

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John W. Bowling

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

I Thank God; Honey in the Rock;
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms; No Turning Back

*Worship Team: Chris Pinelo, Angelena Stephens, JR Brumley
Kaitlin Guenther, Neal Sterrett, Sally Osborn*

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 Lean on Me; This Time Tomorrow

SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE “The Embrace of Friendship” Rev. John W. Bowling

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

Goodness of God; The Blessing

BENEDICTION*

*Please stand as you are able.



Special thank you to today's **Ushers & Greeters**,
Karen Beymer & Patty Fernandez
Your service is greatly appreciated!



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are GIVEN BY
THE KEMPLIN FAMILY

Announcing *Witness: Faith in Practice*. How does our faith impact how we interact with a complex world? How does the United Methodist Church's teachings help us navigate complex societal issues? We'll explore these questions and more in our new Wednesday Night Study, *Witness*, beginning September 10 at 6:30 in room 109. RSVP on the website or app.



We're back for the new season! **Wednesday, September 24, 5:30.** There's no better way to get to know your church family than at the dinner table. We're hosting weekly Wednesday Night dinners. Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday at highlandmethodist.com and don't forget to join us for our Wednesday Night programming after the meal! Price is just \$6 per person or \$20 per family.

Menu: Sloppy Joe's (beef or chicken), baked beans, coleslaw, salad & desserts

The **Senior Fellowship** group will meet **Friday, September 26, 2025 @ 12:30 PM in the Welcome Center**. We will begin with lunch (\$10) and some time to visit. Jerry Noran, our program speaker, will present a program about Rookwood Pottery and the Art Museum. Contact Ginger Paul (gopaul@zoomtown.com) for additional information.



The **Northern Kentucky District of United Women in Faith** is having their annual district meeting at 1200 Bill Wentz Drive in Florence, KY on **Saturday, September 27** from 9:30am to 12:00pm with lunch following the meeting. To reserve lunch, please RSVP by 9/19 to Jan Greiner at 859-962-0132.

Bell choir and chancel choir rehearsals have started for the fall. Bell choir meets at 6:30 in the 2nd floor music room and the chancel choir meets at 7:30 in the sanctuary. **All are welcome no matter your age or ability level.** If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the director, Jason Fishburn, at 260-609-3411.



PRELUDE Dear Christians Rejoice Donald Busarow

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. John W. Bowling

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN #133* Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

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PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY Andantino, Op. 21 Charles Tournemire

DOXOLOGY*

ANTHEM Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing John Carter

SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE "THE EMBRACE OF FRIENDSHIP" Rev. John W. Bowling

CELEBRATION OF THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

God created humankind in God's own image. (Genesis 1:27)

As we recognize the beauty and value of ourselves and others, we praise our Creator for sharing Himself with us.

In time and history the Word of God became flesh and lived among us. Thus: we have seen the glory of God. (John 1:14,17)

Jesus, the Word, reveals to us our glorious Creator and models a life of truth and grace. He overcame sin and enables us to live a new and full life.

He taught us: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." "You are my friends if you do what I command you." "I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." (John 15:13-17)

God's great love, revealed in Jesus, embraces us and names us friends. The embrace of God helps us to reach out and embrace *others* in His name. Jesus commands us to reach out in love, and he enables us to do so.

Jesus' friendship destroys all barriers that divide people. As his representatives we cross over barriers in order to become friends for his sake.

We seek to build up and not tear down.

In all our relationships we seek to share the love of Christ which he shares with us.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.

Beloved, we are God's children. (1 John 3:1-3)

Brothers and sisters: Let us share the love and friendship of God with all we encounter.

That as we *are* a friend, we might also *be* a friend; empowered by the grace of Almighty God.

HYMN #557* Blest Be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE Praise the Almighty Jeffrey Blersch

*Please stand as you are able.



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YOUTH MINISTRY

Monday Morning Prayer is back! Middle School & High School Students start each week off with prayer and donuts to help you navigate your way through the ups and downs. 7:20 in the youth room. Enter through the little parking lot basement door.



TONIGHT, Sunday, September 21st from 6:00—7:30pm, 6th—12th graders are invited to join us in the Youth Room for a meal, inspiration, laughter and spiritual growth.

Meal: Skyline Cheese Cones



Please only use the small parking lot if you have *mobility issues*. Parking in Fort Thomas (even on Sunday mornings) can be challenging, but we want to make sure those that may have difficulty walking distances are able to easily access a nearby entry into the church. Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

- Lynn E—recovery
- Brenda S—breast cancer
- Scott S—loss of vision
- Rhonda R—health issues
- AJ S—surgery & health issues
- Greg—Bladder cancer/chemo
- Laura C—loss of family members
- Ben & Melissa Ellison—praise for the delivery of healthy baby Charlotte on 8/30
- Doug P—Spinal injury
- Terri—double mastectomy 9/17
- Audrey—severe TMJ
- Lars & Christine Whalen—birth of second child



Highland United Methodist Church
www.highlandmethodist.com
859-441-0587
office@highlandmethodist.com
Guest wifi password: HumcLoves

Highland United Methodist Church

September 21, 11:00am

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Grow – Follow – Love

At Highland United Methodist Church, we are a community of imperfect people who exist to **grow** God's kingdom by **following** the examples of Jesus and **loving** with purpose.

We are deepening our spiritual understanding by embracing diversity, enriching lives, mindfully serving, and bringing joy through music and friendship. As United Methodists, we inclusively welcome everyone and follow the Wesleyan call to do no harm, do good, and love God.