



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 6, 2024

An Invitation to Conversation

Dear Highland Family,

Over the past several months, we (Mary Alice and Lauren) have heard from an increasing number of you within the church wanting space for us as a congregation to discuss what is happening in Gaza and how we might faithfully respond. On Sunday, February 18, we will host a congregational time to lament, listen, and learn alongside one another from 4:00-5:30 PM in the Sanctuary.



We recognize that no single meeting or conversation will do this deeply complex and troubling situation justice. However, we would like to approach this time together in the ways that Highland does best: through the lenses of thinking, feeling, and healing.

Thinking: We've asked professors Roy Fuller and Tyler Mayfield to help with some education in language and history with an interfaith lens as we consider how we can best love our Jewish and

Muslim neighbors. We also want to spend some time learning about the effects of generational trauma and how it relates to this centuries deep conflict.

Feeling: As of today, 27,000 people have died in this war and even more have been displaced. We will begin with a time of lament and prayer for this horrific pain in God's world.

Healing: Our hope is that this time of lament and learning will beckon us toward asking how we can help bring about healing and peace in God's world.

We hope you will join us in-person for this initial congregational step toward equipping ourselves to do justice and love mercy as we seek to walk humbly with God in the midst of our hurting world.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,
~ *Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Lauren Jones Mayfield*

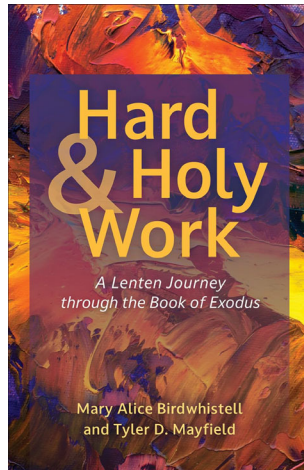


Around Highland
on February 4



Hard and Holy Work Book Release This Sunday

Join us this Sunday, February 11 at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a brief reception and book signing with Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler Mayfield. Copies of the book will be available for purchase that morning at the reduced rate of \$10 each.



Several of our Sunday morning Bible Studies will be using the book throughout the season of Lent, and Mary Alice and Tyler will be joining different classes throughout Lent to participate in the conversation together. If you're not currently in Sunday morning class, the season of Lent would be a great time to consider joining!



ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE

February 14
Fellowship Hall
6:15 PM



Please don't forget to make reservations by this Friday at noon if you plan to join us for supper.
See below for complete information about Wednesday Night Suppers.

Wednesday Black History Month Classes

Join Highland members on Wednesdays, February 21 and 28 at 6:15 p.m. in watching an inspirational speech given by Bryan Stevenson at a United Church of Christ General Synod assembly luncheon last year. Drawing on his faith and experience, including his work as an attorney defending vulnerable clients, many individuals on death row, Stevenson talks about how to engage the work of justice with courage, compassion, and a fierce hope for a better world.



Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama, that has won major legal challenges by exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of persons in prison, including those with mental illness, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. He also led the effort to create the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, which several of our church members visited on a 2022 trip to visit racial justice sites in Alabama.

We will watch the speech over two Wednesday nights, with time for discussion. Please be warned that some of his stories mention physical abuse, including physical and sexual abuse of a jailed child.

Because his audience is made up of Christian leaders, Stevenson does not shy away from how his faith has been the guiding point of his life's work, and he gives a rousing call to action to people of faith.

~ Lauren Jones Mayfield

P.S. Check out our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for more opportunities to learn about Black excellence as we continue celebrating Black History Month. For those who are not on social media, but would like to see HBC's Black History Month posts, please [click here](#).

Highland Welcomes Clif Cason



Clif Cason, our organist for the month of February, has been a church musician for over forty-five years serving churches from a variety of denominations: Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, Congregational and Presbyterian (USA). He was an adjunct lecturer and teacher at Lexington Theological Seminary. Clif studied with Madame Marie-Claire Alain and was awarded the Premier Prix from the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malaison, just outside of Paris, France. His degrees are from the University of Kentucky (BM), University of Illinois (MM) and Indiana University (MLS). Clif and his wife, Shari, reside in Lexington, KY, and have three children.

