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September 22, 2020

Email Alert

Several members have reported receiving fake emails from someone claiming to be Mary Alice, asking for assistance or requesting contact. Note that emails sent from Highland Baptist Church Staff will always come from the "hbclouisville.org" domain. If you receive an email that is not from our domain or that you suspect is suspicious, please double check before responding. Note that no official email from the church will come from a Gmail, AOL, or other publicly available email service.

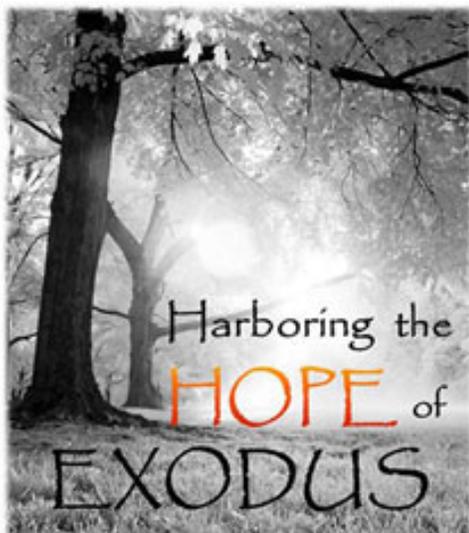
Deacon Ordination Reshaped for Communion and Connection

Highland has called ten men and women by the church to serve as spiritual leaders. On Sunday, October 4, we will ordain our newly elected deacons as part of our streamed Sunday morning worship service setting them forth to serve in ministry, to provide spiritual discernment, and to walk faithfully in community with others.

Please pray for those being ordained (Randy Biery, Rob Burke, Christy Chesnut, Deborah Keeling, Erin Phelps) and those being installed (Troy Burden, Vi Chatmon, Ginger Miller, Bill Ockerman, Alan Spade).

We want our faith community to be involved!

- Starting Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 a.m., you will be able to view our prerecorded deacon ordination online. We hope you will take a moment to watch as we ordain and install our new deacons.
- On Sunday, October 4, worship at Highland will take place as a drive round event in our parking lot between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. We invite you to come participate in worship in several ways that morning.
 - **Share a word of blessing:** As we cannot conduct our tradition of laying hands on those being ordained, we invite you to write a word of blessing, affirmation, and encouragement for Randy, Rob, Christy, Deborah, and Erin.
 - **Receive communion:** Newly ordained deacons will be standing by to offer communion for World Communion Sunday
 - **Bring your pledge:** Faithful Giving begins our month of making commitments to fund the 2021 year of ministry through Highland. Bring your card with you as a tangible act of worship and giving.
 - **Faith Formation Bags:** Families with children are invited to attend and receive their faith formation bag for October and November!
 - The Friday Church Ministry Group is collecting items for Maddie's House and Wayside Christian Mission, including notebooks, pens, non-perishable food, razors, socks, and toiletry items. Please consider bringing a few items that we can share with our friends at Wayside to show our love and support in this time when we can't gather at Friday Church face to face.



Weekend Services

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

Please Note:

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

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.

Why I Give by Cheryl Priddy

Isolation, disconnected, quarantined, distanced, alone... these words are commonly used today to describe what we've experienced due to COVID-19. They also describe what those marginalized by society have experienced for centuries. Society continues to marginalize groups of people, due to difference, yet God continues to create a diverse population. God's love extends to all of God's diverse creations! God loves all people as they are, as they were created to be.

Changing society's mindset of exclusivity, teaching God's unconditional love, promoting and exemplifying inclusivity, equality and fairness, eliminating isolation and disconnectedness due to difference, creating a society that embraces diversity, togetherness and closeness, following Jesus and leading others to do so... this is the work of love.

Carol Harston wrote in her Saturday morning reflection, "we've got holy work to do, and we dare not do it alone." It's up to us, collectively! Together, Highland, we can accomplish much more than we could ever do individually! Please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to Highland for 2021 so that our part of the work of love can continue!

Who Tells Your Story? Save the Date

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, at 6:00 p.m.

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.

The story-telling event will happen via zoom. We will post the link in the newsletter the next two weeks. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Highland Baptist: Shining Like the Sun

Incoming deacon Troy Burden shared these words with the deacon body last night in our first meeting of the year, and they were so meaningful to us that we wanted to share them with the rest of the Highland family:

"Good evening everyone. I'm Troy Burden and I'm so honored to be joining you again on the Deacon body of Highland Baptist Church.



"Take a moment and turn on your video if you don't have it already. Now take a moment and look at all the faces on your screens. Scroll through and look at the lovely faces of your fellow deacons.

"During this season of Exodus – well at least an Exodus from our familiar church building, may we still come together in the ways we have available, and look to one another. Admittedly, one of the reasons I was excited to join the deacon body again was because I'd have an opportunity to see you all, at least on a Zoom meeting. There are so many of you that I haven't seen ages.

"Like many of you, I know and love the famous quote from Thomas Merton about Louisville. I have it hanging in my office here at Highlands Community Ministries. It is a powerful quote and message about our connectivity to the whole human race and to God. But tonight, I hope you will give me a fair bit of liberty modifying/paraphrasing it:

"In Louisville, Kentucky, at the corner of Grinstead Drive and Cherokee Road, in the center of the inter-urban Highlands, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I love all of these people, that they are mine and I am theirs; that we could not be alien to one another, even though we are each so different. ...because we have the immense joy of being human, a member of the race which God herself became incarnate. Even still, even though unable to gather, we are all still walking around Shining Like the Sun.

"So tonight, it is my prayer, and our challenge that we, during this difficult time, remember to let our Sun shine brightly...that our faces become the face of God for others: for each other, our congregation, our ministers and staff, our city, and the communities in which we live.

"Highland Baptist is a very special place; a bold progressive Christian voice in our hurting city. A place that values all of Gods creation, all those children of God that are hurting, suffering from injustice.

"Having recently read another, but more contemporary Christian author, and our beloved church member Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, in his book *Just Faith*, it has further strengthened my love for the work of Highland Baptist. He says "the greatest hope for our lives is that they may be a blessing to others and in that way always be guided by the radical spirit of the resurrection. May our confidence for a world where everyone has everything they need to live abundantly always be rooted in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, who continues to guide us."

Fellow Deacons... may our lights so shine, each of us, together and individually. May we shine like the Sun. Amen.

Highland's Word To Our Community

... on NPR: *...continuing to nurture our faith community with Friday and Sunday worship services available on Facebook and YouTube.*

... on our marquee:



Mission Corner



HCM's Empty Bowls 2020 is a Win-Win!

Please help Highlands Community Ministries fill the Empty Bowls iQn 2020! Empty Bowls Hunger Benefit for 2020 is an online giving campaign September 1 through October 8.

Not only will you be helping HCM feed our neighbors in need, but 10% of all donations during this time will go towards APRON, Inc., a local non-profit that provides financial assistance to employees of Louisville's Independent Restaurant Community.

Plus, for every \$50 donated, your name will be entered into a drawing for a set of locally hand-crafted pottery bowls or a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant.

Visit <http://www.hcmlouisville.org> for all the details! Thank you for your continued support to help our neighbors in need!

Friday Church Corner

We would love to have you join us for:

"Let Your Spirit Sing"

When: Saturday, October 10, 4:00 p.m. (weather permitting)

Where: At Highland Baptist Church in the parking lot

Masks and Social Distancing Required.

You may bring your own chair or sit in one of ours.

What: The Friday Church Band will be leading us as we put our fear in the backseat and lift our Spirit and the Spirit of others through sharing, encouraging, and connecting.



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