

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 12



## Christmas Cantata

The Highlands Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata to the congregation and public on Saturday, December 17 at 5:30 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary of Highlands Church.

Under the direction of John Matthews, the Chancel Choir will sing "A Celebration of Carols" - by Joseph Martin. This 'Lessons and Carols' worship service will be accompanied by pianist, Pam Meyer, and organist, Jeannine Wagar. All are most welcome to attend either worship service. No reservations or tickets needed.

## Church Wide Christmas Luncheon

Our annual Highlands Church Christmas Luncheon will be on Sunday, December 18, at 11:15 am, in Fellowship Hall. It will be a chance for all to celebrate the season with our church family. This year, the Chancel Choir will be catering the meal and the men of the choir will be donning a waiter's towel as they bring the food to your table. With the higher food and goods prices, the catering rates were astronomical so the Chancel Choir stepped in and offered to host this year's meal. The cost of our luncheon will remain the same as it has for the past several years, \$15.00 per person. If any monies are left over, it will go to the Music Ministries of the church.

The menu at this point is not finalized, but the main dish offerings will be a choice of Wesleyan Medallions of Pork Tenderloin or Baked Chicken Breast a la Jean de Paris. You will not be disappointed!

Remember when you purchase your tickets, please choose which main dish you would prefer. It always helps to get a count. Get your reservations as soon as possible. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area after church beginning November 26 & 27.

Hope to see you all there!

# Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

Saint Francis of Assisi was the person that had the idea for the Nativity scenes that we still use today. Saint Francis excelled in simplifying the profound concepts. What is more profound than the Nativity? It is the very birth of Jesus Christ complete with two of the best people that have ever lived (Mary and Joseph), and angels. Saint Francis knew that People love symbols, signs and art. Think about stained-glass windows, and how they have been used to teach through images over the centuries.

Personally, I am a huge fan of the Chrismon tree. I love looking at the different symbols representing the reign of Christ throughout history. And just think of the Advent wreath; it's been constant for so long that we cannot imagine the Christmas Season without it. Christmas, with all the symbols and art, was not put together overnight or by accident. We are supposed to be learning lessons all along the way and hopefully the combination of art, symbols, songs, and Scriptures completely overwhelms us with joy.

What I find so important about keeping Christ central in Christmas is that in doing so I always have a "traditional Christmas." When I look to Christ as the center and let myself get caught up in the Advent Wreath, the Chrismon Tree, the Scriptures, and the Nativity Scene, I find that I always have a Christmas that fulfills the need for nostalgia. And I believe this to be a great gift and highly important to our joy.

Christmas always falls on December 25, but life still keeps moving. Sometimes people are in the hospital on that day. Sometimes we are sick on that day. Sometimes we have experienced tragedy during the time around Christmas. And sometimes we experience something great. All of these things change the ways we celebrate Christmas. If we are not careful, we can feel a huge sense of loss when life gets in the way of December 25.

I have had to learn to be flexible during Christmas. Things, for some reason, come up a lot in my life during that time. And it must be a family thing because I remember my parents talked about celebrating Christmas at Pizza Hut because my grandfather was in the hospital. I had one of the greatest joys in my life during Christmas one year when I brought home my daughter, Caroline, on December 24 and started learning to live with a newborn. So many times we do not get to have that "normal" and "traditional" Christmas, but that is okay. Mary and Joseph got a big surprise too.

What I have learned is that when people feel like "Christmas isn't Christmas," what they really want is the routine and stability of the routine. That's why getting and staying centered on Christ is so important. You will always have a joyful and stable (pun intended) Christmas when Christ is the center. You will always feel a Christmas warmth when you are focused on the things of God. The presents and food are not important; Christ's birth is. Hold fast to Christ and to the traditions of the Christian faith, and you will find everything you are supposed to this Christmas season.



*Pastor Robert's office hours are:*

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

FRIDAY  
9AM - NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE



# THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



## Hummers December Meeting

The Hummers' next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:45 am in the Peter classroom. This will be a business meeting to discuss the distribution of available funds for 2022. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area so we are able to prepare the proper amount of food.

