

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 10



## Highlands Church Trunk or Treat

**Friday, October 31 • 5:30–7:00 pm • Front Parking Lot**

It's almost time for our annual **Trunk or Treat** at Highlands Church! This is one of our favorite community events of the year... a chance to open our parking lot to families, kids in costume, and neighbors looking for a safe and fun place to celebrate Halloween together. We'll have cars lined up, trunks decorated, and plenty of candy to go around.

### How you can be part of the fun:

- ⇒ **Host a trunk.** Decorate your car as much (or as little) as you'd like. It doesn't have to be elaborate; just fun and full of treats! Please plan to bring your own candy to hand out. We'll have some extra on hand, but with Friday night traffic expected to be heavy, we don't want to run short. A signup sheet is available at the Information Station in the Gathering Area.
- ⇒ **Donate candy.** Next time you're shopping, grab an extra bag (or two!) and drop it in the collection bin outside the Children's Worship Center. Every bag helps keep the fun going for all the kids who come through.
- ⇒ **Volunteer on event day.** Even if you don't want to decorate a trunk, we'd love your help welcoming families, passing out candy, and greeting our guests. Volunteers should arrive by 5:00 pm to get in place before the crowd comes.
- ⇒ **Spread the word.** Pick up flyers at the Information Station to share with your neighbors, coworkers, and friends. If you're on Facebook, like and share the event so even more families know they're invited.

Trunk or Treat is a wonderful opportunity to bless children and connect with our community in a lighthearted way. If you have questions, or if you'd like to help with planning, please contact **Billie Hall**. She would be glad to have an extra helper or two!



# Under-Shepherd Udderings

In my first newsletter article last month, I shared a few of my goals. One was to have every member keep the spiritual discipline of daily bible reading and prayer. I asked you to sign up for the daily devotional email entitled “Wake-up Call.” I’m grateful to see more and more of you signing up for the daily Wake-Up Call devotional from Rev. J.D. Walt, former chaplain of Asbury Theological Seminary, in Wilmore, Kentucky (my alma mater).



What are some of my other goals? To learn all of your names and how you became part of Highlands Church. To that end, I’ve asked you to join Karen, Jacob, and me for lunch after worship so we can share our journey with the Lord that led us to the Highlands Church. If you haven’t yet been able to attend a “Meat and Greet,” then please sign up soon and enjoy fellowship with one another.



Another one of my goals is to cultivate a culture in the church whose values are expressed on our road sign: *A Caring Community of Faith and Fellowship*. So, during my first sermon series (10 sermons) on the gospel, I wanted to lay a foundation to preach biblically, relationally, powerfully, and joyfully as we focus on the gospel that unites us. I’ve started a new sermon series called “1 Anothers.” My goal is to create and sustain a culture in our church that is biblically-based and Christ-

centered. We are not just a community, but a “caring” community, and I’ve already seen that to be true. I’ve met with Linda Virgili, who leads our Compassionate Care Team (formerly known as Compassionate Disciples). Linda is doing amazing work and so are all involved in caring for one another at the Highlands Church. If you have it on your heart to be a part of the Compassionate Care Team, then please reach out to the church office. We’ll get you connected.

Lastly, my heart is broken as I write this because my mind is grieved due to the assassination of Charlie Kirk, who was murdered simply because he exercised his right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The martyrdom of Charlie Kirk has shaken our nation. My hope is that it is a turning point for our nation to return to the Lord and put away our idols. I also hope it will cause all believers to be bold in our witness for Christ and not fear what man can do, but like Charlie, remain faithful in telling the truth in love and loving people like Jesus. Continue to be in prayer for our church and our nation.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Rick

# Outreach Ministry Opportunities

Wednesday, October 1, we will pack Snack Packs at the Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers, from 10:00–11:30 am. We pack weekend Snack Packs for food-insecure students in the Gravette School District.

Highlands Church's week to volunteer at Care and Share in Gravette is October 28 – November 1. This is our final week to work at Care and Share in 2025. The Care and Share motto is "People Helping People." Sign up online ([hgmcbbv.com](http://hgmcbbv.com)) or contact Connie Kiefer, our coordinator.

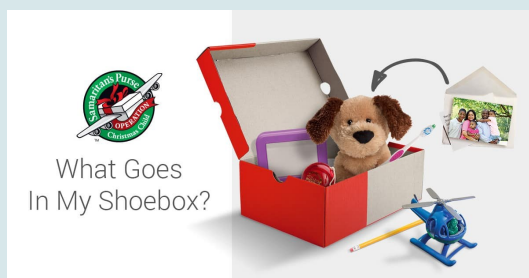
We have a new mission opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the world with Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox ministry! The Gospel is shared with the children before receiving the shoebox gift, which contains a copy of *The Greatest Gift*, a gospel booklet about the gift of salvation being in Jesus Christ alone. This booklet is available in more than 118 languages, with 10 additional translations in progress. After receiving these gifts, children are able to participate in the follow-up 12-week Bible-based discipleship program called *The Greatest Journey*. For more information about this ministry, visit: [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanaspurse.org/occ).

