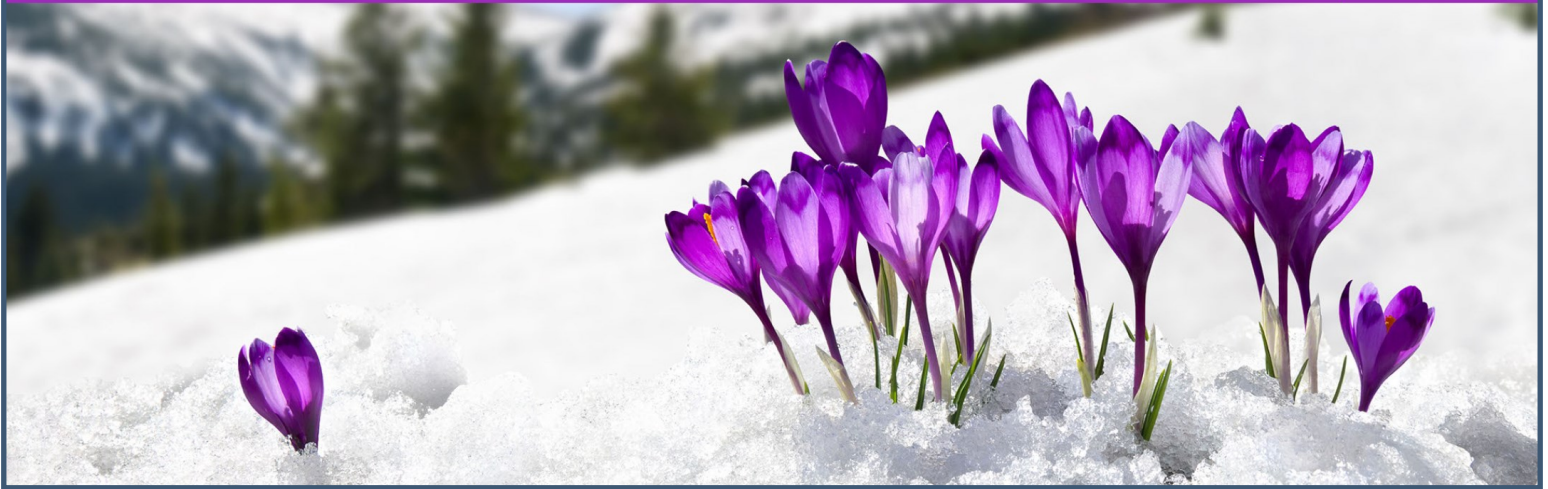


# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 2

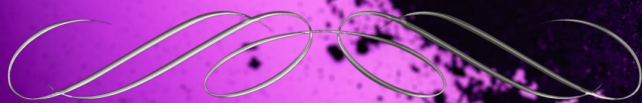


## Ash Wednesday Service

Highlands Church will begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with a special worship service at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. On this first day of Lent, Pastor Robert will apply ashes to the foreheads of those in attendance, which symbolize penance, mourning and mortality. Leaving the service wearing these ashes becomes a public expression of one's faith and penance. This short service starts the Lenten journey culminating in the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. We hope you will make plans to attend.

**ASH**  
**WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 22 • 6:00 PM**  
**HIGHLANDS SANCTUARY**



# Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

One of the daily tasks and pleasures of a Christian is to maintain a positive mindset. Of course this can be difficult, but it is an imperative piece of our faith. Things in life do come up. Sadness, despair, grief, and anxiety all make appearances, but the response is to meet all of your feelings with a positive outlook. This is not "faking it, till you make it," nor is it some juvenile, and simplistic version of positivity. What I am describing here is letting the reality of your salvation inform your reality in full. If you can daily see who you are to God and what your future is, you can find a positive outlook. If you can daily see the sacrifice of Christ Jesus for you, you can find a positive outlook. If you can understand the victory in Jesus Christ you have; you can find a positive outlook.

