

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | APRIL 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 4



Celebrating Easter at Highlands Church

Easter is one of the most meaningful seasons in the life of the church, and at Highlands, it's more than just a single Sunday—it's a journey. From Palm Sunday through Easter morning, we come together to reflect, worship, and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Each gathering is designed to help us experience the depth of God's love in a meaningful and personal way.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, followed by meaningful opportunities to pause and reflect. On Maundy Thursday, the Chancel Choir will present "Colors of Grace," a special cantata portraying the final days of Christ. On Good Friday, the Sanctuary will be open for a self-guided time of prayer, offering a quiet space to reflect on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" and prepare your heart for Easter.

Easter morning begins with fellowship as we gather for a continental breakfast, followed by a unique and meaningful tradition—bringing a live flower to place on the cross as a symbol of new life. We will then come together as one church family for a Combined Worship Service, celebrating the joy and victory of the resurrection.

Following worship, families are invited to stay for an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, making it a joyful day for all ages. Whether you attend one service or join us throughout the week, we hope you will be part of this special season as we remember, reflect, and celebrate together.

*Save the Date - Sunday, May 3
For a Mortgage Celebration and a 'Great Day of Joining'*

Under-Shepherd Udderings

I'm looking forward to Holy Week and all the very special times the church gathers together for worship. This year, I am offering something new, but tried and true. Many years ago, seeing the dire need for the church to focus on the cross as a powerful time of prayer, I wrote a devotional guide for a Good Friday prayer service. Over the years, many church members have told me how meaningful this individual time of guided prayer has been for them. The guided prayer service is an individual walk through the seven last words (sayings) of Jesus on the cross.



So, here's the invitation to journey to the cross on Good Friday. The sanctuary will be open from 9 am until 3 pm. These are the six hours Jesus was on the cross. Just as He sacrificed Himself for you, you'll need to sacrifice about 40 minutes to come to the sanctuary anytime during those hours and meditate upon His seven last words. Each one of the seven has a powerful application in your life today, and after you read my devotional reading for each one, you'll take a moment to pray as guided in the devotional. A cross will be set up in the sanctuary so that when you pray, you can focus on the cross. We will have a prayer host present throughout the six hours, who will pray with you if you desire. The chief duty of the prayer host is to welcome you, give you the devotional booklet, and assist you if you need anything.

Some people may not be able to come during those six hours, so the devotional guide will be available (beginning on Palm Sunday) on the table outside the sanctuary for you to pick up and take home with you. In this way, you may set up a cross in your house (or porch), and share in this guided prayer walk through the seven last words of Christ whenever you make time on Good Friday. It's true, we will not be together as one body, but neither were the disciples on Good Friday. Being alone for a time of prayer is a time when the Holy Spirit can move in your heart so that the seven last words of Christ may resonate in you, stir you, and transform you through prayer. I hope and pray all of you will share in this unique and special Good Friday spiritual journey.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Rick

Planning a Legacy Luncheon

Planning a Legacy is coming up on Sunday, April 12 at 11:15 AM, immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service. This informative luncheon, led by the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, will cover wills, estate planning, and more. Lunch is provided. RSVP has ended, but if you are still interested in attending, please call the church office.

31st Annual Flea & Boutique

2-Day Event!

Friday, April 24 from 8 am - 2 pm AND Saturday, April 25 from 8 am - noon

Highlands Church – it's time for you and your friends to part with some of your clean, sellable items! Your donated items may be dropped off at the church Fellowship Hall April 20 – 23, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. If you would like assistance with large items, contact Kitty Knight to schedule a pickup of your item(s). Please remember, NO books, electronics, large appliances, shoes or clothing!

If you volunteer to bring baked goods, please bring them to the church kitchen, in disposable containers, on Wednesday or Thursday, April 22-23, to be packaged and priced by a volunteer.

To complement our annual sale of furniture, household items, jewelry, collectibles, tools, and lawn & garden items, we will again open our small boutique shop selling elite, fashionable items and accessories like nice and nearly-new purses, scarves, wallets, wraps, unique jewelry, quirky art pieces, quilted items and more! These items are a bit more 'upscale' yet still very affordable!

SIGN UP to Volunteer during this event at the table in the Gathering Area, or pick up a flyer with more information. Help us reach out and have fun with the Bella Vista Community! Remember, it's all for local women & children's charities – missions of the Highlands Methodist Women.

