

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 2



Stewardship Weekend & Finance News

The New Year 2024 is moving forward quickly! New year's resolutions were made—some are exciting and making life bigger and better, and others failed and are already a memory. Now the reality of daily living is our focus—the weather, the news, family health and welfare, finances.

Our Finance Committee has created a proposed budget for 2024 which takes into consideration all the items that changed as a result of our recent transition to the GMC denomination and the changes in operating costs. The total budget is \$492,150 which is 4.02% lower than last year's budget.

A new item introduced in the 2024 Budget is the streaming online of the traditional worship service. This will be a great new way to experience our traditional service for those unable to attend. You may have noticed that the "streaming booth" is already located in the Sanctuary. (A big THANK YOU to Rick and Linda Uttley for its construction.) Equipment will be appearing shortly, so take notice as you enter/exit the Sanctuary. More information will be shared as we progress.

It's time to look at our stewardship/tithes for this year that will support this Operating Budget. You will receive your Stewardship packet by US mail shortly. Please take time to read the material and complete your financial commitment card and your service record for 2024. Stewardship Weekend will be February 10 and 11.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, believed in the importance of personal holiness and sought to live a disciplined and devout life. He and his brother Charles established a set of 22 questions to ask themselves on a daily basis to help them live a disciplined life. Pastor Robert will be talking about these questions in his sermons, and three of these questions are highlighted in his stewardship letter you will be receiving in your stewardship packet.

Let us thank God for our wonderful church as we look forward to an awesome 2024.

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

In 2024 I am focusing on the concept and goal of “going deeper” in the Christian faith. Methodism is and has always been a deep movement. It has always been about people pursuing holiness. The times in history when various Methodist groups have strayed from that understanding have been times of trouble. To further explore the idea of “going deeper” we look to modern theologians. Many of those modern theologians have commented that as individuals and churches, we have very little control over the width of our ministry (numbers). We cannot make the Spirit move in whatever direction we choose when we choose. What we do have some control over is how deeply we pursue a relationship with Christ through holy living. In other words: all we can do is the best we can do in following Christ, it is then up to the providence of God to establish how far that faithful walk spreads. I want to clarify something important. We must remember we are not going deeper or seeking to live in a holier way to go to heaven. We do not earn our salvation. Instead, we live lives of holiness seeking the things of Christ because we have been saved by Him. To further simplify: the fruit of our salvation is good works; good works are not our salvation.



This year I will be mentioning the 22 questions of John Wesley from the “Holy Club.” I encourage you to look up the Holy Club and study the time Wesley lived in. The terms “Holy Club” and “Methodist” were both terms of mockery. People mocked Wesley and his friends for their pursuit of holiness. The 22 questions out of this group help us to summarize the Scriptures and apply them. John Wesley famously said, “let me be a man of one book” referring to the Bible, but he was also practical so he published things like the 22 questions so that people could put the faith of the Bible into practice more easily. These 22 questions break down all areas of life and are perfect to pray through and reflect upon every day.

To give you some examples, Wesley starts out his list by asking the question “am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?” So here first he tackles speech, and he then follows it up with another powerful question “am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?” Just within a question or two we learn how to line up our speech so that it is more pleasing to Jesus. Wesley then moves on to ask the question of not just “am I reading the Bible,” but “did I give the Bible a chance to speak to me and did it live in me today?” These examples have just been the tip of the iceberg. So, again, please research the 22 questions and implement them in your daily walk to improve your daily walk. I will be writing more and providing more resources on them throughout 2024.

I believe that God is always seeking to save, restore, and heal. I also think that though the world may seem evil in unimaginable ways right now, our witness to Christ and His Gospel is of the utmost importance. We can make change happen, but we must engage. Pray for a new great awakening and live as though you were the host of the new great awakening.

Blessings,

Pastor Robert

Pastor Robert's office hours are MONDAY - THURSDAY

9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Mission Opportunities



WE PACK SNACK PACKS Come Join Us!

**First Wednesday of Every Month
Samaritan Community Center
February 7 • 10:00 am - 11:30 am**

NO SIGNUPS REQUIRED!



Adult Sunday School



We are taking the week off on January 28, but will begin meeting again every Sunday at 8:30 am beginning February 4 in the Matthew classroom. We are currently looking into the Scriptures concerning Christ the Mediator - His Person. Please consider joining us in this new year! Study is led by Brad Krug. Questions, call him at 719-210-6142.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

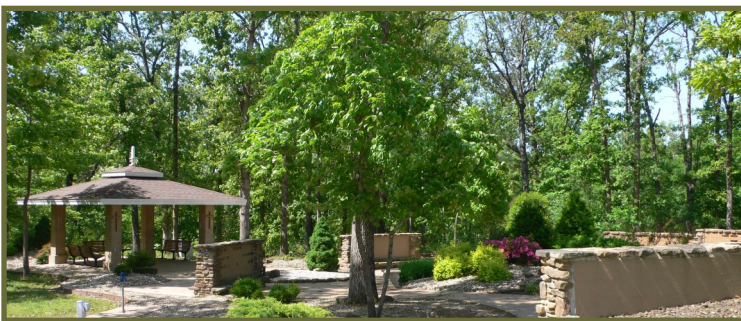
February HMM Meeting

The Highland Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, February 3, at 7:45 am. This month's speaker will be Bella Vista Mayor, John Flynn, who will provide updates and information on city activities.

