

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 6



SAVE THE DATE: JULY 9 AT 2:30 PM

News from Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Council, Jean Galloway

As we continue to work our way through the Discernment Process toward possible disaffiliation, we want to keep you informed as to where we are now and our plans for the near future.

In July, we will begin the three-month Discernment period where we will engage in a time of prayer and study while encouraging honest and open conversation to determine whether God is leading our congregation to remain in the United Methodist Church or to consider disaffiliation from the denomination. To begin, the Discernment Process requires us to hold a total of three Listening Sessions which must be scheduled 3-4 weeks apart.

The first Listening Session (Session One) is scheduled on Sunday, July 9, at 2:30 pm and will be held in our Sanctuary. Session One will be led by presiding elder Rev. Dr. Ann Ferris. You will receive more information on Session One as it becomes available. We are still in the process of scheduling Sessions Two and Three and you will be notified when the schedule has been confirmed. Church members will be given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments at each of the Listening Sessions and members are always welcome to submit questions, concerns, and/or comments to any member of our Administrative Council.

As we know, the United Methodist Church (UMC) is deeply divided on issues regarding human sexuality and Highlands Church, for matters of conscience, cannot condone some of the decisions being made by our denomination. Listed on page 2 are the Reasons of Conscience relating to these issues and are reasons why Highlands Church is seeking to disaffiliate from the UMC.

Continued on page 2...

REASONS OF CONSCIENCE

In accordance with paragraph 2553, we list the following actions and inactions of the Arkansas Conference to give examples of why we feel we are no longer operating in accordance with the United Methodist Book of Discipline:

- The UMC Book of Discipline prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals as pastors. Yet, despite the wishes and decisions of the majority of elected delegates to the General Conference found in the provisions of the Book of Discipline, our denomination has two self-avowed, practicing homosexuals currently serving as bishops. The Arkansas Conference sends portions of our tithes to support UMC bishops, which means we are giving money to support a stance on human sexuality that we, for matters of conscience, cannot support.
- Many bishops, who are supported by Arkansas Conference tithes, despite being charged with maintaining order and discipline in their respective episcopal areas or jurisdictions, are unwilling to enforce biblical and doctrinal standards in many matters, including matters relating to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Again, because our apportionment dollars go to the Episcopal Fund, we find it a violation of conscience to support the continued allowance of expressions of human sexuality to which we are morally opposed.
- Some of our denominational seminaries, supported by our tithes paid through the Arkansas Conference, have been permitting events that violate our moral conscience. For example, in a worship service at Duke Divinity School, the Almighty was referred to as a “queer God” who is also a “drag queen, a trans man, and gender fluid.”
- Through our tithes, the Arkansas Conference forces Highlands UMC to actively support and fund personnel, practices, and teachings that are contrary both to our agreed upon doctrine and polity as defined by the 2016 Book of Discipline, and to the plain teaching of Scripture. This is a violation of our moral conscience.

Summer Choir in June, July & August!



The Highlands Summer Choir Program begins on May 31 at 2:30 pm, with the rehearsal for the June anthems. The Summer Choir Program is a way for those interested in trying out the Chancel Choir to come and sing during the months of June, July and August. It is also a way for family members who are visiting, or who don't regularly sing in the choir, to join us, too. The music will be familiar and not very

difficult. Besides, you'll have our wonderful choir members to lean upon if needed. The music is such that if you miss the rehearsal, you'll be able to sing the anthem each Sunday with just the short rehearsal on Sunday mornings. Don't miss a Sunday because you weren't at the rehearsal. We want you to share your gift of music!

The choir meets each Sunday at 9:40 in the choir room behind the Sanctuary. There are entrance doors from each parking lot closest to Glasgow Rd. We will keep to the tradition of no choir robes and leaving after the anthem to join loved ones in the congregation for the remaining portion of the worship service. Our rehearsal schedule for the Summer Choir Program is as follows: May 31 at 2:30, for June anthems; June 28 at 2:30, for July anthems; and July 26 at 2:30, for the August anthems.

This is a great opportunity for anyone and everyone to come and make a joyful noise to the Lord. Teenagers will be most welcome if interested. Our Chancel Choir is a loving and welcoming group of singers who worship Christ through their music. They really are a family who invite you to join them. Please do! Contact John Matthews if you have any questions!

