

Highlands News

HAPPY Thanksgiving

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2020 – VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 9

New Direction for Gathering Service!

The resumption of worship services at Highlands in August was a wonderful event. COVID 19 has created a new dynamic for worship and a renewed enthusiasm for attending worship with others. For instance, the Traditional Worship Service started with around 40 people attending and has grown steadily with over 80 attending the last Sunday in October. That is really exciting!

With the resumption of services comes the need for an intense focus on making our different worship experiences vital and varied. With that in mind, we have decided that the Gathering Service requires a different direction. Highlands is pleased to announce that Pam Meyer has agreed to take on the responsibility of Worship Leader for the Gathering service. She has assembled her team of musicians and their goal is to make our Gathering Service an exciting and deeply Spirit-filled experience. Pam will continue her Saturday night Celebration Service duties with her wonderful music team. Please pray for Pam and all our worship teams.

Your safety and spiritual welfare at Highlands is our top priority. The sanctuary can accommodate 120 safely distanced attendees and 80 can be safely seated in the Fellowship Hall. Our protocols for attending in-house worship remain diligent and we have a perfect record of safety. Please consider attending one of our wonderful worship services!

John Matthews, Dir. of Music Ministries
SPRC Committee, Oscar Hansen Chairman
Robert Cloninger, Pastor

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Celebrations Service

Saturdays 5:30 pm
(casual atmosphere)

Traditional Service

Sundays 9:30 am

Gathering Service

Sundays 11:15 am
(contemporary worship)

Highlands Church

A United Methodist Congregation
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Pastor's Pen

It is hard to believe that we are coming up on this year's Holiday Season, but Thanksgiving is coming fast and then it is straight into Advent and Christmas. On one hand we are coming up to one of the best times of the year. On the other hand, we have to acknowledge that there is a laundry list of emotions that come with the season. There is joy, excitement, an overwhelming feeling of the presence of God, hope, and peace. At the same time there can be grief, loneliness, and sadness. For most of us, I believe a lot of these emotions run together and we can get a bit flustered. We will have new traditions, and traditions that we have to let go. We will have times of peace and quiet, and times of stress. With Covid there will even be an added layer of loneliness. It is important to think about all of this, because we have to go into this time of the year ready to be extra compassionate and understanding.



Pastor Robert Cloninger

A great consolation is that the Holidays we are about to celebrate did not start in easy or perfect times. They started not just with the same problems we have now, but worse. Thanksgiving came out of starvation. Advent came out of a fearful and hard time for Mary. And the first Christmas was definitely not highlighted with a large family around a perfect tree.

The reality of these "firsts" teaches us a valuable lesson; that things do not have to be perfect to have joy, peace, hope, or gratitude. It is not always easy, and it is not always fair, yet we have what we have. I do not know every Holiday story in our congregation, but I do know that some of my favorite Holiday memories have been the times when everything was a disaster and even times with practically no family around. I wish that everything could be perfect for everyone, but the only thing I can offer is the promise that you will feel the full presence of the Trinity. If you stay still enough you will find that to be all sufficient.

I have a few requests for this upcoming season. Since 2020 has been one of the strangest and toughest years on record for a lot of people, please say your prayers and take care of each other. My other request is more lighthearted; wherever you have come from in the country please celebrate one of the most important Southern traditions of the year with me: Eat your black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. Get your recipes ready now and prepare yourself to eat those things until they are coming out of our ears!

Blessings,

Robert

ALL SAINTS DAY 2020

At each service of worship on All Saints Day, November 1, we remembered the many loved ones lost since last year's All Saints Day. In our worship services as each name was read, a chime was sounded and a candle lit. We will miss the dear loved ones of our Highlands Family:

Dale Christy, Mary Pumphrey, Kathie Holm, Harold Sharp, Keith Blomeyer, Larry Young, Helen Christy, Rich Ellis, Eric Olsen, Harry Williams, Carl Holm, Rita Callahan, Dick Montgomery, Betty Fellows, Frankie Hoogshagen, Rhoda Platt, Sue Stewart, and Lloyd Schultz.



