

*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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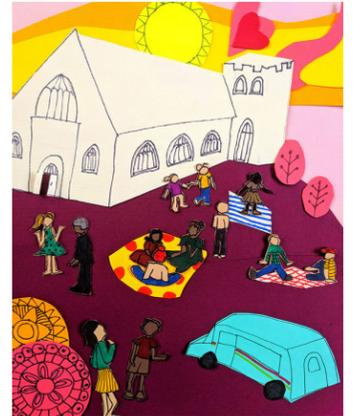
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**Gather 'Round—Worship This Sunday**

Highland's hymn, *Look, You Saints, the Cloud of Witness*, speaks of "gathering 'round this sacred place." We have adopted this well-loved text as your invitation to worship this Sunday, August 18, 10:30 a.m. **ALL of our faith community will be in the sanctuary for one service.** Gathered 'Round, we will sing favorite hymns of faith, experience a children's story, recognize Bible Study teachers from this past year, and hear a word by Renee Purtlebaugh, Highland's Associate Pastor to Children and Their Families. A drawing of our stained-glass window in the baptistry will be included in the worship bulletin for those who might want to color while listening. **Our regular Sunday worship service schedule will not be held on this one Sunday, August 18. Also, there will be no Bible study classes or Worship Care for children so we can all experience worship together.** Children's books and other child-friendly activities will be available in the Commons for our youngest children accompanied by a family member, should you need space to move about more freely.

Following worship, the doors will open and everyone will be invited to picnic on the church's greenspaces either by packing a lunch for yourself or your family or purchasing lunch from *The Crave Café* Food Truck. They'll be serving wraps, sandwiches, sides and drinks right on our lawn. We're holding out hope for a beautiful weather day—please come and join us!



**Wednesday Evening Programming Returns August 21**

We are three weeks away from returning to our regular rhythm of Wednesday evening dinner and programming for all ages. Information about this year's classes will be shared here in our newsletter in the coming weeks. We will mark our first Wednesday evening back with a "Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-in-Process" at 6:10 p.m. in the sanctuary for adults.

Our Wednesday evening meals, catered by Gracious Plenty, will be served from 5:20 to 6:00 p.m. Cost of the meal remains \$7.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 4-11, \$21.00 maximum for immediate family WITH a reservation and \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 4-11, \$24.00 maximum for immediate family WITHOUT a reservation. See page 3 of this newsletter for the menu.

To help us be good stewards of our financial resources, it's crucial that dinner reservations are accurate and current. We ask all folks who would like a standing dinner reservation to call the church office or email Deb Ackerson at [deb@hbclouisville.org](mailto:deb@hbclouisville.org) – even if you've had a standing reservation in the past. **Please be sure to add or cancel reservations as needed by Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.**

We hope you mark this date on your calendar! It is going to be a wonderful year to grow in faith together through shared meal, fellowship, and growth!

**Wednesday Evening Fall Programming for Children Begins Anew Next Week**

Our Wednesday evening programming begins a new year next Wednesday, August 21, and we are ready for the sounds of children busy with play—a child's way of learning new skills, connecting with their peers, and learning of God's love through music and activities.

- **Carol Choir (3's 4's & young 5's), Room 203, 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Musical instruction for the young child through singing, movement and playing of instruments plus free play time for exploration and interaction with friends.
- **Choristers Choir (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Children's Commons, Rooms 201 & 202, 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Musical activities involving movement, speech, singing, literacy, and playing of instruments drawing from folk songs, hymns, scripture, and children's anthems.
- **Children's Handbell Choir, Room 200, 6:45 -7:15 p.m.** Handbell instruction is provided for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.



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

Years ago, a family joined our church. That evening, they hosted a meeting in their home and spent their time complaining about me. I would learn later that the father in this family created problems in every church he was ever in mostly by complaining about the pastor. I write not to complain about anyone who has a complaint about me, but to explore how our use of language affects us and those around us.

Dr. Travis Bradbury says that most of us complain once a minute during a typical conversation. He suggests that complaining feels good but is not good for you. He says that whenever we repeat a behavior like complaining, the brain builds bridges to other brain cells to make the behavior easier next time. He quotes scientists saying, "Neurons that fire together, wire together." The more we complain, the easier it becomes until complaining becomes our default behavior.

There is a scary problem. Complaining shrinks that part of the brain critical to problem solving and intelligent thought. It shrinks that area of the brain destroyed by Alzheimer's. Frequent complaining also harms the body by raising blood pressure and blood sugar, impairs the immune system and makes us more susceptible to diabetes and heart disease.

The damage does not stop with the individual. Being around people who complain a lot is like taking in second-hand smoke. Non-complainers suffer ill effects from the complainers. I overheard four people at lunch one day in a restaurant during the Great Recession. We were the only ones there. One man complained angrily about something a national political figure had done. I knew this was not true. Another said, "Well if he did that you know he's going to ..." and made up something to complain about. The conversation went like that. Anger grew. All because one complained and the others joined in raising their collective voices and blood pressure.

