

*Where transformed people are joining the work of God.*



**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1101 Cherokee Road  
Louisville, KY 40204



*A thinking, feeling, healing  
community of faith*

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**This Sunday: HBC Got Skillz**

This Sunday, February 10, we will gather for our church-wide variety show and chili dinner to raise funds for our summer trips and scholarship fund. Youth and parents will contribute in all different ways to pull off the evening of joy for our community and we hope church members of all ages will come! Tickets will be on sale for \$10 each in the Commons after worship this Sunday, February 10. Dinner starts at 5:15 p.m., and the show starts at 6:00 p.m., all at Highlands Community Ministries (1228 East Breckinridge).



**Vote for Congregational Representatives This Weekend**

The Ministry Council would like to thank the church for the nominations received. The names of those who have been asked and agreed to serve on the Ministry Council beginning in February are: Bojangles Blanchard, Karen Park, and Loren Townsend (Vice Chair). The church will vote by ballot in all services this weekend.

**Courage to Imagine God's Call This Sunday**

Highland is blessed with a rich diversity of ages, life experiences, and voices. During our "Courage to Imagine" season, we will experience worship led by different groups of people within our congregation. This Sunday, February 10, Highland's elder generations will lead us through praise, confession, proclamation, and response as we celebrate a faith that is passed generation to generation. During our morning services, we will hear faith stories about calling from Jim Hawkins, John and Lela Hendrix, Chip Miller, Pat Ramsey, and Dr. Marilyn Sanders. Corsages will be available in the Commons for those seventy-five and above as a gift of celebration for their important presence and leadership in our congregation.



**For the Living of These Days—A Word from Renee Purtlebaugh**

Saturday's Memorial Service for little Rylee was perhaps one of the most difficult moments our congregation has walked through in many years. With this family who is part of the fabric of our congregation, with the teachers who loved and taught her each week in our Toddler classroom, with the families in their Bible study class who have become close friends, even now closer, we grieve.

When the vibrant life of a beloved child is too soon gone from us, we wrestle to find our way through the confusion and the grief and the darkness. We name the reality that there is so much sadness, disbelief, and heartbreak that it is difficult to speak any adequate words that might bring comfort. When a beloved child dies, I think it is normal and right to feel these big feelings because it means that we have loved deeply and we have loved well.

And yet God is here, showing up in the midst of the sorrow, weeping and comforting too. Saturday's gathering of collective grief and celebration of Rylee's life brought together so many of the circles she moved through and the lives she transformed with her little light. Sunday's remembering of this family as we saw beautiful flowers remaining in the Sanctuary and Commons reminds us that grief continues for days and weeks and months and years, and that they will need our support and care and love in the ways a community of faith offers. And the depth of courage of our Toddler Bible study teachers and worship care volunteers who didn't have the strength to walk into the nursery area on Saturday in their sadness, but found it as they walked boldly into those classrooms Sunday morning to embody God's love is a testament to God's strength within, for it is step by tiny step that we walk forward into the days that are ours to live and make a difference within. *(continued to page 3)*

**Report from Transition Team**

This past Sunday during the two Bible study hours, our Highland community gathered for conversations around our mission, vision and values. Our interim facilitator, Dr. Chris Gambill, facilitated these sessions where we shared stories about times that led us to feel proud of our church (times we when we experienced Highland living out its mission, vision, and values). The Transition Team will compile information which was shared and report back to the congregation soon on these conversations.

We recognize it can feel as if we are moving slowly through this process. The Pastor Search Committee was formed in June; we signed on with our consultant Chris in September; and we are now in the process of having conversations as a congregation that will help define two profiles: (a) Who we are as a church, and (b) The kind of leader we are looking for moving forward. There will be two more conversations (March and April), after which the Search Committee will use the profiles in seeking potential candidates. We appreciate your patience and your prayers as we carefully move through this important process.

