

Highlands *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Highlands Church: A United Methodist Congregation
Volume 23, Issue 3, March 2019

Ask the Church: Why Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the

palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

-Adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship



Save these dates for Holy Week:

The Passover Seder Meal will be April 18 at 6:00 pm.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be April 19 at 6:00 pm.



Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. 1 Peter 5:6

This year Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season on March 6th, which means it's time to start deciding upon our Lenten disciplines. The three things we focus on during Lent to help us draw closer to Christ are: fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. I am of the opinion that all three of those need to be worked on, not just one or two. Let's look at these three areas and get some ideas for this Lent.

Fasting: I've heard it said that we can "take something on instead of giving something up." I disagree with that statement. In fact, I think the point of fasting is to also take something else on. It's not one or the other, it's both. It's great that people want to fast from certain foods during Lent, but my best advice is to give up those foods/drinks that make you sluggish and replace them with more Bible Study and prayer. You can also give up television and/or other forms of entertainment and replace them with a spiritual alternative. Highlands Church can help a lot with your spiritual growth. We have Bible Study options most days of the week. Our two Sunday School classes diligently study the Bible week after week, and you can join either the 8:15 or 9:30 class any time. We have growth groups that meet throughout the week to study the Bible. Currently, we have two different Bible Studies where we focus on specific books for a limited period of time. In those options there are chances on Sunday mornings as well as weeknights and weekdays.

Almsgiving: This is often the overlooked part of Lent. We typically think about what we are giving up and forget that "above and beyond giving" is as important. This is part of fasting as well, giving up certain things in order to free up money or time to go to the kingdom. We will be having a "Thanksgiving Offering," which is "above and beyond giving", during this Lenten season. The giving helps with our budget, as well as our overall ability to reach our mission field. There are always the hurting, the hungry, and the hopeless and to reach them and help them takes money and volunteers.

Prayer: I could write about this subject all day, but I want to give more of a Lenten assignment if you'll humor me. Would you pray the Scriptures with me this Lent? That means whatever Bible reading plan or devotional plan you're using, would you go word by word, sentence by sentence and let God's Holy Word stir up prayers in your heart that you then lift up to Him. Doing this will stir up in us prayers that we would never have thought about. We will be praying about situations we have never thought about. We will see sins to confess that we have never even thought about. We will see plans for Highlands Church that we've never even thought about. Please, partner with me in praying the Scriptures this Lent.

Lastly, Lent will be the time when we distribute the Serve Catalogs with all of the ministry opportunities. I hope you'll take time to read over those, fill them out, and bring them back.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Lenten Season and may you be formed ever more in His image throughout these days.

Blessings and peace,

Robert

SERVING US IN MARCH

Saturday Host/Hostesses

- 3/2 Bill & Claudia Williams
3/9 Steve & Amy Terry
3/16 Katy McMahan & Stephanie Bowen
3/23 Linda & Mary Pumphrey
3/30 Butch & Alice Lock

Sunday Guest Table

- 3/3 Mel Snyder
3/10 Mel Snyder
3/17 Mel Snyder
3/24 Mel Snyder
3/31 Mel Snyder

Liturgists

- 3/3 Claudia Williams
3/10 Dave Hagaman
3/17 Joyce Sheldon
3/24 Dick Steck
3/31 Van VanderSchaaf

CPR/AED

- 3/3 Joan Pehosh
3/10 Sue LaHood
3/17 Ron Blackwelder
3/24 Linda Virgili
3/31 Sue LaHood

Safety & Security: Linda Virgili

Head Usher: Paul & Helen Bickford

Trustee for the Month: Mike Pulhamus



CHRIST BESIDE ME. CHRIST BEFORE ME.
CHRIST BEHIND ME. CHRIST WITHIN ME.
CHRIST BENEATH ME. CHRIST ABOVE ME.

SAINT PATRICK

Our Condolences

Dick & Susan Vroman for the loss of their daughter, Jill Roemer.

Jerry & Sandra Foster for the loss of Jerry's mother.

New Contact Information

Ted Lasher: lashers920108@gmail.com

Rev. Robert & Betsy Cloninger
34 Retford Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715

Welcome New Members



Lynn and Steve Patton joined during the Saturday Celebrations Service.



Brittney and Chris Marsteller joined during The Gathering.

If you have been visiting and would like to become a member of Highlands Church, please talk to Pastor Robert.

Thank You

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for all the kindnesses you have shown us following the illness and recent death of our daughter, Jill. Your cards, calls and expressions of sympathy have just been overwhelming and so very comforting at this sad time. We are richly blessed by such a caring church family.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Susan and Dick Vroman

Prayer Chain & Member Care

If you know someone in need of prayer, ill or hospitalized, please contact the church office.

United Methodist Women

Please join the UMW on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. Our speaker for this month is David Nicholson from the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County, and it should be a great talk. Come have fun with us as we have a bite to eat, lot's of fellowship and devotion. ALL women of the church and guests are always welcome! Hope to see you on the 11th!

