

Highlands *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | DECEMBER 2019 – VOLUME 23 – ISSUE 12

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Signup sheets are in The Gathering Area on the table with the red tablecloth and the red bells. We will work Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays beginning December 5 until December 21 - three weeks. Families, care groups, friends, and/or youth may sign up to share the one-hour shift at Allen's Food Market. (option of two-hour team shifts are available). A friendly, encouraging smile and greeting assists in getting more donations. Any amount, from green bills to pocket change, is appreciated.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir has been invited and accepted to sing at Nativity & Noel at the Mormon Church, 1101 McCollum Dr, Bentonville, on Friday, Dec 6 at 7:00 pm. This is a community-wide event that features various groups in the area. There is also a huge and very beautiful display of nativities belonging to members of that congregation.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Saturday, December 14, at 5:30 pm, and Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 am, in the sanctuary of Highlands Church. Under the direction John Matthews, the Chancel Choir will sing Let There Be Christmas; a new cantata for choir and congregation created by Joseph Martin. Various tableaux will accompany the wonderful music staged by Highlands own, Jean Knadler. This worship service will be accompanied by pianist Pam Meyer and organist Jeannine Wagar. All are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please make plans to attend our Christmas Lunch on Sunday, December 15 at 11:30 am following the Cantata. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area before & after the worship services on the weekends through December 8.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will have a family Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service on Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. Get an early start to your Christmas Eve festivities by worshiping together. Enjoy this special tradition of ending the service with a candlelit rendition of Silent Night. Little children will have light sticks so as not to miss out on the beauty of this service. Nursery will be provided. Everyone is welcome!



31st Annual
COOKIE WALK
Saturday, December 7 · 8:30 to 11:00 am
SIGN UP TODAY

SERVING US IN DECEMBER

Saturday Host/Hostesses

12/7 Claudia Williams
12/21 Ted & Julie Lasher
12/28 Ted & Julie Lasher

Sunday Guest Table

12/1 Mel Snyder
12/8 Mel Snyder
12/15 Mel Snyder
12/22 Mel Snyder
12/29 Mel Snyder

Liturgists

12/1 Nat Collis
12/8 Dave Hagaman
12/15 Nat Collis
12/22 Claudia Williams
12/29 Louise Ward

CPR/AED

12/1 Sue LaHood
12/8 Earl Lehman
12/15 Mel Snyder
12/22 Angie Hansen
12/29 Gene Maaske

Safety & Security:

12/1 Jim Kuhn
12/8 Bud Henkel
12/15 Dennis Redenius
12/22 Linda Virgili
12/29 Joe Newman

Safety & Security Night Duty:

Andy Anderson

Usher Captain:

Jim & Bev Wescott

Trustee for the Month:

Bud Henkel

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Halley & Elaine Hoggatt
1998 W Grand Blvd
Suite #305
Fayetteville, AR 72704
New home number 479-435-7438

Jim & Shelley Kuhn
15 Ellwood Lane
Bella Vista AR 72715

Bud & Katy Henkel
54 Highland Parkway
Bella Vista AR 72715

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathy to: Butch Lock, for the loss of his brother, Frank Lock Jr. At this very difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

THANK YOU'S

Dear Highlands Church,

Thank you doesn't begin to express my gratitude for all the kindness shown to me and my family. Church members, especially our Care Group, were most generous with meals and special treats. The many cards we received were uplifting. Your thoughtfulness helped us through a difficult time.

Marilou Edwards

Dear Highlands Church,

Thanks to everyone in the church for your prayers and cards during Al's illness and at the time of his journey's end.

Marlys Ledin & Family

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Calling all ladies of Highlands Church. In January we will start up our UMW Book club, 9:30 am, in the Matthew Room, the Third Monday of the month, for 5 months, January - May. Here is a list of the books we will be reading if you would like to get a jump on reading. Also, there is a listing of all books and their information in the Library Annex. If you have any questions, please call Sue LaHood 855-0937.

UMW Books for 2020

- The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World by James Harpur
- The Weight of Mercy: A Novice Pastor on the City Streets by Deb Richardson Moore
- How the Woman at the Well Became the Well Woman by Donna Rhode
- Tilly and the Crazy Eights by Monique Gray Smith
- Midnight Teacher by Lilly Ann Granderson
- Her Secret School by Janet Halfmann

UMW DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Wow! It's almost Christmas! Please join the United Methodist Women as we have our Christmas luncheon at the Bella Vista Country Club on Monday, December 9th, at 11:30 am. There will be the installation of the new officers and then we will eat and just have fun talking. Sign up sheets will be in the Gathering Area and we will need a definite head count for this event. You will pay for your lunch at the restaurant, no prepay. Remember, all women of our church are welcome.

