

Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith

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147 Commitments to 2018 Ministry Budget

Commitment Sunday saw 147 Highlanders pledge \$496,304 to Highland's 2018 Ministry Budget.

Following Commitment Sunday last year, 138 members had pledged \$521,376. In 2015, 135 members had pledged \$514,978.

Additional commitments will be received throughout the week by mail and this Sunday, November 19, during our follow-up Commitment Day (for those absent or not prepared to make a commitment last Sunday). Confidential commitments can also be made online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/yearly-pledge/> and by contacting our financial secretary, Anita House, at 451-3735 or anita@hbclouisville.org.



Redlining in Louisville: A Community Conversation

On Thursday, November 16, at 5:30 p.m., you are invited into a conversation on **Redlining in Louisville** in Fellowship Hall. Brought to you by the Anti-Racism Team, Justice Ministry Group, and Community Missions Ministry Group here at church, the conversation will be facilitated by the Office of Redevelopment Strategies for Louisville Metro Government.

Here is why the conversation matters:

Many of us are either awakening to, or have awoken to, the reality of racism as a pervasive, animating force in American society. The scope and complexity of racism's history in America defies comprehension. But, we should not despair. We can focus on specific realities shaped by racism that we can address to improve the lives of our neighbors. An understanding of and active response to redlining is one such meaningful opportunity.

Redlining is not an abstract idea: it is a traceable system of policies used by banks and government agencies since the 1930s to intentionally exclude black Americans from home ownership, deny blacks mortgages, target blacks with predatory lending, and generally deny blacks financial services enjoyed by whites. The generational damages and pain caused to individuals by redlining question America's most cherished principles. But, it is not too late for us to act.

Opening yourself to the conversation will change your life if you let it; we hope it will inspire you into a new way of relationship with our Louisville community. Come learn alongside justice-minded Highland members and our broader community so that we can respond in faith, together, to one of the most important issues in our city today!

Thanksgiving Worship

Make plans now to join us for our annual Thanksgiving worship service on November 23, at 8:30 a.m. The service is followed by a bountiful breakfast in Fellowship Hall, lovingly prepared by our Deacons. Children of all ages join parents in the service; there is no childcare provided.



Habitat for Humanity Offering

If you are not able to attend the Thanksgiving service, you can still participate in our annual offering to Habitat for Humanity. Highland members have been giving an offering each year to help support Habitat for Humanity and the construction of a "Baptist House" in Louisville. For the past twenty years, area Baptist churches have combined resources to build twenty-three houses for families in need through Habitat for Humanity. Highland has been asked to contribute \$5,000. The project of annually building a "Baptist House" originated at Highland, so help perpetuate the tradition and give generously to this worthy project. To learn more, visit: <http://www.habitat.org>.

Called Business Meetings, November 29 and December 6

There will be a called business meeting on Wednesday, November 29, at 6:00 p.m., for a discussion of the proposed budget for 2018. The proposed budget was presented at the last Quarterly Church Conference on October 18 by Tony Carney, chair of the Finance Ministry Group. It was announced that questions and amendments would be accepted at the called business meeting at the end of November.

There will be another business meeting on December 6, at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall to vote on nominations for the Interim Search Committee, and on the new Missions ministry group structure.

Please come share in these conversations as we plan for the future of our church. If you would like to join us for dinner on those evenings and do not have a standing reservation, please be sure to contact the church office (451-3735; becky@hbclouisville.org) by 11:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before.

2017 Advent Season at Highland Baptist Church

Four weekend worship services through the Advent and Christmas season—Fridays, 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays, 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m., unless noted below. In addition to weekly worship, special services through Advent include:

- December 3—Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 p.m.
- December 10—Children's Choirs Advent Service, 6:00 p.m.
- December 17—Christmas Program & Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- December 24—The Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. morning worship.
- December 24—Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- December 31—The First Sunday after Christmas, 9:30 a.m. morning worship.

Weekend Services Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 25:14-30

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
Joe Phelps, Proclaimer

Anthem:
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Men's Chorus

Thinking Together...

Many white Louisvillians presume the conditions in West Louisville (empty houses, no jobs, few businesses, unemployment, poverty, violence) results from blacks not taking advantage of opportunities to improve their plight.

Observe a poor black family buying expensive clothes for their children and you might conclude "they're poor because of their priorities."

We can operate out of false assumptions, or we can face the truth.

