

Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | OCT 2026 | VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 10



Operation Christmas Child: Help Us Fill 100 Shoeboxes!

Our **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox ministry is well underway! This year, our goal is to pack **100 shoeboxes for boys and girls ages 5–14**. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share God's love with a child through simple gifts and, through Samaritan's Purse, introduce children around the world to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated! As we get closer to packing day, we have an updated list of items still needed: **notebooks, loose-leaf paper, shirts and pants for boys and girls ages 5–14, sturdy combs and brushes, water bottles, small flashlights with batteries, children's sunglasses, washcloths, and nail clippers**. A collection bin is located near the Nursery in the Gathering Area. We have plenty of toothbrushes, crayons, and colored pencils, so **no more of those items are needed at this time**.

Then comes the fun part! Our **Shoebox Packing Party will be Wednesday, November 4, at 10:00 AM in the Peter Classroom**. Everyone is invited to come help sort the donations, fill the shoeboxes, and prepare them for their journey. **November 1 is also the deadline for donated items**, so please have your donations to the church by then.

In addition to the gifts that go inside each box, a **\$10 donation per shoebox** helps cover shipping and other ministry costs. Donations may be made to Highlands Church with **OCC** noted in the memo line.

As you're shopping over the next several weeks, keep an eye out for items that will fit inside a shoebox and bring them to the collection bin. Every donation, whether it's one notebook, a shirt, or a bag full of supplies, helps us move closer to filling our **100 shoeboxes**.

[Click Here](#) for a printable shopping list, or pick one up at the Info Station at church, and make plans to join us **November 4 at 10:00 AM** for our Packing Party!

Questions, contact Sara Sherman, Outreach Chairperson



Under-Shepherd Udderings

Thank you all for praying for the General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 30 - Sept. 5. As promised, my article this month provides an update on this third General Conference since our founding in 2022. As proposed when the denomination began in 2022, this General Conference is the last of the initial conferences. Being good stewards of time and money, the General Conference will meet every 6 years.



Eight bishops were elected and consecrated to serve the GMC's 51 conferences, although one source says there are 48 annual conferences. Our conference, the Trinity Conference (East Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas), has over 400 churches. Trinity Conference has a new bishop effective November 5, 2026, Rev. Dr. Luther Oconer. This election marks the denomination's first regular, full-time slate of bishops. Serving six-year terms (2026–2032) as general superintendents, each bishop oversees a specific episcopal area that groups geographic conferences from across the globe. Bishop Luther Oconer leads Episcopal Area 1, overseeing Tanzania, Panama, Covenant Philippines, India, Mega Manila, Mississippi-West Tennessee, and Trinity. Unlike the United Methodist Church, the GMC envisions the bishop as a teacher and superintendent for the whole denomination, rather than a localized administrator wielding great power by controlling pastoral appointments. In the GMC, the local church (through the Pastor-Parish Committee) selects a pastor after interviewing several pre-approved candidates offered by the Appointive Cabinet of the Trinity Annual Conference.

As of September 2026, the GMC denomination has over 7,250 churches worldwide (up from just 17 when it launched in 2022), and more than 4,500 pastors. For context, conservative church analysts estimate the individual membership across those 7,250+ congregations to be between 1 million and 1.5 million people globally, with a massive portion of recent growth taking place outside the United States in Africa and Asia.

With a vote of 370-1 (Rev. Clark Atkins believes the one vote resulted from pushing the wrong button), the General Conference delegates approved our new set of Articles of Faith (basic doctrinal statements). Here's a little history. In 1968, when the Evangelical **United** Brethren Church merged with the **Methodist** Church to form the United Methodist Church, the resulting denomination kept the Articles of Faith from both previous denominations and never had a unified set of doctrinal beliefs. This was a major error that undermined unity and added to the erroneous presumption that you can believe just about anything. The GMC wisely realized a new set of Articles of Faith must be developed, along with a catechism previously approved. You can read the new "Articles of Faith" at this link: <https://trinitygmc.org/the-articles-of-faith-of-the-global-methodist-church/>. *Keep on praying for the GMC! To stay up to date, here's the link to the GMC website:* www.globalmethodist.org.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Rick