I write this because I find myself complaining on a daily basis about our political climate. As far as I can tell, I have not changed that climate one bit nor have I healed anyone's spirit. A couple of New Testament phrases come to mind. "Be thankful in everything" I Thessalonians 5:18. "Test everything" I Thessalonians 5:21.

How can I make my words convey concern about something and speak love at the same time? Do I have an idea for how to improve things or am I just complaining?

What pathways do I want in my brain? What paths do I want for my own spirit? How do my words nurture my church, my groups of friends and family? How have I allowed myself to become emotional second-hand smoke? How I make my world better with my words?

## Looking Forward to a New Year!

## Children's Corner

In the coming weeks, we look forward to the start of school and the return to our school year rhythms here at Highland on August 25. Here are some important things to make note of regarding that important date in the life of our congregation particularly for children and their families:

- *Rising Kindergarteners* – There are 13 kindergarten children transitioning from preschool ministry to elementary children's ministry! This brings shifts to Sunday morning rhythms for each child, including the opportunity to become full participants in worship with their families. In this sacred space, children will experience God in new ways through the gathering of community, witnessing baptisms and baby dedications, participating in Communion and congregational singing.
- *Bible Study Classes* – Children will move to new classes based on their age/grade for the coming year. Watch for more information sent via email that will let you know which class your child will be moving into this fall.
- *Worship* – Children entering Kindergarten will be recognized in worship services, receiving an important gift from the congregation. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will also be recognized, as they will begin attending worship for the entire hour.
- *Pastries for Parents* – Between services, we will also gather with pastries and coffee for parents to have opportunity to chat and get to know one another! We hope you will take a moment to pause, chat and connect with other parents as we seek to build relationships within our community of faith this fall!

## Important Date to Remember

August 18	No Children's Bible Study or Worship Care
August 21	Wednesday Dinner + Children's Activities Return
August 25	Promotion Sunday
September 15	Fall Picnic at Farnsley Park Playground/Sprayground, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- Join us for Bible Study this Sunday, August 18, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Suite!
- Starting August 25, we will be off and running with our full year together. Mentor Groups, Wednesday Nights, and much more are on the way!

## Youth Corner

## Next Wednesday: Cloud of Witnesses

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 next Wednesday, August 21, 6:10-7:15 p.m., for another Cloud of Witness evening as Bob Cunningham facilitates a conversation with three individuals as they share their faith journey.



## Highlights Class Begins September 8

New visitors and prospective members are encouraged to join us on four Sundays for our Highlights Class! We will gather during the 9:30 Bible study hour on September 8, 15, 22, and 29, 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, contact Deb Ackerson at [deb@hbclouisville.org](mailto:deb@hbclouisville.org).

## Anti-Racism Team, Viewing of *When They See Us*



## Missions Corner

The Anti-Racism Team and Young Adults will be sponsoring a screening of *When They See Us*, a dramatic television miniseries based on the lives of a group of teenagers who became known as the Central Park Five. The miniseries explores the lives of five African American and Hispanic American teenagers who were wrongly convicted of rape and other assault charges after a string of violent crimes in Central Park in 1989. In 2002, only after the Central Park Five had already served their full sentences, the true assailant was identified through confession and DNA evidence.

*When They See Us* highlights some of the terrible effects of systemic racism in the criminal justice system, in the media, and in everyday life. Over a series of four evenings, we will watch all four episodes of the miniseries while incorporating time for guided questions and reflections. This is a free event open to all age-appropriate viewers. Parental discretion strongly advised.

We will meet in the Commons on Sundays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., through August 25.



## Training for Allies and Accomplices, Saturday September 14

Chanelle Helm, leader of the Louisville chapter of Black Lives Matter, will be presenting a training to interested members of Highland and the surrounding faith communities on the issue of cash bail. To build transformative communities, we must perform transformative acts of liberation. Cash bail is one of the aspects of the criminal justice system that keeps communities wrapped up in systemic slavery and in debt. The need to end cash bail is not new.

Thanks to the Ferguson Uprising and the Kalief Browder story, we know that the bail system creates financial barriers for those who find themselves against the criminal justice system. One of the largest barriers is not being able to afford bail.

The Louisville Community Bail Fund (LCBF) exists to not only bail out folks but provide post-release support to get them from jail, fed, and to a situation of safety. LCBF also maintains a focus on preventative measures for those targeted by law enforcement and threatened with incarceration. While we work with national networks, we are also one of the only bail funds that rely entirely on support from individuals in our social justice community and impacted community.

September 14 is a training for white allies and accomplices to support the Louisville Community Bail Fund's keep outs, bail outs and support services network.

Allies and accomplices will receive information on the Louisville Community Bail Fund, The Movement for Black Lives demand to end cash bail, and pre-trial detention and ways to plug in.

The training is \$25. All funds raised go to LCBF. Sign-ups will be in the Commons the next three Sundays. More information is available on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/319481288968341/>.



