

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JULY 2025 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 7

Welcome, Pastor Rick Sitton & Family!



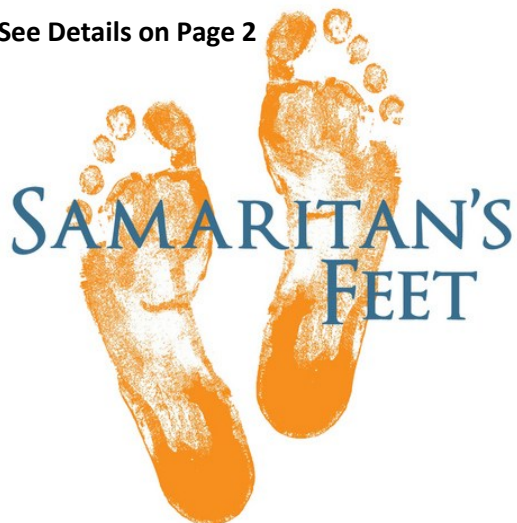
We are excited to welcome Pastor Rick Sitton, his wife Karen, and their grandson Jacob to Highlands Church as he begins his ministry with us on Sunday, June 29.

Pastor Rick brings over 40 years of pastoral experience, a heart for service, and a deep love for God's people. His journey in ministry has taken him across Texas and beyond, and we are grateful that it has now brought him here to Bella Vista. Rick and Karen are already praying for our church family, and we look forward to growing in faith together under his leadership.

Please join us in giving a heartfelt Highlands Church welcome to Pastor Rick and his family as we begin this new chapter in ministry together!

Everyone is invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall honoring the Sitton Family after this weekend's worship service (Reminder: No Saturday Celebration service will be held June 28).

See Details on Page 2



SAVE THE DATE!
**HELP GIVE FREE SHOES TO
STUDENTS IN GRAVETTE
SCHOOL DISTRICT!**

JULY 26th

A POSTIVE CHANGE IN ONE KID'S LIFE, CAN CHANGE THE WORLD...FOR GOOD!



SAMARITAN'S FEET

Back-to-School Celebration

On **Saturday, July 26**, approximately 200 Pre-K through 8th grade students, along with their siblings, will receive a free (new) pair of athletic shoes and socks, along with a message of hope through the act of foot-washing.

This is the 11th annual Gravette Back-to-School Celebration, a special event held in partnership with Highlands Methodist Church, Samaritan's Feet, and Gravette community volunteers. **Volunteers should arrive at 8:30 AM and plan to stay until 1:30 PM.** The event will take place from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Gravette Middle School Cafeteria (607 Dallas St. SE, Gravette, AR).

In addition to meeting a physical and often financial need, this event creates space for mentorship and encouragement. Highlands Church volunteers, Samaritan's Feet staff, teachers, community volunteers, and members of the Gravette Fire Department will help distribute shoes and engage students in meaningful conversations about their goals, dreams, and challenges. These volunteers will also ensure each child receives a properly fitting pair of shoes while modeling servant leadership.

At the heart of the event is the foot-washing, where volunteers offer love, prayer, and the Good News of Jesus Christ. This simple yet powerful act not only addresses spiritual needs, but also reminds each child that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved.

Highlands Church has partnered with Samaritan's Feet, local schools, and community leaders for over a decade to support this important ministry. Thanks to funds raised through our annual Car Show, we're once again able to provide 200 pairs of shoes to children in the Gravette School District.

A signup sheet is available at the Information Station. Volunteers are needed to register students, run shoes, wash children's feet, and help fit them with new shoes. We hope you'll consider joining us for this special outreach. The joy on the children's faces when they receive their shoes is a blessing you won't forget. Questions, contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339.

COMMUNITY SERVANT LEADERS:

Please Volunteer from: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM on Sat. - July 26th to support this annual, Back-to-School Shoe distribution, made possible by Highlands Church.

From 10AM to 12:30 PM - 7/26, approximately 200 Local Pre-K through 8th grade students, and their older siblings, will receive new sneakers, new socks, "Hope Totes", snacks, love, hope & encouragement, from our dedicated community volunteers.

VOLUNTEER TIMES:

***Saturday, July 26th
8:30 AM to 1:30 PM***

***GRAVETTE MIDDLE SCHOOL
CAFETERIA
607 DALLAS ST. SE
GRAVETTE, AR
72736***

Sign up at the Information Station in
the Gathering Area at church

From Pastor Rick Sitton's Desk

Howdy Highlands Church Family,

I am overjoyed and grateful to serve as your new pastor. I am looking forward to making new friends in Christ, joining together with you in ministry and seeking the Lord as He leads us into the future He has prepared for us. All glory be to Christ.

I want to thank the SPRC Committee and chair, Jeff Hale, for interviewing and selecting me and for the warm welcome my wife, Karen, and our grandson, Jacob, have received. The staff have also welcomed us with kindness and goodness and I have a place in my heart already. They are excellent at what they do and I hope to walk beside them as we walk as ONE body in Christ.



