



The Highland Heartbeat

Highland, a Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Rally Day 2026: Discover Your Next Step at Highland!

Rally Day has finally arrived! As summer winds down, today presents an opportunity to reconnect as a family of faith, celebrate God's goodness, and begin a new program year together. After worship, we will celebrate with the **Corsair Blue Jazz Orchestra**, a delicious lunch, an ice cream truck, games and activities for the whole family, and plenty of time to reconnect with friends old and new! Rally Day is also a time to renew our commitment to Christ's work through Highland. As you enjoy the afternoon, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for volunteer ministries that help Highland thrive.

Before heading out to the ice cream truck, please grab a yellow ticket from a member of the Welcome Team at the doors to help make sure everyone gets at least one serving — thank you! :)



TLC Fundraiser: Week 4 Update

Highland is supporting our long-term partner, **Transitional Living Center (TLC)**, in addressing homelessness and housing needs in Lancaster County! TLC is reopening a newly renovated shelter with 52 transitional rooms for individuals, families, and veterans, including six accessible rooms. With most renovation costs already covered, we are raising funds to help furnish these rooms.

Thanks to your generosity, Highland has already raised nearly **\$19,500** — enough to **fully furnish six rooms**! We are grateful for your continued support as we furnish additional rooms and help create welcoming spaces for individuals, families, and veterans.



Ordination Service for Sarah Hostetter

Join us on **Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 PM** for a special service celebrating Sarah Hostetter and her call to ministry. This will be a joyful afternoon as we gather to support Sarah and celebrate this milestone in her journey of faith and service. Following the service, we'll continue the celebration with dinner in Fellowship Hall! Guests are invited to wear red — an ordination tradition!



Please RSVP to let us know if you will be attending, whether you will be joining us for dinner, and any food allergies or sensitivities we should be aware of.

JOY Luncheon: Paws & Purpose



Join us for the next JOY Luncheon on **Thursday, September 24**, as we trade our July buzz about bees for a fun and informative look at service dogs and the many ways they serve others! We'll gather at **10:45 AM**, with lunch served at **11:00 AM**, followed by a special presentation from **Jenn King**, the **Community Outreach Liaison** with **United Disability Services**. Jenn will share how service dogs are trained and explain their valuable roles in mobility, medical, and educational settings. And because we're "going to the dogs," we'll even have some special canine visitors joining us!

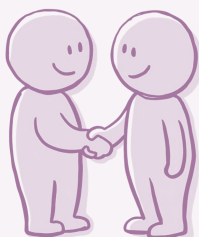
Come enjoy a delicious lunch, spend time with friends, and learn more about these remarkable animals and the important work they do in our communities — you're sure to have a barking good time! Registration is **\$5**. Please sign up in the Narthex **today** or **September 20**.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School resumes on **Sunday, September 27**, immediately after worship from **11:30 AM** to **12:30 PM**. This fall, we will study the New Testament letters of **1, 2, and 3 John**, exploring their message about faith, love, truth, and life together as followers of Christ. All are welcome to join us!

Considering Membership at Highland?

If you are, please join us at our next **New Member Class** offered on **Thursday evening, September 17**. Child care is provided. New members will be welcomed into the congregation during worship on **Sunday, September 27**, so mark your calendar and



save these dates! In the meantime, we encourage visitors to get involved and become an active part of our church community. To register for a class, please contact Larry & Anita Ewing or the church office.

Fall Congregational Conversation

In February of this year, with Session approval, our pastoral staff read a statement to the congregation regarding their growing concern that our national conversations and policies are becoming ever more cruel, unjust, and antithetical to our commitment to faithfully follow the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Pastor Allison said in that declaration, "silence in the face of injustice is not neutrality, it is complicity." This statement has prompted meaningful discussion within Highland and the wider community.

Recognizing the diversity of perspectives in our congregation, Session is holding a Congregational Conversation **next Sunday, September 20**. We will share a meal, gather in small groups, and come together to listen and discern where God is leading Highland.

REGISTER FOR THE CONVERSATION

If you would like to participate in this conversation, please register using the QR code/link below, or sign up at the kiosk in the Narthex after Sunday worship service. The link to register can also be found on our website at highlandpc.org/congregational-conversation.



