

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | MARCH 2021 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 1



WELCOME BACK
OUR SERVICES HAVE RESUMED

We are grateful to have our doors open again for all 3 in-person Worship Services! We will continue to release weekly Sermon Videos online for those wanting to continue worshipping from home.

REMINDER:

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14. When you go to bed on Saturday evening, don't forget to set your clocks forward or you'll be early for church the next morning!



**JOIN US FOR
COMMUNION**

MARCH 6 & 7
DURING ALL 3 SERVICES

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

When I was pastoring in Fort Smith, I was at a point in my preaching where I knew I needed a change. I could not keep doing what I was doing to prepare sermons. It was miserable. Absolutely miserable. On top of that, I wanted to be able to preach the way I had always seen myself preaching. Here was the problem: I was preaching off of a manuscript. Now, there's nothing wrong with that. I wasn't glued to it and other pastors that are far better preachers than myself have made it work. My problem was, there was more that I wanted to say from the heart that the manuscript did not allow for. One day I decided it was enough. I was not going to preach using a manuscript anymore. I was going to memorize an elaborate outline. So that is what I did but keep something in mind; when I was in Fort Smith and decided this, Betsy was living in Fayetteville to get her Masters in School Counseling. She would come to Fort Smith to stay at her father's house on the weekends. You can probably guess what ended up happening. I ended up using a lot of time on Saturday when Betsy was in town to memorize the outline and obsess about my sermon and Sunday mid afternoon, I was teaching a class. Betsy was getting cut out and my plan for a solid execution of a sermon was not going like I had wanted it to. So, what was I accomplishing? Creating a real mess.



And then I got some advice: if I would study and pray during the hours I would normally be preparing a sermon, when it came time to actually write my sermon, I would only need 30 minutes tops and I would be able to give a sermon that pulls from places all over the Bible. I was desperate and this advice came from a guy that knew what he was talking about. So, I started. The first few weeks were iffy, but better. However, after about a month I realized he was completely right. I had been studying the whole Bible and praying, then when I looked at my one single piece of scripture to preach from, I was already familiar with the book and ready to draw on other examples from the Bible and from my own life. Granted, I am not claiming to be the best preacher, but I feel better about the sermons I delivered and continue to deliver than I did when I was preaching off manuscript. And again, for the record, there's nothing wrong with preaching from a manuscript. David refused the king's armor and went with a sling. I just found my sling doing what I was doing.

The most interesting thing though is that it did not just change my preaching; it changed my life. I began to get on the movement for more prayer and Scripture with several people from multiple denominations. It seems like a given, but I know it is not. As a pastor, I have not always done the best job of teaching on prayer and Bible study. And I know that's true of some of my colleagues who have told me the same guilt they feel.

I'm changing that though. Between the weather and the Coronavirus, I am incredibly frustrated. I know things will get back to normal, but I am ready to be back into the swing of things. Yet, this is a key time to mobilize our prayer movement. I issued a prayer challenge through Lent: to spend an hour a day in prayer and Bible study. It doesn't matter if it's a solid hour or is broken up, but aim for an hour. I asked for 10 people initially, and I got much more than 10, but I haven't hit the 50% mark of the total congregation. I do not want this habit to change after Lent either. I want the vast majority, if not all, of our congregants to find an hour to pray a day. I get it though; in some circumstances it is impossible. However, between the television and social media, we are getting our time chewed away. Hours we do not get back. What I am asking for is to be wise. Invest time in something that pays back. Invest time in Prayer and Bible Study and the fruit of that time will come flying out in the way you think, in your conversations, decision making, financial decisions, medical decisions, family decisions, etc....

The bottom line of it all is there is only so much we can do as a church without an internal prayer movement. We are doing a lot and you all have to be continually fed to keep up. It's also 2021 and new opportunities for ministry are always appearing. There needs to be prayer over those by a lot of people. And to be perfectly honest; everyone who is a member made the vow to pray for their church. Praying for the church takes time. One of the things we're going to have to really look for in future members is whether or not they are willing to pray. We need all the prayers we can get and when one of us is down that person needs all the prayers they can get. You all are wonderful about praying. I have just decided that I want to model us as the congregation to be a part of in terms of prayer ministry. When people see the successes that come out of our congregation, we can point it right back to God and the hours in prayer and numbers of people in prayer.

On the next page is a sample prayer timeline that would be something like I would do. This is an hour-long prayer session, though I might be doing 30 minutes twice a day some days.

