

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 2



Let's PAY IT OFF!

We are so close. Have you ever been “almost there” while driving on a long trip, but just wanted to drive a little further so you would be home? Highlands Church is almost there. We are almost debt-free. The journey started in 2010. Our original loan was for \$1,400,000. The building debt, as of the end of January, is less than \$76,000. The Lord has provided for Highlands Church, so we give Him all the praise and glory. Thank you for your generous and faithful giving.

The Church Council, the Board of Trustees, and the Finance Committee believe we can pay the remaining balance of our mortgage by Easter. During the season of Lent, we are asking for financial sacrifices above and beyond regular giving so that the loan is retired. We are asking the members of Highlands Church to make one-time gifts during Lent so that we can pay the debt off a little early. We will continue to make our monthly mortgage payment (\$2,981.30) from our Operating Fund until the debt is retired. Then, we will pay the same monthly amount into a “Roof Fund” in anticipation of replacing our roof in the future.

Some may be able to give a small gift, while some may be able to give an extra-large gift. It's not equal giving, but equal sacrifice that shows our faith. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord would inspire you to give. Then, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7) You may email Dru Matthews, our Business Manager, if you have any questions or need to make arrangements in giving your special gift to retire our debt. Once again, thank you all for your generosity and sacrifice! Glory to God!

With Faith Believing that with God, All Things Are Possible

Pastor Rick Sitton

Finance Committee Chair, Kirk Burgess

Business Manager, Dru Matthews

Under-Shepherd Udderings

I'm amazed how time flies. Tick-tock. So, we must entrust our time in His hands.

“Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” (Psalm 62:8)

During the season of Lent, a traditional period of 40 days for spiritual examination, the church usually focuses on the life of Christ, culminating with the cross and resurrection. I wanted to share the Lenten season with a church-wide study on Wednesdays at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are calling it “Soup and Study.” It's only 4 Wednesdays (February 25, March 4, 11, 18).



Come share a light dinner together (Soup) and a short time of bible study focused on the cross and His gift of salvation from sin. We will begin the Lenten Season with a traditional Ash Wednesday service of “Ashes and Communion” on Wednesday, February 18 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. Please sign up for the “Soup and Study” by emailing Amey in the church office or signing up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. Please let us know you are coming so we know how much soup to stir up.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Rick

MAKE PLANS TO SPEND THE 2026 LENTEN SEASON WITH HIGHLANDS CHURCH

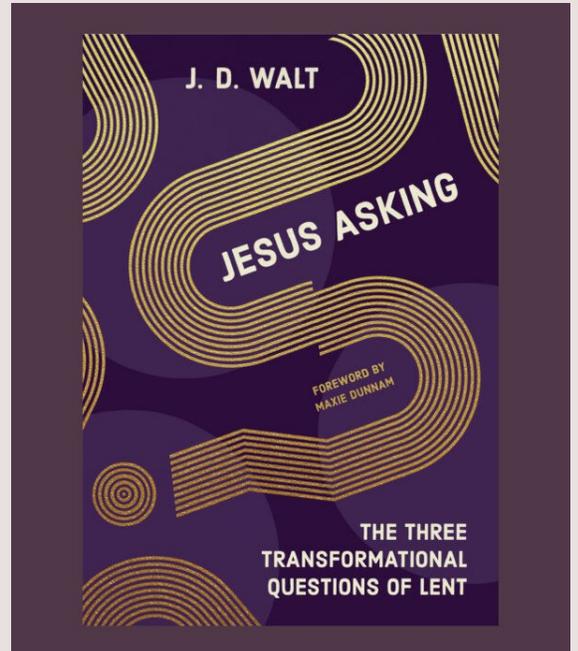
- **February 18** *Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm*
- **Feb 25 - Mar 18** *Soup and Study, Wednesdays at 5pm*
 - **March 29** *Palm Sunday Weekend Worship (regular times)*
 - **April 2** *Maundy Thursday Service at 6pm*
 - **April 3** *Good Friday Service at 6pm*
 - **April 5** *Easter Continental Breakfast 9am*
 - **April 5** *Easter Worship (Combined) Sunday at 10am*

Lenten Resource - "Jesus Asking"

During the season of Lent, J.D. Walt invites us into a deeper daily meeting with Jesus through a 40-day journey called Jesus Asking. This study explores the many questions Jesus asked throughout the Gospels and encourages us to slow down, reflect, and listen more closely as we walk toward the cross.

Jesus Asking is designed for personal reflection or small group study and is a meaningful companion for the Lenten season. Books are available to order online or through the church office... [Click Here for details at Seedbed](#) or sign up at the Info Station if you'd like to order through the church. Books are \$17 each.