"FIFTH SUNDAY LOAN REDUCTION"

If you have only been at Highlands for a short time, you may wonder what this means. We have a long standing tradition of focusing on our Mortgage Debt during months with five Sundays. This extra gift goes towards paying down the debt principal on our church. The regular mortgage payment is made monthly through the operating budget. Any donation indicated for loan reduction goes toward additional principal payments. These payments reduce the life of the loan and save us many dollars in interest. We average paying an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year. Join us in this effort on November 29. Many small gifts make a HUGE difference.

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.

Operating Budget Report-Sept 30, 2020

	YTD Budget	Sept Actual	YTD Actual
Income	412,219	39,532	383,498
Expenses	412,219	37,217	350,973
Net	0	2,315	32,525

Thank you for your continued support.



BELL RINGING!

Again this year we will ring the bell for Salvation Army at Allen's Food Market. Our scheduled times are from 10 AM until 4 PM on

December 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12 and 17, 18, 19 with one hour shifts. Please watch for signup information next week.





All Church Event

An Early Advent Event

**24 DAYS OF DONATIONS
FOR HIGHLANDS LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15
FILLED BOX DROP-OFF BEGINS DECEMBER 10

Directions: Grab a box to hold all the food items you are going to be collecting. Listed below is the 24 day calendar of items to gather. Each day, you will add the listed item to the box. The local dollar stores have most of the items. Starting December 10, your box may be dropped off at the church. Henkels & Stones (our Care Group Coordinators) will use your donations to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked this winter. Will you join us in gathering these donations? If so, please email YES to...

Henkels - katycruise@cox.net 876-6121 Stones - dlystone@cox.net 876-2260

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 15 - box of cereal | November 30 - package of oatmeal |
| November 16 - peanut butter | December 1 - package pasta |
| November 17 - stuffing mix | December 2 - spaghetti sauce |
| November 18 - boxed potatoes | December 3 - chicken noodle soup |
| November 19 - macaroni & cheese | December 4 - tomato soup |
| November 20 - canned fruit | December 5 - canned corn |
| November 21 - canned tomatoes | December 6 - can mixed vegetables |
| November 22 - canned tuna or chicken | December 7 - canned carrots |
| November 23 - cranberry sauce | December 8 - canned green beans |
| November 24 - applesauce | |
| November 25 - can of sweet potatoes | |
| November 26 - dessert mix | |
| November 27 - canned beans | |
| November 28 - box of crackers | |
| November 29 - package of rice | |





HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



Due to the Election taking place at the church on November 4, Hummers did not meet. Look for information to be announced soon about an off-site meeting in December. Also, please sign up to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on the day assigned to Hummers: Thursday, December 10.



United Methodist Women

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



Monday, November 9

at 9:30 am

Join us in Fellowship Hall to hear our Guest Speaker, Anita Parker, Author of "Not By Accident." You can see her amazing story on YouTube called "Amazin' Grace Standing Room Only." Check it out before her program. Invite a friend!

Monday, December 14

at 11:00 am

Make plans to join us for our Christmas Luncheon at Bella Vista Bar and Grill; a special festive time of refreshment and fellowship. We will need a definite head count for this event. You will pay for your lunch at the restaurant.

Remember ALL women of our church are welcome!



UMW will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on Thursday, December 3.

Please signup for these events via the link in the email or call the church office.

LIBRARY

Your church Library has many popular author books for sale on the small cart outside the Library door. Most of these are duplicate copies of books that we already have on our shelves. Just a sampling of some of the popular authors represented are:

John Grisham, W.E.B. Griffin, Tom Clancy, Clive Cussler, David Baldacci, John Sandford and many others. You can't beat the great prices: 50 cents for hard cover and 25 cents for paperbacks. Just drop your donation in the red can on the cart.

Inside the Library we have a very large selection of books, including Christian fiction, and again including all the popular authors. We have a special section of large print copies in the 2nd room. In the Library Annex, across the Narthex, we have a selection of Christian nonfiction and devotional material, as well as DVD's and books on CDs, which are ideal for traveling. Additionally, in the Annex you will find many paperback books.

