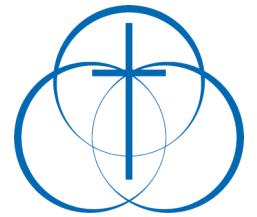


Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 11



A New Chapter



Dear Beloved Highlands Church Congregation,

We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on a new and exciting chapter in our church's history. It is with great joy that we share some remarkable news about the path that has been chosen for our congregation.

As you may have heard, we have successfully completed the disaffiliation process from the United Methodist Church (UMC), marking the end of one era and the beginning of another. During a UMC Special Annual Conference Session held on Sunday, October 15, 2023, our disaffiliation plan was voted on and approved with an effective date of departure set for November 30, 2023.

We feel this promises to be a significant turning point in our journey as a community of faith as we embrace the opportunity to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church (GMC), and we are delighted to share that our decision was met with overwhelming support. At a congregational meeting held on October 22, with guest speaker Rev. Clark Atkins, Senior Pastor of First Church Siloam Springs, and Presiding Elder in the GMC, we received valuable information about the GMC and answers to our questions. The outcome of the vote at the end of this meeting was overwhelmingly positive, with 98% of our members approving of our affiliation with the GMC to become effective on December 1, 2023.

You may be wondering about the changes this transition will bring. Rev. Atkins shared his experiences from his own church's transition to the GMC, which includes a stronger presence of the Holy Spirit, an increase in the number of people visiting the church and becoming members, plus a reduced level of conference bureaucracy. The GMC encourages a strong emphasis on meaningful worship, loving like Jesus, and leading others to Christ values that are deeply aligned with the very principles that Highlands Church was founded upon 35 years ago.

We anticipate that this transition will bring positive changes including enhancing our worship experience and strengthening our faith journey. To commemorate this momentous occasion, we invite you to join us in a combined worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2023. After the service, we will gather for refreshments and fellowship, celebrating not only our 35th birthday but also our new affiliation with the GMC. This is an opportunity for our congregation to come together in joyous fellowship, expressing our unity, love, and shared hope for the future.

We look forward to seeing you in church and sharing this exciting new beginning. We will continue to worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly, as we embrace the future with open hearts. May God's blessings be with us all during this transition and always.

With love and gratitude, Your Administrative Council

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

One of the things I want to emphasize during this new season in the life of our church is taking prayer to the next level. We do pray and I encourage personal prayer outside of worship. What I am hoping to add is a broader and more intense program for prayer through the implementation of new prayer groups. Please do not understand this to be just some small idea. We have had a lot going on with the disaffiliation and we are in the current posture to do even more major ministry. Where we stand with our new Denomination and our location means we need people to pray like never before. We need people to partner with God and one another to bring about massive changes and movements so the kingdom grows in this corner of Northwest Arkansas.

We are known for our service; now in this new season let us also be known for our prayer as well. In fact, the more we pray the better our service to the community will go. We will prosper in prayer and thus those in need and the lost will prosper as well. To facilitate this, I am offering a one hour long session on prayer. In the session we will go over different and usable methods of corporate and personal prayer. I want to emphasize that these techniques are classic Christian Methods of prayer, many of which will be new to people. I'll offer one session on Monday, November 6 at 11:00 in the John classroom and then offer the same one hour session the next Monday, November 13 at the same time in the same place. You will want to bring a Bible and something to take notes with.

Next, I am opening up a time for prayer together in a Prayer Group session that will be ongoing starting on Tuesday, November 7. Our time together will last for thirty minutes from 11:15 until 11:45. What will make this prayer session different from what you might be used to is I will be compiling the list of topics to pray for. They will be church specific and will not include individuals. Though there is definitely a time and a place to pray for individuals, this prayer time will be for things specific to the ministry and mission of Highlands Church. In the prayer time we will simply come in and pray together. The topics to pray for will be listed and no prayer requests will be taken. We will come in to pray and then after thirty minutes we will leave. This has been found to be a method of group prayer that keeps people together the longest because the mission is laid out, nothing interrupts that mission, and the time is fixed. With your participation, other forms of prayer groups will exist in the future.