While we've stated over the past year that it is essential for us to put some space between the congregation and former ministers, we want to be clear so that everyone understands what this means. The standard for retired pastors (across most denominational lines) is that they should expect to be away from the church for one year after a new minister is in place. We have discussed this with Joe and he understands this is our expectation. Taking into account the length of the process in which we are engaged, we also shared with him that we would be open to his return eight to nine months after we hire a new minister. We extended an invitation for Joe and Terri to visit us in worship on special occasions. We also want members to know that Joe is willing to officiate funerals of members should that be their desire.

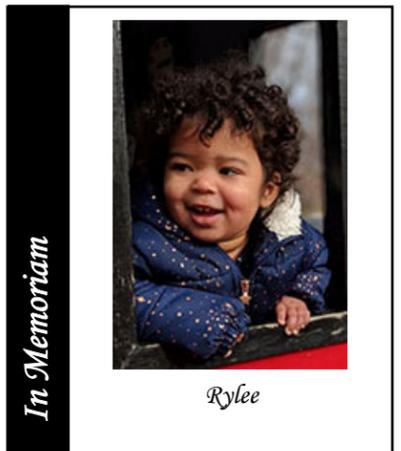
Again, we thank you for your patience, and especially for your prayers. If you have questions, please contact Bob Cunningham or Roy Fuller. ~ *The Transition Team*

**Interim Update  
Corner**

**Weekend Services**

Faith Stories by Jim Hawkins, Lela and John Hendrix, Chip Miller, Pat Ramsey and Dr. Marilyn Sanders

Anthems: *Cast Thy Burden  
Upon the Lord  
God Be in My Head*



*In Memoriam*

Rylee

**Memorial and Honorarium Fund at Highland**

The Faithful Giving Ministry Group has been working toward a more formal process for provision of memorial gifts and has added the opportunity to provide gifts in honor of special life milestones with the Memorial and Honorarium Fund. Although this type of recognition has occurred in the past, we would like to expand the tradition allowing for celebration of lives both current and those that have passed.

**Memorial Giving**

When members die or pre-funeral arrangements are made, financial gifts can be designated to the Memorial and Honorarium Fund. Approximately three months following the funeral, a listing of donors will be published in the newsletter. If donors wish to remain anonymous, that request should be submitted to our Financial Secretary at the time the gift is given.

**Honorarium Giving**

Members experiencing life milestones such as a graduation, anniversary, birthday, retirement or significant gift of time to the life of our congregation can be recognized by family or friends through a gift to the Memorial and Honorarium Fund. A listing of these celebrations will occur in the newsletter as they are announced.

These gifts will be used for several purposes including funding capital expenses and increasing funds for the operating reserves. Questions can be directed to the Faithful Giving Ministry Group or to Deb Ackerson, Financial Secretary.

## Family Fun Night February 16

The winter months are more fun with friends, as the cold and gloom lingers on. Join us on Saturday, February 16, for a Family Fun Night! We'll begin with an indoor picnic at 5:30 p.m., followed by a movie, board game playing and toys (for the littles). Each family is invited to bring their own dinner (no peanut butter please), and a board game to share. We'll have popcorn and some snacks for movie watching, and all activities will take place in the same area, so that parents can have time to catch up with one another. We'll wrap up the night around 7:30ish. RSVP to [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org) by February 15 in case winter weather affects our plans.

Children's Corner

## Important Dates to Remember

February 16	Family Fun Night	May 19	Children's Spring Music Program
February 17	Children's Sabbath	June 24-27	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
March (Date TBD)	Family Service Project	July 19-21	Vacation Bible School Camp
April 14	Easter Festival		

## Please Note:

Articles for the weekly newsletter should be submitted to Andria no later than Monday mornings.

