

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | MAY 2021 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 3

## Missions/Outreach News

A special thanks to our congregation for your support of the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank this winter. Also, I want to recognize Bud & Katy Henkel and Doug & Lynn Stone for their efforts with our Little Food Pantry at our church. Thanks to everyone who got involved, we donated more food to the Pantry than ever, which was much needed during these times. Many of our ways to raise funds for our Charities have not been there because of Covid-19. I expect the Mission Budget will be depleted during the 3rd quarter of this year. The good news is that we can raise money through the Power Of One, The Flea and The Car Show on September 19. The Car Show has grown into Bella Vista's largest show with 150 cars and around 400 meals served last year. Anyone willing to take on a leadership role in the Car Show please contact me at [s\\_terry63@outreach.com](mailto:s_terry63@outreach.com) or call / text 405 222 8727.

Thanks, Steve Terry

## 11-WEEK BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MAY 5

RELIGIONS OF THE  
**WORLD**

IN HUMC SANCTUARY

LED BY PASTOR ROBERT

**Bible Study:** Join Pastor Robert as he leads an 11-week Bible Study beginning May 5, 10:00 - 11:00 am, in the Sanctuary. The topic will be Religions of the World. See the Friday Weekly Update email to sign up or call the church office.

# Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

A while back I was in a huge hurry to get to a conference on church leadership. I had a long drive, a packed schedule, and that strange little buzz of adrenaline one gets when they are extremely busy. This was before I had children so I really did not even know what busy was. But nonetheless, I was zipping along fueled by coffee and agitation with the traffic. Before long, I came upon the cause of my agitation; I was in Amish country and a procession of buggies were holding up traffic. You can imagine my thrill to know that my life was being slowed down by a procession that thought cars were bad, but modern roads were just fine. And then it hit me like the standstill traffic I was in; the Amish were actually (mostly) right. I was so wound up with a schedule and mind full of thoughts that my daily life had been devoid of ongoing prayer and contemplation. I would say God and family were most important, but that would have, and still often is, a lie. In fact what I was and still am guilty of is being busy.



We have such an addiction to being busy that we make so many things harder than they have to be, we make life so much tougher than it has to be, and worse than that, we get mad at the drop of a hat when someone has not overcomplicated something that we are involved with. We have computers, tablets, and even phones as powerful as computers, but for what? Those things do not save us time. They keep us even more connected, because rarely do we use these tools that were invented to simplify life to actually simplify life. We use these tools to further complicate our lives and tie up our time. On one hand I knew this was the reality and on the other hand, Amish buggies had me spinning through the roof of my car.

I will always be a Methodist, I will always prefer cars, and I will most definitely keep my air conditioner. In other words; I am not going to become Amish. What I will do, though, is have that memory in my mind and written down so that I lessen my mistakes, lessen the creep of being busy for no reason, and keep God and family at the forefront. If covid has taught us anything, it is that we keep things in our lives way too busy and way too complicated. I hope you will join me in the struggle to simplify for a better life.



THE POWER OF  
**ONE**

*Drop a folded dollar  
into the offering  
plate to support our  
Mission Ministry*



**The Power of One:** Wondering what the folded lengthwise dollars in the offering plate are for? They are going to a special mission fund called The Power of One. Those 'ones' add up and do marvelous things to support local needs, like helping children in need in the Gravette School District by providing financial support to Bright Futures, Snack Packs, and the Samaritan's Feet ministry.

## Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction

We have a long standing tradition of focusing on our mortgage debt during the 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 towards principal payments. These extra payments that are made reduce the life of the loan and save us many dollars in interest.

At this point, let's review some background information since the beginning of the loan. On January 7, 2011, we took a construction loan for \$1,400,000 with the Arvest Bank to move forward and break ground for additions to our church. The interest rate at that time was 4%. Keep in mind that construction loans are for a short duration. When the loan was firmed up in January 2013, the loan rate was 3.84%. When we renewed the loan in November 2017, the rate was 4.30%. At the end of March 2021, our loan balance was \$450,000. In October of 2022, we will be renewing our loan once again. Please keep in mind this is a commercial loan renewable every five years.

In taking advantage of the months with five Sundays, we average paying down \$10,000 to \$15,000 extra each year. Please join us in this effort on May 30 this year. Many small gifts make a HUGE difference.

Andy O'Neil  
Chair, Finance Committee

## Musical Musings

The Chancel Choir and the Highlands Bell Ringers have resumed rehearsals and will soon be back in the sanctuary making a "joyful noise to the Lord." This is a great time to start the choir or bells if you've ever considered joining. No auditions are needed. It would be nice if you were able read a little music or understand the basics of rhythm. Regardless, if you are willing, the Chancel Choir and Highlands Ringers are able to take you to new musical heights.

It has been a tough year for the music ministries in our church but thank God for the wonderful talents of Pam Meyer, her two ensembles and Jeanine Wagar for her organist talents. Without these two wonderful musicians and their giving spirits, we would have been void of God's gift of music. Thank you both.

The atmosphere in church is very positive and we're getting back to some semblance of normal. I know Jack Skillet, for one, is thrilled that we have coffee available once more. If you have any questions, please email me at - [jmatt0952@gmail.com](mailto:jmatt0952@gmail.com) - and I will give you an answer!

God bless you all and ..... see you in church!  
John Matthews



# THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

**On Thursday, May 27 at 7:05 pm**, the Hummers are hosting a group attendance at a Northwest Arkansas Naturals baseball game at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale, AR. The game will pit our beloved Naturals against their bitter enemy, the dreaded San Antonio Missions. Gates open at 6:05 pm... batting practice should be taking place at that time. All men and women of Highlands Church and their guests are invited to join in the Hummers entourage.

We have secured a group reduction in ticket price of \$8.00 each. Our seating is planned to be along the first base line, just behind the Home Team dugout. Seating will be 'regular', that is, not distanced. Masks will be required for all fans unless you are eating or drinking. There will be social distancing protocols in place at entrances, concessions, team store, and restrooms. Parking at the ballpark is \$5.00/car and is payable at the parking lot entrance.

**There is a time deadline in securing group discounted tickets... all tickets must be pre-purchased by May 10 to assure adequate guaranteed seating on May 27.** Pre-paid tickets will be available for pickup at Will Call at the ballpark on the night of the game. Your Hummers contact for this event is Nat Collis. Telephone # 479-876-1963, email [ncollis@cox.net](mailto:ncollis@cox.net). A Hummer will be manning a table for ticket sales before and after each of our 3 services through Sunday, May 9.



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

HIGHLANDS CHURCH  
**MAY 19**  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Help make a difference in YOUR community by giving blood!

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19 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 visiting [cbco.org](http://cbco.org) the morning of the blood drive and click on the 'Donor QuickPass' to get your paperwork done before you arrive.



# United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



## UMW Weekend

United Methodist Women will be celebrating UMW Weekend on May 8/9, which is also Mother's Day Weekend. Highlands' own Maribel Childress will be our guest speaker. Our annual Outstanding Service Award will be given out to a member who has done an outstanding job, over and above the norm, in service for the church. Nomination forms are due on Sunday, May 2 and are available at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. We also need women to sing in our all-women's choir on that Sunday morning; choir signups are also at the Information Station. Choir practice is planned for Wednesday, May 5 at 6:00 pm.

## UMW May Meeting

We will close our UMW year by celebrating with a Ladies Luncheon at Bella Vista Bar and Grill on Monday, May 10, at 11:00 am. The signup sheet is at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. You will need to register for the event so we can have an accurate head count. We will be ordering off of a special menu, at your expense. Our regular meeting/programs will resume the second Monday in September so watch for more information coming in August.

## UMW Flea

The 26th Annual Highlands FLEA will be June 11 & 12. Please start saving your gently used items and watch for more information in the very near future. If you are spring cleaning and need to get rid of 'gently used stuff', contact the church office to make arrangements to store your items. (no clothes, books, appliances, or tv's)

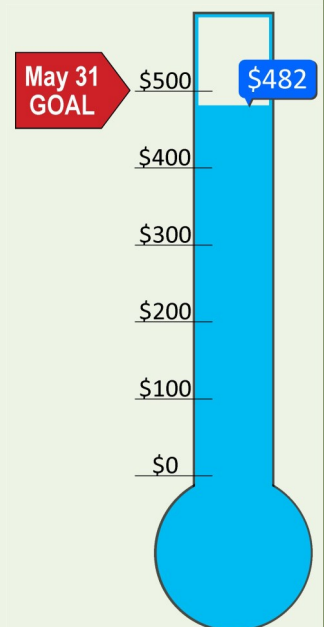
## UMW Book Club

Attention all ladies— The United Methodist Women will be having their book club this year after all. See the Friday Weekly Update email to view a list of the 5/6 books we will be reading for the 2021 year (two books are listed under Education for Mission. Pick one or both to read. Credit for next year if both are read.) You can either buy your own books or use the books that are found in the Library Annex in the UMW Section. We will get together to discuss our favorite book sometime in late July and have a pot luck afterward. Details will be sent out at a later date. For questions or more information, email or call Sue LaHood, 479-855-0937.

## Change for Change Fundraiser

The UMW fundraising initiative 'Change for Change' began the first Sunday in March and, because of each one of you, has been very successful. In the past couple of months we have collected over \$400 in change (plus a few bills and checks) that will be used to support the women and children in our area who are in need of assistance. Our goal is to raise at least \$500 by the end of May so please keep putting your change in the container for the next few weeks! Together we are making our change count!

We appreciate your ongoing support,  
United Methodist Women (UMW)



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY  
9:30 AM  
MATTHEW CLASSROOM



AN ADULT CLASS · STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## Family News

### NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jean Knadler  
Atria at Canyon Creek  
440 Independence Pkwy #1307  
Plano TX 75075

John Hansen  
303 Princess Anne Cir  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
Cell Phone: 479-270-7411

Marilou Edwards  
PO Box 101  
Hattiesville, AR 72063  
Cell Phone: 479-212-2611

Joe & Debbie Newman  
52 University Cove  
Jackson, TN 38305

### NEW MEMBERS:

None to report.

### OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

None to report.

### SPECIAL THANK YOU MESSAGES:

None to report.

**Happy Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9!**  
**Remember our Heros on Monday, May 31**  
**for Memorial Day.**

## Office News

Amey & Lori: [highlandschurch@humcbv.com](mailto:highlandschurch@humcbv.com)  
Newsletter: [newsletter@humcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@humcbv.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** 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. Please call us at 479-855-2277 if you need to speak to us. If your call goes to voicemail, please leave a message; your message will be forwarded to us so we can return your call.

**BUILDING USE:** The Admin Council has agreed to return to our earlier policy of allowing non-HUMC groups to use the building as long as the trustees give their permission for that use. That policy states: 1.d.i. Groups not associated with HUMC will not be permitted to use the building without special permission from trustees. HUMC groups can meet inside the church but please call to schedule a classroom with the church office in advance.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Deadline for the June Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on May 20. Please send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this NEW email address: [newsletter@humcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@humcbv.com). We appreciate any input, articles and information you may send. Thanks in advance! Amey & Lori



## *Centered in Prayer*

More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreams of.  
Wherefore, let thy voice  
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.  
But what are men better than sheep and goats  
That nourish a blind life within the brain.  
If, knowing God, they lift not hands in prayer  
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?  
For so the whole round earth is every way  
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1- Communion Weekend
2- Communion Weekend	3- UMW Board Meeting	4	5	6	7	8- UMW Weekend
9- Mother's Day UMW Weekend	10- UMW Meeting (off-site)	11	12	13- Trustees Meeting	14	15
16	17	18- Admin Council Meeting	19- Blood Drive	20- Library Meeting	21	22- Scrapbook & Card Making
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31- Office Closed Memorial Day					

**HUMCBV.COM**  
NEW SERMON VIDEOS POSTED WEEKLY

**Memorial Scholarship:** John Edwards was a founding member of Bright Futures Gravette. He and his wife, Marilou, joined Highlands Church in February of 2000; John passed away in 2019. John had a passion for the children of the Gravette School District and served the district in many aspects. A memorial scholarship has been established in honor of John. The scholarship goes to a GHS graduating senior who plans to attend a trade school or community college and has financial need. To contribute financially, please send your contribution to: Bright Futures Gravette, 25881 Austin Rd, Gravette, AR 72736. For tax deductible contributions, please contact Anne Mairat at 855-4277.



Our Little Free Pantry is located in the rear parking lot of Highlands Church.

*Take what you need, leave what you can.*

Please continue to support this ministry and help fill the Little Free Pantry with non-perishable food items and toiletry donations. There is a bin located in the entry to Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary to drop off your items.

# EVERYONE WELCOME!

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



**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**

PAM MEYER

**Gathering Worship Leader**

JEANNINE WAGAR

**Organist**

JOYCE SHELDON

**Chimes & Bells Director**

LAURIE PEARSON

**Nursery Worker**

### **Operating Budget Report - March 31, 2021**

	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Mar Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>
Income	134,467	44,502	126,193
Expenses	134,467	41,744	125,080
Net	0	2,758	1,113

Thank you for your continued support.



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Instagram.com/humc.bv



**GIVING  
YOUR  
TITHES &  
OFFERINGS**

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

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

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