Highland Baptist Church invites white Louisville to **learn the truths behind our city's slums. Attend Thursday's 5:30 presentation on "Red Lining"**—the government-supported process of systematically prohibiting blacks from owning homes during our country's boom in wealth.

This is why I love Highland. We trust that truthfulness is of God. We are called to heal wounds, not mask them with superficial solutions.

Invite someone from outside Highland who wants to part of solutions, who would be intrigued by a church that doesn't argue over doctrine, but enters tough terrain as they follow Jesus.

Let's keep the witness and ministry of Highland going!

1. Make generous offerings for the remainder of the year to finish 2017 in the black. This year we are further in the red than previous years. Financial strength is vital as we enter 2018.

2. Make your 2018 pledge and increase your annual giving to Highland. *Commitment Sunday was sacred as always, but many faithful members were away or unprepared to pledge. We need an estimate of income as 2018's budget is finalized and presented to you.*

As my remaining weeks wind down, my love and hope for Highland winds UP. You are a beautiful, healing community of faith. ~Joe

Highland's Word To Our Community



Cream of the Crop Trip, November 30

Cream of the Crop is a group, retirement age and above, that gathers monthly. Our activities range from pot-lucks to trips to local places of interest.

We hope you will join us on Thursday, November 30, for an early evening dinner at The Bristol on Bardstown Road (~ 5:00 p.m.) followed by a trip to The Mega Cavern to see the Lights Under Louisville display for the holidays! We will be taking the mini-bus or you can choose to take your own vehicle as well. Please indicate your preference when you make your reservation. RSVP to Bob Elliott (412-2231; wre@twc.com) by Monday, November 27.

Sharing Faith in Action, Telling Your Stories

If you have not yet shared a photo and reflection of your family's faith in action effort in the month of October, or even if you are continuing the effort into this season of Thanksgiving, please send those items to renee@hbclouisville.org by this Thursday, November 16. We would love to post these to our presentation board in the Preschool Commons!

Children's Corner

Sorting Soiree, December 4

During the season of Advent, we have an annual tradition of collection non-perishable foods and toys for those in need during the Hanging of the Green service. We'll gather the following day, Monday, December 4, to sort those foods and pack it into baskets, as well as separate and prepare toys for the annual Christmas Shoppe where people shop for gifts at a greatly reduced cost. Make plans now to join us!

Important Dates to Remember!

December 4	Sorting Soiree
December 10	Children's Advent Music Service
June 26-29, 2018	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22, 2018	Vacation Bible School Camp

On Friday, our youth and some amazing volunteers will travel to Aldersgate for our annual Fall Youth Retreat. This year, our theme is "I Am!" which comes from the words of God and Jesus in our scriptures. We will learn together what it means to claim that statement for ourselves—to say "I am who I am!" in the image of God, imperfect, but loved fully and freely for being a unique and complicated individual! The task for us as a youth community is how we each own our own uniqueness while finding God in healthy relationship with one another. Our Fall Youth Retreat is one of the most celebrated events in our year. Our theme will be explored in two morning sessions blending scripture and diverse resources. Then, we will create a Saturday night worship service together with an emphasis on art, participatory elements, youth-created liturgy and the tradition of senior youth reflections. In between all that is a lot of fellowship, some free time, exploration of the grounds and trails, roaming goats and rare ducks, and much more! We are excited for all the retreat will bring as another step forward doing life together here at Highland. --Perry

Youth Corner

COMING SOON!

- * **Fall Youth Retreat**—Depart 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17. Return at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 19.
- * **Sundays**
 - November 12**—Bible Study AM, Girls Groups PM
 - November 19**—No Bible Study—out for fall retreat, No Guys Group
 - November 26**—Bible Study AM
- * **Wednesdays**
 - November 15**—Faith in Action!
 - November 22**—No Wednesday Programming
 - November 29**—Film + Theology!

Sorting Soiree, December 4

The Young Adult and Families with Children Ministry Groups invite families and young adults to our annual sorting soiree. Check the information in the "Children's Corner" at the top of this page for more information.

Young Adult Corner

White Elephant Christmas Party, December 16

Every year, we celebrate the upcoming birth of Jesus with an elaborate white elephant gift exchange. So, start creating, scrounging, and dreaming now for the beauty that you will share this year. The party will be at James and Stacy Fox's home on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. More details coming soon.

