

Highland Presbyterian Church

"SHARING HOPE FROM THE HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS"

JANUARY 2024

"...that your joy may be complete."

As I write this Christmastide is still upon us, and I'm full of gratitude for gifts offered this season at Highland. Liturgists from youth to sage blessed us with worship leadership, scripture read thoughtfully, candles lit in hope. Our children (with Rhonda's magnificent team shepherding them) retold how Jesus came into the world. Singers and instrumentalists heightened our Advent anticipation and then loosed joy into the Christmas Eve services. Artists gifted us with new banners and bulletin covers for the season. Scholars and poets helped us hear the ancient stories freshly.

Mary births Jesus, God bless her, away from any spotlight. Even as a newborn, though, Jesus becomes a gravitational center, someone who draws others in: animals, family, shepherds, magi. "Wise women also came," poet Jan Richardson reminded us. Jesus still does that — gathers us up into his community. That's another gift for which I thank God.

When we shared the Lord's Supper at the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service, I experienced the gift of looking into each face as I served the bread. Catching eyes in that brief moment, I saw your shining faces, families regathered, connections both human and spiritual. God's presence winds its way through the centuries — from the Bethlehem stable to faithful hearts congregating in Christ's name even now, even here.

And here and now it's 2024. We don't know what this new year will bring. Stilling of gunfire or more violence? Competency or chaos in our political system? Newly serious efforts to reduce environmental disaster? A renewed sense of missional direction for Highland Presbyterian Church?

We do know that both joys and griefs will abound. Through it all we walk together as Christ's people. The communion meal we share is one sign of his generous renewing power. Our church has been exploring and learning about this sacrament that's also called the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." In early fall last year we celebrated the Lord's Supper every Sunday for six weeks, and thereafter the session led us to celebrate it on the first and third Sundays of each month. This month our elected elders again will reflect on what we've experienced, and will guide us in setting a communion schedule for the new year.

I also look forward to convening soon an adult education event about the Lord's Supper. We'll look at the history and theology of this ancient Christian practice, and talk about what it can be for us now. Each of us brings our distinct experiences with the sacrament, along with the preferences we have cultivated — and still we can be surprised, transformed as a community when we serve each other in this way.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus invites his friends to share this meal with him, and directs them to keep sharing it with each other to remember his life and his death. Then Jesus offers a long farewell speech, empowering his friends with divine love for life together after he's gone. One of my favorite verses is John 15:11, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." Thanks be to God for that gift, and for all the others.

In Christ's peace and joy,



Nolan Huizenga





Session Summary

Report from the December 2023 Session Meeting

From Property: The Session approved the allocation of up to \$65,000 from the Memorial Fund for new carpet in the chapel, new carpet for Fellowship Hall, new carpet for the back hall to the restrooms and to the interior sanctuary entrance, and new flooring (vinyl or slate) for the tiled floor at the Highland Avenue (choir room) entrance.

How many



can you find
in this
January issue
of the HPC newsletter?

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Mission and Service



Dare to Care Food Bank

Dare to Care Mobile Food Pantries: We give great thanks for our on-going relationships with our Dare to Care Food Pantries! We help provide volunteers for two separate food pantries each month. Portland Avenue Community Trust is located at 2508 Portland Ave and Grace Hope (Smoketown) is located at 702 E Breckinridge St. This month, the food pantries will take place on **Tuesday, January 2**

(Portland) at 9:45 am and **Tuesday, January 16** (Smoketown) at 1:30 pm. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity because you only have to give an hour to make a big difference in someone's life. As a volunteer, you will be handing out the food that Dare to Care provides. It's a wonderful way to get to know people in other parts of town and provide a service that is greatly needed.

A Co-Sponsor Christmas! Over the last four months, our refugee co-sponsorship team has been meeting regularly with the Khual family to help them through their transition of moving to America. On Saturday, December 16th, our team assembled at the Khual family apartment to carry out our closure meeting (ending our formal co-sponsor role with the family) and to celebrate their success. The family expressed gratitude for all that we have been able to provide. Team members brought food and gifts for all the family members. (Here's a photo of father and the 2 boys in their new blazers.) This family has a strong bond and capacity to care and love. The father has been working for 3 weeks so far and the boys report doing very well in school, even getting recognition for how good they are performing. We are grateful for the ways this church has cared for the Khual family from the airport entry, the gathering and sorting of household goods and furniture, the apartment cleaning and furniture placement, the meals provided, the visits, the weekly English teaching, the trips to buy clothing for the boys, the contributions of coats and Christmas gifts and keeping them in hearts and minds. Thanks for being part of this HPC mission of service.



Nursery and Weekday School

Happy New Year from the Highland Presbyterian Church Nursery & Weekday School! We hope you have a happy and healthy new year. The Nursery & Weekday School will be returning from our winter break on January 8th. We look forward to our spring semester together, continuing what we've started: forming strong relationships with one another, exploring new materials, building more and more onto the foundation of knowledge that is already in place, and refining our skills of how to live together in this world. Each day provides practice for new skills and opportunities for growth. As teachers, these moments enrich our lives and inspire us to remain engaged in the learning process right alongside the children.

It's enrollment time at the Nursery & Weekday School! If you and your child would like to join our learning community we hope you will complete an enrollment application and return it to our office **no later than January 15th, 2024**. [Applications can be found on our website](#) and once completed, email director@hpcweekdayschool.org. We hope to hear from you!



