



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church September 26, 2023

Dear Highland Family,

It was GOOD FOR THE SOUL to be back in our sacred space on Sunday morning! I can't tell you how meaningful it was to see and hug so many of our beloved congregation, to participate in the ordination council for the marvelous Sally Evans, and to hear the robust and prophetic preaching of Lewis Brogdon. The energy and love from those moments together on Sunday is definitely carrying me into this week.



I wanted to share an update on how I'm doing and what the next few weeks will look like for me. I had hoped (*really* hoped) for my cast to be removed in mid-September. Unfortunately, instead I

received a new leg-length cast that I will wear until October 10. This new cast brought on some new waves of pain and muscle spasms as my body adjusted, but I'm grateful to have finally passed that stage. It was a doozy.

Last week I was able to start sitting up at my computer and can type again, which is a huge milestone for me after breaking several bones in my left hand. I've shared with staff and the Personnel Ministry Group that I'm going to start working more from home, Zooming in for occasional meetings, and returning to responsibilities that I can do from my computer. This week, I'm focusing on a grant application to receiving additional funding for our Sacred Space renovation. I also hope to continue to attend worship.

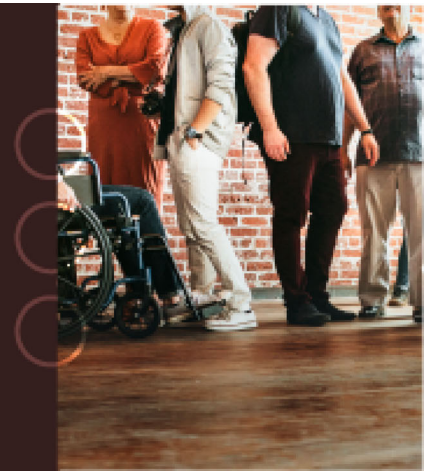
There are still plenty of things I don't know right now: What will rehab look like after the cast comes off? When will I be able to preach again? Drive again? When can I return to the daily life of Highland? Right now, I'm taking things one week at a time. I continue to be so grateful for the many ways that the staff have led so beautifully in my absence and for the intentional guidance and support of the Personnel Ministry Group through each step of this journey.

Also, I hope you will join us this Sunday as my good friend Meredith Stone preaches in worship. Meredith is the Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry, and she and I built strong bonds while we served on the front lines of advocating for women in ministry when I lived in Texas. She is truly one of the finest preachers I know, and I don't make that claim lightly. Meredith will be in town for the 40th anniversary celebration of BWIM, which began because of the bold, visionary work of a group of women who bravely gathered for the first time here in Louisville. That group of visionaries included our very own Lela Hendrix and Pat Bailey. I plan to attend the anniversary gathering, as I'm able, both to represent Highland's long history of support for women in ministry and to connect with colleagues and friends from across the country.

Friends, I know it's the beginning of fall (and I'm absolutely here for everything pumpkin-spice), but I'm feeling the newness of spring and broken things finding resurrected strength and wholeness. Although there are still unknowns about what the coming weeks will hold for me, new life IS beginning to emerge, and I am so grateful. Your Love has carried Evan and me through some difficult weeks, and it carries us still into this season of new life. Thanks be to God!

With love,
Mary Alice

RE ENGAGE



Commitment Sunday is happening on October 15. Pledge brochures and commitment cards are being printed, and they will soon be on their way to you! How is God calling you to engage in this important season in the life of our church? Together, we have the opportunity to use our financial resources both to support our ongoing ministries in 2024 and to ensure our sacred space remains welcoming and usable for current and future generations. Let's each do our part to REengage the work of creating a world where love and justice are abundant!

~ The Faithful Giving Ministry Group



Around Highland
on September 24



Work on the project is inching forward. Yesterday (Monday) the company that will drill the geothermal wells was on-site to mark the spots where the wells will be located. Drilling will begin next Monday, October 2 on the Upper (main) Lot.



Last week the Fireside Room and Mechanical Room were emptied out in anticipation of demolition. The Fireside Room will become the construction entrance for much of the project and will also serve as the office for the General Contractor's representative.



