

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | DECEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 10

Highlands Church Cookie Walk

It's less than 8 days until we have our 32nd Annual Cookie Walk. I hope you're ready to make your 20 dozen, or more, or less, cookies! I know I'm going to start soon to get them all made! Every man, woman, and child is welcome to make cookies.... even cousins, aunts, brothers and sisters.

This year's event is **Saturday, December 4 from 8:30 - 11:00 am**. You can begin to bring donations for the Sweet Shoppe Monday—Thursday, November 29—December 2, so we can package them. Drop off of cookies begins **Friday, December 3 at 9:00 am** to noon.

On the day of the event, all workers please remember to **park in the back lot** and come wearing your Christmas themed attire. All jobs will be posted on the kitchen door by Tuesday afternoon, November 30 with times to arrive on December 4. Don't forget: no bar cookies for the cookie walk, please. See you and your cookies soon!

Sue LaHood 855-0937, Cookie Walk Chair



32nd Annual

COOKIE WALK

*Saturday, December 4 • 8:30 am
to
11:00 am*

COOKIES • CANDY • BAKED GOODS • JEWELRY
HANDMADE CRAFTS • SOUPS-TO-GO

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

There remains a great mystery in my life. When I was in 5th grade, I started playing the drums at school. My motive was never to play a single snare or base drum in a class; that was clear from my grades in band. My real motive was to get a drum set and take off into a life of garage bands. It worked. I had the police called on me more times than I can remember. My parents can't say that I was a bad kid, but they also can't say the cops didn't pay me a few visits for breaking noise ordinances. The police were always good to me though; my fine was usually that my band had to play a song or two of their request and then shut things down for the day.

Here's the mystery: my dad said, before any of this, there was no way that I was getting a drum set. I remember having this exact conversation---

Dad: Robert, there is absolutely no way I'm buying you a drum set.

Me: Whatever, old man, I've talked to mom and grandma.

Dad: We should have had dogs instead of children.

Whatever dad said, I got my drum set. I still don't know if he was just messing with me, or if my mom and grandma really did override him. I mean, my dad was not a dad that said no to something more than once. Either way, they all knew what they were getting into.

Speaking of people knowing what they were getting into, this year during the holidays, I find myself especially grateful for Jesus coming to this Earth. I love so many things here, but I know what exists. And I know that the human condition can sometimes be painful. We cannot forget that Jesus not only endured the cross, but he endured what we endure up to it. Physical pain. Emotional pain. Joys and times of great laughter. Time to build memories and traditions and time to have those traditions change. Yet, the whole time He was God in the flesh. One who did not have to take on a single bit of our human existence, but who chose to do so on our behalf.

Jesus' willingness to take on human flesh does a few things. First, it tells us that he has absolute skin in the game. It tells us that he knows what life and death and everything in between are like and he faced them for us. Second, it tells us he is there and will not forsake us. I know the holidays can be hard for people, but more importantly, Jesus knows they can be hard and He is a constant rock through stormy seas. Finally, he gives us hope for tomorrow. If he has overcome, then we can overcome; if he has found joy, then we can find joy.

It's hard on Christmas not to focus on the baby Jesus, but we cannot forget that the baby Jesus was where heaven (God) met earth (flesh) to form the savior of the world who would know and bear our joys and struggles. This is the miracle of Christmas. We should laugh, we should be joyous, we should find fun and meaning and enjoy all of our traditions. But we should make this joy amplified by the recognition of Christ reaching out his hand for us.

Blessings,
Robert



Pastor Robert's office hours are:

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
9AM - NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE
1PM - 4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

FRIDAY
9AM - NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

**BEGINS
DECEMBER**

01

**ANGEL
TREE
ONLINE
REGISTRATION**

COMING SOON

**ENDS
DECEMBER**

12

Our Angel Tree Program will begin via online signups on Saturday, December 1 and will end on Sunday, December 12. The gifts for the Angel Tree are due back at the church by Sunday, December 12. We have 5 families that needed our Christmas Giving! Each family was carefully chosen by a committee with Gravette Bright Futures.

You May Volunteer...

