



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 19, 2025

Kindness Brings Hope

I've had a lot of conversations over a period of months about our political climate. I have heard anger, grief, frustration, helplessness, depression, and a common theme of fatigue. Not many have expressed hope. I feel that same fatigue dragging me down.

Yet I am encouraged by what I hear at a funeral home; the stories of people living their lives boldly. One person said, "She believed in me when I could not believe in myself." That sounds like the grace of God. Another told how their mother really loved her car. Then she gave it to a charity to be given to a family too poor to buy a car.

Every story of kindness stands against the religious fascism that thinks the Sermon on the Mount is weak and that kindness is "woke." The kindness I hear about takes great strength. These kind people outside Highland give me hope. I could name those inside Highland who model kindness but it would read like a church roster.

In January, a group lamented the cruel statements and racism of the administration. An African American woman admonished us that she had been living with this stuff all her life. She's also a practitioner of kindness. She lives a hopeful life. Kindness helps me hope, especially now.

~ Jim England



Pastor Search Committee Update

The pastor search committee is still accepting applications. Preliminary conversations are being planned with some candidates in the next few weeks. We are pleased with the quality of applications thus far and are grateful for the prayers of the church throughout this process.

~ Kathey Golightly Sanders, chair



Deacon Retreat and Ordination this Weekend

We are glad to report that all our deacon nominees were elected on Sunday. This weekend, our incoming and current deacons will gather at General Butler State Park for a time of fellowship and training as they prepare to care for our church family.



On **Sunday, August 24 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary**, we will ordain our new deacons and install those who will begin serving again. This will be a special and meaningful moment in the life of our church as these leaders step forward to serve.

~ Paige Harlow, incoming chair



Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners



Welcome back to Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners! We ask everyone to make a reservation so that we have an accurate count for meal preparation. **Please make your reservations by Monday at 12:00 Noon for each 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. Meal costs are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Dinners can be [paid online here](#), by check, or cash at the door. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship!

August Menus

August 20: Taco Bar, Black Beans, Mexican Street Corn, Chips, Salsa, Dessert

August 27: Fried/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

September Menus

September 3: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

September 10: Baked Ziti, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

September 17: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Dessert

September 24: Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to serve! Please consider serving one Wednesday night per month in one of these 3 ways:

1. **Bring Dessert (1 more volunteer needed)** Provide 3-4 dozen servings of dessert. They can be dropped off in advance or brought to church by at least 4:45 PM on Wednesday.
2. **Prep & Set Up (1 more volunteer needed)** Help prepare and set up food. Work begins around 4:00PM.
3. **Dry Dishes (2 more volunteers needed)** Help with dish drying and cleanup. Work begins around 5:45PM.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about the different roles, please email [Kathy Belcher](#), or phone her at 502-216-6471.

Wednesday Nights at Highland



Louisville Pride Festival

Join *True Colors*, Highland's LGBTQ+ ministry group, as we celebrate love, inclusion, and community at this year's Louisville Pride Festival on Saturday, September 6, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Highland's booth will be open until 8:00 PM.



We're looking for friendly, welcoming volunteers to help staff Highland's booth throughout the day. Volunteer duties are fun and meaningful—you might be offering glitter blessings, chatting with festival-goers, or helping folks create their own custom buttons with our popular button maker!

Can't volunteer? No problem—come by, say hello, and show your support. Let's show up loud and proud for our LGBTQ+ family and help make this year's Louisville Pride celebration unforgettable!

[Sign up to volunteer here.](#)

~ Megan Fuller



Highland Members Making a Difference

Long-time Highland members Bob and Terri Connolly recently returned from an amazing trip to Kenya. They were invited by Milton Ochieng who, along with his brother Fred, founded and built a hospital from the ground up in their remote village in Kenya.



Milton and Fred Ochieng were raised in a Kenyan village without clean water or clean sanitation and without electricity. HIV decimated their village taking about 31% of the population, including their parents. Milton, the older brother, qualified for a full scholarship to Dartmouth College. But the scholarship did not include \$900 for the cost of the plane ticket to Dartmouth from Kenya. The village sold their herd to raise money for the plane ticket. When he left Lwala, the elders asked Milton not to forget the village. As he arrived in New Hampshire, Milton had a debt of honor to fulfill. Additionally, his father had a dream of building a medical center for the village and surrounding area. This young man carried his father's dream to Dartmouth. Two years later, Fred qualified for the same scholarship. They both worked very hard on their pre-med studies and were accepted to Vanderbilt Medical School.

Along the way, they befriended the Connolly's daughter Kelley, also a Dartmouth student, who then attended Vanderbilt Law School while the young men were at the medical school. When Kelley shared their story with Bob and Terri, they were deeply moved. Following their residency, the young doctors joined the village in carrying river sand for up to a mile to mix with the local clay to make bricks for the hospital. They dug the foundation of the hospital with their hands. The entire village participated. That was 17 years ago. As soon as Kelley told them about this remarkable story, Bob and Terri began providing support for the hospital.

Each year they are excited to read about what has been accomplished. Several splinter clinics have been established in the region. Wells have been dug to provide water for every 5-10 residences. Seventeen years ago the village had no latrines. Now every house has a latrine. Communicable diseases have collapsed. Hand washing is more common in Lwala than in Louisville! 195 people are employed by the hospital. This year the hospital received Level 5 accreditation from the Kenyan department of public health (the highest level). But most significantly of all, in 2024 the hospital had 88,000 visits or contacts with patients and villagers.

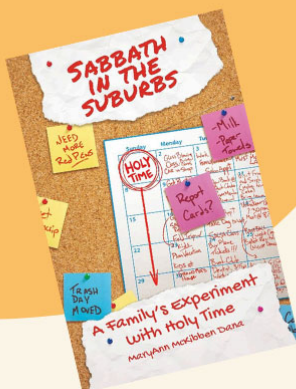
There is so much more to the story of what these remarkable men have accomplished. Bob and Terri were honored to be a small part of this amazing transformation of a village, and now of the region. In

January, they received a call inviting them to visit Lwala. They were advised that Milton would be in Lwala and would like to meet them, so they traveled there in June of 2025 and are so glad they did!



Highland Families with Children

Parent Chat: Join us for a discussion of the book, Sabbath in the Suburbs



Wednesday, September 17
6:00 PM

Free copies of the book are
available for each family on
the second floor



Breaking Bread Together



Highland's staff enjoyed Mark's Feed Store on Bardstown Road once more before it (sadly) closes.



**David and Pat Wells brought lunch from the Generations Bible study class for the church staff this month.
Our thanks for their generosity!**

save the Date

Woven Together

Support HCM on Give for Good Day
**Over \$10,000 in matches & challenges
to boost your gift on September 18th!**



Highlands
Community
Ministries

grow. heal. play.

Mark your calendars and help
raise \$25,000 for HCM programs



Click Here for Church Signup Links

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

- August 20: Parable Series with Chris Caldwell begins on Wednesday at 6:15 PM
August 22-23: Deacon Retreat
August 24: Deacon Ordination Service, Sanctuary, 6:00 PM
September 6: Highland Booth at Louisville Pride Festival, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
September 7: Quarterly Church Conference on Zoom, 4:00 PM
October 10-12: Fall Women's Retreat (unstructured) - contact Ginger Miller at 502-599-6569
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Giving to Highland Baptist Church

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.



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