~ Walter McWhorter

Meredith Stone, Guest Proclaimer for October 1

This Sunday, we are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone to the pulpit in worship. Meredith serves as Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry, a nation-wide organization that

supports women pursuing ministry with resources and community, and advocates for the full affirmation of women in ministry in Baptist life.



She is an ordained minister and has previously served as Associate Dean for Academics and Assistant Professor of Scripture & Ministry at Logsdon Seminary of Hardin-Simmons University, in congregational ministry, and with other Baptist organizations. Meredith received both her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Hardin-Simmons University, and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biblical Interpretation from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Meredith is also an author with academic publications, and writes extensively on women in ministry and related issues for Baptist publications. She lives in Waco, Texas, with her husband James and their two teenage children.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Baptist Women in Ministry 40th Anniversary Annual Gathering

To mark the occasion, Baptist Women in Ministry will host their 40th Anniversary Annual Gathering on October 2-4, 2023 here in Louisville — the place where the founding mothers met 40 years ago to begin the movement.



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The annual gathering will be hosted at Broadway Baptist Church at 4000 Brownsboro Road. The event will include the premiere of a documentary about BWIM's beginnings and the women who stood in the headwinds to start the movement, plenary sessions about the last 40 years for women in ministry among diverse Baptist groups, times of worship, connection and self-care, and a banquet to honor the group's foremothers. [Go here](#) to register and for more information.

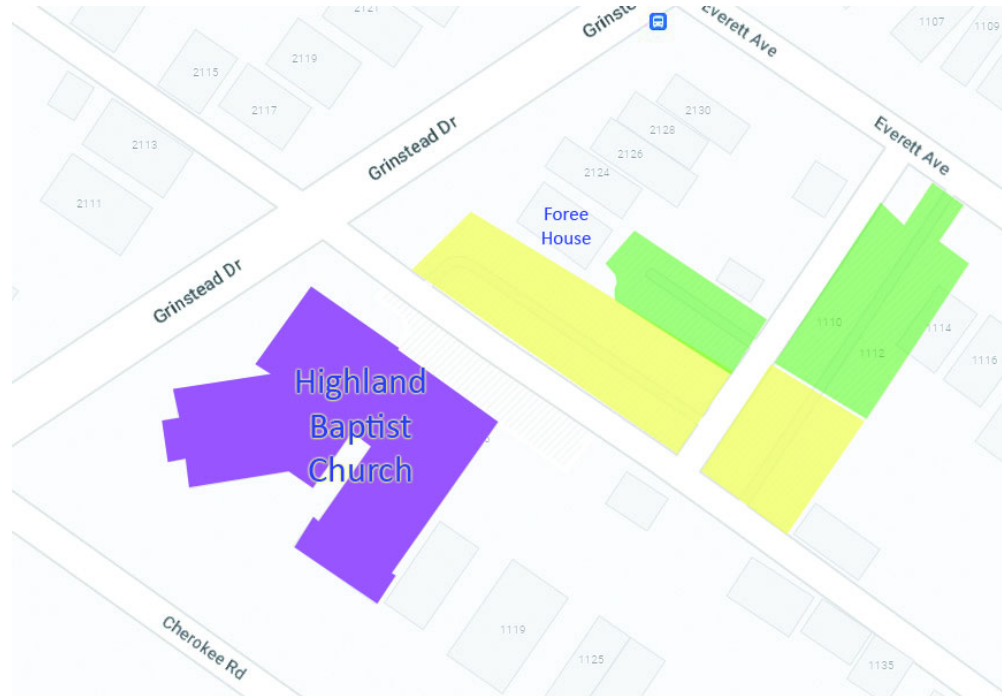
Here's a personal note about BWIM by our own Lela Hendrix:

Forty years ago, in January, I was privileged to become a staff member of the SBC Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Nashville as a Special Projects Coordinator, focusing on world hunger and women in ministry. One morning, my desk phone rang. Dr. Foy Valentine (the Executive Director) was calling, asking me to come down the hall to his office. I entered to find Foy and Carolyn Weatherford, the Executive Director of Women's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham, discussing a request from several women who were interested in forming a national group that would support "women" pastors. As I listened to Foy and Carolyn share their ways of supporting and funding Baptist women in ministry, my head was spinning. When Foy suggested that I would be the one to represent the CLC at a March planning meeting in Louisville, my heart raced with excitement. That is how I gained entrance into the dreams and goals of many women who had/were/would be women in ministry-especially for ministry in the role of senior pastors and pulpit proclaimers. From the CLC, my role in 1983 was a "secretarial" role (to keep records and provide CLC office staff's services) while the WMU staff would provide a "place/space" for national gatherings. Now 40 years later, I am privileged to be in the "foremothers" list of 33 women who gathered in Louisville. Another foremother, Pat Bailey, worships at HBC.