- To Christmas Shop for ANGEL Gifts
- Make a Food Donation
- Provide a Cash Donation to supplement food & gift needs

PLEASE REMEMBER, it is so important we keep track of the ANGELS. TO HELP US DO THAT...

PLEASE follow these important instructions:

- ⇒ After you sign up online, PRINT your Confirmation Email. If you do not have access to a printer, forward your email to the church office and we will print for you. Then, the church office will contact you to make arrangements to get you the printed copy.
- ⇒ Wrap your gift and label with a gift tag/label using THE CHILD'S FIRST NAME ONLY on the tag.
- ⇒ ATTACH THE CONFIRMATION EMAIL to the wrapped gift (in place of the Angel we've used in prior years).
- ⇒ WRITE ON THE CONFIRMATION EMAIL what is inside the package.
- ⇒ Do not combine multiple ANGELS for the same child into one wrapped gift. If your ANGEL lists multiple items on one number, they should all be combined into one wrapped gift.

Return the wrapped gifts to the church by SUNDAY, December 12. Please contact Patsy Whiting, our Angel Tree Coordinator, at 505-401-0448, if you need to make other arrangements for returning gifts.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to Ring the Bells! We still have some spots to fill. Again this year we will ring the bell for The Salvation Army at Allen's Food Market in Bella Vista. Our scheduled times are from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18 with one-hour shifts. Families, care groups, friends, and/or youth may join you to share the one-hour shift.



If you would like to signup, please see the Weekly Update email and click on the Bell Ringing signup link to review the available time slots to make your selection. If you have any trouble or need assistance signing up, please contact the church office. For more information or questions call, Donna VanderSchaaf at 479-715-6059.



THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Hummers next monthly meeting will be held at 7:45 AM, Tuesday, December 7, 2021. We will be voting on the slate of Officers for 2022 and the distribution of available funds for 2021. Please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area if you will be joining us that morning.

Saturday, December 11 has been designated the Hummers day to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Allen's Foods here in Bella Vista. Six of our Hummers have volunteered to don the apron and ring the bell for one of our organization's long time beneficiaries. There are many slots open on other days... We encourage you to sign up to help raise funds for the Army if you have the time available.

On Wednesday, December 15 from 10:00 AM 'til 3:00 PM, we will be conducting our 5th and final Blood Drive for 2021 in conjunction with the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. Online signups will be available approximately 2 weeks before the Drive. Watch for the announcement for signups in our church's weekly email, or sign up with Gene Leonard at the Blood Drive table before, or after, any of our church services during the sign-up period.

PLANES
TRAINS
& AUTOMOBILES

SCAN HERE
for more info!

FREE T-shirt!
(while supplies last)

All donors are entered in a weekly drawing for a chance to win \$1000 in plane fare, train fare, or gas! Visit www.cbco.org/drive

HIGHLANDS CHURCH
DEC 15
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

On Monday and Tuesday, December 20 & 21, the Hummers will be sponsoring a Living Nativity on our church's campus. Our plan is to have 2 Living Nativity scenes on each night. The first scene will start at 6:45 PM and end at 7:15 PM (times are approximate at this point). This first scene will involve as many youth as we can muster, plus some adults stirred in for the flavor.

A second scene will start at 7:30 PM and end at 8:00 PM. This second scene will involve adults only. We will begin the casting of characters after Thanksgiving and our Cookie Walk are over. There will be one rehearsal planned... Friday, December 17 looks like our best date for that. There will be a voice over and appropriate music to accompany the scenes. Pastor Robert has agreed to have a service of communion elements available. We have ladies already working on costumes and a crew of Hummer guys prepared to set up the stable and manger on December 13. So, please keep some time open to help us fill out our cast... and be ready to have some fun (and maybe cold) fellowship with our church gang as Christmas approaches.





Highlands United Methodist Women



It's time for the Annual Christmas Luncheon of the Highlands United Methodist Women! It will be on Monday, December 13, 11:00 am at the Bella Vista Bar & Grill at the Country Club. There will be the installation of new officers, special awards and of course lunch! Please sign up in the Gathering Area by Noon, December 12. Come meet your new Board Members and plan on having fun and great fellowship!