The sadness of life comes and goes. The down times come and they go. What's forever is victory and joy. This mindset needs to be practiced though. God will by Spirit and grace help you in this journey, but this is a daily discipline. The easiest thing will be to look past the positive and straight to the negative and at times your temptation to do so will be overwhelming. Do not take the bait and give in to pessimism.

To put this into perspective a little more, we have to explore what the positive outlook does. It first affirms the Scriptures. It secondly, though, allows us to claim victory over the waves of despair we can find ourselves in. If we cannot walk in positivity then how can we claim that Christ's victory is true? How can we claim that death's sting has been destroyed? We can't. We can't claim that the sorrows of life have been destroyed in one breath and be pessimistic about the little things that make up our day to day.

Sure, there are lots of Christians who walk around with a pessimistic attitude failing to claim the fullness of faith in Jesus Christ and marinating in the misery that they have allowed to overcome them. However, you do not have to be one of those people. You can allow joy to fill your life and trust. And that attitude attracts others to Jesus Christ.

If you want to be positive, it's simply a matter of practice. For 21 days, enough to build a habit, focus on the promises of God and refuse to give into pessimism. Before the time is up, you will have already made the switch to a more positive life. The reason that we don't talk about this that much is because I believe a lot of us think life should be hard and we should, because of our good Puritanical roots, suffer until we get to heaven. What nobody told modern America about the Puritans though, is that one of the things they were known for was their joy. They had every hope in heaven and on earth and were delighted by it. Enjoy your walk with Jesus, and others will start walking with you.



*Pastor Robert's office hours are:*

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9AM - NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

1PM - 4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

# The 2nd Griik Lecture Series to feature Prof. Jeremy Hyman of the University of Arkansas.



Professor Jeremy Hyman will be the next guest lecturer in the Ernest W. Griik Bible Lecture Series. His lecture will take place at Highlands Church on March 5 at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Professor Hyman is a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. His primary area of research is the 17th century French philosopher, Rene Descartes, specifically the emergence of Cartesian metaphysics as an alternative to the then-prevailing medieval Aristotelian world view. In addition, Mr. Hyman has taught Biblical Hebrew on the college level, and has maintained an Old Testament bible study group, weekly, for the last twenty years.

The lecture will be titled "How Should We Regard Semitic Sources for the Psalms?" He'll consider two specific Psalms, numbers 29 and 93, in their Babylonian and Canaanite historical context, and discuss what lessons should be learned about our own faith-commitments from their historical antecedents. Participation of attendees will be welcome.

## Join the Stitchers

The Stitchers group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the John classroom. Often we knit and/or crochet to produce prayer shawls and prayer squares which are then presented to those in need. You are also welcome to bring your own projects and join us for fellowship. For more information, contact the church office.

**JOIN  
THE  
STITCHERS**

EVERY 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY  
1:00-3:00 PM • JOHN CLASSROOM



# Care & Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of February 7 - 11 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. See the Weekly Update email for the link to sign up or contact the church office for assistance. If you prefer, you may contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer, directly at 876-6324.



## ACE = ALL CHURCH EVENT

Mark your calendars for February 26 at 5:30 pm for our next All Church Event.  
More information coming soon!

# HIGHLANDS CHURCH FLEA & BOUTIQUE

**APRIL 28 • 8 AM – 2 PM**  
**APRIL 29 • 8 AM – NOON**

## WE PACK SNACK PACKS

**First Wednesday of Every Month**  
**February 1 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.**



Join Us For  
Communion  
DURING BOTH SERVICES

**FEBRUARY 4 & 5**





# THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



## Hummers February Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:45 am in the Fellowship Hall for our next Hummers meeting. We will have Linda Virgili from Compassionate Disciples joining us. She will be explaining the importance of this group within our church family and community. Please join us as we better understand the impact of this group. This will also provide everyone a chance to meet our new members that have joined Hummers and are stepping up into leadership roles. We are working diligently in creating a more active, social group within our church family; so we are better equipped to include all male members of our church. Looking forward to a BIG turnout so please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area.

