



Highlands news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HIGHLANDS CHURCH
MAY 2019 – VOLUME 23 – ISSUE 5

Is VBS Worth It?

“YES! Because VBS is the one week that mobilizes the entire church to reach the community with the gospel, while simultaneously providing a unique discipleship experience for the individual child and the volunteer.” – Landry Holmes

Putting on a Vacation Bible School in your church each summer can be hard work and you may even be wondering, is all of this effort worth it? Jana Magruder, Director of LifeWay Kids, gives two reasons why VBS is still worthwhile and a valuable investment for your church and your community.

First, VBS is something that even a family or parents who are not in the church or who maybe don't know the Lord, will still send their children to VBS if they're asked by a friend. That information right there is enough for us to say, "Okay, this is still working." That age-old model of invite a friend to VBS is still working. That's a huge engine if you think about it. If you can deploy your church to ask just even one friend to come to VBS, then you're going to reach a whole community.

The other reason it's still worth it is, that it is the church family working at its best. It's an all-hands-on-deck kind of effort. It takes everybody in every age demographic, multi-generational, to reach and to pull off a quality VBS program.

So is it worth it? Absolutely. **Will you help us participate in this ministry of VBS by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service? Will you invite your grandkids to come visit for this special week? We can't do this without you. Sign up to volunteer at the VBS table in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions email Sarah Catherine Davis at sarahcatdavis4@gmail.com**

SERVING US IN MAY

Saturday Host/Hostesses

5/4 Katy McMahan
5/11 Stephanie Bowen
5/18 Jane Krumm
5/25 Chuck & Irene Boomhower

Sunday Guest Table

5/5 Mel Snyder
5/12 Mel Snyder
5/19 Mel Snyder
5/26 Mel Snyder

Liturgists

5/5 Dick Steck
5/12 Susan Couto
5/19 Claudia Williams
5/26 Dave Hagaman

CPR/AED

5/5 Sue LaHood
5/12 Ron Blackwelder
5/19 Joan Pehosh
5/26 Linda Virgili

Safety & Security: Bud Henkel

Usher Captain: Sue LaHood

Trustee for the Month: Ken Bloom

COOKIE WALK

The Cookie Walk will be here before we know it! Folgers cans that make 240 cups of coffee are needed. Empty Folgers cans may be dropped off in the white cabinets inside the entry to Fellowship Hall.



OUR CONDOLENCES

To the Gwinn Family on the passing of Dick.
To Sara Sherman and family on the passing of her husband John Paul.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Bob & Charlene Marsh
703 Garden Court
Marionville, MO 65705

Betty Fellows
11 Professional Drive, Room #209
Bella Vista, AR 72715

Russ & Arlene Miller have disconnected their home phone and are now just using their cells: Russ's cell: 701-212-2908, Arlene's cell: 701-306-0066

THANK YOU

To the members of Highlands Church, Thank everyone so much for the food, prayer shawl, and prayers during the last year. I truthfully believe that the prayers have certainly helped me recover easier and keep my spirits raised. Again, thank you to all. Grateful to all, Clea Simpson

PRAYER CHAIN & MEMBER CARE

If you know someone in need of prayer, ill or hospitalized, please contact the church office and let Lori or Amey know. Please do not assume Robert or the Compassionate Disciples already know.



PASTOR'S PEN



"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

One of my great loves in the ministry is the confirmation of the young members of the congregation. By the time the confirmation service rolls around, what you have are several young men and women who are willing to publicly profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. You also have that same group agreeing with the theology of the United Methodist Church. These young men and women serve as a reminder to all of us that we are not in this denomination by accident. In honor of confirmation, I want to highlight some of the things that we believe as United Methodists.

First, our God who is the only God, is the Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All Christian denominations agree with the Trinity, but it's important that we realize and reaffirm our belief in God being one, but having three "persons." It's confusing, yes, but if we could fully understand God, why would He be worthy of worship? If our human minds could fully understand all that God is, would that not make God more human than divine?

Second, belief in Jesus is required to receive eternal life. Again, this is another tenant of all Christian denominations, but this fact can sometimes be forgotten in an age of religious plurality. If we don't believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, then why do we bother? Further, why would there be so many people that have gotten killed for not refusing to renounce faith in Jesus Christ? Remember also, that we exist as a denomination and congregation because of a group of Anglicans who wanted to preach the Gospel everywhere.

Third, the sovereignty of God. This is a catch phrase in popular theological circles these days and usually has to do with other Protestant denominations. But as United Methodists we also affirm the belief that God is fully in control. We believe that He is in control of what happens, but doesn't necessarily force certain things to happen. We also believe that God knows all that is going to happen.

Fourth, free will. We believe that God is sovereign, but God does not force us to say yes to Jesus Christ, rather God restores us by grace to be able to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. This belief in the free will of human beings also puts the evil that is done in the world not on God, but on the human beings that make evil decisions.