For more information, contact Co-Chairs, Darleen Olson at 479-936-1814 or Kathy Smith at 479-409-3483.



CARE AND SHARE TRAILER

The Care & Share trailer will be in our parking lot on Monday, April 13 from 8:00 AM–4:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to donate items they accept, including clothes, shoes, books, and other items we are unable to take for our Flea & Boutique. Please note that Care & Share does not accept mattresses or printers, and we encourage you to hold back items intended for our upcoming Flea & Boutique.

Church Library News

You are always invited to visit our Church library!

Recently we also categorized all the DVDs in the Annex for easier access. Check out the family, children's and true story inspirational DVDs, that we think you will enjoy.

And remember.....there are some facts about reading books:

FACT 1: Reading can make you a better conversationalist

FACT 2: Dinosaurs did not read. Look what happened to them

Blessings,

Your Library committee



Highlanders Blood Drive Report

Our March 10th Blood Drive was a success. With the CBCO's objective of 30 donors being registered, we had 29 signed up. Of those donors, 23 were successful. Thank you to all who signed up and showed up. We know there will always be occasions where circumstances prevent successful donations, but if you had difficulty this time, please continue to make the effort. Hopefully, success is inevitable.

Jeff Hale very capably stepped in to serve as our church's administrator for this drive. Thanks, Jeff!

Our next Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, May 20, from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM.



Safety & Security News

Life's experiences can be sudden... and devastating. Just so you know, heart attacks do not discriminate. Women are just as likely to have that event happen as men. Yes, the symptoms are different between girls and boys, but the "who, where, and when" - that doesn't matter! Our Safety and Security Committee would like to schedule a CPR training session for our church members and friends. The training will be held at the Bella Vista Fire Department's new training facility at 7 Carlisle Drive, Bella Vista. This session will address that "girl - boy" symptom differences question, and many, many others. This invaluable training can save a life in your circle of immediate family and friends... or, someone you've never met. There is a sign-up sheet available at the Info Station in the Gathering Area. If you have any desire to take the class, please sign-up by **Sunday, April 12** at noon. If we get 10 people to sign up we can get some dates to you. The cost is free and class will be from 9:00 am until noon. Questions? Contact Sue LaHood, 479-855-0937.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS

We will be packing Snack Packs for the children of Gravette Schools on Wednesday, April 1, 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 April 14 - 18, 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 at 479-876-6324.





THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



APRIL HIGHLANDERS MEETING

As we have now moved to Daylight Savings Time, and sunset will be after 7 pm when we meet, our April meeting of the HGMC Highlander's Men's group will be an **evening** meeting on Tuesday, **April 7 at 5:30 pm**. Our guest speaker will be John Urquit from Bella Vista Parks and Recreation (POA) who will be speaking on a topic of great interest to most POA members by giving us updates on, and an overview of, the many different parks, recreation facilities, gun range, etc. available to POA members in Bella Vista.

Dinner will be provided and 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

APRIL HMW MEETING

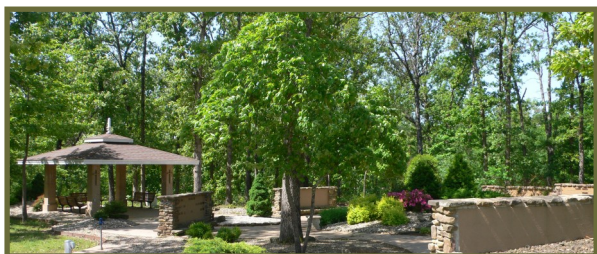
Please join the Women of Highlands Church on Monday, April 13 at 9:30 am for breakfast, games, and fellowship. We're trying something new, and your feedback will be appreciated—it should be fun!

All women of Highlands Church are invited. A sign-up sheet for attendance is available at the Information Station so we can plan accordingly. We are also looking for volunteers to help provide breakfast items, so please consider signing up to bring something if you're able.

HMW BOOK CLUB

Please join the Highlands Methodist Women's Book Club as we discuss "The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah" on Monday, April 20 at 10:00 am in the Mark Classroom. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, during World War II, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. For any questions or more information email: suelahood@currently.com or call her at 479-855-0937.

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.

