rocca, April 7, 2017.*

***Sympathy** to Cindy and Faiz, & Jennifer Popal
upon the death of their son and brother
Benjamin Popal on April 10, 2017.*