

During VBS in June, we learned important stories about Jesus. We also had fun with music and crafts! One of our most fun activities was a treasure hunt through an obstacle course, where we said our Bible verse to receive our treasure at the end.

We have another VBS scheduled in July with Kathy Dorrell and the Child Evangelism Fellowship, continuing the fun and Bible learning from June.

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CENTER**

7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5

ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

Celebrating
**56
YEARS**

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THE CONNECTION **JULY 2026**

There are two realities no one can avoid in life: at some point, you will need to forgive someone, or you will need someone to forgive you. No matter how kind, or careful, or well-intentioned you are, those moments will come. Forgiveness requires far more character than most of us realize. If you've ever forgiven someone who has hurt you, you know that it's been one of the hardest things you've ever done. But if you haven't, it's because it's so hard you don't think you can.

The Bible often gives us examples of real people who experienced real hurt and heartache, and rather than becoming bitter, they were able to rise to the place of forgiveness. Even Jesus teaches that forgiveness is essential to life in Him and in prayer. Mark 11:25 says, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive." Whenever we're actually praying, we need to forgive. Prayer and an unforgiving heart cannot coexist, because it shows that our fellowship with God has been damaged. In Mark 11:25-26 Jesus shows us that the true power of praying involves both faith and forgiveness. We have to be in fellowship with our Father in heaven and with others on earth if we expect God to hear and answer our prayers. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father," not "My Father." Even when we pray alone, we never pray in isolation. Prayer unites God's people. When we forgive others, it shows a heart that desires to obey God, and that makes it possible for the Father to hear us and to answer prayer. As Psalm 66:18 says, "18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Galatians 5:6 also says that "faith works through love." If we have faith in God, we'll also have love for our brother, and we'll be willing to forgive them. The greatest miracle Jesus performs is forgiveness. It meets the greatest need that mankind ever has. It costs the greatest price that God could ever pay, and it brings the greatest blessing the world can ever receive. The root cause of every problem we have is sin, and if sin is our greatest problem, then forgiveness is our greatest need.

So think about this, Is there someone you could think of right now that you had rather die than to forgive? Is there someone right now that's totally unworthy and undeserving of your forgiveness? They're not even sorry for what they've done to you or maybe they've never apologized? Remember this, we can forgive those who don't deserve it. Jesus forgave us when we didn't deserve it. Three of the most powerful words anyone can say are, "I Forgive You!"

Continued on the next page

So often we want to say, “But, you don’t know how badly they hurt me.” or “They don’t know how badly the destroyed my life!” And you’re right, they don’t fully know, because you were the one who got hurt. Guess what? Jesus said the same thing. Jesus prayed from the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” I’m going to tell you a little secret that if you live long enough you already know, NOBODY makes it through life free of hurt or personal injury. Somebody, somewhere, sometime has either already hurt you or they will. Sometimes someone hurts us and we take that hurt out on someone else and they didn’t even do anything wrong. The question isn’t whether or not people are going to hurt you, or whether or not people are going to do you wrong, the question is how are you going to respond? Remember that the word forgive literally means “to let go” or “to send away.” Forgiveness is releasing your bitterness to the Lord and trusting Him to deal with the offense in His way and in His time. Someone once said, “Forgiveness is giving up my right to hurt you for hurting me.”

So, ask God to reveal if there is someone you need to forgive, and then choose to release that person to Him, just as Christ released you through His grace. You can’t control what others have done to you, but by God's power you can choose forgiveness and experience the freedom that only Christ can give.

Pastor Jim Norman

Highland on Mission

Thank you to all the families that supported the Baby Bottles Fund-raiser for Life Pregnancy Support Center. We're still looking for a few more of the bottles to be turned in...it's not too late!

Please take advantage of the Back to School sales that have already started showing up! It's a great time to purchase Crayola crayons,markers, and colored pencils for needed items in Operation Christmas Child boxes for later in the year! Also, coloring books and journals would be appreciated! A collection bin will be outside office area.

We continue to be thankful for the Highlanders that serve on Friday mornings at our Ministry Center during Food Share. We'd love to have others receive the blessings of sharing God's love to those that come inside. Please sign up for a date that fits your schedule.

With a grateful heart,
Rema Bell

Deacon of the Week

June 27- July 3	Mark Smith
July 4-10	Roger Williams
July 11-17	Stan Smith
July 18-24	Steve Conner
July 25-31	Jimmy Gaddis
August 1-7	Bradley Rogers

Greeters – July 2026

- July 5 – Jimmy/ Kristy
- July 12 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
- July 19 – David/ Diane
- July 26 – Samanthia/ Linda/ Kathy

VOLUNTEERS

Needed!

Join our Ministry Center Team

**FRIDAYS IN JUNE**
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**MINISTRY CENTER**

**PROVIDE BATHROOM FACILITIES**

**OFFER WATER**

**SHARE THE GOSPEL IN CONVERSATION**

**SIGN-UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICES**

Thank you for serving with love!







