

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH  
APRIL/MAY 2020 – VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 4

To: Church Congregation of HUMC

Projections of unemployment for Arkansas workers will soon be over 150,000 people out of work. Aside from the health issues, hunger will become a huge problem. Northwest Arkansas Food Bank is the largest food bank in our area. They serve several smaller food banks in Benton County with several of these in our immediate area including Gravette and Bella Vista.

And while there is a greatly increased need for donations now because of the great number of people unemployed, this will only be the beginning of what Outreach intends to be a long-term relationship with NWA foodbank as a way of continuing to help those within our mission field. We are asking for monetary donations designated to our church's Outreach Fund so that we can give ongoing donations to the NWA Food Bank. For every \$1 you donate to the NWA Food Bank, they are able to provide up to 10 meals to people in need in our community. That means for just \$1, a family of four can have a meal together.

NWA Food Bank is a trusted non profit that has operated in Northwest Arkansas for many years with 95% of the money donated going directly toward food purchase.

For those who are able, please make a contribution to our church designated to "Outreach" so that we can donate to this cause. NWA Food Bank has a website if you would like to look at all they do.

Even though our church doors are closed, HUMC Outreach will continue to help with local mission projects.

Thanks

HUMC Outreach

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Traditional Services

Sundays 9:30 am

### The Gathering Service

Sundays 11:15 am  
(contemporary worship)

### Celebrations Service

Saturdays 5:30 pm  
(Casual Atmosphere)

## Highlands Church

A United Methodist Congregation  
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# Pastor's Pen

When all of the social distancing started I had grand plans of things I was going to do with my children. On the list of grand things, I planned to have our own church service every Sunday morning. In my mind I saw my family worshipping in the ways you read about in the history books. We would all be gathered as a family on Sunday morning at the kitchen table. Scripture would be read, a sermon would be given or read, and we would sing the great hymns in between prayers. The idea seemed reasonable, the diplomas on my wall said I was competent in history and theology; so who better to pull off this pioneer worship experience than me?

The first Sunday of this social distancing project came around and my wife and I gathered the children. I started into the order of worship which I thought I had adapted for children. Thirty seconds into executing my plans I wanted a refund from those schools that gave me the diplomas because they did not teach me anything. The only thing I can compare it to is why so many churches have had to pull out the “greeting your neighbor” section in worship. They end up “trying to get the congregation back together for thirty minutes because people cross the sanctuary to talk to someone and the pastor is busy talking to the Director of Music;” except multiply that by thirty! The other way I could explain it is, that it was like taking a rodeo, a circus, Disney World, a county fair, and Chuck E. Cheese, putting them into a pot to mix together with energy drinks, and then pouring the concoction out in your house.

The good news was that my wife stepped in with her teaching experience and taught the kids for a few minutes. The next week things were better. We had a Christian music dance party. They had fun, learned a little more, and then they played while mom and dad had worship time.

On Palm Sunday something switched. We sang some upbeat contemporary songs and the kids danced and calmed down. I pulled up one of my favorite preachers to watch on TV. But then my daughter sat in my lap and my son went to sit in my wife's lap. The next week we got together for Easter, listened to music and the kids sat with us and played in the same room where we were listening to worship and preaching. They got the hang of being in worship and it made for fun Sunday mornings.

So all was well, but then Easter rolled around and I became the toddler who felt like throwing a fit. After all of my writing and preaching about worshipping and celebrating the resurrection, I was upset. Everything felt off. I was grumpy, but I was trying to smile even though I really did just want to throw that fit. So I thought a lot. I thought about how my plans the whole time did not seem to work, even when it came to home worship. I thought about how I would have never seen a pandemic coming. I thought about every time I said I knew God was in control before, I really might not have fully understood what it was that I was saying.

Something troubled me more than church having to be closed, and it was the question as to whether or not all of these years I have been treating Easter like it was really all about me, the choir's performances, and the sermons I worked forever on? I never intended to do anything wrong, but I was guilty as could be. In my mind I was turning Easter into a production and that upset me, but what could I do? This year I did not have a choice; there was no production to be done. I had to be frustrated like the Disciples, and I worried about the church just like the Disciples.