Highlands Youth Discipleship

We welcome families with youth and children to Games and Grub at Highlands Church, created with you in mind.

What: a gathering to play games, have fun together, and enjoy a meal

When: every second Sunday of each month from 4-6 pm

Where: Highlands Church Youth Room, lower level

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR UPCOMING EVENT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 12 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.



Highlands Youth Discipleship (ages 11+) meets Sundays from 9:00-9:45 am for meaningful conversations, interactive activities, and video clips that connect the Scriptures to everyday life. Our current topics explore how to live for God in the midst of persecution and injustice. Come grow, connect, and be part of the group! For information contact Roger Lawrence, 785-248-7774.

We started a weekly mission offering to help 9-year-old Clarence attend the International Deaf Education Association School in the Philippines. We're excited about making a difference in his life and helping him grow in his faith. Thank you for being part of this mission.

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

Parents and Grandparents:

In April, Kids Discipleship will be exploring Jesus' time here on earth. We will continue to dedicate our weekly offering to Brother Jim Benfer's mission work in Mexico. Our weekly offering supports "Bibles and Books" for these children and schools. Our "tower of quarters" is growing weekly.

After the worship service on Easter Sunday, an Easter Egg Hunt will be held outside (weather permitting), or in the Youth Room if it's raining. All children are welcome.

Children ages 5-10 are welcome at children's worship. 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.

In God's Love, Kitty Knight

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1– Snack Packs – Fellowship Mtg	2– Maundy Thurs “Colors of Grace” Service, 6pm	3– Good Friday Prayer at the Cross, 9am-3pm	4– No Celebration Worship
5– Easter Combined Worship at 10AM – Easter Breakfast	6	7– Highlanders Meeting – Compassionate Care Meeting	8– Stitches	9	10	11
12– Planning a Legacy Luncheon	13– HMW Meeting – Care & Share Trailer	14– Care & Share Volunteers Begin	15	16– Library Team Meeting	17	18
19	20– HMW Book Club – Flea Week Begins	21–Finance Committee	22– Stitches	23– Care Group Leaders Meeting	24– Flea & Boutique	25– Flea & Boutique
26– The Pastor’s Table Luncheon	27	28	29	30		

A New Prayer Ministry... Come Pray With Us!

We all know the power of prayer. Prayer helps us grow in faith; it brings us closer to God and to each other. And prayers are answered! You are invited to join a new Prayer Ministry here at Highlands Church. We will suggest prayer topics and offer tips on how to pray. At special times, we will organize group prayer events in the Highlands Church Prayer Chapel (located just behind the office in the education wing).

In his book *Talking With God*, Pastor Adam Weber shares this story: A member once asked him, “How do you pray? I should probably know this, right? But I don’t. Is there a right or wrong way to pray? Can I mess this up?” This man isn’t alone; many of us feel unsure of how to talk with God. Even the first disciples didn’t figure it out on their own.

Here are some points we often struggle with:

How do I get started?

Tell God all that is in your heart, as one shares joys and pains with a dear friend (Francois Fenelon). Approach God as if you are talking with your closest friend... because He does love you.

How often should I pray?

The more you pray, the easier it becomes (Mother Teresa). Set aside time each day. Where we pray, our posture, and whether we speak or remain silent are less important than a commitment to talk with God.

Do prayers need to be formal and eloquent?

The best prayers often have more groans than words (John Bunyan). Your prayers come from your heart—your needs, your joys, and your desire to be close to God. Just be you!

Should I ask God for what I want?

God wants to hear our requests, but we must remember that God is in control and we are not. Prayer is primarily surrender into the hands of God (E. Stanley Jones).

More details will be coming, but consider becoming part of the Prayer Ministry. Together we will learn to pray.





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 - Thursday, 8:30am—4:00pm
Friday, 8:30am—Noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline to submit content for the May Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on April 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*

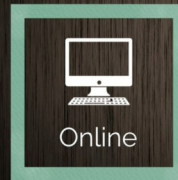
Operating Budget Report - February 28, 2026

	YTD	Feb	YTD
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Income	80,524	39,628	71,230
Expenses	80,524	35,774	70,031
Net	0	3,854	1,199

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

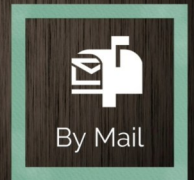
to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... hgmcbv.com/give



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