Facebook, *Highland Young Adults*

Be sure to like our page to follow our events and join the beauty of our community. <https://www.facebook.com/YoungAdultsHBC/>.

November 15: Congregational Inventory & Imagination for Wednesday Night Programming

Join us this Wednesday, November 15, for a conversation guided by Carol Harston for Wednesday night participants to share how Wednesday nights have been a powerful agent of faith formation *and* how we might consider its content, structure, and leadership moving forward. All are encouraged to attend in order to share their voice and listen to others.

REMINDER: We will not meet on *November 22* in honor of Thanksgiving break. We will be back on November 29 for a Called Business Meeting to review the 2018 proposed budget.

Adult Corner

Friday Church would not be Friday Church without the "Friday Church Band." The "Friday Church Band," led by Fred Bogert, is a collection of musicians who believe that singing and playing isn't a warm-up for the sermon; but singing and playing is the highest form of worship. These musicians are full of passion, energy, depth and talent. Several of the songs that we sing on Friday evenings are written and composed by members of the "Friday Church Band."

Come and worship with us on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

It's impossible to overestimate the importance of music!

Friday Church Corner





**This Week
at Highland**

Tuesday, November 14

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH, Stage).....5:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15

Fellowship Supper (FH)5:20-6 p.m.
Children's Activities.....6-7:15 p.m.
Youth Group (Youth Suite).....6-7:15 p.m.
Conversation about Wed. Nights (FH)6:15-7:15 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)7:15-8:45 p.m.

Thursday, November 16

Redlining Conversation (FH)5:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (Sanctuary)7 p.m.

Friday, November 17

Men's Small Group (122) 7 a.m.
Highland Men Gathering (FS)..... 8 a.m.
Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)4:30 p.m.
Friday Church (Sanctuary).....7-7:45 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (FH).....8 p.m.

Saturday, November 18

Wedding (Sanctuary)5 p.m.

Sunday, November 19

Worship 8:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study 11 a.m.
Personnel MG (103) 12:15 p.m.
Mission Redesign Q & A (Commons)..... 12:15 p.m.
Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12:30 p.m.
Adult Handbell rehearsal (200) 2-3 p.m.
Transgender Day of Remembrance (Sanctuary)6-9 p.m.

Monday, November 20

Young Adult MG (FS)5:30 p.m.
Youth MG (Youth Suite).....6 p.m.
Deacons (Commons).....7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH).....5:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday Night Menus

November 15

Pork Tenderloin
w/ Mustard Sauce
Scalloped Potatoes
Steamed Vegetable Medley
Spinach, Apple Salad
Rolls
Dessert

November 22

No Evening Activities/
Supper



Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-12: \$3.50; Max per family: \$21

Reminder: If you have a reservation you are responsible to pay for it. Cancellations must be made *no later than 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before your reservation.* You may also contact the church office to make your reservations/cancellations.

Around Highland...

... 2018 offering envelope boxes are set out alphabetically in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Commons. Please pick yours up this week!

This Week's Deacons

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Kathy Belcher (C), Jim McBee

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Kristie Abney (C), Bruce Carroll,
Tony Dougherty, Nathan Marrs (G)

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister, (G), Libby Cunningham,
Michael DeWhatley (C), Jim McBee

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Cheryl Davis (G), John Foster,
Bill Martin, Kim Shippey (C)

Letters from Your Ministers

This week: Carol

Where were *you* 20.5 years ago when Joe Phelps first became Pastor of Highland Baptist Church? Some of you can tell stories of where you sat during the call weekend, the first sermon you heard, and the first life moment Joe accompanied you through. Others of you were in other churches, other cities, or other stages of life. You got to know Joe through op-eds or public engagement or the warm welcome at the front door.

20.5 years ago, I met Joe as he and Terri walked in my family's home. I was a 7th grader who paused to meet the future pastor (and my future boss) just long enough before I could spill the news to my parents of some fight that had erupted at school involving a close family friend. It was a short, "Nice to meet you," before quickly moving on to the news of the day.

All these years later, Joe has become not only my pastor but also my colleague, my friend, and my wise guide. Joe's tender heart, impassioned voice, and deep love for the gospel and this church has had a profound impact on me. Terri has been the bonus prize. Kara and Bobby have been dear friends. Carly and Steven have grown to be people of great depth and commitment, a journey I was honored to accompany.

