

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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A Look Toward Ash Wednesday and Beyond

The service that begins our Lenten journey, known as Ash Wednesday, is tomorrow, February 14. This is a service of penitence and humbleness, giving us time to reflect on our own mortality and sinfulness and allowing us time to turn from those things in our lives that we know are harmful and not Christ centered.

Ash Wednesday takes on a deeper meaning by being the entrance point to the Lenten season—a season in the church year where we remember the forty days before the crucifixion; where we make preparation for the celebration of the major event of the liturgical year and for the central event of our lives: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday becomes a poignant remembrance of last year's Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations, for we have saved the palm branches from that service and we burn them until they become ash which is then used to create a sign of penitence upon our foreheads this year. The use of ashes during the service gives an outward sign of our inward connection to the hope of death and resurrection. It also reminds us that we were formed from the dust of the earth, and that we will return to the earth at our last day. Highland's ministers will also impose ashes on all infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who will be in childcare, as well as Carol Choir, and their teachers.

Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, February 14, at 6:15 p.m., in the Sanctuary, to experience a journey toward Easter filled with the wholeness and humanity that God dreams for us.

This year's Lenten theme, "Beloved Is Where We Begin," is inspired by the art and poetry of Jan Richardson. The Worship Ministry Group will guide us through this Lenten season of blessing to open us to life, equip us to serve, and call us to action. To enrich your Lenten journey, we have gathered a list of some resources of daily devotionals, spiritual disciplines, worshipful practices, and theological reflection on our website at <https://hbclouisville.org/2018/02/13/2018-resources-lenten-journey/>.



Highland Responds to Illumination Project Report

Last Friday, the Governing Board of CBF voted in favor of a new hiring policy in replacement of a previous hiring policy, in place since 2000, which discriminated against all LGBTQ people. With the new policy, an "implementation procedure" has been approved which continues LGBTQ discrimination by CBF. In response to the vote from CBF, the Pastoral Staff sent out a letter to the congregation yesterday, which can be found on Facebook or at <https://mailchi.mp/hbclouisville/a-letter-from-the-pastoral-staff?e=3b0e8bbe8>.

The CBF Illumination Project Report can be read online at <http://illuminationproject.net/report/>, with pages 19-22 containing the old hiring policy, the new hiring policy, and the discriminatory new implementation procedure.

What Comes Next

Last year, a Task Force was convened at the request of church members to evaluate Highland's affiliation with CBF in light of the previous discriminatory hiring policy. The Task Force paused its work in anticipation of last week's decision, agreeing to reconvene and continue its work once CBF's decision had been made. Now that CBF has made its decision, the Task Force resumes its work. The role of this Task Force is not to decide anything for the church. It is to conduct research and present its findings to the church in order for the congregation to make the most faithful, wise, and brave decisions in how we will move forward. Those currently serving on the Task Force are Jim England (chair), Mary Burks, Anita Roper, Robert Davis, Alecia Fuller, Steve Brown, John Pacyga, Kathey Golightly Sanders, Lee Cave, Terri Phelps, and Perry Dixon.

Liminal Wonderings ...

The word "liminal," comes from the Latin word, limens, which means, threshold. Liminal space is about occupying a position on both sides of a boundary. We experience liminal space in tangible ways, when we encounter parking lots, the doctor's waiting room, rest stops. We also experience liminal space in our spiritual lives and the life of our church. It is about being in touch with the leaving behind of the "what was" and leaning into the "next." It is often a hard place to live, but it can hold great transformation for those willing to sit for a season in the unknown.

Most of us are not comfortable with waiting; we chose to jump into problem solving, trying to fix things, and get the ball moving again. We avoid the work of grief and we jump into orchestrating what will be. When we do this, we lose the opportunity for God to meet us in the quiet, and begin the work of transformation, and maybe even resurrection. Richard Rohr says, "The threshold, (the liminal space) is God's waiting room. Here we are taught openness and patience as we come to expect an appointment with the divine Doctor."

We are entering the Lenten season, which is a liminal space in the life of the church. As we receive ashes on our foreheads this week, may we be mindful of the movement of the Holy One in the disorientation of the Lenten journey.

May we, as Highland Baptist Church, be willing to listen for the Divine voice that whispers in the narrow space between the past and the present. May we boldly rest, so that we can breathe in the creative wind of the Spirit, and may we trust that the God of hope and promise is preparing a new way forward for the future of this beloved community of faith. ~ Nina Maples

HBC Got Skillz, Sunday, February 25, 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children, \$30 Family Max

HBC Got Skillz is one of our favorite traditions at Highland—a community wide variety show and pot-luck dinner (with dessert), all in support of the youth ministry's partnership with Touching Miami with Love!