Garry Benedict and Wade Stewart



# Highlands United Methodist Women



## HUMW February Meeting

HUMW will meet on Monday, February 13 at 9:30 am. Cindee Johnson, Community Relations Director for Concordia Retirement Center, will be speaking about all things related to Concordia; what we should know about the retirement community, their activities, and programs for their residents. We will be doing a Mission of Love project after Cindee speaks and writing Valentine cards for the dedicated staff that work at Concordia. The cards will be presented to the staff at a reception in their honor on Friday, February 17 at 2:00 pm at Concordia. All HUMW members are welcome to attend the reception. Of course, we will have breakfast, devotion, fun, and fellowship as usual. Please sign up at the Information Station if you will be attending our HUMW meeting. This should be fun!

## Highlands HUMW Book Club

The United Methodist Women's Book Club will read 'The Prayer Box' (A Carolina Heirlooms Novel) By Lisa Wingate. When lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at ninety-one, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out lola's rambling Victorian house. This is a story about life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything for Tandi. Please come and join the discussion over coffee and cookies or whatever we make on Monday, February 23 at 1:00 pm in the Matthew classroom. For information or questions, you may contact Sue LaHood at [suelahood@currently.com](mailto:suelahood@currently.com) or call her at 479-855-0937.

## Muffins for Missions

The HUMW will have Muffins for Missions to share with your loved ones the weekend of February 11 & 12. We will have a good-will offering as usual. What a nice way to show you care. We will be in Fellowship Hall before the Saturday Service, and after the Traditional Service on Sunday. Come and have coffee and Muffins to celebrate St. Valentine's Day with your favorite Valentine(s). If you would like to bake some muffins for HUMW please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area or contact Beth Williams at 479-619-9317.



## 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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Deadline for the March Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on February 20. Please send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: [newsletter@humcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@humcbv.com).

## Thank You

**Thank You** for your partnership with Angel Tree this year! Your church always goes above and beyond and this year is no exception. You are a blessing to the Gravette School District! Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas!

From: Bright Futures

## Family News

### NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bob Prazak – New Email: [rsprazak@prazak.com](mailto:rsprazak@prazak.com)

Chuck Boomhower – New Email: [ceboom32@gmail.com](mailto:ceboom32@gmail.com)

### OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO:

None



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



### Highlands Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Located on church grounds, our Columbarium and Memorial Garden is available for current and former members of Highlands Church and their immediate families. You are welcome to visit this peaceful area, located on the south side of our Ministries Activity Center. Brochures are available on the Information Wall located just outside the office. If you would like more information, please contact a Columbarium Committee member or the church office.

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1– Fellowship Committee	2– Compassionate Disciples	3	4– Communion
5– Communion	6	7– Hummers Meeting	8– Stitchers	9	10– Marathon Bridge	11– Alpha Gal Support
12	13– HUMW Meeting	14	15– Kitchen Cleaning	16– Care Group Leaders Meeting – Library Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22– Ash Wed Service – Stitchers	23– HUMW Book Club	24	25– Scrapbooking & Card Making
26– ACE Event	27	28				

## 8:45 Adult Sunday School

Come join us in the Matthew classroom at 8:45 am for Adult Sunday School. We are starting Chapter 6 in Daniel. What can we learn that's new about the famous Daniel in the lion's den? Study led by Brad Krug. Questions? Call him at 719-210-6124.

## Men's Bible Study

All men are invited to participate as we study the New Testament together. Bring your bible and join us in the Matthew classroom 4:00-5:30 pm on Monday nights or 5:00-6:30 pm on Tuesday nights. Contact Pastor Robert with any questions.

## SCAMMER WARNING

*Please remember Pastor Robert is not going to text or email you a request to purchase gift cards or place an order online for him. Please contact the office staff if you have any questions about the validity of a message you receive that appears to be from Pastor Robert.*

# 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 - November 30, 2022**

	YTD Budget	Nov Actual	YTD Actual
Income	496,569	39,023	471,860
Expenses	496,569	38,350	458,341
Net	0	673	13,519

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)

