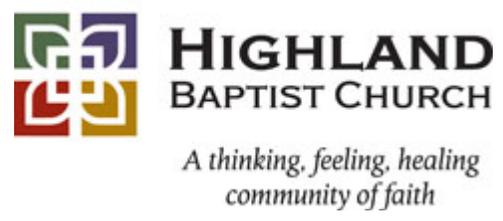
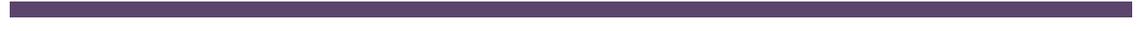


[View this email in your browser](#)



December 2, 2020



### ***Hope for a Weary World Advent 2020***

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. ~ Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

You are likely familiar with the line of the well-loved Christmas carol, *O Holy Night*, that says, "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!" We can certainly relate to the weariness of the world this Advent, can't we? And yet hope feels . . . *complicated* this year.

*How will Advent at Highland be different during a world-wide pandemic?* We invite you to join us for worship on the four Sundays of Advent at 10:00 a.m. on Highland's YouTube and Facebook accounts. Each Sunday, we will offer a different challenge for us to live with a *posture of hope* as we wait, watch, and pray for God to make a way in our weary world.

In addition, below are some of the other creative ways we will connect with God and point one another toward Hope throughout this Advent season. Maybe, in the midst of our Advent journey together, Hope will be born, once again, within us.

#### **Reflecting Together**

Each day of Advent, you will receive an email with a devotion written by a member of our Highland family. These devotions will also be available daily on [Facebook](#) and in its entirety on our [website](#). If you would like a hard copy of the devotional booklet to use at home, they will also be available Monday, November 30-Friday, December 4, outside the doors to the educational building from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., weather permitting.

Additionally, on Monday-Fridays, our ministers will post videos on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) inviting you to join them for a daily reflection throughout the Advent season.

We invite you to share these videos and devotions on social media! In addition, you might want to post your own video or reflection about where you are finding Hope this Advent season. What a wonderful way for us to hear from the unique voices of the Highland family and to share Highland's thoughtful and progressive voice with our wider community. As you share on social media, feel free to use the hashtag #hopeforawearyworld.

### Supporting our Community



Our annual Christmas Store will take place on Saturday, December 12. Read more about the Christmas Store [here](#).

In lieu of Christmas Baskets for Highlands Community Ministries, due to COVID-19, we are raising funds to donate gift cards to families. Donate [here](#). Please type "HCM Gift Cards" in the comments section.

### Holding Space for Grief and Loss

As is our tradition at Highland, this Sunday, December 6, at 3:00 p.m., the second Sunday of Advent—Peace Sunday, we will place crosses on our front lawn in memory of the 133 people who have died in Louisville so far this year as a result of violence. While this ritual is familiar to us, it is a poignant time of loss for those who grieve deeply during this holiday season.

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19, we are not able to invite the entire church to participate in this ritual. A limited number of people from our Anti-Racism Team and Reparations Task Force will be present. We invite the rest of the Highland family to join us virtually via [Facebook Live](#) or [YouTube](#). You are also invited to visit the memorial in person on your own at any point through the end of the year.

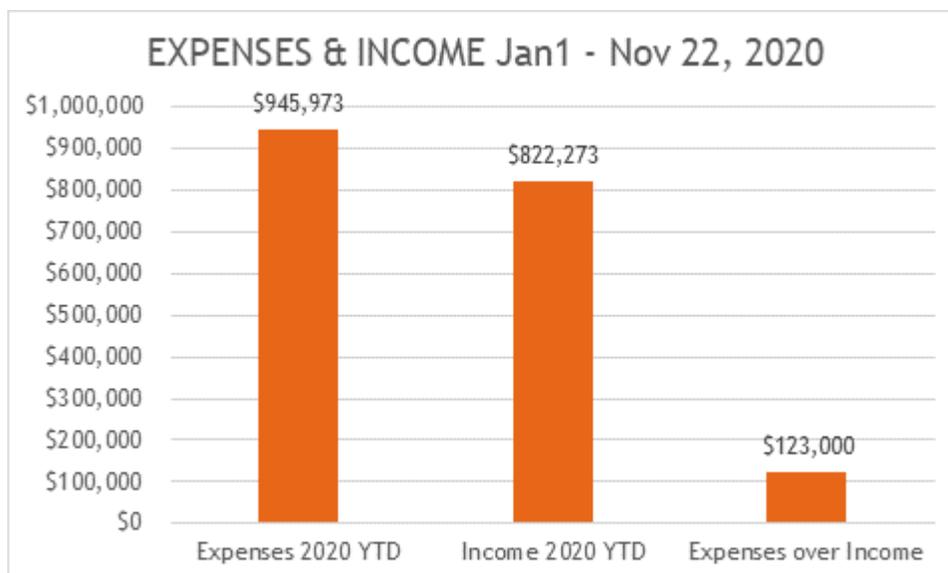


### Leaving Room for the Unexpected

We acknowledge that this is an Advent season unlike any other, and so many of our original plans have needed to be re-planned and completely re-imagined. We have hopes for some additional opportunities to connect as we get closer to Christmas, but we are also holding these hopes alongside a deep respect for our state's efforts to fight COVID-19 and our deep care for the health and wellbeing of our entire community. Please read the newsletter for more up-to-date information each week. In the meantime, let's leave room for Hope to come in unexpected ways among us as we make this Advent journey together.

## Update from Finance Ministry Group

- Pledged income continues to remain strong at 95.9%.



[Click here to give online](#)



## Weekend Services

### The Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

Celebration of Holy Communion

*PEACE* dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
*Peace* dawns on a weary world: the  
promised day of justice comes.

## Highland's Word to Our Community

...on our marquee:




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### 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 via Zoom.** Several adult Bible study classes are gathering weekly via Zoom which allows connectivity via computer or phone. If your Bible study class would like to begin meeting this way, email Carol at [carol@hbclouisville.org](mailto:carol@hbclouisville.org) or Walter at [walter@hbclouisville.org](mailto:walter@hbclouisville.org).

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### *Young Adult Corner*

### Theology on Tap, Tomorrow, December 3

Check out the YAs of Highland Facebook page for the zoom link to join us. We will be discussing the end of the year and Advent.

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Mission Corner

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS

**THE VIRTUAL** **WEST LOUISVILLE FORUM**  
SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AMERICA





**TOPIC: "TRUMP AND THE DEATH OF THE WHITE EVANGELICAL CHURCH"**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2ND // 11:00AM EST**

**FEATURING:**  
**REV. DWIGHT MCKISSIC**  
 TEXAS PASTOR AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE SBTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**REV. JOE PHELPS**  
 EMPOWERWEST CO-CHAIR AND SBTS ALUMNUS  
**REV. JIMMY BUTTS**  
 RECENT BLACK SBTS GRADUATE AND PHD CANDIDATE

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