## Hummers Blood Drive

Help make a difference in YOUR community by giving blood!

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 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, call the church office, or contact our coordinator, Gene Leonard at 479-381-1039.

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 required for all donors.
4. 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 arrival.

**You could win!**  
\$1000 gas card

More info at [www.cbco.org/drive](http://www.cbco.org/drive)

*Saving lives in the*

**Give Blood**  
December 14, 2022  
Highlands United Methodist Church

**FREE T-shirt!**  
(while supplies last)

**HIGHLANDS CHURCH**

**DEC 14**

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**





# Highlands United Methodist Women



## HUMW December Meeting

Are y'all getting ready for Christmas? The Highlands United Methodist Women are and we would like to invite all women of the Highlands Church, member or not, to come to our annual Christmas Luncheon. We will meet at the BV Bar & Grill in the Bella Vista County Club on Monday, December 12 at 11:00 am for a relaxed day. Wear something festive if you can! There will be awards given out that you will be the first on your block, or your pew, to know about. Maybe meet a new friend and just have fun! No cooking this time; we will get to pick something off the Captains Menu that is always diverse and tastes great! Hope y'all can come. There will be a signup sheet at the Information Station in the Gathering Area and we encourage you to sign up by noon on Saturday, December 3 so we can let the BV B&G know how many will be coming. :-)

## 33rd Annual Highlands Cookie Walk

It's less than 8 days until we have our 33rd Annual Cookie Walk. I hope you're ready to make your 20 dozen, or more, or less, cookies! We're 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 3 from 8:30 - 11:00 am. You can begin to bring donations for the Sweet Shoppe Monday-Thursday so we can package them. Drop off of cookies begins Friday, December 2 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. Coming soon- All jobs will be posted on the kitchen door with times to arrive on December 3. Don't forget: no bar cookies for the cookie walk, please. See you and your cookies soon!

Questions, contact Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937 or Wilhelmina Munson at 719-661-9956.



*33rd Annual*

# COOKIE WALK

*Saturday, December 3* · *8:30 am*

*to*  
*11:00 am*

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

# More Holiday Events & Activities

**Angel Tree:** The distribution of the Angels for the ANGEL TREE will begin on Saturday, December 3, before the Saturday Celebration service. When the time comes, please select your Angel(s) from the Christmas tree in the Gathering Area and make sure you register the Angel number and child's initials on the registration form located on a table beside the tree. All gifts will need to be at the church no later than Sunday, December 11. Bright Futures Gravette is providing us 7 families to help. No food or gift cards will be given this year to individual families. For more information, contact our Angel Tree Coordinator, Patsy Whiting at 505-401-0448.

**Angel Tree Food Drive:** We will continue collecting food and non-perishables for an Angel Tree Food Drive to assist food insecure families in the Gravette School District. Please help us glorify God in our community by donating to help feed these families. Place your donated items in the marked bins located at all entrances to the church by Sunday, December 11 for delivery to the Gravette School Food Bank. We are blessed to be a blessing and your generosity and support are always appreciated! This project is being co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team & HUMW.

**Bell Ringing:** Again this year we will ring the bell for Salvation Army at Allen's Food Market in Bella Vista. Our scheduled times are in one-hour shifts from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on December 8, 9, 15, and 16 and from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on December 10 & 17. If you know of someone who doesn't use email but would like to participate, please ask them to contact the church office and we can assist them in choosing a time slot over the phone and providing them the needed instructions. For more information, contact our Salvation Army Bells Coordinator, Donna VanderSchaaf at 479-715-6059.

**Live Nativity:** On Monday and Tuesday, December 19 & 20, the Highlands United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a Living Nativity on our church's campus. This Nativity will include music and narration. Our congregation, including men, women and children, will participate in reenacting the night Jesus was born. The first scene will start at 6:45 pm and will conclude before 7:30 pm. Parking will be available in the rear parking lot on the west side of our building. Bring a lawn chair, a warm blanket, and enjoy the three-dimensional depiction of the scene of Jesus' birth accompanied by inspirational music.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Highlands Church will have a family Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. 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 24/25. Join us for one service on Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 am. Please note, the Celebration service has been cancelled for December 24. Also, mark your calendar for the weekend of Dec 31/Jan 1 for another Combined Worship Service due to the New Year's holiday.



