

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH  
JUNE-JULY 2020 – VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 5



## **PRAISE THE LORD!! WE DID IT!!**

We met for worship services last weekend. Worshiping God TOGETHER is one of the biggest joys of being a Christian. Although few in number and fully masked and socially distanced, we worshipped God TOGETHER. Thanks to the incredible leadership team and staff, for carefully preparing for our church to reopen for worship and other events.

## **Church Office Hours:**

The church office has resumed normal business hours, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. However, we will close at noon on Friday, July 3 & 10. We are still available to help in any way possible during this time. Give us a call at 479-855-2277.

## **LET'S CONTINUE TO WORSHIP TOGETHER:**

We will continue social distancing and can have 50 people in attendance for now. So make your reservation for worship (See page 3). When you arrive at church, enter the appropriate doors so you can be screened. You will be greeted by church volunteers who will give you a squirt of hand sanitizer and make sure you have a mask. Please bring your own mask if possible. Also, your temperature will be taken. These volunteers are your friends and family, not strangers, **so don't let the screening process keep you from coming to church.**

**No matter what**, we will be filming full worship services for your viewing on the internet every week. We will also continue to film the Wednesday Bible Study/Sermon.

## **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

2020 has shown us some remarkable things. Some good. Some bad. But overall, pretty remarkable. Being stuck in our houses for social distancing was something I thought I would never see. Working at home? I am 36 and I remember growing up that the only people that worked from home were artists and writers. I was able to take online classes in college and I remember feeling apprehensive because, back then, that just did not make any sense. You certainly could not have a class without a classroom and a teacher physically present.



Honestly, the thought of working from home, or taking classes from home, really did throw me off. I was so used to the idea that I would go to class until one day I got a job and then I would physically go to work. That was just how things would be forever and to suggest anything else was just silly. What we just saw over the course of the last few months is that not only is working from home possible, it actually seems to be more productive. We have the internet both at home and wherever we go on our smart phones. Many days over the past few months, I would put my son down for a nap while emailing the church staff and leadership.

I think one of the biggest questions for the business world now is what they are going to do with their employees? We live in an age where a company can be fully staffed with staff members living in different countries. At the same time, we are also dependent on some businesses to have actual employees present at the business location. Yet, with the outbreak of Covid-19 we saw curbside services at restaurants and stores providing maximum efficiency.

In many ways it seems too good to be true; and it is. Work starts to become 24/7 and when you work from home you feel like you are getting a huge break, so you work more hours to remind people that you are needed. You start to lose track of days and focus more on what you are doing and less on what is happening at home. And finally, there comes a point where you realize, "I am incredibly lonely." And the panic kicks in. That might not be the case for everyone, but I certainly have heard it a lot over the past few months.

To take things further, let us talk about worship. Sunday mornings were the hardest times of social distancing for me. Jesus gifted us a church because Jesus knew we needed each other. We can watch church at home all we want, and work from home all we want, but I think what we are learning is that it is not what we want. On one hand, we have made all of these technological advances that allow us to be separated yet together; but on the other hand, the separation is in fact creating sadness and loneliness.

There is a beautiful lesson in all of this: we need one another. We have to pay attention to this, and we cannot take each other for granted. The differences that seek to divide us need to be viewed for what they really are: forms that the Enemy uses to isolate us and to make us miserable and vulnerable. Too many times it has taken tragedy for us to remember the value and beauty of human life. I personally do not care for any reminders. Jesus chose not to walk alone; why should we?

—Pastor Robert Cloninger

## MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR WORSHIP!

Please reserve your spot at one of our 3 Worship Services each weekend! Go to the website [www.humcbv.com](http://www.humcbv.com) and click on the RSVP button which will open the Eventbrite screen. Eventbrite is very user friendly, so everything you need to do to 'Register' your Reservation should be easy to follow. It is not necessary for you to create an account on Eventbrite; the choice is up to you. You will be able to modify your registration, should you need to cancel, from a link in the confirmation email you will receive.

Registration will OPEN at 9:00 am on Tuesday each week.

Registration will CLOSE at 3:00 pm on Friday each week.

Here's a few tips:

- Click on the red RSVP link to open our Eventbrite page.
- On the Eventbrite page, click on the green 'Register' button to get started.
- You will be able to choose which service you would like to reserve a spot in.
- You will need to create a Reservation for each person in your household separately. They can all be under the same email address; you will receive a separate email for each Registration.

## CHANCEL CHOIR ON HIATUS

I have had several inquiries about the Chancel Choir and their absence from our Traditional worship service. For the time being, the Chancel Choir will not be able to meet for rehearsal or sing in the sanctuary. The safety of our singers is paramount and their music ministry must be put on hold. I will explain why this must occur.

The virus we are experiencing makes choral singing almost impossible. There is a 12 foot distancing requirement for singers and public speakers because of the effort used to project the voice. Contaminates can be in the air up to 10 or 11 feet away when a person sings, hence the 12 foot distancing rule. We have 30+ members of the Chancel Choir and to have 12 feet between singers makes it impossible for them to meet in the choir room or even the large choir loft in the sanctuary. So, for the time being, we cannot meet and "make a joyful noise to the Lord," until it is completely safe.

That being said, some members of the Chancel Choir have been meeting as a group to make videos of some of the anthems we have recorded over the last 18 months. In essence, we are lip-synching songs we have sung in church. It is much more satisfying to see people singing than to just hear them. We don't have a huge repertoire to choose from, but we can include these videos in our worship services and podcasts until we can safely meet as a choir again.

