

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John W. Bowling

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

It gets darker much earlier. I don't like this deep, foreboding darkness.

**The Light is coming.**

I keep looking down, trying not to stumble and fall

**But the Light is coming.**

I don't know what to expect. I am pressured on all sides to be here or there and to do this or that. I have no time, no peace, no hope.

**The Light is coming. Look up! Do not be afraid.**

But if I look up, I might stumble. I don't know what's ahead for me.

**But the Light is coming. Do not be afraid.**

Well, where is the light?

**It is right here, on your path so that you won't stumble. It is here in your heart so that you will not fear. It is here in your soul to give you hope.**

Lord, help me to see and feel the presence of Your light.

**May all hear: the Light is given to everyone! Trust in the Light. It is shining upon us in the Living Word of Jesus Christ.**

### WORSHIP WITH SINGING\*

The Closing of the Year; God With Us; O Come All Ye Faithful;  
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Worship Team: Chris Pinelo, Kaitlin Guenther,  
Sally Osborn, Neal Sterrett, Keith Whitehead*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*(Each week during the Advent Wreath candle-lighting, we will hear an Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of the Lord. Today we hear a word of prophecy from **Isaiah 60:1-2**. After the candle is lighted the congregation is invited to sing together the brief refrain of hymn #204, "Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel")*

### DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

*(At this time, children 4yrs through 5th grade are dismissed to go upstairs for Sunday School. Parents, please pick up your child in room 207 upstairs following worship.)*

### MINISTRY OF GIVING

### OFFERING MUSIC

Make Room; Light of the World

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 8:12

### MESSAGE

**IN-carnation**  
*Light of the World*

Rev. John W. Bowling

### WORSHIP WITH SINGING\*

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings; The Closing of the Year

### BENEDICTION\*

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Welcome to Highland United Methodist!** If you're looking for information about our church, you can probably find it and much more at [highlandmethodist.com](http://highlandmethodist.com)

**We welcome all visitors today and kindly request you complete a "Connect Card"** found either in the pew or by scanning this QR code. We would love to get to know you!



**Highland United Methodist Church will have special candlelight worship services at 5pm and 11pm this evening.** Bring your friends and family to celebrate in song and scripture, and share holy communion. Nursery care will be available at the 5pm service.



**The Giving Tree has returned to Highland Methodist!** This seasonal offering is a chance to go above and beyond your annual commitment and support local ministries. You'll find the tree and instructions in the Welcome Center. Thank you for your consideration!

Highland United Methodist's famous **Chili Cookoff** returns! Enter your best batch of chili and join us **Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30** to enjoy an evening of great food. Not a chili cook? Join us for dinner and help crown the chili champion of Highland United Methodist. Suggested donation of \$6 per person.



Not all heroes wear capes or can leap tall buildings in a single bound. The bible shares stories of how ordinary people recognized God's grace in their lives and changed history. **Join us as explore these "Heroes of the Bible" in a new Wednesday Night Adult Study, beginning January 10 at 6:30 in room 109.** Register online.

**PRELUDE** O Christmas Tree Highland Ringers  
**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. John W. Bowling

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN #218\*** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**LITANY OF ADVENT\***

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**MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN #229** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**MINISTRY OF GIVING**

**OFFERTORY** Carol of the Manger Dale Wood

**DOXOLOGY\***

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Night of Silence  
Leo Amann and Jerry Noran

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

John 8:12

**HYMN #230** O Little Town of Bethlehem

**MESSAGE**

**IN-carnation**  
*Light of the World*

Rev. John W. Bowling

**HYMN #206\*** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**BENEDICTION\***

**POSTLUDE** Angels We Have Heard on High Christopher Uehlein

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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Director, Hilary Dungan—[children@highlandmethodist.com](mailto:children@highlandmethodist.com)

Children's Sunday School meets every week in room 207 during both 9:30 and 11 o'clock services. Nursery is available for children, infant through 3 years old, in room 102.

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Holiday Crafts made by the United Women in Faith of Circle 13 are for sale in the Welcome Center. All proceeds will be donated to support missions.

A few weeks ago, United Women in Faith collected \$172.56 in loose change during worship for a World Thank Offering. Thank you for your support!

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup on the counter in the Welcome Center. For any questions or problems, please email Financial Secretary, Rachel Dickman, [giving@highlandmethodist.com](mailto:giving@highlandmethodist.com)

All gifts for 2023 must be received in the church office by January 3rd and must be dated with a 2023 date.

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

- Baby Vivienne getting stronger in NICU—Praise! Continued prayer requested.
- Ann H—continued recovery from seizure
- Yogi B—heart problems, blood clots
- Melinda G—home and returning to routine
- Rick E — hospice
- Lynn E—moved to rehab facility
- Sharon E—peace and strength
- Mac H—continued healing
- Pingwah Tang—guidance for the family to make decisions about care
- Lana V— back surgery rehab
- Tom H— cardiology testing Jan. 4



Highland United Methodist Church  
859-441-0587 [office@highlandmethodist.com](mailto:office@highlandmethodist.com)  
[www.highlandmethodist.com](http://www.highlandmethodist.com)  
Guest wifi password: HumcLoves

## Highland United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023 11:00am

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



Highland United Methodist Church affirms and welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, nations, and races. We fully include all in the life and ministry of the church as we seek to share God's love in Jesus Christ.

The Mission of Highland United Methodist Church is to transform lives by demonstrating Jesus' love and making him known through serving others.