

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | MARCH 2024 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 3

HE IS NOT HERE  
**HE IS RISEN**  
AS HE SAID

## Holy Week & Easter Worship Events

**Palm Sunday Weekend Worship:** Celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem by joining us for worship at our Celebration Service on Saturday, March 23 at 5:30 pm or Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 am for our Traditional Service.

**With Every Breath He Suffered: A Medical Look at the Last Day of Jesus:** A teaching session by Pastor Robert will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The presentation will explain the physical suffering and death of Jesus. This is not a worship service and you do not need to feel obligated to attend. The material will be graphic, but necessary, to explain what was suffered.

**Maundy Thursday:** On March 28 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary, the Chancel Choir will be presenting a special performance on Maundy Thursday entitled "Colors of Grace." The Cantata will portray the final days of Jesus Christ through the lessons he taught his disciples in Grace.

**Good Friday:** On March 29 at 6:00 pm, we will have a Stations of the Cross Service. This service is a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of Himself to us. The Stations of the Cross will be held in the Sanctuary and does not require walking.

**Easter Morning Continental Breakfast** will be held before Sunday service on Easter morning. Join us from 9:00—10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall on March 31. Signups to bring muffins, pastries, sweet bread, or fruit will begin the weekend of March 9/10.

**A Flower for the Cross:** We ask each person to bring a live flower (no silk) on Easter morning, March 31. Before the morning services, we will be adorning the small cross near the Sanctuary entrance with flowers.

**Easter Weekend Services:** The Entire Church will be celebrating Easter together on Sunday morning, March 31, at 10:00 am; therefore, there will be no Saturday Service March 30.



# Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

I read an excellent article about Lent recently that I have recently shared. It was from a pastor discussing a much different view of Lent than we ordinarily take. He thought Lent was an excellent way to build discipline but wanted to see Lent become yearlong. The idea this pastor had makes a lot of sense to me and resonated with recent thoughts. The general idea is if we are doing things that we need to give up in order to be closer to the Lord, then we should keep on those disciplines year-round. At the same time, if we are not doing certain things that we should be doing to draw closer to God, then we should be doing them year-round as well. What got me thinking in this direction was the recent complicated diet plan that I have been put on. When I looked for things to sacrifice for Lent, I did most of the suggested ones. Keeping this diet does not make me a perfect person. Instead, it makes my point. Lent isn't a diet. Lent isn't self-improvement. Lent is a time of solemn reflection to put us on the path of changing our lives to live as better disciples.



Putting it another way, we shouldn't do things that distract us from God. We shouldn't eat the foods that keep our minds dulled all the time, or indulge in too much alcohol or other substances. Nor should we involve ourselves in an overabundance of entertainment, which keeps us dulled and not pursuing the things of the Kingdom. I am by no means against Lent. I am against Lent being the only time of year that people seriously try to be better Christians. The grace of God is constantly at work by the Spirit in us; therefore, let us constantly be at work with those blessings to be made new in the image of Christ.

Let us continue going through Lent with zeal and passion so that we will experience the resurrection anew when Easter arrives. As Christ has shown us, only in sacrifice can we find hope, only in sacrifice can we see all things made new, and only in sacrifice can we find new life. Our higher calling will always be singing in our hearts; let that voice rise and seek to move everything in life that muffles its song. God is our great help and sure defense, and he will see to it that where we are willing, we are made able. Keep a holy Lent in and out of season and communion with Christ every day as if it were Maundy Thursday. Keep the sorrow of sin every day as if it was Good Friday. And keep the joy of the resurrection of Easter in your heart every day.

Blessings,

Pastor Robert

***Pastor Robert's office hours are:***

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**

**9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE**

**1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**

# Food Drive for Spring Break

We continue to collect food and non-perishables to assist food insecure families in the Gravette School District; any and all donations are welcomed!

However, special items are needed during Spring Break (March 18-22). The list below is a sample of things most requested. Place your donated items in the marked bins located in both entries to the church by end of day on Wednesday, March 6 for delivery to the Gravette School Food Pantry in time for Spring Break to begin. We are blessed to be a blessing and your generosity and support are always appreciated! This project is being co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team & HMW.

- Individual packages of chips, crackers, goldfish, etc.
- Individual packages of fruit juice
- Fruit snacks and/or fruit roll ups
- Ramen noodles and/or mac and cheese
- Pop tarts and/or granola bars



## Join Us For Communion DURING BOTH SERVICES MARCH 2 & 3



## Adult Sunday School



Join us for Bible Study in the Matthew classroom at 8:30 am to look at Christ's work as our priest, and enjoy lively discussion and relevant questions. We'd love to see you on Sundays! Questions? Call Brad Krug at 719-210-6124.



# HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

## March HMM Meeting

The March meeting for the Highlands Methodist Men (HMM) will be held on Saturday, March 2, at 7:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Chris Koerner, Director of Community Operations at Samaritan Community Center. Please sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area to help us better prepare to serve breakfast to all those who attend.

## Roadside Cleanup

HMM (Highlands Methodist Men) will sponsor a roadside cleanup morning on March 12, starting at 7:45 am at the church. We will be providing donuts, coffee, and all needed equipment and supplies. Please sign up using the signup sheet at the Information Station. Everyone is invited to help. Contact Wade Stewart with any questions.

# Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and is organized by our Highlands Methodist Men (HMM). All donors will receive a FREE Adventure Pass and T-shirt! Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule an appointment time, read our Weekly Update email for the appointment link or contact our coordinator, Nat Collis at 479-876-1963.

Before the blood drive, please take a few steps to ensure that things go smoothly on the day of our blood drive.

