

Where transformed people are joining the work of God.



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



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Gather 'Round—Worship This Sunday, August 19

Highland's hymn, *Look, You Saints, the Cloud of Witness*, speaks of "gathering 'round this sacred place." We have adopted this well-loved text as your invitation to worship on Sunday, August 19, 10:30 a.m. **ALL of our faith community will be in the sanctuary for one service.** Gathered 'Round, we will sing favorite hymns of faith, experience a children's story, recognize Bible Study teachers from this past year, and hear a word by Perry Dixon, Highland's Associate Pastor to Youth and Their Families. A drawing of our stained-glass window in the baptistry will be included in the worship bulletin for those who might want to color while listening. **Our regular Sunday worship schedule of 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services will not be held on this one Sunday, August 19. Also, there will be no Bible study classes, nursery, or Worship Care for children so we can all experience worship together.** Children's books and other child-friendly activities will be available in the Commons for our youngest children accompanied by a family member, should you need space to move about more freely.

Following worship, the doors will open and everyone will be invited to picnic on the church's greenspaces either by packing a lunch for yourself or your family or purchasing lunch from "Boo Boos Smoke Shack" Food Truck. They'll be serving BBQ, sides and drinks right on our lawn. We're holding out hope for a beautiful weather day—please come and join us!



New School Year Begins at Highland This August

We will be back with Wednesday Evening Dinner and Programming **next Wednesday, August 22** and we will celebrate Promotion Sunday on **August 26.** Information about upcoming Wednesday evening classes and opportunities to get involved this school year are listed throughout this newsletter. We ask for your prayers as our upcoming ministries prepare to challenge us to discover, grow, and serve through our life together!

We will continue using Gracious Plenty Catering to provide our Wednesday evening entrees and side dishes. Highland volunteers will continue preparing desserts, beverages and complete all set up and cleanup. Volunteers are always welcomed! Please contact Kathy Belcher for more information. Dinner will be served from 5:20 to 6:00 p.m. See page 3 of this newsletter for the menu.

The cost of the meal is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 4-11, \$21.00 maximum for immediate family WITH a reservation and \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 4-11, \$24.00 maximum for immediate family WITHOUT a reservation. People who are able to contribute are invited to help cover the cost of a meal for members or visitors who cannot afford the cost.

To help us be good stewards of our financial resources, it's crucial that dinner reservations are accurate and current. We ask all folks who would like a standing supper reservation to call the church office or email Deb Ackerson (deb@hbclouisville.org)—even if you've had a standing reservation in the past. Please be sure to add or cancel reservations as needed by Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

A Prayer on the Eve of the School Year

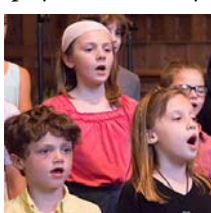
For the gift of summer and a change of rhythm and Sabbath rest, we are thankful.
For the opportunity to start again and experience new beginnings, we are thankful.
For the chance to learn and grow and discover, we are thankful.
Be with us and give us courage to lean into new challenges and experiences.
Be with us and give us courage to learn and to be creative.
Be with us and give us courage to build new friendships.
Be with us and give us courage to be brave and kind.
May we know that You are by our side as we ride the bus, as we eat lunch together, as we study, and as we play.
May we know that You are by our side as we prepare, as we teach, as we coach, and as we guide.
And so we enter the school year with wonder, with curiosity, and with the promise that You walk with us as we go. Amen. ~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Highlights Classes Offered in September

New visitors and prospective members are encouraged to join us on three Sunday mornings in September for our Highlights Classes! We will gather during the 11:00 Bible study hour on September 9, 16, and 23, to share an in-depth look at Highland Baptist Church so that all may be invited to participate in our congregational life, shared discipleship, and church's mission in the world. Highland's ministry staff will lead the class in conjunction with our New Members Ministry Group. To participate, please contact Carol at carol@hbclouisville.org.

Wednesday Evening Fall Programming for Children Begins Anew Next Week

Our Wednesday evening programming begins a new year next Wednesday, August 22, and we are ready for the sounds of children busy with play—a child's way of learning new skills, connecting with their peers, and learning of God's love through music and activities.



- **Gathering Time** ALL of our Wednesday night children build community by singing together for 5-7 minutes before going to their graded choir activities.
- **Carol Choir (3's 4's & young 5's), Room 203, 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Musical instruction for the young child through singing, movement and playing of instruments. Mission time with stories of the world in which we live and time to discover together how to care for God's world and how to share God's love with everyone, because God loves us.
- **Choristers Choir (K-5th Grade), Children's Commons, Rooms 201 & 202, 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Musical activities involving movement, speech, singing, literacy, and playing of instruments drawing from folk songs, hymns, scripture, and children's anthems.
- **Children's Handbell Choir, Room 200, 6:45 -7:15 p.m.** Handbell instruction is provided for 4th and 5th grade students.

Liminal Wonderings ...

School is starting. No surprise there. I find myself thinking about teachers I had in church when I was a young teenager. A silver haired ex-prize fighter became our teacher shortly after his wife died. He was 72. I do not remember a single word he said in class. I do remember that he often wept while he tried to teach us. We did not think him unmanly for this. We were aware of how awful the pain was and what it took for him to agree to try to teach us. We did not, perhaps could not, use words very well. Yet, in some way, we sensed that he genuinely cared about us.
Class was disrupted when another boy came. He often ran the streets and had a lousy home life. Our teacher cared about him too; much to our jealous dismay. This boy fell out of a tree and broke his neck. He lived a few weeks and died. Our teacher went every day to see him at the hospital. Our teacher wept in class after the boy's funeral.
I think about this man whose words I cannot recall, but who taught us compassion with his very life. I think about the impact of one life upon another. I think about those who teach our classes at Highland and I am grateful. ~ Jim England

Highland's Word To Our Community



Looking Forward to a New Year!

In the coming weeks, we look forward to the start of school, our children promoting to new classes here at church, the return of Wednesday evening activities, a transition of teachers and teaching assistants in various children's classrooms and a new rhythm of activities outside of our regular Sunday/Wednesday programming for you to connect with others in children and family ministry here at Highland. Here are some important pieces of information to make note of:

- * **Promotion Sunday, August 26**—For some the school year has already begun, and for others, it will begin in just a few weeks! On Sunday, August 26, Highland ushers in the new school year with Promotion Sunday. On this date, children will move to new classes based on their age/grade for the coming year. Please watch for more information that will be sent to you soon that will outline the classes that your child will be moving to this fall. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Purtlebaugh.
- * **A Note about Worship Care Schedules**—Please note that our current Worship Care rotation schedules continue through September 16. The new schedules for the coming year will begin on Sunday, September 23. Please make plans to trade with someone if you will be away, as our structure on Sunday mornings relies on your presence to function effectively.

Important Dates to Remember

August 22	Wednesday Evening Activities Return
August 26	Promotion Sunday
September 23	New Worship Care Schedule Begins

Children's Corner

Annual Senior Adult Retreat, Registration Open

The Senior Adult Ministry Group would like to invite Highland's older adults (retirement age and greater) to our 6th annual one-night, two-day retreat at the magnificent Wooded Glen Retreat Center in Henryville, Indiana, on October 14-15. Tucked away on a hillside, Wooded Glen offers a beautiful environment rich with nature (think fall leaves, rocking chairs on screened in porches, a deck to sit by the lake, amazing food!) to steal away for quiet reflection, community building and prayer. This year, we will be led by Bob and Libby Cunningham. We will gather beginning with dinner on Sunday evening and conclude Monday mid-afternoon. A limited number of single and double rooms are available. The cost is \$95 per person (\$190 per couple), which includes lodging, three meals, unlimited snacks and program. Please contact Renee Purtlebaugh by September 15 to reserve your spot and turn in your registration fee.

We are taking a breath before the academic year begins and we return to all our rhythms, beginning on Wednesday, August 22, when our new 6th grade youth join us for the first time! That evening, our 7th grade youth will welcome the new 6th graders with some fun before we all join together for pizza and new year amazingness. With Sunday the 26th bringing promotion Sunday for those same new youth into Bible study, we will then be on our way: Guys Group, MS Girls Group, HS Girls Group, Wednesday Nights, retreats, fellowship gatherings, and much, much more. Check out the calendar below (and be sure to make note of our Fall Retreat date this year!

Youth Corner

Wednesdays

August 15—NO Programming (Summer Break)
August 22—All Youth Welcome New 6th Grade Youth

Sundays

August 26—Promotion Sunday, 9:30 a.m., in Youth Suite

Youth Ministry Group

August 20, 6:00 p.m., in Youth Suite

Fall Youth Retreat

November 30–December 2

Please Note:

Articles for the weekly newsletter should be submitted to Andria no later than Monday mornings.

KY State Fair, This Saturday, August 18

The Young Adults head to the state fair around 6:00 p.m. If you want to be sure to taste a fried oreo or pet some cattle, then connect with Alecia Fuller for more information.

Young Adult Corner

August 22: Cloud of Witnesses Returns

Highland's sanctuary is filled with saints—the ones in the stained-glass windows who have completed the race and the ones in the pews who are still in process. When we assume saints to be perfect people, we miss the truth they have to share. Saints are the ones who wonder if God is up to something and step out in humility and boldness to share their glimpses of the divine. Story-telling by these "Saints-in-Process" makes God visible for the church. Join us Wednesday, August 22, for our first Cloud of Witnesses of the semester. Bob Cunningham will facilitate a conversation with three from our congregation who will share their faith journey. *Other Dates for this Fall:* September 26, October 24, December 12.



August 29-September 12: The Courage to Take Root

We begin a new year of Wednesday nights in a much different place than we did last August. Within the past year, we have said "goodbye" to two beloved twenty-year pastors and we have entered a time of transition. This year, we will explore what it looks like to have courage for the days ahead. We begin with the **courage to take root**. During these interim days, how do we nurture a sense of belonging that outlasts the uncertainty of our times?

We will explore this question together in our first Wednesday night class for adults (August 29, September 5, September 12) as Carol Harston, Lauren Jones Mayfield, and Renee Purtlebaugh lead us through a study of Brené Brown's recent book, Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone. The well-worn paths have disappeared, and the way forward is uncertain. Join us as we walk this journey towards courageous living together. Should you be interested in reading along with us, Braving the Wilderness can be found online at <https://www.carmichaelsbookstore.com/book/9780812995848>.

Ministry Council Report

The Ministry Council met on Monday, August 6, at 6:00 p.m. The following items were discussed:

- Potential nominees for future Church Comptroller were identified in anticipation of the current Comptroller phasing out of that position.
- The Pastor Search Committee provided a written report of their work thus far. They continue to meet on a regular basis and are close to finalizing a survey that will be given to Highland Baptist Church members. The Committee will continue to provide updates to the congregation in the newsletter.
- A request from the Environmental Action Team for an event on sustainability was reviewed and approved. This will be a part of the Wednesday series in September.
- The current bylaws are being reviewed along with the minutes from business meetings to assure that all changes and updates that have been voted on and approved are reflected in the bylaws.
- Responses from True Colors and Global Partnerships Ministry Groups regarding CBF's Illumination Project were reviewed and discussed.
- Reports were received from Deacons, Personnel, and Finance.

Church Business
Corner

CBF Morocco Dinner This Sunday

Highland will host a special CBF Kentucky event this Sunday, August 19, at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall, to welcome supporters of our joint ministry in Morocco. Guest speaker will be Rev. Karen Thomas Smith who serves as a full-time minister in Morocco. All are welcome! RSVP to Peggy at (502) 426-1931 or office@cbfky.org. A \$10.00 donation for the meal is requested at the door.



Missions
Corner

Climate for Change: Practical Ways to Live More Sustainably

On Wednesday, September 19, the Environmental Action Team will host as part of our regular Wednesday evening program a special event that will minister to all age groups and types of households. We will learn about and discuss from meditative and theological perspectives solar panels, zero waste ventures, and electric vehicles. Special guests, interactive stations, and a time of group meditation will shape our understanding of how we as Christians can further preserve our planet through big and small ways.

Give for Good Louisville

Every fall, the city of Louisville hosts the "Give for Good Louisville" campaign, which is an opportunity for citizens to financially support their favorite local charities. Highland congregations, you work and serve in many non-profits around our city. If an organization that you represent will be featured on Give for Good this year, please let us know so that we can highlight the giving opportunity for all our congregants.



**This Week
at Highland**

Tuesday, August 14

Cream of the Crop Potluck Lunch/Movie (FH) 12 p.m.
 Hope for a Brighter Day (FH)5:30 p.m.
 Finance MG (103).....6 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)..... 10 p.m.

Wednesday, August 15

No Regular Evening Activities/Supper

Thursday, August 16

Senior Adults MG (103) 11 a.m.
 Environmental Action Team (103)7 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH).....7 p.m.

Friday, August 17

Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)5 p.m.
 Friday Church (Sanctuary)7-7:45 p.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous (FH)8 p.m.

Saturday, August 18

Wedding (Sanctuary).....5 p.m.

Sunday, August 19

Worship10:30 a.m.
 Church-wide Picnic (Front Lawn).....11:15 a.m.
 Personnel MG (Pastor's Study)..... 12:15 p.m.
 CBF Morocco Dinner (FH).....6 p.m.

Monday, August 20

Young Adult MG (FS)5:30 p.m.
 Youth MG (Youth Suite)6 p.m.
 Deacons (Commons)7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 21

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH)5:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)..... 10 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Highland

August 19 Gather 'Round-One Worship Service;
 Morocco Dinner
 August 22 Wednesday activities/suppers resume
 August 26 Promotion Sunday; Deacon Ordination
 and Installation Service

September 3 Church Offices Closed
 September 8 MensWork Breakfast
 September 13 Libation Theology
 September 28-29 Deacons Retreat

**Wednesday Night
Menus**

August 22—Cook-out **August 29**
 Hamburgers & Hot Dogs King Ranch Chicken
 Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions Black Beans
 Fries Spanish Rice
 Slaw Southwest Caesar Salad
 Watermelon Salsa with Corn Chips
 Dessert Dessert

Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-11: \$3.50; Max per family: \$21

Reminder: If you have a reservation you are responsible to pay for it. Cancellations must be made *no later than 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before your reservation.* You may also contact the church office to make your reservations/cancellations.

Around Highland...

... For the summer, the Highland Book Club will be reading two books, both by James Baldwin: The Fire Next Time and Giovanni's Room. We will discuss these books on Sunday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m., in room 103. Everyone is invited!

This Week's Deacons

Friday, 7:00 p.m.
 Becky Holloman (C), Mike McFall

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
 Kathy Belcher (G), Bruce Carroll (C),
 Libby Cunningham, Tony Dougherty (G),
 Holly Harris (C), Jill Ligon Davis (G),
 Nathan Marrs, Bill Martin, Jim McBee,
 Ginny Sims, Gene Streible, Tyler Swim (C)



Soul Shop is a one day training for church leaders aimed at helping people find their best minds in times of personal crisis by addressing suicidal thinking as a regular aspect of ministry.

Two workshops will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may register for either event at www.eventbrite.com and search Soul Shop for Clergy and Clinicians or Youth Workers and Laity. There is a \$15 registration cost which covers breakfast, lunch and materials. Please email Phillip Garrett with any questions.



What a wonderful evening with our third Summer Fellowship Gathering on Sunday night! Thirty-four gathered at Jim's home to party with their pastors! We have loved these fun evenings with such a diverse crowd from Highland. We are grateful to Jim and Mary Helen for their hospitality and to all those who made it out to our summer fellowship gatherings. We hope to find more time to party together in the coming year!

A Note of Thanks From HCM

Highlands Community Ministries sends a huge "Thank You" to everyone who donated to our Summer Food, Personal Care Items, and Back-to-School Supplies Drive. Our pantry is overflowing, and we are ready to help kids get back to school. We especially thank our Member Congregations whose support throughout the year allows us to accomplish our mission of helping our Highlands neighbors in need.



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

Our Mission

God's Love compels us to cultivate a safe, welcoming community of faith where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve, as together we boldly live out the worship that is our very lives.

Our Vision

We dream of being an engaging, vibrant Christian church, where transformed people are joining the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant.

Our Values

- We value a **deeply spiritual, Christ-centered faith** that opens us to life, equips us to serve, and calls us to action.
- We value a **courageous, progressive theology** whose relevance extends from the pew to the street, that engages both the mind and the heart, and that welcomes everyone from the skeptic to the devoted.
- We value **all people**, not in spite of, but precisely because of all that makes each one unique.
- We value **being doers of the word**, living out what Jesus taught: showing hospitality to strangers, confronting injustice, giving voice to those who have been silenced.
- We value a **healthy community**, where honest relationships provide all people safety, encouragement, acceptance, and healing, and challenge us to practice gentleness, forgiveness, and continued growth.
- We value **embracing challenge and change**: naming hard things, asking questions, and leaning into tensions and ambiguity.
- We value **growing together across the lifespan**, through multi-generational and intergenerational relationships and ministries.
- We value being rooted in our **distinct and radical heritage** that compels us to breathe new life into bedrock Baptist principles.
- We value **broad and deep worship** that invites us into the mystery of a loving God.
- We value **being good stewards** of all we have been given, discerning together how best to use our financial, physical, human, and spiritual gifts to follow Jesus and carry out our mission.

Weekly Financial Report August 5, 2018 (31 weeks)

	Weekly Requirement	Receipts This Week	YTD Requirements	YTD Receipts	YTD Over/Under
Contributions	\$19,364.23	\$25,590.94	\$616,976.02	\$594,756.03	(\$22,219.99)
Other Income	\$1,103.36	\$1,790.28	\$34,204.26	\$34,917.95	\$713.69
Total	\$20,467.59	\$27,381.22	\$651,180.28	\$629,673.98	(\$21,506.30)
2015 Building Renovation Project					
Contributed this week	\$682.00	Loan Balance	\$33,119.00		





My Faith Story: Deacon Testimony by Suzanne Busse

The first service I ever attended at Highland wasn't in this lovely sanctuary, but in a crowded room on the top floor. It was a Friday night in the summer of 2005. I was in awe of the members, the music, the minister, and the message! And, although I belonged to another church, I kept returning to that service, then to Sunday mornings until I felt a peaceful urgency to join Highland nine months later.

I was born in Rhinbeck, New York, a tiny town in the Hudson Valley. As an infant, I was baptized in a congregationalist church, whose members several centuries earlier would be called Puritans! My dad was transferred to Lexington in 1957 when they built the big IBM plant. A number of our rural neighbors attended Mt. Horeb, a tiny Presbyterian church on Iron Works Pike, so our family began an active membership there. I still remember my mom's joy when she became a deacon, I believe only the second female to be ordained!

Through her efforts and research, my mom also helped me to get a scholarship to attend a Presbyterian college in Tennessee. There, at Maryville, I grew socially (I was a very quiet gal) and spiritually. One of my favorite classes was "Man's Search for Meaning," taught by a professor who would later teach at the seminary here.

In 1972, I moved to Louisville, for my first teaching job in Bullitt County. A few years later, I married a man who was raised as a strict Catholic. During our 25 years together, I grew in appreciation of the many peace and social justice issues embraced by the church.

My thirteen years at Highland have blessed me in ways I cannot enumerate! The Generations Bible Study Class is a wonderful and supportive group! My previous term as a deacon has challenged me to tackle even what makes me confused or uncomfortable. And the services and lessons have filled in my many broken places.

I will close by reading a first draft I wrote in March at the Women's Retreat, so creatively lead by Carol Harston. It focuses on a personal struggle, but if I cannot share it with this church body, where can I share it? In re-reading it, I'm reminded of words by Richard Rohr: "We're already in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness."

The storms have been infrequent but full of bluster and damage. Comfort has seemed elusive, but in retrospect, I know it was always there. Flowing from multiple springs. But, now, when loneliness creeps in, covering my shoulders like a ragged shawl, I can throw it off! I can play with Lucie, Davis, Sonia, and Nora. Their energy and joy renews me. I can link arms and voices with my friends. Their insights redirect me. I can serve the needy around me, for as I give, they see cracks of light. Their smiles restore me. And God's direction restores me. I can push aside all my senses and be still. And in that stillness, I meet my God again. The path becomes less rocky. The landscape blooms. The wind clears the air; yesterday is gone. I have today. Wow!

My Faith Story: Deacon Testimony by Steven Michael Carr

I grew up in the Southern Baptist Tradition while simultaneously knowing that I was gay since I was about five years old. What I'm trying to tell you is that I desperately need a therapist. Libby Cunningham, call me.

My Faith Journey is such that I've always tried to make up for the fact that I was gay. Like if I was well-behaved enough. If I got good grades. If I joined all the clubs at school and made the honor roll and made my bed and got scholarships and made something for myself and if I prayed hard enough...those feelings that I felt--that I didn't want to feel--they'd go away. And they didn't. And that led to a lot of time in my life where I didn't really like myself very much. I grew up in a world where I constantly heard from my friends and my family that this thing about me...that I tried to phase out...was evil. They didn't know they were talking about me. I knew they were talking about me.

And so, I went off to college, where I met lots of people who didn't live life the way I did. Who thought things that were different from my thoughts. I met people who weren't white. And I finally just couldn't keep up the charade anymore. I couldn't keep existing and hating myself the way I did. And so I gave up on a judgmental God who only saves through substitutionary atonement.

But having been a religious person my entire life, it just didn't fit into my purview to be non-spiritual. So I looked for that fulfillment elsewhere. I spent a year studying Hinduism. And Buddhism. I studied Wicca. I tried to find some other source of spiritual fulfillment.

If you're looking for a Prodigal-son style story where I learn that those things are wicked and then I come "home" to the Baptist tradition...this is not the story for you. If anything, those journeys brought me closer to God than ever before, and I am thankful that I had that time to wander and discover what worked for me. God was with me in all of those spaces.

It took me years to even feel comfortable calling myself a Christian, let alone a Baptist. And yet somehow, I ended up here, with you people. And the same thing that destroyed my soul—Baptist Church—is the same thing that built it back up.

You took me in. You told me I wasn't sick. That I wasn't evil. It took me several years to be okay with calling myself a Christian again, but you didn't force me. You nurtured me. You showed me kindness.

And now it's time I paid that kindness back to you. Thank you for seeing something in me, for naming it, and for allowing me to be my full self at church.

I wonder, if I may...could we just...clap for that?

Thank you. That's the first time I've ever heard clapping in this room in ten years of attendance. We should do it more often.



My Faith Story: Deacon Testimony by John Pacyga

Hello, my name is John. I am the grandson of an alcoholic...

Most people want to know about my other grandfather. He fought in a big war, had medals, and then was given a coin that was hung in a plaque on his wall. He was the one that many considered the Hero, but my other grandpa fought in a silent war and was a silent hero. My other grandfather had a serenity coin that he carried on him all the time. That grandfather made one positive choice and then many more choices on the road to sobriety. He found Peace with God, then Peace with the people around him, and most importantly, Peace with himself. He repaired the relationships with his family over many years. He made a fresh start in a new community and started a new job. He worked long and steady on life. He was more than 20 years sober and the second half of his life was better than the first half. After a long life, he was surrounded by his family. I say all this to give you all hope for your journey.

Because of both of my grandfathers, I grew up in a good home. I accepted Jesus into my life at a young age and grew in my faith from family and giving friends. I was baptized as an adult in this church. And now my kids are growing up in this church and learning so much from the great teachers and ministers.

I have a long way to go on my journey. Though I will be serving as a deacon, that doesn't mean I'm perfect or have all the answers. I am just a fellow traveler on the journey, pointing the way to the cross. I do hope to be at Friday Church more often. I think Friday Church Passes the Peace the best! We all need to Pass the Peace deeply and fully. We all need more Peace and Hope as we travel this road together.