THE HIGHLANDERS METHODIST MEN



HIGHLANDERS OCTOBER MEETING

The Highlanders will be holding their October meeting offsite at the new OZ Bike park here in Bella Vista. We will get together at the bike park on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 12:30 pm for an informal lunch and a ride on the only bike lift in Arkansas for those that may want to indulge. Both the pizza and the lift come highly recommended as well as the park grounds themselves, so it should be an interesting and fun way to spend an early fall afternoon. A large slice of pizza is \$7 - \$8 and the lift is \$10 per round trip although they do offer a small discount for groups. If the weather doesn't cooperate on the 8th the alternate date is tentatively the following Thursday Oct. 15 at the same time. Please sign up for this event as soon as you can but definitely by Monday Oct. 5 using the sign-up sheet on the information counter so we can let the park know how many to expect.

YOU'RE INVITED!

On Saturday, October 24 the Highlanders will be hosting an open-house reception from 12:30 – 2:30 pm to honor Dennis Redenius for his many years of service to Highlands Church and the Highlanders / Hummers. There will be a lunch provided and since that date also closely coincides with Dennis' 90th birthday we will be wishing him a Happy Birthday as well. All are welcome, so please join us.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Our September Blood Drive completed with 24 Donors showing up for duty and 19 of them being able to successfully donate. We thank everyone who made the effort to give their time and energy toward making a successful donation..... and to our on site Highlanders representative, Larry Bassett for his assistance and blood donation, too. Our final Drive for 2026 will be held at our usual time and place on Wednesday, December 16. Sign up and reminders will be available two weeks in advance. Our representative for the Drive will be Allen Lovell.

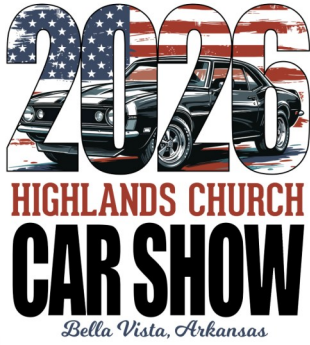


HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

HMW OCTOBER MEETING

You are invited to join the Highlands Methodist Women on Monday, October 12, at 10:30 AM for our next super exciting meeting! We will have Mr. Gravette, School Superintendent for Gravette and Western Benton County, Arkansas. Mr. Gravette will be talking about what the Gravette Schools do with the donations we contribute every month and will answer any questions you might want to ask him. Along with the new time, we will be having donuts instead of a full breakfast, along with your coffee or tea. Hope to see you on the 12th!

Highlands Church 9th Annual Charity Car Show



SAMARITAN'S FEET



BELLA VISTA BRIGHT FUTURE
CONNECTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Our 9th annual Highlands GMC Charity Car Show was a great day! The weather was hot and sunny but that didn't seem to make any difference to the participants or attendees as we had record numbers of both. And as we have in the past, we had a very diverse and very interesting collection of cars, trucks, motorcycles and more. Ferrari's, MG's, late model and antique corvettes, muscle cars of every make, VW's, a Bella Vista Fire Engine, ambulance and police car and many, many other cars and trucks of every stripe with a total number of around 200 participating.

With an estimated attendance of 650+ people the lunch crew stayed very busy serving over 600 meals. The BV Strings band once again provided their special brand of live music and a great time for everyone. The children enjoyed the bounce house, sno-cones, games and more, it was a good day even with the heat! And as a result, this

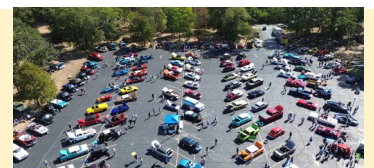
year's show raised a net amount of just over \$13,000 which will put the total amount distributed to the three charities it supports over the 9 years of the show to over \$126,000.

But we know none of this would have ever been possible without you, our Highlands Church family, and we would like to offer our sincere thanks to you for your continued support of this event. Not just for your monetary support through ticket sales and purchases, or your physical support with over 45 volunteers helping put on the show, but for everyone's willingness to pitch in and help when asked and to give so generously of your time, money and selves -THANK YOU!

