

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JULY 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 7



Listening Sessions are Scheduled

Over the next two months, three disaffiliation related 'Listening Sessions' will be held.

The first session will be held on Sunday, July 9, at 2:30 pm and will be led by Rev. Ann Ferris, the Superintendent of the Southwest District of the Arkansas Conference. She will discuss the historical background, options available to local churches, as well as the Conference's policy on disaffiliation.

The second session takes place on Sunday, July 30, at 3:00 pm. At this session, Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris, pastor of First UMC in Bentonville, will speak on reasons to "stay UMC." Rev. Wes Hilliard, pastor of Heritage Church in Van Buren, will speak on reasons to "leave."

The third session will be on Sunday, August 20, at 2:30 pm. At this session, the results of the two previous sessions will be reviewed and a "straw poll" will be taken to determine if the next step in the disaffiliation process, a formal Church Conference, should be requested. Note that only church members who are present at the session may vote.

There will be opportunities at each session to ask questions. For more information about the disaffiliation process, please visit the Conference website at: arumc.org/current-landscape/.

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

As I have mentioned before, I know people struggle to read the Bible. They struggle for two reasons usually: because they do not know where to start and/or because they think they will not understand it. A proven solution I use in my own life is very simple. Make a list. That is exactly right. Just as we are in the habit of making lists to remember grocery items, and things to do, simply make a list of every single topic you want to know about in life and in the Bible. Make the list on your phone, computer, or notebook. Now you officially are out of excuses for not reading the Bible. The reason we make this list is because we then set out to research answers. The Bible is a library containing 66 books and one or many of those books has an answer for you.

You start out simply taking the topic you are curious about and look it up in a topical Bible index (online or in print form). You can even google your question, "what does the Bible say about," then keep studying. Go to commentaries by searching "online Bible commentaries." You can get a commentary from church or the library, buy one, use one you already have. That's stage one. Now do a deeper search. Google articles and sermons on the topic and take in that information. Read a few articles and check out the authors to make sure they are not questionable. Work with one topic for a day, a month, or a year; it doesn't matter. As you do this research other topics are going to come up, which you then write down on your topic list. You will literally never run out of things to research.

We need to be in the Bible. For some people that's very easy. Some people like to read straight through their Bibles. Good for them, but that is not necessarily you. Trust me, if you spend ten minutes looking up something you are interested in, the time will fly by. And as you move through your topic list you are gaining real, usable knowledge on each one of the subjects. Gaining that knowledge will motivate you and give you the confidence to keep going.

And I am telling you, be bold in asking questions. A great thing to look up if you do not believe me is what the Bible says about using and making money. Look up sermons and articles on it. The Bible and the work of pastors and writers will literally guide you in acquiring and managing wealth.

I firmly believe that the church that has major problems is a church that is not spending time in the Word of God regularly. If every, or at least the vast majority of people in a church read their Bibles regularly and filled their mind with Biblical truth the church would not be able to hold all of the people who would be existing in Biblical peace with one another. What I have found to be so amusing and so frustrating at the same time throughout my ministry is that people have big plans for their church. They want this ministry, that ministry, this group, that group. And what it ends up being is people want to compete with what the church down the street is doing instead of being instructed by the word of God and listening for what He says for their own church situation.

We know what to do. We just have to do it.

Blessings,

Robert



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

Samaritan's Feet

Volunteer Opportunities Coming - July 29

About Samaritan's Feet International: Samaritan's Feet is a 501(c)(3) humanitarian aid organization that serves and inspires hope in people by providing shoes as the foundation to a spiritual and healthy life resulting in the advancement of education and economic opportunities. In 2023, Samaritan's Feet will celebrate its 20th anniversary as an organization and also strive to serve its 10 millionth person by the end of the year. Since its founding by Manny and Tracie Ohonme in 2003, Samaritan's Feet and its partners have served more than 9.5 million people in 109 nations and more than 570 U.S. cities. You can learn more about Samaritan's Feet International by visiting their website: samaritansfeet.org



They have partnered with Highlands Church and the Gravette School District community to hold a Samaritan's Feet event in Gravette, Arkansas on Saturday, July 29. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 10:00 am for training and should be done by 3:30 pm. The event will begin at 11:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. They currently have the ability to order 200+ pairs of shoes as they continue to fundraise.

In 2023, Highlands Church Missions Ministry Committee donated \$5000 for 200 pairs of shoes from Car Show (2022) proceeds for this year's Gravette Shoe Event. Please see the Weekly Update email to register to volunteer for the shoe distribution on July 29.

SAVE THE DATE!