# Office News

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

Newsletter: [newsletter@humcbv.com](mailto: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 December 22, 23 and 26. The advertising deadline for bulletins and email that weekend will be Monday, December 19 at noon. Also, we will be closed on January 2 for the New Year's holiday.

**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: [newletter@humcbv.com](mailto:newletter@humcbv.com).

# New Members



John and Sally became members during the Traditional service on 11/13/22. They moved to this area from Iowa City in 2001. They moved to Arizona in 2003 and returned to Bella Vista in 2006. They are both retired. John was in insurance sales & management with Farm Bureau, and a teacher. Sally has held a variety of jobs as time and moving dictated. John's hobbies include golf, reading, travel and movies. Sally enjoys home + family, reading and travel. They both are interested in and love music. They don't have any family in the area. Their older son, Brian, died in 2008 and their younger son, Jason, lives in Texas. They have 4 grandchildren.

# Thank You

**A Big Thank You** to everyone who helped with Trunk or Treat by donating candy or hosting a trunk! We estimated about 400 kids, not including their adults. Betsy Cloninger

**Thank You** Highlands Church family for your support of the Gravette School District food pantry. Your generous food donations blessed 45 students and their families with a Happy Thanksgiving. Sara Sherman

**Giving Thanks!** It has been almost a month since the Lecture inspired by writings of Emmanuel Levinas, and I wanted to thank those who had contributed to the Memorial Fund for Ernest, and for those who came the morning of October 22. There was enthusiasm enough that we started working right away to set in place the Second Lecture, gaining a subcommittee to start the process before taking to the Administrative Council in January. You should also know that our church made a contribution, from the Memorial Funds given in Ernest's name, to the Hope Center that feeds the hungry of Kinney County, Texas, which is one of Rev. Engstrom's former church assignments. I am told it will feed the hungry for two months. Highlands United Methodist Church does know how to say, "Here Am I, Lord", and then to reach out and help "The Other"! Gloria Febro Grilk

# Family News

## NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Marv & Betty Exline, 49 Highland Parkway, 72715

Susan Brumbaugh, 25 Highlands Parkway, 72715

## OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES:

Barbara Gray for the loss of her husband, Rusty Gray on 11/20/22.



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1- Compassionate Disciples	2	3- Communion – Cookie Walk
4- Communion	5	6- Hummers Meeting	7- Fellowship Committee Meets	8	9- Marathon Bridge	10- Alpha Gal Support Group
11	12- HUMW Meeting	13- Admin Council Meeting	14- Stitches – Blood Drive	15- Care Group Leaders Meeting – Library Meeting	16	17- Cantata at 5:30pm
18- Cantata at 10am – Christmas Party	19- Live Nativity	20- Live Nativity	21- Kitchen Cleaning	22- Office Closed	23- Office Closed	24- Christmas Eve Service
25- Christmas Day & Combined Worship Service	26- Office Closed	27	28- Stitches	29	30	31- Scrapbooking & Card Making



## WE PACK SNACK PACKS

**First Wednesday of Every Month**  
**December 7 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Samaritan Community Center**

**NO SIGNUPS REQUIRED!**

**If you have any questions, Contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339.**



Care & Share Thrift Store

**Care & Share Thrift Store**  
**Volunteers Needed**  
**December 6-10**

**SEE THE WEEKLY UPDATE EMAIL TO SIGN UP ONLINE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE!**

# EVERYONE WELCOME!

**SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM**  
**SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 9:30 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 Staff*

MIKE & JUDY PAYNE  
*Custodians*

### Operating Budget Report - October 31, 2022

	YTD Budget	Oct Actual	YTD Actual
Income	448,780	41,464	432,837
Expenses	448,780	40,097	419,991
Net	0	1,367	12,846

Thank you for your continued support.

**3** ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... [humcbv.com/give](http://humcbv.com/give)

THE POWER OF  
**ONE**

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



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[Instagram.com/humc.bv](https://Instagram.com/humc.bv)

