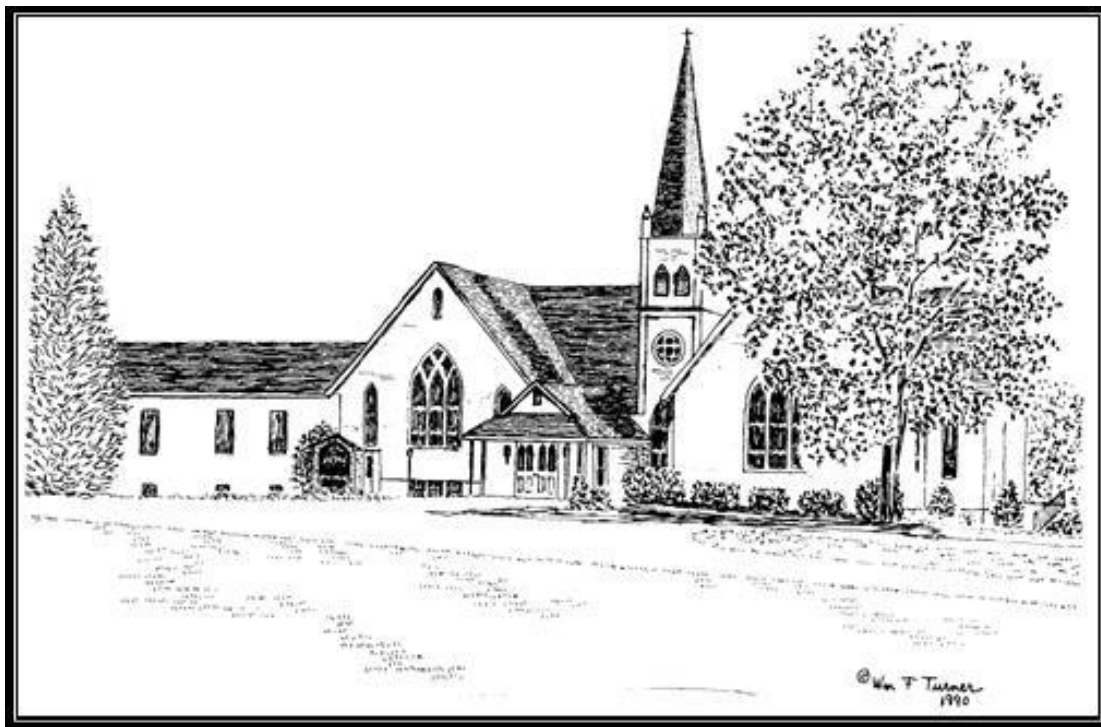




Founded 1890

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

701 Highland Road, Street, Maryland 21154

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email: followchrist@highlandpresbyterianchurch.org



Rev. Merritt Schatz (Visiting)

Rev. Dr. William J. Netting, Pastor Emeritus

October 4, 2026

10:00 AM

Order of Worship
World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2026

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

A Word of Encouragement

“Compassion is not simply an ethical test; it is the means whereby we encounter the God who has chosen to walk in our fragile world.”

(Karen Armstrong, in her essay “Seeing Things as They Really Are” in Walking with God in a Fragile World.)

Prelude

Ringling of Church Bell

Life in the Church

The Church in Action

Lighting of the Christ Candle – (Spoken in Unison)

Verse one text - Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today!

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace throughout the world, so all peoples may be reconciled in your beloved community;

Jesus Christ our Savior, make your presence known! Holy Spirit, make your presence known! God our Creator, make your presence known! Come, Holy God, three in one!

*** Hymn** “O God of Every Nation” Hymnal #756

***Call to Confession**

Si afirmamos que no tenemos pecado, nos engañamos a nosotros mismos y la verdad no está en nosotros. Si confesamos nuestros pecados, Dios, que es fiel y justo, nos los perdonará y nos limpiará de toda maldad.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse them from all unrighteousness.

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Loving God, through Jesus Christ, you taught us, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures, hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy, clinging to power and privilege whenever we can. Set us free from greed and fear. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Teach us to trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness (Responsively)**

God's promises are true! God's love is steadfast and trustworthy!
Receive this good news of Jesus Christ – in Christ we are forgiven!
Hear also Christ's command to shine forth with the forgiveness of
God so all the world might come to know God and God's peace!