We can provide small gifts to fill a shoebox (12 × 7 × 4.38") for children ages 2–14. A donation fee of \$10 per box is critical to cover shipping costs. Please make your check to Highlands Church with OCC in the memo line or place it in an envelope with your name and a notation of OCC. Our goal this first year is to pack 50 shoeboxes (provided by Samaritan's Purse). Highlands Church is very generous, and I know we can easily exceed this goal! **Deadline to bring items for packing is October 26.** The list of items needed is below, and school supplies are still on sale, so it's an excellent time to purchase these supplies. If you purchase an item that requires batteries (i.e., flashlight or toy), please include batteries. We have a collection bin near the nursery in the Gathering Area and will have a packing party in late October or early November. Filled boxes will be delivered mid-November to the collection location for this area, which is BV Baptist Church. As you are in Walmart, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, etc., please look for small items to include in the shoebox. Look around your home... you may have donation items either new or gently used. There is a Gift Suggestion list at the Information Station as well as some informational literature. I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. If you have any questions, please email me at [sarasherman@att.net](mailto:sarasherman@att.net).

Blessings,  
Sara Sherman  
Outreach Chair

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW A FULL LIST OF SHOE BOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR BOYS & GIRLS](#)

(OR VISIT THE INFO STATION TO PICK UP A FLYER)



- ⇒ A "WOW" ITEM
- ⇒ PERSONAL CARE ITEMS
- ⇒ SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- ⇒ CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
- ⇒ GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- ⇒ TOYS



# "Discipleship and Donuts"

## Highlands Youth Group Discipleship Experience

*"So now we can **REJOICE** in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." Romans 5:11*

All middle and high school students are invited to join us **Sundays at 9:00 AM** in the Youth Room for Donuts & Discipleship! It's a relaxed, welcoming space where students can grow in their faith, connect with friends, and enjoy some delicious donuts while they're at it.

Have questions? Contact Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115.



## Children's Center



*"Start the children off the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6*

**Kids Discipleship Class** (ages 5–10) will begin meeting in the Children's Center on Sundays from 10:30–11:00 AM, immediately following the Children's Sermon. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be no class due to Combined Worship—children will remain with their parents in the Sanctuary.

The **Nursery** (ages 0–4) is open during the **10:00 AM Traditional Service**.

**We are currently looking to hire a Nursery Attendant.** Until that position is filled, and even after, we also need 3 or 4 volunteers to help care for our youngest children, ages 0-4, on Sunday mornings. With enough volunteers, each person would only serve about once a month. If you're interested in the paid nursery position or in serving as a volunteer, please contact the church office or Pastor Rick.

## NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED

we're hiring!

spread the news!

- ✓ Sunday mornings and special events
- ✓ Must pass Safe Sanctuary requirements
- ✓ Pay based on experience



## THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



### October Highlanders Meeting

This month's meeting of the "Highlanders" Men's group will be on Tuesday, October 7 at 8:45 am. This will be a business meeting where we will discuss and finalize the recommendations for possible changes to the Highlanders from the group that reviewed the recent survey of Highlands men. This will be an important meeting for the group as we discuss possible changes to meeting times, frequency, content and other items. All men of Highlands are automatically members of the Highlanders Men's group and everyone's input is welcomed. There will be a signup sheet on the Information Station and we ask that you please sign up so we know how much breakfast to prepare.



## HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

### October HMW Meeting

Happy Fall Ya'll. Please join the Highlands Methodist Women on Monday, October 13, at 9:30 am for an informative meeting with representatives from Shoebox Ministries, Don & Rebecca Allen. Samaritan's Purse, the parent company, sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A list of things to send and NOT to send will be available at the HMW meeting and at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. Please sign up to attend the meeting before Sunday, October 12 at noon, so we know how many will attend and can be prepared for breakfast. ALL women of Highlands Church are always invited to attend! We will have food, a great program, a devotion, and loads of fun! See you then!

## Highlands Church 8th Annual Charity Car Show

With the one-week postponement of this year's car show due to weather, we are unable to give an update on the results in time to make it into the October newsletter.

However, whatever the results may be, we know nothing would have ever been possible without you, our Highlands Church family, and we would like to offer our sincere thanks to you for your continued support of this event. Not just for your monetary support through ticket sales and purchases, or your physical support with over 40 volunteers helping put on the show, but for everyone's willingness to pitch in and help when asked and to give so generously of your time, money, and selves - THANK YOU!



Highlands Car Show Committee / Outreach Ministry

# Columbarium & 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 (spouse and children). 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 the church office at 479-855-2277 so we can put you in touch with a member of the Columbarium Committee.