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

On July 3, I'll be having bariatric surgery. The procedure will not be a gastric bypass, but will be very much like it and is called a modified duodenal switch (if you want to look it up). I have tried the vast majority of my life to lose weight and keep it off. I was put on my first diet as a child and it has been a series of workouts and diets ever since. I look back at all the diets I have tried or "lifestyle changes," and it is absurd! I mean, I even got staples in my ears on pressure points when that was the thing. Ridiculous!

It's the usual song and dance, I know. You go to school and gain weight. You get a fulltime job and gain weight. You get married and gain weight. Get settled into parenthood and gain weight. Then there's the emotional eating and so on and so forth. So many excuses, but over the course of two days recently I put all the excuses in the trash can. I was diagnosed with diabetes one day (to go with my other health problems), and then on the very next night I was asked an intense question about death by my daughter. That sealed the deal. I was tired of being overweight, putting my body in a bad situation. And I was tired of living with the thought of being dead early or limited. I got my daughter to bed after her question and I started looking up weight loss surgery. I had already thought about it for 10 years so I knew what to look for. I made a request for information from a surgeon's office that night and had an appointment set up the following day. I knew I needed help, meaning I needed the medical doctors, a team of nutritionists, and surgery. And by the grace of God, I'm getting that help.

Lastly, this is not to condemn a single person, but frankly, I was tired of gluttony. I will admit that I have a genetic issue to some extent. Yet, it is a lie to say that genetics were the biggest piece of my problem. It would be a lie to say it all came down to emotional eating. A lot of it was just straight up gluttony. Now understand something about gluttony, because of hormones and a host of other factors we know you can be overweight and not be an overeater. I know that, but it is not my case. In my case, I overate. And what I understood after talking to my daughter in her question about death is that my sin wasn't just about me, my sin could visit my whole family with consequences if I died young. Sin is a killer. And in the case of gluttony, it literally kills day by day, minute by minute. The Bible can be rough on that particular sin, too, and rightly so. God does not want to see His children destroying themselves.

It makes me sad when people say they left the faith because they only grew up hearing about sin. I don't always know what they've been through, but I do know this: in the Methodist tradition we view the recognition of sin not as something to hate people about, not as something to make people feel horrible about, not something to make people feel guilty about, not as something to beat ourselves up about, but as a name for something that is hurting us that we need to part with. Jesus wants to save our earthly and eternal life and give us an abundant life. Thank God for his gracious care, and in not sparing our feelings for our needs. For without the goodness of God and the path he lays for me to follow, I would be lost.



Pastor Robert's office hours are:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE
1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Highlands Church Cruise-In & Car Show

The Highlands UMC 6th annual Cruise-In & Car Show will take place on Saturday, September 30 this year. With the strong support of Highlands UMC and multiple individual, corporate and retail sponsors over the past five years, this event has raised over **\$73,000** for the three charities it supports.

Samaritan's Feet - shares a message of hope and love through washing the feet of children and providing a free new pair of socks and shoes for back-to-school for nearly 200 local students each year.

Snack Packs for Kids - furnishes food packs for nearly 100 food insecure students to take home each Friday during the school year.

Bright Futures - helps meet the needs of Gravette students by helping families with emergency expenses, school supplies, clothing, emergency dental and medication expense and many other basic needs.

We currently have car show volunteers contacting potential sponsors to ask for their support for this year's event. But as always, we are looking for more businesses or individuals to contact that might be willing to give their monetary support to the show. If you know of any business or individual interested in sponsoring this year's show, please let Steve Terry or Amey / Lori in the office know. Thank you!

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Cruise-In & Car Show

Highlands Church Parking Lot • 371 Glasgow Rd, Bella Vista, AR



SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Casseroles for a Year — Thank You!



Carla Lemmeyer held the winning ticket for the 'Casseroles for a Year' drawing that ended on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14. Congratulations to Carla who is sure to enjoy the yummy casseroles coming soon! We would like to thank all those who contributed to help the Highlands United Methodist Women's mission for helping women and children in NWA. The fundraiser was a huge success! We raised a total of \$940!



Highlands United Methodist Women



Muffins for Missions



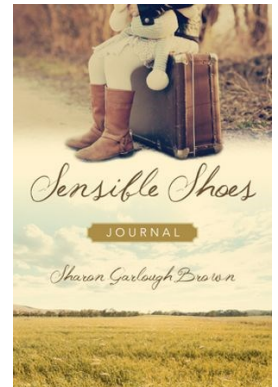
Muffins for Missions will be back on Father's Day Eve & Father's Day, Saturday and Sunday, June 17 & 18. What a great snack for Dad / Grandpa to go with their coffee, tea or cocoa! Come to church for the service and then see what our bakers whip up on this very special weekend for those very special men in our lives!