UMW Book Club

The UMW book club will have their meeting in the Matthew Room this month on Monday, 18th of March at 9:30 a.m. Our book for this month is *The Hidden Life Awakened* by Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp, PhD. "A story for the ages . . . a call to never settle for an ordinary life or a predictable God. You will love this remarkable life and book." Coffee and treats are served and they go so well with our discussions. Come join us if you can. All are welcome! We ask that you please park in the back parking lot and use that door now. Thank you and hope to see you. For questions or more information call Sue LaHood, 855-0937.

UMW Dessert for a Year

A wee bit of luck is with the Chapmans this month! After feasting on the gooey-good dessert from Joyce Sheldon last month (thank you, Joyce)-Chris & George will enjoy an Irish Cream Chocolate Cheesecake from the kitchen of Mel Snyder! Just one more dessert awaits them in April! Watch for Dessert-for-a-Year ticket sales to begin end of April!!

Muffins for Missions

The United Methodist Women pray to put their faith, hope, and love in action to benefit women and children's needs in our community. Therefore,

we find ways to use our skills to help raise funds to support our mission. This year, every 5th Sunday, between the two Sunday morning services, we invite you to enjoy homemade muffins. Yes, you may take them to go! On March 31st please plan to stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall and donate to MUFFINS FOR MISSIONS. Remember, they are perfect to share with your neighbors and friends with an invitation to church!

Coffee Cans

Please start saving your Folgers 240 cup coffee cans (30.5 oz) for the 2019 Cookie Walk and return any cans you have from last year.

8:15 Adult Sunday School

8:15 Sunday school meets in the Mark classroom. During March we continue studying the book of ACTS. Join us for a new 6 week study beginning Sunday, April 7 through May 19. There will be no class Easter Sunday. We will use a book and DVD with Rev. Adam Hamilton called **Simon Peter; Flawed but Faithful Disciple**. Come study and discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference, *just like Peter*. Sign up in the Gathering Area. Books are \$15 each. Questions, contact Donna VanderSchaaf at 479-715-6059 or at Sunday traditional service.

9:30 Adult Sunday School

9:30 Sunday school meets in the Mark classroom and uses the Standard Lessons Commentary. Everyone is welcome to attend at any time.

GriefShare

Highlands Church will host a GriefShare class beginning March 21. Join us on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Mark Classroom for a 13 week session. Contact Carla Lemmeyer at 470-657-6830 to sign up or with any questions.

HIGHLANDS kids

Nursery The nursery is available every Sunday morning during our 9:30 & 11:15 services for birth through 3 years old.

Children's Church All children, ages 4 through 6th grade, are invited to Children's Church on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 and 11:15 service. Children will worship with their parents until Sarah Catherine takes them back for fun, fellowship and learning more about Christ and His love for them.



Student Ministry meets Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30.

Veritas 2019

What an amazing weekend the Highlands Youth Group had at Veritas 2019! Romans 12:2 was the theme for the weekend and our youth learned about the transformative power of the Lord. One way we transform and renew our mind is through worship. Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking to encounter God in Christ. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another. We worship, not because of how we feel or what we're going through; we worship because of who God is. He has proven faithful time and time again, and so we continually chose to seek Him—in joy and in pain—in every season. Thank you for your prayers and your donations that sent us on our trip. We learned much and grew closer as a group.



All Church Event: Pancakes & Pajamas

February 24, 2019



Snack Packs



We currently are packing for the entire Gravette School System which is over 100 children per week end. The Highlands Church Outreach also pays for all the food. The snack packs go to children that the school counselors believe to be food insufficient over the weekend. The work is not hard, we play music and have fun. We pack for one hour from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Sam's Club is on the way so if you need something it is a handy stop. We pack at the Samaritan Community Center in Rogers the third Tuesday of the month during the school year. Their address is 1211 West Hudson Rd.

Blood Drive

The next HUMMERS Blood Drive will be March 13 at 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

Outreach News

Last year was a great year for Outreach. We gave over \$21,000 to our charities! I would like to thank UMW, Power Of One and the Car Show for helping us raise money for our charities.

This year we intend to give to our charities on a quarterly basis. 1st quarter of 2019 we gave \$6,000 to Snack Packs, Bright Futures, Samaritan Feet & NWA food bank. We are on target to give over \$25,000 this year.

Snack Packs are going great this year with more Highlands Church participants than we have ever had. We had 14 people from our church packing this week!

Meals on wheels begins in March and we could use some help with this. Ted

Lasher has a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

We need help to get sponsors for the car show. I would like to raise \$10,000 from sponsors this year. I am working on putting a group together to do this. Please let me know if you are interested. We had success last year because the sponsors related to the charities we were working with. We need 10 people to sell sponsorships and to put up flyers. I want to begin getting sponsors this Spring.

Thank you congregation for your great support.