Parking at Highland

Our initial schedule for the start of project work was pushed back a week, but beginning this Monday, October 2, drilling of the geothermal wells in the main parking lot will begin. This means that there will be disruption to our parking routines for the duration of the drilling process. The map

below provides an indication of the affected areas of our lots. The portions shaded yellow are those that will be closed off and unavailable for parking. The portions shaded green will remain open and available for parking.



Parking on Sundays and Wednesdays will be very difficult for a few weeks, but Highland has always risen to challenges like this and we feel confident that you'll do so this time, too. Please reserve the parking places that are closest to the church for our senior adults, folks with mobility issues, and families with young children. We'll keep you updated on the status of the drilling once it begins. Please [contact me](#) with any questions you might have.

~ Walter McWhorter



To put this into proper perspective, I have to go back to my childhood as the middle child of an African American family of thirteen siblings. My father was an AME Zion Minister and my mother was a proud, educated woman who believed in supporting the church and her community. She was a product of a family of business owners, Deacons and Trustees. She often referred to herself as a "Missionary in Deed."

I remember her telling us that when Broadway Temple AME Zion was being built, her father placed a second mortgage on their home to help finance the church. She would go on to tell us of many sacrifices that her parents made to make sure the church would remain a beacon in the community.

As the years went on, I would grow to see my mother making some of those same sacrifices, as she was a firm believer in giving back to God a portion of that which had been given to her. She also was a person of her convictions. She taught us the importance of giving to the church as an act of good stewardship, and to honor God with our giving. Mom would say that God loves a cheerful giver and that we would learn to be givers with a willing spirit if we continued to grow in grace and wisdom. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, and not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

And for me, God has been true to his word as I have been a faithful giver, and although I am not rich, God continues to bless me with all that I need. My wife and I believe in giving monetarily as well as giving of our talents and time to the church and our community. This makes us feel happy, lighter of spirit, socially connected and evokes gratitude, which can be contagious. We have attempted to live as examples to our children--witnessing through our giving and sharing of our talents and time to the church. Paul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7.

In conclusion, giving requires that as we continue to grow in grace and wisdom, realizing that all that we have been given comes from God. He allows us free will--one of two of His greatest gifts to us: His love and our free will. The two go hand in hand we hear. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, and we are encouraged to use our freedom to choose the right response to His love--to give of what we have been given to help support the church as an act of His love for us.

~ Emmanuel Maize, Highland Baptist Church Member

Morocco Partnership Update on September 27

On Wednesday, September 27 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall, Roy Fuller will provide an update on Highland's partnership with the Protestant Church of Morocco.



International partners gathered at salon of owner who trains migrants

Roy represented Highland at a gathering of international partners back in July and will share his experiences from that trip regarding how the Protestant Church of Morocco continues to assist migrants and refugees in that country. There will also be updates regarding how we will help our Moroccan partners as they assist in recovery efforts following the devastating earthquake which occurred on September 8.



Join us on Wednesday nights! Dinner begins at 5:20 PM and children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00 PM. Adult programming begins at 6:15 PM.

Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (age 4-11), with a family max of \$35. Children below three years and below eat for free. We heartily encourage you to sign up in advance this year as our new caterer requires us to provide the number of people that will be eating five days before the meal.

Please note there is no fellowship meal on Wednesday, October 4. As usual we are providing a list of meals, a link below which will allow you to sign up for dinner, and a link to go ahead and pay for the meals you will need. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone. Come and join us!

