



December 8, 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 this 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, on Sunday, December 6, at 3:00 p.m., the second Sunday of Advent—Peace Sunday, we placed crosses on our front lawn in memory of the 140 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. We invite our Highland family to view this service via [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#). You are also invited to visit the memorial in person on your own at any point through the end of the year.

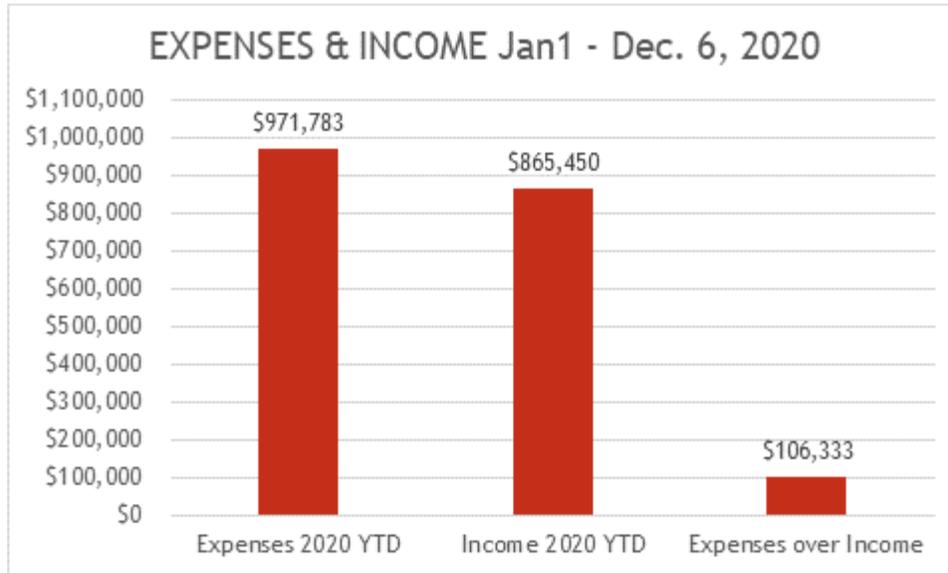


Leaving Room for the Unexpected

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

- We continue to give thanks for your faithfulness in giving.
- First Sunday of December Offering was \$43,177.
- Pledged income continues to remain strong at 95.9%.



[Click here to give online](#)

A Word from Faithful Giving

Friends, not only are we closing in on the end of the calendar year, but we are nearing the end of our fiscal year as well. Faithful Giving and Finance Ministry Groups are closely watching our numbers as we inch toward December 31. Currently, we are needing \$94,133 to zero out and end in the black. We ask that you faithfully continue to honor your financial pledges that have been made, or otherwise give as generously as you can to help us meet our expenses. As always, thank you for all your generous gifts to Highland Baptist Church.

[Click here to give online](#)

The Gift of Music During the Advent Season

*Do you find yourself longing to hear Highland's Sanctuary Choir singing during the Advent season? Click the image below to enjoy Elaine Hagenberg's beautiful anthem, *I Will Be a Child of Peace*.*

We are grateful for Brad Ritchie from Main Office Productions for putting together 53 filmed and recorded submissions when our Sanctuary Choir can't gather to sing and rehearse. Yes, there's so much more we could tell you from the technical viewpoint as to how this all came together and let's just say, sometimes it was frustrating, hard work, and not always pretty. However, those same words could be said about our weekly rehearsals and we never shared those details, either! Instead, we offered the gifts of music weekly in worship to our loving God and so, may this gift be the same – *Hope for a Weary World*.



Advent Sanctuary Visit

As we seek hope for a weary world, our hearts long for a time to return to Highland's holy space. We have set aside some time the week of December 14 for you to have a moment in the sanctuary. You are invited to sign-up for a 20-minute visit in Highland's sanctuary for prayer and reconnection with our sacred space. Limited space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only one household can attend at a time. To sign-up for a time, click [here](#). If you have questions, contact Carol at Carol@HBCLouisville.org.

We ask all people who come for a sanctuary visit to abide by [our covenant](#) so that all may stay safe and well this holiday season.



Weekend Services

The Third Sunday in Advent

Angel and Star
presented by
Sanctuary Choir Ensemble,
Treble Duet, Soloist,
Instrumentalists, and Reader

Joy lives in a weary world
when we have ears to hear
the chorus of the years.
Joy lives in a weary world:
the promised song of wonder comes.

Highland's Word to Our Community

...on our marquee:



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 or Walter at walter@hbclouisville.org.

An Update on the Office

As you know, we closed Highland's office and began working from home when possible at the end of October to support the Governor's recommendations when Louisville went into the red zone due to Covid-19. The office remains closed, but we wanted to update you on how we are operating as the work of the church continues in this season:

- Andria and Walter are alternating days in the office from 8:30-5:00 to receive mail and attend to various administrative, technology, and building-related needs.
- Other staff are working from home when possible and working at church when needed to reduce traffic through the building.
- Jerre and Frank are in the building one day each week, for basic custodial duties and to sanitize the parts of the building that are in use.
- Without a full staff in the building, we are not able to answer the phones and attend to all the various requests we receive each day. However, we are checking the church voicemail regularly throughout the day. If you need to contact a staff member

directly, they are still checking their office voicemail, or you can email them directly.

Please know that our staff continue to be here for you, even when we are not in the office. Please let us know how we can walk alongside you in these days, even from afar!

Faith Formation Corner

Zoom to Table Talk

Table Talk will meet this Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m., using Zoom conferencing technology. We shall have an opportunity to check in with each other and meet new people interested in an informal time to build new and strengthen existing relationships within the congregation. Everyone is invited to participate. To join the gathering, contact Marc Dowell, Jim Shelton, or Earl Shelp.

Friday Church Corner

Dear Highlands Baptist Church Community of Faith,

The Friday Church Corner may seem smaller that before the Era of COVID-19, but we are growing in spirit and innovation.

You may participate in the Friday Church service at 7:00 p.m. for forty-five minutes, thanks to the technical expertise of thanks to the Friday Church Director, Fred Bogert, and ever-present and now technical guru, Jeff Grey.

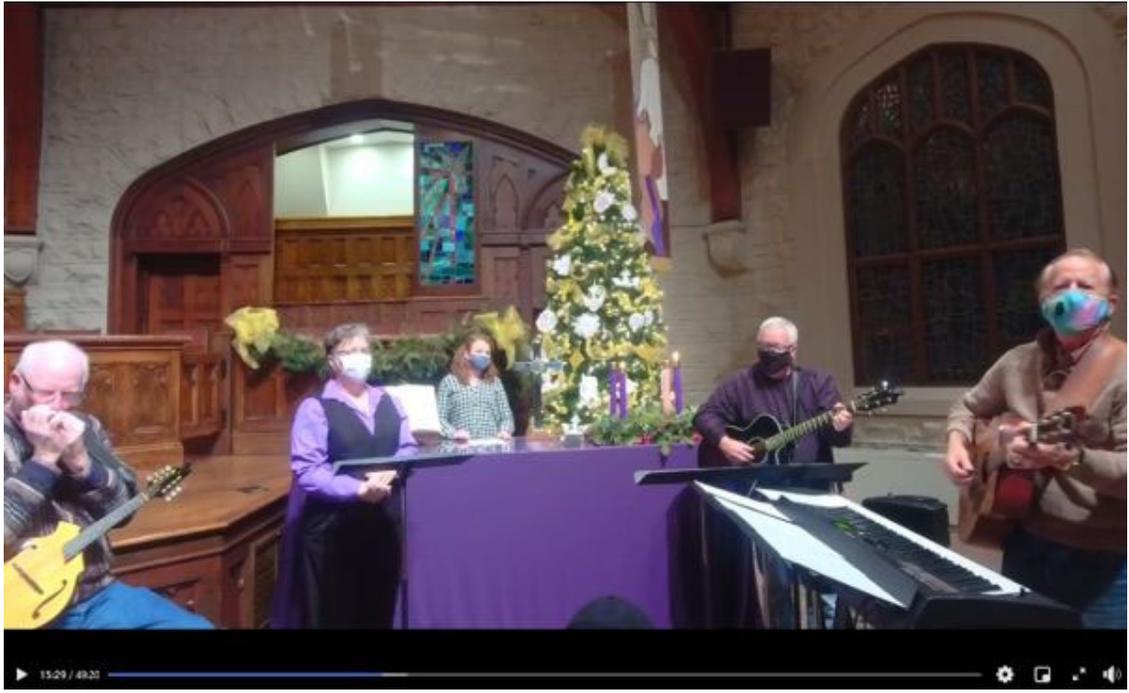
The Friday Church Facebook page is enjoying an enlarged presence thanks to also ever-present, and photographer Debbie Lemmon, and always has news and jewels to offer.

Friday Church Ministry Chair, Barbara Colvert, is communicating with our active but largely absent recovery community, offering contact in any way we can during a time of challenging isolation for those working recovery in groups or alone. The message is: YOU ARE NOT ALONE. Reach out to us on Facebook, e-mail, phone or whatever means works. Anonymity rules.

The Friday Church Ministry group has been “zooming” monthly to stay in touch with one another and assess where we are as a ministry and listen for direction for where Friday Church needs us to go. We welcome any and all input.

Take care of yourselves as you are taking care of others this Christmas Season. Bless.

~ *Barbara Colvert*





The Sanctuary Poinsettias



The church gratefully acknowledges the following people whose generous gifts have made possible the adorning of the sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season.

Memorial Gifts

Given By

Bill and Linda Campbell

Tara Davis

Joey and Procter Eubank

David Frank

Nancy Goodhue

David Hartley and Jerry Burske

Immigration Ministry Team

Wanda Nakdimen

Margaret and Gary Pennington

In Memory Of

Jim and Betty Powell

Michael French

Brenda Nally

Dr. Wm Procter and Elizabeth S. Eubank

Dottie Adams Frank

Phoebe Delamarter

Their Parents

Michael French

Dave Nakdimen

Beloved Family Members

Honorary Gifts

Given By

Molly Braun

Bill and Linda Campbell

Joey and Procter Eubank

Amanda Farris

David Hartley and Jerry Burske

In Honor Of

Ainsley Braun

Ezekiel Braun

Keith Eiken

Billie Johnson

Reece and Sandy Little

Wanda Nakdimen

Pat Ramsey

Their children: Carrie, Jenny Courtney, and Rebecca

Their grandchildren: Elizabeth, Jilly, and Everly

Robert Davis

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Appreciatory Gifts

Given By

Anonymous

Bill and Linda Campbell

Bob and Terri Connolly

John and Lela Hendrix

Wanda Nakdimen

Margaret and Gary Pennington

Lois and Julius Roemer

In Appreciation Of

Linda Campbell

Jerre and Frank Bassett

Lauren Blackwell

Andria Eadens

Kathleen Gordon

Walter McWhorter

Beloved Family

Highland Baptist Staff, Ministers, and Lay Leaders

Frontline Pandemic Workers

Our Highland Baptist Church Staff

The Staff at Highland Baptist Church

Highland's Extraordinary Staff

Rev. Perry Dixon

