

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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Please note:

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

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Healthy-Highland at Home: Self-Acceptance

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. This week, Leslie Townsend encourages self-acceptance with ten practices we can consider during this season. Healthy-Highland at Home will be available on our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) on Mondays beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Fellowship with the Saints: Johann Sebastian Bach

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. This week, Austin Echols shares how Johann Sebastian Bach's faith led to music that stirs the soul and endures the passage of time. Fellowship with the Saints will be available on our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) on Tuesdays beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Deacon Nomination Deadline Extended with Online Nomination Form

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 20.

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

In 1831, the Choctaws were the first Native American tribe "relocated" during the Trail of Tears. Thousands died. Many of them starved.

In 1845, the potato famine started in Ireland. During the next four years, a million Irish people died of hunger or disease. Most of these deaths were poor tenant farmers subsisting on the edge of the economy.

The Choctaws learned about the ongoing catastrophe in Ireland. Though they themselves lived in poverty, they felt a solidarity of suffering with the Irish. The Choctaws took a collection and sent 170 dollars to starving Irish families. No one would have blamed the Choctaws for ignoring hungry people halfway around the world. They still bore the physical and emotional scars of people forcibly removed from their land and herded west like livestock. Their own holocaust came courtesy of white people. Yet, the Choctaws saw suffering not skin color.

The Irish have never forgotten the kindness and generosity. Now over 170 years later, two Native American tribes are suffering in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hundreds of Irish people started a charity drive, raising over 1.8 million dollars to help provide clean water, food and health supplies for the Hopi and Navajo tribes. Decades of poverty and poor public health left these tribes susceptible to COVID-19 and they have been hit hard.

A historian at University College Dublin said, "There is a belief that the famine has never been forgotten here, and it has made Irish people more likely to make common cause with other marginalized people."

I do not write as someone who is hungry. I am not. I have not lost income. I am still healthy. I hope to remember the hungry, the jobless, those who have been stricken. I hope to remember the losses of this time with no memorial service to make a person's significance. I hope to see Christ in the suffering and remember the words of Christ that "Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."

Faith calls us to "common cause with the marginal." They have much to teach us about kindness and generosity in really hard days.

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Jim England, Proclaimer

In Memoriam



Dave Nakdimen
1933-2020

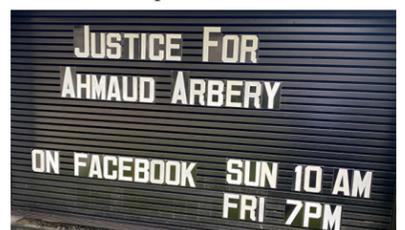
Invitation to All: Encourage One Another!

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!

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:



Families with Children Survey, Complete by May 15

Will you take a few minutes to fill out this quick [Google forms survey](#) for us by Friday, May 15? It will allow us to refine our opportunities for connection and formation for families with children in the coming weeks. Thank you!

Children's Corner

Connect with Us!

There are multiple ways to stay digitally connected with Highland's children and family ministry. If you haven't yet found these sources of communication that share what is happening in the midst of this season at home, please check them out!

- **Weekly Email** – Our *Children and Family Ministry Newsletter* is sent via email at the end of each week (check your junk mail if you haven't seen it recently!) and includes all the information you need for the upcoming week.
- **Private Facebook Group** – Our *Children and Family Ministry of Highland* group has real-time reminders of our events, encouraging words, videos, photos and more from our ministry with children and families.
- **Private Instagram Account** – Our *@highlandchildrenandfamilies* Instagram account has similar real-time reminders of our events, encouraging words, videos, photos and more from our ministry with children and families.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Renee!

This Week's Happenings

Tuesday, May 12, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 13, 8:30 p.m.
Friday, May 15, 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, 9:00 a.m.

Preschool Play Day (Zoom, bring legos and/or our Sunday coloring sheet!)
Parent Gathering (Zoom)
Fun Friday: Pokemon Charades + Elementary Kids Check-In (Zoom)
Family Bible Study (look for details via email later this week)



**POKEMON CHARADES
+ ELEMENTARY CHECK-IN**



FRIDAY AT 3:00 PM

Zoom to Table Talk

Given that meeting in person is postponed, Table Talk will meet this Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., using Zoom conferencing technology. We shall have an opportunity to check in with each other and meet new people interested in an informal time to build new and strengthen existing relationships within the congregation. Everyone is invited to participate. To join the gathering, contact Marc Dowell, Jim Shelton, or Earl Shelp.



