

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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Healthy-Highland at Home

As our governor asks us to be healthy at home and healthy at work, our lives have changed dramatically. It seems that every area of our life (home, work, friends, church, fun) has changed to protect us from COVID-19. These are days when threats of illness and anxiety loom large. Jesus spoke these words to the disciples: "Peace be with you." How do we embrace this peace so that we might be healthy in body and spirit? Highland's congregation is rich in pastoral care providers whose work has equipped them with wisdom that can help us for the living of these days. Each week, one of Highland's own will offer some guidance for how we might practice peace and wellness so that we might be a Healthy-Highland at home during this season. Beginning this week, this series will be available on our YouTube channel and Facebook page every week on Mondays beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Fellowship with the Saints

In this unprecedented moment, we remember that we are not the first generation to endure uncertain times and watch history unfold before our eyes. Highland's Fellowship Hall features 32 saints whose lives stir our imagination of how faith can flourish and sustain us during the darkest days. Each week, one of Highland's own will share with us the story of one of our saints to inspire us in the living of our days. Beginning today, May 5, this series will be available on our YouTube channel and Facebook page every week on Tuesdays beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Deacon Nomination Process Continues

Highland's deacons serve the church in a spirit of love, working to listen to and see all people in the way God does—being attentive and welcoming, patient and lovingly persistent, compassionate and fully present. It is time in our calendar year to nominate the next group of deacons to serve the church. Please submit your nominations via email to andria@hbclouisville.org. For our folks that do not have email, we ask that they call the church office (502-451-3735, ext. 24). See page 3 of this newsletter for a list of folks that are ineligible for nomination. Nominees are vetted and a subgroup of deacons proposes a list of names to the congregation for approval. Nominations are due by next Wednesday, May 13.

Virtual Cloud of Witnesses Tomorrow Evening

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 night, May 6, 7:00-8:00 p.m., for another Cloud of Witnesses evening as Bob Cunningham facilitates a conversation with Larry Gray and Jennifer Neyhart as they share their faith journey. This first virtual Cloud of Witnesses will be hosted on Zoom for our congregation's viewing and participation.

The Zoom Meeting ID is: 989 9727 5170 with the Password: 203898. You can also use the following link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/y9nwg4s>.

Please note:

- Everyone except for those being interviewed will be on mute. You are permitted to interact using the chat function! Not sure how to use chat or basic buttons? Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNnUqWJMxJU>.
- You do not need to share your video, and we encourage you to utilize the Speaker view so you can see the person talking on the full screen. Not sure how to change views? Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v31PAbpVjd4>.



Staying Connected Outside These Stone Walls

As we live through these days where we are rarely, if ever, physically connected with each other we make use of technology to bridge some of the gaps that exist between us. Below are some of the ways that you may use to stay connected to the community of Highland Baptist Church:

- **Our ministry staff is offering a word every weekday at 10:00 a.m. on our Highland Facebook Page.** Our schedule is as follows: Lauren Jones Mayfield on Monday, Jim England on Tuesday, Carol Harston on Wednesday, Renee Purtlebaugh on Thursday, and Perry Dixon on Friday. These are also being uploaded to our YouTube channel within a day or two of their creation.
- **Worship from the sanctuary on our Facebook page** at 7:00 p.m. on Friday nights and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. These streams also appears on our YouTube page.
- **Bible study & children's gatherings via Zoom.** Several adult Bible study classes and Pastor Renee are gathering weekly via Zoom which allows connectivity via computer or phone. If your child would like to connect, email Renee. If your Bible study class would like to begin meeting this way, email Carol at carol@hbclouisville.org or Walter at walter@hbclouisville.org.

Weekend Services Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:54-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Lauren Jones Mayfield
Proclaimer

Please note:

All *in-person* services, activities, meetings and events at Highland Baptist Church have been cancelled until further notice.

Highland's Worship Remains Open Online

During these strange days, Kentucky has become united over its shared viewing of Governor Beshear's 5:00 p.m. press conferences. Our imagination expanded this past week as the governor's office unveiled Kentucky's new "Healthy at Work" initiative that seeks to reopen the economy through a phased approach. Many of us had begun to wonder about what it would look like to return to some measure of public life but had not anticipated that it would start as early as this month.

Governor Beshear's "Healthy at Work" initiative includes houses of worship as being able to open (as long as they meet the guidelines) beginning May 20. We expect that many of you heard this news with mixed feelings—excitement to anticipate a return to Highland and some trepidation about how you might return safely in a way that maintains your health and the health of others.

Your staff joins you in this tension! We yearn to be together again in our sanctuary, but we are concerned about how this contagious virus might impact the health and well-being of our people. While we have begun to formulate some plans for *(continued to page 3)*

Highland's Word To Our Community

... on NPR: ...*continuing to offer a word of hope and renewal each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.*
... on our marquee:

**IN A WILDERNESS
OF UNKNOWN
MAY GOD BE OUR GUIDE
ON FACEBOOK SUN 10 AM
FRI 7PM**

Invitation to All: Encourage One Another!

