



Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 9

Period of Disaffiliation Discernment Ends; Church Conference Next

The third and final disaffiliation related “Listening Session” was held on Sunday, August 20, with 146 members and 12 non-members in attendance. This session featured a report on disaffiliation financial obligations and a proposal on how to meet them, a recommendation from the Administrative Council for post-disaffiliation, and the opportunity for members to share their views on disaffiliation.

At the end of the session, a straw poll was taken asking members if they were in favor of asking that a Church Conference be called to hold a formal vote on disaffiliation. Of the 145 votes cast, 121 (83.4%) were in favor and 24 (16.6%) were against.

In response to the results of the straw poll, the Administrative Council made a formal request to our District Superintendent, Rev. Ann Ferris, to call a Church Conference. Members must be present at the Church Conference to vote, and a two-thirds majority is required for the congregation to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Ferris has scheduled the Church Conference for 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 10, 2023.

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

It's back to school time and I know there's so much excitement, but for me it was always my least favorite time of year. I never cared much for school and frankly, I don't think school ever cared much for me. Growing up, I remember everyone continually telling me I needed to get an education and I never seemed to be able to convince them that I didn't. In fact, I was a bit of a Puritan, because I really only saw the religion class at my Christian school as necessary education. And while that might be strange to think at such a young age, here I am now.

When I went to a public high school, we didn't have religion class so as you can imagine, I really didn't see a point in being there. I went so far as to try and drop out of high school. My parents thought when I said that I was dropping out that I was joking with them or trying to rebel and irritate them. They soon found out I wasn't joking when my principal informed my mother than I had indeed tried to drop out and that he wasn't going to sign the paperwork. After a long talk with my parents (mostly me listening) it seemed a lot easier to go along with the program, but that didn't mean I had to like it. When I got out of high school my plan was to drag my feet in college long enough to frustrate my parents into getting their blessing to drop out. That didn't work out either. After all the complaining and class skipping that I did, I figured my grade point average would be too low to get into a semi-nary graduate program, but much to my surprise, annoyance, and relief, my GPA was actually good.

When I sat down with my advisor in seminary I noticed that all they offered were classes I wanted to take which lead to a strangely fast and smooth path to graduation. I actually kind of wanted to stay longer.

Why am I sharing this with you? Because to me, all of what you just read is a profound story. It's a story of rebellion, not thinking things through, and being just plain stubborn. I look back on my life and all that I tried to throw away and I realize there was only one factor that got me through. God. I can't justify it any other way. Sure I had supportive parents. Sure I had a lot of great things in place, but I tried to undo all the good things that I had been given to get my own way. It really was only God that got me through. It really was only God that held everything together and got me to the other side.

So what's your story? What's your version of school? What are the events in your life that you look at and realize that it was only God that got you through? Knowing and being able to verbalize those periods of time are more important than you might think, because those stories become the stories that give muscle and bone to confidence in God. Those stories give courage and allow trust.

There are countless events in my life where I didn't feel like God was anywhere around at the time, but as I look back on those stories I realize that there wasn't anywhere in them that God wasn't present. I would encourage you to start writing out those tales of times when God got you through or at least rehearse them in your mind. Reflect on them as much as you can, because by recognizing and affirming God's faithfulness in the past, we become much less scared of the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Robert



Pastor Robert's office hours are:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

6th Annual Charity Car Show & Cruise-In

Saturday, September 30, 2023—10:00 am to 2:00 pm (9am Registration)

Car Show Meal Tickets:

- Everyone should have received their car show meal tickets by now. Please let us know if you have not, or if you need additional tickets.
- As you are able, buy or sell your meal tickets (\$10 each).
- Nearly half of the money we raise from the car show comes from congregational sales of these meal tickets
- Money from ticket sales and any unsold tickets may be dropped off, or mailed, to the church. There will be a collection box in front of the office on weekdays and in the gathering area on weekends.
- There is no cost to attend the show, it is open and free to everyone, no ticket is required.

Volunteers:

- We will need help the day of the show with greeting and assisting people in parking their vehicles for display; help with spectator parking - including transporting spectators from the back Baptist lots to the main HUMC lot; preparing and serving lunch; general help; clean up, etc.
- An online sign-up is available on the church web site and a sign-up sheet is also available in the gathering area.
- There will be a meeting in mid September for volunteers where we will confirm assignments and show plans.
- Printed 2023 Car Show shirts will also be available for purchase: Volunteers - \$15; Others - \$20.

