

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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Pledge Sunday is Coming

Our Commitment brochure this year reminds us that we are entering a season of Freedom in Generosity—Freedom to Give, Pledge, Commit. But what is it you are deciding to give to? Pledge to? Commit to? What is it at Highland Baptist Church that has made you proud, more involved, more determined to serve because of the faithful giving that has made it possible? What is it you depend on for your family's sake, for your own sake?

God speaks to each of us differently in different settings and circumstances. Christ followers have the freedom to make prayerful decisions in different ways because we each encounter God in different ways. God will ask one person's sacrifice to look very different from another's. Only you can have the freedom to understand how much God is asking you to give. That is why, at Highland, we do not proclaim that one's contribution should be a certain amount. We do, however, urge you to give sacrificially so that we can continue the programs that meet so many needs, and so that we can initiate programs that need to begin. We also need to remember that there are the basics to maintain: keeping lights on, keeping the building clean, preaching sermons, and purchasing materials.

So what is the Spirit calling you to do this year? Can you increase last year's pledge by 10%, 20%, 30%? Are your circumstances unchanged or so changed that you must pledge the same or even less? Whatever your circumstances, pray that God will bless it, use it, honor it. We know that God will.

Whatever the discernment process looks like for you, spend time this week with God. Ponder the practice of generosity. Have a conversation with your spouse or partner, with your kids, or with whomever you trust in spiritual matters.

This Sunday, October 27, we invite you to fill out and return your commitment card as an act of worship. If we've missed you or if your commitment card is lost, you can make your commitment online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/yearly-pledge/>. Commitment cards will also be available in each pew and in different locations in the building. If you are unable to attend, we ask that you mail your commitment card to our Financial Secretary, Deb Ackerson, in the church office if you do not wish to do it online. ~ *The Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT ELECTRONICALLY!

- Your bank's online bill pay service**
Many banks offer the option of paying bills online directly from your account. Simply contact them and schedule a payment to Highland.
- Pay online with credit card**
If you wish to give online using a credit card, go to www.hbclouisville.org/give/online. Please note that Highland incurs a 3% fee for each credit card transaction.
- Authorize Highland to debit your account**
If you would like for Highland to debit your checking or savings account, complete the following to authorize the transaction.
Type of account to be debited:
 Checking Savings
Routing Number: _____
Account Number: _____
Amount to be debited: \$ _____
Date to begin debit: ____/____/____
Frequency of contribution:
 Weekly (on Monday)
 Semi-Monthly (on the 1st and 15th)
 Monthly (on the 1st)
I authorize Highland Baptist Church to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.
Signature: _____

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

Tomorrow Evening: Quarterly Church Conference

All church members are asked to attend the upcoming Quarterly Church Conference tomorrow, October 23, 6:10 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Topics for the meeting are:

- * Review and Approval of Agenda Items
- * Approval of July Minutes
- * Membership Report
- * Financial Reports and 2020 Proposed Budget Presentation
- * Vote to approve church comptroller, moderator, and clerk
- * Vote to approve new Ministry Council Vice Chair
- * Update from Pastor Search Committee
- * New Business

**Weekend Services
Twentieth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Luke 18:9-14

Perry Dixon, Proclaimer

Anthem: *Oh Lord, in Thee
Have I Trusted*

For the Living of These Days—A Word from Perry Dixon

I have had the privilege of preaching each Friday this month and look forward to the full weekend with each of you in worship this Sunday. I resist the othering of Friday evening and Sunday morning from one another, so I do my best, despite the differences in worship contexts, to bring the exact same message through the weekend when given the opportunity.

Our gospel text this week, found in Luke, contrasts the religious pharisee who prays to be seen and the self-described sinner, a tax collector, who prays for mercy. These two caricatures are used by Jesus to present a simple, yet reality shifting theological glimmer: *for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.*

As with all scripture, where you *stand* will help shape how you *hear* this passage in Luke. Not all of us have the same financial situation, educational experience, family support, employment, housing situation, nor identity (infinite and intersectional as our realities are). So what can we all take from a singular text that we might share?