During these days where we are unable to gather in person, we miss seeing each other's faces and uniting in our shared congregational life. We have one creative way to bridge the gap between us for the time being!

Share an encouraging message for our congregation by answering the question, "During this season of quarantine, God is freeing me/us to _____." Write your answer on a poster or piece of paper, and then take a picture of yourselves with the message (preferably horizontal, rather than vertical). Send your photo to David Bannister at hbcfreedom@gmail.com, who will compile the images into a video for us all!



As we embark on another week, a few things to share with you:

Children's Corner

Survey via Google Forms – Parents, will you take 5 minutes to fill out this quick Google forms survey for us? It will allow us to refine our opportunities for connection and formation for families with children in the coming weeks. Thank you! <https://tinyurl.com/ybmtj5mk>

Find @highlandchildrenandfamilies on Instagram – We'll go live on Wednesday, May 6.

VBS Camp Update – I got word on Friday that Camp Kavanaugh has cancelled all summer camps this year. Despite expecting this news, it still took my breath away. I was so longing for the joyful reunion! Know that I am already brainstorming about alternative ways we can experience VBS Camp, although it will now most certainly look very different than what we are used to. I'd encourage you to wait to tell your children until I have the alternative option fully figured out (they are grieving so much), which will hopefully be by mid-May. I'd love the chance to send a video you can share with your kids about what form and shape it will take. I'll have more information about the registration fees you have paid to date in the coming days as well.

Opportunities for Connection This Week

- Tuesday, May 5: Storytime (Facebook, pre-recorded and posted, watch as you are able!)
- Friday, May 8, 11:30 a.m.: Star Wars Bingo + End of the Week Elementary Kids Check-In
- Sunday, May 10, 9:00 a.m.: Family Bible Study Opportunity (look for details via email later this week)



Even as we continue to make our way through odd and surreal days, while working through grief of both the expected and unexpected variety, while appreciating simplicity, while just getting through each day the best we can, may you feel the peace of Christ surrounding you and carrying you at every single turn. ~ Renee

Theology on Tap

This Thursday, May 7, the Young Adults will gather on zoom for our monthly Theology on Tap gathering. Erin Phelps will lead our discussion about "The Universal Christ," and how might we view Christ during quarantine? We will post the Zoom link on Facebook on Thursday.

Young Adult Corner

Sundays on Zoom

At 1:30 p.m. every Sunday afternoon, Young Adults gather for conversation and a simple time of catching up on Zoom. This chat is available to all Young Adults who have interest. The Zoom link can be found on our Facebook page, "Highland Young Adults" each week.

La Casita Collections

They currently have a well-stocked and safe food pantry give-away program thanks to so many generous donations and much community support. However, they currently need size 6 diapers, Kroger gift cards for medication purchases, and face masks, which can certainly be homemade. If you would like to donate any of these items, please text Crystal Bryson at 304-884-5342. She will arrange for someone to pick-up the donations from your front porch. Thanks, ~ Highland's Immigration Team



Missions Corner

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS

THE VIRTUAL WEST LOUISVILLE FORUM

SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AMERICA

TOPIC: "WHEN WHITE AMERICA GETS SICK, BLACK AMERICA GETS HOSPITALIZED: WILL CONGRESS FIGHT FOR RACIAL EQUITY DURING THE PANDEMIC?"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH // 11:00AM EST

FEATURING:

DR. KEVIN W. COSBY
PRESIDENT, SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY

CONGRESSMAN JOHN YARMOUTH
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TO STREAM, VISIT: [FACEBOOK.COM/SIMMONSCOLLEGEOKENTUCKY](https://www.facebook.com/simmonscollegeofkentucky)
OR "SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY" YOUTUBE PAGE



Highland's Worship Remains Open Online *(continued from page 1)*

how people can re-enter our pews for worship, we feel that the May 20 date does not allow us enough time to adequately prepare nor to feel the confidence required to gather together again.

For May, we will continue our "tele-ministry" of "Healthy at Home" worship to prioritize the health and safety of all our people. Through much prayerful discernment as staff, we are not ready to announce a date when we will begin our first phase of filling our pews for worship. We are going to wait two weeks before returning to address this question so that we might best observe the virus' trend of infection. We hope to share an update with you by May 26 of when staff and our leadership bodies best feel we can move forward safely, ever mindful that circumstances may call for changes in even the best plans that we can formulate.

We covet your prayers as we consider how best to lead us through these uncertain days. As we wait, we encourage you to begin imagining re-entry into our space, whenever we do proceed, as something that will happen in phases. When the time comes, we will do all that we can to keep one another safe and healthy. We will wear masks, we will take temperatures, we will not congregate in the Commons nor the Lobby, and we will seek to worship with physical distance from one another.