## Highland's Word To Our Community



## Mark Your Calendar!

### This Wednesday, February 6

Youth Fellowship, 6:00-7:15 p.m., Youth Suite

### This Sunday, February 10

Bible Study, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Youth Suite

HBC Got Skillz, 5:15-7:15 p.m., Highlands Community Ministries (1228 E Breckenridge Street)

Youth Corner

## Theology on Tap, This Thursday

We will meet at Baxter 942 this Thursday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. The discussion starts at 6:30. This month's topic is the Theology of Paul, led by fellow young adult and Highland's Personnel Ministry Group Chair, Rev. Laura Barclay.

Young Adult Corner

## Dr. Mark Medley Profiles Saints in our Windows, Perpetua and Felicity

**Cloud of Witnesses: Profiles in Courage** (6:10-7:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall): Highland's faith community is deeply shaped by the cloud of witnesses—both those in the pews and those in our beloved stained glass windows. This February, you are invited to hear more about the saints in our windows through a three-week Wednesday series on February 6, 13, and 20. This week, we will hear from Dr. Mark Medley about Perpetua and Felicity.

Mark Medley is Professor of Theology at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky (BSK). At the seminary, he teaches courses in theology, ethics, and Christianity and Culture. Prior to arriving at BSK in 2007, he taught in the School of Theology at Campbellsville University from 1999-2007. A native of North Carolina and a graduate of the University of North Carolina (1987), Mark earned the M.Div. (1990) and Ph.D. (1995) degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served on ministerial staffs of churches in North Carolina and Kentucky. From July-December 2016, Mark served as theologian-in-residence at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, KY, and is currently a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. He is an active member in the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. He serves on the editorial board of *Review & Expositor*. He has published one book and is currently working on a book project tentatively titled *Ordinarily Radical: Baptism, Martyrdom and the Creation of Ecclesial Social Flesh*. He is married to Maria Ricker Medley, and he and Maria have one son, Jacob, a student at Bellarmine University.



## Table Talk This Thursday

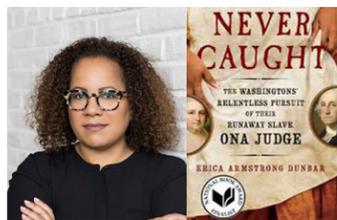
Table Talk is a relaxed time to eat together, meet new people, strengthen bonds with friends, and enjoy meaningful conversations on topics of collective or individual interest. This month's Table Talk is this Thursday, February 7, 6:30 p.m., at North End Café (1722 Frankfort Ave.) in the Clifton neighborhood. Inquiries may be directed to Marc Dowell, Earl Shelp, and Jim Shelton.

## Save the Date: Women's Retreat

Highland's annual Women's Retreat is a time to gather the women of Highland to nurture unity, 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. This year's Women's Retreat will be March 8-9 at Loretto. The retreat will cost \$60. To register for the Women's Retreat, email Carol at [carol@hbclouisville.org](mailto:carol@hbclouisville.org) or sign-up in the Commons this Sunday, February 10.

## EmpowerWest City-Wide Book Club: "Never Caught", This Thursday

Dr. Erica Dunbar, author of *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (2017) will present this Thursday, February 7, for the EmpowerWest citywide book club. There is a lunchtime event, 11:45 a.m., at St. Matthews Episcopal that will be a conversation with the author as well as with Louisville own's Speed Stodghill and The Rev. Whit Stodghill about what it is like for white people to become conscious of their family's historical connections to slavery. Tickets for the lecture are free. However, you can purchase lunch in advance for \$15. Lunch will be provided by Tazki's Mediterranean buffet-style with beef, chicken, and vegetarian options. There will be an evening presentation at 7:00 at Crescent Hill Baptist Church. More information can be found online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowerwest-citywide-book-read-during-black-history-month-tickets-36408049456>.



Missions Corner

## Delicious Tamales ...

Will once again be available this Sunday, February 10, in the lobby on the first floor, following the 11:00 worship service. The tamales are made and served with care by our friend whom we have welcomed before. Donations made on Sunday will go directly to her needs such as rent and other living expenses. Please stop by at noon and enjoy this generous contribution to our community.