**This Week  
at Highland**

**Tuesday, August 13**

Cream of the Crop Potluck and Movie (FH)..... 12 p.m.  
 Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Finance MG (103) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)..... 10 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 14**

No Evening Activities/Supper

**Thursday, August 15**

Senior Adult MG (103)..... 1 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)..... 7 p.m.  
 Environmental Action MT (103) ..... 7 p.m.  
 Prayer Shawl Group (Off-site)..... 7 p.m.

**Friday, August 16**

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

**Sunday, August 18**

Gather 'Round Service (Sanctuary)..... 10:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship (Front Lawn)..... 11:30 a.m.  
 Viewing of *When They See Us* (Commons).6-7:30 p.m.

**Monday, August 19**

Youth MG (Youth Suite) ..... 6 p.m.  
 Pastor Search (Pastor's Study) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Deacons (Commons) ..... 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 20**

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) ..... 5:30 p.m.  
 Congregational Engagement MG  
 (Youth Suite) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)..... 10 p.m.

**Upcoming Events at Highland**

- August 13 Cream of the Crop Potluck and Movie
- August 18 Gather 'Round—One worship service at 10:30 a.m. No Bible study, no worship care; Viewing of *When They See Us*
- August 21 Regular Wednesday programming resumes; Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-in-Process
- August 25 Promotion Sunday; Regular Sunday morning schedule resumes; Viewing of *When They See Us*
- August 30 Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship
- September 2 Church Offices Closed
- September 5 Theology on Tap
- September 8 Highlights Class Begins; Deacon Ordination and Installation Service
- September 12 Table Talk
- September 15 Highlights Class
- September 21 Free Breakfast for LGBTQIA Youth and Young Adults; Habitat for Humanity *Love Your Neighbor* Event
- September 22 Highlights Class
- September 23-27 Families with Children Online Conference
- September 27-28 Annual Women's Retreat

**Wednesday Night Menus**

**August 21—Cook-out**

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs  
 Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions  
 Fries  
 Slaw  
 Watermelon  
 Dessert

**August 28**

King Ranch Chicken  
 Black Beans  
 Spanish Rice  
 Southwest Caesar Salad  
 Salsa with Corn Chips  
 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.**

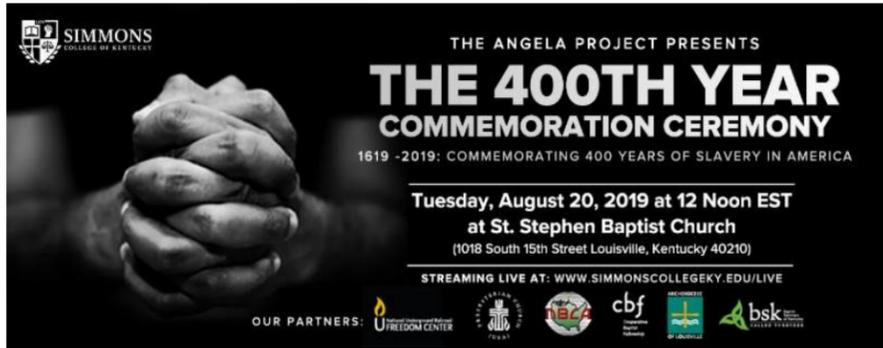
Sally Evans, John Pacyga (C)

**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**

TBD

**Free Breakfast for LGBTQIA Youth and Young Adults September 21**

Highland will host our first free breakfast for LGBTQIA youth and young adults the morning of the Louisville Pride Festival. On September 21, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., LGBTQIA youth, young adults, and those seeking to be allies are invited to serve one another and enjoy a free breakfast with a welcoming menu for vegetarian and vegan friends alike. Louisville has space to grow in the services it provides for LGBTQIA youth and young adults. With this breakfast, we seek to create a safe, unique space for connection, fellowship, and affirmation. We will need donations of food and time—sign up in the Commons after worship if you are willing to help!



**Worship Ministry Group Retreat**

British poet, David Whyte's words on *Beginning* opened Highland's Worship Ministry Group Retreat: *Beginning well or beginning poorly, what is important is simply to begin, but the ability to make a good beginning is also an art form clearing away... to find the beautiful and often hidden lineaments of the essential.*

So with the poet's encouraging words, we began work on the 2019 Advent season. We gathered in our Children's Commons on the second floor and discussed the important of language in worship in conjunction with events happening in our world today and how they relate to Christ coming to the earth. I am thankful for ministry group members who pour over scriptures and resources in advance so our collective imagination and creativity can flow for themes and worship planning. Delicious food and desserts definitely helped our work. Mark your calendars—Advent begins December 1! ~Kathy Collier



**It Happens Every Year**

Every year at this time, the week before our regular activities resume and prior to promotion Sunday, the children's areas of the church receive a thorough cleaning. Tile floors, cabinets, and carpeting are given the same fresh start that we are all offered! Later this week, the carpet in Fellowship Hall and other locations will be cleaned as well.



**Around Highland...**

... We are missing MOST of our tablecloths and table toppers from the hospitality closet. If you have any of them, please return them to the church as soon as possible.

**Highland's Word To Our Community**

... on NPR: ... *honoring the good gift of school teachers as they begin a new school year, and celebrating area students as they return to the classroom.*

... on our marquee:

