

# Highlands News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HIGHLANDS CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 11



## PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION

This year the Finance Committee and Church Council want to approach our annual stewardship campaign in a new and different way. We feel that God is leading us to spend the coming year learning about the spiritual gifts that God has given us and learning how to use our gifts to live in a more Christ-centered way.

Our Mission will be “Building up God’s church and God’s people to build God’s Kingdom.” Highlands Church facilities will be our “Mission HQ” for this year of in-depth study and work on our growth both as a Christian and as a church.

We will begin with stewardship information announced in early November at worship services. Financial information and pledge cards will be mailed to every home with the expectation that you will prayerfully complete the commitment card and return it for dedication at worship services November 16/17 or November 23/24.

Next we will observe the Advent Season and prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

With the beginning of 2025, the “Mission work” begins:

- \* **Goal 1 January/February:** To keep being followers of Jesus Christ at the heart of all we do.
- \* **Goal 2 Mar/April, Lent/Easter:** To be those changed by Christ, desperate for others to know His love.
- \* **Goal 3 May/June:** To be disciples who pray big prayers for big things.
- \* **Goal 4 July/August:** To educate and equip people to know and spread the love of Christ.
- \* **Goal 5 September/October:** To radically change the world by radically changing our community.
- \* **Goal 6 November/December:** To steward what God has given us to build His kingdom.

Each of these goals will be supported by activities and events to help us learn and grow in the areas of our faith and commitment to Christ.

# Pastor's Pen by Rev. Robert Cloninger

Dru did a fantastic job sharing the plans of what we're calling MISSION HQ on the cover of this newsletter. In short, MISSION HQ will be a year-long project in which we, as a church, build a new path forward. It will be taking things we currently do and have done and mixing them with new ideas for the benefit of the overall congregation. We've decided to split the year into 6, 2 month sections. Every 2 months, the focus will change. You will ultimately find that what we are emphasizing is overall discipleship.

This is not just discipleship as we often think about it. It's not a 'do this, don't do that' program. MISSION HQ is designed to work towards creating deeply committed disciples who are deeply changed, and deeply committed to changing the world. It's about transformation, inspiration, and a new way of living.

Let's look first at the title, "MISSION HQ." What does this even mean? It means Mission Headquarters. It's the idea that this church is not just a gathering place, but it is a place where we recruit, train, equip, and motivate soldiers to carry out the work of Christ in the world.

Again, I don't want you to think this is just some hem-haw project. After all the disaffiliation proceedings, this will be an intense year in which we rebuild and reshape for the future. We have a bright future, and there are things we need to put in place. We must get serious about prayer in ways you might not have heard of. We need to get serious about growing in Christ. We need to get serious about our mission. We need to get serious about our own personal growth. We need to get serious about changing the face of our area. And we must do it all in a Biblically informed, Christ-centered way. A way so foreign in today's world. But we can do this and be part of the next great awakening to come.

Get ready for next year because you'll need to clear some time. We're going to have more classes and more projects. You must, as Christian brothers and sisters, pray this project through. If we do it right, you won't even recognize Highlands Church in a year, and really, we won't even recognize each other.

God has put this plan and a series of ideas on my heart and I want to see them through, but I need your help. Your role is crucial. Pray, serve, and let's be changed by the power of God. Your contribution is what will make this project a success.

More information will follow, and we will be with you every step of the way. You are not alone in this journey.

Robert



***Pastor Robert's office hours are:***

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**

**9AM—NOON ... AVAILABLE IN OFFICE**

**1PM—4PM ... AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**

# Children's Worship Center



Recently, teachers from our Children's Worship Center were asked this question...

What do you like about teaching children in the Kids Worship ministry?

Here are their replies...