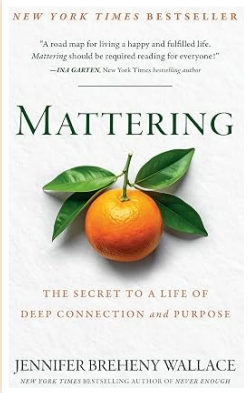
<https://forms.gle/5Ax3AzzfKExajtzE8>

VIEW THE PASTORAL STATEMENT



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoXvBSEKrfA>

Highland Book Group



The book group will meet on **Wednesday, September 23** to discuss *Mattering: The Secret Life of Deep Connection & Purpose* by Jennifer Breheny Wallace.

The book group meets in **Room 208** at **1:00 PM** — all are welcome!

Interested in Going Deeper?

The Discipleship Committee is exploring a new opportunity for people who are interested in making a deeper investment in their spiritual growth. We are considering a long-term discipleship experience in which small groups of three or four people would meet regularly to study Scripture, share honestly about life and faith, and encourage one another in following Jesus. This would be a significant commitment of time and energy, designed for those who are ready to go deeper in their faith alongside a few committed companions.

Right now, we are simply trying to gauge interest. Expressing interest does not commit you to participating. If an opportunity like this sounds intriguing to you, please contact Pastor Matt.



2026 Advent Devotional: Sign Up Today!

This year's devotional will focus on the four weeks of Advent:
HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE

Find our table in the Narthex after worship service today to sign up to write a devotion inspired by one of the four themes! We're also still looking for an original work of art that illustrates the themes of **hope, peace, joy, and love** for the cover of the devotional — please submit artwork to Amanda Peters at amandapeters@highlandpc.org by the **end of September!**

Your Earth Care Committee Asks: Did You Know?

More than **140 invasive plant species** have been identified by the **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** as posing a significant risk of negative impacts in Pennsylvania!

What does that mean, and why does it matter? An invasive plant is a non-native species that spreads aggressively, outcompeting local flora and disrupting ecosystems. In their natural range, these plants are limited by factors that help keep them in balance, including pests, herbivores, and diseases. However, when introduced to an area where these limitations are absent, some species can become invasive.

Invasive plants often emerge earlier in the spring and push native plants out through rapid reproduction. This limits the habitat available to native wildlife and disrupts the food chain. Watch for upcoming **Did You Know** articles on identifying invasive plants and planting with native species.

One example is the invasive plant garlic mustard. Native butterflies lay their eggs on garlic mustard, but the eggs either die or the caterpillars fail to develop properly.



Worship



This Week's Scripture

Acts 17:16-28

"The Human Heart:
An Idol Factory"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

September 20

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Upcoming Events

Today, September 13

All Day! Rally Day

4:00 PM Youth Kick-Off Family Night

Wednesday, September 16

12:00 PM Working Adult Lunch at Tomato Pie Café

6:00 PM Men's Trivia Night at Stoner Grille

Thursday, September 17

6:30 PM New Member Class

Sunday, September 20

11:00 AM Congregational Conversation
(Please register here: bit.ly/4dkgjiz)

1:00 PM Kindness Grows Event

Thursday, September 24

10:45 AM JOY Luncheon: Paws & Purpose

7:00 PM Ladies Night Out at Harvest

Saturday, September 26

6:00 PM Family Meetup
at Cherry Crest Adventure Farm

Weekly Study Groups

Bible Babes Book Club

Every Tuesday | 6:30 - 8:00 PM | Charter Room

Contact: Jan Lyle-Chesnutt, Kori Wise

Men's Breakfast Group

Every Wednesday | 7:30 - 9:00 AM | Oregon Dairy

Contact: Dick Entz

Monthly Study Groups

Women's Bible Study

1st Wednesday | 10:00 AM

Spring Run Conference Room at Willow Valley

Contact: Barb Droz

Year to Date Finances

As of August 31, Highland continues to be in a strong financial position. Year-to-date income is ahead of what we had budgeted, while expenses remain below budget. This has resulted in a surplus of about \$95,800 for the year so far, compared with the deficit we had anticipated at this point in the year. We are grateful for the continued generosity and faithful support of our congregation, which has helped put Highland in a much better financial position than originally projected.

Worship

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Program Staff

Senior Pastor — Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Associate Pastor for Missions & Discipleship — Rev. Matt Drumheller

Transitional Associate Pastor for Congregational Care — Sarah Hostetter

Parish Associate — Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Director of Music Ministry — Dr. Jeffrey Martin

IT/Media Coordinator & Organist — Jonathan Lefever

Director of Children & Family Ministries — Vacant



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Friday

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Contact Us

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For staff contact information, visit our website and go to **About Us > Staff**, or contact the reception desk for a copy of our Staff & Committee Contacts brochure.