

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 1



2024 will be an awesome year at Highlands Church!

It's time to look toward the future of Highlands Church. We renewed our membership vows during worship on December 3, our first Sunday as a Global Methodist congregation. We were reminded to gather and worship God with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Now we must get to the 'business' of living this wonderful life as part of a Christian community and worshipping God together.

Pastor Robert is focusing on our core values and beliefs in his sermons and in the weekday Bible studies he will be teaching. Watch for announcements about these study groups and sign up. We grow more together than alone.

Daily prayer is an important part of our faith journey. Be sure that praying for Highlands Church to make a difference in our community is on your prayer list. You may join Pastor Robert and others in prayer-time every Tuesday at 11:15 am in the John classroom.

Another part of our commitment to Highlands Church is to "pledge our gifts." Watch for your stewardship mailing in January. It will include a pledge card, description of the operating budget, and service opportunities booklet.

Lastly, we renewed our vow to service and witness. Highlands Church is committed to serving and making a difference in our community, telling others about God and his goodness to us all.

Take a breath! Here comes 2024!

Let's make a New Year's Resolution together:

- I will pray daily for our church**
- I will attend worship as often as possible**
- I will support the church with my financial gifts**
- I will volunteer and serve wherever needed**
- I will tell others about our church and invite them to worship and serve with us**

With all of us renewing our membership vows in this way, there is no limit as to what God can do in our midst.

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

It is officially 2024, and I wanted to start the year by sharing a few thoughts.

1. It has been a wild year, but I cannot tell you all enough, as my brothers and sisters, how proud I am of you. You are a loyal and faithful communion of God's children and I love you and appreciate the work that you do.
2. Take some rest now while you can because we have a lot to do in the year to come!
3. Think about what you want to accomplish spiritually in 2024. For example, in my spiritual life I want to accomplish two things (at least). The first thing I want to accomplish is narrowing down my list of theologians and Christian writers that I read. I want to narrow things down to get a full grasp of the work and thought patterns of a few individuals as opposed to snippets of information from thousands. To accomplish this, I am going to spend the year reading to find those theologians and thinkers I will put much more focus on over the next few decades. The other thing I am going to work on is writing out my Biblical commentary and thoughts in one Bible and document/journal to really engrain the Bible on my heart. Hopefully after several years I will basically have my own working commentary on all sixty-six books of the Bible.
4. As I have mentioned, one of my goals as pastor is to teach a lot more this upcoming year, so please keep your eyes and ears open for information on those classes I plan on leading. Please recommend topics for classes as well. As of now, I have the big three-month study on Revelation and the "end times" starting on January 9. The second big teaching I am preparing for is a class on the Tabernacle/Temples. Again, I would love to have some new ideas from you all.
5. I have taken stock and come to the realization that I need to do the process differently when it comes to receiving new members. To be fair to both the congregation and the potential members, as well as upholding a true Christian process of membership, I have decided that potential members will need to do three things:
 1. They need to have a thorough understanding of our mission and beliefs as a church. Therefore, potential members need to take my class on methodism, or make appointments for private instruction with me.
 2. The second part of understanding who Highlands is and what we do is being instructed on the membership vows of the church before they are made.
 3. There will be an expected period of attendance that indicates prospective members will be committed to the worship life of the church. I feel these to be fair requirements. From the time I became a pastor I remember being taught (aloud and by expectation) that one of the main goals was to "get new members." Over the years I have realized that that goal is simply not a good goal. We are not a corporation. Numbers are not our bottom line. Discipleship is our prerogative. Remember that our goal since Christ gave the great commission was to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We want people to join Highlands Church that are committed to Christ and who want to work on being His disciple alongside us.



Blessings,

Robert

Pastor Robert's office hours are:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

2023 Mission Update

Thank you church family for volunteering your time in 2023 at Care and Share Thrift Store in Gravette, at Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event in Gravette, at Samaritan Community Center in Rogers packing snack packs for food insecure students in the Gravette School District, and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. You have made a positive impact on families in our area. In 2023, the Mission Ministry Committee donated a total of \$25,594.55 to the following organizations:

Snack Packs for Gravette Schools	\$12,594.55 (FYI snack packs cost \$3 ea)
Bright Futures Gravette	\$6,000.00
Samaritan's Feet	\$5,000.00 (200 shoes @\$25 pair)
NWA Food Bank	\$2,000.00

In 2024, please continue to donate to Power of One. Simply fold any size bill lengthwise and place in the offering plate. Those bills are directed to Missions.

Thank you to the Car Show team and everyone who helped make that a successful fund raiser. We raised \$16,370.96 from the Car Show in 2023 to be distributed in 2024.

Thank you for your continued support of the Gravette School District Food Pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

2024 Mission Opportunities Save the Upcoming Dates

Snack Packs - First Wednesday of each month, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, we pack Snack Packs for food insecure Gravette School District students at Samaritan Community Center, 2910 South 8th Street in Rogers. Come and volunteer and learn more about the Samaritan Community Center and the services they provide.

