

# LEADERSHIP

LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE



## ELDERS

Mike Ruel, **PASTOR**  
John Lisa, **SECRETARY**

Paul Fehrenbacher, **CHAIRMAN**  
Bob Fieldhouse, **TREASURER**  
Piero DiClemente

## DEACONS AND STAFF

Kerry Westpy, **FELLOWSHIP**  
Tom Worts, **BENEVOLENCE**  
Laurie Rivera, **CARING**  
Tina Nause, **OPERATIONS  
MANAGER**

Cyndi Hochstaedt, **KINGDOM KIDS**  
Ron Vreeland, **WORSHIP**  
Brad Wilson, **FINANCE**  
David Baxter, **BUILDING & GROUNDS**  
Ray Westpy, **TECHNOLOGY**

# WHO WE ARE

## CARE GROUPS

**WHERE:** Highlands Bible Church  
**WHEN:** Mondays at 7PM  
**HOSTED BY:** Ken Menzel

**WHERE:** Kuperus Home  
**WHEN:** 2nd & 4th Sundays at 4pm  
**HOSTED BY:** Pastor Mike Ruel

**WHERE:** Vernon/565  
**WHEN:** First Friday, Monthly  
**HOSTED BY:** The Baxters  
**CALL:** 201-230-7372

**WHERE:** Highlands Bible Church  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOSTED BY:** Brad & Taylor Wilson  
**CALL:** 973-600-0826 [Brad]  
Family Friendly Group!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**FACEBOOK:** HighlandsBibleNJ

**INSTAGRAM:**

HighlandsBibleChurch

**TWITTER:** @HighlandsBible

**YOUTUBE:** Highlands Bible Church



For Prayer Needs, Please Email Us at  
[PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)  
General e-mail: [info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)  
[www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org](http://www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org) | 973-764-7506  
307 NJ-94, Vernon Township, NJ 07462



**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

# OUR VISION & MISSION

MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

We are delighted that you joined us today! Our ministry vision is to love God and love others. We do that by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. This glorifies God!

## CONNECT WITH US!



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Please scan the QR code above to fill out a Connect Card and keep up to date on all our news and events.

## THE GOSPEL

THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO AT HIGHLANDS

**GOD:** The only all-knowing, all-powerful King and Creator of all things. He created us to enjoy and glorify him forever. [Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:18-32]

**SIN:** Yet, we rejected God, and established ourselves as gods of our lives, separating ourselves from Him, and becoming objects of His wrath. In so doing we also unleashed sin, sickness, death and evil. [Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12-14]

**CHRIST:** In God's unparalleled mercy and grace, He already had a plan to reconcile us to Himself. The entire Old Testament points to the coming of the Messiah - revealed in the New Testament as Jesus Christ. [John 1; Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 3:21-26]

**RESPONSE:** None of this is effective for us unless we respond in two ways: repent/turn from our self control and sin [Mark 1:15], and believe in the gospel [John 3:16-18]. We are then given new life in Christ, forgiven, justified, adopted into God's family, and we persevere in the faith. [1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 24:13; Ephesians 4:1]

# KINGDOM KIDS

WE LOVE KIDS AT HIGHLANDS!

Kids will be dismissed to downstairs before the sermon. Please see one of our security team at the check-in desk for more info.

**CURRENT CLASSES:** Explorers (0-2) Discoverers (2-3) and Adventurers (4-Kindergarten) and Navigators (1st-3rd grade). Infant nursery care is available for the full service, see Check-In Team!

## HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

EVENTS, CARE GROUPS, AND MORE



**TODAY 3pm - Family Care Group at Brad and Taylor Wilson's**

**TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY:** 9am at church, childcare avail.

**WED MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - 7am @ Cystal Cafe**

**WED NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - 7:30pm in the Loffice**

**YOUTH GROUP - Friday, 7pm at church**

**MEMBER MEETING & DINNER - Sunday, January 21, 2024, 5pm**

**ELDER MEETINGS:** 2nd Tuesday Monthly - Prayers Appreciated!

## FINANCES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING



<b>GENERAL OFFERING, Nov 2023</b>	\$31,272.34
<b>NEHEMIAH FUND, To Date</b>	\$402,235.59
<b>BENEVOLENCE, To Date</b>	\$21,339.12
<b>CEAF, To Date</b>	\$1,745.37
<b>YTD GENERAL OFFERING</b>	\$286,116.73
<b>2023 BUDGET</b>	\$350,670.00

Our giving box is in the back at the welcome table. You can also give anytime online at [www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org](http://www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org)

Questions? Email us at [info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)!

# WORSHIP GUIDE

December 31, 2023

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** Today our sermon passage is **Matthew 22:34-40**. As you prepare your heart for worship this morning, please consider reading and prayerfully reflecting on the following:



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Call to Worship: Psalm 145:8-9
- Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-15
- Sermon Passage Reading: Matthew 22:34-40
- Benediction: Titus 3:3-7



## CONSIDER - DISCUSS - PRAY

- What would the average person say is the “Most Important Thing in Christianity?”
- Have you had any experience with legalism? How was that in conflict with the gospel?
- What does it practically mean to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- What does it practically mean to love others as much as we love ourselves?
- Next Week’s Passage: Romans 13:8-14



## SING

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer | Before the Throne of God  
Above | O Great God | Wonderful, Merciful Savior  
His Mercy is More

# SERMON NOTES

Matthew 22:34-40 | Who We Are

1. Legalism At Its Finest [22:34-36; Matthew 15:1-9;

We are not legalists.

2. God’s Favorite Law [22:37-40; Deuteronomy 6:4-9;1 Corinthians 14:15; Luke 10:27; John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:19 ]

Big Idea: We are not legalists, we are lovers of God and others.

3. Who Is Highlands Bible Church?