Charities:

- **Snack Packs** for Kids has furnished food packs for almost 150 food insecure students to take home each Friday during the school year to make sure they don't go hungry that weekend.
- **Samaritan's Feet** has provided approximately 200 new pairs of shoes and socks each year to qualifying students.
- **Bright Futures** works to make sure students are able to attend school by; providing school supplies, don't go hungry, are healthy and have clean clothes. They have helped families with emergency expenses, holiday snack packs, school supplies, clothing, emergency dental work, medication expense and much more.

Over the last 5 years, due to the continued support and participation of this congregation, the Highlands Church Car Show & Cruise-In has been able to distribute over \$73,000 to these three local charities that help children in the Gravette School District.

Thank you for Your Support!

Highlands Church Missions Committee



Highlands Church
Charity Car Show & Cruise-In
SPONSOR EXPO | LUNCH | LIVE MUSIC

September 30 | 10 am - 2 pm
371 Glasgow Rd, Bella Vista, AR
www.humcbv.com/car-show

FREE!
TO PARTICIPANTS & ATTENDEES

VEHICLE REGISTRATION
BEGINS AT 9AM!

Earnest W. Grilk Bible Lecture Series



Please join us on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 pm for our next lecture in the Earnest W. Grilk Bible Lecture Series. Rev. Tony Holifield will be our Guest Lecturer. Tony is the Pastor Emeritus at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, AR. The Lecture is titled "The Best Life You Can Live" and will be held in our Sanctuary.

This is a free educational event open to everyone in the community. Please pick up a flyer at the Information Station in the Gathering Area and invite a friend!

Care & Share Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of September 12-16, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Click the button below to sign up online or contact the church office for assistance. If you prefer, you may contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer, directly at 876-6324.



Snack Packs—Mission Ministry



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED TO HELP
WITH SNACK PACKS**



Our next packing day is September 6, 10:00 am — 11:30 am, at Samaritan Community Center. Snack Packs are distributed to food insecure Gravette School students each Friday. We will be packing Snack Packs the first Wednesday of every month. If you are interested, please join us! No signups required. Contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339 if you have any questions!

Samaritan Community Center has moved to their new location: 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. On I-49 take exit 81 and go east on Pleasant Grove Road. Turn left on 8th Street and another left on Laurel into parking lot.

Library News

The main church Library, located next to the Sanctuary, contains many great fiction books. You will find DVD's, CD's (books on tape), non-fiction, children's, and paperback books all located in the Library Annex, which is located across from the main Library. All library materials are all available for your enjoyment. Feel free to go in, browse through them, and check out anything you like.

Also, outside the Library we have FREE books for you to take home and keep. We hope you enjoy the selection of books, and please tell others in the church who might like to use this wonderful resource.

Flex 'N Stretch

The next 10 week session of Flex ' N Stretch starts Monday, September 4 at Highlands Church. We meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 am - 8:30 am in the Peter Classroom. Our Mission is to challenge, encourage and promote better health through physical exercise. You can attend 1 lesson, all 30 lessons, or even somewhere in-between... Whatever works for you! Flex 'N Stretch is a wellness program of activities which provides a higher quality of life thru responsible movement that is pain free and possible for all participants. This well-organized exercise program teaches all participants how to do the exercises easily and safely, including seniors. Benefits include increased range of motion, coordination, strength, balance and agility, all of which improve the quality of life and lead to longer independent living. Cost is \$45.00 for 30 Sessions or \$30.00 for 15 Sessions. No signups necessary, just show up! Come, join the fun and experience the benefits! For more information, contact the church office or Donna Williams at 479-659-2658.

Stitchers

Hope you have enjoyed your summer even during the hot weather. Stitchers will have their first meeting for the fall/winter/spring sessions on Wednesday, September 13 at 1:00 pm.

We continue to knit and/or crochet to produce prayer shawls and prayer squares which are then presented to those who have health concerns. Please bring any completed prayer shawls and/or lap robes so tags can be sewn on them.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the John classroom, September—May. We are looking forward to seeing you and your projects. Contact the church office or Sandra Foster for more details.



Thank You Notes!

I would like to thank all of those who attended the 'Music for a Sunday Afternoon' fundraiser and contributed to the Grilk Lecture Series on July 23. It was an outstanding concert and something which Highlands Church can be very proud. We raised \$1,015.00 for the lecture series. Bravo Highlands. I understand that we had lots of guests in attendance who were extremely vocal in their appreciation of such a fine performance.

Special thanks go to Pam Meyer, Jeannine Wagar and Gloria Grilk for bringing guests to perform for us. Also, a grateful thanks to the Chancel Choir for their anthems and to Kim Hale for adding to our line-up of great performers. We have a talented and gifted music staff who also had a great time.

