

Highlands News

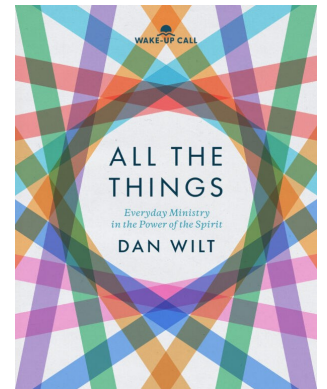
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | JUNE 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 6



Stay Connected This Summer with Wake-Up Call

Summer brings vacations, busy schedules, weekends away, and changes in routine. While those things can be refreshing, they can also make it easy to drift spiritually and lose the habit of spending daily time with God.

Wake-Up Call is a free daily devotional from Seedbed Ministries designed to help you begin each morning centered on Jesus through Scripture, reflection, prayer, and a few short questions for personal application. Whether you're traveling, missing a Sunday at church, sitting on a beach, or drinking coffee on your back porch, Wake-Up Call is an easy way to stay grounded in your faith throughout the summer.



The current series, *All the Things: Everyday Ministry in the Power of the Holy Spirit*, by Dan Wilt, is a practical primer for becoming an everyday apprentice of Jesus—hearing God's voice, following the Spirit, praying for those around us, and partnering with Jesus in seeing lives transformed.

Wake-Up Call arrives daily by email and only takes a few minutes to read, but those few minutes can completely change the direction of your day. To sign up or preview sample devotionals, visit Seedbed.com/WakeUpCall. If you have any questions, contact Wanda Krug.



WAKE-UP CALL

CONSECRATION

Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Jesus, I belong to you.

I lift up my heart to you. I set my mind on you.

I fix my eyes on you.

I offer my body to you as a living sacrifice.

Jesus, we belong to you.

Praying in the name of the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Under-Shepherd Udderings

Highlands Church has much to be grateful for as we near the observance of July 4, 2026. Thanks to you and many who came before you (and thanks to the Lord our Provider), Highlands is no longer in debt. Over two dozen people have joined Highlands as members within the last year. The Lord has truly blessed us! So, it is right and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to the Head of the church, Christ our Lord, for His continued blessings.



As we approach the 250th anniversary of America's independence, we must join together with our fellow Christians to rededicate ourselves to Christ and the work of the kingdom of God, as well as to continued prayer for an awakening and revival in the land. Pray for America. Wallbuilders (wallbuilders.com) is a wonderful website and organization that teaches about the Christian heritage of America. I encourage you to visit this site and see how God has been at work in our country from the beginning.

I am planning to preach a 4-week sermon series (June 14 - July 5) entitled America, God Shed His Grace on Thee (and His mercy). I learned from a recent Wallbuilders' event that the famous second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence likely drew its phrasing from a sermon delivered by Rev. John Wise (pastor in Ipswich, north of Boston) in the early 1700's. A collection of Wise's sermons was reprinted and distributed in 1772 by the Sons of Liberty in Boston.

In one of his sermons, Rev. John Wise says, 'All men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.' That's the foundation of the Declaration. According to Wallbuilders, Wise's sermons also addressed the issue of no taxation without representation, and just government coming from the consent of the governed. The foundation of our nation and its governing documents flows from a Christian worldview whose source is the Holy Bible and whose God is Christ Jesus our Lord. There is no other nation like the USA. We enjoy freedoms won and sustained by the lives of brave men and women who believe that we are, as the scripture says, a "shining city on a hill." Celebrate our 250th anniversary by praying for America and giving thanks that the Lord has shed His grace on us.

Pastor Rick

AMERICA, GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE

SERMON SERIES BY PASTOR RICK SITTON

JOIN US JUNE 14, 21, 28 & JULY 5

Fifth Sunday

Our Church Council has chosen to adopt Brother Jim Benfer's Rio Bravo Mexico Mission Trip as one of our Outreach Programs to support. We have already received contributions for this ministry but we want to give a little extra on our Fifth Sunday's Special Giving. May 31 is the next Fifth Sunday and Brother Jim will be preaching at Celebrations and Traditional worship Services.

Each year Brother Jim takes a mission team to Rio Bravo, Mexico, to share the Gospel with the people there. They particularly focus on providing reading material and Bibles in Spanish for the school children of at least 3 schools. The team plans to give each of the schools approximately 500 new books to use in helping the children become literate and to ignite their learning potential. With our help, many children's lives will be blessed and enhanced.

Plan to participate in this special giving opportunity.

Summer Choir

It's that time of year when the choir eases into a more relaxed summer rhythm. Our Chancel Choir's summer schedule has officially begun! The Summer Choir will meet for just three rehearsals this season: May 27, June 24, and July 29 at 4:00 PM in the choir room.