Family News

NEW MEMBERS:

Flip and Kathy Smith

moved to Bella Vista from Springdale in 2019. In 2015, Flip retired as a regional sales manager for 3M Company. Kathy currently works at the University of Arkansas as a professor. They enjoy boating, vintage cars and music. Flip is originally from Ames, Iowa and Kathy is from Ohio. They have 2 adult married sons and 3 granddaughters.



Chris and Nancy

Rose moved to Bella Vista from Ohio in 2019. Chris was the assistant VP of AG Credit and Nancy was a 4th grade teacher. As retirees, Chris enjoys cycling, kayaking, stained glass and reading. Nancy enjoys gardening, painting, reading, riding bicycles, kayaking and donating blood. They have 2 children.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY :

Henry 'Lloyd' Schultz passed away Sunday, October 25.

Sue Stewart passed away Tuesday, October 27. Cards may be mailed to her son: Cord Bierman, 3544 Ignacio Circle, Stockton, CA 95209

Rhoda Platt passed away Saturday, October 17. Cards may be mailed to her son, Bob and Kathy Platt, 5045 S. Blue Star Dr., St George, UT 84790.

Greg Brown, Tom and Dixie Brown's son, passed away on September 30.

Wayne Williams, brother of Bill Williams, passed away on October 25.

Frankie Hoogshagen passed away October 1.

NEW PHONE NUMBER: Rick Atha, (479) 326-1622

NEW EMAIL:

Susan Couto: katlover1@protonmail.com

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.



Centered in Prayer

Failure to pray entails losses far beyond the person who neglects it.

Prayer is not a mere episode of the Christian life. Rather the whole life is a preparation for the result of prayer. In its condition, prayer is the sum of religion.

Faith is but a channel of prayer. Faith gives it wings and swiftness. Prayer is the lungs through which holiness breathes. Prayer is not only the language of spiritual life, but makes its very essence and forms its real character.

From "The Possibilities of Prayer" by
Edward M. Bounds

Help me, Lord God, to fulfill my good intention and your holy service. Starting today, let me begin perfectly, for what I have done so far is nothing.

From "The Imitation of Christ" by
Thomas A'Kempi

If you have an item for the next newsletter, please email it to **Dru Matthews** at dru@humcbv.com Deadline is November 20.

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



Like our page on Facebook
facebook.com/humcbv



The distribution of the Angels for the ANGEL TREE this year will begin on Tuesday, December 1 via online signups. Be on the lookout for an email with the link to our Angel Tree signup to arrive in your inbox on December 1. If you do not have email but would like to participate, please contact the church office starting December 1 and we can assist you in choosing an Angel over the phone and providing you the needed instructions. All gifts will need to be at the church no later than Sunday, December 13.

It is VERY important that you read and follow the instructions in the 'Angel Tree Instructions.pdf' file attached to the online signup description. After you submit your signup, you will receive a Confirmation Email. This Confirmation Email will be your 'Angel' that will identify your gift when you return it to the church. So, if you sign up for more than one Angel in the same submission, they will all be listed in the one email. Be sure and print a copy of the email for each Angel that you signed up for and then circle one Angel on each copy so you can attach it to the corresponding gift. If you need assistance or clarification on this process, please contact the church office 855-2277.

This year we are helping two families. These families are carefully chosen by the school counselor. Each child is given six ANGELS: 2 are for clothes; 1 for underwear/pajamas; 1 for a coat; and 2 are for toys. The child's name, age, gender and sizes will be listed with each ANGEL, along with suggestions of what that child would like or has asked for. There are also ANGELS for food. The 'Angel Tree Instructions.pdf' has suggestions for food items. All the food is gathered and sorted by family size.

All gifts, if feasible, are to be wrapped and with a tag/label giving the child's name only. PLEASE also attach the Confirmation Email to the package in place of the Angel this year, writing on the Confirmation Email what is in the package. The ANGEL (Confirmation Email) is removed from the gift before giving to the child. The information in the email is used 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.

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 have any questions, please contact Anne Mairet 855-4277 or the church office.