DESSERT FOR A YEAR

Thank you, Gail Storm, for sharing your father's favorite recipe with Chris and Mike last month. We learned Mike was quick to set aside a few of the sticky rolls for himself before sharing them with the guys. Understandable! They must have been delicious. This month, Bonnie Bloom will prepare a beautifully festive Christmas Cranberry Almond Pound Cake. Sure to be enjoyed!

Snack Packs will not be packing in the month of December



Centered in Prayer

"Be Anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

When God Comes.

If you want God and long for union with Him, yet sometimes wonder what that means or whether it can mean anything at all, you are already walking with the God who comes. If you at times are so weary and involved with the struggle of living that you have no strength to even want God, yet are still dissatisfied that you don't, you are already keeping Advent in your life. If you ever have had an obscure intuition that the truth of things is somehow better, greater, more wonderful than you deserve or desire, that the touch of God, in your life stills you by its gentleness, that there is mercy beyond anything you could expect, you are already drawn into the mystery of salvation.

From *The Coming of God* by Maria Boulding

Centered in Prayer messages have been used from *A Guide to Prayer for all God's People* and *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants* from Upper Room Books.



Join us for a time of
Bible Study & Fellowship
on
Tuesday, December 17
6:00—7:30 pm

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS. AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE." ISAIAH 9:6



PASTOR'S PEN

Something that always makes me smile during the Christmas season is the memory of a brown box. This box was sent to us from Colorado one year when I was in college and it was weighed down with toffee. A Christmas tradition that my dad's family had when they were growing up was eating a lot of my grandmother's Christmas toffee. Ordinarily, my grandmother on my dad's side would never keep anything like toffee, or even sugar, in her house. She was one of the healthiest, most disciplined people I have ever known, but once a year she would relax her rules to make pounds and pounds of toffee. We all know that as the years go on traditions fade and my grandmother's toffee went the way of the silver tinsel trees. My aunt wanted to bring that old tradition back for her brothers and let the new generation experience the Christmas toffee. There is always something beautiful about making old traditions new memories. This time of year, I think about that box a lot and not just because it contained the best toffee anyone has ever eaten. I think about it because it represents so well the sadness and the joy of this season.

What I have come to realize is that Christmas is never the same from one year to the next. We often rewrite stories in our minds to keep every year consistent. In our minds, years past were filled with consistent joyous celebrations done the same way year after year. And yet, deep down we know that was not reality. It was not reality because from year to year nothing is the same. We move, we get new jobs, we marry, we have children, we lose family members, and the list goes on. We go from being the wide-eyed child on Christmas morning to trying to make sure you make our own children are wide-eyed on Christmas morning... and then grandchildren. Life moves on, it shifts and changes, and never really gives us the same thing. In reality, even our celebration of Jesus coming into the world changes: churches change, pastors change, people we go to church with change, and often our relationship with God changes.

Christmas comes and goes in new ways every year, but there is still a magic to it. Really, Christmas is not about tradition when you get right down to it. The entire Holiday was started by one event; the birth of Jesus Christ. That event ensured that nothing in this world would ever be the same again. Christ came into the world and everything changed and continues to change as we move on to the day He comes again.

That box of toffee doesn't make it this way anymore, and nobody likes to drink the chicory coffee that my dad and I always enjoyed at Christmas with our toffee. Now I am the dad now, and life moves on. However, the magic of Christmas is always there because those of us that celebrate the Holiday have made an unspoken agreement to embrace the changes. Why do we do it? We do it, because deep down we know we all need a break from day to day life. A break where we can enjoy the fact that God became like us, and after that nothing was the same for either Him or us.

This Christmas I pray that we would all find that joyous peace where the old and the new meet to give us the present. I pray that you will slow down and enjoy the season, because there will never be another one like it.

Angel Tree

Pick up your Angels
in the Gathering Area
beginning December 7

The ANGEL TREE will be in the Gathering Area Saturday, December 7th through Sunday, December 15th. This year we are helping six families. These families are carefully chosen by a committee with the Gravette Bright Futures Board.

Each child is given six ANGELS: 2 are for clothes; 1 for underwear/pajamas; 1 for a coat; and 2 are for toys. The ANGEL has the child's name, age, gender and sizes, also suggestions of what that child would like or has asked for. There are also ANGELS for food. The information sheet has suggestions for food items. All the food is gathered and sorted by family size.