Steve Terry, Missions Chair

Centered in Prayer

And a voice from Heaven said, "This is My Son whom I am well pleased". (John 3:17)

The glory of Jesus as a Son on earth, was that the Spirit of the Father was in Him. At His baptism in the Jordan, the voice proclaiming Him the Beloved Son and the Spirit descending on Him were united. So the Apostle Paul says of us, "Because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba. Father." A king and queen seek in the whole education of their children to call forth a royal spirit in them. Our Father in Heaven desires to educate us as His children for the holy, heavenly life in which He dwells. For this purpose, He gives His own Spirit from the depths of His Heart.

From *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

MARCH CALENDAR

1-Friday

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
1:00 pm Compassionate Disciples

2-Saturday

3:00 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
5:30 pm Celebration Service

3-Sunday

8:15 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Service
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Church
11:15 am The Gathering Service
11:15 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Student Ministry
7:00 pm AA Meeting

4-Monday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am UMW Board
5:00 pm Men's Emmaus

5-Tuesday

7:45 am HUMMERS
10:00 am Revelation Bible Study
3:00 pm Yoga
6:00 pm Admin Council Meeting

6-Wednesday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
2:00 pm Fellowship Committee
4:00 pm Bells
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 pm Revelation Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir

7-Thursday

3:15 pm Sat Celeb Rehearsal
6:00 pm The Mustard Seed Study

8-Friday

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch

9-Saturday

3:00 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
5:30 pm Celebration Service

10-Sunday

8:15 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Service
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Church
11:15 am The Gathering Service
11:15 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Student Ministry
7:00 pm AA Meeting

11-Monday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am UMW Meeting
3:00 pm Women's Emmaus
5:00 pm Men's Emmaus

12-Tuesday

7:30 am Special Election
10:00 am Revelation Bible Study
3:00 pm Yoga

13-Wednesday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
10:00am HUMMERS Blood Drive
1:00 pm Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Stitchers
4:00 pm Bells
6:00 pm Revelation Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir

14-Thursday

9:00 am Kitchen Clean Up
2:00 pm Trustees Meeting
3:15 pm Sat Celeb Rehearsal
6:00 pm The Mustard Seed Study

15-Friday

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am Membership Meeting

16-Saturday

3:00 pm Sat Celeb Rehearsal
5:30 pm Celebration Service

17-Sunday

8:15 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Service
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Church
11:15 am The Gathering Service
11:15 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Student Ministry
7:00 pm AA Meeting

18-Monday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
9:30 am UMW Book Club
5:00 pm Men's Emmaus

19-Tuesday

10:00 am Revelation Bible Study
3:00 pm Yoga

20-Wednesday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
4:00 pm Bells
6:00 pm Revelation Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir

21-Thursday

1:00 pm GriefShare
1:30 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
2:00 pm Library Meeting
4:00 pm Care Group Leaders
6:00 pm The Mustard Seed Study

22-Friday

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 pm Flex 'N Stretch

23-Saturday

1:00 pm Scrapbooking
3:00 pm Sat Celeb Rehearsal
5:30 pm Celebration Service

24-Sunday

8:15 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Service
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Church
11:15 am The Gathering Service
11:15 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Student Ministry
7:00 pm AA Meeting

25-Monday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
3:00 pm Women's Emmaus
5:00 pm Men's Emmaus

26-Tuesday

10:00 am Revelation Bible Study
3:00 pm Yoga

27-Wednesday

7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch
1:00 pm Stitchers
1:00 pm Staff Meeting
4:00 pm Bells
6:00 pm Revelation Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir

28-Thursday

1:00 pm GriefShare
9:00 am Kitchen Clean Up
3:15 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
6:00 pm The Mustard Seed Study

29-Friday

7:00 am Men's Emmaus
7:30 am Flex 'N Stretch

30-Saturday

3:00 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
5:30 pm Celebration Service

31-Sunday

8:15 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Traditional Service
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Church
11:15 am The Gathering Service
11:15 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Student Ministry
7:00 pm AA Meeting



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation

CELEBRATION SERVICE
SATURDAYS 5:30 PM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE
SUNDAYS 9:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
SUNDAYS 11:15 AM

Church Staff

REV. ROBERT CLONINGER
Senior Pastor

LORI HEALD
Office Administrator

AMEY BURKETT
Administrative Assistant

DRU MATTHEWS
Bookkeeper

SARAH CATHERINE DAVIS
Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

JOHN MATTHEWS
Director of Music Ministries

JAMES HENDRIX
Contemporary Worship Leader

PAM MEYER
Celebration Worship Leader

JEANNINE WAGAR
Organist

JOYCE SHELDON
Chimes & Bells Director

ELLEN GIBSON
Nursery Worker

Giving Your Tithes & Offerings

You can give your tithes & offerings online by visiting our website, www.humcbv.com. Online giving is a safe and easy way to give to Highlands. Contact the church office if you have questions regarding online giving.

Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 20 at noon. Please email items to betsycloninger@gmail.com or place in the Newsletter mailbox in the hallway next to the church office.

The Mission of Highlands Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



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