

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 3



Planning a Legacy

Sunday, April 12 • 11:15 AM • Fellowship Hall

Planning ahead is one of the most caring things we can do for the people we love. Taking time now to think through important decisions can bring peace of mind and help ease the burden on family members in the future. This upcoming luncheon is simply an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and gather helpful information in a relaxed, supportive setting — there is no obligation or expectation attached.

On Sunday, April 12, immediately following the 10:00 am worship service, Highlands Church will host a special luncheon presentation, “Planning a Legacy,” offered by the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas.

This 90-minute event is designed to help individuals and families think through important decisions about wills, funeral and memorial planning, and end-of-life preparation... all from a Christian perspective.

This is not a budget appeal or capital campaign. Instead, it is an opportunity to learn practical information about estate planning, guardianship considerations, and ways to make thoughtful plans that reflect your faith and values. For those interested, the presentation will also explain options for charitable giving that can provide financial benefits while creating a lasting legacy for the ministries you care about.

Lunch will be provided at no cost, courtesy of the Foundation.

Sign-ups will be available at the Information Station beginning this weekend so we can plan appropriately for the meal. We hope you will mark your calendar now and plan to join us for this important and helpful event.

Under-Shepherd Udderings

Greetings Highlands Church Family,

If you didn't sign up for our Wednesday night study during Lent (March 4, 11, 18), we always have room for you, just like there's always "room at the cross for you." We eat soup/chili at about 5 pm, then dig in for a little study on "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado. Almost 50 people have signed up, but I'd love to have more join us as we focus on what Jesus did to win your heart.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rick



The Time to Pray is Now

Highlands Church is beginning a Prayer Ministry and we need the prayers of the church. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to lead this endeavor. Jesus is our model for prayer. As you pray, consider these needs...

- ◇ Pray for our pastor and his ministry, as well as his family.
- ◇ Pray for all the leaders of Highlands Church.
- ◇ Pray for all volunteers who work tirelessly every day.
- ◇ Pray for this season of Lent as we walk toward the cross together.
- ◇ Pray BIG for the debt retirement!
- ◇ Pray for healing of the sick; physical, psychological, and shut-ins.
- ◇ Pray for the lost that they may find Jesus.
- ◇ Pray for those who are on the 'Prayers of the People' list.
- ◇ Pray for our governments; local, state, and federal.
- ◇ Pray for worldwide peace.



There are many scriptures on prayer. I'll share just one.

The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16b KJV

Thank you each one for your willingness to pray. If you have an interest in participating in this ministry, please contact me at 210-602-0212.

Grace and peace to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bill Williams, Lay Leader

Walk to Emmaus

Important Records Update and Upcoming Lunch

If you have ever attended a Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo retreat, please help us bring our records up to date by adding your name, history, and current contact information on the signup sheets at the Information Station.

For those who have attended a weekend and for those who would like to attend a weekend, there will be a luncheon gathering following Sunday worship on March 15. Please sign up at the information desk to assure food for all. For more information, contact Larry Bassett at 405-202-7927.

Library News

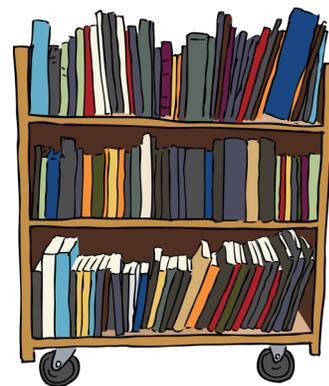
Our Open House on February 1 was a wonderful success! Thank you to everyone who stopped by to explore, visit, and learn more about the many resources available in our church library. We truly enjoyed seeing so many of you and sharing what's tucked inside those shelves.

One question that came up was whether the Library is only open on Sundays. Good news... it's not! The Library is available anytime during the week when the church office is open, as well as before and after services on Saturday and Sunday.

Beginning this year, we will be featuring New Arrivals each month, so be sure to stop in and see what's new. And don't forget, we also have jigsaw puzzles available in the Annex for those who enjoy a good challenge.

As always, we gratefully accept current book, CD, and DVD donations.

Library Committee



Thank You

Dear Church Members, Thanks a bunch for all the cards, prayers, and well wishes. In Christ's Name, Donna VanderSchaaf

Thank you, church family, for your prayers, calls and cards prior to and following the passing of my brother, Mike. Rose & Doug Fowler

Thank you to Highlands Church. I have news today that my cancer is gone. It was quite the journey but the Highlands Church prayer warriors got me through it. I thank you with all my heart. Elaine Crain

Highlands Church

FLEA & BOUTIQUE



APRIL 24 • 8 AM - 2 PM

APRIL 25 • 8 AM - NOON

proceeds support local women & children's charities

Highlanders Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and is organized by our Highlanders (Methodist Men). All donors will receive a FREE T-shirt! Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule an appointment time, see the Weekly Update email or contact our coordinator, Jerry Snyder, at 763-639-2597.

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

- Drink plenty of water or juice the night and morning before you donate.
- Eat a well-balanced meal around 2-3 hours before giving.
- Bring your photo ID - Photo ID is required for all donors.
- Expedite your check-in process by visiting cbc.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 \$195 in FREE admissions. Visit all 4 attractions!



COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER OF THE OZARKS
While supplies last.
Full details: www.cbc.org/adventure



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS



April 1

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Samaritan Community Center



Daylight Saving Time Starts
the clocks go forward one hour



THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



March Highlanders Meeting

Due to the elections on the 3rd the Highlander's Men's group will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, March 10 at 8:45 am.

Our guest speaker will be from Blue Crane LLC, and will be speaking about the development of, and plans for, the bicycle attraction they are currently building in Bella Vista.

Since the Blue Crane representative will be speaking on a topic of great interest to everyone, 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

March HMW Meeting

Join us for a heartwarming morning as we show our appreciation for Bella Vista's dedicated A Shift Firefighters and EMTs with a delicious homemade breakfast! This is a wonderful opportunity to give back, enjoy fellowship, and express our gratitude to those who serve and protect our community.

- Date: **Monday, March 9**
- Time: **9:00 AM** (to set up for 9:30 breakfast)
- Location: Bella Vista Fire Training Center

We encourage all women of the church to participate by bringing a breakfast dish of your choice—whether it's a casserole, pastries, fruit, or another favorite dish. Let's gather together, share a meal, and enjoy meaningful conversations with the first responders who work tirelessly to keep Bella Vista safe.

How to Participate:

- ⇒ Sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering area to let us know that you will be joining us and what dish you'll bring.
- ⇒ Arrive at 9:00 am to set up and help serve breakfast at 9:30 am.
- ⇒ Stay to enjoy breakfast and fellowship with our local heroes!

Let's come together in kindness and gratitude to make this a special event. We look forward to seeing you there!

HMW Book Club

Our book for the HMW Book Club in March is "The Whistle Stop Canteen" by Barbara Warner Deane. A wartime train station encounter changes a lifetime... After losing her fiancé in WW1, Margaret Parker settled into a quiet, lonely life as the town librarian in North Platte, NE. After the US enters WW2, Margaret volunteers as the historian for the Servicemen's Canteen organized by the women of North Platte. Please join us on Monday, March 16, 10 am, in the Library Annex as we discuss this historical account. Coffee and cookies will be available for a mid-morning snack! For questions or more info please call Sue LaHood, 479-855-0937 or email her at suelahood@currently.com.

Highlands Youth Discipleship

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.



You are seen and loved by God. You are seen and loved by your Highlands Church family.

This is the perfect time for new friends to join us as we begin a new quarter on Sunday, March 15, with "SEEN." Leader Roger Lawrence and our team of facilitators—John Fruin, Fran Lovell, Kathy Smith, and Wanda Krug—will guide us as we delve into current topics such as persecution, valuing differences, and injustice. Together, we will explore how to live for God and respond with compassion and justice in action. Our sessions will be grounded in the Bible and include interactive activities, short videos of true life stories, and time for group reflection.



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 continue 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. 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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1– Combined Worship at 10AM – 1st Sunday Cookies	2	3– Compassionate Care Meeting	4– Fellowship Meeting – Soup and Study	5	6	7
8– Daylight Savings Begins	9– HMW Meeting	10– Highlanders Meeting	11– Blood Drive – Stickers – Soup and Study	12– Trustees Meeting	13	14
15– Emmaus Luncheon	16– HMW Book Club	17– Kitchen Cleanup – Church Council	18– Soup and Study	19– Library Team Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25– Stickers	26– Care Group Leaders Meeting	27	28
29– Palm Sunday	30	31	April 1– Snack Packs			

Mission Work in Mexico

Each year Brother Jim takes teams to Rio Bravo, Mexico in mission. Many things are done, but most important is the difference being made in the lives of children. Our teams share Bibles, offer hands-on Vacation Bible Schools, and dedicate reading libraries in Spanish for 1st through 4th grade readers in elementary schools. This year I hope to provide books for three elementaries.

Please believe me when I say that illiteracy is a huge driver of poverty and desperation in Latin American countries. In Mexico, of those children who do go to primary school, only 55% will complete a secondary education. It robs people of the ability to rise above the most menial of existences. Through the love of Christ at work in us that can change!

Each school receives approximately 500 new books to use in helping the children become literate and to ignite their learning potential. Schools in Mexico are not supported by taxes, and most parents cannot afford to send children to school because of the cost. Therefore, reading materials are almost unknown in households, and only textbooks are found in most schools.

Besides the new reading books, we distribute new Spanish language New Testaments at no cost to all the children who would like to have one. The joy of these gifts is apparent on the children's faces, and their desire to come to school is enhanced. It is my belief that the impact on these children's lives is immeasurable. The cost for the children's books and Bibles for each elementary school is approximately 1,800 dollars. I want to challenge this church to provide books for one elementary school. This is something we accomplish together!

I hope you will contact me and go with me this year June 21–27th . If you cannot, please consider a gift through the church, and pray for hearts and lives changed.

With a grateful heart, Bro. Jim Benfer



Make a difference in these children's lives



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 April Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on March 20. Please send all submissions, comments, or questions to the church office at:
office@hgmcbv.com

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 - January 31, 2026

	YTD Budget	Jan Actual	YTD Actual
Income	40,262	31,602	31,602
Expenses	40,262	34,250	34,250
Net	0	(2,648)	(2,648)

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

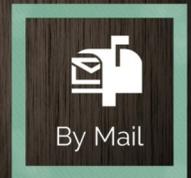
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give



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