For me, and perhaps for you, the truth is that I need to humble myself and pray for mercy. Not because I am worthless, but because I want to treat all others as worthy. When I am living out of humility, which is recognition of my own need for mercy, I find that I am far more able to respond with grace to everyone, whether those closest to me or someone I am meeting for the first time.

It would be natural for me to make a turn here to humility and mercy as the means by which we might reform the chaos, misinformation, violence, and despair we experience in the realm of our political history, past and present. I have strong political convictions *(continued to page 2)*

We Need YOU to Host a Trunk at Trunk or Treat

The Families with Children Ministry Group will host a Trunk or Treat next Wednesday, October 30, during our regular programming hour. To do this, we need you! We'll transform our back parking lot into a staging ground for your creativity as you decorate a trunk and offer candy as children and families come by. Please remember sweet, not scary, since our event will have very young children present.

Sign up on Sunday morning in the Commons, Wednesday evening at the check-in table, or contact Tanya Cornely.

Highland Welcomes

Li Alone **Barbara & Bruce Miller**

**Highland's Word
To Our Community**

... on NPR: ... *proclaiming a message of inclusion, justice, and love. Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.*
... on our marquee:



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

and I am neither a moderate nor afraid of debate. I actually believe that God chooses sides, if you really were to press me on it. Even so, or perhaps especially because of these things, I have been working on my own humility and focusing on my own need for mercy of late.

We do not need conformity at Highland. By which I mean we don't need to each have the exact same identity or experience to realize that our lives are changed by freely chosen covenant with God and one another. Hear the text how you hear it. If it is your turn to fight, fight. If it is your turn to pray for mercy, pray for mercy. Trust that in the coming and going of life together here, God is not indifferent to your life or mine. How we care for one another can be the most accessible reminder of that. And humbling, too.

Wholly Healing: Care for Wider LGBTQ Community

Louisville Pride Foundation is offering space on Thursday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., at the Beechmont Community Center for LGBTQ to unpack religious trauma and invite them to (re)form their spiritual identity. I am helping to lead this effort alongside Shane Ranschaert of the Derby City Sisters and Eric Sharp, a local marriage and family therapy associate. All are welcome to join this community gathering on November 7. I would love for the crowd to include some folks from Highland who have experienced healing and renewal through our Highland community. ~ Carol Harston

Reflection on Trip to Morocco by Joey Eubank

Greetings from the Protestant churches in Morocco to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Kentucky Baptists! I traveled to Morocco with 13 other CBF Kentucky Baptists from Owensboro, Georgetown, and Danville. The first Sunday, our whole group attended services at the church in Rabat. Over 300 congregants sang out with joy and exuberance! It was World Communion Sunday and I participated in the French speaking service by helping to serve communion. How powerful the Holy Spirit was that morning in the two-hour service. The service overwhelmed me. It was the highlight of my trip.



On Monday, we all traveled about 6 hours by bus to Oujda, near the Algerian border, where we spent three days painting the two-story parsonage of Pastor Fritz and his wife, Immauella. They will move into the house in November after renovation is complete. A church in Germany provided money for the skilled renovation of the parsonage, and we provided the painting and trimming. What a cooperative team we Kentucky Baptists were!

On Thursday, we rode the bus to Fez where we all visited the ancient walled medina (old city) with winding streets like a maze with stalls of leather goods, jewelry, fabrics, rugs, pottery, fresh vegetables, spices, and fresh meat, etc. The Fez medina was a feast for the senses! That evening Karen Zimmerman, CBF field personnel, and I checked into the Splendid Hotel in Fez. The other Kentucky participants scattered to be with the churches they support: the church in Rabat, Casa Blanca, and Agadir. Bob Fox, Coordinator for CBF Kentucky, and his son, Evan, traveled to the Mohammedia parish. Highland supports the Comité d'Entraide Internationale which ministers to migrants. During Friday and Saturday, Karen Zimmerman and I met with Freddy Noel, who is the head of the Outreach Team which helps migrants in Fez. Karen and I met with two migrants the CEI is helping. (More about this later in my Advent Devotional.)