A huge thank you must go to Doug and Lynn Stone for doing so much to make our videos a reality. Since the pandemic, Doug and Lynn have worked tirelessly to keep our congregation connected to Highlands with the podcasts and the recording of our musical selections from the Celebration, Traditional and Gathering music teams. Editing all of the different entities and seamlessly putting them together is a gargantuan task and they have done a beautiful job. We are indeed blessed to have them!

Stay safe and be smart. See you in church.

John Matthews

## Family News

### NEW ADDRESS :

**Pat Klukvin-Struthers**, 14350 W. 133rd Street #111  
Olathe, KS 66062  
Email: [pklukvin@cox.net](mailto:pklukvin@cox.net)

### OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to:

**Darleen Olson** and family upon the recent loss of her husband Dave Olson, May 3, 2020.

**Jean Olsen** and family upon the recent loss of her husband Eric Olsen, June 13, 2020.

**Beth Williams** and family upon the recent loss of her husband Harry Williams, June 13, 2020.

### THANK YOU'S

Dear church friends, I want to thank y'all for all the cards, meals & prayers while healing from my knee surgery. The dear people in our church always come through in ones' time of need. Thank you so very much. Blessings, **Marilyn Makela**

My heart is overwhelmed by the prayers, cards, calls, visits, love and being a part of the parade celebration for Eric. He fought a long battle and I know he is now in a 'Perfect Place', high-jumping!! **Jean Olsen**

Thank you to all who sent cards and the phone calls with the passing of David. It has meant a lot to me and my family. It is wonderful to have this church family, you all have been wonderful, the support of the choir and Pastor Robert. Thank you again. **Darleen Olson**

### 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.

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 July 20.



## Centered in Prayer

Do nothing on which you cannot pray for a blessing. Every action of a Christian that is good is sanctified by the word of prayer. It becomes not a Christian to do anything so trivial that he cannot pray over it.

John Wesley

Though I'm but dust, I pray,  
Before God standing,  
Not asking pleasure's way,  
nor gold demanding:  
But greater things I ask,  
From God requesting  
No less than that he give  
To me that I may live  
Life everlasting.  
My heart now overflows.

.....  
With prayers and praises.  
My Heavenly Father knows  
Each sign that raises  
My heart ever nearer his heart  
so tender;  
For there's my joy and peace;  
in thee I've found release,  
My soul's Defender  
from Prayer by O.Hallesby

### 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](mailto:robert@humcbv.com)



# OUTREACH NEWS

## SUPPORT THE NWA FOOD BANK

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 activities are curtailed, HUMC Outreach will continue to help with local mission projects.

Thanks, HUMC Outreach Team

## HIGHLAND CHURCH'S FREE CRUISE-IN & CAR SHOW 2020

After much discussion we have decided to go ahead with our cruise-in car show with a simplified, socially distanced format. The event is planned for Saturday, September 19th. This year it will be an entirely outdoor event with entrants spaced further apart. We will not have the games and other entertainment as in previous years, so we will be offering 2 optional 30 to 40 minute drives around the area to enjoy our roads and views in your classic car (or your family car if you like). The show will be from 10:30 to 1:30 this year with "gates open" at 9:30 for entrants.

As in previous years, we will be asking the congregation to help sell \$10 lunch tickets for the event. People entering a vehicle will get 1 free lunch ticket with additional tickets available for \$10 each. Lunch will also be simplified some this year. The plan is for grilled brats, chips, water and a desert pastry provided (outside of the church building).

This event is our fundraiser for Bright Futures, Snack Packs for Kids and Samaritan's Feet - providing food, clothes, supplies, shoes and socks for Gravette area school students that need the assistance.

This year has been harder than ever for those in our community struggling to make ends meet. We can help our neighbors with our donations to Northwest Arkansas Food Bank as previously requested and by supporting the car show with congregational ticket sales starting in early August. Additionally, we anticipate our area business sponsorships to be down this year, so if you or someone you know would like to sponsor this event, please contact us.

## SAMARITAN'S FEET

Highlands Church will team up with **Samaritan's Feet, for the 6th year**, to put new shoes and socks on children...*just a bit differently*. As expected, we will NOT be hosting a foot-washing event with the children. However, from donations and funds raised through the Highlands Church Car Show, we intend to provide shoes and socks for 150 students. Alicia Matney Morrow, a Gravette school parent and Samaritan's Feet volunteer, will help coordinate this effort with teachers and Bright Futures of Gravette Schools this fall.

Also, THANK YOU for donating NEW SHOES to the Samaritan's Feet Shoe Collection Box at church. As the box fills, the shoes will be given to the NWA Samaritan's Feet office for distribution. If you have any questions, you may contact Lori Pinkerton at 479-621-7616.



# HUMMERS



A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Our Hummers group is enduring the hiatus imposed on us all by COVID 19. Our plans are still on hold for another month. However, we are still doing our part for the community by making a cash donation to the local food bank .

We are still planning to have a joint meeting with the UMW in September.

We will be back.

—Nat Collis, HUMMERS President



## United Methodist Women

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



Summer Hiatus Continues!

See you in September!!

—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. Please continue to give as God has given us so that our church will continue to do well.

### Operating Budget Report-May 31, 2020

	YTD Budget	May Actual	YTD Actual
Income	201,295	44,968	233,658
Expenses	201,295	38,122	202,304
Net	0	6,846	31,354

Thank you for your continued support.

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



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

### 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.