April 28, 2024   The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Highlands!

Thank you for joining us in worship today! If you would like to learn more about the ministries of Highlands, please fill out an information card found in the pews, or speak with a member of our staff in the coming week. We welcome the opportunity to be in conversation with you. *Staff contact information – www.highlandsumc.net/staff*

Mother's Day Hydrangea - Order by April 30

Mother's Day is May 12. Hydrangeas may be purchased for $30 and may be given in memory or honor of a loved one. **The deadline to order flowers is April 30.** To place an order, scan the QR code on the back page or sign up in the Greeting Space.

Spring Adult Sunday School Classes

Our Spring Adult Sunday School classes meet each week at 9:30 AM through May 19. These classes are a wonderful opportunity to invited friends and neighbors to Highlands! We hope you'll join in!

Two Peas in a God Pod

The dynamic duo of Dr. Weily Soong and Dr. Sonya Heath are at again with Two Peas in God Pod – a Different Look at Faith and Religion. This six-week course will feature podcasts from Krista Tippett, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rachel Held Evans, Kate Bowler, Frances Collins, and Brene Brown. Meets in Room 204

From Suffering to Redemption: *The Journeys of Job, Jonah, Ruth, and Esther*

Veteran Sunday School teacher Janet Holt will introduce both new and experienced students of the Bible to some of the four most compelling characters and genres of the Hebrew scriptures. Janet will start with her favorite book of the Bible, Job, for several weeks and end with a one-Sunday summary lesson of Jonah, Ruth, and Esther. Meets in Room 209

Vacation Bible School Registration Opens May 1

Save the dates for Vacation Bible School – July 22-26! VBS is for children age 4 through rising 5th graders, and youth helpers rising 6th graders and older. Registration will open on May 1 at *www.highlandsumc.net/vbs.*
Contact: Mary Elizabeth Neal – maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net

Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition - May 5

Join us next Sunday, May 5 for Youth Sunday and senior recognition. Youth will practice for this service during the youth group meeting on April 28. Graduating high school seniors are Austin Meredith, Lauren Rogers, Ben Shacka, Katie Soong.

Better Basics Reading Program - May 2

The Better Basics Reads program has asked the Highlands congregation to participate in their Community Wide Read-Alouds in a Birmingham elementary school on Thursday, May 2. We will gather at Highlands UMC at 11:45 AM, arrive at the school at 12:15 PM to receive our reading materials and proceed to the classroom, and we will be in the classroom from 12:30 to 1 PM. Our group last year had a very good experience, and we hope you will join us. **If you would like to participate, please let us know by Monday, April 29.** Scan the QR code on the back of this page and tap Sign Up to Read – May 2, or reach out to Danny Jones at *danny@highlandsumc.net.*

Highlands CDC Silent Auction Fundraiser - June 7

Join the families of the Highlands Child Development Center for a fun-filled evening at the beautiful Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 PM. Get ready to bid on amazing items and experiences while supporting our CDC. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference and have a great time doing it. Tickets are $50 online; scan the QR code on the back page or on the flyers around the church. *Contact: Will Hooper – will@highlandsumc.net*

Children's Summer Sunday School Sign Up

We are seeking parents and other volunteers to provide simple, meaningful lessons and loving care to our children on Sunday mornings during the summer months. This allows our hard-working Catechists a well-deserved break to rest and recharge, and introduces our children to their wider church family. If you are interested in serving one week this summer, scan the QR code on the back of this page and complete the online sign up.
Contact: Mary Elizabeth Neal – maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net

Community Ministries Donations - Socks

Would you be able to help our Community Ministries guests by donating socks? Your donation of socks, new or gently used, would contribute to the well-being, hygiene, and comfort of our guests. Athletic crew socks in white, black or grey are favorites, but all styles and colors are welcome especially for men. (We do not need socks for children.) Donations may be dropped off in the marked baskets in the Greeting Space and Narthex. You may also purchase items from our Amazon Wish List, which ships directly to the church; scan the QR code on the back page. *Contact: Danny Jones – danny@highlandsumc.net*

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new Highlands members who joined on Sunday, April 21. Please greet them and introduce yourself. *Left: Katie Grafton and Ben Sellers. Right: The McKinnon family – Kyle, Joyce, Rory, and Bonnie.*

Thank you from the UWIF

The United Women in Faith would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to the Highlands congregation for your generous support of our spring bake sale last Sunday – it was a huge success!! The proceeds will be used to support mission projects.