

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JANUARY 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 1



## Celebration Worship Service Information

After having conversations with some who attend the Celebration Service, we are making the following changes which will go into effect starting January 1, 2025:

- **Combined Communion Sunday Service:** Starting January 5, Communion Sunday services will combine both the Celebration and Traditional services at **10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary** on the first Sunday of every month.
- **Celebration Service:** For the remaining Saturdays of the month, the Celebration service will begin at **4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**, offering safer driving conditions.
- **No Additional Changes:** All other service arrangements remain the same.

Since the changes take effect beginning January 1, we will hold Saturday's service at our regular time of 5:30pm on December 28.

Please contact the church office with any questions you may have.



# A Message from John Matthews

Dear Highlands Church,

Believe it or not, GOD IS IN CHARGE.

As you can see, I am the guest writer for this newsletter space since we are currently without a pastor. Several members in leadership roles have stepped up and are coping with the situation along with our great staff. During this transition time, I urge you to pray for our SPRC and the Finance Committee. Pray that their work will result in God's will for our church. As I said in my sermon just before Christmas, if you are handed lemons, make lemonade.



As you might know if you attended Christmas Eve service, we have a new interim pastor. Rev. Jim Benfer has taken over the duties as our new pastor for the foreseeable future. Brother Jim is retired, married to Cindy, has four children and four grandchildren. If you heard him preach, you know that we are indeed fortunate to have this wonderful interim pastor. More information about his presence at the church will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Many changes will be taking place at the church in the very near future. Our Celebrations Worship will combine with the Traditional Worship for each month's communion service, beginning January 5, 2025. Plainly said, the first Sunday of every month, Communion Sunday, both congregations will worship together at 10:00 am. For the rest of the month, the Celebrations Worship will be at 4:00 pm, for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and sometimes 5th Sundays of each month. Notice the time change: 4:00 pm. That will give those attenders an opportunity to get home before dark and eat their supper at a decent time. Should you need clarification, please contact the office. Remember, this begins in January, 2025.

Another change on the horizon will be the planned retirement of our own Lori Heald. After more than 10 years as our office administrator, she is anxious to do more travelling with her husband and take some well-deserved naps! Are there grandchildren on the horizon??? She has been a valued staff member and will be missed! There will be more details coming so stay tuned.

Even though change is coming to Highlands, know that Jesus doesn't change. His love endures everything, and He gives us His full grace, mercy and compassion, each and every second. Keep Highlands in your prayers.

"To everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven."

Yes, God is in charge!

John Matthews, Director of Music and Worship

P.S. I hope you like the new robes. The choir loves them!!

# Flex 'N Stretch

The next 10-week session of Flex 'N Stretch starts Monday, January 6 at Highlands Church. We meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am-9am in the Peter classroom. Our Mission is to challenge, encourage and promote better health through physical exercise. You can attend 1 lesson, all 30 lessons, or even somewhere in-between... wha ever works for you!

## EXERCISE PROGRAM



Highlands Church  
Bella Vista, AR

Flex 'N Stretch is a wellness program of activities which provides a higher quality of life thru responsible movement that is pain free and possible for all participants. This well- organized exercise program teaches all participants how to do the exercises easily and safely, including seniors. Benefits include increased range of motion, coordination, strength, balance, and agility; all of which improve the quality of life and lead to longer independent living. Cost is \$45.00 for 30 Sessions or \$30.00 for 15 Sessions. Come, join the fun and experience the benefits! No signups required. For more details, contact Donna Williams.

# Traditional Worship Sundays at 10 am **LIVE** Streaming **ON** facebook



The Traditional Worship service is streaming LIVE on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:00. Find us on Facebook by visiting [facebook.com/hgmcbv](https://facebook.com/hgmcbv) or searching 'hgmcbv' and make sure you FOLLOW our page to get notifications from Highlands Church. Alternatively, a direct link to our Facebook page can be found on the homepage of our website at [www.hgmcbv.com](http://www.hgmcbv.com).