"I was not a teacher in my professional life, but I find such joy in teaching the easy-to-follow curriculum. The children's enthusiasm and hunger to learn about God is the best thing about teaching. Other rewards include growing in my own faith, and every Sunday I am surrounded by my new friends! -- Fran Lovell

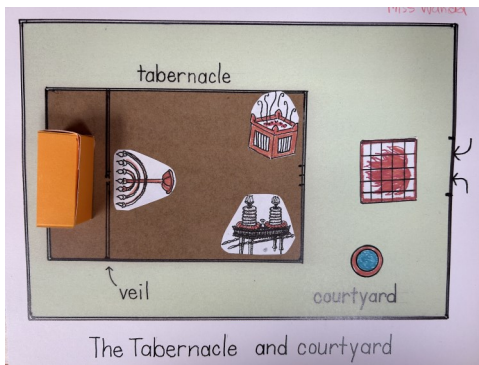
"I have taught children's Sunday School for the last 30 years. I love watching the growth of Faith in children. They are like sponges and through the simple things, they learn about Jesus. Sunday School is so important for young people, and I am so glad we can offer Sunday School at Highlands. Your children are a gift from God. Thank you for bringing your children." -- Sue Benson

"I love teaching our youngest and watching them grow with God. The seed that's planted now will grow with them forever." -- Laurie Pearson

"What a wonderful time we have each week in Sunday School, filled with action, curiosity, and fun. Each child is unique and radiates joy and happiness, as we learn about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm the one who receives so much from this experience. I'm thankful for each student that God has placed in my hands. It tickles my heart to be with them. They are truly such a blessing." -- Barb Zillmann

"I enjoy building relationships with children: listening to their experiences, their questions, and understanding their perspectives. Intergenerational ministry is life giving, as we look into the future of a child and participate in building a solid Christian foundation for their lives. I love to hear their heartfelt prayers, and I can't begin to imagine how it touches God's heart. They are so precious to Him, and they are a great gift to us at the Highlands. Plus, I get to spend time with Fran, Sue, Barb, and Laurie, and they are the best." -- Wanda L. Krug

P.S. We'd love to grow this team and if you feel a nudge in this direction, please contact Wanda Krug at (719) 213-1115 or [wlepillez@gmail.com](mailto:wlepillez@gmail.com). We can use helpers, as well as teachers.



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

**CHILDREN'S  
WORSHIP  
CENTER**

SUNDAYS DURING THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE



## HIGHLANDS METHODIST WOMEN

**November HMW Meeting:** Please join the Highlands Methodist Women (HMW) on Monday, November 11, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall as we hear from representatives from Saving Grace. At Saving Grace, 'Grace' has the opportunity to heal from childhood trauma, cultivate healthy relationships, and break the cycle of poverty that has greatly influenced her life. The program should be full of information on what is going on with women that are transitioning out of foster care. Food, fellowship and fun will be had by all. We will be collecting \$\$ for our Christmas Tea in December. Cost is \$15.00 for those who attend Highlands Church and \$30.00 for guests. All \$\$ will be due by Monday, November 25, as we have a deadline. Gayla, from The Jane Store, needs a head count to know how many will be there. We also have a limit of 50 people. You will hear more about that at the November meeting. Also, the Cookie Walk will be December 7. Make sure you have your cookie baking supplies on hand for those 20 dozen cookies for the Cookie Walk. Cookies will be due on December 3, (Tuesday) thru Dec. 5 (Thursday)! Hope you can join us at our last regular meeting for 2024. Please sign up at the Info Station.

**35th Annual Cookie Walk:** What time is it, boys and girls?!? It's Cookie Walk Time! The Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 am until 11:00 am (or until the last cookie is gone)! Please start thinking about the Festive Christmas Cookies you are going to make and plan on picking up the aluminum pans the weekends of November 2/3 and 9/10. The pans will be available at the volunteer signup table in the Gathering Area before and after both worship services. We have about 600 aluminum pans, so if you make your 20 dozen, we will have enough pans for you! Volunteer signups will begin the weekend of November 2/3. Information about the Craft, Candy and Sweet Shoppe donations will be coming soon. The proceeds from the Cookie Walk and Coffee Shoppe are split between the Highlands Church Mission Ministries and Highlands Methodist Women. For questions or more information, please contact our Cookie Walk Chairpersons: Wilhelmina Munson at 719-661-9956, Pat Lehman at 479-876-1985, or Darleen Olson at 479-936-1814.



