



## HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

*A thinking, feeling, healing  
community of faith*

**January 12, 2021**

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### **January 27: Virtual Quarterly Church Conference**

We will have our virtual Quarterly Church Conference on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. This Quarterly Church Conference will include a finance report, vote on new Ministry Council congregational representatives, and ministry group member for the new year. Please mark your calendar so that we can make sure we meet our quorum even during this digital age!



### **Blessings for a New Year Begin this Week**

Our new series, *Blessings for a New Year*, began Monday morning with Diane Brewer's blessing, "Saying Yes." This week's theme is all about change. Still to come this week: Tracy Holladay's "Coming to Ourselves," Perry Dixon's "Seeking Help for the First Time," Kathey Golightly Sanders' "For First Steps into the Unknown," Phil Collier's "For Change," Lauren Blackwell's "Doing Hard Things,"

Holly Wallace's "At the Crossroads," and Lauren Jones Mayfield's "For the First Therapist Visit." We are grateful to all of our blessing writers for their authenticity and generosity!

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### **Lunch Conversation on Martin Luther King Day**

We recognize that after the horrific events of last week as domestic terrorists and white supremacists stormed the Capitol, many of us at Highland are needing a space to process and pray with one another. On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, Mary Alice and Lauren will be hosting a church-wide Zoom conversation for us to share our anger, fears, frustrations, and grief, as well as to voice our hopes and commitments for the days ahead. This will be a significant week in the life of our country, and we sense the need to



“be” together and to see one another’s faces, even in a virtual space. We will send a Zoom link to the congregation on Monday morning. We hope you might join us, as you are able, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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## Update from Finance Ministry Group

Last week in worship, we shared words of gratitude for your generous end-of-year giving to Highland. We actually continued receiving end-of-year donations because of delays in the postal service, and both the Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups are meeting tonight to review the end-of-year numbers and to put together a report to share with you. We will be sending a church-wide e-mail by the end of the week with more information, and we invite you to attend the January QCC to hear a full report. Know that we are incredibly grateful for Highland’s above-and-beyond giving this year, and we look forward to sharing more with you later this week!

[Click here to give online](#)

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## Getting to Know Our Visitors This Season



Beginning this weekend, we will be sharing in the “comments” section of our worship services an online form for visitors to connect with us. Many of you have been welcoming to those who “comment” that they’re worshipping with us for the first time. Thank you for your online hospitality during this season of live-streaming worship!

We look forward to getting to know the people who are finding their way to our fellowship this season.

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## Weekend Services

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
John 1:43-51

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

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## 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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## Faith Formation Corner

### Zoom to Table Talk

Table Talk will meet this Thursday, January 14, 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.

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## Friday Church Corner

### A Perspective from Fred Bogert, Friday Church Director, for a New Year

Friday Church wishes everyone a wonderful 2021! We are so proud and grateful to be a part of the ministries of Highland Baptist Church as we pass from the Advent season into the cold, dark winter months that lead to spring. Hope and faith lead the way as our leadership expresses the joy of living God's love. And the best of news; the Christ child is born in us!

The popular new series "The Mandalorian" features a tough guy bounty hunter in heavy armor who is charmed by a baby Yoda and abandons his previous client to care for this amazing little child. "Mando" ends up sacrificing much of his lifestyle and relationships to honor his new priority—nurturing and defending his powerful, yet innocent and dependent charge through adventure after scary adventure. Little Yoda awakens a side of his guardian that totally changes the way he sees himself and the world(s) around them. And yes, "him" has now become "them", two beings united by compassion and loving kindness in love that transforms them both.

This story reminds me so much of the time of Christmas tide, when Christ comes along in powerful innocence to move into our lives and awaken compassion and joy in ways that change our lives and our relationships. Daily chores, concerns, celebrations, all become divine when the child fills us with holy purpose. Even in COVID-19 times of forced isolation we have fellowship in Christ to share with each other. The child transforms us all and strengthens our resolve to work together as children of God and live the change in this new year.