## Mission Opportunity - Food Pantry



We continue to collect and deliver NON-PERISHABLE FOOD & TOILETRY ITEMS to the Gravette School Food Pantry to assist food insecure families in the Gravette School District; any and all donations are welcomed!

Place your donated items in the marked bins located in all entrances to the church for delivery to the Gravette School Food Pantry. 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 & Highlands Methodist Women (HMW).

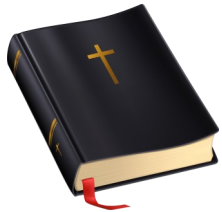
NO Egg Cartons are needed for the Food Pantry at this time. We will let you know when they request more.



# Children's Worship Center

Children are welcome to visit our Nursery (0-4 years) and Kids Worship (5-11 years) on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 Traditional worship service. For more information, contact Laurie Pearson at 479-256-4452 (Nursery), Fran Lovell at 571-255-0701 or Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115 (Kids Worship).

We'd love to grow this team and if you feel a nudge in this direction, please contact Wanda Krug at [wlepillez@gmail.com](mailto:wlepillez@gmail.com). We can use helpers, as well as teachers.



## Adult Sunday School

This class is on holiday break until January 5. We'd love to see you when we resume in 2025! Questions? Call Brad Krug at 719-210-6124.

## 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. The weekend of December 28/29, 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!

## Power of One

Wondering what the folded lengthwise dollars in the offering plate are for? They are going to a special mission fund called The Power of One. Those 'ones' add up and do marvelous things to support local needs, like helping children in need in the Gravette School District by providing financial support to Bright Futures, Snack Packs, and the Samaritan's Feet ministry.

THE POWER OF  
**ONE**

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

# HMW

## HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

# HMM

## HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

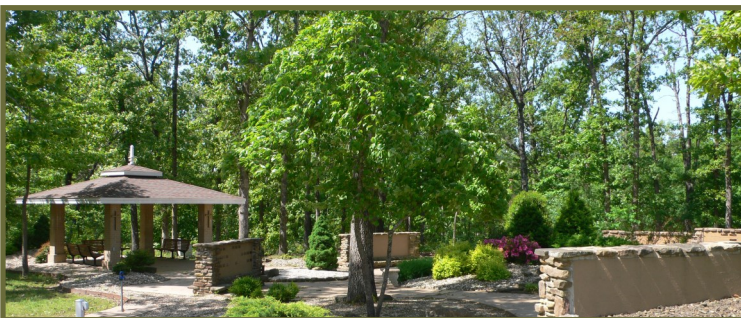
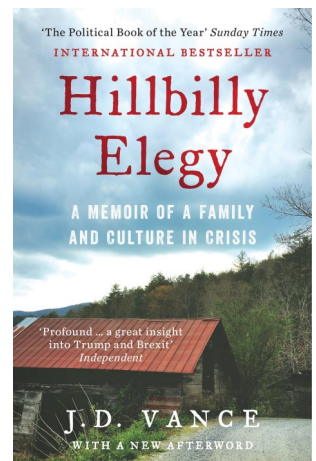
### HMW and HMM Joint January Meeting

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone! Please join the Highlands Methodist Women (HMW) and the Highlands Methodist Men (HMM) as we have a joint meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The men will be cooking our breakfast for this meeting. Please sign up by January 5 at the Information Station if you are going to attend so they will know how much to prepare for us. What a treat! The program will be on the Bella Vista Fireman Community Paramedic Program and will be informative and enlightening. Cheers to the start of another great year with fellowship, food, and devotion! See you then!

### HMW Book Club

The first HMW Book Club will be on Monday, January 27, 2025, the fourth Monday, at 10:30 am in the Mark classroom. We will be watching the film on Hillbilly Elegy, by JD Vance and will discuss the book after if we have time. Coffee, treats, and fun will be had. For any and all questions, please call Sue LaHood 479-855-0937.

Book Information: Hillbilly Elegy by JD Vance is a deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elegy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. look at the struggles of America's white working class.