Any changes to reservations can be made by emailing [Paul](#) or [Kathleen](#) or calling the Highland Baptist office at 451-3735. If you are in a season of financial hardship that makes paying difficult, you can speak to any of the ministers about assistance for Wednesday Night Supper.

Meals provided by The TP Experience:

September 27 - Chicken Alfredo / Salad / Garlic Bread / Vegetables

October 4 - No fellowship meal or activities (except Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:30 PM)

[Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot. Payments can be made via cash or check as you arrive, but we also encourage paying ahead [here](#) (*Note: those with standing reservations can make payments for the whole month (or more!)*).

Fifth Friday Fellowship at Friday Church This Week!

Come join us at 6:30 for food and fellowship, then a wonderful service featuring the Aseye Ensemble directed by Charles Amewudah! The music is from Ghana, sung in Ewe and played on handmade drums and percussion instruments native to West Africa. This is a powerful celebration of God's presence from a new perspective. Come and be moved by the powerful, joyous sound as we sing along in a new language!

Anita Roper will bring the word as we gather for music and prayer. Bring friends and appetites!

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Mister Rogers walks into his television house, all mild-mannered and happy to see us. He assures us that it is a beautiful in the neighborhood. He changes into his homemade sweater and sneakers. The neighborhood is a place of greeting, learning, and social, spiritual development. Mr. Rogers also invites many diverse visitors into his home with an expansive welcome.



Mr. Rogers, a Presbyterian minister and well-known children's advocate, still has much to teach us about our neighbors. In our growing context of religious diversity, you may be curious about what it

means to pray to Allah with our Muslim siblings, or meditate alongside our Buddhist siblings, or pray with our Jewish siblings.

Rev. Dr. Tyler Mayfield will lead us in reflecting on the biblical and theological category of “neighbor” with special attention to the ministry of Fred Rogers. Together we will examine biblical passages like Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:25-37. Please plan to join us for 5 Wednesday evenings (October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15) to inquire together about just who our neighbors might be.

Soul Journal: Art, Poetry, Prose, and Prayer

Journaling exists for so many reasons—exploration, discernment, processing, or as an emotional outlet. In this class we will expand our journaling to prayerful soul-searching, self-discovery, and the wonder of beauty composition.

Through guided prompts that include reflection, poetry, and art, we will tap into one another’s creative interests as we seek to express the Divine Guidance which we know resides within us.



Lauren Jones Mayfield will borrow from what she learned during her sabbatical stay at the Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico as she guides participants through this soul journey experience.

When: Tuesday afternoons in October from 4:00pm-6:00pm (October 3, 10, 17, and 24)

Where: Highland Baptist Church, Room 200 (the 4th and 5th grade classroom)

Who: Anyone ages 16+

You will need to bring: 1 sketch book that lays flat when open, 1 brown paper grocery bag, good writing pens, scissors and glue sticks, and art supplies of your choosing.

Lauren recommends any of the following items: colored pencils, watercolors, pastels, crafting paper, pieces of nature, paint/brush markers, sharpies, felt tips, stamps, stickers, magazines for collage, etc. Really, bring whatever you enjoy working with, and we can share supplies as well. Preston Art Center and Target have so many of these items.

RSVP to [Lauren](#) ASAP! Space is limited to 15 individuals.

Cream of the Crop Day Retreat on October 19

The Cream of the Crop day retreat is just around the corner. We are excited that over 30 people have signed up. For your convenience, we will provide bus transportation to and from the retreat center. To "hitch a ride", meet in the church parking lot at 8:15 a.m. The bus will accommodate 12 riders on a first-come, first-serve basis. To make your bus reservation, please call or text David Wells at 502-931-2510 no later than September 30.

Twelve Days Toward Peace, 24-Hour Vigil

The Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion will host a 24-hour vigil for peace on Wednesday, September 27. You are invited to attend in-person or online.

I am so honored to be invited to represent Highland Baptist and share a guided meditation I created, during the Twelve Days Toward Peace 2023 24-Hour Vigil for Nonviolence at the Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion.

Please join me lifting the intention of peace from 12 noon to 1:00 PM this Wednesday, September 27. I will be sharing parts of the peace mediation I authored for the Peaceful Cities Project. You may listen to a recording [here](#).

