



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 17, 2026

Warning about Phishing Emails from Church Staff

Dear Highland Family,

We've learned that some members of our congregation are receiving spam or "phishing" emails pretending to be from church staff. All official communication from church staff will always come from an @hbclouisville.org email address.

If you receive an email that looks suspicious and especially one asking for money, gift cards, or personal information — do not reply and do not click on any links. Instead, mark the message as spam or junk, and delete it. **Highland's staff will never reach out to ask you for money or gift cards.** If the email comes from a specific address, please add it to your spam list or blocked senders. When in doubt, always reach out directly to the staff person by using their official church email address listed on our website. It's always better to check before responding. Thank you for helping keep our community safe and connected!

~ Walter McWhorter

Next Week's Schedule for Pastor Candidate Meetings

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.



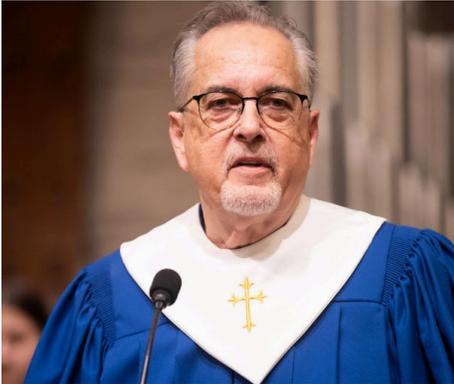
- **Monday, 2/23** at 6:30 PM – Deacons
- **Tuesday, 2/24** at 5:30 PM – Ministry Council
- **Thursday, 2/26** at 6:00 PM – True Colors, Anti-Racism Team, Global Partnerships, and Missions & Justice
- **Friday, 2/27** at 5:30 PM – Virtual meeting, particularly for our homebound members. Stay tuned for instructions on how to participate in this meeting.
- **Friday, 2/27** 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 voting 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*



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.

Highland's Lenten Journey Begins This Week

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.



SACRED TURNING

We begin our Lenten journey this week 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

Children's Bible Study and Music Teacher Appreciation in February



We're celebrating our incredible children's Bible study and music teachers all month long. There are a couple of ways you can participate:

- Make a donation in honor of your child's teachers to our Sacred Space Campaign. [Use this link.](#)
- Bring fresh cut flowers to the Children's Commons on Sunday, February 22 at 10:00 AM. Folks will be there to create bouquets to share with our beloved teachers.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

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

Highland's
got Talent

Places, everyone!

The curtain is about to go up for **Highland's Got Talent** this Sunday from 6:00-8:00 PM at Highland Community Ministries (1228 E. Breckinridge St.). Join us for an amusing variety show to strengthen connection across our community and raise money for our Capital Campaign. There will be a lively line up of performances along with chili dinner and dessert. \$5 suggested donation per person and don't forget to bring cash to vote for your favorite act. You won't want to miss the Drag Your Pastor reveal!



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 3](#), focusing on courage, repair, and responsibility.

~ Missy Smith



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

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 18: Baked Ziti or Lasagna, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

February 25: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

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

 Highlands
Community
Ministries
grow. heal. play.

[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
- 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](#) to be added to the wait list.
Phone: 502-599-6569
- March 10: Roz Heinz Memorial Service, 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary, visitation at 12:00 Noon
- 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.



Mourning the Recent Loss of Highland Members

We recently learned of the passing of two Highland members late last year: Carol Massey and Julia Rullman.



[Carol Jean Massey](#)

July 13, 1942 - December 1, 2025



[Julia Rullman](#)

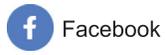
July 22, 1925 - November 19, 2025

We pray for family members and friends as they grieve, celebrate, and remember Carol and Julia. We mourn the loss of these beloved members of our Highland family who have joined the cloud of witness gathered 'round this sacred place.



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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