



Founded 1890

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharing Christ's Love and Growing Disciples

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Rev. Raymond R. Meute, Jr., Pastor

July 20, 2025

10:00 AM

Order of Worship
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 2025

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

A Word of Encouragement
“Keep thinking, keep interested, keep praying, keep dreaming”
Norman Vincent Peale

Prelude

Ring of Church Bell

Duet Introit “Morning Has Broken”

Life in the Church

The Church in Action

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Sarah Summerfield) - – *from Tenets of Civil Discourse*

The light of Christ nudges us to pay attention to our thoughts and feelings. If you do not feel safe asking a question or commenting on a topic, write it down and ask someone to help you voice it or talk it through with you. If someone hurts your feelings because of what was said, acknowledge the comment (not the person) hurt your feelings and explain why.

*** Call to Worship** (Responsively)

God calls us here to worship. We carry many worries and are distracted by many things, but here, in this time and place, we are invited to set them aside, to be fully present. Let's pause and take a deep breath. We remember who we are:

We are the body of Christ.

We remember whose we are:

We are God's beloved children.

We remember our chief purpose:

To glorify and enjoy God forever.

Let us worship God!

*** Hymn** "Rejoice, the Lord is King" Hymnal #363

***Invitation to Confession**

Those who speak the truth from their heart abide in God's presence. Let us speak the truth now as we confess our sin together:

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Holy God, we are pulled in many different directions. We are distracted by the news, quick to point fingers and pass judgment, but reluctant to examine the ways we benefit from the injustice in our world. We are distracted by our fears. We fear the loss of health, safety, and financial security. Instead of proclaiming your abundance, we operate from a mindset of scarcity. We are distracted by our tasks, by calendars that shape our priorities, leaving us with less time and energy for what is most important.

We confess our distraction, even as we acknowledge that sometimes we embrace it because it's easier than sitting at Jesus feet, learning what it means to follow him. We confess that distraction is easier than discipleship.

Forgive us. Help us discern and choose the better path as we seek to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

This good news will not be taken away: We are seen as God's beloved children, holy and blameless, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Let us live into this good news: we are forgiven!

***Congregational Response "Gloria Patri" Hymnal #581**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 15

P. 495

Special Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Pete McCallum and Jim Galbreath

Time with Young Disciples and Noisy Offering

***Hymn**

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

Hymnal #727

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 18: 1-10a

P. 14

Gospel Reading

Luke 10: 38-42

P. 72

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

"Distraction or Discipleship?"

Commissioning of Claudia Scarborough for Ihanktonwan Mission

Invitation to the Offering

In Christ, we have received the better part, which will not be taken away. We offer our gifts with joy and gratitude. Freely we have received; now freely let us give.

Offertory “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Duet

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Abundant God, we give thanks for your grace and provision in our lives. Use these gifts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community and the world. May they witness to your love and care for all people, as we offer our time and energy to do the same. In Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn** “Christ Be Beside Me” Hymnal #702

Parting Greeting

- Thursday, 6:00 PM **Pub Theology** at Falling Branch Brewery.
- Saturday, **Ihanktonwan Mission Team** departs for Learning Camp in Marty, SD. They return on August 2.

Benediction

Postlude “God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again” Duet

Thank you –Savannah and Hazel Thompson 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!

Mason Dixon Food Pantry needs oatmeal and canned ravioli this week.

Per Capita Assessment for every member is \$42 for 2025. Thank you for contributing this amount per church member.

Please e-mail Pastor Ray with all prayer-related additions, changes & removals by Tuesday mornings 10:00 AM to ensure that they will be included in next Sunday's bulletin. Names under Intercessions will be removed after 3 weeks unless otherwise instructed by email. Email for Pastor Ray is pastor.meute@verizon.net.

Pastoral Study Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, with exceptions. It is always best to make an appointment to meet with Pastor Ray.

From the Deacons...

The Deacons are organizing a Meal Train page for Stu and Heidi Richardson and their family living with them. The Richardsons have been facing long-term health issues for some time, and a weekly meal would be helpful and much appreciated by them. Please use the link below to sign up if you would like to bless them by participating. If you have questions or need help delivering a meal, please contact Mary Beverly Gallagher at (410) 937-2500, or dartfrog999@gmail.com.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/R44V7L>

For those without access to a computer, please contact Koren Buehler at (410) 937-9172 to sign up. Maybe consider teaming up with someone else to make it easier!

****National Suicide Prevention Hotline –
1-800-273-8255** or Dial 988**

Please reach out if you or someone you know needs help.

Our Tithes and Offerings

You can now give to Highland electronically through our secure e-Giving option provided through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange.

You can set up a giving profile (which will save your giving information if you wish) to either give a one-time gift or to make regular giving easy.

Click “Give Now” above (also posted on Highland’s website) or you can scan the QR code at the bottom with your smart phone to set up your profile and begin giving electronically today!

As always, you may make your contribution to the Church via check. If you are giving to a certain fund, please designate on your check and/or giving envelope the amount given to each fund.

***Thank you for your prayers & continued
financial support of
Highland Church!***



GIVE NOW



Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

THANKSGIVING FOR:

+The beloved community

INTERCESSIONS FOR:

+Barbara Beall (Stu Richardson)
+Family of Linda Heth (Dave Thompson)
+Family of Blanche Gallow (Sam Tharpe)
+Lucy Merriman (Anne Heuisler)
+Jacob and Marie Hanks (Mary Lou Taylor)
+ Joy Merryman (Nancy Jones)
John Philip Wilson (Lucy Hollens)
Kim and Jason Wilson (Claudia Scarborough)
Jenny Smith (Kim Goode)
Brooke Taylor (Nancy Carver)
Judy Taylor (Steven Taylor)

LONG -TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:

+Betty Jane Meute (Ray and Nancy Meute)
+Jean Bullen (Pastor Ray)
+Debbie and Family (Kathy Watson)
Jim Lawrence (Debbie Mezzatesta)
Valerie Keck (Mary Beverly Gallagher)
Charlie Oliver
Jose Lopez, Sr. (Pastor Ray)
Grace Christman
Tommy Amrein (Eley Welkner)
Mike Mills (Wilson)
Molly & Sisters (Rose)
Margaret (Elaine & Sandy)
Michael Yarrington (Amos family)
Andy Gallagher (Mary Beverly Gallagher)
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)
Art Noble (Donna Noble)
Tom Bulleit (Eley Welkner)

MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS:

Baltimore-Dakota Partnership Mission
Hurricane Helene recovery, prayers & aid
All people & their loved ones suffering from
addictions & outcomes
Presbytery of Baltimore
Susquehanna Parish – Churchville PC
All Leadership, HPC Legacy Bldg. Team
Local – Bethesda Transformation Center

OUR MILITARY:

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

COMMUNITY, NATION & WORLD:

+Aftermath of flooding in central Texas
+Families suffering from loss of federal assistance
Travel mercies in summer months
Immigrant population in U.S.
Families in Minnesota
All being affected by mid-east & Ukraine
uncertainty, plus worldwide needs
Economic instability
Truth to guide all re: world, national & local
events
Peace & restraint in Middle East conflicts
Peaceful & just end to Russian invasion of Ukraine
Comfort to those living in fear
Immigrants and US citizens being deported and
families being separated
Federal government employees being dismissed
from their jobs
World Council of Church Prayer Cycle: Djibouti
Somalia