1. Drink plenty of water or juice the night and morning before you donate.
2. Eat a well-balanced meal around 2-3 hours before giving.
3. Bring your photo ID - Photo ID is required for all donors.
4. Expedite your check-in process by visiting [cbco.org](http://cbco.org) the morning of the blood drive and click on the 'Donor QuickPass' to get your paperwork done before arrival.

## Give Blood. Save Lives. HAVE FUN!

FREE OZARKS ADVENTURE PASS and T-shirt!  
Over \$150 in FREE admissions. Visit all 4 attractions!



COMMUNITY  
BLOOD  
CENTER  
OF THE OZARKS  
While supplies last.

Full details: [www.cbco.org/adventure](http://www.cbco.org/adventure)

# BLOOD DRIVE

# MAR 13

# 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



## March HMW Meeting

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women for our meeting on Monday, March 11, at 9:00 am (arrival time) at the Fire Department's Training Center, 7 Carlisle Drive, Bella Vista. The meeting begins at 9:30 am. 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 plan to attend this special meeting, please sign up at the Information Station and let us know what food item you will bring. If you signed up last month, please bring whatever you had planned. This should be a real treat for all of us involved! All Women of Highlands Church are encouraged to attend!

## HMW Book Club

Highlands Methodist Women (HMW) Book Club will be on Monday, March 18, at 10:30 am in the Mark Classroom. Our book will be *Confessions of a Crappy Christian*, By Blake Guichet. With honesty and vulnerability, Blake Guichet, host of the popular podcast *Confessions of a Crappy Christian*, helps us embrace the truth that we can't do it all perfectly and gives us the wisdom, guidance, and hope to move from "crappy" Christian into a freer and fuller walk with Christ. All women of Highlands Church and their friends are invited. For more information or questions please call Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937.

## Snack Packs - Mission Ministry

We are packing Snack Packs the first Wednesday of every month. Our next packing day is March 6, 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. If you are interested, please join us! No signups required. Contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339 if you have any questions.



Photos of volunteers packing Snack Packs and a photo of items received by the children (taken Sept 2023).

# Office News

Amey & Lori: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)  
Newsletter: [newsletter@hgmcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@hgmcbv.com)

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Deadline for the April Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon) on March 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and / or questions to this email address: [newsletter@hgmcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@hgmcbv.com)

# Family News

## Notes of Condolences to the Family of:

Mike & Chris Maginness, for the loss of Mike's brother, Steve Maginness, on January 29.

Beth Williams, for the loss of her brother, Bob Rich, on February 1.



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

Set your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening.

# Thank You Note

Highlands Church you are "Souper" Super! You donated 155 cans of soup for the Gravette School District Pantry on Super Bowl Weekend. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the GSD Pantry.



# New Members



Jeff and Vicky August (pictured left) became members in the Traditional Service. Jeff moved to Bella Vista from Boulder, CO in 1993, and Vicky from Paris, AR in 1989. They both retired in 2023; Jeff from JB Hunt as a Driver Recruiter and Vicky from Walmart & Sassy Baby. Jeff likes to golf and Vicky likes to read and craft. They have 5 children (one in heaven) and 4 grandchildren.

Bob and Sherry Rudasill (pictured right) became members of the Traditional service. Bob and Sherry moved to Bella Vista from Southern California in 2012 and have attended Highlands Church since 2016. Sherry loves to read and do crafts; painting and sewing primarily, and has a small Etsy business. Bob spent nearly 10 years in the Air Force and did 2 tours in Vietnam. He was a paint and wallpaper contractor for several years after leaving the service. They enjoyed volunteering for many causes until health issues got in the way. They have 3 successful adult children and 3 grandchildren.



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2– HMM Mtg – Communion
3– Communion	4	5– Prayer Group every Tuesday	6– Fellowship Mtg – Snack Packs	7	8	9
10– Daylight Saving Begins	11– HMW Mtg	12– Road Cleanup – Compassionate Disciples Mtg	13– Blood Drive – Stitches Mtg	14– Trustees Mtg	15	16
17	18– HMW Book Club	19– Admin Council Mtg	20– Kitchen Cleaning	21– Library Mtg	22	23– Scrapbooking & Card Making
24– Holy Week Begins	25	26	27– With Every Breath He Suffered (teaching session) – Stitches Mtg	28– Maundy Thursday Service	29– Good Friday Service – Office Closed	30– No Celebration Service – Holy Saturday
31– Easter Worship Service – Continental Breakfast – 5th Sunday Loan Reduction						



## 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. On Sunday, March 31, 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!

## Flea & Boutique – Date Change

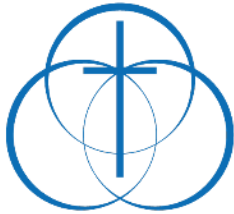
The Flea & Boutique was initially set for April but there has been a date change. The 29th Annual Highlands Flea and Boutique will be held on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm AND Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 8:00 am - Noon.

This annual spring-time event is hosted by the Highlands Methodist Women (HMW). All proceeds are donated to local women's and children's charities. Items for sale will include: furniture, household items, jewelry, collectables, tools, lawn & garden, and much more. Please save your items to donate them to this worthwhile cause and make plans to volunteer the week of June 3-8. Contact Sue Benson if you have any questions.

# 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 - January 31, 2024

	YTD Budget	Jan Actual	YTD Actual
Income	42,668	27,065	27,065
Expenses	42,668	36,504	36,504
Net	0	(9,439)	(9,439)

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... [hgmcbv.com/give](http://hgmcbv.com/give)

THE POWER OF  
**ONE**

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



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