Fifth, the sufficiency of Christ for salvation. This means that in the United Methodist tradition we believe that what one must do to inherit eternal life is to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. End of story. We don't believe that good works are what saves us; that would be idolatry. Instead we recognize that salvation comes to us entirely through Christ and what He did.

Sixth, response to the sufficiency of Christ for salvation. Recognizing that we are sinners in need of a savior, and seeing that Christ is that savior, when we place our faith in him this should bring about our rebirth and a desire to be obedient to his commands.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Robert

SNACK PACKS

We are packing for the entire Gravette School System which is over 100 children per weekend. 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.

8:15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:15 in the Mark classroom. We are using a book and DVD by 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. Questions, contact Donna VanderSchaaf at 479-715-6059 or see her at the Sunday Traditional service.

9:30 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Mark classroom. We are using the Standard Lessons Commentary. Each lesson will use scripture with verse by verse explanation of the text with detailed background followed by group discussion. Everyone is welcome. Questions, please contact Gary Marshall at 479-553-7950.

FINANCE NEWS

The financial status of Highlands Church continues to be a concern for the Finance team. Expenses for the operating of Highlands Church facility and ministries are being paid in full in a timely manner, which includes our tithing to the Arkansas conference. Although we are gradually beginning to stabilize, the month of April has again ended with a deficit of more than \$8,000. If you pledged your support to Highlands Church this year, we hope that you are current with your giving towards this pledge. The Finance Committee expected to have income of about \$3,000 from the special Easter Offering which is from giving above and beyond your regular pledge. We did not achieve this goal, and if you did not yet give to the Easter Offering, you can still do so. Please be sure to note "Easter Offering" on your check.

Please take a moment to reflect on what Highlands Church means in your life and Christian walk. Have you experienced a special blessing during this Lenten Season through worshipping at Highlands Church? Did you taste the bitterness of the herbs and sweetness of the honey at the Seder Meal? Were the Stations of the Cross made real as you saw them through the eyes of others? The joy of the Resurrection was exciting on Easter Sunday as we worshipped in the Sanctuary overflowing with family and friends. Consider giving back to God in response to his blessings in your life.

Your Finance Team,

Andy O'Neil, Chair

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW will meet on Monday, May 13th, 9:30 a.m. for our last meeting until September. We will have a talk about Concordia of Bella Vista by Cindee Johnson, Marketing Director and Movement Specialist. Their Mission & Values are *"To serve the greatest generation with honor, respect, faith and integrity."* Please join us for this informative talk along with food, fellowship and devotion! ALL women of the church are always welcome! Please sign up in the Gathering Area.

UMW BOOK CLUB

Please join the Highlands UMW Book Club for our last book of 2019. The book is *Step up To the Plate, Maria Singh* by Uma Krishnaswami. All fifth grader Maria Singh can think about is playing baseball. She confronts many challenges in pursuit of this dream. We will be discussing the book at The Bella Vista Country Club, with lunch to follow, on your own, at the BV Bar and Grill. It will be on Monday, May 20th, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and discuss and/or just have lunch with us. For more information please call Sue LaHood, 855-0937.

UMW DESSERTS FOR A YEAR 2018-19

This month, Cathy Woodburn delivered a delightful Lemon Bundt Cake to Chris Chapman in April. Chris and George would like to say "thank you to everyone who made the desserts. We really enjoyed sharing them with our Growth Group. There are so many good cooks in the church and I really loved getting to meet new people and make new friends! We really had a great time. Thank you all so very much." The United Methodist Women thank the Chapmans for their contribution to missions and appreciate all the baking hands and giving hearts that made it happen!

UMW DESSERTS FOR A YEAR 2019-20

Here's a chance for you to receive a Dessert for a Year beginning with a German Chocolate Cake in May! Get your tickets NOW – \$5 for one ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. Drawing will be Mother's Day, May 12th. Need not be present to win. All ticket sales go to support Highlands United Methodist Women Missions for Women & Children charities! Remember sharing is a sweet thing to do!

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Jane Krumm is no longer going to head up the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner program, but hates to see it dropped because those who have hosted or been guests have almost always given glowing reports of the evening. The job involves making phone calls from the signup sheet and can be done at your convenience from home. If you think you might be interested, and would like more information, please call Jane at 855-0852. She'll fill you in and even buy you a cup of coffee or tea!

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt was great fun! Thank you to everyone who helped donate eggs and candy. A special thank you to these ladies that helped hide 4,000 Easter eggs on an early, cold, Saturday morning.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

The Annual Spring Cleaning of our church will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All church members and their friends are invited to help. We need inside and outside workers.

- Inside workers should bring hand vacuums, cleaning rags, window cleaning equipment, and dust rags.
- Outside workers should bring rakes, pruning equipment, and blowers.

