

Highlands *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JULY 2019 | VOLUME 23 – ISSUE 7

A Prayer for Grace to Bear One Another's Burdens

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." [Gal. 6:2](#)

Dear Lord Jesus,

The call to shoulder up under the burdens of friends and family drives us to you today. There are seasons when the needs around us seem to far exceed the resources within us. Where else can we go but to you?

Grant us grace not to be afraid of the emotional messiness that certain burdens bring. Help us know how to rely on your presence more than we rely on mere words. Help us to understand our limits, but even more so, help us be very aware of your limitless mercy, grace, power, and peace.

We pray for friends who are struggling in their marriages—feeling hopeless, angry and spent. Bring the power of your resurrection to bear. Humble one, then the second spouse. We pray for families with children who are acting out in destructive ways—bring these kids to gospel sanity, and grant their parents wisdom, forbearance and strength. We pray for friends facing great medical challenges with diminishing health care resources—grant your healing grace, and we ask you to sovereignly move within the health care industry. It is just as broken as our bodies are.

We pray for our church—restore your people to the joy of your free and glorious grace. Pour out your Spirit upon our church, and redemptively disrupt us. Forgive us for making too much of the wrong things. Rekindle the passion of first-love relationship with you in our hearts. Do beyond all we could ask or imagine in our church family, Lord Jesus.

We bring all of these friends to your throne of grace, and we will seek to fulfill "the law of Christ"—the law of love, the way of the gospel—as you give us strength, wisdom, and grace. We pray, in your persistent and sufficient name, Amen.

SERVING US IN JULY

Saturday Host/Hostesses

7/6	Jan Lasher
7/13	Virginia Wood
7/20	Ted & Julie Lasher
7/27	Barb Martin

Sunday Guest Table

7/7	Mel Snyder
7/14	Mel Snyder
7/21	Mel Snyder
7/28	Mel Snyder

Liturgists

7/7	Darlene Olsen
7/14	Albert Fisher
7/21	Claudia Williams
7/28	Susan Couto

CPR/AED

7/7	Julie Howe
7/14	Ron Blackwelder
7/21	Joan Pehosh
7/28	Linda Virgili

Safety & Security: Joe Newman

Usher Captain: Jean Galloway

Trustee for the Month:

Dave Hagaman

PASTOR'S PEN



"Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue."

James 1:3

Our faith, whether we like to admit it or not, goes through its ups and its downs. The way I view it, there are three different places that we can be regarding our faith:

The first stage is the great stage! Where we have such an intense faith and don't feel any separation at all from God. This is a stage of great joy and spiritual satisfaction.

The second stage is being lukewarm. That's when we recognize God is there, but it doesn't really impact us like it does in the first stage. This stage could also be called the "sorta stage": we sorta worship, we sorta pray, we sorta spend time in God's Word.

And then the third stage, there are the low times or "dark nights of the soul." The times when we have those thoughts of doubt in God and frustration. Or even "God can't be that good if all that's happening in the world happens." Just as there are three stages, there are three things to remember about those ups and downs of our faith.

First, it's normal. I'm betting that what you have already read in this article doesn't come as news to you. My intent is not to reinvent the wheel, rather I want to relieve concerns by pointing out that being lukewarm or having serious questions of faith are perfectly normal. If you haven't been through the up and down times of faith then you are in the vast minority of Christians. Why would there be so many books, songs, and sermons on those less enthusiastic seasons of faith if a lot of people weren't in that boat at some point or another? The fact is that those who look down on you during your rough seasons need some more Jesus in their life and probably don't need to be a close part of yours. Why? Because it's mean and it's a hindrance to your faith growth.

Second, there isn't always a rhyme or reasons for the season you're in. The other thing to remember about each of these three seasons of the faith is that there doesn't always have to be a reason why they exist. You are not necessarily always going to doubt God because of loss, nor are you always going to respond to happy events in life by having an intense and invigorated faith. Sometimes you can lack faith from happiness and have great faith from sadness.

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New Contact Information

Vern Sidler

AltaVita Senior Residences

1002 AltaVita Court

Apt #220

Longmont CO 80503

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.