Karen Z. and I worshiped on Sunday with the church in Fez, which is not as large as the congregation in Rabat and is struggling. Please pray for the churches in Morocco. Pray for the CEI which works so hard with so little resources for the migrants. Pray for Karen Zimmerman, CBF field personnel, who is learning the culture, as well as French (already proficient) and Arabic. Pray for Karen Thomas Smith, who is a force for good in that part of the world. She has a great relationship with the King of Morocco and gets things done for the good of humanity.

Around Highland...

... The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, November 24, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich. Everyone is invited! Stay tuned for the meeting place!

... Elizabeth Barber, from The New Yorker, is visiting Highland in November to interview Carol as she researches for her article, "Stigmatization in Southern Baptist Churches and blending mental health care with faith." Elizabeth is looking for some people who have experienced "biblical counseling" and would be willing to be interviewed for the article. Please contact Carol Harston if you would be interested.

This Sunday: Coffee in the Children's Commons

On this last Sunday of the month, October 27, parents and grandparents are invited to join us between services (9:00-9:30; 10:30-11:00) for coffee and conversation. It's a great opportunity to get to know other families and enjoy some caffeinated sustenance to get you through the morning!

Children's Corner

Next Wednesday: Trunk or Treat

Next Wednesday evening, October 30, we hope you'll join us for an evening of fellowship, costumes and fun with your church family. We'll have our usual Wednesday night dinner (be sure to make a reservation if you plan to eat) at 5:20 p.m., followed by outdoor fun in the parking lot with decorated trunks and lots of treats from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Costumes are encouraged; however, please remember sweet not scary since we will have young children present.

Important Dates to Remember

October 30 Trunk or Treat
June 23-26, 2020 PASSPORTkids!

Service Project at Supplies Over Seas

This Saturday, October 26, at 9:00 a.m., we will volunteer for the morning at Supplies Over Seas. This unique non-profit packages and ships unused medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in developing countries. If you would like to join us, please contact Lauren Jones Mayfield at laurenjm@hbcloouisville.org. Or RSVP online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/840486243020807>.

Young Adult Corner

Theology on Tap, November 7

Join us at Baxter's 942, 6:00 p.m., for free appetizers and good company. We begin the conversation at 6:30 and discuss till about 7:30 p.m. This week, Ryan Eller and Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons will lead us on the theology of politics and elections. Hope you can join us! It will be a great kickoff to the retreat, which starts the next day.

Retreat, November 8-10

Stay tuned for more information on the Facebook page about our upcoming retreat. The link to register will be live this week! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1419644481510133/>. The cost of the retreat is \$55. See Lauren about financial support if needed. The cost is no reason to miss out on this good time!

October Book Collection

At Vacation Bible School Camp this summer, Highland's children engaged the topic of literacy and the need for books for all children. Our small groups created collection boxes which you will find around the building! Help us collect new and very gently used culturally diverse books for K-5th graders that we can share with English language learners through JCPS. We will continue collecting them through the month of October. Any questions? Contact Jackie Marrs or Renee Purtlebaugh.



God offers us far more than what is necessary or expected, setting us free from selfish desire. Practice generosity and prepare to see God revealed through acts of kindness.

Please Note:

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



Tuesday, October 22

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

Wednesday, October 23

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.
 Quarterly Church Conference (FH).....6:10 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)
 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 24

Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)7 p.m.

Friday, October 25

Men’s Fellowship Gathering (FS)..... 8 a.m.
 Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary).....5 p.m.
 Friday Church (Sanctuary)..... 7-7:45 p.m.
 Friday Church MG (Commons).....8 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH)8 p.m.

Saturday, October 26

Wedding (Sanctuary/Commons/FS)5 p.m.

Sunday, October 27

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.
 Adult Handbells rehearsal (200)2 p.m.