### 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.

# Mission Ministry News

Thank you church family for volunteering your time at Care and Share Thrift Store, Samaritan's Feet Shoe Event in Gravette, and 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 2024 the Mission Ministry Committee donated a total of \$25,005.29 to the following organizations:

- ⇒ Snack Packs for Gravette Schools \$14,005.29 (FYI snack packs cost \$3 ea)
- ⇒ Bright Futures Gravette \$ 4,500.00
- ⇒ Samaritan's Feet \$ 5,000.00 (200 shoes @\$25 pair)
- ⇒ NWA Food Bank \$ 1,500.00

In 2025, 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 for your continued support of the Gravette School District Food Pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## 2025 Mission Opportunities Save the Upcoming Dates

### **Snack Packs**

We will pack snack packs February 5 , April 2, and May 7, 10a-11:30a, 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 and Share Thrift Store, 103 Huntington St. SE in Gravette**

January 7-11 is our week to volunteer. Please consider volunteering your time as that will be a really busy week for us and need extra help. They are reopening on January 7 after having been closed for two weeks for Christmas break.

Thank you for your support of Missions Ministry.

Blessings,  
Sara Sherman  
Missions Ministry Committee Chair

# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1– Office Closed – New Year’s Day – Fellowship Committee Mtg	2	3	4– No Celebration Service
5– Communion & Combined Worship at 10am	6– Flex ‘N Stretch Begins	7– Care & Share Volunteers Begin	8– Stitches	9– Trustees Meeting	10	11– NEW TIME: Celebration begins at 4pm
12	13– HMW & HMM Joint Meeting	14– Compassionate Disciples Meeting	15	16– Library Meeting	17	18
19– 3rd Sunday Cookies	20– Office Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr Day	21– Council Meeting – Kitchen Cleaning	22– Stitches	23	24	25– Scrapbooking & Card Making
26	27– HMW Book Club Meeting	28	29	30	31	



**Stitchers Wanted:** Everyone is welcome to join the Stitchers while they get together to stitch, crochet or knit, and enjoy some fellowship. Patterns (crochet or knit) are available for the Prayer Shawls and/or the Prayer Squares for any participant that would like to contribute to those ministries.

The Stitchers meet twice per month (September-May) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the John Classroom. They are seeking more participants so the group can continue to meet and fellowship together. If you are interested, please contact the group coordinator, Sandra Foster, at 580-471-12892 or sjfos1@gmail.com.

**Library News:** We have a shelf in the Narthex area, just outside the Library, that contains several 'FREE' paperback books for you to take home for your reading pleasure. You will enjoy popular authors like Baldacci, Coulter, Cussler and Connelly, just to name a few. Every few months, we will put out more free books so keep watch! Any books that don't find a home will be donated to Care & Share in Gravette.

Also, don't forget to browse through our many other books, DVD and CD selections in the main Library and Annex. Fall and winter is the perfect time to curl up with a good book or a fun movie. When you are done, please return them promptly so that others may enjoy them as well.

NOTE: You don't need to fill out a 'checkout' card for the paperbacks located in the Library Annex. When you are done reading them, just return them to the shelf from where you found them so others may enjoy... they are alphabetically filed by Author.

Thank you,  
Library Committee

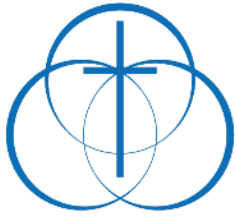




# EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM

SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 10:00 AM



## HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

### 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 February Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on January 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: [newsletter@hgmcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@hgmcbv.com)

**HOLIDAY:** The church office will be closed for holidays on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day, and on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

### Church Staff

JIM BENFER, *Interim 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*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

### Operating Budget Report - November 30, 2024

	YTD Budget	Nov Actual	YTD Actual
Income	461,179	35,808	418,380
Expenses	461,179	29,584	422,925
Net	0	6,223	(4,545)

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)



Like & Follow Us  
[facebook.com/hgmcbv](https://facebook.com/hgmcbv)  
[Instagram.com/hgmcbv](https://instagram.com/hgmcbv)