Highlands Car Show and Outreach Committees



We've added a photo gallery and drone footage to the church website so you can see even more from the day. Take a look and see if you can spot your favorite vehicle... or maybe your own! Click the photo to view more, or visit hgmcbv.com/car-show



ACE + Family, Friends & a Mission to Share

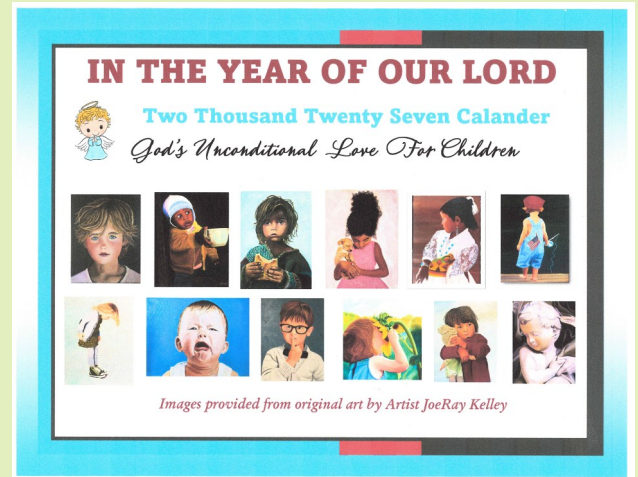
Everyone is invited to our next All Church Event, "Family & Friends," on Sunday, October 18, at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and time together with your Highlands family.

Our special program for the evening will be Brother Jim Benfer sharing a report from his Rio Bravo Mexico Mission. Come hear about the mission, the people they met, and the work being done as Jim shares about their experience.

We'll also have something special available that evening to help support the mission! Highlands member JoeRay Kelley has generously donated handcrafted 2027 calendars featuring his original artwork, with all proceeds benefiting the Rio Bravo Mexico Mission. JoeRay began painting at age 65 following a 40-year career in meteorology and is a self-taught artist who works in both acrylic and oil. Calendars will be available for a minimum donation of \$5 each, with additional free-will donations gladly accepted. (pictured right is the calendar's front cover)

The cost for the All Church Event is \$5 per person. Sign-ups will be available the weekends of October 3/4 and October 10/11. Invite a friend, bring your family, and join us for a fun evening together!

Questions? Call the Stones at 479-876-2260 or the Henkels at 479-876-6121.





Fall Church Decorating

We're getting the church ready for the Fall season, and we'd love your help! Join us on Tuesday, October 13, beginning at 9:00 AM to decorate.

No signup is needed... just come lend a hand. Many hands make for quick work, and it's always more fun when we do it together! If you have any questions, contact the church office or Kelly Fruin at 479-362-6347.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS



October 7

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Samaritan Community Center



Care & Share Trailer

The Care & Share Trailer will be at the church parking lot Monday, October 12, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please make plans to donate clean and/or gently used items.

They do not accept mattresses or printers.

Thank you!



Highlands Youth Discipleship

Highlands Youth Discipleship (Grades 5–12+) continues to meet Sunday mornings from **9:00–9:45 AM** for Bible study and real-life conversations. All middle and high school students are welcome, and we encourage our youth to bring a friend! For more details, please contact Roger Lawrence at 785-248-7774.

On August 29, the youth had their trip to the Great Passion Play. What an amazing experience! The play was powerful and touched on many of the Sunday School lessons we have had. We arrived early to enjoy the Bible Museum, Living Art Museum, the meal, petting farm, Parables of the Potter live talk, live talk from David with slingshot demonstration, and the Passion Play.

On September 13 we enjoyed a BBQ dinner and games at the church. Each youth was asked to bring ideas/designs for a youth T-shirt to our October event. We had a great time, and thank you to everyone who attended!

Upcoming Events:

October 17 – Exeter Corn Maze. This is a Saturday. Dinner/snacks will be on your own. All youth will be paid for by the church. Parents will pay 50% of their own entrance fee. The entry fee is \$35 per person, so parents will pay \$17.50 per person. We will rent a shelter as a home base for the group.

November 1 – Hayrack Ride & Wiener Roast at the Hall farm. This is a Sunday and will be from 4:00–7:00 PM.