THANK YOU

Dear Highlands Church,

Thank you all for your help with Vacation Bible School. You all helped make our week fabulous. Many thanks for your generous hearts and donations. You truly are the best church I've ever been part of. Thank you to each volunteer who gave their time to love on kids during VBS, you are the real MVP's!

Sarah Catherine Davis



VBS Volunteers 2019

Robert & Betsy Cloninger, Mel Snyder, Lisa Rector, Mike & Chris Maginnes, Russ & Arlene Miller, Bill & Claudia Williams, Julie Howe, Barb Zillmann, Jean Galloway, Doug Stone, Linda & Rick Utley, James Hendrix, Yesinia Ramirez, Dominick Ramirez, Andy & Joyce O'Neil, Barbara Gray, Bev Puckett

New Members



Barbara Martin became a member in the Celebration Service on 6/29. Barbara moved to Bella Vista in 1998 from Northern ND and Northern MN. Although she is now retired, she once ran the night shift at the Federal Grain Inspection Lab. She loves gardening and at one time even managed a greenhouse. Barbara has a passion for helping people and doing volunteer work. One of her most rewarding jobs during her career was Hospice Care. Barbara loves animals of all kinds. She has 4 dogs and enjoys rescuing animals. Currently, she is learning to play the guitar.

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.





8:15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:15 in the Mark classroom. We will start a study of Isaiah on June 2. Jesus and the New Testament writers frequently quoted Isaiah so we decided to do a 13 week study of it. This is a learning and discussion class. All are welcome at any time. Questions, contact Donna Vander-Schaaf at 479-715-6059 or see her at the Sunday Traditional service. Questions, please contact Gary Marshall at 479-553-7950.

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.

JUNE 2019 CARE GROUP

ACTIVITIES

CARE GROUP	ACTIVITY
Hagaman	Lakepoint
Pinkerton/Ramsey	Denim & Diamonds
Stone	Rhythm & Q
Foster/Leonard/Jackson	Denim & Diamonds
Collis	Denim & Diamonds
Henkel	BBQ at the Crain's
Miller	Gusano's
Lasher/Richardson	Wooden Spoon
O'Neil/Marshall	Brunch-O'Neil's
Balzer/Marsh	Cookout- Schisler's
Sheldon/Howe	Duffer's

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.



YOUTH GROUP

Equipping 7th—12th grade students to grow together on their journey to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Sundays 5:00—6:30 pm. For more information, contact Sarah Catherine Davis at (501) 733-3666.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Please help our Student Ministry fill the Little Free Pantry with nonperishable food items and toiletry donations. Getting into the habit of bringing one food or toiletry item to each worship service can go a long way in helping the needy in our community. There is a bin located in the entry to Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary to drop off your items.

LED SIGN PROJECT

Highlands Church is well known for its place in the Highlands of Bella Vista. We are an exciting, vital church with so many opportunities to worship, fellowship, study and enjoy our Christian walk. We want to share this experience with those in our community who are not already connected with a church. How do we let those outside our walls know of the joy we find inside these walls? We invite them. We let them know what is going on.

The Administrative Council has discussed and employed many ways to communicate to our community what is happening at Highlands Church. We place ads in the newspaper, we put up banners in front of the church, we hang posters for events in local businesses, and we advertise on social media. We are diligent in getting the Highlands Church name visible in as many places as possible in our community.

With the opening of part of the new bypass many more residents of the Highlands area are now driving by Highlands Church daily. Wouldn't it be exciting to have an LED sign out front telling passersby our worship service times and about the many events they could attend?

A beautiful LED sign can be added to our existing sign in the front of the church. However, this is costly and we do not have funds budgeted for this purpose. If you would like to participate in making this LED sign a reality, you may make a donation and note on the check "sign". If you cannot make a donation immediately, please indicate your "pledge" by email to Dru Matthews, dru@humcbv.com or Andy 'Neil, andyjoyce@cox.net. Please remember this gift should be above and beyond your regular pledge to the church budget.

Thank you for being a part of the family of Highlands Church.