We'll be singing easy-to-learn anthems, so even if you miss a rehearsal, you can still join us on Sunday mornings at 9:40 am, in the choir room. This is a great opportunity to try singing with the choir family while still enjoying worship seated beside your spouse, friend, or significant other. We sing the anthem during the offertory, then head into the sanctuary for the sermon. No robes required, and casual dress is encouraged!

Summer is the perfect time to give the Chancel Choir a try—or as they like to say in the Midwest, a "look-see." If you have questions, feel free to email John Matthews at jmatt0952@gmail.com.



National Day of Prayer

For the first time in several years, Highlands Church hosted a National Day of Prayer gathering on May 7. We gathered at the church flagpole, bringing members of our church and community together for a meaningful time of prayer and reflection. Participants joined in praying for our nation, local leaders, schools, churches, first responders, families, and those facing personal struggles.



We were encouraged by the turnout and thankful for the opportunity to pause together in faith and unity during a time when prayer and encouragement are needed more than ever. A special thank you to Bella Vista Mayor John Flynn for joining us and supporting this important community event.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the morning such a success. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years ahead.

The 2027 National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 6, 2027.

My Witness Story

By Wanda Krug

I learned to put my faith in Jesus from my parents. My mother and daddy would read the Scriptures and pray for us three children at the breakfast table most mornings. Faith in Jesus drove their marriage, their parenting, and their family business. Their love story began in Germany at the end of World War II, when they were both Mennonite Relief workers. My American mother sewed clothing for German children left as orphans, and my Canadian daddy reconstructed a French church and other damaged buildings. They married in Germany before returning to live and build a life in northern Indiana, where I grew up.



My older brother, me, and my younger sister were fascinated with their stories from Europe and visits from their friends who served with them. In fact, I was cared for by a German nanny as an infant, when my parents ran a state orphanage and had many children to care for. Later, they began Reimer's Ice Service, a family business. Hard work, helping neighbors, serving in our local church, and doing well in school was an expectation for us. For a time we had two teenage foster sisters in our home and learned flexibility and grace.

I was so blessed, but as a teenager I began to wrestle with conflicting cultural ideas and emptiness in the midst of busyness. I came face-to-face with myself- my sin, yet made in the image of God. I began to attend Youth for Christ meetings at my high school, searching for more, although I attended my own church youth group.

My Youth for Christ leader led me in prayer to surrender my all to Jesus when I was 15 after months of soul-searching. I am marked by that experience because life changed for me at that point. I was baptized in my church. The Holy Spirit filled me in a wave of renewal and I was different. The more I studied the Bible and prayed with my Christian friends, the more I grew and wanted to reach out to others. Soon I was invited to sing in a youth worship group that reached out into the community.

The Lord has led me on an amazing adventure of discipleship for many years since that time. I landed in France as a missionary married to a Frenchman, became fluent in French, and served in a French church in children's ministry. There were mountaintop highs of watching God answer many prayers and learning French culture along with our three daughters. My treasure chest is full of stories to tell of his goodness during times of great loss, grief, and tragedy. Journeying through "the dark nights of the soul" sharpened my focus on the Lord and matured my faith. God met me during my widowhood years in an unexpected way when my current husband, Brad Krug, literally walked into my path on an airplane. As I seek to delight in the Lord, he seems to always out-give me and out-delight me. "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5.

Wanda Krug

If you would like to share your "Witness Story" in a future edition of the newsletter, please contact Susan Cafferty.

Free CPR Training Opportunity

There will be a CPR Class offered for Highlands Church members and Cooper School teachers on **Wed, July 15 at 9:00 AM**. Classes will be held at the Bella Vista Fire Department Training Center, located at 7 Carlisle Dr., Bella Vista, AR 72714 (on Highway 71 near the Bella Vista sign). The class is free, and the instructors are excellent! If you prefer to attend independently, city-wide CPR classes are also offered on the second Friday of each month. For questions, contact Sue LaHood at 479-855-0937. If there is no answer, please leave a message and she will return your call as soon as possible. Sign up at the Information Station or email Sue to RSVP suelahood@currently.com.



THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



Highlanders Men on Summer Break

The Highlanders Men's Ministry is on summer break and will resume meetings in September. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of each month and include a meal, fellowship, a devotional message, and a guest speaker. During the longer daylight months of April, May, September, and October, meetings are held at 5:30 PM. All other meetings are held at 8:45 AM.

The Highlanders are a Christian brotherhood committed to serving both our church and the wider community. Each year, they support over a dozen local and national charities through hands-on service and financial giving.

Enjoy your summer, and stay tuned for fall meeting details as we prepare for another season of faith and service together.



HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

Secret Sister Reveal & Celebration

The Highlands Methodist Women invite all women of Highlands Church to participate in the Secret Prayer Sister Reveal and Celebration of a year of praying and honoring one another on June 18 at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. We will share a potluck lunch and our experience about how Christ moves in the lives of those who call on Him through Prayer and Fellowship. All are welcome and encouraged to join us to learn more about opportunities to become a part of our Praying Sisters outreach and new ways to participate.