Please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area so we are prepared to serve breakfast for all those attending.

Ash Wednesday Service

Highlands Church will begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with a special worship service at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. On this first day of Lent, Pastor Robert will apply ashes to the foreheads of those in attendance, which symbolize penance, mourning and mortality. Leaving the service wearing these ashes becomes a public expression of one's faith and penance. This short service starts the Lenten journey culminating in the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. We hope you will make plans to attend.



Highlands Columbarium and 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.

February HMW Meeting

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women for our next offsite meeting on Monday, February 12, at 9:00 am (arrival time). The meeting begins at 9:30 am. We will be taking breakfast and going to the new Fire Department's Training Center, 7 Carlisle Drive, Bella Vista. We will share breakfast with the Firefighters, enjoy a message from Chief Sims, and then take a tour of the new facility. We are asking all women to help prepare a hot dish, sweet breads, or fruit for our shared breakfast. If you want to bring food and have not yet signed up, contact Sue Benson. If you plan to attend this special meeting, please sign up at the Information Station. There is plenty of room for parking but if you'd like to carpool, please indicate that when you sign up. This should be a real treat for all of us involved! All Women of Highlands Church are encouraged to attend!

Muffins for Missions

Muffins for Missions will be back for your pre-Valentine's Day celebration on Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11. What a great snack for all the Valentines in your life! Wouldn't a muffin be the perfect addition to their coffee, tea or cocoa on Saturday evening or Sunday morning? Come to church for the service and then see what our bakers whip up on this very sweet pre-Valentine's Day weekend.



We are looking for a few good bakers... We need volunteers to help with baking the Valentines Muffins for Missions. Please contact Billie Hall to sign up to bake a dozen or two by emailing her at hallwaldijuli@yahoo.com or call/text (843)-475-5448 by noon on Friday, February 9. A signup sheet is at the Information Station if you'd like to sign up when you are at the church.

HMW Book Club

The storm is over and the snow is gone, so venture out and join us for the Highlands Methodist Women's Book Club on Monday, February 19, at 10:30 am in the Mark Classroom as we discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side and understood more than anyone would guess.

We will also try and discuss the *Story Keeper* that we missed last month. Coffee and treats will be offered. All women of Highlands and their friends are welcome. For questions or more information, contact Sue LaHood at suelahood@currently.com or call (479) 855-0937.

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, February 19 in observation of George Washington's Birthday (President's Day).

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



FEBRUARY 14

Thank You Note

A note of thanks to our Highlands Church family...

In late November, I underwent significant surgery to correct some heart issues. Since then, I've received many cards, letters, and emails expressing concerns and prayers for surgical success. I certainly don't want to forget the beautiful prayer shawl. It was a comfort every day, especially at Rogers Rehabilitation Hospital. Thank you so very much, Lynn Collis

Join the Stitchers

The Stitchers group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the John classroom. Often we knit and/or crochet to produce prayer shawls and prayer squares which are then presented to those in need. You are also welcome to bring your own projects and join us for fellowship. For more information, contact the church office.

**JOIN
THE
STITCHERS**



EVERY 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY
1:00-3:00 PM • JOHN CLASSROOM



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3- HMM Meeting - Communion
4- Communion	5	6- Prayer Group every Tuesday	7- Fellowship Meeting - Snack Packs	8	9	10
11	12- HMW Meeting	13- Compassionate Disciples Meeting	14- Ash Wed Service - Stitches Meeting	15- Library Meeting	16	17
18	19- Office Closed - HMW Book Club	20- Admin Council Meeting	21- Kitchen Cleaning	22	23	24- Scrapbooking & Card Making
25	26	27	28- Stitches Meeting	29		

Save the Dates 2024

DATE/S	HMW EVENTS
Feb 10/11	Muffins for Missions
May 11/12	Casseroles for a Year
June 15/16	Muffins for Missions
April 26/27	Flea & Boutique
Oct 6	Crock Pot Sunday
Oct 26/27	Muffins for Missions
Dec 7	Cookie Walk

DATE/S	FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
March 31	Easter Continental Breakfast
June 23	Church Picnic
Nov 9/10	Veterans Day
Dec 15	Christmas Luncheon

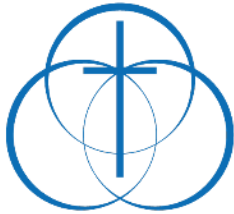
DATE/S	WORSHIP EVENTS
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 28	Maundy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday
May 19	Pentecost Sunday
Oct 5/6	World Communion
Nov 2/3	All Saints Weekend
Dec 1	Advent Begins
Dec 14/15	Christmas Cantata
Dec 24	Christmas Eve



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 - December 31, 2023

	YTD Budget	Dec Actual	YTD Actual
Income	512,783	64,147	508,158
Expenses	512,783	51,330	500,509
Net	0	12,817	7,650

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



Like & Follow Us
facebook.com/hgmcbv
instagram.com/hgmcbv

