

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | SEPT 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 9



9th Annual Highlands Charity Car Show

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Car Show Meal Tickets:

- ♦ Everyone should have received their car show meal tickets by now. Please let us know if you have not.
- ♦ As in the past, we are asking members and supporters, as you are able, to help support this event, our largest charity fundraiser, by again selling and/or purchasing these lunch tickets.
- ♦ The lunch tickets are \$10 each and each is good for one meal (Brats/Hot Dog, chips, bottle of water, dessert).
- ♦ The Sponsor Directory listing those businesses that have contributed to the show will be distributed in early Sept. When you have a need for a service one of these businesses provides, please give them the opportunity to earn your business and when they do, please thank them for their support of the show.
- ♦ Money from ticket sales and any unsold tickets may be dropped off at, or mailed to, the church. There will be a collection box in front of the office on weekdays and in the gathering area on weekends.
- ♦ There is no cost to attend the show, it is open and free to everyone, no ticket is required.

Volunteers:

- ◇ We will need help the day of the show with greeting and assisting people in parking their vehicles for display; help with spectator parking - including transporting spectators from the back and Baptist lots to the main HGMC lot; preparing and serving lunch; taking pictures and general help; set-up, clean up, etc.
- ◇ Sign-up is available online and there is a sheet in the Gathering Area as well.
- ◇ There will be a meeting in mid Sept. for volunteers where we will confirm assignments and show plans.
- ◇ 2026 Car Show t-shirts are available for purchase for \$15 prior to the show date and \$20 the day of the show.

Over the last 8 years because of the continued support and participation of our Highlands family, the HGMC Car Show has been able to distribute over \$115,000 to these three charities that help children in the Gravette School District



SAMARITAN'S FEET

Thank you for Your Help & Your Love!

Highlands Church Outreach Committee

Under-Shepherd Udderings

Please Remember to be in daily prayer for the General Conference of the Global Methodist Church meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 30 to Sept 5. I will provide a synopsis of the main accomplishments in future UU columns.



10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT

During worship service on September 13, we plan to recognize and pray for those who serve as teachers and leaders in making disciples. We are blessed with gifted and dedicated teachers. I hope you will write them a note or say a kind word to show your appreciation. Teaching is just one of many spiritual gifts. I am grateful for all who serve using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given for building up the body of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that is at work through you all, so we give the Lord glory for the gifts He has given us. Please pray for the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee as they begin their work in September. In October, you'll receive the annual "Go Serve" booklet that provides information for church leadership that allows us to help you find a place to serve. I hope you will let us know where you can use your gifts for God's kingdom and the good of your church. Don't be shy. Until the Lord has called you home to glory, He's calling you to keep walking and serving Him. The Lord has given you gifts, talents, abilities, and experiences - give back to Him! Sing in the choir, help with lawn care, serve in a local mission opportunity. Find a place to serve that honors the Lord! Then, as St. Peter writes: "Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ."

Grace and Peace

Pastor Rick





THE
HIGHLANDERS
METHODIST MEN



HMMW

**HIGHLANDS METHODIST
WOMEN**

September Joint Meeting

Please join the Highlanders Men and Highlands Methodist Women (HMMW) for a joint meeting on Tuesday, September 1, at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Chari Bouse, a docent at the Bella Vista Historical Museum. Chari also worked for about 18 years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a prison chaplain, trying to change lives for the better. Fun, fellowship, and devotion are sure to abound during this special evening event. ALL men and women of Highlands Church and their friends are invited.

A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Station, as we will need a headcount for food. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Daniel Prayer: Women's Bible Study

Ladies, you're invited to join us for a new six-week Bible study beginning Thursday, September 10, at 1:00 PM. Led by Susan Cafferty, the group will study The Daniel Prayer by Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham. Based on Daniel's prayer for his nation of Judah, this study explores how we can deepen and strengthen our own prayer lives. Topics include preparing for prayer, pleading in prayer, and prevailing in prayer.

The study will meet each Thursday at 1:00 PM from September 10 through October 15 and will include video teaching, discussion, prayer, and activities from The Daniel Prayer Study Guide/Workbook. Whether you feel confident in your prayer life or would simply like to grow and learn more, you're invited to be part of this study. Please sign up at the Information Station.

Participants do not need to purchase the book. Susan will use the book as the leader of the study. Participants will only need The Daniel Prayer Study Guide/Workbook, which is \$15. You may purchase the Study Guide/Workbook on your own through Amazon, or the church can order one for you. If you would like the church to order yours, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Payment can be made at the first class. [Click Here to view on Amazon](#).

BLOOD DRIVE
SEPT 16
10AM - 3PM



**you
OTTER
give
blood**



Limited
time only!