A Reflection by Fred Bogert

I've been spending some of my home time going through stacks of papers to play the perpetual game of sort and toss and came across a bunch of notes and flyers about various church retreats of the past few seasons. In sorting through them I was slowed by their contents. Sensibility and good advice poured from the pages, as if asking me to preserve the content even if I chose to recycle the paper. Before long I became convinced that a retreat would be a fine use of time during this "great pause" the world is in these days. So, I set out to design my personal retreat practice for a few days.

Step one: Limiting my screen time to let things settle down. Hallelujah. Once I did that I started looking for the bullet points of my retreat brochure—a short list of directives I could follow to simplify my thoughts and actions for a while and let all the noise fall away, at least until I have to mow the back yard.

Step two: Three directives—something fairly linear to imitate the "narrow path" suggested by Jesus. I came up with "Pray it, say it, play it." After all, if this is going to be a worthy retreat, it has to have catchy phrases to headline the invitation.

Step three: Source material. I scrounged through the bookshelves and picked some reading material to feed my retreat—NIV and Message to compare scripture, then a Rumi for sweet poetry and Neil Douglas Klotz's "The Genesis Meditations" to broaden my awareness beyond the Christian perspective. After all, the whole world is caught in this mess.

Step four: Live in the retreat. Now I'm beginning each part of my day with "Pray it, say it, play it." Stilling the mind to enter a meaningful state of prayer is still the hardest for me, and I think that means it's the most important. When I feel like God walks out of the mist and comforts me with grace and peace, words come that lead me to a better day, a better way. And playing out the Godly hints of wisdom gives me a direction, if only for the moment, that has more joy in it, even going back to sorting through those stacks of papers.

The French call it *divertissement*, and this is mine. Something to do while waiting for the storm to settle. I know I'm not alone in this kind of adventuring. How 'bout you? What does your personal retreat brochure have on the cover? Let's compare notes when we get back together.

Friday
Church
Corner

Ministry Council Update

Highland's Ministry Council met through Zoom on April 6. Agenda items presented and/or discussed included the following:

HVAC Update: Both tasks force groups did not believe that a capital campaign is feasible at this time given the ramifications of COVID-19, and the HVAC task force work group, after consulting with several companies and recommended that we consider only repairing the part, which would be the least expensive and if that fails, to look at replacing the chiller which would be less costly than replacing the whole HVAC.

Finance Update: March ended with a \$364 in receipts over expenses. Our pledge income is 109% of the budget which non-pledged is at 43%. The church is pursuing financial aid through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act Payroll Protection Program. CBF has provided information on this program which is designed for nonprofit organizations and will provide 2.5 months payroll given as a grant based on the church's payroll. The amount would be forgiven but if a position were lost, the amount would convert to a loan with 1% interest.

Protection Policy: This was listed to be presented at April's Quarterly Church Conference, but staff felt more discussion is needed and would be best addressed once the church can gather together again.

Conducting Church Business during the Pandemic: Several items of business were to be addressed during April's Quarterly Church Conference. Ministry Council discussed alternative ways of doing this—though Zoom, video presentations—ensuring a quorum would be difficult. Sharing information via Bible study classes, church newsletter and through our deacons.

Call Weekend: The candidate met with our staff just prior to the quarantine and all are excited. Given the pandemic situation the call weekend will be rescheduled as it does not appear feasible at this time for the candidate or our church.

Church Business
Corner

Finance Corner

Highland's Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups keep their ears on the pulse of our weekly giving. We'd like to say, frankly, our financial condition is good. We've been encouraged during this pandemic, given that you, the church, has kept in stride with contributions during the same period of time in 2019. (We are only slightly less.) We have some interesting developments concerning our financial status.