We will be having more concerts in the future benefitting different ministries in our church so please keep your eyes and ears open for the details. Thank you and bless you all so much, John Matthews, Director of Music Ministries

Highlands Church lady crocheters (Stitchers), thank you for the beautiful, variegated, pink, prayer shawl. It's too hot to wear now but in a few weeks the cool evenings will be upon us and I will enjoy it. My surgery was successful and I wear the neck brace when I'm doing housework or active. In the evening, when I watch television or read, I can enjoy sitting without the brace. Thank you all! Blessings, Marlys Ledin



Highlands United Methodist Women



September HUMW Meeting

Hello Ladies of Highlands Church! We are going to resume our monthly meetings for the United Methodist Women beginning on Monday, September 11, 9:30 am at the Bella Vista Historical Museum. We will have a program about the BV Museum by Xyta Lucus and then tour the Museum to see all the wonderful items they have about our community from years gone by. We will carpool from the church front parking lot or from the dog park/baseball diamond parking lot. When you sign up, please let us know where you will carpool from so we have a seat for you on the way to the museum. We will have coffee, muffins, and maybe go out to lunch afterward if time allows. Our group normally meets at the church on the second Monday of the month (September-May) unless a special meeting is planned offsite. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Can't wait to see everyone at the BV Museum! Blessings!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 10 WEEKS - BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12
 TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM IN PETER CLASSROOM



Women's Bible Study

Beginning September 12, join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am-11:30 am in the Peter Classroom for a 10 week Bible Study. Our last session will be November 14. Visit the Gathering Area to sign up. Workbooks are needed and can be purchased for \$15 from the church or online (Amazon). The book is titled "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All women are welcome— invite a friend! Questions or to sign up, contact Betsy Cloninger, who will be leading this study.



THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



September HUMMERS Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, September 5 (day after Labor day) at 7:45 am for our next Hummers meeting. We will have Andre Arceneaux from Lifewater International joining us for our meeting. We think Lifewater has a unique approach on how they provide water to certain communities after teaching the people in the community how to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We are looking forward to getting back together after our summer break so we hope you will plan to join us. Please be sure to sign up by September 3 in the Gathering Area so Mike Maginness and volunteers are prepared to serve breakfast for all those attending.

Garry Benedict and Wade Stewart

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2– Communion
3– Communion	4– Office Closed Holiday	5– Hummers Mtg.	6– Fellowship Committee Mtg.	7	8	9– Joey Potter Memorial
10– Charge Conference	11– HUMW Mtg.	12– Compassionate Disciples Mtg.	13– Stitches Mtg.	14– Trustees Mtg. – Car Show Volunteer Mtg.	15	16
17– 3rd Sun Cookies	18	19– Admin Council Meeting – Kitchen Cleaning	20	21– Library Mtg. – Car Show Volunteer Mtg.	22	23– Scrapbooking & Card Making
24– Grill Lecture Series	25	26	27– Stitches Mtg.	28	29	30– Car Show & Cruise-In

New Members

Williams and Julie Chernota joined the church recently. They normally attend the Traditional service. The Chernota family has been attending Highlands Church since April 2016. Both Julie and William are from South Louisiana, but they moved to Bella Vista in 2009. Julie is a kindergarten aid and William is in sales. They have 4 children, and when not in school, the family enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening, fishing, crafting, kid's sports and playing outside together. Two of their children, Celia and Paxon, became members in July 2022.



Don Denison joined the church recently. He normally attends the Celebration service. Don moved to this area from New Orleans, Louisiana in 2006. He served in the US Navy for 22 years and then retired. Don continued working and became a college teacher. He taught in New Orleans for 20 years and then retired again. Now fully retired, his hobbies include golf and travel. He also enjoys military and historical reading. He has 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.



Family News

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Family and friends of Joey Potter who passed away on August 20.



The Church office
will be closed
Monday, September 4

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 October Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on Wed, September 20. Please send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: newsletter@humcbv.com

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 - July 31, 2023

	YTD Budget	July Actual	YTD Actual
Income	299,117	45,047	307,447
Expenses	299,117	40,402	289,346
Net	0	4,646	18,101

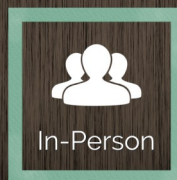
Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

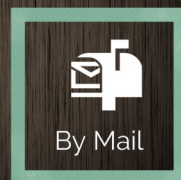
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... humcbv.com/give



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