



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 10, 2026



Introducing Senior Pastor Candidate: Rev. Dr. Carol Harston

The Pastor Search Committee is honored to recommend Carol Harston as our new Senior Pastor. Earlier today, we mailed out [this introduction of Carol as our candidate](#), as well as a [letter from her](#).



The Pastor Search Committee is eager for all of Highland's members to meet and talk with Rev. Dr. Carol Harston. Here is the schedule of meetings for the week of 2/23 through 3/1.

- **Monday, 2/23** at 6:30 PM – Deacons
- **Tuesday, 2/24** at 5:30 PM – Ministry Council
- **Thursday, 2/25** at 6:00 PM – True Colors, Anti-Racism Team, Global Partnerships and Missions and Justice
- **Friday, 2/26** at 5:30 PM – Virtual meeting, particularly for our homebound members. Stay tuned for instructions on how to participate in this meeting.
- **Friday, 2/26** at 7:00 PM – Carol will preach at Friday church and members will vote after the service.
- **Saturday, 2/28**
10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon – All church, Fellowship Hall
1:00 – 3:00 PM – All church, Fellowship Hall

Formal introduction and Question & Answers will be in the first hour of each of these sessions.

- **Sunday, 3/1**, 8:45 and 11:15 AM

Rev. Dr. Carol Harston will preach in both morning services. A written vote will be held at the end of each service. Members and affiliates (those who have completed two of the three requirements for membership) will be eligible to vote. The votes will be counted and announced at the conclusion of the 11:15 service.

~ Kathey Golightly Sanders, chair

Jess Smith, vice-chair

Amy Pacyga, Robert Kahne, Abbi Wolfe, Larry Gray, Diane Brewer

Ron Smith, alternate



Around Highland February 8, 2026



Voting Protocol for Members and Voting Affiliates for Pastor Candidate

In-Person Voting Members and voting affiliates may cast their votes in person during any of the three scheduled worship services:

- **Friday Church**
- **Sunday 8:45 Service**
- **Sunday 11:15 Service**

Electronic Voting Eligibility Folks who are traveling, homebound, or in continuing care—and are therefore unable to attend the Sunday services in person—may participate in the vote during the designated "Call Sunday" hours (**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**) via electronic ballot. To qualify for this option, members must:

1. **Attend** at least one in-person or virtual meeting with the candidate during the call week.
2. **Request** to have their vote recorded electronically by providing their email address to a member of the Pastor Search Committee during the in-person or virtual meeting.

Once attendance is verified, the member will be registered for an electronic voting opportunity that will remain open exclusively (via Survey Monkey) during the Sunday service hours.

Children's Bible Study and Music Teacher Appreciation in February

February is a month at Highland where we traditionally set aside time to honor and appreciate those who say “yes” to teaching our children each week in our Sunday Bible study hour and Wednesday evening children’s choirs. These folks who nourish the spiritual lives of our children—who engage them in the stories of Jesus and the songs of faith—are a major part of what makes Children and Family Ministry so special at Highland.

This week, we highlight our children’s music teachers. As you see these folks around Highland this month, please thank them for the very important role they play in the lives of Highland’s kids!

Children's Music Teachers



CHERUB CHOIR



Sally Evans

CAROL CHOIR



Alison Schreck



Marc Dowell



Katie Metcalf



Tina Parsons

CHORISTER CHOIR



Lauren Blackwell



Linda Campbell



Angela Collins



Kathy Collier



Beth Metcalf



Patty Martin



Sharon Sanders

HANDBELLS



Rick Finklea



Beth Hedges



Kim Henderson



Kim Shippey*

*AND CHORISTER CHOIR

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Youth Winter Retreat

Youth Winter Retreat



This past weekend our middle and high school students gathered for the Winter Youth Retreat, "Linked by Love," and it was a joy to watch their community grow. Through games, shared meals, small groups, and worship, students built friendships, listened to one another, and explored what it means to belong and to live with grace.

We saw students care for one another, include one another, and take faith seriously in ways both big and small. We are deeply grateful for our chaperones and leaders, and for a congregation that supports and encourages the faith formation of our youth.

~ John Kupar



Black History Month

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

This Black History Month, the Anti-Racism Team invites Highland into a season of reflection, learning, and action rooted in values critical to fighting systemic oppression and promoting human rights.

This is sacred work and it invites us to grow as we help make space for justice to flourish. Recognizing that each of us is at a different place in our learning, we are offering tiered opportunities for engagement, from gentle entry points to deeper study and practice. Wherever you begin, we hope you will find an open door to grow in understanding, strengthen our collective witness, and live more fully into the beloved community we are called to build together.