## HIGHLANDS METHODIST MEN

**November HMM Meeting:** Please join the Highlands Methodist Men (HMM) on Tuesday, November 12, at 7:45 am, in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly breakfast meeting. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Donald Miller who is the pastor at the First Christian Church in Gravette. He is also a board member at Care & Share in Gravette and will be giving an over-view on what Care & Share is all about and exactly what they do for our community. If you plan to attend, sign up at the Information Station in the Gathering Area to help us better prepare. We look forward to seeing a great turnout!



Happy  
THANKSGIVING



# Snack Packs—Mission Ministry



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SNACK PACKS

Our next packing day is November 6, 10:00 am — 11:30 am, at Samaritan Community Center, 2910 S 8th Street in Rogers. This will be the last pack date for 2024. Snack Packs are distributed to food insecure Gravette School students each Friday. If you are interested, please join us! No signups required. Contact Sara Sherman at 870-550-0339 if you have any questions!

### Care & Share Thrift Store

Volunteers from Highlands Church are needed to work at the Gravette Care & Share Thrift Store the week of November 5-9, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. See the Weekly Update email to sign up online, or contact the church office for assistance. For details, contact our coordinator, Connie Kiefer.



### MATCH THE CHALLENGE

A member of our church has pledged \$5,000 toward our Operating Budget deficit and challenges other members of our congregation to donate toward matching this gift in the next few weeks. It is assumed that these donations are over and above your regular offering. Please note "Match challenge" on your envelope or check. The results of this giving will be announced in December.

*thank you*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### Veterans Day Celebration

The church office is updating Veteran's pictures that will be used on the wall for the Veterans Day Celebration the weekend of Nov 9/10. If you haven't turned in a picture to the office, or if you would like to update your picture, please include your name, branch and the date of service and turn in by November 4. Your photos will be scanned in and returned to you.

The Veterans Picture Wall will be available to view in the Gathering Area beginning Wednesday, November 6 through November 11. Make plans to join us on November 9 & 10, the weekend before Veterans Day; we will be serving cake and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after Worship Services to honor our Vets.



### Mission Opportunity - Food Pantry

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are near. Please donate holiday food items such as stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, green beans, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, and dessert mixes for the Bright Futures Food Pantry & Gravette School District. Place your donated items in the marked bins located in all entrances to the church for delivery to the Gravette School Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this Food Pantry.

# All Saints Weekend

At each service of worship on All Saints Weekend, November 2 & 3, we will remember the many loved ones lost since last year's All Saints Day. In our worship services, as each name is read, a chime will sound and a candle will be lit. We will miss the dear loved ones of our Highlands Family.



Jane Krumm

Patsy Whiting

Victor Hartzler

Jean Knadler

Mike Hansen

Michael Carroll



## The Season of Advent

Advent is always a wonderful season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and is usually a busy time of year at the church. The first day of Advent is the first Sunday in December; December 1. Our worship schedule will run per usual with the exceptions of the special services listed below.

**Celebration Worship Cantata - Saturday December 14, at 5:30 pm, in Sanctuary**

**Traditional Worship Cantata - Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 am, in Sanctuary (luncheon to follow)**

**Christmas Eve Worship - Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 pm, in Sanctuary**

## Christmas Party Luncheon

Join us for a Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 15, following the Cantata. The lunch will be provided by The Fellowship Committee and will be \$15 per person. Tickets sales will open the weekends of November 23/24, November 30/December 1 and again on December 7/8. Also, there will be sign-up sheets in the Gathering area starting the weekend of November 23/24 asking for 12 volunteers to be Food Runners, and 2 volunteers to be Ticket Takers. More details to come. Contact Linda Uttley for more information.

