

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | AUGUST 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 8



Back to School Celebration & Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us on Sunday, August 17, during the 10:00 AM Traditional Service for a Back to School Celebration and Blessing of the Backpacks. Students, teachers, school staff, and lifelong learners are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, or laptop bags for a special blessing as we surround the new school year in prayer.

Kids Worship will not meet so that all children may attend worship service with parents.

After worship, we'll continue the fun at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall with sack lunches, ice cream sundaes, games, and fellowship for children, students, and families. Everyone is welcome... even if you don't have school-aged children. Come help us celebrate and support those beginning a new academic year.

To help us better prepare for lunch, please call the church office to RSVP or signup at the table in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please contact Sue Benson at 620-960-9185 or Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115.



Undershepherd Udderings

"Like newborn babies, crave **pure** spiritual **milk**, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..."
(1 Peter 2:2)



Howdy Highlands Church Family,

I've made a lot of introductions in the past few weeks and it is a blessing to be here to serve as your pastor and to get to know y'all.

I want to introduce you to the title for my pastor's column. I call it "Undershepherd Udderings." I have used this title for decades.

I realize "udderings" is not spelled correctly. It's a pun. Yes, you can milk sheep - ask a lamb.

My mentor, Rev. Charlie Geller, gave me a shepherd staff when I just started ministry as a pastor. Charlie taught me one of the most important lessons for a healthy mentality as a pastor. Charlie said, "Remember you are an undershepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Just point to Him and do what you think Jesus would do if Jesus were HEAD of your church because Jesus is HEAD of the church. I keep my shepherd staff and three stuffed sheep (one is from Serta Sleeper) in my office to remind me that's who I am. Just an undershepherd. Come by my office any time and I'll show you the sheep and the staff.

I have added a tagline scripture from St. Peter to remind me that I'm here to "feed His sheep." The tile and tagline will be in every newsletter.

St. Peter encouraged the church (which is also my main role) to "grow up in your salvation" by desiring spiritual milk. The "Milk" is the Word of God. The Word of God should be our daily food. I echo our Lay Leader, Bill Williams, who has encouraged us all to sign up for a daily email from Seedbed called Wake Up Call. (Please go to this link and sign up today - <https://seedbed.com/wakeupcall/>). I've subscribed for a long time and this daily devotional reading and scripture study feeds my soul every day. I'm a morning person so I like it first thing in the morning, but any time you can spend in prayer, devotional bible reading and worship is a good time. It's like going fishing. Do you know the best time to go fishing? Any time you can. I encourage you to feed your soul by committing to a daily devotional with "Wake Up Call" or a good scripturally-based devotional. I have a goal that every member of Highlands Church will be on the same page and "crave pure spiritual milk" through the Wake Up Call.

I'm looking forward to our "Meat and Greet with Pastor Rick" times that will begin in August. If you cannot attend one of those sessions, then please come up to the office and grab coffee or just let me know when you would like to get together. It's like fishing. Anytime you can is a good time.

Grace and Peace

Pastor "Undershepherd" Rick

Highlands Church Annual Car Show

The Highlands GMC Church Annual Charity Car Show will be taking place this year on September 20.

Because of the very wonderful and generous physical, monetary and moral support from the Highlands Church congregation over the past seven years, along with contributions from corporate, retail and individual sponsors, this event has raised, and distributed, over \$100,000 to the three charities it supports.

Samaritan's Feet - shares a message of hope and love through washing the feet of children and providing a free new pair of socks and shoes for back-to-school for nearly 200 Gravette students each year.

Snack Packs for Kids - furnishes food packs for around 135 food insecure Gravette students to take home each Friday during the school year.

Bright Futures - helps meet the needs of Gravette students by helping families with emergency expenses, school supplies, clothing, emergency dental and medication expense and many other basic needs.

We will have volunteer sign-up sheets and online sign-up available mid-August and expect to have car show T-shirts available for order about that same time. Car Show lunch tickets will also be sent out to the congregation about mid-August and more information will be provided on those closer to that date.