Sacred Space Project Update

The big news for this week is that the new sanctuary chandeliers are being hung. The picture below shows the first of the old chandeliers being prepared to come down. Note that while the new chandeliers will be in place in time for Friday Church and Sunday Worship, the new lighting control system won't be installed yet. That means that the new lights will be either ON or OFF. So, the sanctuary will be especially BRIGHT for a week or two during worship services.



~ Walter McWhorter

Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build



Highland is looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming Habitat for Humanity Baptist Build. Together we will work with other local churches to construct a new home near Cane Run Road. The dates are March 7-9. We normally work from 8:00-2:00, and lunch will be provided. No experience is required. You may help any day that fits your schedule. If interested, contact [Larry Hoover](#).

Party with Your Pastors

If you weren't able to join us for a "Party with Your Pastors" last fall, don't worry! There will be plenty more opportunities to party this year.



Our first gathering will be at Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Evan Jacoby's home on Sunday, February 25 from 4:00-5:30 PM. [Sign up here](#) to join us for dessert and a great way to get to know our pastors and more of the Highland family. If you did attend a party in the fall, we ask that you leave space for others to participate. Our next gathering will be in April at Paul and Kim Henderson's home.

Cream of the Crop Agape Luncheon Tuesday, February 13 Fellowship Hall at 12:00 Noon

**Potluck luncheon with meat, bread, and drinks provided.
Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.
Enjoy a time of good food, lots of fun,
and plenty of fellowship!**





Join us for Wednesday Night Supper! 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 and cancellations 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 February 7: Baked Fish / Mixed Veggies / Wild Rice / Salad / Dessert

Upcoming Menus:

February 14 Chicken & Broccoli Casserole / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

February 21 Shredded BBQ Chicken / Baked Beans/ Salad / Dessert

February 28 Baked Spaghetti / Salad / Garlic Bread / Dessert

March 6 Fried Chicken / Mac & Cheese / Salad / Rolls / Dessert
March 13 Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes/Cornbread / Dessert
March 20 Chicken Fajitas /Rice / Salad / Dessert



February 11 Church-Wide Celebration of *Hard and Holy Work* book release
February 13 Cream of the Crop Potluck "Agape" Meal at 12:00 Noon
February 14 Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent Begins
February 25 Party with Your Pastors—Mary Alice & Evan's home, 4:00-5:30 PM
March 7-9 Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build

Sunday, 11:15 AM

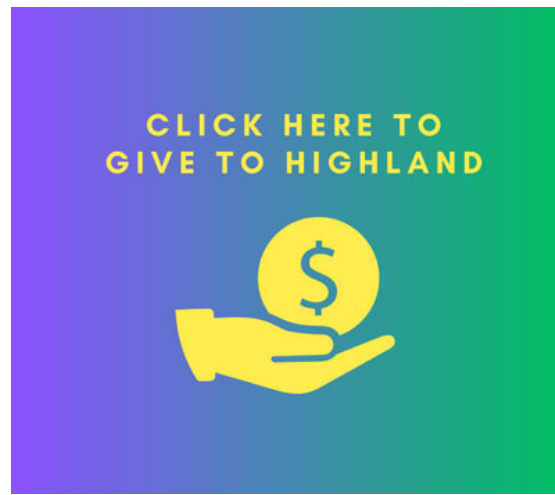
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

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

**Streaming
Worship
Links**





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.

- Steven Hubbard, 35, killed January 20
 - Kevin Ardis, 34, killed January 26
 - Dovia Pernell, 15, killed January 29
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Thank You!

Thank you so much for your prayers during my recent pacemaker surgery and recovery. I love all of you!





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