December 5 – Miracle of Christmas at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Branson. Youth are paid for. Parents will pay 50% of their ticket price. Tickets are \$60 per person, so parents will pay \$30 per person. This is a 3:30 PM showing at Sight & Sound. We need a total head count by October 17 in order to place our ticket order.

January – Roller Skating at Great Day Skate Place on Moberly Lane in Bentonville, from 2:00–4:00 PM. Snacks are on your own. Youth are paid for, and parents are invited to attend. Cost for parents is \$10 per person.



Photos from Youth Trip to Eureka Springs Passion Play on Aug 29



Children's Center

Parents and Grandparents:

Kids, did you know the church has a library just for you? It's located in the sign-in area for the Nursery and Kids' Discipleship. No checkout is necessary. If you want to borrow a book, simply take it home and return it when you're finished!

Children age 5 – 4th Grade are welcome at Kids' 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

"START THE CHILDREN OFF THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT." PROVERBS 22:6

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1– Women's Bible Study, continues	2	3– No Celebration Worship
4– Combined Worship at 10AM – First Sunday Cookies	5	6– Compassionate Care Meeting – Highlanders Meeting	7– Snack Packs 24– Soup & Study continues	8– Women's Bible Study, continues	9	10
11	12– HMW Meeting – Columbus Day, Office Closed – Care Share Trailer	13– Fall Church Decorating – Fellowship Team Meeting	14– Stitches – Soup & Study, final session	15– Women's Bible Study, last class – Library Meeting	16	17– Youth Games & Grub at Exeter Corn Maze
18– All Church Event	19	20	21	22– Care Group Leaders Meeting	23	24– Reception/ Open House for Dennis Redenius FH, 12:30-2:30pm
25	26– Memorial for John Konnesky at 11am	27	28– Stitches	29	30	31

Prayer Ministry Team News

“My heart always goes where I put God’s money.” page 100 “The Treasure Principle”

As we enter this season, the Prayer Ministry Team invites our congregation to reflect on the ways God is shaping us into people who reflect His generosity.

As our Treasure Principle Soup Supper has begun, we give thanks for the fellowship already shared and the generous spirit taking root among us. With stewardship season beginning, we invite the congregation to be in prayer — that God would guide our hearts toward joyful giving, faithful service, and a deeper trust in His provision. Sharing a meal together reminds us that generosity always starts in community, where hearts are encouraged and faith is strengthened. This gathering sets the tone for the weeks ahead, inviting us to reflect on how our giving shapes our lives, our church, and the Kingdom work God calls us to. May this season draw our hearts toward what matters most and inspire us to invest ourselves in ways that bless others long after the bowls are empty.

In *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn reminds us that our hearts follow our treasure. Jesus teaches the same truth — wherever we invest ourselves, our affections soon arrive. As we gather around the table for our Soup Supper, we’re reminded that generosity is never just about resources; it’s about shaping the direction of our hearts. Every gift, every act of kindness, every moment of service draws us deeper into God’s mission. When we give toward God’s work, our hearts lean toward His people, His purposes, and His Kingdom. As we look ahead to our fall stewardship season, we pray that God will continue forming us into a community whose hearts are anchored in what matters most — the things that last, the things that bless, and the things that reflect Christ.

Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Prayer Ministry Team



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 November Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 PM (noon) on October 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 Monday, Oct 12 in observation of the Columbus Day Holiday.

Church Staff

RICK SITTON, *Pastor*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Business Manager*

AMY SHEWMAKER, *Nursery Attendant*

AMEY BURKETT, *Office Administrator*

MONICA REDMON, *Custodian*

Operating Budget Report - August 31, 2026

	YTD Budget	Aug Actual	YTD Actual
Income	318,484	47,317	312,899
Expenses	318,484	44,501	307,428
Net	0	2,816	5,471

Thank you for your continued support.

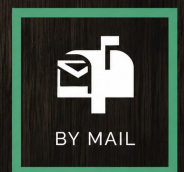
3 ways to give
to Highlands Church



ONLINE



IN-PERSON



BY MAIL

for details visit... | hgmcbv.com/give



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THE POWER OF
ONE

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



Highlands Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, AR 72715, (479) 855-2277, www.hgmcbv.com