My Witness Story

“A Warm Heart in the Cold Snow”

by Allen Lovell

It was a bitterly cold and snowy Sunday night in February 1984 at the Grafenwoehr Training Center in Germany. I was the operations officer of an artillery battalion. We'd been trying to conduct evaluations of live fire training, but the weather complicated everything. Nothing was going right. Sometimes the artillery shells landed in snow drifts so deep that they didn't even explode. I was at my wit's end.

At the staff meeting that night, our unit chaplain mentioned that there was going to be a chapel service later that evening. I decided to go.

Near our barracks was a small wooden building that the Army called a chapel. As the worshippers gathered, I noticed the diversity of those who showed up that night. Blacks, whites, Hispanics. Mechanics who were still in their coveralls. Cooks straight from the mess halls. Even a few other staff types like me. Christians from perhaps a dozen denominations gave up their free time and gathered in that dimly lit chapel to worship their God.

The chapel had a piano, but it went unused because none of us knew how to play it. So we sang a few familiar hymns a cappella. The preacher, a chaplain in calvary boots, spoke from his heart about his struggles with sin.

By the time we closed with communion, I was overcome with emotion and felt a joyful stirring in my soul. Christ's presence was made real to me in a powerful way. And I prayed asking that He save me from my sin.

Walking back to the barracks that night, I knew that I was a changed man. A few months later, I was transferred back to the States. I was baptized and joined a church. And I've never looked back.

Thanks be to God.



If you would like to share your “Witness Story” in a future edition of the newsletter, please contact Susan Cafferty.



Care & Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of September 29 - October 3, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Online signups will begin soon. For details, contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer.



Operation Christmas Child

We are already collecting items for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry! A collection bin is located near the Nursery for your donations. This year, we are focusing on gifts for boys and girls ages 5-14, so please keep that age range in mind as you shop. For more details, contact Sara Sherman.



Outreach Opportunities

Snack Pack Volunteers

School year 2026–2027 has begun!! We pack weekend snack packs for food-insecure students in the Gravette School District. We will again pack snack packs at the Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S. 8th Street in Rogers, from **10:00–11:30 AM**, on an every-other-month schedule. Mark your calendars! Below is the schedule:

Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday, December 2

Wednesday, February 3

Wednesday, April 7

The children receive a blessing, and so do we! It is a great way to have fun and fellowship with each other. **LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, MAKE DISCIPLES.**

Care and Share

Highlands Church weeks to volunteer at Care and Share in Gravette are **September 29–October 3** and **November 10–14**. Care and Share's motto is "People Helping People." Sign up online or contact Connie Kiefer.

Operation Christmas Child

We continue to support the mission opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the world with Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox ministry! The Gospel is shared with the children before receiving the shoebox gift, which contains a copy of *The Greatest Gift*, a Gospel booklet about the gift of salvation being in Jesus Christ alone. This booklet is available in more than 118 languages, with 10 additional translations in progress. After receiving these gifts, children are able to participate in the follow-up 12-week Bible-based discipleship program called *The Greatest Journey*. For more information about this ministry, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

We can provide small gifts in a shoebox 12 x 7 x 4.38 inches for children ages 5–14. A donation fee of **\$10 per box** is critical to cover shipping costs. Please make your check to Highlands Church with OCC in the memo line or place it in an envelope with your name and notation of OCC. Our goal this year is to pack **100 shoeboxes**. Highlands Church is very generous, and I know we can easily exceed this goal!! School supplies and end-of-season clothing/shoes are still on sale, so it's an excellent time to purchase these items. If you purchase an item that requires batteries (i.e., flashlight or toy), please include batteries.

We have a collection bin near the Nursery in the Gathering Area and will have a packing party in late October or early November. Filled boxes will be delivered in mid-November to the collection location for this area, which is Bella Vista Baptist Church. As you are in Walmart, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, etc., please look for small items to include in the shoebox. Look around your home; you may have donation items that are either new or gently used. There will be Gift Suggestion lists at the Information Station. I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Sherman at sarasherman@att.net.

Gravette School District Food Pantry

Please continue to support the **Gravette School District Food Pantry**. Bins are located at the church entrances.

Annual Highlands Car Show

The **Annual Car Show** is **Saturday, September 19!!** This is our annual fundraiser to support our local charities: Bright Futures Gravette, Samaritan Community Center Snack Pack Program, and Samaritan's Feet. (see front page article)

Blessings, Sara Sherman, Outreach Chair

Highlands Youth Discipleship

Highlands Youth Discipleship (Grades 5–12+) continues to meet Sunday mornings from **9:00–9:45 AM** for Bible study and real-life conversations. All middle and high school students are welcome, and we encourage our youth to bring a friend!

Memory Verse: “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

The Blessing of the Backpacks was a wonderful service, followed by a sack lunch, games, and fellowship. Special thanks to everyone who helped plan, set up, serve lunch, and clean up. You helped make the day a success!