HBC Deacon Family Assignments 2025-2026

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Roger Williams
BR-DOU	Stan Smith
DUN-F	Steve Conner
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Rick Miller
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Mark Smith

Ready to Start Being a Blessing to Your Neighbors?



Mobilizing Churches and Individuals to Pray for and Love their Neighbors.



Scan this QR Code to get signed up!



Join our community of Lights today and begin using BLESS to transform your neighborhood with the love of Jesus Christ.

Or call the church office and we'll get you signed up!



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JIM NORMAN
MATT KOEHLER
JIMMY GADDIS
KATHY HASTY
AMY JACKSON
ANN SMITH
MIKE STRINGFIELD

SENIOR PASTOR
MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
FACILITIES MANAGER
NURSERY DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Proverbs 14:34

July Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please contact Kathy Hasty.

Sunday July 5:

Bible Study: David Inocencio
Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, David Inocencio, Kathy Hasty
No Evening Worship

Sunday July 12:

Bible Study: Liz Bond
Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Phil & Traci Henderson
Evening Worship: Samanthia Norman, Linda Bolinger

Sunday July 19:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris
Morning Worship: Kelly Farris, Rick Miller, Kim Dodson
Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Sunday July 26:

Bible Study: Liz and Lauren
Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Steve Stone, Kathy Hasty
Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty



It's crazy to think the year is halfway over. The Kids and the Youth both had great experiences at camp and will be sharing about their experiences on Sunday, July 12th during Morning Worship.



Families, I wanted to bring to your attention a great resource for your family worship time. Check out heritagebook.org; right now, a complete set of 4 books to guide your worship time is on sale. It's called the Family Worship Bundle: Beginning, Wilderness, Fulfillment, and Conquest by Beeke and Thompson. These books guide discussion and support teaching the Scriptures. The books are recommended for children ages 5 to 12. Let me know if you have any questions.

On July 17th, from 8:30 am – 12 pm, we will be hosting a lemonade stand to raise awareness and support for the Isaiah 117 House. We are asking for baked goods to be donated for sale, such as brownies or chocolate chip cookies.



Coming up on July 29th will be the Youth Night of Worship (N.O.W) from 5 pm – 7 pm. This will be the first event for students moving up to the youth group. Please be praying for this event. August 2nd is our Promotion Sunday for those kids moving into 1st grade and 6th grade.

Matt Koehler
Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Childrens Church – July 2026 7/5/2026 – Jonathan Sipe, Ryan Robison 7/12/2026 – No Children's Church 7/19/2026 – Matt Koehler, Riley Robison 7/26/2026 – Mark Raymond, Ann Smith		NEEDED: Adult Helpers for Children's Church. Please see Pastor Matt for more information.	1 Samanthia Norman Anna Lin	2 Jonah Myers Marie Henderson	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day 250 Years Drop-In Prayer Service- 7:30-9 AM
5 No Evening Worship	6 Arthur Hargrove Noah Myers	7 Edward Barton Max Collins	8 Lily Murray	9 Izzy Morgan	10	11 Claire Mason
12 Youth & Kids Camp Share Deacons Meeting 4PM Lauren Fults	13	14 Prime Timers 12 PM Randy Wilkins	15	16	17 Isaiah 117 House Lemonade Stand 8:30 AM-12:00 PM	18 Youth Lake Day 8:30 AM-3:00 PM Gail Darden
19 Levi Monroe Beverly Daniel	20 Theo Amaro	21	22 Betty Glasner	23	24	25
26 Jonathan Bell Rosemary Golden Leah Prince	27	28 Scott Smith Brittany Howell Jim Norman	29 Youth Night of Worship Carson Rogers Donald Golden Katie Leonard	30 CDC Open House 5:30 PM Chloe Johnson Connor Johnson	31	

Highland's Highlights

Counters for July
Linda Hawkersmith, Kimber Henry

— DROP-IN PRAYER SERVICE —

PRAYING
for **OUR NATION**

ONE NATION. ONE PEOPLE. ONE GOD.

JULY 4 | 7:30-9:00AM

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. MAKING DISCIPLES.

— OUR YOUTH & CHILDREN —

Are Going to
SHARE!

They will be sharing about what God taught them on their recent Summer Camp Trips!

SUNDAY, JULY 12
in the Morning **WORSHIP SERVICE**

♥ COME SUPPORT OUR YOUTH & CHILDREN AS THEY SHARE HOW GOD MOVED AT CAMP! ♥

Prime Timers
July 14 at noon

Catered by Mom and Me Meals to Go

Sound Volunteers – July 2026

7/1/26 & 7/5/26 – Janice Davis
7/8/26 & 7/12/26 – Ben Murray
7/15/26 & 7/19/26 – Ben Murray
7/22/26 & 7/26/26 – Ben Howell