



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church January 22, 2025

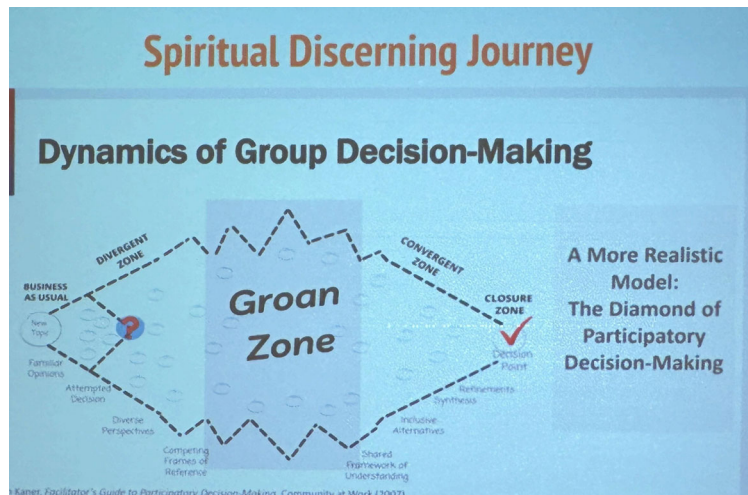
**Though JCPS is on NTI today, we will have
all regularly scheduled Wednesday evening activities.**

Moving Forward Together with Congregational Conversations

On a cold and wintry weekend, Highland showed up! Forty-two church leaders met with staff of the Center for Congregational Health on Saturday, January 18 to start our season of spiritual discernment and planning during this time of transition. Love for our church and a strong commitment to move forward together was palpable. We shared personal meaningful moments at HBC with both tears and chuckles. We addressed future intent as we prioritized “Important” and “Urgent” steps ahead of us. The results are being compiled and will be shared at a later date.



On Sunday January 19, 144 members braved the single digit temperatures to gather together, some at 9:30 AM and others at 2:00 PM. Again, meaningful moments were shared and values were compiled. We acknowledged both joys and anxieties. We learned that the “Groan Zone” is a part of change and all perspectives are valid. Again, responses are being studied and will be shared. Many expressed it was good to assemble together to share our thoughts after being apart for the last two Sundays.



We appreciate those who were able to attend. More opportunities are planned to provide input on the important decisions ahead. Your voice is valued and all opinions will be considered.

~ Carolyn King



Thanks Be to God, and You!

Thanks to the generosity of so many faithful givers, income for our 2024 ministry budget exceeded expense by approximately \$38,000! A significant factor in this was an extremely generous gift of \$200,000 given in December. As previously agreed with this donor, the balance of their gift will be added to the Sacred Space Capital Campaign.

A total of \$1,223,225 in ministry budget contributions was received. Adding \$56,694 in other income means a total of almost \$1,280,000 was received. Thanks to the careful management of budget expenses by staff members and ministry groups, expenses were approximately \$100,000 less than budgeted.

Almost \$500,000 in gifts towards our Sacred Space Capital Campaign were received and slightly

over \$100,000 in additional pledges were made during our pledge campaign for the 2025 budget!

We finished strong, Highland! Many thanks for your faithful, generous giving to this much needed work of love.

~ Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups

Highland Welcomes New Members



Vicki Herrold joined Highland on December 15



Rebecka June Allen joined Highland on January 19

Quarterly Church Conference on February 2

Our next Quarterly Church Conference will be held via Zoom on Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 PM. We will send out the agenda and accompanying documents via email on Friday, January 31. We will vote on a new trustee (Arlette Tinsley) and a new member of Personnel Ministry Group (Rebecca Jagers).

Coming Up in January and February

[Mary Alice's Final Sunday](#)

Mary Alice's final Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, February 2 at 11:15 AM. We will have a farewell reception for her following the worship service.

[Worship in January and February](#)

We will continue to have one Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 AM on Sundays though February 2. This will allow all of us to worship together on Mary Alice's last Sunday. **Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on February 9 with 8:45 AM Worship, 10:00 Bible Study, 11:15 AM Worship.**

Upcoming Proclaimers

January 26: Brian Henderson, Executive Director of the [Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists](#)

February 2: Mary Alice Birdwhistell

February 9: Bob Cunningham, Interim Associate Pastor

February 16: Justin Sizemore, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

February 23: Sally Evans, Former Interim Associate Pastor

March 2: Jim England, Former Interim Pastor

Wednesday Nights

January 22 and February 5: Moving Faith Forward

Since leaving Highland's ministerial staff in 2021, Carol Harston has been deepening her traumatizing theology research by wondering what it looks like for people to move past their beliefs and grow into spiritual maturity. Carol's vision is a future in which people can live at peace with the past, confident in their ability to face whatever life brings, and open to a revived spirituality that evolves as life changes. To get there, Carol offers a three-step process of working through beliefs: (1) placing former beliefs in the context of what was happening when we received them, (2) putting words to beliefs that have stood the test of time, and (3) learning to accept what has been, integrate core beliefs, and engage in spiritual practice tailored to our real lives (you can read case studies that apply the three steps at www.carolharston.com). Catch up with Carol in this Wednesday night class to learn more about the three-step process and explore what it looks like to move faith forward.

