

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



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



**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith*

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**Youth-Led Worship This Sunday**

Our youth community is excited to lead Highland in all three worship services this Sunday within the worship framework of the *Courage to Imagine*. Our youth have much to say about courage, what it means to dream, and how a faith journey with companions along the way makes all the difference. We hope you will join us and celebrate the mutual enrichment of a vibrant youth community and a vibrant congregation which supports them!



**Tomorrow: Cloud of Witnesses—Stories from Saints-in-Process**

Highland's sanctuary is filled with saints—the ones in the stained-glass windows who have completed the race and the ones in the pews who are still in process. When we assume saints to be perfect people, we miss the truth they have to share. Saints are the ones who wonder if God is up to something and step out in humility and boldness to share their glimpses of the divine. Story-telling by these "Saints-in-Process" makes God visible for the church. Join us tomorrow evening, February 27, at 6:10 p.m., in the sanctuary, for another Cloud of Witness evening as Bob Cunningham facilitates a conversation with Libby Cunningham, Walter McWhorter, and Gerald Swim, as they share their faith journey.

**For the Living of These Days—A Word from Jim England**

*The Courage to Wait*

We packed the car, loaded everybody in and left our home in Rolla, Missouri, en route to Covington, Kentucky, to visit my parents nearly 500 miles away. We'd gone about two miles and turned on Interstate 44 when a preschool voice from the back seat said, "When we bein' there?" I said, "It's a long way and we just got started." Perhaps you want to ask in Highland's interim season, "When will this be over? How long is this trip to our destination of a new pastor?"

We have been over a year now. Our own history reminds us that these transitions typically take 20-24 months. Why does it take so long? Why can't we speed things up? I can only say we need the courage to wait.

Not waiting requires courage. Most waiting requires courage. Most waiting requires patience and acceptance that things take time. Courage guides how we wait. Courage is needed to face and walk through the pain of loss. There is a need to sit with the personal and corporate emptiness of griefs. Filling the emptiness too soon leads to rebound relationships that often are a poor choice for both parties.

Courage is required for introspection. Who are we? Where are we going? Why? Asking and answering tough questions may even make us feel uncertain about the future. I like the security of knowing all the answers. Yet real answers require the courage to say "I don't know." *(continued to page 3)*

**A Look Toward Ash Wednesday and Beyond**

The service that begins our Lenten journey, known as Ash Wednesday, is March 6. 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 next Wednesday, March 6, 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.



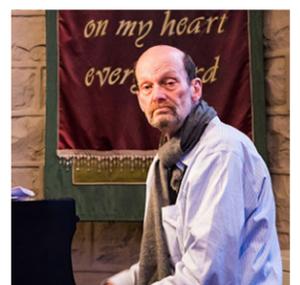
**Weekend Services  
Youth-Led Worship**

Matthew 17:1-9  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Celebration of Holy Communion



**Highland Welcomes**



John Sensbach

**Highland's Word  
To Our Community**

... on NPR: ... celebrating youth-led worship this Sunday. Honoring the gifts of our middle and high schoolers as they provide leadership in all three services. ... on our marquee:



## Family Service Project March 18

On Monday evening, March 18, Highland's families with children will collaborate with our Emma Leachman Women's Mission Circle for an intergenerational family service project. Save the date for this hour-long gathering to make a tangible difference in our world. RSVP to [renee@hbclouisville.org](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org) if you plan to attend! More details coming soon!

Children's Corner

## Important Dates to Remember

March 18	Family Service Project	June 24-27	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
April 14	Easter Festival	July 19-21	Vacation Bible School Camp
May 19	Children's Spring Music Program		

## Mark Your Calendar!

### This Wednesday, February 27

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

### This Sunday, March 3

Youth-led Worship, youth meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Choir Room

Youth Corner

## Theology on Tap March 7

We will meet at Baxter 942 on Thursday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. The discussion starts at 6:30. This month's topic is "Faith Stories."

Young Adult Corner

## Habitat for Humanity March 14 and 16

The Young Adults and Highland's Habitat for Humanity Mission Team are working on the Baptist House this year on March 14 and 16. Volunteer slots are filling quickly! If you are interested in joining, RSVP to Jim McBee.