Joe has carried the mantle of leadership, responsibility, and vision for not only two decades here, but for over four decades in formal congregational ministry. I rejoice for him as he anticipates a freedom from the mantle's weight *and* a chance to see the deep impression it has made upon his shoulders, his vision, and his heart. He is a servant of God who has been forever changed.

As he moves on to the informal role of everyday prophet and neighborhood pastor, I look forward to the times we reunite to pause just long enough for the pleasantries before we dive into the news of the day and the shared wonderings of where God's light is still shining even in the darkness.

Thanks be to God for Joe Phelps and the family that he shared with us as gift. Sundays may come to look different, but we cling to the good news of our expanded, ever-present Cloud of Witness gathered round this sacred place.

**Mission Ministry Group Redesign Q&A,
This Sunday, November 19**



**Missions
Corner**

Join us in the Commons this Sunday at 12:15 p.m. if you have questions, ideas, or consideration for the proposed restructuring of our mission work here at Highland. We will give thanks for our past and current missional endeavors, the leadership who has shaped the way for our congregation to think beyond its walls, while also giving thanks for the opportunity to evolve as our work continues.



Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

Third Thursday Luncheon presents

Rev. Joe Phelps Nov 16th

co-chair of Empower West Louisville ("EmpowerWest"), a coalition of pastors and churches seeking to unleash the educational, economic, and spiritual power of West Louisville residents (empowerwest.com). Joe will talk about EmpowerWest's journey toward working together as black and white progressive churches.

Hotel Louisville • 120 West Broadway (Corner of Second & Broadway)

– Free Off-Street Parking –

Full Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentation at Noon • \$7.00 at the Door

Reservations required by MONDAY NOV 13th before the lunch

RSVP to Cathy Ford at 502/458-1223 or fordhoff@bellsouth.net

<https://louisvillefor.org/third-thursday-lunch/>

The Christmas Store, December 16

Highland's Community Missions Ministry Group is excited to once again serve our community through The Christmas Store at Highland! For the past four years, this store has served as a wonderful way to build relationships through shopping for Christmas presents with families we have met through a variety of local ministries.

Each year, you generously donate new books and toys, which constitutes the merchandise in our Christmas Store. Parents shop from a variety of items and buy their gifts at an 80% discount. Each year, the store is staffed with a small group of volunteers, so the shoppers can have a true Christmas shopping experience. They select gifts themselves with their individual children in mind.

The store offers gifts for children from birth to age 18. Here are some favorites to get your shopping started: action figures, Matchbox cars, sports equipment, dolls of all skin hues, makeup and nail polish kits, shaving kit, craft kits, electronics, bedding, YA fiction (*Harry Potter*, *Hunger Games*, and *The Percy Jackson Series*), picture books, and children's novels that represent a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and anything featuring a popular character (last year, paw patrol items were a huge hit!). Star Wars is also a must. For ideas, visit https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/MY4WZK6LR8PP/ref=cm_sw_su_w.

We will collect donations during worship at the Hanging of the Green Service on December 3. Please consider using your home or work place as a collection point for toys, and then bring them with you to the service.

If you would like to donate but are unable to attend the Hanging of the Green service, you can place donations in the bins outside of the choir room during the week of December 3. Please join us in giving from our abundance to be the light of Christ in our community this holiday season!

Transgender Day of Remembrance This Sunday, November 19

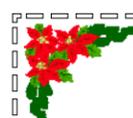
Join us this Sunday, November 19, 6:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, for a "Celebration of Love" in remembrance of those transgender individuals that have lost their life for just being transgender. This event is co-sponsored by Highland's True Colors Ministry Group. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/128736104413791>. For more information, visit <https://www.transwomennational.org>.

Upcoming Events at Highland

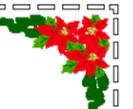
- November 16 Redlining Conversation
- November 17-19 Youth Fall Retreat
- November 19 Commitment Sunday #2; Transgender Day of Remembrance
- November 22 No Evening Activities/Supper
- November 23 Thanksgiving Service and Breakfast
- November 23-24 Church Offices Closed
- November 29 Called Business Meeting
- November 30 Cream of the Crop Trip
- December 2 HBC Work Day; Memorial Service for Bill Dinwiddie

Christmas Poinsettias

Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory/in honor of a family member, friend, or loved one. Please submit payment and information to the church office no later than Sunday, November 26.



*Christmas
Poinsettias*



Given By _____

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____