We are looking for a few good bakers... We need a few volunteers to help with baking the Father's Day Muffins for Missions. Please sign up in the Gathering Area to bake a dozen or two; RSVP to bake by Friday, June 16. We also need volunteers to help serve the muffins on the day of the event. For more information or to offer to help, please contact Beth Williams at bvbeth.williams7491@gmail.com or 479-619-9317.

HUMW Book Club Continues!

The United Methodist Women are going to have a Summer Book Club this year! We will be reading *Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. Four strangers embark together on a journey of spiritual formation. You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.

Join us on Thursday, June 22, in the Peter classroom at 1:00 pm, as we discuss this great book. Sign up to attend before Sunday, June 18 at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. For more information, please call Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937.



Flea & Boutique — Thank You!

Thanks to all who supported the Flea this year. It was a great success and we think everyone had a good time.

To all of you who: donated items, unpacked, priced and displayed items, worked as cashiers and baggers, baked delicious goodies, assisted shoppers and endlessly rearranged tables to make room for all the items, brought snacks and lunches for the Flea workers, and packed up the unsold items in record time, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! And to everyone who shopped and brought their friends to shop, you made this a great success.

The HUMMERS were amazing. We didn't know these men could work so hard! These guys picked up and delivered furniture, set up tables, moved tables and chairs, and then put it all away again. They packed up the "leftovers" and loaded the Care & Share trailer, not to mention carrying boxes up all those stairs and then carrying them back down again when the Flea was over.

A special nod of appreciation to Amey and Lori who put up with all of us for a week and dropped what they were doing to help us. We all are blessed to be a part of Highlands Church. We will see you next year. But until then, please don't say the word "Flea" if we are in earshot! In Christ, Sue Benson and Kitty Knight, Co-chairs

HIGHLANDS CHURCH FLEA & BOUTIQUE

Thank You to all those who helped and contributed!

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3- Communion
4- Communion	5	6	7- Fellowship Mtg	8	9	10- Alpha Gal Support Group
11- Church Picnic	12	13- Compassionate Disciples Mtg	14	15- Library Mtg	16	17
18- 3rd Sunday Cookies - Father's Day	19	20	21- Kitchen Clean	22	23	24- Scrapbooking & Card Making
25- ACE Event	26	27	28	29	30	

Fellowship Church Picnic

You are invited to a Fellowship Church Picnic on Sunday, June 11, at 11:15 am! Join us for fellowship, food and fun after the Traditional service. Please bring lawn chairs and dress for a casual day at church. We will serve hot dogs, chips, salads, desserts, and drinks.

Sign up to bring salad or dessert in the Gathering Area before June 3. If you plan to attend, please sign up to help us better prepare for this free event! Hope to see you all there! Questions? Contact Linda Uttley, Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee, for more information!



Office News

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

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

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

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.



Family News

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Claudia Williams– Email: cmw21498@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS:

None to report

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Al Dunagin and D.D. Dunagin for the loss of their son and brother, David Dunagin, on 4/27/23.

Bob Johnson & Bev Puckett for the loss of their son-in-law's niece, Shannon Roberts, on 5/11/23.

Alice Lock for the loss of her husband, Butch Lock on 5/13/23.

SPECIAL THANK YOU MESSAGES:

Ladies of Highlands Church,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. I know it will bring me comfort in the days ahead. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. In love and peace, Karen Weiss (cousin of Kathy Benedict)

Highlands Church,

The generosity of your church through the Food Pantry is helping many families in the Gravette District. They tell me how appreciative they are to be able to get help with food in a time where everything is so expensive. You are a blessing to all of us. Thank you! Bright Futures

8:45 Adult Sunday School

Start off your week by joining us in the Matthew classroom at 8:45 am Sunday mornings as we study the book of Daniel. Study led by Brad Krug. Questions? Call Brad 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 4:00-5:00 pm on Monday nights or 5:00-6:00 pm on Tuesday nights. Contact Pastor Robert with any questions.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM
SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 10:00 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 - April 30, 2023

	YTD Budget	Apr Actual	YTD Actual
Income	170,924	48,898	186,299
Expenses	170,924	43,204	166,148
Net	0	5,694	20,151

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... 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