A signup sheet will be on the Gathering Area information counter. Thank you for your help to keep our church neat and clean.

Dave Hagaman
Chair, Trustees

CENTERED IN PRAYER

Above all other books, choose the BIBLE! If you like, read as many books of meditations as possible, but that isn't essential. It is essential to read and meditate on the Scriptures. Christianity without the Bible is a contradiction in terms. Preaching not anchored in the Scriptures is equally impossible. There is no true religious formation which is not based on the Gospel. The Bible is the letter, which God himself wrote to men in the thousands of years of their history. It is the long drawn out sigh for Christ (Old Testament) and the account of His coming among us (New Testament).

When the temple of Jerusalem was burning, the Jews abandoned all the treasures to the flames but saved the Bible. Paul knew the Bible by heart, and Augustine said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." The Bible is the word of God, the Word made flesh is the Eucharist. I put both of them on the altar and kneel down before them.

From *Letters from the Desert* by Carlo Carretto

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Prayer is the foundation for a successful VBS experience. Please pick up a VBS Prayer Calendar in the Gathering Area.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Duane and Lynne Penner joined during the Celebration Service on 3/30/19. Welcome Duane and Lynne! They moved here from Wichita, Kansas in September 2018. They are both retired. Lynn was a Realtor and Duane was a Graphic Designer. Duane's hobbies are woodworking and golf. Lynne enjoys walking, gardening and philanthropies. They have traveled to many countries around the world and plan to travel more. They have 5 children and 5 grandchildren.



Jim and Shelley Kuhn joined during the Traditional Service on 4/11/19. Welcome Jim and Shelley! The Kuhns are from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Jim is semi-retired from Merrill Lynch. Jim served in the US Marine Corp. His hobbies include fly fishing, RV traveling, golfing, and mountain biking. Shelley is retired from Edward Jones. She enjoys golfing, RV traveling, mountain biking, hiking, and fishing. They are building their forever home in Bella Vista and hope to move in by September 2019. They have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

May 2019 Calendar

Recurring Events

Sundays

- 8:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. The Gathering Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 12:15 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Student Ministry (7-12 grade)
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Mondays

- 7:30 a.m. Flex 'N Stretch
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Board (1ST Monday)
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Meeting (2ND Monday)
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Book Club (3RD Monday)
- 3:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus (2ND & 4TH Mondays)
- 5:00 p.m. Men's Emmaus

Tuesdays

- 1:00 p.m. Growth Group- McCauley
- 3:00 p.m. Yoga

Wednesdays

- 7:30 a.m. Flex 'N Stretch
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (2ND & 4TH Wednesdays)
- 1:00 p.m. Stitchers (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
- 2:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee (1st Wednesday)
- 4:00 p.m. Bells
- 6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursdays

- 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleanup (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- 1:00 p.m. GriefShare
- 2:00 p.m. Library Meeting (3rd Thursdays)
- 3:15 p.m. Sat Celebration Rehearsal (1:30 p.m. on 3rd Thursdays)
- 4:00 p.m. Care Group Leaders Meeting (3rd Thursdays)

Fridays

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Emmaus
- 7:30 a.m. Flex 'N Stretch
- 9:30 a.m. Membership Meeting (3rd Friday)
- 10:30 a.m. Compassionate Disciples (1st Friday)

Saturdays

- 1:00 p.m. Scrapbooking (4th Saturday)
- 3:00 p.m. Sat Celebration Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Saturday Celebration

Other Events and Meetings:

May 5, 2019 (Sunday)

- 12:30 p.m. ACE Event Setup
- 5:30 p.m. ACE Event- Denim & Diamonds

May 9, 2019 (Thursday)

- 1:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

May 14, 2019 (Tuesday)

- 7:45 a.m. Hummers Meeting

May 18, 2019 (Saturday)

- 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean-up

May 21, 2019 (Tuesday)

- 6:00 p.m. Admin Council Meeting

May 22, 2019 (Wednesday)

- 10:00 a.m. Hummers Blood Drive

May 27, 2019 (Monday)

- Memorial Day- Church Office Closed

May 31, 2019 (Friday)

- 7:30 a.m. Flex 'N Stretch Breakfast Party





HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation

CELEBRATION SERVICE
SATURDAYS 5:30 PM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE
SUNDAYS 9:30 AM

THE GATHERING
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 June Newsletter is May 20 at noon. Please email items to **Sarah Catherine Davis** at our new email highlandschurchnews@gmail.com or place in the Newsletter mailbox in the hallway next to the church office.

If you have any comments or questions about the newsletter, please email or call Sarah Catherine Davis directly.

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



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Highlands Church
371 Glasgow Road
Bella Vista, AR 72715
(479) 855-2277
www.humcbv.com
highlandschurch@humcbv.com