



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 6, 2024

The church building and offices will be closed tomorrow, August 7, due to electrical work being done by the contractors which requires a complete power shutdown.

Back to School Blessing in Worship + Children's Bible Study Promotion This Sunday

Each fall, the rhythms of families with children and youth shift dramatically as the school year begins. Forms, clothes, shoes, backpacks, lunches, meet-the-teacher events, orientations, schedules, and getting out the door on time are the center of our focus as the first day draws nearer.

The actual calendar date may vary from the last week of July to the third week of August depending on the school your family is connected to, which means we here at Highland tend to mark this shifting rhythm around the time most of Highland's students return to school.



This Sunday, we hope children and youth will join us for the first official Bible study hour of the new school year. We'll pay special attention to our rising Kindergarteners, as their lives shift in such significant ways from preschool rhythms to elementary school ones.

In worship, we'll be honoring all our students amid beginning their school year, from Kindergarten to graduate school. We'll share a backpack tag and offer a prayer of blessing for everyone on the journey of growing and learning.

We hope you'll join us!

~ Renee Purtlebaugh



Nominations Needed

This is a very busy season in the life of our church, and we need to identify folks who will provide leadership for two different groups:

1. Leadership Team for Strategic Planning
2. Ministry Council

Below are two articles focusing on the needs of these groups. Ballots to be used in the nomination process will be available on Sunday. The ballot will be two-sided, one side for nominations to the Ministry Council and the other side for nominations for the Strategic Planning Leadership Team.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Prior to the pandemic, HBC engaged in a strategic planning process; that process brought forth carefully crafted statements related to our Mission, Vision, and Values. It was the initial step of a process that would result in a 3-5 year plan. Thanks to a grant received by the [Center for Congregational Health](#) (CCH), which covers most of the costs, we now have the opportunity to take that next step.

Over the weekend of October 18-20, a representative from the Center for Congregational Health will visit Highland to begin a congregational discernment process with us over the following 6-8 months. The goal of this work is to explore how our current ministries align with our mission, vision, and values and to develop a strategic mission and ministry plan for Highland's future.

The Ministry Council will form a lay leadership team to work with our consultant from the Center for Congregational Health to facilitate and lead this process at Highland. We are seeking your input and requesting nominations of people to serve on this team from the fall of 2024 to the spring of 2025. We hope to have representation from across the diversity of the congregation. We are seeking people who are good listeners, open-minded, actively engaged in Highland, and invested in the work of Love that we share. **You are invited to submit up to five names to serve on the leadership team to be considered by the Ministry Council. Please turn in ballots through the offering plate by Sunday, August 25.**

Even with a leadership team guiding us in this process, this is congregational work, and we will need everyone's voice involved to reflect the diversity of our community of faith. Please save the date for the weekend of October 18-20, and we will share more information about the events of that weekend as details become available.

With great hope,

Lauren Blackwell, Ministry Council Chair

Margaret Pennington, Ministry Council Vice-Chair

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Pastor

Ministry Council Nominations Needed

It is time to gather nominations for Ministry Council to replace those who will rotate off this coming year. The Ministry Council's primary function is strategic planning for the church which includes guiding the implementation of ministries set by the church and reviewing the effectiveness of

church ministries, programs, and activities. Ministry Council members serve a three-year term with staggered rotation.

The Congregational Engagement Ministry Group will receive nominations through Sunday, August 25. You may nominate up to three individuals to fill the vacancies of those who rotate off this year. Ballots will be available on Sundays and can be placed in the offering plates.

The following individuals currently serve on Ministry Council and are not eligible for nomination: David Bannister, Lauren Blackwell, Joey Eubank, Emmanuel Maize, Matthew Neal, Margaret Pennington, Kate Roessler, and Natalie Ryder.

Join Us for a New Year of Making Music with Children on Wednesday Nights!



August 21 is the first night of a new choir year! Every child from walking toddlers through the 5th grade are invited to join us each Wednesday, 6:00-7:15 PM.