To show off your Skillz, sign up on Sunday mornings in the Commons after worship or in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings during dinner. You can also email Susan Coleman Layman. The deadline to sign up to perform is February 18! Contact Susan with questions!

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 6:15 p.m.
Beloved Is Where We Begin



**First Sunday in Lent:
February 18**

Mark 1:9-15
Love and Soul Work
Jim England, Proclaimer

Choral Concert at Highland, February 21

Highland welcomes *Coro Vocati* in concert next Wednesday, February 21, 6:15 p.m. *Coro Vocati* is a group of professional singers based in Atlanta, called to create music at the highest level of choral artistry. Dr. John Dickson serves as conductor and Dr. Jonathan Crutchfield as accompanist. You will want to make a note of this wonderful choral opportunity and also welcome home John who served Highland as Minister of Music, and Jonathan, who served Highland as Organist as well as Minister of Music. This wonderful choir will be in Louisville to sing at the Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. Please mark your calendar and invite family and friends!



Candy Donations Needed

Help us fill our Easter eggs and treat bags for the upcoming festival on Sunday, March 25. Donate individually wrapped candy in the bin located outside the Choir Room no later than Wednesday, March 21.



Highland's Word To Our Community



Summer Camp Registration Opens This Week

It is hard to imagine on these cold, snowy February days that summer is just around the corner. And yet, it's that time again—time to register your child(ren) for Vacation Bible School Camp (completed K-3rd grade) and PASSPORT *kids!* (completed 4th-5th grade). Mark the dates below on your calendar and watch for an email this week with registration forms, initial deposit amounts and how to sign up!

Children's Corner

Bible Study Teacher Appreciation Month in February

Join us in February as we find ways to honor our Bible study teachers at Highland, and specifically the teachers who guide and nurture your children in faith each week through Bible study, music, and mission. We invite you to make a donation to help us complete our *Building Love* capital campaign in honor of a beloved Bible study teacher, past or present. Please contact Deb Ackerson in the church office to make that designated donation, deb@hbclouisville.org.

You may want to consider other ways to show your appreciation for our children's teachers. For example, your family might choose to make homemade cards for your child's teachers, write a song or a poem or create a piece of beautiful artwork. Use your imagination as you think on how to honor the teachers in our midst. On the final Sunday of the month, the Families with Children Ministry Group will honor all of our teachers in a unique way.

The best part—you have an entire month to express your gratitude! A class list of Bible study teacher names will be available on the tables in the Nursery, Preschool and Children's Commons areas throughout the building. If you have questions, contact Renee at renee@hbclouisville.org.

Important Dates to Remember

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
March 25	Easter Festival, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
May 12	Family Service Projects + Dinner, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
June 26-29	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22	Vacation Bible School Camp

This Wednesday

NO YOUTH PROGRAMMING—Ash Wednesday!

This Sunday

9:30 a.m.—Bible Study
12:00-2:00 p.m.—Guys Group
4:00 p.m.—HS Girls Group

Youth Corner

Lunch at El Nopal—EVERY WEEK!

Yes, you read that correctly! The Young Adults will have lunch together every Sunday from here until the end of time, or at least until we cannot say the words “cheese dip” anymore. Spread the word. Find us at the one on Baxter Avenue (across from Wicks Pizza) at 12:15 p.m. by following the cactus.

Young Adult Corner

Hymns for the Hymnless, March 4

Save the date. More information coming soon. If you want to help plan/lead, email Mary Miller Dwyer or Lauren Jones Mayfield (laurenjm@hbclouisville.org).

Theology on Tap, March 8

We will continue our three-part series on the Trinity. Carol will guide discussion about the Redeemer in March, and Nina will point the way to the Sustainer in April. ***Note the date change for March only—this is the second Thursday of the month, not the first.

Worship Practices for Our Very Lives

During our Winter Term, our Wednesday night class, “The Worship That Is Our Very Lives,” explored the ways that the worship of God invites us to orient our lives towards loving God with our full hearts and our whole lives as one communal body of Christ. In our daily lives, we live bombarded with people, ideas, and worldviews that seek our attention, affection, and attachment. James K. Smith suggests that these “secular liturgies” misdirect our attention and leave us starving for the God whom we are created to love the most. It is essential that we find ways to worship God on our own during the week. During our final week of class, we translated our worship elements into daily practices that might allow us to reorient our wandering hearts, listen for God's whispers and nudges, and prepare ourselves to be doers of the Word. As you prepare for Lent, how might these practices invite you to boldly live out the worship that is your very life?



