

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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Church Votes on Deacon Nominations in Worship July 17-19

Deacons are servant-leaders for the church who provide pastoral care, serve in church worship services, and serve as a sounding board for important matters for the church. As the bylaws asks of the church, the nominees will be presented to the church for vote in worship on July 17 and 19.

We express our gratitude to these 10 individuals who are willing to serve Highland in this way (left to right, top to bottom): Randy Biery, Rob Burke, Troy Burden, Vi Chatmon, Christy Chestnut, Deborah Keeling, Ginger Miller, Bill Ockerman, Erin Phelps, Alan Spade.

Thank you to all who submitted nominations and thank you to the deacons who have served and those who have agreed to serve. The date for our ordination and installation service will be announced at a later date.



**Weekend Services
Seventh Sunday
after Pentecost**

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139
Romans 8:18-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jim England, Proclaimer

**Highland's Word
To Our Community**

... on NPR: ...continuing to nurture our faith community with online resources including Facebook and YouTube, where Friday worship and Sunday worship can be viewed live or on your schedule.
... on our marquee:



For the Living of These Days—A Word from Lauren Jones Mayfield

Here at Highland, "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." This statement from our Vision 20/20 Mission, Vision, and Core Values summates well our commitment to walking together the road that is before us. As this theological path requires courage, relevancy, a full-bodied immersion into the things we believe and support, along with a hearty welcome that celebrates the presence of all, we walk it together!

This core value is the theme for the Facebook Live devotions this week, led by the Young Adults, Jennifer Neyhart, Bee Beilke, Tory Parker, and Ryan Eller. I hope you will tune in at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook to hear from them. I trust that you will experience their voices and presence as inspired, curious, and reflective about our current world, the mission of our church, and the support we get to offer to one another.

Not only are we a church that takes seriously and invests in the well-being and insight of young people, we are also a church that works to take seriously our privilege and abundance of resources. You can read more about it in the mission corner of today's newsletter, the Anti-racism Team has invited us to a 21-day Racial Equity Challenge. You can read more about it online at <https://tinyurl.com/y8qautnz>.

Thank you for your commitments to courage as together we seek to use our mind, heart, and body to participate in the work of transforming love, justice that leads to peace, and hope that shapes each day.

Weekday Devotion Series Expanding This Month

Beginning this week, Highland's staff is expanding our weekday devotions in order to welcome more voices into our online space! Ministers will still offer a devotion at 10:00 a.m. each Monday, introducing the week's participants. We will focus each week on one of Highland's Core Values. This week, Lauren Jones Mayfield will offer a devotion on Monday and then Highland's Young Adults will have a 10:00 a.m. devotion posted Tuesday through Friday. This week's devotions will reflect upon the following core value: "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."

Staying Connected Outside These 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:

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.



The Nomads Bible Study Class gathered on the church's front lawn last Sunday.

Anti-Racism Team's Invitation for Equity Challenge



Missions
Corner

Highland's Anti-Racism Team (A.R.T.), with the blessing of the ministers, invites you to explore racism using a program called the "21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge." The challenge: "for 21 days to do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The plan includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections."

We are inviting Sunday Bible classes to participate as classes and encourage each other to do the challenge. Individuals can take the challenge or form support groups with friends, and A.R.T. will form a group to meet by Zoom for anyone who is interested. Besides the suggestions listed on the 21-day website, there will be some suggestions specific to the Louisville area that A.R.T. will make available to you.

You can find information on the challenge at <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge> or <https://debbyirving.com/21-day-challenge> (Eddie Moore and Debby Irving developed the program). Please browse one of the websites. There is no financial cost. Many organizations and groups, including churches, have taken the challenge.

If your Bible class, or you as an individual, is interested, please let us know. If you want to join the Zoom group we create for this purpose, please let us know. You can contact Missy Smith, co-chair of A.R.T. (vanceandmissy@gmail.com, 502-727-7913), Nathan Marrs, co-chair of A.R.T. (nathan.marrs@gmail.com, 502-257-2161), Nancy Goodhue, member of A.R.T. (nancygoodhue@gmail.com, 502-649-5458), or Lauren Jones Mayfield (laurenjm@hbclouisville.org, 347-342-6450).

Curbside Food Drive, HCM

This Sunday, July 19, Highlands Community Ministries will host a curbside food drive at their food pantry located at 1228 East Breckinridge Street, the front entrance. Volunteers will unload directly from your vehicle the following items: nonperishable foods (tuna, mac-n-cheese, hearty soups, pasta and hearty sauces), personal hygiene items (toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo), and \$25 gift cards to Target.

Ministry Council Update

Church Business
Corner

The last two ministry council meeting have been primarily focused on the announcement from the Pastor Search committee in planning a Virtual Call Weekend. Logistics for the announcement, zoom meetings for church members to get to know the candidate, and the voting process following the Friday service and Sunday service were discussed and set up with the voting being done by Survey Monkey. Many thanks to Bob Cunningham and the entire Pastor search committee for their hard work and commitment to making the virtual call weekend a success. Thanks also to Walter McWhorter our tech guru in residence who set up the zoom meetings, services and voting.

In the midst of this historical transition for our Church. The life and work of the church continues.

A report was brought regarding the HVAC. The repair has been completed by the company with the hope of buying 4-5 year time before the need to do a capital campaign in the future to replace the HVAC. The repair was done for \$4,600.00.

Discussion is on-going with staff regarding doing church during a pandemic. Questions on how to hold a Quarterly Church Conference was discussed and will be reviewed further once the call weekend is completed.

Our church's financial report continues to be positive as our April income was \$7,000 over expenses. The first application for the Payroll Protection Plan was not granted, but the church received word that in a second round, the funds were granted for \$139,000 given as a forgivable loan. Many thanks to Susan Pierce for her untiring work to get this PPP in and approved. In looking ahead, work will be needed to be completed on our organ soon.

Reflection by Fred Bogert

Friday
Church
Corner

Wear masks. Maintain social distance. Stay home.

Lives will depend on our obedience to these phrases for the foreseeable future. And it's frightening how many people see these not as emergency warnings but as good advice, to be filed in our day next to "stop smoking", "cut down on sugar", "don't drive so fast". That makes their response an expression of self-care, rather than compassion and social responsibility. And it's one of the reasons that the virus is thriving in America. "Do it for them." It's a concept we as a nation haven't had on the front burner for a while. But something's different now. America seems to be awakening from its long couch nap. People are standing up for racial equality in the face of tear gas and federal troops. LGBTQ are out of the closet and standing tall in the workplace, in the church, in the courts. Societal honor and character are rising just in time to balance the threat of this pandemic. Workers are risking their lives to save dying patients. Churches are finding food and shelter for abandoned workers and their families who have neither. Communities are uniting to provide cross-country aid. Governments are changing. Covid, like Pearl Harbor, has awakened the sleeping giant.

Yet somehow in the midst of this warzone there's a basic understanding that hasn't taken hold. As corny as it sounds, our entire nation needs each one of us, right now, to get over our selves and keep those masks on, even if they make our faces sweat. "Do it for them." Our new evangelism: "Do it for them." A thousand times, a million times, wear masks. Maintain social distance. Stay home. "Do it for them." What a perfect message for our thinking, feeling, healing community of faith. For the love of God, "Do it for them." Politics be damned. This is life or death. See it, say it. "Do it for them." Amen.



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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.