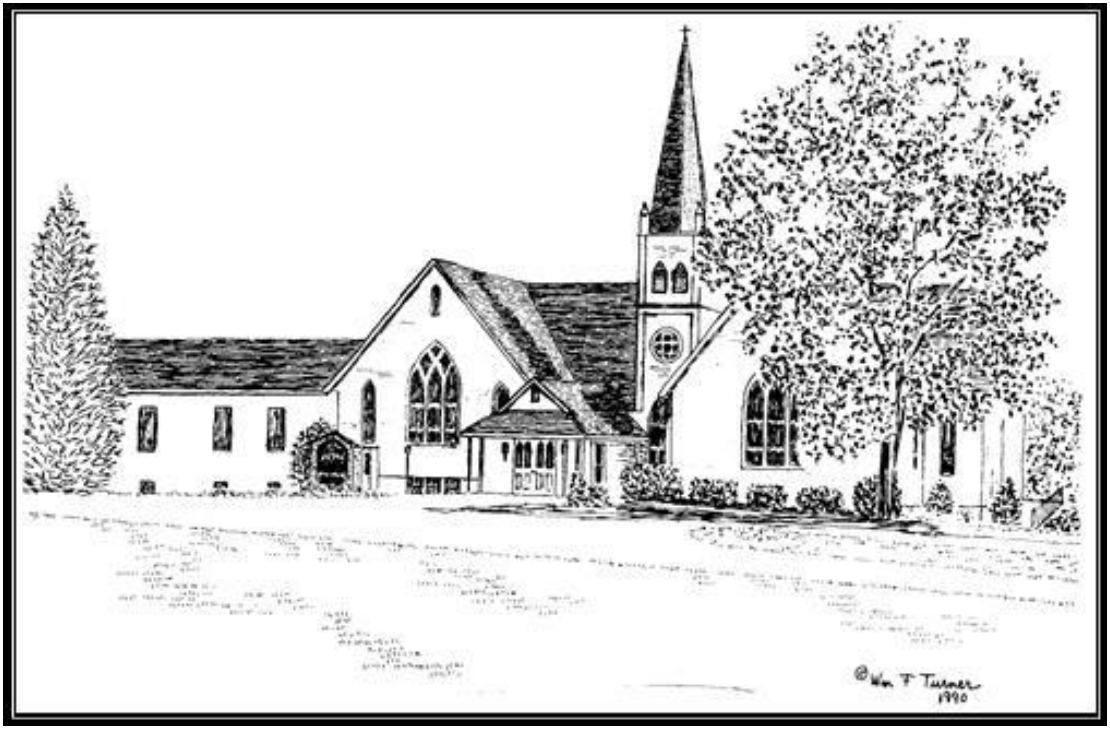


Founded 1890

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

Rev. Merritt Schatz, Guest Minister
Rev. Dr. William J. Netting, Pastor Emeritus

November 15, 2026
10:00 AM

Order of Worship

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

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

A Word of Encouragement

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

- Desmond Tutu

Prelude

Ringing of Church Bell

Life in the Church

The Church in Action

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

***Call to Worship** (Responsively)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before our Maker!

The Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand. All that is made comes from God!

*** Hymn** "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!" Hymnal #305

***Invitation to Confession**

Come dear friends into a heartfelt time of confession. Let us humble ourselves before Almighty God! Let us pray together.

***Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

O holy God, we confess we often sing with joy when we believe "our side" has won. Too often we find it hard to sing with joy when things don't go the way we think is best. Too often we are sure, overconfident, that our way is your way. Forgive us when we bury your message of grace and hope beneath our desires and biases. Too often we live in fear, letting fear dictate our actions, our communal life, and our dreams for the future. We bury your gifts of grace under the scrutiny of others, the norms of our times, our yearning for an easier life. By your Holy Spirit, embolden us to live as faithful servants, sharing the good news of your grace in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses of God's grace and love. Therefore let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely.

We will run with perseverance the race which is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God!

***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.**

Old Testament Reading Genesis 25: 7-10 p. 21

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 p. 205

Anthem "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" Franz & Schicht

Chancel Choir

Time with Young Followers of Jesus and Noisy Offering

***Hymn** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" Hymnal #716

New Testament Reading Matthew 25: 14-30 p. 28-29

Message **"**Heart of Faith" Reverend Merritt Schatz

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) – *From the Confession of 1967*

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, he overcomes the barriers between

peoples and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary.

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace.

The reconciliation of humanity through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use our abilities, our possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to us by God for the maintenance of family and the advancement of the common welfare.

Moment for Stewardship

S. Summerfield

Invitation to the Offering

God has entrusted to each of us gifts of hand, heart and mind. We are stewards of these gifts. Our gifts are not to be hoarded in fear but offered with grace and mercy so God's steadfast love may be made known to all. Let us offer gifts, including our very selves, for God's use. As the offering is received, I encourage you to listen for God's

voice, telling you what God would have you do with all your gifts, seen and unseen.

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, giver of all good gifts, we thank you for entrusting us with treasures of faith. Bless these gifts, and the gifts we have offered in our hearts, for your use, and for the good of all your children. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" Hymnal #707

Looking Ahead:

--Today: We welcome to our pulpit **Rev. Merritt Schatz.**
--Monday, November 16: **Session Meeting at 6:30 pm.**
--Wednesday, November 18: **Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.**
--Sunday, November 22 we will welcome **Mr. Marcus Webster.**
--Sunday, November 22, 11:00, **Stewardship Brunch**

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you – to Pete McCallum and Corbin Hardy 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

Undergarment for Homeless Students

The Deacons wish to thank the congregation for their overwhelming support of undergarment donations for the 700+ Harford County School students who are currently homeless. Highland will be delivering 20 pounds of garments to the mission!

Mason Dixon

The Deacons are "adopting" a local Mason Dixon family for Christmas as we did last year, which includes 3 young children and 2 adults. Two Giving Trees have been set up in the narthex. Please take a tag and supply the wrapped item under the tree by Sunday, December 6th. Thank you for supporting the Deacons in this important community mission.

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.

Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

THANKSGIVING FOR:
Gratitude for Veterans and Active Service Members

INTERCESSIONS FOR:
+ Don Hart (Adrienne DeRan)
+Bob & Mark Long (Claudia Scarborough)
+Brady Lim (Dotty)
Chod Walter (Susan Summerfield)
Family of Carole DeRan (the congregation)
Family of David Yensan (Pete McCallum)
Dotty Macy (Wanda Amos)
Uncle Felix (Wanda Amos)
Rebecca Bowser (Kathy Bowser)
Max Diegel (Stacey Scarff)
Family of Heidi Richardson (The Congregation)
Family of Jim Ayres (The Congregation)
Anne Heuisler (Adrienne De Ran)
Roxanne DeRan (Adrienne DeRan)
Sudi White (Sarah DeBaugh)
Narciso Family (Edgar Narciso)
Ed Starleper (Sondra Starleper)
Autumn Gallagher (Mary Beverly Gallagher)
Debbie Bowers (Claudia Scarborough)
Fred Poe and Family (Adrienne DeRan)
Trish Skidmore (Adrienne DeRan)
Julia & Clara Mesh (Elaine Derickson)

LONG-TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:
Nancy Heines (Claudia Scarborough)
Wilson Tharpe (Sam Tharpe)
Art Noble (Donna Noble)
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
Sam Hall

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 struggling with anxiety