- Have a reminder as you get out of bed to begin your day with gratitude.
- Consider what you are eating as a gift from God. Pause to offer thanksgiving.
- Confess the ways you have overvalued or undervalued your own worth and contributions.
- Recognize and affirm the gifts of others. Point out the ways they contribute to Jesus' work in the world.
- Connect with people at your work so that you might foster belonging and gather around shared purpose.
- Sacrifice something you have in order to take care of someone else. Give thanks for that opportunity.
- Be intentional and prayerful in your preparation to care for others
- Understand breaking bread together as a sharing of communion
- Remember your baptism when you shower or bathe.
- Set aside a place in your home to meditate and pray.
- Sing hymns to yourself, listen to music, or set aside time to listen to the birds singing their praise.
- Welcome people into your home – new friends, old neighbors, and unexpected guests.
- Learn unconditional love from pets.
- Surround yourself with friends who challenge you.
- Sanctify leisure time as a set-aside time to connect with God's gifts of art, music, nature, and friendship.
- Tend to God's gifts in nature.
- Share the fruit of your leisure by bringing someone a meal or giving away crafted items.
- Develop partnerships and nurture companionship with all those who are moving with you towards a shared goal.
- Celebrate life as the day ends.

Habitat for Humanity Team

The Habitat Mission Team invites you to join this year's Baptist Habitat houses #25 and #26. Raise the Roof—the first three days of building—will kick off the project on April 12-14!

We are looking for a few good friends to join Highland's new Habitat for Humanity Mission Team to help us organize workers, provide lunches and more. If you are interested in learning more about how the team will function and use your time and talents, contact Jim McBee or Sam Rose for more details.



Missions Corner

Environmental Action Team

If you would like to help the church lessen its carbon footprint, or you would like to join a group of folks who want to work with others to learn about sustainable practices, then please join us at 6:30 p.m. this Thursday, February 15, in room 103. Contact Ben Self or Rachel Nally for more info.



This Week at Highland

Tuesday, February 13

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
 Richard Rohr Book Study for Men (FS) 7:30-9 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14

Fellowship Supper (FH) 5:20-6 p.m.
 Children's Activities 6-7:15 p.m.
 Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 6:15 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 15

Senior Adult MG (103) 11 a.m.
 E.A.T. (103) 6:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 7 p.m.

Friday, February 16

Friday Church (Sanctuary) 7-7:45 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH) 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 17

Men's Gathering and Breakfast (Off-site) 8 a.m.

Sunday, February 18

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.
 Bryce Clemons Birthday Celebration (FH) 11:30 a.m.
 Orchestra lunch (FH) 12 p.m.
 Adult Ministries MG (103) 12:30 p.m.
 Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12:30 p.m.
 Adult Handbells rehearsal (200) 2-3 p.m.

Monday, February 19

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

Tuesday, February 20

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
 Richard Rohr Book Study for Men (FS) 7:30-9 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Highland

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service
February 18	Lobby Training
February 21	Coro Vocati Choral Concert
February 24	Families with Children Family Fun Night
February 25	HBC Got Skillz
March 4	Highland Book Club; Hymns for the Hymnless
March 8	Libation Theology
March 9-10	Annual Women's Retreat
March 10	MensWork Breakfast
March 25	Palm Sunday; Easter Festival
March 28	Holy Week Service
March 29	Maundy Thursday Service
March 30	Tenebrae Service
April 1	Easter Sunday
April 4	No Evening Activities/Supper

Wednesday Night Menus

February 14	February 21
Chicken Parmigiana	Egg Casserole
Buttered Noodles	Bacon
Zucchini & Yellow Squash	Hash Brown Casserole
Caesar Salad	Biscuits & Gravy
French Bread	Mixed Greens w/ Citrus
Dessert	Fruit Bowl
	Dessert

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.

This Week's Deacons

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Mike McFall (C), Susan Pierce

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Kristie Abney (G), Tony Dougherty,
Gene Streible (C), Tyler Swim

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister (C), Libby Cunningham,
Allison French (G), Susan Pierce

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Kathy Belcher, Bruce Carroll (G),
Sharon Sanders, Kim Shippey (C)

Next Men's Gathering, This Saturday

Highland Men will gather at Fourth Presbyterian Church (Preston and Hess Lane), 8:00 a.m., for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast this Saturday, February 17. We will have a good time of mingling and news about opportunities in our community for outreach. Fourth Presbyterian is in the area for Ministries United South Central Louisville (MUSCL). We ask each man to bring 4-5 items for the MUSCL food closet and \$5. Items that are always high in demand are: peanut butter, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, diapers, baby formula, canned vegetables and fruit, and soup.