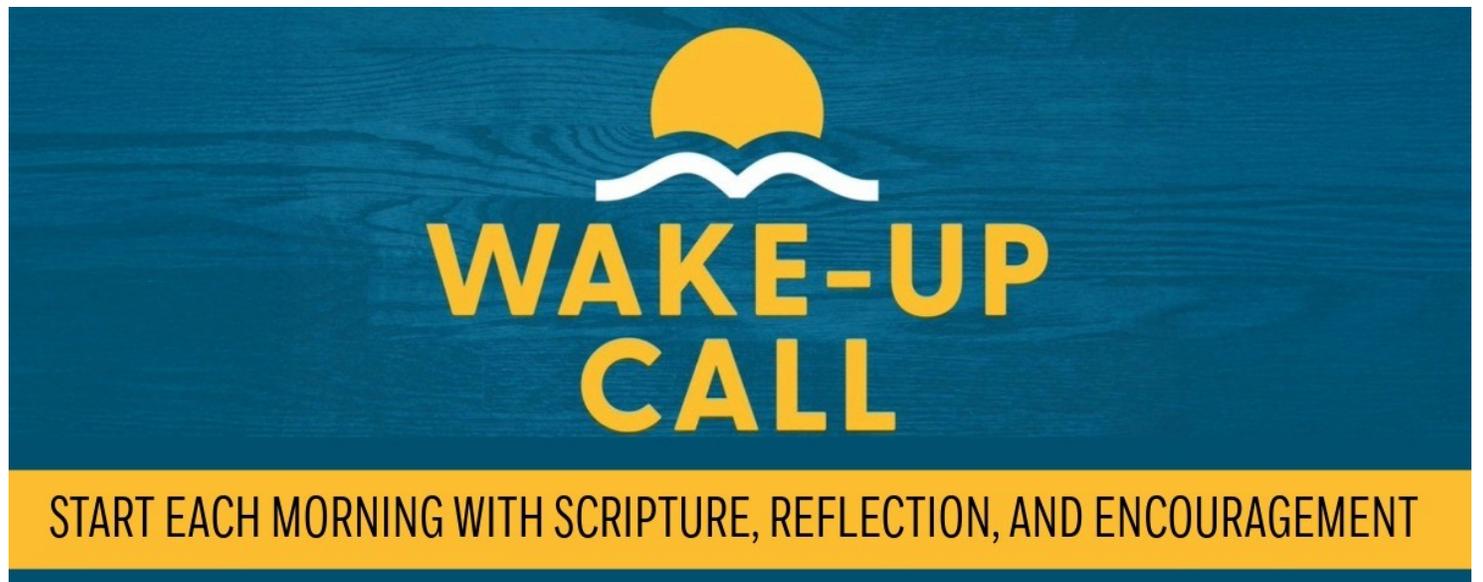
Website: my.seedbed.com/product/jesus-asking/



The Wake Up Call - Daily Email Devotional

Looking for a meaningful way to start your day? The Wake-Up Call is a free daily devotional delivered by email from Seedbed Ministries. It offers encouragement to shake off the slumber of our busy lives and turn our hearts and attention toward Jesus through Scripture, reflection, and prayer.

[Sign up](#) and start receiving The Wake-Up Call in your inbox. Website: seedbed.com/wakeupcall/ Want to preview? [Preview](#) a few sample devotionals before committing. If you have any questions, contact Wanda Krug or the church office.



Library News—Open House Invite!

All are welcome to visit our **Church Library Open House**

When: Sunday, February 1, 2026

Time: 11:15 AM–12:15 PM (after Sunday worship)

Where: Visit our three library locations

- Luke Room – Reference materials
- Library Annex – Children’s books, paperbacks, non-fiction books, DVDs, and CDs
- Main Library Office – Christian fiction and non-Christian fiction books

Refreshments will be served in the Library Annex.

Library Committee



Adult Discipleship Classes



8:30 AM

*Mark
Discipleship*



9:00 AM

*Matthew
Discipleship*

Join Us Sundays Before Worship

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS

We will be packing Snack Packs for the children of Gravette Schools on Wednesday, February 4, 10 am - 11:30 am. If you are interested, please join us at the Samaritan Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. No signups required. For more details, contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339.



Care & Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of Feb 24—Feb 28, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Online signups have begun, or contact the church office for assistance. For details, contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer.





THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



February Highlanders Meeting

The Highlander's Men's group will be meeting in February on Tuesday, February 3 at **8:45 AM**.

Along with the always enjoyable Fellowship, breakfast, and a meaningful devotional, the always interesting Brother Jim Benfer will be giving us information on his ministry and previous mission trips to Mexico, as well as his upcoming mission trip there.

Given the universal interest in Brother Jim's ministry, this will be an open meeting for both men and women, however, we do ask that everyone please sign up using the sheet in the Gathering Area so we know how much food to prepare.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

February HMW Meeting

Please join the Highland Methodist Women for our 'Valentine's Thank You Tea' on **Monday, February 9, at 11:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall. If you have already signed up and paid, no action is needed right now. Please sign up and pay by Sunday, February 1, as we need the final head count and payment by that day. Sign-ups will remain open on a first come first reserved with payment, which can be given to any HMW board member.