To be honest, I struggled for a few days. I was so disoriented from not having physical Church for Easter or Holy Week Services, that I could not get my head back in the game. One afternoon I pulled into the church parking lot to go in and film a sermon for Wednesday and looked over at the Columbarium. I thought “wait, I'm going to see everyone in there again. I'm going to see so many people my heart broke over when they died.” I realized I was huffy, grumpy, disoriented, and upset over the greatest victory that we could ever ask for.

Now you all know that story. And you can think about how we really did spend Easter Day with the loved ones we lost and with each other. Maybe you have thought of that and maybe you have not, but either way it was a great Easter and I look forward to the day now even more when Jesus does come to us in final victory and we gain those resurrection bodies.



Pastor Robert

—Pastor Robert Cloninger

## Family News

### NEW PHONES, ADDRESSES & EMAILS:

Lorna Pumphrey, keelyiws@msn.com

Betty Fellows, 15700 W 151st St., Olathe, KS 66062  
913-839-9083. Email: babfellows@gmail.com

Pam Meyer, PO Box 3264, Bella Vista, AR 72715

George & Chris Chapman, 16 Kirkcoln Dr.

Bella Vista, AR 72715 Phone: 479-644-2451

Joey Potter, 2800 Shoreline Dr., Sherman, TX 75092

Charles Smith, 522 26th Ave., Moline, IL 61265

Caroline Blomeyer, c/o Paula Draper,

5 Woodland Place, Grosse Point, MI 48230

### OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To Janna Young and family upon the recent loss of  
her husband Larry, March 2, 2020;

To Nancy Coons and family upon the recent loss of  
her husband Lee in Franklin, TN on February  
26, 2020;

To Caroline Blomeyer and family upon the recent  
loss of her husband Keith, February 27, 2020.

To Jim and Susan Couto upon the passing of his  
mother in Ohio, March 16, 2020.

### Dear church friends,

I want to thank y'all for all the cards, meals and  
prayers while healing from my knee surgery. The  
dear people in our church always come through in  
one's time of need. Thank you so very much.

Blessings, Marilyn Makela

### 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.

### WE'RE HIRING

Highlands Church is taking resumes for the position of  
Children's Ministry Coordinator. The job is part time  
(10 hours per week), and requires being present at  
the church on both Wednesdays and Sundays.  
Previous experience is preferred. Please send all  
resumes to Pastor Robert Cloninger by email :  
robert@humcbv.com



## Centered in Prayer

Jesus's life and death show us that God wants to  
share all with us. "He did not spare His own  
Son" (Rom. 8:32) Sometimes the way we pray  
prevents us from realizing this and, to speak  
loosely, prevents God from sharing with us. This  
happens when we spend all our time in prayer  
doing the speaking to God, when we never pause  
to let God speak. We forget that in the time of  
prayer God is in full action, loving us with...  
immense love, by no means inactive or sleep-  
ing. We do not stop to let this sink in. A more ap-  
propriate way to pray is to allow plenty of time for  
God to do the acting.

From *Living the Richness of the Cross*  
by John Dalrymple

Let God be God wherever life may be;  
Let every tongue bear witness to the call;  
All humankind is one by God's decree;  
Let God be God, Let God be God for all.

Hymn: *How Like a Gentle Spirit* by C. Eric Lincoln

**ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE** scheduled for  
May 27-29 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and **GENERAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE UMC**, previously set for  
May 5-15 in Minneapolis, have been postponed  
due to the pandemic. Rescheduling will be  
announced at a later date.

If you have an item for the next  
newsletter, please email it to **Dru  
Matthews** at [dru@humcbv.com](mailto:dru@humcbv.com)  
Deadline is May 20.



# HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



*"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry"*

—Robert Burns

That old quote of Burns above, pretty much says it all. The Hummers had laid plans for several activities for the Spring/Summer months this year. Some of the plans were to have included:

A significant effort that was to have involved both Hummers and Hummerettes (spouses) .... a Road Pick-Up Saturday in late April on Glasgow Road, Highlands Blvd., Perth, Kinross, Shetland, etc. A cook-out Involving our specialty, highly burned Ball Park hot dogs, plus all the other stuff that was to have followed the Pick-Up.