So, a couple of things. First, I see myself as an under-shepherd with Christ being the Good Shepherd. I'm working for Him, but I'm here to serve you and lead the church. A real shepherd cares for his sheep and getting to know you and caring for you as a pastor is my first priority. Although I am in and out of the office, please know that I have always seen the role of the pastor as a 24/7 ministry. My cell # is 409-651-4997. Call me anytime you need me. I'll meet you at 2 a.m. in the morning if I know you're coming and have a need. I want you to know that I'm here for you and that God loves you and so do I. Second, I hope you will be praying for me and my family and we will be praying for you. Lastly, I will be announcing in the future some special meetings after worship, so I can get to know you all a little better. I'm reading up on your biographies already and I am amazed at some of your life stories. I really love hearing about how you came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. I've got "happy feet" to be here and I'm grateful for Bro. Jim who did such an outstanding job as your interim pastor. So, here's a little more encouragement from the Arkansas Revised Standard Version of the Scriptures:

So whether **you** eat or drink (or golf or fish or volunteer at the Care and Share)
or **whatever you do, do** it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31



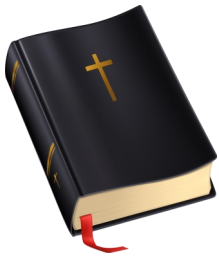
Food Pantry for Gravette School

We're continuing to collect non-perishable food and toiletry items for families in need within the Gravette School District. Please place donations in the marked bins located at each church entrance. Items will be delivered directly to the school's food pantry. We are blessed to be able to help, and your generosity truly makes a difference. This outreach is co-sponsored by the Celebration Worship Team and Highlands Methodist Women (HMW). Thank you for your continued support!

Egg cartons are NOT needed at this time



Adult Sunday School



Join us this coming Sunday at 8:30 am in the Peter classroom to look at *The Flood* (Genesis 6:1-9:17) in our **Genesis** study. We are a caring group of learners, and we'd love to have you join us. Questions? Call Brad Krug at 719-210-6124.



Children's Worship Center

We're Having a BLAST in Children's Worship!



All kids ages 5–10 are invited to join us on **Sunday, July 6** for our **Patriotic Sunday Celebration!** We'll be wearing our red, white, and blue as we celebrate freedom from sin through Jesus with a special lesson, fun activities, and a festive snack.

Children's Worship meets during the **10:00–11:00 AM** Traditional Worship Service and will continue throughout the summer. In July, we'll be learning from some of our Favorite Bible Stories, including David, David & Jonathan, and The Two Houses.

Children ages 0–4 are welcome in the Nursery during the 10:00 AM service as well.

For more information, contact Laurie Pearson (Nursery) 479-256-4452
or Sue Benson (Kids Worship) 620-960-9185



Highlands Youth Group

"Donuts and Discipleship" launched successfully on June 1 with five youth in attendance. Seven adult Steering Committee members facilitate "Friends of God: A Discipleship Experience" on a rotating basis, and provide yummy donuts and drinks.

We met on June 19th for our first monthly social to play newly donated games, drink soda, and devour quite a few pizzas. We have a great start and now we hope to grow!

Whether you're looking to strengthen your relationship with Jesus, meet new friends, or simply enjoy the camaraderie of a vibrant youth community, this is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. All middle and high schoolers are welcome at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Youth Room to begin the morning with faith, fun, and fellowship.

For more information, contact Wanda Krug at 719-213-1115.



HMM Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and is organized by our Highlands Methodist Men (HMM). All donors will receive a FREE beach towel and SuperSplash tickets! 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 cbco.org the morning of the blood drive and click on the 'Donor QuickPass' to get your paperwork done before arrival.



Donors can enter to win a **\$10,000 Dream Vacation!**

PLUS donors get:

- Day Passport Ticket to SuperSplash USA (\$44.99 value)
- CBCO Beach Towel

While supplies last.

Make a **Splash** in the Ozarks!

Greetings From **WISH** YOU WERE HERE

SUPERSPLASH USA

Scan QR code for official rules and more info!
www.cbco.org/splash

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.

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1– Compassionate Disciples Meeting	2– Fellowship Committee Mtg	3	4– Office Closed for 4th of July	5– No Celebration Service
6– Combined Worship at 10am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15– Kitchen Cleaning – Church Council Meeting	16– Blood Drive	17– Library Mtg	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26– Scrapbooking & Card Making
27	28	29– Care & Share Volunteers Begin	30– Summer Choir Rehearsal	31		

Care and Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care and Share Thrift Store during the week of July 29—Aug 2, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

To sign up, check the Weekly Update email for the link or contact the church office for assistance. You can also reach out directly to our coordinator, Connie Kiefer, at 876-6324.

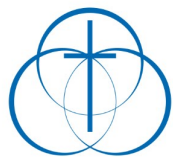


New Members



Rick and Linda Uttley became members during the Celebration service on Saturday, June 21. They both grew up in Iowa. Rick is from Milo, southeast of Des Moines, and Linda is from Indianola and Des Moines. Rick served in the Air National Guard for 31 years as an electronics technician in Avionics, retiring in 2002. Linda was primarily a stay-at-home mom. After Rick's retirement, they moved to Mabank, Texas, where he worked for Techniform as a receiving clerk for two years. In 2005, they moved to Bella Vista, where Rick joined Whistler Co. as an electronics repair technician before retiring for good in 2019. Rick enjoys golfing weekly and

working on projects with his Ortur Laser machine and 3D printer. Linda enjoys reading, quilting, crafting, and spending time with their two dogs, Jersey and Macy. Music is a shared passion—Linda plays with the Worship Team at the Saturday Celebration service, and both play in the dulcimer group Southern Strings Mountain Music, with Rick on bass and Linda on rhythm guitar. They have 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters, and 2 grandsons, with a great-granddaughter born in February and another great-granddaughter expected in July 2025. Rick and Linda say it's been an honor to be part of Highlands Church, making it part of their family.



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

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Deadline for the August Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on July 20. Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to Amey at office@hgmcbv.com

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY: The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observation of Independence 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*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Admin*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Bookkeeper*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - May 31, 2025

	YTD Budget	May Actual	YTD Actual
Income	178,000	32,352	176,402
Expenses	178,000	33,613	174,222
Net	0	(1,261)	2,180

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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