It was also Promotion Sunday, and we celebrated three young ladies moving into the middle and high school Youth Discipleship class. Taylinn Walker, Liana Chernota, and Madelyn Hall each received a Bible as part of their promotion. We also welcomed Allison Payne to the class. Allison and her parents, Eric and Trisha, are new to Highlands Church, and we are excited to have them with us!

Our youth and families will soon enjoy a trip to The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs on August 29. Watch for photos and more about their evening in the next publication!

September Games & Grub

Our next Games & Grub will be **Sunday, September 13, from 4:00–6:00 PM at the church**. Dinner will be BBQ! Please sign up through SignUpGenius so we know how many to plan for. The signup link can be found on the church’s website homepage.



Children’s Center

“START THE CHILDREN OFF THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.” PROVERBS 22:6



Parents and Grandparents:

In September, as kids are starting a new school year, the Kids’ Discipleship class will be learning about Living Our Faith. Kids, did you know the church has a library just for you? It’s located in the sign-in area for the nursery and Kids’ Discipleship. No check out is necessary. If you want to borrow a book; simply return it when you have read it.

Children age 5 – 4th Grade are welcome at Kids' Discipleship. We meet from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM following the Children's Sermon. We do not meet on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (479) 619-8654.

In God's Love, Kitty Knight

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1– Compassionate Care Meeting – Highlanders & HMW Joint Meeting	2	3	4	5– No Celebration Worship
6– Combined Worship at 10AM – First Sunday Cookies	7– Labor Day, Office Closed for Holiday	8	9– Stitchers	10– Trustees Mtg – Women's Bible Study Begins	11	12
13– Youth Games & Grub	14	15– Church Council Meeting	16– Blood Drive	17– Library Meeting	18	19– Car Show
20	21	22	23– Stitchers – Treasure Principle Bible Study Begins	24– Care Group Leaders Meeting	25	26
27	28	29– Care & Share Volunteer Week Begins	30			



Stitchers Wanted: Everyone is welcome to join the Stitchers as they get together to stitch, crochet, or knit and enjoy some fellowship. Crochet and knit patterns are available for Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares for anyone who would like to contribute to those ministries.

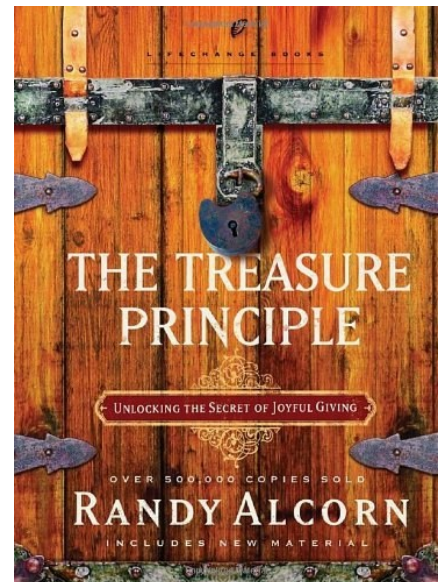
The Stitchers will **resume meeting September 9** and meet twice a month, September through May, on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** in the John Classroom. If you are interested, simply show up or contact the group coordinator, Sandra Foster at 580-471-1282 or sjfes1@gmail.com.

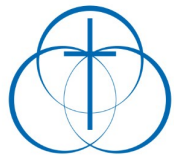
Treasure Principle Bible Study

Join Pastor Rick for another Soup & Study and a look at the book The Treasure Principle, a simple approach to unlocking the secret of joyful giving and generous living. This church-wide study will meet for only four weeks at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall: September 23 & 30 and October 7 & 14.

Thanks to the generosity of a church member, free copies of The Treasure Principle book are available for participants and may be picked up when you sign up. Come share a light dinner together (soup!) and a short time of Bible study focused on unlocking the six treasure principle keys to joyful giving.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex and Gathering Area. Please let us know you are coming so we know how much soup to stir up!





HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

5:30pm Saturday Celebration Worship
10:00am Sunday Traditional Worship

First Sunday Combined Worship @10am
(No Saturday Service)

Office News

CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL: office@hgmcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am—4:00pm
Friday, 8:30am—Noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline to submit content for the October Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on Sept 20. Please send all submissions, comments, or questions to the church office at: office@hgmcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed on September 7 in observation of the Labor Day Holiday.

CHURCH T-SHIRTS: T-shirts are available to order year-round for \$20 each. If you would like to purchase a shirt, please contact the church office for ordering info.

Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*

AMY SHEWMAKER, *Nursery Attendant*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Administrator*

MONICA REDMON, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - July 31, 2026

	YTD Budget	July Actual	YTD Actual
Income	281,836	39,828	265,582
Expenses	281,836	38,244	262,927
Net	0	1,584	2,656

Thank you for your continued support.

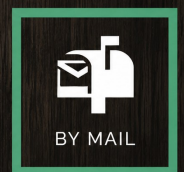
3 ways to give
to Highlands Church



ONLINE



IN-PERSON



BY MAIL

for details visit... | hgmcbv.com/give



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