Toddlers with a parent explore sounds and beats, preschoolers find their singing voices, move, and play instruments to the steady beat, and children in grades K-5 experience singing, movement, and playing of instruments. Highland's second floor is filled with the sounds of busy children – please join us!

For more information, please contact [Kathy Collier](#), Children's Choir Coordinator.

Youth Volunteer Opportunities

As we head into the fall and a new school year, I wanted to share some easy ways for folks to get involved with our Youth Ministry!



Like good Baptists, we love any excuse we can find to share a meal together. Throughout the school year, we often provide breakfast for our youth on Sunday mornings during Bible study. And on Sundays, when our mentor groups meet after church, we provide lunch for our youth.

I have set up [sign-ups for both breakfast and lunch](#) for this upcoming semester. If you as an individual or if your Bible study class wants to take a Sunday and sign up for a meal, that would be incredible!

If you have any questions about volunteering in this way, please let me know [here!](#)

~ Justin Sizemore

Newly Elected Deacons

Over the next several weeks, we will continue to hear from those who have been elected to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories during worship. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter. We are excited about the gifts that each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity.



GREG BUNTEN

My faith journey started in a little “hellfire and brimstone” church in North Carolina. I was baptized in a very cold mountain stream. I was active in church during my teen years, but always felt I didn’t belong. I knew I was different from all the other kids in church and would later realize it was because I was gay. Many people can relate to my experiences in church: constantly being told I was unworthy of God’s love and was “going to hell” because of who I am.

I joined the Navy after high school and drifted away from organized religion. While living in Washington DC, I found my way to an affirming church, and my true faith journey began. Eventually, my career brought me to Louisville, and I started attending Highland. Finding Highland was like finding a safe port in a storm. I had finally found a true “church family,” a family that loved me just as I was and showed God’s love to all.

Serving as a deacon is a return engagement for me and I’m honored to have been asked. The last time I served as a deacon, I had a little shadow who followed me step by step. This go around I will be flying solo, but Ben will be with me in spirit.



NOELLE TENNIS GULDEN

I wasn’t looking for a church home before visiting Highland during Advent of 2022. My teenage children, Quinn and Else, had expressed interest in going to church, so I encouraged them to check out Highland. I had heard good things about it, especially from our neighbors and friends Sally, Paige, Finley, and Wallace.

Quinn and Else didn’t want to go by themselves, so my husband John and I reluctantly agreed to join them. We were intrigued after that first Sunday and decided to return the next week, then the week after that, and the week after that. By Lent of 2023 we had joined as members. I’m part of the Prodigals Bible Study and have been involved in several areas of the life of the church, including the anti-racism team, the handbell choir, Sally Evans’ ordination committee, and as a middle school mentor.

I am honored to have been nominated as a deacon and hope to use my gifts to welcome new people into the church with the same warmth and hospitality that has been extended to my family and me.



GENENE NISBET

I joined Highland in 1996, seeking a church that could meet my husband's and my theological needs. Raised in a conservative Baptist church, I needed a place where I could stretch my understanding of God. At Highland, I found a safe space to question, reexamine, and reimagine God, which provided a profound sense of freedom.

For about 25 years, I served behind the scenes in the nursery, rocking many babies, and eventually becoming a nursery captain until Covid. During the pandemic, I, like many others, hunkered down. After emerging from the shutdown, I decided to open my heart to serving in different ways.

I am honored to be nominated as a deacon at Highland and hope my gifts and talents can be used to serve others.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners



Wednesday Night Programming and Meals Resume on August 21!

We are reducing the cost of Wednesday night dinners this year by not using a caterer. Meal costs are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship! We also welcome more volunteers to assist with food prep and setup, making desserts, or cleanup. **Contact [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help or want more information.**

It is important that we have accurate numbers of folks who plan to attend each week. Please make your reservations by emailing [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at the church office, 502-451-3735.