**CARE & SHARE TRAILER**  
**OCTOBER 13**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**



**HIGHLANDS  
CHURCH  
PARKING LOT**

**PLEASE DONATE CLEAN  
& GENTLY USED ITEMS**

(no mattresses or printers)

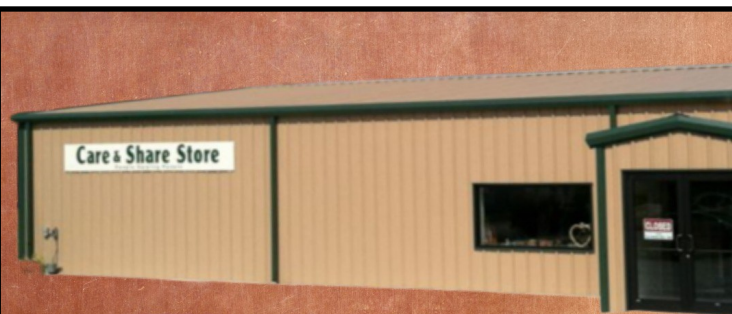
**HMW**  
HIGHLANDS METHODIST  
WOMEN

**MUFFINS FOR  
MISSIONS**

We are looking for a few good bakers...  
We need a few volunteers to help with baking  
the Halloween Muffins for Missions.  
Contact Billie Hall for more information or  
to sign up to bake a dozen or two.



**OCTOBER 25 & 26**  
**AFTER SERVICE**  
**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**Care & Share Thrift Store**  
**Volunteers Needed**  
**October 28 - Nov 1**

**Sign Ups Coming Soon!**

**WE PACK SNACK PACKS**

First Wednesday of Every Month  
October 1 • 10am-11:30am  
Samaritan Community Center

**No Sign Ups  
Required!**

**Questions?**  
**Contact Sara Sherman**



# October 2025

| Sun                                                                               | Mon                                                                     | Tue                                                               | Wed                                             | Thu             | Fri                | Sat                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                   |                                                                         |                                                                   | 1– Snack Packs<br>– Fellowship<br>Committee Mtg | 2               | 3                  | 4– No Celebration<br>Service      |
| 5– Combined<br>Worship at 10am                                                    | 6                                                                       | 7– Highlanders<br>Meeting<br>– Compassionate<br>Disciples Meeting | 8– Stitches                                     | 9               | 10                 | 11                                |
| 12                                                                                | 13– HMW Meeting<br>– Office Closed<br>– Care & Share<br>Trailer on site | 14                                                                | 15                                              | 16– Library Mtg | 17                 | 18                                |
| 19– 3rd Sunday<br>Cookies                                                         | 20                                                                      | 21– Church<br>Council Meeting<br>– Kitchen Cleanup                | 22– Stitches                                    | 23              | 24                 | 25– Scrapbooking &<br>Card Making |
| 26– Operation<br>Shoebox - deadline<br>for items<br>– HMW Muffins for<br>Missions | 27                                                                      | 28– Care & Share<br>Volunteers Begin                              | 29                                              | 30              | 31– Trunk or Treat |                                   |



**Start each day with a fresh focus on the love of Jesus in the Word of God.**

Wake-Up Call provides a daily encouragement to shake off the slumber of our busy lives and turn our eyes toward Jesus. Each morning our community gathers around a Scripture, a reflection, a prayer, and a few short questions, inviting us to reorient our lives around the love of Jesus who transforms our hearts, homes, churches, and cities. *by Seedbed Ministries*

### Prayer of Consecration

Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Jesus, I belong to you.

I lift up my heart to you.

I set my mind on you.

I fix my eyes on you.

I offer my body to you as a living sacrifice.

Jesus, we belong to you.

Praying in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Visit the website: [www.seedbed.com/wakeupcall](http://www.seedbed.com/wakeupcall). Type your first and last name, email address, and then click on "SUBSCRIBE TODAY". The Wake-Up Call devotional will immediately be in your inbox. Wake-up each day to the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bill Williams,  
Lay Leader



# HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

5:30pm Saturday Celebration Worship  
10:00am Sunday Traditional Worship

First Sunday Combined Worship @10am  
(No Saturday Service)

## Office News

Amey Burkett: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The deadline to submit content for the November Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on October 20. Please send all submissions, comments, or questions to the church office at: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The church office will be closed on Monday, October 13 in observation of Columbus Day.

## Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Senior Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELTON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

TBD, *Nursery Attendant*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

## Operating Budget Report - August 31, 2025

|          | YTD<br>Budget | Aug<br>Actual | YTD<br>Actual |
|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income   | 292,002       | 45,753        | 306,194       |
| Expenses | 292,002       | 38,491        | 286,688       |
| Net      | 0             | 7,262         | 19,507        |

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

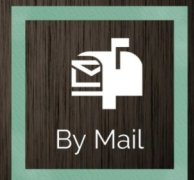
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

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



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[youtube.com/@hgmcbv](https://youtube.com/@hgmcbv)



Highlands Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, AR 72715, (479) 855-2277, [www.hgmcbv.com](http://www.hgmcbv.com)