

Where transformed people are joining the work of God.



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



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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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Join Us for Drive 'Round This Sunday

In the spirit of Gather 'Round in recent years at Highland, this year we invite you to Drive 'Round with us! This Sunday, August 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m., we will host a drive-thru event with multiple purposes and opportunities for celebration and blessing.

Primary among them will be the opportunity to meet Pastor Mary Alice for a few moments to welcome her in-person. You'll also receive a packet of Highland's Communion bread for our Communion Sunday the following weekend, families with children will receive faith formation materials for September and a school year blessing, and youth will receive a tangible object of encouragement.

We will also collect items to support the work of La Casita in our community. You're invited to bring size 6 diapers, bars of soap and baby wipes with you that evening.

Please enter into the lower parking lot from Everett Avenue and Highland's ministers will direct you through the parking lots to the various stations. We can't wait to see you there!



Holy Ground: Highland's Paths for September

This September, Highland is in search of Holy Ground. Like the Israelites in Egypt, we long for God to see us in our despair. We can fall into complacency ("It is what it is") as we get lost in daily life. God calls us to live with dangerous hope, dreaming of a life of freedom and justice. Our faith formation opportunities for September invite us to join the Exodus journey.

Our lives look different this season! We hope to offer paths flexible enough to fit your schedule, interest, and spiritual needs AND cohesive enough to feel that we are walking the road together. We invite you to choose which path(s) is best for you this month. All those who sign-up for this month (continued to page 3)



A Word from Mary Alice

Dear Highland family, I am loving my times meeting the Highland family face to face, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the days to come. Several of you have asked if I will be opening up more meeting times, and the answer is: absolutely! Each week, the link in the newsletter will include more times for the following weeks. I anticipate that I will continue to do this throughout the fall, until I am able to meet with everyone.

As a reminder, I am working to schedule times to meet in whatever ways you feel most comfortable: masked and socially distanced in Highland's sanctuary, outside Highland in the playground, on your front/back porch, or even on Zoom or by telephone. There are a variety of days and times of the week available to accommodate different schedules.

To schedule a time to meet with me, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2a57wss>. For those without internet access, please contact the church office if you would like to schedule an appointment. Please note that I will need to meet at Highland (inside or outside) on weekdays during office hours. On weeknights or weekends, I'm happy to meet offsite and come to your front porch/back porch, have you over to mine, or meet at another outside space.

Know how much I value this time with you, friends! I hope to learn your stories, discover what you value most deeply about Highland, listen to your concerns or questions about the future, and hear your hopes and dreams for our faith community as we journey together in the days ahead.

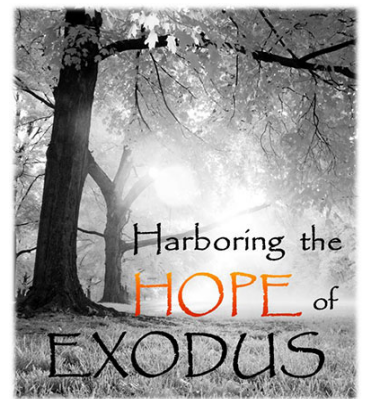
For the Living of These Days by Renee Purtlebaugh

Renee originally shared this story with our families with children a little over a week ago in our weekly family e-newsletter, but it seems that in this week of treading new paths, it still very much applies. It is updated and adapted for the current moment!

One day a little over a week ago, Eliza and I took a late morning, pre-lunch walk through our neighborhood. We have several well-worn paths that usually take us to the hydrangea bushes that mark the place where we turn around to return home, the magnolia tree where we collect leaves from nature, the oak tree where we watch for the acorns that fall in late summer/early fall to finally appear, the concrete curbs that become balance beams, or the yard filled with orange lilies now known as "sneezy flowers" (as I am so very allergic to lilies)!

On this day though, we chose a different and less familiar path. We had walked it before, but it just isn't our go to. Along the way, we discovered a lot of new things to see. Some flower boxes on either side of a driveway with beautiful pink blooms. Some really rough places in the sidewalk not meant for scooter riding. And ultimately, a home with the most beautiful and brightly colored wildflowers and bumblebees dancing around the front yard. Enamored doesn't begin to describe Eliza's obsession with beautiful flowers these days, and so we practiced observing the different colors, shapes, the multiple kinds of bees making these flowers their food.