Care & Share Thrift Store, 103 Huntington St. SE, Gravette

Feb 6-10
Apr 9 - 13
May 28 – Jun 1
Jul 16 – 20
Sep 10 – 14
Nov 5 - 9

Care & Share Trailer schedule, Highlands Church parking lot

Jan 8
Apr 8
Jul 8
Oct 14

Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event in Gravette – July date to be announced

Car Show – September date to be announced

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign – December dates to be announced

Thank you for your support of Missions Ministry.

Blessings,

Sara Sherman

Missions Ministry Committee Chair



HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

January HMM Meeting

Please join us on Saturday, January 6, at 7:45 am for our next Highlands Methodist Men meeting. We have moved our monthly meeting to the first Saturday of the month starting in January. This is a chance to meet with your Christian brothers and better understand what we are planning for 2024.

Amanda Kelly, the coordinator from Bright Futures for Gravette Schools, will be our guest speaker. It will give all of us a better understanding of what their organization does for the children; a question that some of you were wondering about at our past meeting. It is also the number one charity we chose to support in 2023 and 2024. Please sign up by December 31 at the Info Station in the Gathering Area so we are prepared to serve breakfast for all those attending.

Let's show our support for Amanda and our men's group by having a LARGE turnout.

Garry Benedict and Wade Stewart



GriefShare is a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. The next 13 week session begins on Thursday, January 18 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in the Luke classroom. Free workbooks are available while supplies last. Class size is limited. The GriefShare Leader will be Nancy Noyes. Pick up a flyer at the Information Station. To sign up, contact the church office.

Safety & Security Meeting

Happy New Year Safety & Security Committee! There will be a meeting on Thursday, January 18, at 10:00 am, in the John classroom, to go over our Procedure Books (so please bring them with you). Additionally, we will go over the 2024 Roster and make sure all is correct with your information. We have a NEW Committee Chair this year! Dave Benson will be the new Committee Leader and he would like you to be at the meeting and meet with you all.

There are a few openings to help out on the committee. If you can help the Security Committee, please reach out to either Dave Benson or Sue LaHood.

Pizza and brownies will be served after the meeting. For questions or more information, please call Sue at 479-855-0937. Make sure you RSVP to Sue LaHood if you will be coming to the meeting at the phone number provided or email suelahood@currently.com.

The End Times

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

WITH PASTOR ROBERT

12 Weeks
Begins January 9 at 1:00 pm



HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

January HMW Meeting

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women on Monday, January 8 at 9:30 am. Pastor Robert will be giving us an update on what it means to now be a Global Methodist and answer any questions you might have on the subject. Breakfast will be served, fellowship will be had, and we'll have fun, too! Hope to see you next year at our next meeting! Sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area.

HMW Book Club

The Highlands Methodist Women Book Club will start on Monday, January 15, at 10:30 am in the Matthew classroom. Our book for January is *The Story Keeper (A Carolina Heirlooms Novel)* by Lisa Wingate. It's about a successful New York editor, Jen Gibbs, who is at the top of her game with her new position at Vida House Publishing until a mysterious manuscript from an old slush pile appears on her desk. You can find a copy of the book available to checkout in the HMW section of the church Library. Coffee and a sweet treat will be provided as we discuss this book. For more information or questions, please call Sue LaHood, 479-855-0937.

A Note from the President of HMW

Dear Highlands Church Family:

It is with great joy and gratitude that I share the incredible achievements and impact we have made together as a community this past year. Serving as the President of Highlands Methodist Women has been both an honor and a joy, and I am thrilled to report on the remarkable results we, as a church family, achieved this year.

Through your extraordinary generosity, we selected 11 women and children charities in Northwest Arkansas to support, ranging from scholarship programs to shelters for those in need. I am delighted to announce that each of these charities has received a generous donation of \$2,000, totaling an impressive \$22,000.

In addition to these impactful contributions, we extended our support through our local outreach program to the Bella Vista Animal Shelter, Bella Vista Garden Club, Bella Vista Historical Society, and Dress for Success. Each of these organizations has received a donation of \$250, adding up to a total of \$1,000.

Our commitment to the Gravette School District has been unwavering. We have played a vital role in supporting the Bright Futures Food Pantry, ensuring that it is stocked with a variety of nutritious foods. Moreover, our financial contributions, including a monthly donation of \$100 and a significant contribution of \$2,122, have gone towards providing perishable items and other necessities for the pantry. Through our "Change for Change" initiative, we collected funds to help alleviate the district's lunch debt, culminating in a substantial donation of \$5,000. In total, we have dedicated \$7,122 to addressing food insecurities among the students of the Gravette School District this year.

I am thrilled to announce that our collective efforts have resulted in a grand total of \$30,122 being distributed to the various charities we support. This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without your unwavering support and commitment to making Northwest Arkansas a better place for everyone. I am also delighted to share the wonderful news that our HMW Christmas Tea, held on Monday, December 18, was a heartwarming success. The Tea provided a perfect setting for 31 of our incredible ladies to come together, enjoy each other's company, and reflect on the year's successes. The shared laughter and delightful treats added to the festive atmosphere, making it a memorable occasion for everyone present.