Finally, I wanted to address the topic of Methodism. Throughout the disaffiliation process I have noticed some confusion on what Methodism actually is. So I want to offer a jam-packed, 3-week class on Methodism that is for every stage of Methodist. It doesn't matter if you're trying to decide if Methodism is right for you or if you've been a Methodist for fifty years, this class is for you. The name of the class will be "Methodism is Not a Denomination." That class will start on Monday, November 27 at 11:00.

Blessings,

Robert



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

All Saints Day 2023

At each service of worship on All Saints Weekend, November 4 & 5, we will remember the many loved ones lost since last year's All Saints Day. In our worship services, as each name is read, a chime will sound and a candle will be lit. We will miss the dear loved ones of our Highlands Family.



Rusty Gray
John Fontenot
Jim Wooldridge

Dee Morrisett
Kevin Hennings
M.L. Gold

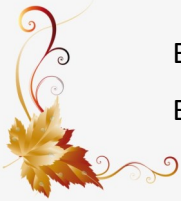
Butch Lock
Joey Potter



Holiday Food Drive at HUMC

Bright Futures is always looking at ways to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need. They are looking to put together holiday meal bags for families to pick up when they come to the Food Pantry in November and December and have compiled a list of items in hopes that we can help them reach their goal of making 75 holiday meals each month. Other items are greatly appreciated as well. If you would like to donate gift cards to buy food or make a monetary donation, they can do the shopping for you. Thank you for your generosity and supporting families in the Gravette School District. Place your donated items in the marked bins located at all entrances to the church for delivery to the Gravette School Food Pantry.

Items we are collecting are:



Box Stuffing

Canned Vegetables

Cranberry Sauce

Gravy Mix or Sauce

Box Mashed Potatoes

Canned Fruit

Box Dessert

Macaroni and Cheese



Thank You Notes

In the middle of my chaos (fall, injury, and surgery) there you were!!! Our Highlands Church family sent prayers, cards, and messages of healing. We express our deepest gratitude from both of us, on the way to a full recovery. God Bless each of you! Katy & Bud Henkel

Highlands Church Members, This past year has made a difference to so many families in the Gravette School District. The extra help they receive from you with food is helping ensure their family is fed and their needs are being met. We appreciate each and every one of you. Bright Futures – Amanda Kelly

Steve (Terry) and Car Show Team, I wanted to tell you how thankful we are for the work you and everyone at Highlands Church does for Bright Futures with the Car Show, not to mention Samaritan's Feet and Samaritan's Community Center. This was my first time attending and I was blown away. Everything was set up so organized and ran smooth. My daughter had a lot of fun as did I. The generosity of everyone at Highlands means everything to us. We could not do what we do without amazing people like you. Thank you again for your commitment and kindness. Amanda Kelly



Highlands United Methodist Women



November HMW Meeting

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women this month for our final Mission of Love this year: Meet/Eat/Tour the new Bella Vista Public Safety Facility located at 2483 Forest Hills Blvd. On Monday, November 13, at 9:30 am we will be taking food to the new Police Station and having breakfast with the Police. A tour of the new facility will follow. We are asking all of our women to prepare a dish for this breakfast, some of which will be refrigerated to feed the other two shifts so that no one will be left out. A signup sheet will be at the Info Station in the Gathering area beginning the weekend of November 4/5. Please register and indicate what you will be bringing and if you would like to carpool from our church parking lot. This promises to be a special time for all of us as we serve breakfast and pass out handwritten thank you notes to all of our law enforcement personnel. All women of Highlands Church are encouraged to attend but you **MUST** register so we have an accurate count! **REMINDER OF DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 13 DEADLINE:** Don't forget to bring your completed Discipleship Challenge form to this meeting. A special presentation will be made at our Christmas Celebration Tea (December 18).