[This link will take you to suggestions for Week 2](#), focusing on the values of human dignity and belonging.

~ Missy Smith

Highland's Lenten Journey Begins Soon

Church, you are invited to join us on our Lenten journey, ***The Work of Imagination*** as we are encouraged to confront the pain of the world, embody faithful resistance, and participate in the holy labor of transformation.



We begin our Lenten journey with a service on **Ash Wednesday** (February 18) at 6:15 PM in the sanctuary. We will gather for a time of prayer, reflection, music, and the imposition of ashes. There will be childcare for infants, toddlers, and two's. Carol Choir will meet for our preschool children (3s, 4s, and PreK). Kindergarten-5th grade, children, and youth will participate with us in this family-friendly service.

~ Paul Henderson



Cream of the Crop Invitation to Drag Bingo

Our Cream of the Crop group invites all adults to join them on Thursday, February 19 at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall for Drag Bingo! Our special guest is Louisville's own (and Highland's) May O'Nays! We'll have a carry-in luncheon (the main dish, ham, will be provided) and May O'Nays will lead us in five fun-filled games of bingo. May is an amazing entertainer and there will be prizes for the winners, so bring a salad, side, or dessert and join us for a fun afternoon! For our preparation and planning, please let [Paul Henderson](#) know you plan to attend by Monday, February 16. It's a don't miss event!



Highland's Got Talent Sunday, February 22 at 6:00 PM

Highland's got Talent

Whether you know every word to a Hamilton song, want to act out a day in the life of your pet, or can do a spot on impersonation of Walter McWhorter, there's a spot for you in the Highland's Got Talent night coming up on Sunday, February 22 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Not a fan of being on stage? Look for our table in the Commons the next two Sundays to sign up to bring food or help volunteer!

Questions? Email [Sally Evans here](#).

Help Highland Build a House with Habitat!



On February 26-28, Highland will partner with other Baptist churches to build a home as part of Habitat for Humanity Baptist Build. We are looking for 2-4 volunteers each day. For more information, contact [Larry Hoover](#).

Jean Janes Yard Sale March 21



The Jean Janes Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 21. As you finish your post-holiday purge or start your spring cleaning, please set aside any household items you would like to donate to the sale. You may begin bringing items to the church on Sunday, March 1. As always, thank you for your generosity and support!

~ Cheryl Priddy



Highland's Summer Camps for Children!

2026 SUMMER CAMPS

Discovery Camp
Completed Grades K-2nd

Passport Kids
Completed Grades 3rd-5th

Advocacy Camp
Completed Grades 3rd-5th

Highland offers three camps for our kids who will have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade by the time summer rolls around. **Please register by February 15 using the buttons below.**

Discovery Camp

Passport Kids

Advocacy Camp

Prodigals Bible Study Retreat



The Prodigals Bible study class held their annual retreat at Loretto on February 6-7. Three of our members (Peggy Holthaus, Phil Collier, and Steve Gowler) each led a rich session for us, reflecting on courage, pilgrimages in general and individually (including Phil's own own pilgrimage in 2025, and our own), and exploring the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins as a way of understanding everyday encounters and particular beings as opportunities for reflection about the holy and the life of God.

~ Vicki Runnion

Wednesday Night Dinners



We hope you can join us for 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 [Accounting](#) or calling 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!

February Menus:

February 11: Baked or Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Salad, Dessert
February 18: Baked Ziti or Lasagna, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
February 25: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

A Taste of the Highlands



HCM Lenten Lunch Series

Lenten Lunch Series

Theme: Be Still My Soul

Thursdays at Noon during Lent
Lunch Provided

Feb 19 | Highlands Community Ministries

Feb 26 | Deer Park Baptist Church

Mar 5 | Douglass Blvd Christian Church

Mar 12 | Bardstown Rd Presbyterian

Mar 19 | Immanuel UCC

Mar 26 | Unity of Louisville



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

February 18: Ash Wednesday

February 19: Drag Bingo, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall - contact [Paul Henderson](#) for reservations

February 22: Highland's Got Talent, 6:00 PM, HCM Campus, 1228 E. Breckinridge

Feb. 26-28: Baptist Build with Habitat for Humanity - contact [Larry Hoover](#)

Feb. 26-Mar 1: Call Weekend to meet Senior Pastor Candidate Carol Harston

March 6-8: Spring Women's Retreat - Contact [Ginger Miller](#) for questions or to reserve a spot.
Phone: 502-599-6569

March 21: Jean Janes Yard Sale in Fellowship Hall

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.

- Bowen Mann, 49, killed January 27



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