January 29: Cloud of Witness - Justin Boldt, Greg Bunten, Linda Waller

Women's Retreat in March



Join us March 7-9 (1 or 2 night options) for our Women's Retreat, led by Sally Evans. Contact [Ginger Miller](#) to sign up or call her at 502-599-6569 for more information.

Words of Hope from the Anti-Racism Team

On Monday, we honored the legacy and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The anti-racism team felt today was a perfect opportunity to share with you excerpts from a sermon that Dr. King preached on keeping hope in the darkest of times. Dr. King encourages us to "accept the finite disappointment and yet cling to the infinite hope." Today we join you in clinging to hope. From that space, we can look forward and wonder together what is ours to do.

~ The Anti-Racism Team of Highland Baptist Church

"When I take my journey into Spain, I will come unto you." Romans 15:24.

Our sermon today brings us face to face with one of the most agonizing problems of human experience. Very few, if any, of us are able to see all of our hopes fulfilled. So many of the hopes and promises of our mortal days are unrealized.

If we turn back to the life of the Apostle Paul, we find a very potent example of this problem of disappointed hopes. In his letter to the Christians at Rome Paul wrote: "When I take my journey into Spain, I will come unto you." It was one of Paul's greatest hopes to go to Spain, the edge of the then known world, where he could further spread the Christian gospel. And on his way to

Spain, he planned to visit that valiant group of Christians in Rome, the capital city of the world. He looked forward to the day that he would have personal fellowship with those people whom he greeted in his letter as “Christians in the household of Caesar.” But notice what happened to this noble dream and this glowing hope that gripped Paul’s life. He never got to Rome in the sense that he had hoped. He went there only as a prisoner and not as a free man. He spent his days in that ancient city in a little prison cell, held captive because of his daring faith in Jesus Christ. Neither was Paul able to walk the dusty roads of Spain, nor see its curvaceous slopes, nor watch its busy coast life, because he died a martyr’s death in Rome.

Life is full of this experience. There is hardly anyone here this morning who has not set out for some distant Spain, some momentous goal, some glorious realization, only to find that we had to settle for much less. Our dreams are constantly tossed and blown by staggering winds of disappointment. What does one do under such circumstances?

We must accept our unwanted and unfortunate circumstance and yet cling to a radiant hope. The answer lies in developing the capacity to **accept the finite disappointment and yet cling to the infinite hope.**

To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system; thereby the oppressed become as evil as the oppressor. Our most fruitful course of action will be to stand up with a courageous determination, moving on non-violently amid obstacles and setbacks, facing disappointments and yet **clinging to the hope.**

True peace is like a hurricane. Around its circumference rages howling and jostling winds of destruction, while at its center all is serenely quiet. This is why true peace passeth all understanding. Peace was Jesus’ chief legacy. He said, “peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.” Thus we know that we are not alone in any circumstance, however dismal and catastrophic it may be. God dwells with us in life’s confining and oppressive cells.

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Unfulfilled Hopes*,
Sermon Delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, April 5, 1959

[Click here](#) for the full sermon.



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 are still in need of *one* more person each week to help dry dishes.** Volunteers serve one week per month. **Contact [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help.**

Please make your reservations by Monday at 12:00 Noon for that week's meal. You can either make standing reservations or make them weekly by emailing [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at the church office, 502-451-3735.

January Menus:

Jan. 22: BBQ Pork, Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

Jan. 29: Soup, Salad, Corn Bread, Dessert

Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

The Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice is holding an informational meeting about issues that may emerge with the change in administration. All are welcome.

What: ICIJ Meeting - New Challenges, New Opportunities on Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Where: The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, 40207 (entrance to Masonic Homes is over the railroad tracks at Bauer Avenue)

[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)

Jean Janes Yard Sale March 15

Please start collecting all the household items you would like to get rid of! The long delayed yard sale will be held Saturday, March 15th. More information to come on when you can bring items to church.

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**



Looking Ahead

The graphic features the words "Looking Ahead" in a large, elegant, cursive script. The text is centered on a light cream-colored background that has a torn-paper effect at the top and bottom edges, revealing a dark green background underneath.

- January 29: Cloud of Witness: Justin Boldt, Greg Buntten, and Linda Waller
February 2: Mary Alice's last Sunday with reception to follow; QCC at 4:00 PM on Zoom
February 9: Regular Sunday schedule resumes
March 7-9: Women's Retreat
March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale
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Giving to Highland

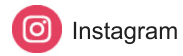
To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link or use the QR code below.



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.

- Martha "Lynn" Starrett, 58, killed December 28
 - Devin Kreiling, 26, killed December 30
 - Quante Burris, 29, killed December 31
 - Michael Lamont Bass, 21, killed December 31
 - Evelyn Belton, 43, killed January 4
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