34th Annual Highlands Church Cookie Walk

What time is it, boys and girls?!? It's Cookie Walk Time! The Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 2, from 8:30 am until 11:00 am (or until the last cookie is gone)! Please start thinking about the Festive Christmas Cookies you are going to make and plan on picking up the aluminum pans the weekends of November 4/5 and 11/12. The pans will be available at the volunteer signup table in the Gathering Area before and after both worship services. We have about 600 aluminum pans, so if you make your 20 dozen, we will have enough pans for you! Volunteer signups will begin the weekend of November 4/5. Information about the Craft, Candy and Sweet Shoppe donations will be coming soon. The proceeds from the Cookie Walk and Coffee Shoppe are split between the Highlands Church Mission Ministries and Highlands Methodist Women. For questions or more information, contact our Cookie Walk Chairpersons Wilhelmina Munson at 719-661-9956 or Pat Lehman at 479-876-1985.



THE HUMMERS

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD SERVING OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



November HUMMERS Meeting—Date/time Change

Our next Hummers meeting will be Thursday, November 16, at 6:30 pm. Dessert will be provided. This will be a special meeting for all men of the church, including those who work a normal daytime job. Sign up at the Information Station to help us prepare. Hope to see you!

Thank you,

Garry Benedict, President

Advent Is Almost Here!

A note from John Matthews, Director of Music Ministries

Advent is always a wonderful season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and is usually a busy time of year at the church. The first day of Advent is the first Sunday in December; December 3. At Highlands, we have some changes to the normal worship schedule this year so please mark these dates on your calendar. The fourth Sunday of Advent is on Christmas Eve this year. Here is a look at the worship services for Advent.

Celebration Worship - Saturdays at 5:30 pm

December 2 - no service due to Combined Worship

December 9 at 5:30 pm

December 16 at 5:30 pm in Sanctuary, Cantata "Christmas Dreams"

December 23 - no service due to Combined Worship

December 30 - no service due to Combined Worship

Traditional Worship - Sundays at 10:00 am

December 3 at 10:00 am, Combined Worship

December 10 at 10:00 am

December 17 at 10:00 am, Cantata "Christmas Dreams" (luncheon to follow)

December 24 at 4:00 pm, Christmas Eve, Combined Worship (no morning service)

December 31 at 10:00 am, New Year's Eve, Combined Worship

We have several wonderful events planned this Advent season. All that we do is to the glory of God in our mission to make disciples for Christ. Whether it be raising money for our mission priorities or praising God through our music and worship ministries, all is done in praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Make this Advent one that brings you closer to God and closer to each other. Hallelujah!

Christmas Party Luncheon

Join us for a Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 17, following the Cantata. The lunch will be provided by The Fellowship Committee and will be \$15 per person. Tickets sales will begin November 25/26 and also be available on December 2/3, and 9/10. Also, there will be signup sheets in the Gathering area starting the weekend of November 25/26 asking for 8 volunteers to be Food Runners, and 2 volunteers to be Ticket Takers. More details to come. Contact Linda Uttley for more information.

December Outreach Events



Cookie Walk: Our 34th Annual Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 2, from 8:30 am until 11:00 am (or until the last cookie is gone)! The proceeds from the Cookie Walk and Coffee Shoppe are split between the Highlands Church Mission Ministries and Highlands Methodist Women. See page 4 for more details on this fun event.

Angel Tree: Watch for more information in the coming weeks about our 2023 Angel Tree program. The HMW (Highlands Methodist Women) are in the process of organizing and Angels are expected to be hung on our Christmas tree in the Gathering Area the weekend BEFORE the Cookie Walk. Contact Sue Benson with any questions.

Bell Ringing: Another annual tradition at Highlands Church is Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. Once the schedule has been released by the Salvation Army, the office will prepare online signups and send out notification via email. Contact Donna VanderSchaaf or the church office with any questions.

Office News

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

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS & DEADLINES: We will be closed on Friday, November 10, in observation of Veterans Day. In observation of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will close on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 22, 23 & 24. The advertising deadline for bulletins and email that weekend will be Monday, November 15 at noon.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Deadline for the December Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on November 15 (early). Please send all newsletter submissions, comments and / or questions to this email address: newsletter@humcbv.com

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 am. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!