## La Casita Soup

Beginning February 26, the Immigration Team is providing soup for the participants at La Casita Center the fourth Tuesday of each month. We will need two pots of soup each time we provide soup. You are invited to participate in this ministry by making a pot of soup for the center. A sign-up sheet for providing soup will be available on Wednesday nights, and in the Commons on Sundays after each service. If you have questions, please contact Jane Parker or Michael French.



**This Week  
at Highland**

**Tuesday, February 5**

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
G.R.O.W. (103) ..... 6 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 6**

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.  
Adult Class—Cloud of Witnesses:  
Profiles in Courage (FH) .....6:10-7:15 p.m.  
Congregational Safety MT (103) .....6:15-7:45 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) ....7:15-8:15 p.m.

**Thursday, February 7**

Theology on Tap (Off-site) ..... 6 p.m.  
Table Talk (Off-site) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous (Sanctuary) ..... 7 p.m.  
Prayer Shawl Group (Off-site) ..... 7 p.m.

**Friday, February 8**

Men's Fellowship Gathering (FS) ..... 8 a.m.  
Friday Church (Sanctuary) .....7-7:45 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (FH) ..... 8 p.m.

**Sunday, February 10**

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.  
Tamale Sale (Commons) ..... 12 p.m.  
Families with Children MG (201) ..... 12:30 p.m.  
HBC Got Skillz Dinner (Off-site) ..... 5:15 p.m.  
HBC Got Skillz Show (Off-site) ..... 6 p.m.

**Monday, January 28**

Anti-Racism MT (Commons) ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 29**

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
Finance MG (103) ..... 6 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) ..... 10 p.m.

**Upcoming Events at Highland**

February 7	Theology on Tap; Table Talk
February 10	Vote on Congregational Representatives for Ministry Council; HBC Got Skillz
February 16	Family Fun Night
February 17	Children's Sabbath
March 3	Youth-Led Worship
March 6	Ash Wednesday Service
March 7	Theology on Tap
March 8-9	Annual Women's Retreat
March 11	Joint WMU meeting
March 14	Table Talk
March 29	Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper
April 3	No Evening Activities/Supper
April 11	Table Talk
April 14	Palm Sunday; Easter Festival

**Wednesday Night Menus**

<b>February 6</b>	<b>February 13</b>
Chicken Parmigiana	Spaghetti and Meatballs
Buttered Noodles	Broccoli
Zucchini/Yellow Squash	Caesar Salad
Caesar Salad/Green	Vegetable Salad
Salad	Garlic Bread
French Bread	Dessert
Dessert	

Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-11: \$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.**

Jeff Grey (C), John Pacyga

**Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

Joey Eubank (G), Allison French,  
Nathan Marrs (C), Gene Streible

**Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**

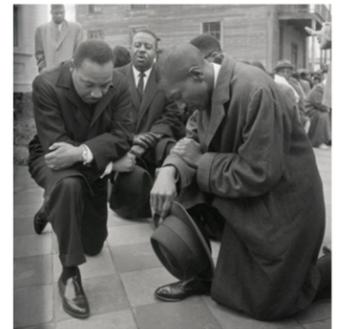
Steven Michael Carr, Libby Cunningham (C),  
Jill Ligon Davis (G), Bill Martin

**Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons (G), Holly Harris,  
Lewis Miller (C), Sharon Sanders

**Alison Stabler Named 2019 Artist in Residence at Louisville Seminary**

Longtime Highland member, Alison Stabler, has been named the Artist in Residence for the 2019 Black Church Studies Consultation at Louisville Seminary. Alison is a second year MDiv student and will be showing her exhibit "Echoes of Alabama" during the BCS Consultation held on February 21-22. The exhibit is a collection of photographs and narratives about the history of slavery, Civil Rights, and rural ministry in Alabama. It features the use of hashtags, theological quotes, scripture, and original poetry to reflect on the reality, past and present, that African Americans face in the Deep South. Alison will be available for Highland members to view the exhibit on Wednesday, February 20, or the following week, February 25-28. Please contact her by email to arrange to see the exhibit.