I will also share a song in Hebrew from Psalms 133:1 "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!" and "You Are My Hiding place" by Michael Ledner.

If you would like to join in person, you may. The Drepung Gomang Center For Engaging Compassion is located at 411 North Hubbards Lane, Louisville, KY 40207. It will be most helpful to read guidance for first-time visitors [here](#) to show the utmost respect for our

hosts. Whether you are joining me from a distance or in person, let's embody peace together in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities and in our world.

שלום Peace,
~ Heidi Yost, Mission and Justice Ministry Group Member

TRIVIA NIGHT
WITH DESSERT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER FOR



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

7:00 PM

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
1225 E. Breckinridge Street

\$15.00 per person, teams of up to 8.
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT hbctrivia2023@gmail.com

HAVE A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
OR OTHER GROUP TEAM;
BRING YOUR FRIENDS; BRING YOUR TEAM;
COME HAVE FUN.

Contact Steve or Margie Brown with questions;
Contact Marilyn Whisler to donate a *dessert*.

Streaming Worship Links

Below are the links to stream the worship services each week at Highland.
Please bookmark them since they remain the same from week-to-week!



Sunday, 11:15 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

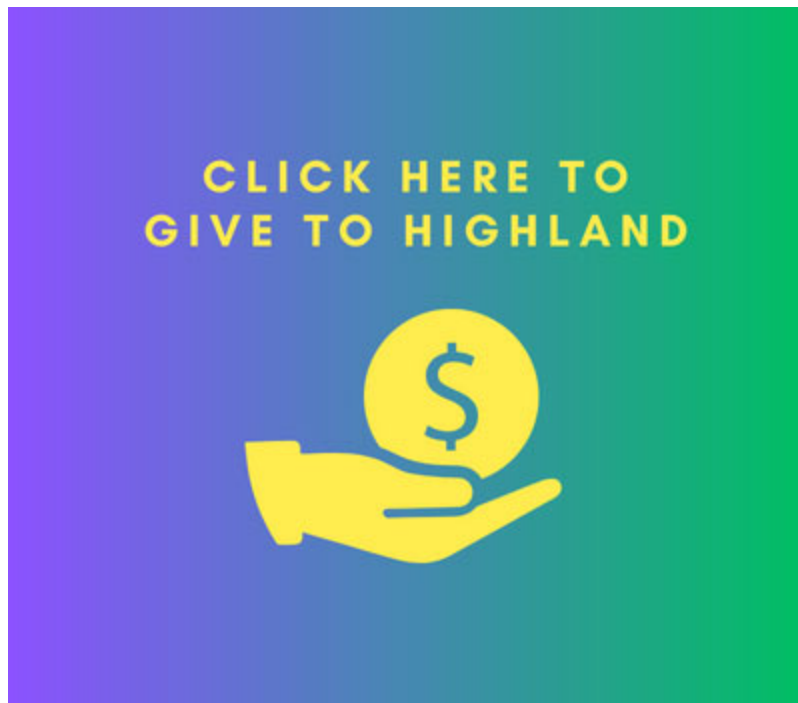
Friday, 7:00 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

Looking Ahead

- September 27: Morocco Partnership Update in the Fellowship Hall, 6:15 PM
- October 4 No Wednesday Evening activities (JCPS Fall Break) *with the exception of Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:30 PM*

- October 11 Cloud of Witnesses at 6:15 PM
 - October 13-15: Unstructured Women's Retreat at Loretto, contact [Ginger Miller](#)
 - October 13-15: Young Adult Fall Retreat, Red River Gorge
 - October 18: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" series with Tyler Mayfield at 6:15 PM
 - October 19: Cream of the Crop Day Retreat, Parklands at Floyd 's Fork
 - November 10-12 Youth Fall Retreat, Aldersgate
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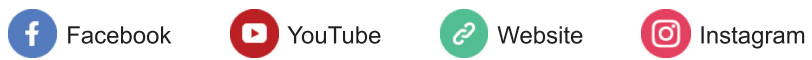
Louisville Homicides

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.

- Indrias Joseph, 68, killed June 26

- Victor Anderson, Sr., 59, killed September 18





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