## WMU Missionary Speaker on Monday, March 11

Missionary Scarlette Jasper comes Monday evening, March 11, to inform and inspire about her work in Southeastern Kentucky. She works as a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel and is based in Somerset, Kentucky. Her work ministers with groups in and around McCreary County, one of several Kentucky counties on the list of "poorest counties in the US." For several years, volunteers from Highland Baptist Church have participated in McCreary County in an "Extreme Build," a Kentucky Baptist Fellowship summer project to build new homes for families who need better housing. Two Global Women groups of our church have responded to help Scarlette's work with school children and seniors. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall on Monday evening, March 11, at 7:00 p.m., to hear her report.



Missions Corner

## Report from Transition Team

On Sunday, February 3, Congregational Conversations were conducted with Interim Facilitator Chris Gambill during both Bible study hours. As persons gathered around tables in Fellowship Hall, they were asked to describe a time, event or experience when they felt proud of Highland Baptist Church, (or a time when Highland authentically lived out its mission, vision and values). As one might expect with such a broad question, there were a wide range of answers. The most repeated were:

- Support of LGBTQ persons
- Crosses on the lawn
- Affirmation of ministerial staff
- Emphasis on social justice
- Affirming women in ministry
- Outreach
- Missions work
- Stories of supportive care for Highland's members in times of need
- Freedom to ask hard questions and explore differing views

Trying to summarize these responses defies easy categories, but broadly speaking three major themes capture many of the responses. Members noted "symbolic actions" which prompted pride: placing crosses on the lawn in memory of those who died violently in Louisville; actions in support of LGBTQ folks including participation in the Pride Parade; ministers taking public stands regarding social and political issues. Labeling these as symbolic actions is not to discount their importance. Taking public stands, both in word and deed is highly valued by Highland.

Other actions might be grouped under the broad heading of "hands-on ministry." There are too many to repeat here, but some examples would be the many communities that Highland supports: immigrants in Louisville and Morocco; tackling systemic racism; the Christmas Shop; partnering with a wide range of local and regional partners in support of many underserved communities.

A third category of responses would be those which spoke to our "Highland culture." Our inclusivity was often mentioned; support for and ordaining women and LGBTQ members; worship experiences; our caring ministers; an atmosphere where asking "hard" questions is encouraged and supported.

The second question discussed involved how current our Mission, Vision, and Values (crafted as part of Vision 20/20) statement remains. The Transition Team looked carefully at all the responses offered for this question. While there were a number of suggestions for adding, editing, or deleting a phrase in places, the overall consensus was a strong affirmation of our Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

Responses to these two questions will serve as part of the "Church Profile" which will be shared with any prospects for our new pastor. The Transition Team deeply appreciates the input of church members in crafting a profile that captures the best of who we are as Highland Baptist Church.

Three other notes from the Transition Team:

1. This Sunday, March 3, we will gather over lunch in Fellowship Hall as Dr. Bill Leonard offers some perspective about how to navigate connections with other groups outside the local church. Please attend as we need you to hear his perspective in preparation for our next Congregational Conversation.
2. On Sunday, March 10, during both 9:30 and 11:00 Bible study hours, we will have a Congregational Conversation on crafting a profile of the groups with which we feel connected to as well as how we best build connections with each other within the Highland Baptist Church community.
3. Finally, the Transition Team has an email address. Please submit any questions, comments, or concerns you have for the Transition Team/Pastor Search Committee to [interim@hbclouisville.org](mailto:interim@hbclouisville.org).

With gratitude for your prayers, patience, and support, ~ The Transition Team of Highland Baptist Church

Interim Update Corner



**This Week  
at Highland**

**Tuesday, February 26**

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

**Wednesday, February 27**

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: Stories from  
Saints-in-Process (Sanctuary) .....6:10-7:15 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)....7:15-8:15 p.m.

**Thursday, February 28**

Alcoholics Anonymous (Sanctuary).....7 p.m.

**Friday, March 1**

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

**Saturday, March 2**

Kentuckiana Choristers Guild Festival (Off-site).....9 a.m.

**Sunday, March 3**

Youth-Led Worship .....8:30 a.m.  
Youth-Led Worship .....9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study .....9:30 a.m.  
Youth-Led Worship .....11 a.m.  
Bible Study .....11 a.m.  
Luncheon with Bill Leonard (FH) .....12 p.m.  
Worship MG (103).....12 p.m.  
New Members MG (122) .....12:30 p.m.  
Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary).....12:30 p.m.  
Adult Handbell rehearsal (200) .....2 p.m.  
Highland Book Club (103).....6 p.m.

