



*Founded 1890*

## **HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Love God, Love Our Neighbors, Share God's Hope*

701 Highland Road, Street, Maryland 21154

(410) 452-9394

email: [followchrist@highlandpresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:followchrist@highlandpresbyterianchurch.org)

<http://www.highlandpresbyterianchurch.org>

Rev. Raymond R. Meute, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Dr. William J. Netting, Pastor Emeritus

**February 1, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

***Order of Worship***

***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***

***February 1, 2026***

***The Family of Believers Comes Together  
Responding to Christ's Call***

**A Word of Encouragement**

*“Discipleship doesn’t begin by seeing ourselves as sinners. Anyone can do that. That’s why we hide. Discipleship begins by seeing ourselves as Jesus sees us...through the loving eyes of Christ—that is the beginning of discipleship.”*

A Beautiful Year, Diana Butler Bass

**Prelude**

**Ring of Church Bell**

**Life in the Church**

**The Church in Action**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** –based on I Corinthians 1:25

*This tiny Christ candle flame reminds us that “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.”*

**Call to Worship** (Responsively) – based on Psalm 15

*Lord, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness.*

***May we hear your call and speak your truth.***

*Lord, we come to abide with you in love.*

***Gather us in honest and faithful community.***

*Lord, prepare us to be people of hope and grace.*

***Kindle in us courage to live as brave and faithful disciples.***

*Let us worship our God together in this holy place.*

***Alleluia. Amen.***

**\* Hymn**      “Come! Live in the Light!”

Hymnal #749

**\*Call to Confession**

With what shall I come before the Lord? We come, knowing we’ve lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift. But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but**

**we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us.  
Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call.  
Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way  
each and every day.**

**Lord, hear our prayer ... (silent confession) ... Amen.**

**\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole.

**Alleluia. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

Hymn #581

**Prophetic Reading**

Micah 6: 1-8

P. 866

**Special Music**

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

William Owens

Nancy Jones and Ian Fallon, Organ and Piano Duet

**Time with Young Followers of Jesus and Noisy Offering**

**\* Hymn** “Now Thank We All Our God”

Hymnal #643

**Epistle Reading**

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

P. 166

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5: 1-12

P. 4

This is the gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Message**    “Blessed?”

**Affirmation of Faith** (Unison) – *from The Confession of 1967*

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God’s self. Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

Recognizing God’s gracious blessings poured upon us, we respond with gratitude, giving of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of the kin-dom here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

## Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings of our lives. Bless these gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for those who need them most. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**\*Hymn**      “O for a World”

Hymnal #372

## Parting Greeting

--Today, February 1, is our **Annual Congregational Meeting** immediately following worship in Netting Hall. A luncheon will be enjoyed together prior to the meeting. Please find a copy of the Annual Report in the foyer outside the sanctuary to read in preparation for the meeting. The report is also on the opening page of the church website when you scroll to the bottom:

[www.highlandpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.highlandpresbyterianchurch.org).

--Wednesday, 7:30 PM **Chancel Choir** rehearsal in the sanctuary.

--Thursday, 6:00 PM **Pub Theology** at Falling Branch Brewery.

--Next Sunday, 11:15 AM – Noon, **Confirmation Class** begins meeting.

--“**Har-Go Rides**” is a community initiative sponsored by Presbyterian Home of Maryland with the goal of providing low-cost rides to Medical Appointments for seniors in the Harford County area. We are looking for drivers and clients to get our program started. For

more information, email us at [rides@hargorides.org](mailto:rides@hargorides.org), call us at 667-469-8244, or visit our website at [www.hargorides.org](http://www.hargorides.org).

## **Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**                      “Dona Nobis Pacem”

## **Postlude**

Thank you – to Sarah Summerfield and Rachel Ayres for serving as our Worship assistants this morning. Also, thank you to Nancy Jones, Organist; Ian Fallon, Pianist; and Stacey Scarff, Director of Music, for the wonderful music today – all of our Worship is to the Glory of God!