In 2024 we had an estimated 600 spectators and 175+ vehicles – (cars, trucks, motorcycles, hot rods and others) which made for a truly great show. One of the best ways of promoting the show is by word of mouth so please let your friends and neighbors know about the show when you can and if you know of anyone with an interesting vehicle, or just see one somewhere, please let them know about the show and ask them to consider participating (show flyers are available on the information counter and our website www.hgmcgv/car-show has a lot of information on it as well).

The show is free for both spectators and participants and it runs from 10 – 2 with lunch served from 10:30 – 1:30. We will once again have the bounce house and other activities for the kids. Bella Vista Strings will be providing live music again this year and if you've never heard them, you are missing out, they always put on a great show!

If you have any questions about the show, volunteering, showing a car, etc. please contact Greg Snyder, Mike Maginness, Flip Smith, Billie Hall or Dave Benson.

Thank you!



Financial Notes

Thank you for your generosity! For the first time in years, we are not looking at a “summer slump” in giving or attendance. (Please refer to the budget accounting on page 8). At the printing of this newsletter, we are \$16,400 ahead of expenses for the year. There is a spirit of joy and renewal as we gather each weekend for worship. **Highlands Church is the place to be!!**

Another exciting bit of news is about our mortgage loan. Originating in January 2011 in the amount of \$1,400,000 for the costs of building the Office/Classroom wing, we have faithfully made monthly payments which were a very heavy portion of our operating budget. However, with the special giving for “Fifth Sundays Loan Reduction” and many, many special donations to principle payments, **we have reduced the balance to \$97,190 as for this date.** This extra giving has saved us thousands of dollars in interest over the years and shortened the length of the loan.

August 31 is the next “Fifth Sunday for Loan Reduction.” If we all give a little extra toward loan reduction that Sunday, we can watch the loan balance go down, down, down!

FIFTH SUNDAY LOAN REDUCTION



**HELP PAY DOWN OUR
PROPERTY LOAN!**



Children's Worship 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



August is a busy and exciting time as our children go back to school! We are planning a celebration on August 17, 2025 during and after the worship service. See the article on page #1 for details.

In August we will finish up our lessons on our favorite Bible Stories.

- ◇ The Sower – Matthew 13:3-8, 19-23
- ◇ The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
- ◇ The Lost Sheep – Matthew 18:12-14
- ◇ The Forgiving Father – Luke 15:11-32

We truly enjoy the children and love seeing their smiling faces each Sunday - thank you for bringing them! Kids Worship is offered every Sunday at 10:00 AM for children ages 5–10. They'll be welcomed by our caring team of teachers: Barb Zillmann, Fran Lovell, Wanda Krug, and Sue Benson.

Nursery is available for children ages 0–4, led by Laurie Pearson.

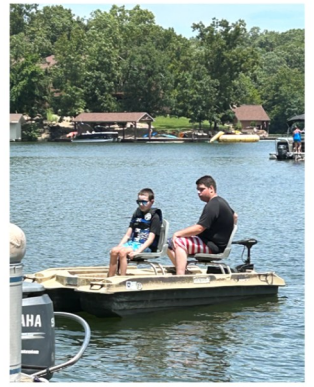




Youth Group Update

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1**

"Donuts and Discipleship" Youth Group is learning about the "goodness of the Lord" in their Sunday morning study on hearing the voice of Jesus, and getting acquainted with the heart of God through knowing Jesus. We would love to have more youth join us at 9:00 am Sunday mornings in the Youth Group room. Donuts, drinks, and "Friends of God" experiences provided!



The July Lake Party was a great success! We enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of swimming, food, and boating, plus time to talk and have fun together. We want to "give thanks" to many people for providing this opportunity: Billie and David Hall for offering hospitality, supplies, and the use of their beautiful lakefront property and boats docks, Flip and Kathy Smith for driving their boat and playing taxi from dock to dock, and the Youth Group Adult Team for providing the food and supplies for our hot dog lunch. It was a special treat to hang out on the dock and get to know Pastor Rick, Karen, and Jacob. We "give thanks to the Lord" for them. For more information, contact Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115.





HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

Highlands Methodist Women is a fun, faith-filled group with a heart for serving women and children in our local community. Each month, we gather for a casual continental breakfast—filled with laughter, encouragement, and connection—while planning how we can make a difference through local outreach. Along with our monthly meetings, we enjoy special outings, events, and a lively book club that's open to readers of all kinds. Whether you're brand new or have been here for years, you'll find a warm welcome and plenty of ways to get involved. All women of Highlands Church and their guests are welcome. Mark your calendar for our next meeting on Monday, September 8. Questions? Contact Jean Galloway at 913-669-5310.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

Highlands Men will be holding a special evening meeting on Wednesday, August 13 at 5:15 pm to review the responses from the recent survey that was sent out in May. We will also be discussing the suggestions made by the survey review group for possible changes to HMM based on the survey responses as well as ideas from the membership. This is an important meeting for the future of HMM and all men are encouraged to attend. There will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area so we can get a good count on how much food to prepare – thank you. Questions? Contact Greg Snyder at 479-876-2963.

Flex 'N Stretch—Returns Sept 8

Flex 'N Stretch is a wellness program of activities which provides a higher quality of life thru responsible movement that is pain free and possible for all participants. Our Mission is to challenge, encourage and promote better health through physical exercise.

This well-organized exercise program teaches all participants how to do the exercises easily and safely, including seniors. Benefits include increased range of motion, coordination, strength, balance and agility, all of which improve the quality of life and lead to longer independent living.

The next 10 week session starts Monday, September 8. We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00 am - 9:00 am, in the Peter classroom. The 10 week session will end on Friday, November 14.

**You can attend 1 lesson, all 30 lessons, or even somewhere in-between...
Whatever works for you!**

\$45.00- 30 Sessions

\$30.00- 15 Sessions

Come, join the fun and experience the benefits! Newcomers are welcome to stop by and give it a trial run. No signups required. Pick up a flyer at the Information Station and invite a friend. Contact Donna Williams at 479-659-2658 for details.

EXERCISE PROGRAM



**Highlands Church
Bella Vista. AR**

August 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2– No Celebration Service |
| 3– Combined Worship at 10am | 4 | 5– Compassionate Disciples Meeting | 6– Fellowship Committee Mtg | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10– Class of 90s | 11 | 12 | 13– HMM Meeting at 5:15pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17– Back to School Event & Blessing Backpacks | 18 | 19– Kitchen Cleanup | 20 | 21– Library Mtg | 22 | 23– Scrapbooking & Card Making |
| 24– Class of 2025 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30– Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction Weekend |
| 31– Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction – Class of ‘23-24 | | | | | | |

Medical Equipment—Available for Loan



Did you know we have a selection of medical and hospitality equipment available for loan to our Highlands Church congregation? If you're recovering from surgery or expecting guests, we may have just what you need! Items are stored in the lower level Storage Room. To check out equipment, please use the clipboard with the bright pink cover sheet sitting on the stool near the storage room door. Be sure to read the liability waiver at the top, then sign out any items you’re borrowing.

Lately, we’ve noticed the inventory is getting low, and some items may not have been properly signed out. If you’ve borrowed something and forgot to check it out, no worries... just stop by the clipboard or let the office know so we can keep track.

Food Pantry for Gravette School

We’re continuing to collect non-perishable food and toiletry items for families in need within the Gravette School District. Please place donations in the marked bins located at each church entrance. Items will be delivered directly to the school’s food pantry. We are blessed to be able to help, and your generosity truly makes a difference. This outreach is co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team and Highlands Methodist Women (HMMW). Thank you for your continued support!

Egg cartons are NOT needed at this time





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

Amey Burkett: office@hgmcbv.com

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

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

ADDRESS CHANGE: John & Sally Clapp, 523 Deer View Ave, Tiffin, IA 52340

Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Senior Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Bookkeeper*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - June 30, 2025

| | YTD Budget | June Actual | YTD Actual |
|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Income | 219,002 | 46,662 | 223,064 |
| Expenses | 219,002 | 32,404 | 206,626 |
| Net | 0 | 14,258 | 16,438 |

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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