

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

Inside This Issue...

- ◆ This Week at Highland
- ◆ Prayer List
- ◆ Financial Report
- ◆ More Church News

Please note:

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

1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (502) 451-3735
Fax: (502) 451-3760
Website: www.hbclouisville.org

Frank Bassett
PART-TIME CUSTODIAN
Jerre Bassett
FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN
Lauren Blackwell
lauren@hbclouisville.org
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Fred Bogert
fredb@fredbogert.com
DIRECTOR TO FRIDAY CHURCH
Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS
Linda Campbell
linda@hbclouisville.org
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT
Kathy Collier
kathy@hbclouisville.org
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP
Perry Dixon
perry@hbclouisville.org
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES
Andria Eadens
andria@hbclouisville.org
PUBLICATIONS/MEMBERSHIP/OFFICE MANAGER
Austin Echols
austin@hbclouisville.org
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE
Kathleen Gordon
kathleen@hbclouisville.org
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Carol Harston
carol@hbclouisville.org
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION AND CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT
Lauren Jones Mayfield
laurenjm@hbclouisville.org
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUNG ADULTS AND MISSION
Bill Martin
bill.martin@chhj.com
DEACON CHAIR
Walter McWhorter
walter@hbclouisville.org
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Renee Purtlebaugh
renee@hbclouisville.org
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
Loren Townsend
ltownsend@lpts.edu
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Dr. Lewis Brogdon Serves as Guest Preacher This Sunday

Highland looks forward to welcoming Dr. Lewis Brogdon into our pulpit this Sunday, August 9, to preach in our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Dr. Lewis Brogdon is currently the Chair of Religious Studies at Simmons College of Kentucky and teaches Black Church Studies at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. Dr. Brogdon taught two Wednesday night series over the past school year ("The Church and Reparations" and "The Life and Theology of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.").



Virtual Quarterly Church Conference Scheduled for August 19

We will have our first virtual Quarterly Church Conference on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. This Quarterly Church Conference will include our regular reports, as we seek to adapt to new avenues of meeting during this season where we're healthy at home. We will share the agenda for this upcoming Quarterly Church Conference in next week's newsletter. Please mark your calendar so that we can make sure we meet our quorum even during this digital age!

For the Living of These Days—A Word from Carol Harston

The casualties from dinner covered the table but Drew and I still occupied our seats as we slowly enjoyed my first-ever batch of homemade ice cream (delicious!). The boys were busy karate-jumping into a pillow fort in the basement, which provided as much "silence" as is afforded us this season. We shared about our days and picked back up this summer's ongoing conversation—what is this school year going to look like? How are we going to manage a new season of "more robust" (JCPS' favorite term) non-traditional learning?

The truth is that we have this conversation *every* year because every year holds its new challenges. The conversation this year feels both familiar in our questions (What does each child need? How will we manage our parenting and our work?) and unfamiliar (How do we homeschool without losing our minds?).

We wait to hear more information. We attempt to plan. We get frustrated over how little we know. And then we decide, again, to wait.

The opening lines in the Letter of James rattles me from the planning abyss: "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it *nothing but joy*, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

Is there a way for us to face this new school year with "nothing but joy"? How might enduring this season help us to live whole and complete, satisfied and grateful? Is this even possible????

James reorients joy away from being dependent upon the outcome of the trial we are facing. Joy is born from the promise that God is making us whole in the process.

What if our *being made whole* is the greatest outcome that we could receive? Maybe we could even live as we are already whole because our generous God is making it so.

Joy-born-from-faith does not negate the difficulty of the season.

Joy-born-from-faith affirms God, not our optimism.

To suffer patiently with joy, we are going to need some faith beyond our current circumstances. Living with joy will only be possible if we can cling to our convictions. James McClendon writes, "My convictions are the gutsy beliefs that I live out—or in failing to live out, I betray myself."