Pastor Robert's Sample One Hour Prayer Session:

- 1) Getting still and centered. Some deep breaths and some quiet music.
- 2) More music that is a little more upbeat (whether from my music source or YouTube or cd).
- 3) Prayer asking for God to show me what he wants me to see in His Word.
- 4) Start reading part of my prayer reading plan, praying as I go.
- 5) Break from prayer reading plan with worship music (we want this whole time to be worship).
- 6) Prayer for new concerns.
- 7) Read the rest of my Bible reading plan, praying as I go.
- 8) Pausing to review and think about all that I've read.
- 9) Start prayer in concentric circles by asking for the Holy Spirit's help.
- 10) Pray for my needs and strength.
- 11) Pray for Betsy's needs and strength.
- 12) Pray for my children's needs.
- 13) Pray for rest of family including immediate church member's that need prayer.
- 14) Pray for friends and Highland's church and members (people, impact, plan).
- 15) Pray for community, state, and country (including political leaders).
- 16) Pray for world evangelism.
- 17) Pray for individual countries that come to mind.
- 18) Listen to more music and finish prayers.
- 19) End in silence.



If you would, please email me and let me know you'll be a part of this movement. I have my initial list, but I'm going to keep praying to persuade until at least 50% of the congregation is with me.

Grace,

Pastor Robert
robert@humcbv.com

Care & Share Thrift Store
Volunteers Needed
March 9-13



Care & Share Volunteers

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of March 9-13 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Sign up online or contact the church office if you need assistance. If you prefer, you may still contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer, directly at 876-6324.



All Church Event *continues...*

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Thank you to all who have already contributed to our Highlands Little Free Pantry. Since November, we have been stocking it almost every day (because it has been emptied!). It has been a blessing to many people in our community.

Because the NEED is still there, we would like to continue this with your help. We are specifying items that are most wanted and used and will continue to stock the Little Free Pantry using your generous donations. Can you donate at least 10 items from the list below?

Collection time is **Monday, March 1, from 9:00 –11:00 am** at the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact your Care Group Coordinators, Henkels 876-6121 or Stones 876-2260.

The Little Free Pantry most used and wanted items: most used items need replacing: cereal, canned fruit, canned meats, peanut butter, crackers

- granola bars, trail mix, dried fruit, snack pudding, pop tarts, beef jerky, cereal, bread, bagels, tortillas
- tea bags, milk products, cocoa mix, juice boxes, canned meals like; chili, stews, canned meats, canned tuna, hearty soups
- deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, gloves, hygiene products, dish washing soap, toilet paper, tissue packet

Items we cannot use:

- expired food, homemade food, food without a label, food packaging that has been opened



Centered in Prayer

Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world.

The surprise is not that, unexpectedly, things turn out better than expected. No, the real surprise is that God's light is more real than all the darkness, that God's truth is more powerful than all human lies, that God's love is stronger than death!!

From Here and Now by Henri J.M. Nouwen
(submitted by Jeanne Johnson-Redway)



THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



Our current plans for "reopening" our group's activities are contingent on all the obvious factors including the ongoing health concerns, church guided policy, and of course, the weather.

In the near term, when we do get back in action our plans are to emphasize outdoor meetings/activities on church premises (as weather allows), with minimal, probably professionally catered, food offerings.

In the meantime, please know that the Hummers are a resource for your church and community..... and, if you are able, please join us to donate at the first of our five Blood Drives for 2021 on March 17 from 10:00 am -3:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall. It's the greatest gift you can give to someone you'll never know..... The gift of life!

Nat Collis, The Hummers President



United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



UMW would like to thank everyone who generously donated in 2020 to help us support the women and children in Northwest Arkansas who desperately needed our help. Even though the pandemic prevented us from holding our various fundraising events last year, because of you we were able to donate over \$12,000 across 17 different charities.

Our Board will meet on Monday, March 1 for the first time since November 2, 2020 to discuss and plan our programs and events for upcoming year. The first fundraising initiative will be our "Change for Change" program which will begin the first Sunday in March (3-7-21). For the next few months we will be collecting the loose change you have in your wallet or pocket because we believe that every penny counts and can make a change in the lives of others. Look for the container as you enter the sanctuary and know that any and all contributions are appreciated. Together we can make our change count! You are blessed to be a blessing and you are appreciated.

Jean Galloway, UMW President

1st Annual John Edwards Memorial Golf Classic

The John Edwards Memorial Golf Classic has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 24 at the Highlands Course with a tee-off time of 9:00 am. Application forms will be at all golf courses and the church's information station. The church office will also be sending them out in the weekly update emails we send out on Friday evenings. Questions can be addressed to Norman Mitchell, 479-640-1340.