The UMW Reading list will be out by December 19 for the 2022 year. All you avid readers and those of you that want to have fun and are not avid readers, this is the program for you! There are five books we will read, one for each month starting in January and ending with a luncheon in May. For more information or questions please call, Sue LaHood 479-855-0937.

Christmas Events & Services

Christmas Cantata: The Highlands Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata on Saturday, December 18 at 5:30 pm and Sunday, December 19, at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary of Highlands Church. Under the direction John Matthews, the Chancel Choir will sing "A Festival of Carols" - a collection of carols featuring various composers and arrangers. This worship service will be accompanied by pianist Pam Meyer and organist Jeannine Wagar. Those attending will be invited to sing many of the wonderful carols contained in this beautiful cantata. All are most welcome to attend either worship service.

Christmas Open House: Please join us on Sunday, December 19 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm for a Christmas Open House in the Fellowship Hall. Come and go as you wish and plan to enjoy a relaxing Sunday afternoon listening to Christmas music with friends. We will have a Nativity Village on display for your viewing pleasure. We will play trivia games and give away door prizes. Help trim one of our Christmas trees at the church by bringing a homemade or store-bought ornament of your choice. Enjoy some hot cocoa, wassail (apple cider), snacks and treats all provided by the Fellowship Committee. Come make some special holiday memories with a little fellowship and Christmas cheer. Please help us plan for this event by signing up online or calling the office to register.

Christmas Living Nativity: On Monday and Tuesday, December 20 & 21, the Hummers will be sponsoring a Living Nativity on our church's campus, from 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm. See more details at the bottom of page 4.

Christmas Eve Worship: Highlands Church will have a family Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. Get an early start to your Christmas Eve festivities by worshipping with us. Enjoy this special tradition of ending the service with a candlelit rendition of Silent Night. Little children will have light sticks so as not to miss out on the beauty of this service. Everyone is welcome!

Combined Worship: A Combined Worship Service is planned for the weekend of December 25/26. Join us for one service on Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 am. Please note, the Celebration & Gathering services have been cancelled for December 25/26. Also, mark your calendar for the weekend of Jan 1/2 for another Combined Worship Service due to the New Year's holiday.

Outreach/Missions Team News

Habitat for Humanity – Our Mission Ministry Team is interested in partnering with Habitat to help put 4 families in their forever homes. We would like to get an idea of how many people in the congregation are interested in helping with the construction of the homes in 2022. If you would be interested in participating in a Habitat for Humanity build in 2022, please email or call Sara Sherman at sarasherman@att.net or 870-550-0339.

Office News

Amey & Lori: highlandschurch@humcbv.com
Newsletter: newsletter@humcbv.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS & DEADLINES: In observation of the Christmas holiday, the church office will be closed on Thurs & Friday, December 23 & 24 and on Monday, December 27. The deadline for bulletins and email advertising for Christmas weekend will be Monday, December 20.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Deadline for the January Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on December 15 (early). Please send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: newsletter@humcbv.com.

GIVING ENVELOPES: If you make your contribution to Highlands Church by cash/check and like to use the special envelopes provided by the church, they are available for pickup from the counter in the Gathering Area. Special note--these envelopes are not numbered because our software no longer uses special numbers. Please be sure to write your name on the envelopes when giving cash.

INK RECYCLING: In order to recycle ink cartridges at Staples, we need to purchase at least \$30 in ink or toner every 6 months. If you purchase ink or toner at Staples, and don't take advantage of their rewards program yourself, please bring or email your receipt to the office, so we can put it on our rewards account. Contact Lori Heald in the office if you have any questions at 479-855-2277.

Family News

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jo Carroll-- New Email: joacar0046@gmail.com

Greg & Mel Snyder
9 Hopeman Lane, Bella Vista, AR 72715

Jim & Bev Wescott
124 Concordia Dr, Bella Vista AR 72715

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Dennis Redenius for the loss of his wife, Glenda Redenius on 11/5/21.

Ted Dreher for the loss of his daughter, Amy Jordan.

New Members



Kirk & Anne Burgess became members in the Traditional service on November 14. Kirk & Anne moved here from Oklahoma in 2019. Before they retired, Kirk was the CEO of State Line Grain Company and Anne worked for Oklahoma Farm Bureau. They enjoy golfing, visiting new friends and playing board games. They have 3 handsome sons, 3 sweet daughter-in-laws, and 6 wonderful grandchildren. They are so happy to be living in Bella Vista.