**In Christ we are forgiven! Let us see Christ in one another, and in
all the world. Thanks be to God!**

***Congregational Response "Gloria Patri"**

Hymn #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.**

Prayer of Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so we may glorify
you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 118: 19-24

P. 563

Anthem

"Christ Is With Us" by Kendrick and Wimber, arr. Harlan

Chancel Choir

Time with Young Followers of Jesus and Noisy Offering

***Hymn**

"When We Are Living"

Hymnal #822

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3:4b-11

P. 198

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:33-46

P. 24

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message “Reframing Our Vision” The Rev. Merritt Schatz

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) – *Nicene Creed*

Hymnal P. 34

Invitation to the Offering

Let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

O Lord our maker, defender, redeemer and friend, accept and multiply the gifts we give today to be for your glory and for the good of your people. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving (Responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ... Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of
every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Hymn #552 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the light of the world ... we
await the day of his coming, proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Hymn #553 “Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen”

...And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray
together as Christ taught his disciples to pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer after Communion

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn “Hope of the World” Hymnal #734**

Benediction

Choral Benediction “Dona Nobis Pacem”

Postlude

The Worship liturgies today are a mixture from the Book of Common
Worship, the worship resources from World Communion Sunday, and
from Pastor Merritt Schatz.

Thank you – to Dylan and Edgar Narciso 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!

The Week Ahead:

- Sunday, Oct. 4, today, **Grove Music Series:** “The Billy Starwood Band” 4:00 PM in The Grove. Free “Street Sweets” cookies!
- Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 6-7, 9:30-10:30 AM, NHCCC Fire Trucks in the church parking lot.
- Friday, Oct. 9, Funeral services for Heidi Richardson at Highland. 10:00 AM Visitation, 11:00 Service officiated by Jack Carlson, followed by a luncheon in Netting Hall. Please contact Susan Summerfield, 443-807-0508, if you can provide a side or a dessert.
- Sunday, Oct. 11, 10:00 AM **“Blessing of the Animals”** service in The Grove. Rev. Melissa McDade will be preaching. Bring your pet(s) and a chair.

Highland Happenings

Mason Dixon Food Bank

Mason Dixon Community Services is requesting any food item or personal care item. Please continue to help our neighbors in this time of need. Please place your donation in the basket in the narthex.

Pastoral Needs

Please contact Pete McCallum, 443-987-4612, if you have a need for pastoral services, and he will put you in contact with the appropriate resources.

****National Suicide Prevention Hotline –**

1-800-273-8255 or Dial 988

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

Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

THANKSGIVING FOR:

Pastor Ray and Nancy Meute

INTERCESSIONS FOR:

+The Family of Heidi Richardson (The Congregation)
Family of Jim Ayres (The Congregation)
Anne Heuser (Adrienne De Ran)
Roxanne DeRan (Adrienne DeRan)
Sudi White (Sarah DeBaugh)
Melanie Pak Family (Gwen Richardson)
Alvin Joudrey (Adrienne DeRan)
Clay Miller (Dave Thompson)
Narciso Family (Edgar Narciso)
Ed Starleper (Sondra Starleper)
Autumn Gallagher (Mary Beverly Gallagher)
Nancy Heinz (Claudia Scarborough)
Family of John P. Wilson (Stan Wilson)
Debbie Bowers (Claudia Scarborough)
Family of John F. DeRan (Craig DeRan)
Susan Heaps (Claudia Scarborough)
Heide Schammel (Claudia Scarborough)
David Rose (Dave Thompson)
Jim Mitchell (Claudia Scarborough)
Fred Poe and Family (Adrienne DeRan)
Trish Skidmore (Adrienne DeRan)
Julia & Clara Mesh (Elaine Derickson)

LONG-TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:

Wilson Tharpe (Sam Tharpe)
Art Noble (Donna Noble)
Carole DeRan (Craig DeRan)
Helene Mackey (The Congregation)
Bill Netting (Dave Thompson)
Jeanie Rainey (Donna Noble)
Jenny Smith (Kim Goode)
Jean Bullen (The Congregation)
Jim Lawrence (Debbie Mezzatesta)
Mike Mills (Wilson Tharpe)
Michael Yarrington (Amos family)
Paul (Ian Fallon)

Gail Hartman (Lucy Hollens)
Stu Richardson (The Congregation)
Ruth Noble (mother-in-law of Donna Noble)

MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS:

Baltimore-Dakota Partnership Mission
All people & their loved ones suffering from addictions and outcomes
Presbytery of Baltimore
Susquehanna Parish – Fallston Presbyterian
All Leadership, HPC Legacy Bldg. Team
Local Missions

OUR MILITARY:

Cathy Durand Cantu, USCG
Ryan Richardson, USNR
Brady Lim and Aaron Macy, USAF

COMMUNITY, NATION & WORLD:

Extreme weather throughout the world, pray for relief
Flooding and wildfire aid in US and Canada
All nations refraining from genocidal threats and actions
End to the War in the Middle East
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
Economic uncertainty
Truth to guide all world, national & local actions
Peaceful & just end to Russian invasion of Ukraine
Immigrants and US citizens being deported and families being separated
Comfort to those living in fear