HIGHLANDS 2ND ANNUAL CRUISE-IN & CAR SHOW

This year's car show is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28th**. Our deadline for sponsors to be included in our ticket packets and on show ad banners is July 31st. If you know of a person or business interested in being a sponsor, please let Steve Terry (405-222-8727) or Ted Lasher (810-360-7434) know as soon as possible. Our challenge to the membership again this year is for each family to find at least 1 person willing to bring a car out for our show. Remember, the vehicles don't need to be show cars— just special to the owner. Additionally, there is no cost to enter a vehicle in the show. Lunch at the show will require a meal ticket provided with a \$10 donation for the charities, but each car entry will receive 1 free meal ticket. Event flyers are available at the information desk for church members to share with anyone they want to encourage to come to the show. Proceeds from this event go to support 3 local charities; Bright Futures, Samaritan's Feet and Snack Packs for Kids. These charities support deserving Gravette School District children with weekend meals, new shoes and socks and any special support needed from school supplies, clothes, food or even emergency home repair.



PASTOR'S PEN

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Third, the lukewarm state is the most dangerous of all three because it can stop us from digging, really digging, into the faith. Instead of looking to be even more like Jesus, many people stay stuck in spiritual mediocrity until they cease to have a real faith. One of the most important times for a Christian is the time of intense doubt and struggle. In those times, God will show you why you can have faith and how He is there. That struggle builds a strong relationship with God. Whatever season you are in, or have been in, "Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The One who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23

Blessings,

Pastor Robert



DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know that all the doors in our church are fire doors and when kept closed, when rooms are not in use, they will protect our church from fire inside those rooms? Well, now you do. If we could please remember to close the door on our way out after use, we could just save the building from going totally up in flames.

Thank you in advance,
Safety and Security Committee

SERMONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Have you been sick or out of town recently? Did you know Pastor Robert's sermons are available on our website? Make sure you go online to hear what you missed.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DESSERT FOR A YEAR

A UMW Fundraiser for Women and Children Ministries

Chris Pulhamus said Glenna's German Chocolate Cake was "to die for!" No doubt, Barbara Gray's Luscious Pineapple Coconut Cake will be absolutely scrumptious as well. This month, Sue LaHood will prepare her delicious Banana Bars for Chris – sure to be a hit.

July 2019 Calendar

Recurring Events

Sundays

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

Mondays

- 3:00 pm Women's Emmaus (2nd & 4th Mondays)
- 5:00 pm Men's Emmaus

Tuesdays

- 7:45 am Hummers Meeting (1st Tuesday)
- 1:00 pm Growth Group– McCauley
- 3:00 pm Yoga

Wednesdays

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
- 1:00 pm Stitches (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
- 2:00 pm Fellowship Committee (1st Wednesday)

Thursdays

- 9:00 am Kitchen Cleanup (2nd & 4th Thursday)
- 1:00 pm GriefShare
- 3:00 pm Library Meeting (3rd Thursday)
- 3:15 pm Sat Celeb Rehearsal (1:30 pm on 3rd Thursday)
- 4:00 pm Care Group Leaders Meeting (3rd Thursday)

Fridays

- 7:00 am Men's Emmaus
- 10:30 am Compassionate Disciples (1st Friday)

Saturdays

- 1:00 pm Scrapbooking & Card Making (4th Saturday)
- 3:00 pm Sat Celebration Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Saturday Celebration

Other Events and Meetings:

July 4, 2019 (Thursday)

- Office Closed– Holiday

July 11, 2019 (Thursday)

- 10:00 am Beth Moore Bible Study

July 11, 2019 (Thursday)

- 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting

July 16, 2019 (Tuesday)

- 6:00 pm Admin Council Meeting

July 24, 2019 (Wednesday)

- 10:00 am Hummers Blood Drive

July 25, 2019 (Thursday)

- 10:00 am Beth Moore Bible Study

July 31, 2019 (Wednesday)

- 6:30 pm Summer Family Choir





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 August Newsletter is July 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.



Like our page on Facebook
facebook.com/humcbv

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