We accept and greatly appreciate cash donations. With cash we supplement the food or buy that extra gift that is needed. We do not provide a holiday meal per se, but with the donated cash we buy a ham for each family to go with the donated food.

If you choose one ANGEL or several, each ANGEL is numbered, PLEASE sign your name beside each number that correlates with the ANGEL(S) you chose. PLEASE take a direction/information sheet! The sheet explains how and when to return your gift(s). All gifts, if feasible, are to be wrapped and with a tag/label giving the child's name only.

PLEASE reattach the ANGEL to the package, writing on the ANGEL what is in the package. The ANGEL is removed from the gift before giving to the child. We use the ANGEL for our sorting process. By listing what is in the package we can make sure each child in the family receives an equal amount of gifts. Do not combine multiple ANGELS for the same child into one wrapped gift.

All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 15th! Last year we had the opportunity to meet some of the families, to see their surprise, tears, excitement and appreciation of the generosity of our church. What you give will be all that they receive. Your generous giving helps those less fortunate to have a blessed Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Mairet 855-4277.



LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS
A CANTATA BY JOSEPH A. MARTIN

DECEMBER 14 | 5:30 PM
DECEMBER 15 | 10:00 AM
IN THE SANCTUARY

Two photographs showing a church choir performing. The top photo shows the choir singing from a stage with a piano. The bottom photo shows a conductor leading the choir in a sanctuary.

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 • 4:00 PM

A graphic featuring a green Christmas ornament with a gold star at the top. The words "Christmas Eve" are written in a white cursive font across the ornament. Below the ornament, the text "CANDLELIGHT SERVICE" and "TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 • 4:00 PM" is displayed in a green banner. The background is dark with red and yellow bokeh lights.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dru Matthews will be resuming the position of Newsletter Editor, effective with the January 2020 edition. Please be sure and send your submissions for the newsletter directly to Dru at her work email, dru@humcbv.com. Thank you, Dru!



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 and then be taken 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.



The Little Free Pantry
at Highlands Church

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 entries of Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary to drop off your items.



8:00 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:00 in the Mark classroom. During December, we will study ALMOST CHRISTMAS, a Wesleyan Advent experience. It is based on John Wesley’s famous sermon “The Almost Christian.” A deeper examination of the Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy will deepen your love for Jesus and others. A DVD, with four theologians alternately speaking, precedes a spirited class discussion. A book by the same name is also available. Contact Donna VanderSchaaf at 479-715-6959 for questions.

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.

NOVEMBER 2019 CARE GROUP ACTIVITIES

CARE GROUP	ACTIVITY
Hagaman	Men’s Chorus & Dinner
Steck/ Moeller	Lunch- The Cave
Pinkerton/Ramsey	Brunch– Lakepoint
Stone	Dinner– El Pueblito
Krumm/ Potter	Potluck– Rowlands
Foster/Leonard/Jackson	Breakfast– Duffers
Collis	BBQ– Makelas
Henkel	Lunch– BV Bar & Grill
Lasher/Richardson	Brunch– Duffer’s
O’Neil/Marshall	Lunch– Wooden Spoon
Sheldon/Howe	Brunch– Julie Howes
Williams/ Hudec	Cajun Dinner– Grays

December 2019 Calendar

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays

- 8:00 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

- 9:30 am UMW Board (1st Monday)
- 9:30 am UMW Meeting (2nd Monday)
- 3:00 pm Women's Emmaus (2nd & 4th Mon)
- 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 Wed)
- 1:00 pm Stitchers (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
- 2:00 pm Fellowship Committee (1st Wed)
- 4:00 pm Bells
- 6:30 pm Choir

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

OTHER EVENTS AND MEETINGS:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

- 10:00 am Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 7, 2019

- 8:30 am Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14, 2019

- 10:00 am Christmas Party Setup
- 5:30 pm Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15, 2019

- 10:00 am Christmas Cantata
- 11:30 am Christmas Party Brunch

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- 9:30 am Angel Tree Sorting
- 6:00 pm UMW After Hours

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

- 8:45 am Angel Tree Delivery Day
- 10:30 am Hummers Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, December 24-26, 2019

- Church Office Closed- Holiday



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

TBD
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

TBD
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 January Newsletter is December 20 at noon. Please email items to **Dru Matthews** at dru@humcbv.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.



Like our page on Facebook
facebook.com/humcbv

Highlands Church
371 Glasgow Road
Bella Vista, AR 72715
(479) 855-2277

www.humcbv.com

highlandschurch@humcbv.com