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know"

There will be a sign up sheet at the Information Station and we ask all to please let us know if you can attend and share what you would like to bring for an enjoyable lunch together. Tea, Coffee and dessert will be provided.

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, June 20 & June 21**, please plan to stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall and donate to Muffins for Missions. Yes, you may take them to go! Remember, they are perfect to share with your dads, husbands, neighbors, and friends, along with an invitation to church. All donations go to help women and children in the Northwest Arkansas area.



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, June 14 at noon. For more information, please contact Billie Hall at 843-475-5448.

Highlands Youth Discipleship

SEEN – Known by God – Connected to Others

Highlands Youth Discipleship (ages 11+) meets Sunday mornings from 9:00–9:45 AM for real-life conversations, Bible study, and video-based lessons. Our current study focuses on the character trait of compassion. The best example we have of living with compassion and understanding is Jesus. We looked into what the Scriptures have to say about valuing children and valuing the elderly. Next up comes valuing people with differences and valuing everybody.

We are putting our faith into action by supporting a Filipino deaf child named Clarence, who attends a Christian School for the Deaf in the Philippines (IDEA). Our weekly offering helps cover the cost of his tuition.

LESSON 5 - REMEMBER VERSE

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

Matthew 19:14

LESSON 6 - REMEMBER VERSE

“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.

I am the Lord.”

Leviticus 19:32

LESSON 7 - REMEMBER VERSE

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

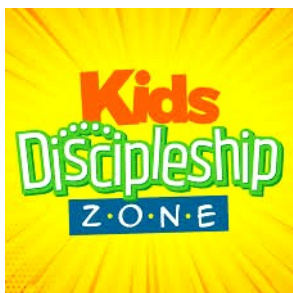
May 10 “Games and Grub” was well attended with 16 youth, leaders and family members. It was great to welcome Pastor Rick, Karen, and Jacob Sitton. We had lots of outdoor fun playing miniature golf and enjoying a roasted hot dog picnic together at Riordan Park. The next “Games and Grub” will be held on Sunday, June 14 from 4-6 pm. Watch for more details to come!



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 June, the Kids’ Discipleship class will be exploring the Old Testament, starting with the Ten Commandments. 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. Brother Jim will be leaving for Mexico in June, and we would like to see the tower filled to the top before he leaves. (It’s getting close!) Children ages 5-10 are welcome at Children’s Discipleship. 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

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2– Compassionate Care Meeting	3	4– Trinity Annual Conference (June 4-6)	5	6– No Celebration Worship
7– Combined Worship at 10AM – First Sunday Cookies	8	9– Finance Mtg	10	11– Secret Sister Celebration	12	13
14	15	16	17	18– Library Meeting	19– Juneteenth, Office Closed	20
21– Father’s Day – HMW Muffins for Missions	22	23	24– Summer Choir Rehearsal	25– Care Group Leaders Meeting	26	27
28	29	30				



Pastor Rick and Karen Sitton and Bill and Claudia Williams will be attending the Trinity Annual Conference on June 4-6 in College Station, TX. Please be in prayer for safe travels and for wisdom, guidance, and meaningful fellowship throughout the conference.

Highlands Church Prayer Chapel

Did you know Highlands Church has a dedicated Prayer Chapel available throughout the week for personal prayer and reflection? Located across from the Pastor’s office in the education wing, the Prayer Chapel is open during church office hours Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Friday from 8:30 AM to noon.

The chapel was created to be a quiet, peaceful place where anyone can spend time with God away from the distractions and busyness of daily life. Whether you come carrying worries, seeking guidance, offering thanksgiving, or simply needing a few moments of stillness, the chapel is open to you.

You may choose to sit quietly, kneel at the altar rail, or spend time in silent prayer. There is no right or wrong way to pray. God hears our prayers wherever we are and however we come before Him.

While many people have special places of prayer in their homes, the Prayer Chapel offers an additional sacred space for personal reflection and connection with God. It is not reserved only for funerals or special occasions. It belongs to the people of Highlands Church and is available for anyone seeking a quiet moment with the Lord.

The Highlands Prayer Ministry Team encourages you to visit the Prayer Chapel whenever you feel led 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 EMAIL: office@hgmcbv.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am—4:00pm
Friday, 8:30am—Noon

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

OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed on Friday, June 19 in observation of the Juneteenth Federal Holiday.

CHURCH T-SHIRTS: T-shirts are available to order year-round for \$20 each. If you would like to purchase a shirt, please contact the church office for ordering info.

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*

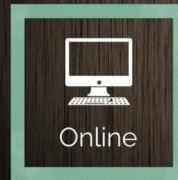
Operating Budget Report - April 30, 2026

	YTD Budget	April Actual	YTD Actual
Income	161,049	31,927	158,181
Expenses	161,049	32,202	149,272
Net	0	(276)	8,909

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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