- Pledged giving for 2020 is at 111% of planned budget through the end of April.
- Total income for 2020 is only \$2,289 less than the same period in 2019.
- April YTD Income is only short of April YTD Expenses by \$9,176. This was primarily due to maintenance and repairs in January. Expenses related to programs, activities and utilities have decreased mid March since we have not been together.
- Highland is the recipient of a Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan for \$139,000 funded by the Small Business Administration and acquired through PNC Bank. The funds were deposited in our bank account on May 7.
 - This loan is fully forgivable since proceeds will be used for payroll and utility costs incurred for the next eight weeks. This funding has allowed our well-deserved staff to continue receiving pay while serving our congregation and community. In addition, this allows us to maintain our operating reserve funds.
 - Highland is appreciative for the partnerships that we have with CBF, (particularly, CBF North Carolina) that alerted us quickly of this forgivable loan opportunity and to Victor Rowe (one of our own), from PNC Bank who reached out to us and monitored progress throughout the application process.

Our Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups are grateful to Highland for its generous contributions always, but especially during this difficult time of pandemic. We thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to Highland Baptist Church.

Grateful for Your Story

The Faithful Giving ministry group is grateful for how you give so generously to Highland Baptist Church; both financially and through Our Stories. We continue to collect and share memories, words, and images at OurStories@hbclouisville.org.

We want to share some of our stories with you during these difficult days:

As I reflect on Highland Baptist Church's significance in my life and how it has positively affected me, some stories become more clear, and some less-so, in this time of COVID-19 and social distancing. I have come to cherish, now more than ever, the small interactions in the hallways, the shared hymns and anthems in the sanctuary, and the hugs and handshakes so freely given. Community is so desperately missed, especially by this extrovert. But what I have come to appreciate so much about Highland Baptist is that I share these moments with ALL people of God. I was raised to know that everyone is loved by God, but this is the first place I have ever seen that within the walls of a church. I have met people and heard stories that I would never have known without the inclusivity of Highland Baptist. As a person and as a Christian, I am enriched and more full of God's spirit because of the people I know through our beloved community.

So I guess what I mean to say, is that my story is really more of a reflection of everyone's story, not just my own.

With love, ~ Drew Harston

My Turn by Bill Campbell

What will we do with our memories? What will we do with the plans that haven't happened?

In the Charles Dickens story "Great Expectations," Miss Havisham, now an old lady, still sits in her tattered wedding dress, stuck in the time of her tragedy.

But we don't live in novels. Our lives are real. Our tragedies are real. Real plans get crushed.

The Psalmist laments, "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars (some translations say "willows") we hung our harps." Imagine the total grief.

I can also imagine some do-gooder saying to the grieving people, "oh come on, pick yourself up and dust yourself off. Sing me a song." The Psalmist cannot: "How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?"

Have you known that kind of grief, that disappointment? I remember standing in the sanctuary one time, surrounded by a chorus of singers in the service. But overcome with grief, I thought "how can I sing the songs of the Lord?"

So now we find ourselves in a time where our plans have been canceled. Things we counted on have changed. Perhaps we've lost a loved one, lost a job. I miss the laughter of fellow church members, the joy of passing the peace.

I tune in for the computer services, but sometimes (just between you and me), I grieve, and I think how can I sing the songs of the Lord?

Our memory is a strange thing. It can weigh us down, and paralyze us for what we've lost. Yet, it can also remind us of the countless ways God has appeared and shaped things in ways far better than we could ever imagine.

In the twenty-five years we have been at Highland, the staff has changed, the services have changed, the deacons have changed, the membership has changed, the buildings have changed. Some of the changes were hard. But as I look back, I am so grateful to see how God was moving through it all, not as a waiter checking off the list of *my* wants, but rather a Creator who *is not done*, the embodiment of *love*, working towards an even better future.

So while I lament what I miss, I remain grateful for you, and look forward to see what surprises and blessings lie ahead.

I love the story in Zachariah, which picks up after the exile and the seemingly irreparable devastation of foreign invaders. "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (Please read this quote again to yourself.)

So let us begin anew, and let us remember, as one of our wise ministers is fond of saying, "Whatever the road, we walk it together."



Upcoming Deacon Nominations

Each year, our church nominates members to serve as Deacons. This year's nominations are due by next Wednesday, May 20th.

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	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 submit your nominations to the church office by emailing andria@hbclouisville.org or calling (502-451-3735, ext. 24) by next Wednesday, May 20th.