Monday, October 28

HBC Bookends (103).....2 p.m.
 Immigration MT (Commons/Kitchen)6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22

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

Upcoming Events at Highland

October 23	Quarterly Church Conference
October 27	Commitment Sunday
October 30	Trunk or Treat
November 3	All Saints Sunday; Commitment Sunday Follow-up; LGBTea+ Time
November 7	Theology on Tap
November 8-10	Young Adult Fall Retreat
November 13	Special Business Meeting to Discuss 2020 Budget
November 14	Cream of the Crop Trip; Table Talk
November 15, 17	Vote on 2020 Budget
November 20	Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-in-Process
November 21	True Colors Thanksgiving Soul Supper
November 22-23	Youth Fall Retreat

Wednesday Night Menus

October 23	October 30
Beef & Bean Chili	Meat Lasagna
Chili Toppings	Broccoli
Hot Dogs	Caesar Salad
Salad Bar	Vegetable Salad
Corn Bread/Crackers	Garlic 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.
 Larry Davis (G), Joey Eubank,
 Lewis Miller (C), Autumn Reece

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
 Allison Keenan, Nathan Marrs (G),
 Bill Martin (C), Autumn Reece

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
 Suzanne Busse (G), Jeff Grey,
 Scott Kerr (C), Ginny Sims

Why I Give by Beverly Breyette



Years ago, a financial advisor asked me if the 10% that we are to give to the church included the amount of money taken for taxes that are directed to social programs? I decided to do the math again for today. This is an example from the internet, so it must be true. If I make \$51,000 a year, I will be required to give \$12,000 in taxes. Then you ask, how much of that goes to benefit folks directly? 22% of that goes to Health Care programs. 17% goes to income security such as food and nutrition. Now we have \$4,800 out of taxes? Do we count that in our 10%?

If I make \$51,000 a year, do I take ten percent before taxes or after taxes?
 If I have a friend who is one of the 17% of Kentuckians who are food insecure and I give him and his family \$100 to supplement until their next paycheck comes? Do I count that as part of my 10%?
 If I give that \$100 to the American Diabetes Association, do I count that as part of my 10%?
 When we are asked to give “sacrificially”, does that mean giving more than my 10%, skipping meals to give more, or does it mean no lattes for a week?

I have seen the power of giving and not giving to the church. Many of the faithful, large donors left a church. Over the years, folks began to give less and less as their displeasure increased. On the other hand, my Mom and Dad attended the Christian Church in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. That aging congregation raised over \$800,000 to renovate the church. So, do we only give if we agree with the leadership?

As I grapple with this earthly quandary, one of the things I have done relates to my estate. I have designated how my ten percent will be divided. I chose the three most influential organizations in my life and each will get 0.33%. So, what do we do? What is our 10%? Where do we get our 10%? Lord only knows!

Why I Give by Randy Biery



A little child shall lead them.
 And a little child did lead Becki and me to Highland Baptist Church. Two little children. Our grandchildren. To give credit where it is due, I had attended Highland Baptist Church at our daughter, Erin’s, invitation to witness her baptism. Perhaps she knew what I was thinking, “but Baptist?” It was from Erin that I first heard the phrase, “Baptist, but...”

A bit over three years ago, we were again invited to attend the baby dedications of our grandchildren. In my rural, fundamentalist background, I had never experienced a service like that. It had a profound influence on me. To hear this congregation pledge what can only be described as a covenantal relationship with our grandchildren. To promise to teach, to nurture, to sing songs with and to love them. And we began to fall in love with this church. So, it wasn’t long before we began to attend regularly. And as we began to attend, we came to realize what “Baptist, but...” meant. At least to us.

These grandchildren of ours would be given the Freedom to Be. To be who God has created them to be. And to be included, accepted and loved regardless of whoever they may come to BE.

Now, as I watched our grandsons grow from infants to toddlers to preschoolers, one of the things that I have noticed—and I’m sure that you have also noticed—if you have children of your own or if you work with the children here, sharing is HARD. Sharing is really hard. You may have just been given ten new Justice League action figures for your fourth birthday but sharing even one of them with your cousin is really hard! So, to Renee Purtlebaugh and all of you who work with these children to instill Freedom of Generosity, I thank you.

Now, it is obvious that I am going to ask you to think of that covenant made with these beautiful, precious children as you consider what will you share?