Highland, fear not: *worship is open* online. Our plans are not about "reopening" worship as if worship was ever closed. When the Holy Spirit leads us to take the next step, we will share with you how we will move through a phased approach of opening our pews even *as* our worship remains open online. We continue to value all people, no matter their age or risk factors, being able to participate in our broad and deep worship that invites us into the mystery of a loving God.

Grateful for Your Story

Every week, the Faithful Giving Ministry Group checks the pulse of the church via financial reports. While that sounds boring, we feel the need to reach out to you and celebrate! Not only did you bring in more than you spent in 2019, but also all who made financial commitments last fall in our faith giving season are currently on track with pledged giving for the first quarter of the year! And to top it all off, during this time of physical distancing, we are seeing increased levels of automatic and electronic giving. You truly are a people who take seriously the need to belong to one another.

You continue to inspire us, and so we want to know: what about the church inspires you? How has our beloved community lifted you? Your loved ones? In what ways have you felt belonging within and outside our sanctuary's walls? In this season, when we cannot physically be together, it is important now, more than ever, to name our gifts and to tell our stories.

We would be honored if you would share a praise, an anecdote, a story, an image, or even a video that lets us know why Highland Baptist Church is important to you. It is our dream to collect these stories and words of love and inspiration and then share them with each other in a myriad of ways, from the newsletter to email to perhaps even the pulpit.

Send your answers to OurStories@hbclouisville.org so that even in our darkest moments of separation we can remember the ways in which we belong together.

With love, ~ Faithful Giving Ministry Group

Upcoming Deacon Nominations

Each year, our church nominates members to serve as Deacons. This year's nominations are due by next Wednesday, May 13th.

Please look around the congregation and nominate people that you know from Bible study, Ministry Groups and social aspects—the deacon body is a blend of new and long time Highland Baptist Church members, young and seasoned and diverse. As our congregation continues to grow, the role of deacons for pastoral care is key.

At Highland, deacons are not an "administrative board," but rather, servant leaders. They need not be perfect, but must be committed to a walk in humble faith. The primary functions of deacons are listed at the bottom of this sheet. Here are some core qualifications and requirements:

- Spiritual discernment
- Active involvement in worship, Bible study, and personal spiritual development
- Financially supportive of the ministry budget
- Ability and willingness to regularly attend monthly deacons' meeting
- Ability and willingness to care for members through prayer, visits, and other communications
- **Time Commitment:** 10-12 hours per month (includes worship)

Deacons serve three-year terms. They must be a member of Highland Baptist Church for one year.

DEACONS ROTATING OFF IN 2020

Cheryl Davis	Tony Dougherty	Nathan Marrs	Bill Martin	Lewis Miller
Ginny Sims	Becky Smith	Allison Todd	David Tucker	David Wells

DEACONS ROTATING OFF IN 2021

Suzanne Busse	Steven Michael Carr	Bill Campbell	Larry Davis	Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons
Joey Eubank	Sally Evans	Jeff Grey	Doris Hornbuckle	John Pacyga

DEACONS ROTATING OFF IN 2022

Justin Boldt	Diane Brewer	Phillip Garrett	David Hartley	Becki Hines
Scott Kerr	Patty Martin Nichols	Autumn Reece	Alison Schureck	Missy Smith

HONOR DEACONS

Keith Eiken	Billie Johnson	Reece Little	Dave Nakdimen	Pat Ramsey
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NOMINATIONS

- Those listed above are ineligible for nomination at this time as they are already serving or are finishing a term.
- **Please nominate up to 9 people. It would be most helpful if you could nominate at least 5 people.**
- **Please return your completed form to the church office by email (andria@hbclouisville.org) or by phone call (502-451-3735, ext. 24) by Wednesday, May 13th.**

Deacon Responsibilities

The role of **Deacons** at Highland Baptist Church revolve around these key areas:

Spiritual Discernment - serving as a "sounding board" for the ministry staff on issues affecting the life of the church. Often, these are complicated or potentially divisive issues that need thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

Worship Leadership - greeting in the Sanctuary, collecting offerings, serving communion, and being available to pray with individuals following worship.

Deacon Care Teams - organized into groups designed to meet a variety of needs in our congregation. In these activities and others, the deacons monitor the overall health and needs of the church. These teams are as follows:

- The **New Members Care Team** welcomes each new member; helps to integrate them into the fellowship of Highland and helps to ensure new members find their place of participation and service.
- The **Pastoral Care Team** ministers to members who are ill, in the hospital, or experiencing other needs, through visits, phone calls or notes of encouragement.
- The **Continuing Care Team** maintains contact with members who have ongoing needs, often due to long-term health concerns.