A Highland Surprise Celebration This Sunday

Please join us for a surprise celebration of the 40th birthday of our son, Bryce Clemons, this Sunday, February 18, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

Long ago, the doctors said, "no babies for you." But after a long time, God said "I have save a sweet spirit for you." His name is Bryce. Having been expelled by two uncaring churches, we finally tried Highland. And for my rowdy 6-year-old with autism, it was heaven on earth. We sent him for "socialization" with more typical children. We were therefore quite shocked when, after years, Bryce brought a faith, true and deep. He slowly brought his profoundly depressed and angry parents back to the faith they had lost. Bryce is the handsome, very tall man who walks the church during the 11 o'clock hour, and on February 17, he will be 40 years old.

We will celebrate not just his ripe old age (no presents please), but also want to thank the church. What a wonderful difference you have made. ~ Colleen and Jerry Clemons



2018 Women's Retreat: Bless Her Heart

Highland's annual Women's Retreat will be March 9-10 at Loretto. Cost for the retreat is \$60. Payment can be made on Sunday mornings to Carol Harston or online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/>. Deadline to sign-up is February 25. The retreat will begin at dinnertime on Friday and conclude on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. We set aside time to gather the women of Highland not around shared physical commonalities but around the feminine spirit of unity shared in friendship, support, and encouragement. Our Women's Retreat is open to all for whom our community of women allows their true self to connect with God, grow in faith, and connect with the Body of Christ.

Life's challenges are too overwhelming to endure alone. Life's twists and turns are too disorienting to traverse companionless. Life's joys are too grand not to celebrate together. God blesses us into being and calls us to do the same for one another. For this year's Women's Retreat, we will be inspired by our Lenten theme, "Beloved Is Where We Begin," by gathering around the ancient practice of "blessing."

"Bless her heart" is often spoken as a trite, condescending phrase, but we will take it seriously at the Women's Retreat. In a culture that sows seeds of division among women, we will practice gentleness, enact rituals of forgiveness, and encourage one another's continued growth. We hope that you will join us as we engage our hearts, open our lives, and develop honest relationships so that we might live into calling to give and receive blessing.

Cream of the Crop Trip, March 17

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 Saturday, March 17, as we travel to General Butler State Park. We will meet in the church's parking lot at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Billie Johnson by Wednesday, March 14.

A Note of Thanks

To the saints of Highland Baptist Church,

I thank God each time I think of you. Your faithfulness and love has sustained me in these past weeks of recovery from a fall. Food, visits, tender hugs, home help, words of encouragement, calls, cards and messages have been received at just the times I have most needed them. Thank you. I am ever grateful, ~ Terri Connolly

HCM 2018 Lenten Lunch Series

Join Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) for the Lenten Lunch Series, a simple lunch of soup and bread, served by HCM member congregations with a short devotion for the Lenten Season, Thursdays, noon-1:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Dynamic Duos". For more information, visit <http://www.hcmlouisville.org>.

Date	Location
February 22	Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Rd.
March 1	Highlands Community Campus (home of HCM), 1228 E Breckenridge St.
March 8	Strathmoor Presbyterian Church, 2201 Hawthorne Ave.
March 15	Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, 1722 Bardstown Rd.
March 22	St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2000 Douglass Blvd.

Weekly Financial Report February 4, 2018 (5 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$19,421.68	\$30,334.17	\$101,077.76	\$115,880.12	\$14,802.36
Other Income	\$1,034.13	\$657.10	\$5,170.65	\$3,530.87	(\$1,639.78)
Total	\$20,455.81	\$30,991.27	\$106,248.41	\$119,410.99	\$13,162.58



2015 Building Renovation Project

Contributed this week	\$903.00	Loan Balance	\$72,338.00
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Around Highland...

... The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. Everyone is invited!

... Highland's Sanctuary Bells (pictured below) resumed a new season of rehearsals on Sunday and look forward to ringing in worship, participating in Area 5 Spring Festival in Charleston, West Virginia, as well as our Spring Bell and Orchestra Concert, on Wednesday, May 23. They are Kathy Collier's favorite ding-a-lings: Steve Brown, Beth Hedges, Carol Stanton, Rick Finklea, Allison Cross, Robert Davis, Sharon Sanders, Bill Ockerman, Paxton Vaughn, Bruce Maples, Larry Davis, and Mac Brown.



Highland Highlights

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2018 – a worshipful morning filled with Highland's children ringing bells, the premiere of a new anthem, and installation of ministers who will help us discover, grow, and serve through this season of change.