On behalf of Highlands Methodist Women, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication, generosity, and love. Your contributions have made a lasting impact on the lives of those in need, and I am truly grateful for the privilege of serving alongside such a compassionate and caring community.

With warm regards, Jean Galloway, President, Highlands Methodist Women



Office News

Amey & Lori: office@hgmcbv.com
Newsletter: newsletter@hgmcbv.com

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: We will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday. In Observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will be closed on Monday, January 15.

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

New Member

Mary Leigh Poole became a member on December 10 in the Traditional service. Mary Leigh and her husband, Rayford, moved to this area from Mississippi in 2020. Before moving here, Mary Leigh was a biology & chemistry professor and Rayford was a mail carrier. They are both now retired. Mary Leigh's hobbies include ceramics, needle work, traveling, and gardening. The Pooles have 2 children and 4 grand-children.



Thank You Notes

Highlands Church, You continue to bless Bright Futures with your generous donation which allow us to meet the basic needs of so many Gravette students. Thank you for being a supporter of Bright Futures and our mission. You all are changing lives! Many Thanks, Amanda Kelly, Bright Futures Gravette

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generosity as it will go a long way toward helping us meet the needs for good, nutritious food in our community. Your gift to the NWA Food Bank makes a real difference in the lives of children, adults, and seniors in our own backyard. Gratefully, Kent Eikenberry, President, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank

Highlands Church, Thank you for blessing so many students on Angel Tree this year. Without your support, many of them would not have had a Christmas. Your congregation continues to bless the Gravette students even seven years after Bright Futures began. We are so grateful for each and every one of you. Merry Christmas, Bright Futures Gravette

To all of you who shopped for Angels and made monetary donations to go toward the Angel Tree, thank you, thank you, thank you! Highlands Church has a generous congregation who chose to bless 42 Angels. We were also able to give a monetary donation of \$518.13. All of these gifts were donated to Bright Futures of Gravette. Thank you for putting some smiles on children's faces this Christmas. Sue Benson, Angel Tree Coordinator

On behalf of the Fellowship Team, we would like to thank everyone who attended our annual Christmas Luncheon. I would also like to thank the Fellowship Team for their hard work and dedication. Also, thank you to the food-runners and ticket-takers who volunteered their time to help during the event. It was all greatly appreciated. Linda Uttley, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

How to say thank you? We couldn't have had the successful Cookie Walk that we did (just over \$10,000) without the help of so many wonderful church people.

Bakers: such a blessing to not run out of cookies.

HMM: (men) who helped with set up, take down, put out and take down our signs.

Crafts: so many of you made such wonderful wreaths, baskets, trees, etc... and helped with displaying and lots more behind the scenes.

Bake shop: cinnamon rolls, lemon bars, brownies, coffee, hot chocolate was enjoyed by all.

Sweet shop: oh such delicious goodies you made.

Soups: wow, again I say. WOW!

Kitchen Helpers: did a fantastic job keeping everything flowing and cleaning up afterward.

Publicity: did a great job taking photos of our event and coordinating with the newspaper.

If we left anyone out, please accept our apology.

Pat Lehman and Wilhelmina Munson, Co-Chairs of the 34th Annual Cookie Walk



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1– Flex 'N Stretch Begins – Office Closed	2– Prayer Group every Tuesday	3– Fellowship Meeting – Snack Packs	4	5	6– HMM Meeting – Communion
7– Communion	8– HMW Meeting – Care & Share Trailer	9– Revelation Bible Study Begins – Compassionate Disciples Meeting	10– Stitches Meeting	11– Trustees Meeting	12	13
14	15– HMW Book Club – Office Closed	16– Admin Council Meeting	17– Kitchen Cleaning	18– Safety & Security Meeting – Library Meeting – GriefShare Begins	19	20
21	22	23	24– Stitches Meeting	25	26	27– Scrapbooking & Card Making
28	29	30	31			

Update from the Gravette School Food Pantry



The food pantry began one year ago and continues to bless so many families in the Gravette School District. In the first 6 months we were averaging serving 79 families a month. Now we are averaging 100 families a month. In the last year we have served 1,166 families which included 2,752 children.

We served 75 Holiday meals, in addition to regular food, on November 16. On December 19, we served 125 Holiday meals.

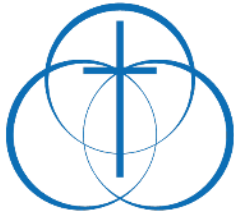
Bright Futures of Gravette



EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM

SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 10:00 AM



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global 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, 2023

	YTD Budget	Nov Actual	YTD Actual
Income	470,041	37,150	444,011
Expenses	470,041	39,787	449,179
Net	0	(2,637)	(5,167)

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give

THE POWER OF
ONE

Drop a folded dollar into the offering
plate to support our Mission Ministry



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