Highland: We worship surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, shaping us with the gutsy belief that living our faith is hard work. We worship sheltered by the Revelation Window, shaping us with the gutsy belief that God's generosity allows us to live our faith with joyful assurance. We know that in the end, God's love reigns, and all will be well.

I confess that I am not sure I can make it through this school year without these convictions. I'm not sure I can live with joy without a community who will help believe for me when I cannot believe on my own. I imagine I'm not the only one who will need this community living out gutsy beliefs. No matter the trials we face on the road, we walk it together towards our God who is making us whole all along the way. Thanks be to God.

Grateful for your Participation

Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to the survey sent via e-mail to you to concerning your interest in and thoughts about returning to a substantially restricted form of in-person worship at some hypothetical future time. We appreciated your thoughtful responses. There was a wide and healthy range of responses and this will help us make effective decisions. For the time being, Highland Baptist Church will continue to offer online streaming services each Friday and Sunday as its only means of community worship. In the event that leadership decides at some point to consider limited in-person worship, we will do so only in compliance with State and CDC public health guidance—and with limited numbers and a logistical plan that protects health and safety. ~ *Pandemic Worship Service Team* (Phil Collier, David Bannister, Amber Burke, Jan Forren, and Doris Hornbuckle)

Weekend Services Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105
James 1:12-18
Matthew 6:5-15

Lewis Brogdon, Guest Proclaimer
Roy Fuller, Global Mission Moment



Our emphasis on the Offering for Global Missions continues through the month of August. This Sunday, August 9, we will continue our mission moments which highlight the work of CBF field personnel. Please plan to give to the Offering for Global Missions as you are able. Monies collected directly support global mission work.

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.

Highland's Word To Our Community

... on NPR: ...welcoming new pastor Mary Alice Birdwhistell beginning the weekend of August 14-16. Join us on Facebook and YouTube.
... on our marquee:



Deacon Testimonies

Each year, Highland's new deacons share their faith journey as part of our weekend worship services as we prepare to welcome them into deacon service. Our new deacons have graciously agreed to offer their deacon testimony through an online video shared with the community. These testimonies are gifts that our new deacons give to our congregation, shared by the church on our YouTube channel under an unlisted link.

Links to the videos will be available in our Saturday email with the worship bulletin and in the email version of our weekly newsletter. We encourage all Highland's people to watch these videos to get to know better those serving in this role as deacon.

Weekday Devotion Series: Bible Studies Featured This Week

We have expanded 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, Renee Purtlebaugh offered a devotion on Monday and now other church members will have a 10:00 a.m. devotion posted the rest of this week. This week's devotions will reflect upon the following core value: "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." This week's leaders include Amanda Watson.



Four-Week Study of James: Experimenting with Online Bible Study

We have begun our first adventure into short-term online Bible study with the Letter of James! Sixty-five people signed up and received the first week's content on Sunday evening. This month's offering includes reflection questions, commentary notes, a weekday reading schedule, a private Facebook group, and Friday Zoom conversations. Each offering is optional in order to fit each person's schedule and preference. If you wanted to sign-up but missed our deadline, email Carol (carol@hbclouisville.org).

Take the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge

Some of Highland Baptist Church's Bible classes are currently taking the 21-Day Challenge. The challenge is for 21 days to do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The actions include reading articles, listening to podcasts, watching videos, observing, and finding ways to form and deepen community connectedness.

If you are interested in taking the challenge, are not in a class doing it, and would like to join others in a weekly Zoom meeting for encouragement and discussion, contact Missy Smith (vanceandmissy@gmail.com, 502-541-7439) or Lauren Jones Mayfield (laurenjm@hbclouisville.org, 347-342-6450) to receive the invitation to join the Zoom meeting.

The meetings will be held Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. starting today, August 4 and continuing through August 25.

You can access the challenge materials at <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge> or <https://debbvirving.com/21-day-challenge>.



Missions
Corner



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

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.