Family News

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Geri Wooldridge, for the loss of her husband, Jim Wooldridge on 10/9/23

New Member



Patty O'Bannon became a member on October 1, in the Traditional Service. Patty moved to this area from Iowa and Colorado Springs in 1984. After moving to Bella Vista, she became the Administrator at the Village House and stayed there for over 12 years. Patty has always had a special place in her heart for taking care of the elderly. She also worked with a non-profit called Mother to Mother; a program to encourage young mothers. She is now retired and her hobbies include cross-stitch, sewing and crafting. Patty is the proud mother of our Nursery Staff, Laurie Pearson... but she's equally proud of all her children. Her oldest daughter, Cynthia Larson, also lives in the area. She has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Finance Corner

LET'S TALK!

Fall is in the air! We can feel the CHANGE in the weather and see the leaves falling. Highlands Church is experiencing our own CHANGE as we move forward to become a Global Methodist Church. We are winding up our tithe and financial obligations to the UMC by November 30, 2023. The month of December will be our first month as a Global Methodist Church.

Andy O'Neil has been our faithful Finance Chairman in recent years. He is stepping down now since he and his wife, Joyce, will be moving to Springfield, Missouri, to be nearer to their family. We are pleased to announce that Jim Kuhn will be assuming the leadership role beginning in November. Finance members at large are Kathy Wine and Kirk Burgess. Ex-officio members are: Allen Lovell (Ad Council), Jeff Hale (SPRC), Bud Henkel (Trustees), Donna Hagaman (Financial Secretary), Russ Miller (Annual Conference Rep) and Pastor Robert Cloninger.

In November, we normally have our stewardship campaign to fund our Operating Budget for the upcoming year. We have delayed this year due to the transition to the new denomination. Watch the Highlands weekly emails for further stewardship and budgeting plans.

We are currently experiencing greatly reduced income since August. Whatever the reason for holding back your giving, please consider making December a record income month.

Dru Matthews, Church Treasurer

Veterans Day Photos

The church office is updating Veteran's pictures that will be used on the wall for the Veterans Day Celebration the weekend of November 11/12. If you haven't turned in a picture to the office, or if you would like to update your picture, please include your name, branch and the date of service and turn in by **November 6**. Your photos will be scanned in and returned to you.

The Veterans Picture Wall will be available to view in the Gathering Area beginning Wednesday, November 8 through November 12. Make plans to join us on November 11 & 12, the weekend of Veterans Day; we will be serving cake and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after Worship Services to honor our Vets.

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1- Fellowship Meeting – Snack Packs	2	3	4- Communion – All Saints Weekend
5- Communion – Daylight Savings Ends – All Saints Weekend	6- Prayer Training	7- Prayer Group Begins	8- Stickers Meeting	9	10- Office Closed	11- Veterans Day Celebration
12- Veterans Day Celebration	13- HMW Meeting – Prayer Training	14- Compassionate Disciples Meeting – Finance Mtg – Admin Council Mtg	15	16- Hummers Meeting – Library Meeting	17	18
19- 3rd Sunday Cookies	20	21	22- Office Closed	23- Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day	24- Office Closed	25- Scrapbooking & Card Making
26	27- Methodism Is Not a Denomination class	28	29	30		

Join Us For Communion

DURING BOTH SERVICES
NOVEMBER 4 & 5



Snack Packs—Mission Ministry



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED TO HELP
WITH SNACK PACKS**



Our next packing day is November 1, 10:00 am — 11:30 am, at Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. 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!

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

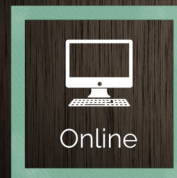
Operating Budget Report - September 30, 2023

	YTD Budget	Sept Actual	YTD Actual
Income	384,579	31,045	369,430
Expenses	384,579	40,464	368,939
Net	0	(9,419)	491

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

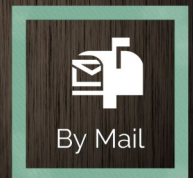
to Highlands Church



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In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... humcbv.com/give



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