As a thank you to all of you who support HMW and work so hard throughout the year to make our programs and events successful, HMW will be covering \$15.00 of the \$30 cost for this tea. Thank you all for your flexibility, understanding, and for everything you do. We truly appreciate you! **If you have signed up DON'T FORGET TO COME!**

HMW Book Club

The Highland Methodist Book Club will be reading and discussing **The Book Club for Troublesome Women**, a novel by Marie Bostwick on Monday, February 16, at 10:00 AM in the Mark Classroom. The Book Club for Troublesome Women is a humorous, thought provoking, and nostalgic romp through one pivotal and tumultuous American year--as well as an ode to self-discovery persistence, and the power of sisterhood. No need to sign up just come and have fun! For any and all questions please call Sue LaHood, 479-855-0937. Hope to see you then!

HMW Muffins for Missions

The Highlands Methodist Women pray to put their faith, hope, and love in action to benefit women and children's needs in our community. Therefore, we find ways to use our skills to help raise funds to support our mission. We invite you to enjoy homemade muffins before Saturday and after Sunday services. On **Saturday and Sunday, February 14/15**, please plan to stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall and donate to Muffins for Missions (cupcakes, too!). Yes, you may take them to go! Remember, they are perfect to share with your neighbors and friends along with an invitation to church. All donations go to help women and children in the Northwest Arkansas area.

Wear your Valentine's attire to church and stop by our photo station for a fun picture! Come and help us celebrate all the love of Valentine's Day while supporting a great cause.

We are looking for a few good bakers. We need a few volunteers to help with baking for Muffins for Missions. Please sign up at the Information Station to bake a dozen or two and RSVP by Sunday, February 1 at noon. For more information, contact Billie Hall at 843-475-5448.

Highlands Youth Discipleship

“YES, I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. THOSE WHO REMAIN IN ME, AND I IN THEM, WILL PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT. FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” JOHN 15: 5

Highlands Youth Discipleship is a welcoming space for Middle School and High School students (ages 11+) to grow in faith, build relationships, and spend time together in meaningful conversation.

The group meets on Sunday mornings from 9:00–9:45 AM in the Student Activity Room, located in the lower level of the church.

With new ideas and upcoming activities ahead, this is a great time for students to get connected. The Games and Grub event has been canceled for February. For more information, 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 will start a new curriculum in February called "Two or More". These lessons will begin in Genesis and continue on into the New Testament. We are continuing to dedicate our weekly offering to Brother Jim Benfer's mission work in Mexico. Our weekly offering will be supporting "Bibles and Books" for these children and schools. We have a tower to put the quarters into, and the kids are excited to see it grow taller each week. All children ages 5-10 are welcome. We meet from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM, following the Children's Sermon. We do not meet on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (479) 619-8654.

Our Nursery is open for ages 0-4 in the Children's Center on Sundays during the 10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service and from 9:00–10:00 AM for parents attending a discipleship class.

In God's Love,

Kitty Knight

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1- Combined Worship at 10AM - 1st Sunday Cookies - Library Open House	2	3- Highlanders Meeting - Compassionate Disciples Meeting	4- Snack Packs	5	6	7
8	9- HMW Mtg: 'Thank You' Tea	10	11- Stickers	12	13	14- HMW Muffins for Missions
15- HMW Muffins for Missions	16- Office Closed - HMW Book Club	17- Kitchen Cleanup	18- Ash Wed Service 6pm	19	20	21
22- All Church Event (ACE)	23	24- Care & Share Volunteers Begins	25- Soup and Study for Lent - Stickers	26- Care Group Leaders Meeting	27	28

Save the Dates 2026

DATE/S	HMW EVENTS
Feb 14/15	Muffins for Missions
April 24/25	Flea & Boutique
May 10	Casseroles for a Year Drawing
June 7	Potluck & Hymns
June 20/21	Muffins for Missions
Sept 12/13	Muffins for Missions
Nov 1	Crockpot Sunday

DATE/S	FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
April 5	Easter Continental Breakfast
Nov 7/8	Veterans Day Celebration
Dec 13	Christmas Luncheon

DATE/S	WORSHIP EVENTS
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	Maundy Thursday
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Sunday
May 24	Pentecost Sunday
Nov 1	All Saints Sunday
Nov 29	Advent Begins
Dec 12/13	Christmas Cantata
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Svc.



DATE/S	OUTREACH EVENTS
Dec 5	Cookie Walk
Sept 19	Car Show



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

CHURCH OFFICE, Amey Burkett: office@hgmcbv.com

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed Monday, February 16, in observation of President's Day.

Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Senior Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

CELIA CHERNOTA, *Nursery Attendant*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*

MONICA REDMON, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - December 31, 2025

	YTD Budget	Dec Actual	YTD Actual
Income	438,000	43,251	457,259
Expenses	438,000	41,182	434,527
Net	0	2,070	22,732

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

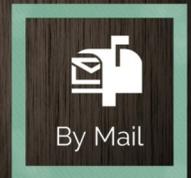
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give



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