Family News

NEW MEMBERS:

None to report.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Bob McClure on November 18, 2020
Sandy Sewell on November 18, 2020
Bud Davis on December 19, 2020
Donna Keehn on December 31, 2020
Connie Hayford on January 13, 2021
Maxine Bushee on January 21, 2021

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jean Olsen

1 Highlands Crossing Dr, Apt 121
Bella Vista, AR 72715
479-418-3515

Carolyn Standridge

The Landing, 2907 Broadway Bend Dr
Apt 247, Pearland TX 77584
Home phone: 832-230-1639

Mike & Kay Thompson

256 Saffron Terrace
Falling Waters, WV 25419-1559

Larry & Dorothy Yanak

36 Hatcher Dr
Bella Vista, AR 72715

Steve Terry

s_terry63@outlook.com

SPECIAL THANK YOU MESSAGES:

To Highlands Church members,
Your kindness means the world to me. Thank you to all that prayed for me! Also, I would like to thank everyone that sent condolence cards and donations in Howard 'Bud' Davis' memory. He was a wonderful man! God bless,
Mary Davis

To our church family,

Thank you so much to each and every one of you who prayed for me (and Irene) and sent all the wonderful cards and letters. Some people even sent more than one! You all know the power of prayer and, thank God, it worked! We are so very grateful to be surrounded by such a loving family at Highlands Church. Again, thank you and may the good Lord bless each and every one of you.

Chuck Boomhower

Office News

Amey & Lori: highlandschurch@humcbv.com

Newsletter: newsletter@humcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS & BUILDING USE:

The church office is open from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday-Friday. The office staff will be working from home during the remaining normal business hours and will still be available via email or phone. If you need to speak to us, please call us at 479-855-2277. If your call goes to voicemail, please leave a message; your message will be forwarded to us so we can return your call.

HUMC Bible studies / small groups can meet inside the church but please call to schedule a classroom with the church office in advance.

PRAYER CHAIN & MEMBER CARE:

If you know someone in need of prayer, ill or hospitalized, please contact the church office. Please note: If you are requesting prayer for someone who attends Highlands Church, you must gain their permission when submitting the request to the office. We want to respect the privacy of each individual and would never want to release anything publicly without their consent. We need to know that they are okay with not just the request for prayers for them, but also the details you are including in the request. We ask that you let the church office know of any upcoming surgical procedures or need of pastoral care.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Amey & Lori, your front office staff, have taken over the responsibility of producing the Highlands News. We have setup a new, permanent email address just for [newsletter submissions](mailto:newsletter@humcbv.com). Please be sure and send any articles for the newsletter to this new address: newsletter@humcbv.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The Deadline for the April 2021 Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on March 20. Please send all newsletter submissions, comments or questions to this **NEW email address: newsletter@humcbv.com**. We appreciate any input, articles and information you can send. Thanks in advance! Amey & Lori

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1- Little Free Pantry Drop-Off	2	3	4	5	6- Communion Weekend
7- Communion Weekend	8	9- Care & Share Volunteers Begin	10	11- Trustees Meeting	12	13
14- Daylight Saving Time	15	16- Admin Council Meeting	17- Blood Drive	18	19	20- Newsletter Deadline
21	22	23	24	25	26	27- Scrapbook & Card Making
28- Palm Sunday						

HUMCBV.COM
NEW SERMON VIDEOS POSTED WEEKLY

Help make a difference in YOUR community by giving blood!

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and is organized by our HUMMERS (Highlands United Methodist Men). All donors will receive a FREE t-shirt. Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule an appointment time, visit our website or call the church office.

Before the blood drive, please take a few steps to ensure that things go smoothly on the day of our blood drive.

1. Drink plenty of water or juice the night and morning before you donate.
2. Eat a well-balanced meal around 2-3 hours before giving.
3. Bring your photo ID - Photo ID is now required for all donors.
4. Bring a mask. - Masks are currently required at all blood drives. If you do not have one, one will be provided for you.
5. Expedite your check-in process by viiting cbco.org the morning of the blood drive and click on the 'Donor QuickPass' to get your paperwork done before you arrive.

HIGHLANDS CHURCH
MARCH 17
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Please schedule an appointment today.



Free T-shirt for all donors!
While supplies last.



EVERYONE WELCOME!

5:30 PM SATURDAY CELEBRATION
9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL
11:15 SUNDAY GATHERING



YOUR

HIGHLANDS CHURCH A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

Church Staff

REV. ROBERT CLONINGER
Senior Pastor

LORI HEALD
Office Administrator

AMEY BURKETT
Administrative Assistant

DRU MATTHEWS
Bookkeeper /Treasurer

JOHN MATTHEWS
Director of Music Ministries

PAM MEYER
Celebration Worship Leader

TBD
Contemporary Worship Leader

JEANNINE WAGAR
Organist

JOYCE SHELDON
Chimes & Bells Director

TBD
Children Ministries Coordinator

TBD
Nursery Worker

Operating Budget Report - January 31, 2021

	YTD Budget	Jan Actual	YTD Actual
Income	45,517	46,684	46,684
Expenses	45,517	41,349	41,349
Net	0	5,335	5,335

Thank you for your continued support.



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facebook.com/humcbv
Instagram.com/humc.bv



GIVING YOUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

You can give your tithes & offerings online by visiting our website, humcbv.com/give.

Online giving is a safe and easy way to give to Highlands Church.

Contact the church office if you have questions regarding online giving.