August Menus:

August 21: Pizza / Mixed Green Salad / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

August 28: Fried Chicken / Baked Chicken / Mashed Potatoes / Green Beans / Mixed Green Salad / Hawaiian Rolls / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September Menus:

September 4: BBQ Pork w/ small & large buns / Baked Beans / Cole Slaw / Potato Salad / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September 11: Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Steamed Vegetables / Mixed Green Salad / Hawaiian

Rolls / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September 18: Lasagna / Steamed Vegetables / Mixed Green Salad / Bread Sticks / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September 25: Taco Bar (taco shells, soft flour tortillas, ground beef and/or grilled chicken, chopped tomatoes, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, jalapeno peppers) / Rice / Black Beans / Chips, Salsa, and Guacamole / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

Thanks,
~ Wednesday Night Dinner Team

Cream of the Crop News

August 13 – Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon

Join us on Tuesday, August 13 for a potluck luncheon. "Chef Paul" will provide soft-shell pork tacos and the Senior Adult Ministry Group will bring all the condiments. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Following the luncheon, we will be treated with music by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson. **Please make a reservation for the luncheon by contacting [Paul Henderson](#) by email or by phone at 502-451-3735.**

During August, the Cream of the Crop group will collect much-needed and requested items for the Resource Center at Shelby Elementary School. The following are items that are always needed for elementary-age children: pajamas, underwear, socks, tooth brushes, tooth paste, Kleenex, band aids, Clorox wipes, and paper plates. **Please bring your donation items to the luncheon on August 13.**

September 26 - Senior Adult Fall Retreat - watch for details coming soon!

**Save the Date: Cole Arthur Riley at Highland
Sunday Evening, September 15**



We are thrilled to host author **Cole Arthur Riley** at Highland on **Sunday evening, September 15 at 6:00 PM**. Cole is the author of the NYT bestsellers, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* and *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*. Her writing has been featured in The Atlantic, Guernica, and The Washington Post and has been deeply meaningful and prophetic to many of us at Highland. This event is made possible through generous funding from the Lily Foundation for Renee's sabbatical and our entire church family. More details related to the event and registration will be available soon.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

I ♥ Morocco Solidarity Dinner



Support critical ministries
of the EEAM in Morocco
AND have a fabulous
authentic Moroccan meal
catered by one of
Louisville's best:

Jarfi's Catering!!

\$20 (Scholarships Available)



Please RSVP :
<https://cbfky.org/morocco-1>



Saturday
August 24
5:00 PM
St. Matthews
Baptist Church

Looking Ahead

- August 13 Senior Adult Luncheon with music by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson (Noon)
- August 21 Wednesday Night Activities Return

August 25 Deacon Ordination Service, 6:00 PM
Sept. 8 Gather 'Round Sunday
Sept. 15 Cole Arthur Riley visits Highland on Sunday Evening, 6:00 PM
October 4-6 "Unstructured" Women's Retreat - contact [Ginger Miller](#) if interested.

Sunday, 10:15 AM

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

Streaming
Worship
Links



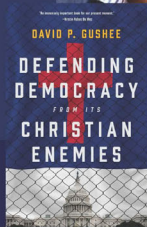
Donations to Highland

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



WILLIAM M. JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY



Keynote Speaker:

David P. Gushee

Ethicist, Pastor,
Author, Advocate

REGISTER HERE
EVENTBRITE.COM



📅 August 17

🕒 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

📍 Crescent Hill Baptist Church
2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY

WITH GUEST PANELISTS



Mark Wingfield,
Moderator,
Executive Director &
Publisher of Baptist
News Global



Dr. Lewis Brogdon,
Executive Director of
the Institute for Black
Church Studies, Baptist
Seminary of Kentucky



Samuel A. Marcossan,
University of Louisville
Professor of Law



Judge Phillip Shepherd,
Circuit Court Judge



Cassie Chambers
Armstrong,
Kentucky State Senator



Morgan McGarvey,
Kentucky Congressman



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.



Copyright © 2024 Highland Baptist Church, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).