## December Outreach Events



**Cookie Walk:** Our 35th Annual Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 am until 11:00 am (or until the last cookie is gone)! The proceeds from the Cookie Walk and Coffee Shoppe are split between the Highlands Church Mission Ministries and Highlands Methodist Women. (more details on page 4)

**Angel Tree:** Watch for more information in the coming weeks about our 2024 Angel Tree program. The HMW (Highlands Methodist Women) are in the process of organizing and Angels are expected to be hung on our Christmas tree in the Gathering Area the weekend before the Cookie Walk. Contact the church office with any questions.


**Bell Ringing:** Another annual tradition at Highlands Church is Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. Once the schedule has been released by the Salvation Army, the office will prepare online signups and send out notification via email. Contact the church office with any questions.

# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2- Communion - All Saints Weekend
3- Communion - All Saints Weekend	4	5	6- Fellowship Committee Mtg	7	8	9- Veterans Day Celebration
10- Veterans Day Celebration	11- HMW Meeting - Office Closed for Holiday	12- HMM Meeting - Compassionate Disciples Meeting	13- Stitches Mtg	14- Trustees Mtg - GriefShare Holiday Class	15	16
17	18	19- Council Meeting - Kitchen Cleaning	20	21- Library Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27- Office Closed	28- Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day	29- Office Closed	30- Scrapbooking & Card Making

Contact the church office for more information

Wednesdays at 1pm  
Oct 30 - Nov 20  
in the Fellowship Hall



**Christ and the Tent: A Study of the Tabernacle**  
with Rev. Robert Cloninger

**Surviving  
the Holidays**

GRIEF SHARE®

November 14  
@ 1:30pm

see the weekly update email to signup



Daylight Savings Time ends on  
Sunday, November 3 at 2:00  
am. Don't forget to set your  
clocks back one hour when you  
go to bed Saturday night!



**New Address**

Judy McClure  
225 Concordia Dr,  
Bella Vista, AR 72715



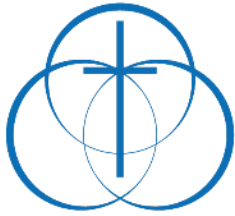
**Join Us For Communion  
During both services  
November 2 & 3**



# EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY CELEBRATION - 5:30 PM

SUNDAY TRADITIONAL - 10:00 AM



## HIGHLANDS CHURCH

A Global Methodist Congregation

### Office News

Amey & Lori: [office@hgmcbv.com](mailto:office@hgmcbv.com)

Newsletter: [newsletter@hgmcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@hgmcbv.com)

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Deadline for the December Highlands Newsletter is 12:00 (noon), on November 15 (early). Send all newsletter submissions, comments and/or questions to this email address: [newsletter@hgmcbv.com](mailto:newsletter@hgmcbv.com)

**HOLIDAY:** The church office will be closed on Mon, November 11, in observation of Veterans Day. Also, they will be closed on November 27, 28, & 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Church Staff

REV. ROBERT CLONINGER, *Senior Pastor*

LORI HEALD, *Office Administrator*

AMEY BURKETT, *Administrative Assistant*

DRU MATTHEWS, *Bookkeeper /Treasurer*

JOHN MATTHEWS, *Director of Music Ministries*

PAM MEYER, *Celebration Worship Leader*

JEANNINE WAGAR, *Organist*

JOYCE SHELDON, *Chimes & Bells Director*

LAURIE PEARSON, *Nursery Staff*

MONICA CLARK, *Custodian*

### Operating Budget Report - August 31, 2024

	YTD Budget	August Actual	YTD Actual
Income	335,566	34,054	296,933
Expenses	335,566	41,953	309,950
Net	0	(7,898)	(13,016)

Thank you for your continued support.

3 ways to give

to Highlands Church



Online



In-Person



By Mail

for details visit... [hgmcbv.com/give](http://hgmcbv.com/give)



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[Instagram.com/hgmcbv](https://instagram.com/hgmcbv)