It wasn't long before the woman who owned the house opened her front door smiling, watching as we admired her garden. She came outside to say hello and offered to cut some of these beautiful flowers for us to take home. It turns out, we had received a package for this woman accidentally a couple of years ago—a delivery mix-up with same house number but different (continued to page 3)



Weekend Services Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105
Matthew 16:24-26
Exodus 3:1-15

Mary Alice Birdwhistell,
Proclaimer



Global Mission Month at Highland

Our emphasis on the Offering for Global Mission continues through the month of August.

Please plan to give to the Offering for Global Mission as you are able. The monies collected directly support global mission work. To date, we have collected \$4,220. Thank you for your generosity especially during the ongoing pandemic realities we all face. (continued to page 2)

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.

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.

All video links of this year's elected deacons will be available in next week's newsletter. We encourage all Highland's people to watch these videos to get to know better those serving in this role as deacon. To provide more privacy, we ask that you refrain from sharing these on social media.

Global Mission Month at Highland *(continued from page 1)*

Here is a message from Terri Connolly: "How grateful I am that my church is involved in the passionate work of justice in our own community, while trusting CBF personnel around the globe to attend with great love as the presence of Christ to those beyond my own abilities and resources. May I encourage you to consider the dire needs of others in over 25 countries and regions of the world experiencing scarcity of safety, health and resources. You can help make a difference. Please consider this privilege and opportunity to contribute to the CBF Offerings for Global Missions during this focus month with a donation directly supporting personnel across the globe. This is our only appeal for Global Missions. *'I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.'* ~ John 10:10."



Who Tells Your Story?

The Young Adult Ministry invites all members of our community to participate in a night of welcome and storytelling for our new Pastor, Mary Alice Birdwhistell, on Thursday, October 1.

During this pandemic season, we want to share all the ways in which our community has transcended beyond our building to love and support one another through the years. Plan to join us for this unique event as it will be another way for us collectively to introduce Mary Alice to our congregation.

Members of all generations throughout our community are invited to submit pitches to be one of the 8 storytellers on our "stage" for a night that we hope will be unforgettable.

Participants will have the opportunity to work with Steven Michael Carr and other members of the Louisville Storytelling community to hone their stories before the night of the event. Do you have a Highland story to share? We hope so!

The pitch prompt is: Tell us about a time that the community of Highland embodied home for you.

For questions regarding the event, or to submit a pitch, email Rebecca Street Smith.

What's Coming This Fall

I shared last weekend in our weekly Children and Family Ministry email newsletter that I'm operating with three priorities as we move into this fall season. Every family is juggling so much! And, we also need the stories of our faith to ground us more than ever before in this challenging season.

With the priorities of simplicity/flexibility, offering multiple ways to engage, and encouragement, we'll gather around a single story of God at home each week. The story will provide a singular gathering point for everyone, and there will be multiple ways to engage with it. Each family will be able to choose the path that fits their life best in the current moment, knowing that that may even change from week to week. Doing all of these is not the goal!

- A question or phrase that you as a parent can write on a post-it and weave into your conversations with your children.
- Creating a sacred space in your home that reminds you of the presence of God with your family.
- A video of the story of God to view at home.
- An opportunity to process the week's story using a variety of materials.
- A video reading of a storybook that matches the Story of God for that week.

Additional paths may emerge as we move through these days together. Look for a video this week that will explain in more detail what shape our formation will take through September. I'm hopeful and curious about the ways God will meet us where we are as we move through these days!

Children's Corner



Donations for La Casita

This Sunday, August 30, we have the opportunity to bring items for La Casita Community Center to our Drive 'Round Highland event. We are collecting size 6 diapers, baby wipes, and bars of soap. Reach out to Lauren Jones Mayfield if you have any questions! Otherwise, grab some items and bring them with you on Sunday evening.



Missions Corner

Rally and March, This Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Members of the Anti-Racism Team invite you to join them at a rally and march this Saturday, August 29, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in partnership with Black Lives Matter and other groups, this family-friendly march is open to the public and takes place at 100 Witherspoon Street (the PCUSA headquarters).