Care & Share Thrift Store Volunteers Needed August 1-5



Signups Coming Soon

Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction

One of the most successful programs used to reduce the principal amount of our building loan is the special offerings by our membership and friends on the Fifth Sunday weekends throughout the year. The weekend of July 29/30, is your chance to contribute to this Loan Reduction Initiative. Your check in the offering plate designated as 'Fifth Sunday Loan Reduction' is all it takes!

Columbarium & 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 at 479-855-2277.



Music for a Sunday Afternoon

On Sunday, July 23, Highlands Church will have a benefit concert, 'Music for a Sunday Afternoon'. The concert will be held in the Sanctuary at 2:00 pm. The Traditional service music staff will be joined by many special guests to provide an afternoon of musical treasures. Music selections will range from classical gems to Broadway favorites, and maybe a few surprises. A freewill offering will be taken for the Ernest Grilk Bible Lecture Series so that guest speakers may enlighten Highlands with their knowledge and expertise concerning the Old and New Testaments.

More information will be coming in the Weekly Update emails from the church, so keep watch. Do plan to attend and support this concert so that we can have many more in the coming months.

The Music Ministries of Highlands Church



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.

CARE & SHARE TRAILER
JULY 10
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



HIGHLANDS
CHURCH
PARKING LOT

PLEASE DONATE CLEAN
& GENTLY USED ITEMS

(no mattresses or printers)

Join Us For
Communion
DURING BOTH SERVICES

JULY 1 & 2



Food Pantry Update & Thank You

Food Pantry Update from Amanda Kelly, Bright Futures District Coordinator

From November when we began the Food Pantry until the last distribution in May, we served 513 families which consisted of 1,177 students. We are continuing to run through the summer and food service also has a free lunch program which families can drive through and pick up breakfast and lunch for students. Because of HUMW's contribution of \$100/month for fresh produce and groceries we had a community member match that donation and donated \$1200 to the food pantry to make it \$200/month.

We also had a local farm, Prairie Woods Farm, outside of Sulphur Springs, recently donate produce after their farmers market to the food pantry. They are going to call back later and let me know if they have more produce to deliver.

I want to tell you all of this because YOU, Highlands Church, are the reason for this. You began the collecting of donations, you have gone above and beyond to donate money to buy fresh produce and groceries and now others are wanting to be a part of that. We appreciate you and everything you have done this past year and so many years!



Highlands Church FOOD DRIVE



PLACE YOUR DONATED ITEMS IN THE
BINS LOCATED AT ALL ENTRANCES TO THE
CHURCH FOR DELIVERY TO THE

Gravette School Food Bank

This project is co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team & HUMW.



July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1- Communion
2- Communion	3	4- 4th of July: Office Closed	5- Fellowship Committee Mtg	6	7	8
9- 1st Listening Session	10- Care & Share Trailer at HUMC	11- Compassionate Disciples Mtg	12	13- Trustees Mtg - HUMW Book Club	14	15
16- 3rd Sunday Cookies	17	18- Admin Council Meeting	19- Kitchen Clean	20- Library Mtg	21	22- Scrapbooking & Card Making
23- Music for a Sunday Afternoon	24	25	26- Summer Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29- 5th Weekend Loan Reduction - Samaritan's Feet
30- 2nd Listening Session - 5th Sun Loan Reduction	31	Aug 1- Hummers Blood Drive				

Thank You Notes!

Fellowship Picnic: I would like to thank the Fellowship Team for their effort to help make this event happen. To all those who came for the food and fellowship, and to all who brought salads and desserts. I hope you all had a pleasant day! Thanks so much! Linda Uttley, Fellowship Chair

To my Highland Church friends: Thank you all so much for your cards, prayers, and well wishes during my recovery. I am still wearing a neck brace and will until the doctor's x-ray shows I have healed sufficiently to remove it. I am doing well at home and enjoying my two daughter's visit. Again, thank you, Marlys Nihil-Ledin

Office News

Amey & Lori: highlandschurch@humcbv.com

Newsletter: newsletter@humcbv.com

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

OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

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

Family News

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bill & Anna Harris- Email: abharris1943@gmail.com

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Terri Fontenot, for the loss of her husband, John Fontenot, on 6/1/23.

Jerry & Carole Snyder, for the loss of their son, Rick Sutton, on 6/4/23.

Nancy Noyes, for the loss of her husband, Kevin Hennings, on 6/23/23.

Cleda Simpson, for the loss of her father, Rueben Taylor, on 6/24/23.

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 - May 31, 2023

	YTD Budget	May Actual	YTD Actual
Income	213,655	36,059	222,358
Expenses	213,655	44,773	210,921
Net	0	(8,714)	11,437

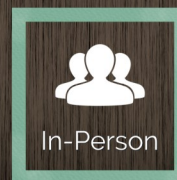
Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

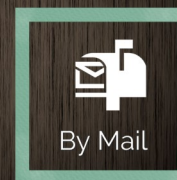
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... humcbv.com/give



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