**Monday, March 4**

Ministry Council (200).....6 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 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.

**Upcoming Events at Highland**

March 3	Youth-Led Worship
March 6	Ash Wednesday Service
March 7	Theology on Tap
March 8-9	Annual Women's Retreat
March 10	Congregational Conversation
March 11	Joint WMU meeting
March 14	Table Talk
March 29	Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper
April 3	No Evening Activities/Supper
April 7	Congregational Conversation
April 11	Table Talk
April 14	Palm Sunday; Easter Festival
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service

**Wednesday Night Menus**

**February 27**

Chicken and Artichokes  
Orzo Pasta  
Roasted Brussels Sprouts  
Oriental Salad/Green Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert

**March 6**

Pulled Pork on Buns  
Hash Brown Casserole  
Baked Beans  
7 Layer Salad  
Slaw  
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, John Pacyga

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

Youth-led Sunday—No Deacons serving

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

Youth-led Sunday—No Deacons serving

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

Youth-led Sunday—No Deacons serving

**Highland Book Club Meets This Sunday**

The Highland Book Club will meet this Sunday, March 3, at 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss "Never Caught" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar. Everyone is invited!

**Highlights Classes Begin March 17**

New visitors and prospective members are encouraged to join us on four Sundays for our Highlights Classes! We will gather during the 9:30 Bible study hour on March 17, 24, 31, and April 14, to share an in-depth look at Highland Baptist Church so that all may be invited to participate in our congregational life, shared discipleship, and church's mission in the world. Highland's ministry staff will lead the class in conjunction with our New Members Ministry Group. To participate, please contact Deb Ackerson at [deb@hbclouisville.org](mailto:deb@hbclouisville.org).

**Cream of the Crop Trip March 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 Saturday, March 30, as we gather for a noon lunch at Claudia Sanders Restaurant. We will leave from the church's back parking lot at 11:15 a.m. RSVP to Gloria McBee by Wednesday, March 27, if you plan to attend. When making your reservation, please be sure to indicate if you plan to meet us at the restaurant.

**Retired Pastor Joe Phelps Honored as Peacemaker of the Year March 7**

On Thursday, March 7, our retired pastor Joe Phelps will be honored at the *Recipe for Peace* Annual Dinner and Award Celebration hosted by Interfaith Paths to Peace at The Olmstead at 6:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://paths2peace.org/recipe-for-peace-gala>.

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

My wife and I like word puzzles. Often we get stuck figuring out an answer. We have learned to set the puzzle aside for a while and come back a little later. Our subconscious mind keeps working. We usually get the answer when we come back. For now, we ask what will Highland be like in 5 years? What will I be like (besides older)? What kind of church do I want for my children and grandchildren? What kind of person will want to go where we want to go? How willing am I to be led by God's Spirit? Such questions take some courage.

I remember sitting with a Muslim woman, waiting during brain surgery on her son. We knew each other but did not speak the same language. Her cousin, who spoke English, arrived with a thermos of hot tea. She poured a cup of steaming tea and placed it on the floor between us. I shifted away from that cup so that I would not accidentally knock over her tea. That's when the cousin said, "That cup is for you." I marvel still at a woman practicing hospitality at such a painful time of waiting. She did one of the best things she knew.

During this interim, I want to practice the best I know and trust God and you for the outcome.

**Kroger and Amazon Shopping Can Contribute to Highland Baptist Church**

Follow these easy steps to enroll so a portion of your purchase proceeds go to Highland Baptist Church automatically— at no cost to you! Last year, purchases at Kroger brought around \$900 of income to the church and AmazonSmile around \$80. **Kroger:** Go to <http://krogercommunityrewards.com/> to create an account or sign in. Follow the prompts to link your Kroger Plus card to Highland using our code, 32331. Use your Kroger Plus card and Highland will receive up to \$50,000 a quarter. **Amazon:** Go to AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com>. Select Highland Baptist Church (Louisville) as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Amazon will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation of .05%.

**Around Highland...**

... For the second year our Anti-Racism Team has adorned our lobby with posters honoring key individuals and places for Black History Month. Pictures and stories highlight some of the people and places that have had a significant impact on the history of our nation.



**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.