Didn't happen!

As a mid-May adventure, we had made arrangements with the NW Arkansas Naturals for both Hummers and Hummerettes (up to 100 guys and gals) to attend a Minor League baseball night game at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale, AR. It was to have featured the dreaded Tulsa Drillers. Our seating was to have been at ground level, right behind Home plate.....Nice!

Ain't gonna happen!

We simply didn't see it coming.... but, here we are. So, what do we do, now?

We prepare to come back, perhaps not in a "business as usual" mode, but adjusted to accommodate, as necessary. In the meantime, we follow our hearts in thoughtfully enjoying all that we have and prayerfully thanking God for all we have been provided.

We will be back.

—Nat Collis, HUMMERS President

## SAMARITAN'S FEET

We can all agree **EVERY CHILD NEEDS SHOES** for their ever-growing feet! Therefore, Highlands Church through Missions Ministry will begin collecting NEW SHOES - sized 11 Toddler thru size 15 for Teenagers. Save your shoe donations until the church reopens, then you will be able to put them in the Collection Box that will be in the Gathering Area. The collection will benefit the needs of Samaritan's Feet for Back-to-School events! For questions, contact Lori and Gary Pinkerton at 479-876-7465.

## WE HELPED!

The Outreach Team made their quarterly contribution to the Samaritan Community Center of \$2,500 in March just as the pandemic started. This money is always designated for Snack Packs for Gravette Schools and our volunteers help to pack them each month. We received a thank you letter from SCC in which we were told that in the last two weeks they had distributed 3,366 snack packs to students even though they cannot attend school. From other funds, the SCC served 5,331 meals and provided groceries to 1,023 families. Our donation helped!





# United Methodist Women

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



The last time we worshiped together in our church building was Sunday, March 15, and it was UMW Weekend. As President of our UMW, I want to thank those of you who were in attendance and hope you enjoyed the service which was led by the fabulous women of our church!

That seems so long ago and not much has happened since then. All of our UMW events in April were canceled due to the Coronavirus, specifically the joint breakfast with UMW and Hummers, and the Flea/Boutique.

As we look forward to May, which is filled with so much uncertainty, there is still not a lot to write about. We do have a program ready for a breakfast meeting scheduled on Monday, May 11, but that event is dependent on the reopening of the church. At a minimum we are going to try to have a board meeting in May since our group is small and we can social distance effectively.

UMW typically doesn't meet in June, July, and August, but I want to approach the board about having a breakfast program in June, if the church has reopened. Otherwise, we will take the summer months off and kick off the fall with our September meeting, which will be our joint UMW/UMM breakfast with Dr. Freeman speaking on the topic of Neuropathy and Pain Management, which was canceled in April.

We are disheartened because we are missing our major fundraising events in April, and possibly May, which will greatly impact the amount we are able to donate to women and children's services in NWA. We would still like to consider rescheduling the Flea/Boutique in the fall but so much is still up in the air! So, stay tuned and we will let you know as soon as more information becomes available.

I pray that you and your families are safe and healthy. We know God is in control and He's got this! We just need to do our part and stay in faith. I am so looking forward to the day we can all be together again!

—Jean Galloway, UMW President

## FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

We want to thank you for continuing to give to your church during this very unusual time. Because of your faithfulness, your church is doing well, and able to meet our basic expenses of mortgage, utilities, insurance and payroll. Our Conference has given us a time of Jubilee for our conference tithe (March 22-April 22) which has helped to keep the expenses down. Please continue to give as God has given us so that our church will continue to do well. Please read the letter from the Outreach Team on page one of this newsletter. We encourage you to participate in the effort as you are able.

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



Like our page on Facebook  
[facebook.com/humcbv](https://facebook.com/humcbv)

## Operating Budget Report-March 31, 2020

	YTD Budget	Mar Actual	YTD Actual
Income	137,592	44,918	148,570
Expenses	137,592	38,707	124,986
Net	0	6,211	23,584

Thank you for your continued support.

## GIVING YOUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

You can give your tithes & offerings online by visiting our website, [www.humcbv.com](http://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.