But there is one more thing that I have to mention. What is it that you love about Highland Baptist Church? There are so many wonderful ministries that this group offers. What do you love?

As for me, I love Friday Church. I’m not sure how I wandered into a Friday Church service, but I did. I can remember telling my wife, Becki, that it wasn’t pretty like this Sunday morning service is pretty, but it was the most beautiful church service that I had ever seen. The sharing of pain and hope, of strength and weakness, of brokenness and redemption. The Friday evening Exchange of Peace, the sharing of the peace that surpasses understanding will fill your heart with joy.

I love this congregation for its welcoming of those who have been made to feel unwelcome. For its nurturing of the broken in spirit. For its Freedom from shame. And I love it for its covenant to love and nurture my grandchildren and all of Gods children.

We all know Jesus teaching that where your treasure is there will your heart be also. If that is true, then where our heart is, where our love is, that is where we will place our treasure. If your heart connects to God as mine does through this community of Highland, then I invite you to share of the abundance that God has provided to each of us. I invite you to make a commitment to give financially this coming year to the work God will do through us.

Finance Corner – First 3 Quarters of 2019 Recap

The Finance Ministry Group (FMG), as you might recall, has decided that rather than a weekly box of numbers detailing budgets and actual dollars received, that we would review the finances in paragraph form to more fully provide big picture financial information to the congregation.

2019 Where We Want to Be (aka The Budget) and Where We Are (aka The Actuals)

The total income for the first nine months of the year of \$770,429 was \$105,763 short of the hoped for (budgeted) amount of \$876,192, while the expenses were less than expected by \$103,202. **For the first nine months of the year, our expenses have exceeded our income by \$60,491.** Thanks to our staff for working diligently in maintaining close oversight of the expenses. Savings on the expense side continue to be realized from salary and benefits budgeted for a new Senior Pastor not being paid out, savings in the facilities budget along with the Young Adult, Adult and Senior Ministries.

Things to Celebrate

For the first time in many, many years we are currently receiving very close to 100% of pledged income. We are grateful to you for your faithful giving over the first nine months of the year. The total income received from all sources is currently at 88% of what we anticipated. The area which we have some concern around is the non-pledged income which is at 55% of what we budgeted. The Finance Ministry Group continues looking deeper into all areas of giving to determine how we best address the shortfalls noted. We do celebrate that we have not followed the normal pattern of churches in the interim where the income falls drastically during the course of transition. Giving for the first three quarters of this year is about the same as this time period as last year. That is good, and reflective of your commitment to the ministry and work of this community of faith. However, expenses for the same period are up \$20,000 over 2018. Lastly, we celebrate the completion of the project to pave all of the church’s’ parking lots. The total cost of the project was right at \$63,000. Thanks to a number of generous gifts for this project, we only had to take \$6,000 from budget funds to pay for the completion of this work. We as the Finance Ministry Group want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to those who gave over and above their pledged gifts for this project.

Upcoming Expenses

We continue to move forward in the work of determining the exact needs (repair or replace) of the HVAC system for the church. There is a group that is working to have engineering work completed that will allow for detailed options to be presented for next steps. The Finance Ministry Group has begun the process of determining the most fiscally responsible avenue to take in providing the finances for this project. All is in exploration stage and no decisions have been made at this time. The church will be presented a proposal, once all of the preliminary work is completed and a proposal is created.

Final Words from Finance Ministry Group

You will have by now received your 2020 Pledge Card in the mail. The Commitment Sundays for the 2020 Budget are this Sunday, October 27, and next Sunday, November 3. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for the next year of ministry here at Highland Baptist Church. The transforming work of Christ that takes place here week in and week out is dependent on your giving and your ongoing support.

As we move through the remainder of the year, we request that you remember your gifts to the church on those weeks that you will be away. Let’s ensure that as we continue moving forward in our search for a new Senior Pastor, that we are positioning ourselves on a solid financial foundation for the next phase of our history. We continue to give thanks for your faithful giving which allows us to be the presence of Christ not only here on this corner in Louisville but around the world as well.