Linda Stafford became a member in the Gathering service on November 14. Linda moved here from Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2012, however she's originally from NW Wisconsin. She was an elementary & middle school teacher and is now retired. Her interests include artwork/crafts, a variety of sports, interior design, traveling, event planning and participating in drama productions. Three interesting facts about Linda are she has been deer hunting, she likes to target practice with a gun and bow, and she is part Swedish.



Jim & Sherry Bennett became members on Nov 18. They usually attend the Traditional service. They moved to Bella Vista in 1994 and are originally from Boise, Idaho. They are both retired. Jim had a career in heavy construction and they traveled across the country with his job. He has even worked on building the Denver Airport. For several years, Sherry worked at the Bella Vista Recycling Center but has always been primarily a homemaker. Jim served in the Navy during Vietnam from 1958-62. Nowadays, their biggest hobby is creating garden railroads. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

December 2021

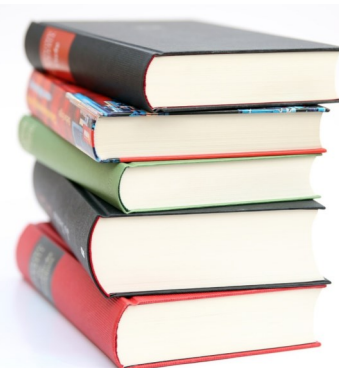
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		31– Yoga Meets on Tuesdays	1– Angel Tree Begins Fellowship Comm.	2– Compassionate Disciples Meeting	3– Samba Plays on Fridays	4– Communion Weekend Cookie Walk
5– Communion Weekend	6– American Legion	7– Hummers Meet Mexican Train	8	9	10– Marathon Bridge Plays	11– Alpha Gal Support Group
12– Angel Tree Gifts Due	13– HUMW Luncheon	14	15– Angel Tree Delivery Day Blood Drive	16	17	18– Cantata
19– Cantata Christmas Open House	20– Live Nativity	21– Live Nativity Admin Council Meet	22	23– Office Closed (holiday)	24– Office Closed (holiday) Christmas Eve Svc	25– No Celeb. Service
26– Combined Worship Services	27– Office Closed (holiday)	28– Care Group Leaders Meeting Library Meets	29	30	31– Office Closed (holiday)	1– No Celebration Service



Did you know Highlands Church has a Library? Located next to the Sanctuary entrance, the Library has a very large selection of popular author books, including Christian fiction and non-fiction, and we also have a nice selection of Bible study materials, DVD's and audio books on CD's. We don't have a time limit on how long you can keep the materials; just be sure to return them when you are through with them so others may enjoy them also. Stop by and take a look at all we have available!

Do you personally have books you would like to donate to our Library? We would love to receive your donations of new or used books! Please drop them off in the Library. Just inside the door of the Library, to your right you will see a box/bin for you to place the donated materials.

Do you love books and/or do you enjoy organizing? We are looking for more volunteers to help organize and do inventory of our materials. The Library Team meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 3:00 pm, but you can volunteer at other times as well (once you are trained), if you prefer. Please contact Joyce O'Neil at 479-876-2755 or Cynthia Marshall at 479-553-7950 if you are interested in volunteering.



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

JEANNINE WAGAR
Organist

JOYCE SHELDON
Chimes & Bells Director

LAURIE PEARSON
Nursery Worker

Operating Budget Report - October 30, 2021

	YTD Budget	Oct Actual	YTD Actual
Income	445,890	40,320	406,553
Expenses	445,890	37,258	408,052
Net	0	3,062	(1,499)

Thank you for your continued support.

A Note from our Finance Committee: Many seniors have an IRA and, therefore, are required to take an RMD annually. A Qualified Charitable Distribution, such as a gift to Highlands Church, can be taken each year. This reduces your Adjusted Gross Income by the amount given, thus avoiding federal income tax on the gifted amount. Please consider Highlands Church when taking your RMD. Thank you for your consideration, Finance Committee 2021



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3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... humcbv.com/give

Highlands Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, AR 72715, (479) 855-2277, www.humcbv.com