## **Highland Happenings**

### **Upcoming Events**

- Friday, January 23                      Teen Night Karaoke
- Sunday, February 1                      Annual Congressional Meeting  
(Sides & desserts needed)
- Saturday, February 14, 9a-11a                      Threads of Hope Shopping Day
- Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>                      Spaghetti Dinner

### **Mason Dixon Food Bank**

Mason Dixon Community Services is requesting cleaning supplies, laundry soap, and personal care items. Please help us to help our neighbors in this time of need. Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex.

### **Pastoral Study Hours**

Monday through Wednesday, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, with exceptions. It is always best to make an appointment.

Sanctuary Flowers – please sign up on the board in the narthex if you would like to provide sanctuary flowers.

# Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

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## **THANKSGIVING FOR:**

Warmth and shelter during winter storms

## **INTERCESSIONS FOR:**

+the Linda Caldwell Family (Koren Buehler)  
+the Alex Pretti Family (Craig DeRan)  
+the John Kramer Family (Nancy Jones)  
Family of Jeri MacBride (Pastor Ray)  
Family of Catharine Wilson (Sam Tharpe, Jr.)  
Family of Bernard Arnold (Stacey Scarff)  
Family of Renee Nicole Good (Craig DeRan)  
Marc Manzo (Susan Summerfield)  
Family of Jason Clendening (Adrienne DeRan)  
Sherry Fullerton (Pastor Ray)  
Family of Sharan Deinlein (MaryBeth Thompson)  
Family of Catherine Pabst (Nancy Jones)  
Family of Doris Griffith (Darlene Solis)  
Healthcare workers (Stacey Scarff)  
Judy Taylor (Steve Taylor)  
Ted Weeks (Claudia Scarbrough)  
Family of Debbie Felix (Claudia Scarbrough)  
Haley Katsikides (Claudia Scarbrough)  
Valerie Keck (Claudia Scarbrough)  
Family of Dennis Vierling (Kathy Watson)  
Wilson Tharpe (Claudia Scarbrough)  
Donald Jones (Elaine Derickson)  
Art Noble (Donna Noble)  
Carole DeRan (Craig DeRan)

## **LONG-TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:**

Helene Mackey (Pastor Ray)  
Bill Netting (Dave Thompson)  
Jeanie Rainey (Donna Noble)  
Jenny Smith (Kim Goode)  
Jean Bullen (Pastor Ray)  
Debbie and Family (Kathy Watson)  
Jim Lawrence (Debbie Mezzatesta)  
Valerie Keck (Mary Beverly Gallagher)  
Grace Christman  
Tommy Amrein (Eley Welkner)  
Mike Mills (Wilson)

Molly & Sisters (Rose)  
Margaret (Elaine & Sandy)  
Michael Yarrington (Amos family)  
Paul (Ian Fallon)  
Gail Hartman (Lucy Hollens)  
Frank Thayer (Dolly)  
Sam Jones (Sarah DeBaugh)  
Heidi and Stu Richardson  
Ruth Noble (mother-in-law of Donna Noble)  
Dorothy Shahan (Julie-Anna Flaherty)  
Tom Bulleit (Eley Welkner)  
Joy Merryman (Nancy Jones)

## **MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS:**

Baltimore-Dakota Partnership Mission  
All people & their loved ones suffering from  
addictions and outcomes  
Presbytery of Baltimore  
Susquehanna Parish – Christ Our King PC  
All Leadership, HPC Legacy Bldg. Team  
Local Mission--Threads of Hope

## **OUR MILITARY:**

Peter Barndt, USN  
Cathy Durand Cantu, USCG  
Ryan Richardson, USNR

## **COMMUNITY, NATION & WORLD:**

Children, elderly, and disabled people without  
S.N.A.P. support  
Justice and the rule of law  
Families suffering from loss of federal and  
medical assistance  
Worldwide needs  
Economic uncertainty  
Truth to guide all world, national & local events  
Peace & restraint in Middle East conflicts  
Peaceful & just end to Russian invasion of Ukraine  
Immigrants and US citizens being deported and  
families being separated  
Comfort to those living in fear  
World Council of Church Prayer Cycle: --Algeria,  
Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia