



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church December 5, 2023

Crosses on the Lawn, December 10, Peace Sunday



One expression of Highland's commitment to God's justice and love in the world happens on Peace Sunday, the second Sunday of Advent, where we mark the pain and hope of God by placing white crosses on Highland's front lawn in memory of Louisville residents killed in an act of violence. The crosses create a tragic memorial on our lawn during this holiday season while simultaneously signifying our hope that God calls the church to work actively against violence in its many forms.

The courageous first step towards peace is the most difficult one—we must take an honest look at the reality in which we live. We cannot worship the birth of Jesus without seeing the world into which God insists upon coming. Amidst the tinsel and the trimming of trees, the crosses on the

lawn serve as our great reminder of the world God so loves.

Join us as we face, again, the world as it is so that we can continue working together to create the world as God dreams it to be. Friday worship will offer a variation of the ritual, and each Sunday service on December 10 will include reciting the names of the victims and placing the crosses in the ground at the conclusion of each service.

~ Lauren Jones Mayfield



Advent Beyond Imagination

Wednesday, December 6:

On our last Wednesday night of regularly scheduled activities for the year, join Mary Alice for some of our learnings from our Advent Small Groups based on Kate Bowler's "Bless The Advent We Actually Have."

Friday, December 8:

Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth and Young Adults at 6:00 PM at La Casita.

Saturday, December 9:

Youth Christmas Party (Eden Hill from 3:00-7:00 PM). Contact [Justin](#) for complete information.

Sunday, December 10 ~ Peace Sunday:

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Services with Crosses on the Lawn at 8:45 and 11:15 AM

The Second Sunday of Advent is our time to remember those who have been killed in our city by acts of violence. We will read each name and place crosses on the front lawn as an act of remembrance and a call to action in our community. Special music from the brass of Highland's Orchestra.

Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM

Children's voices and the ringing of bells are a highlight of the season! Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children's Handbell Choir—ages 3 through 5th grade.

Tuesday, December 12:

La Casita Community Center Resource Day 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Many volunteer opportunities are available to prepare for and serve this event! See sign-ups in the Commons.

Wednesday, December 13:

Families with Children are invited to gather for an outdoor hot chocolate bar and to enjoy the Christmas lights at Brown Park from 5:45-7:00 PM.

Friday, December 15 and 22:

Singing the Carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM

Join us as we sing our favorite Christmas carols and end each service in Candlelight.

Sunday, December 17 ~ Joy Sunday:

Third Sunday of Advent Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:15 AM

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra singing Bach's Magnificat at 8:45 and 11:15 AM, with special music from the strings of Highland's Orchestra.

Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM

This delightful concert includes special solos, duets, and Highland's Handbell Choir.

Thursday, December 21:

Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a beloved family member or friend, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year.

Sunday, December 24 ~ Love Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 10:00 AM (No Bible Study).

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols, the centuries-old English tradition, tells the Christmas story through Scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth!

Sunday, December 31:

Online Worship. No in-person services or activities.



Around Highland
on December 3



2024 Ministry Fund Budget Approved

The Finance Ministry Group is pleased to report that the proposed 2024 Budget has been approved by the congregation with 111 affirmative votes out of 117 total. Thank you to everyone who voted and everyone who participated in the conversations surrounding this year's budget. Special thanks go to the Ministerial Staff and Personnel Ministry Group who were asked difficult questions and responded with thoughtful and prayerful solutions. I am so thankful that our community is alive and well even as we navigate changes. As Mary Alice said this past Sunday, "God is up to something new in our midst" and I feel such incredible **hope** for a vibrant future for Highland Baptist Church. Thank you all!

~ Charlie Suer, Finance Ministry Group Chair

Hanging of the Green Service



Children's Advent Service This Sunday Evening

Please mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful evening of music on Sunday, December 10, 6:00 PM, with music presented by Highland's youngest musicians. Our second floor bustles every Wednesday evening with music, movement, and playing of instruments by 30+ children and their teachers.



The Carol Choir (ages 3-young 5's) will sing and ring bells and sing a familiar and well-loved Christmas carol. The Chorister Choir (grades K – 5th gr.) will sing four songs of the season and provide background on their music. We'll even be treated to a story narrated by two of Highland's youth and brought to life by the Children's Handbell Choir and the younger elementary children will sing and dance their way into your hearts.

Please invite family and friends to this wonderful Advent tradition. The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot be with us.

~ Kathy Collier

Worship Ministry Group Prepares for Advent



The Worship Ministry Group was hard at work last weekend preparing the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many thanks to these people for all the creative gifts they bring to Highland! Members of the group are: Lauren Blackwell, Angela Dennison, Marc Dowell, Larry Gray, Mary Ida Gray, Scott Gunter, Corey Moran, Bill Ockerman, Karen Park, Kathey Golightly Sanders, Mark Sanders, Sharon Sanders, and Gene Streible.

~ Paul Henderson

Listen Learn Act

Would you like to learn more about Listen Learn Act, the antiracism group that's connected with the Earth and Spirit Center? Please join some of us from the Anti-Racism Team as we gather on December 7. For more information on this organization, go to listenlearnact.org.

**Listen Learn Act and the
Earth and Spirit Center**

invite you to a *Holiday Meet and Greet*

What?

We hope you can join us for this social gathering of Listen Learn Act friends and classmates, along with spiritually-grounded justice groups to connect and support each other in this work of love.

*Please sign up so we know how to plan. You can share this link with anyone that would like to come!

[Sign up here](#)

Where?

At the Earth and Spirit Center
1926 Newburg Rd.

When?

Thursday, December 7, 2023
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Casual. Drinks, libations, and snacks will be offered.
Family and friends welcome!

A Step Toward Stopping Gun Violence

The [Courier-Journal recently reported](#) that Kentucky has the thirteenth highest number of gun deaths per capita, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Every sixteen hours, a Kentucky resident dies by a firearm-related suicide. And yet, Kentucky consistently has balked at passing legislation to curb gun violence.

Now a bipartisan team of Kentucky legislators are planning to bring a bill to the legislature that will help prevent gun violence. Senators Whitney Westerfield (R) and David Yates (D) plan to bring two versions of a bill based on the concept of Crisis Aversion and Rights Retention (CARR) to the Joint Judiciary Committee on December 15 at 10:00 a.m. The bill will give family and friends a way to take a loved one's guns temporarily if they are in crisis and at risk of hurting themselves or others.



Such a law would not solve the problem of gun violence, but it is a step. Supporters of more gun control legislation, such as Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, are urging supporters to show up for the Joint Judiciary Committee meeting in Frankfort on December 15. If you would be interested in going with a group from Highland, please contact Lauren Jones Mayfield (laurenjm@hbclouisville.org) or Nancy Goodhue (nancygoodhue@gmail.com).



Supporting Family Health Centers - Americana



Shop at *Just Creations* this week, through Saturday, December 9 to support Survivors of Torture Services, which is a program of Family Health Centers-Americana. Simply mention Survivors of Torture at the checkout counter or use that same note when shopping online at www.justcreations.org.



Join us on Wednesday nights! Dinner begins at 5:20 PM and children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00 PM. Adult programming begins at 6:15 PM.

Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (age 4-11), with a family max of \$35. Children below three years and below eat for free.

Reservations are due by noon on Friday each week. [Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot. Payments can be made via cash or check as you arrive, but we also encourage paying ahead [here](#) (Note: those with standing reservations can make payments for the whole month (or more!).

Any changes to reservations can be made by emailing [Paul](#) or [Kathleen](#) or calling the Highland Baptist office at 451-3735. If you are in a season of financial hardship that makes paying difficult, you can speak to any of the ministers about assistance for Wednesday Night Supper.

Menu for December 6: spaghetti & meatballs, green beans, garlic bread, salad, desserts

Please note: this is our last Wednesday Night Supper for 2023!

Streaming Worship Links

Below are the links to stream the worship services each week at Highland. Please bookmark them since they remain the same from week-to-week!



Sunday, 11:15 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>



To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212 and open the link.



Louisville Homicides

Please join us in prayer and action as we remember those who have been killed in recent weeks in our city. We grieve with those who mourn, while we also maintain a hope that one day, all things will be made new.



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