The first hour will be an opportunity to participate in a drum circle followed by a few speakers. At 2:00 p.m., participants will march to Injustice Square at the corner of 6th and Jefferson, complete with chanting and song at the square. Folks will return to the Presbyterian Center at 3:15 p.m. for a few more speakers and members of Breonna Taylor's family, to conclude by 4:00 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction>. Reach out to Lauren if you have any questions!

Holy Ground: Highland's Paths for September *(continued from page 1)*

will receive a weekly email with all five paths towards Holy Ground.

- Read or listen to [The Warmth of Other Suns](#) by Isabel Wilkerson if you want to see how the Exodus journey connects with our country's history.
- See your own past, present, and future as Holy Ground by composing an autobiographical version of Psalm 105, building upon it each week.
- Reflect on Mary Alice's sermons with questions that explore the content of her sermon.
- Explore artwork that has been inspired by the Exodus story as curated by Tory Parker, a Highlander who happens to work at Louisville's Speed Art Museum! The artwork included here is from Jacob Lawrence's *The Great Migration* series.
- Join us for a bi-monthly Zoom call where people can share their own stories about Holy Ground.

Our journey is open for anyone—whether you attended Highland in the “before times” of pandemic or you are new to our virtual space. To participate, sign-up at <https://forms.gle/epAna8xc9MZRhSgUA>.

The first week's email will go out this Sunday, August 30, at 8:00 p.m. If you have questions, reach out to Carol at carol@hbclouisville.org. We look forward to journeying together as we live in search of Holy Ground.

For the Living of These Days by Renee Purtlebaugh *(continued from page 1)*

name and street—and so we made that connection too. After admiring even more of her garden, a lovely little greenhouse and beautifully colored birdhouses, I walked away so grateful for having walked a different path that morning without any inkling of the gift of generosity and kindness we would receive.

When we got home, we quickly trimmed them, placed them in a vase and set them squarely in the center of our kitchen table. These orange, pink and yellow wildflowers have adorned our space and are somehow still reminding us of kindness and generosity and what unexpected gifts can arise from walking a new path.

A handful of days later, another walk, another path, and another chance meeting with a neighbor led us back home with the single blue hydrangea bloom of the season we had been admiring on the bush by the sidewalk. We added it to our vase when we got home, and it is still reminding us of generosity and gift on new paths today.

Our paths are typically so well-worn, and maybe even have some ruts, but this year? That is far from true. I'm really grateful for the lingering beauty of wildflowers and hydrangeas on my table reminding us that surprise encounters with the Holy will indeed happen, even if in this very moment we aren't sure the new path will provide the sustenance we need.

I hope you'll trust with me, and if you need the reminder like I do, especially in these first days of the new school year,



Be well this week!

Faithful Giving Moment

We continue to be grateful for the in-person community that we have cultivated week in and week out for so long so that in times like these, the good work of the church can continue. And it does continue! In this moment, where finances are not our primary concern, but they do remain in the back of all of our minds, we ask you to practice generosity by giving faithfully.

There are four ways to give right now:

1. The easiest way to give is online via the church's secure webpage (<https://hbclouisville.org/give/donate>). Please be sure to click on “Highland's General Operating Fund.” You can give a recurring gift this way, as well as a one-time gift.
2. The most cost-conscious way is to set up an automatic bill payment with your bank. This will send your gift to the church automatically in these stressful days, and best of all, no fees—which allows us to be a better steward of your gifts when all seems uncertain.
3. You may mail your check to the church office at 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204, Attn: Kathleen Gordon.
4. It is still okay to drop off a check or cash at the church office. Ring the bell by the Educational Doors between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and someone will come to the door to receive it.

Thank you always for your faithful gifts, especially in these days!

Around Highland...

... Highland's retired pastor, Joe Phelps, received the “Blanche B. Ottenheimer Prize,” the highest honor presented by the Jewish Community of Louisville, for his work for racial justice. Read more about this award online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5gbg7cd>.

... Congratulations to Robert and Kelsey Grizzle Kahne on the birth of their baby.

END OF NEWSLETTER