Dr. Martin Luther King kneeling in prayer with clergy in Selma shortly before being arrested. #takeaknee

**A Note from Lauren Jones Mayfield**

Dear Highland,

I write with exciting news. I will return to work in my capacities as Associate Pastor of Young Adults and Mission on Monday, March 18. I look forward to reconnecting with you!

As the date nears, I will offer more about what you can expect from me upon my return, along with what may be some helpful information about my journey into eating disorder recovery, as well as encouraging ways we might best greet one another.

In the meantime, let me remind you how fabulous your pastors, staff, and the personnel ministry group members are. The generosity that these leaders persist in offering me, on your behalf, continues paving the road to healing, health, and wholeness. This blessing has revealed in profound ways the mysterious goodness of community and solidarity.

With perseverance and hope, ~ Lauren Jones Mayfield

**For the Living of These Days—A Word from Renee Purtlebaugh** *(continued from page 1)*

Friends, these are the vulnerable moments in which we live out all that we believe—that we do have the capacity to sit in the midst of that which is so difficult when the world just doesn't make sense, that we do not grieve as those without hope, that God is our good shepherd giving strength and courage for the journey.

As we read on Saturday afternoon, Jesus' strong embrace [of the children he hugged and blessed] reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble (Mark 10, Psalm 46). I wonder today if that refuge and strength looks a little bit like this blessing from Jan Richardson, *Blessing When a World is Ending*.

*Look, the world is always ending somewhere.  
Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.  
Somewhere it has gone completely dark... ..  
Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.*

*But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose.  
It has not come to cause despair.*

*It is simply here because there is nothing a blessing  
is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more  
for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.*

*This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort;  
it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes.*

*It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards  
and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come,  
gathering itself about you as the world begins again.*

© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

May we have the courage in these days and always to turn our face toward the direction from which the Light will come, trusting that while it was never gone from us, we will see it clearly and brightly once again.

**A Note of Thanks**

Dear Highland Baptist Church members, Generations Bible study class, and wonderful pastors and staff,

Phyllis and I wish to express our deep gratitude and love for the cards, flowers, food, and visits shown to us during Phyllis' heart surgery and recovery. Your love and prayers have sustained us these past five months. ~ Chet and Phyllis Watson



**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith*

**Our Mission**

God's Love compels us to cultivate a safe, welcoming community of faith where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve, as together we boldly live out the worship that is our very lives.

**Our Vision**

We dream of being an engaging, vibrant Christian church, where transformed people are joining the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant.

**Our Values**

- We value a **deeply spiritual, Christ-centered faith** that opens us to life, equips us to serve, and calls us to action.
- We value a **courageous, progressive theology** whose relevance extends from the pew to the street, that engages both the mind and the heart, and that welcomes everyone from the skeptic to the devoted.
- We value **all people**, not in spite of, but precisely because of all that makes each one unique.
- We value **being doers of the word**, living out what Jesus taught: showing hospitality to strangers, confronting injustice, giving voice to those who have been silenced.
- We value a **healthy community**, where honest relationships provide all people safety, encouragement, acceptance, and healing, and challenge us to practice gentleness, forgiveness, and continued growth.
- We value **embracing challenge and change**: naming hard things, asking questions, and leaning into tensions and ambiguity.
- We value **growing together across the lifespan**, through multi-generational and intergenerational relationships and ministries.
- We value being rooted in our **distinct and radical heritage** that compels us to breathe new life into bedrock Baptist principles.
- We value **broad and deep worship** that invites us into the mystery of a loving God.
- We value **being good stewards** of all we have been given, discerning together how best to use our financial, physical, human, and spiritual gifts to follow Jesus and carry out our mission.