January Birthdays

If we ever forget your birthday, or we have it wrong, please let us know!

Jan 1: Linda Harris
Nicole Allen
Jan 3: Emily McLaren
Jan 5: Karen Hauck
Chase Troy
Katy Troy
Will Troy
Lyn Ghiselin
Jan 7: Heide Blackburn Helmers
Eve Parsons
Oliver Watkins
Jan 8: Doll Crockett
Jan 9: Anne Bironas
Jan 11: Dennis Burke
Jan 12: Oliver Gulick
Ruth Chaffins
David Phelps
Jan 13: Kimberly Porter
Grady Stevens
Andrew Vonberg
Jo Frizzo
Jan 14: Terry Fontenot
Langston Bartley
Catherine Barrick
Jan 15: Brian Hall
Steve Rungwerth
Jan 16: Annie Owens
Ben wood
Margaret Mahaffey
Olivia Wagner
Jan 17: Tom Johnson
Diego Bajandas
Irla Grise
Jan 18: Keller Mobley
John Riddick
Elizabeth Murphy
Anne Prince
Jan 19: Thomas Witt

Jan 20: Jack Ashworth
Evan Page
Brandi Miller
Jan 22: Zoe Peterworth
Jan 23: Molly Dobbins
David Tillett
Edward Tillett
Rachel Lacer
Rebecca Mead
Jan 24: Judson Devlin
Cindy Holmes
Gordon Thomas
Jan 25: David Jones
Craig Siegenthaler
Daphne Bartley

Jan 27: Laura Devlin
Nate Jones
Carita Warner
Shirley Wicklander
Jan 28: Boone Adams
Malissa Taylor
Anne Shafer
Jan 29: Eliza Anderson
Jack McClellan
Betty Smith
Jan 30: Nancy Owen
Jeff Barrick
Charlie Adams



Sanctuary Flowers

The donation of sanctuary flowers is a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one, while brightening up the chancel during Sunday morning worship. If you would like to dedicate flowers, contact Kathleen Poole at the church office (502) 451-2910. She will let you know what dates are available, and note how you want the dedication worded. Thank you!



Children's News



Dear God,
Thank you for all the exciting things this New Year will bring. Thank you for the chance to make changes. Please help me to set realistic goals and remind me to keep trying even when I fail. Thank you that you give me a fresh start every day. I know you are beside me to cheer me on. Thank you for this new year. Amen.

Spreading Christmas Cheer at Nazareth Home

The ROOTS group caroled their hearts out and wished Merry Christmas to the residents of Nazareth Home. One resident, HPC member Betty Smith, is pictured below.



Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, choir directors and helpers who worked with the children to make our Christmas Pageant possible: Nanc, Suzanne, Kimberlee, Edward, Alice, Patricia, Carolyn, Ginny, Jane, Vini, Noa, Helen, Morel, Martha, Evelyn, Nancy, Mary Lynn, Becky, Sallie, Gordon, Rhys, Lisa, and Sheila.



And special thanks to our Youth Narrators, Catie and Will, to Ann for organizing our costumes and props, and to our staff and church family for supporting our children as they lead worship.

Sunday School Help Needed



There are a few Children's Sunday classes from January through May whose lead teachers need helpers. If you are willing to take one or more of these weeks, please contact Rhonda and she will let you know the available dates. Help is needed in both the 1st and 2nd grade and the 3rd-5th grade classes.

Youth News

Important Youth Program Dates for 2024

- Trivia Night — February 4th
- Confirmation Sunday — February 25th
- All-Church Spirituality Center Night — March 3rd
- Senior Recognition Sunday — May 19th
- High School Montreat — June 9th – 15th
- Middle School Montreat — July 17th – 21st



Greetings and Happy New Year from the Youth APNC Committee!



We have been working diligently on candidate interviews and feel we have had some wonderful candidates come through. We have seen a wide range of experience and excitement for Highland's Youth Program. We have had referrals from various sources, the Presbyterian CLC system as well as personal word of mouth references. We will be starting some second interviews in January and look forward to bringing you more good news in the New Year.

Music Ministry

Interested in being a part of the music ministry? Check out the information below to see how you can share your talents. Music is a gift we all possess so join us! We would love for you to be part of the sounds of Highland!

CHANCEL CHOIR

Come sing with us! All are welcome, and we'd love to have you be a part of the music ministry. Singing in choir is a great place to meet new people and become a part of a rich history of our church. We meet Thursdays at 7pm in the choir room. Childcare can be provided for rehearsals, if needed, please contact me vini.frizzo@hpclouisville.org prior to coming with your child.

Thursday, January 11th is our first rehearsal of the year!

Choir Retreat will be in Clifty Falls from February 2-4. If you haven't filled out your forms, please do so and return them to Todd Brown. Please be sure to add these dates to your calendar:

March 24th, Palm Sunday

March 29th, Good Friday

March 31st, Easter Sunday

Our last Sunday of the program year will be May 19th, which is Pentecost Sunday.

First Sunday of Summer Choir will begin June 2nd.

HIGHLAND RINGERS

Highland Presbyterian Church is a proud owner of a 5-octave Malmark Bellcraftsmen set of hand bells as well as a 3-octave set of hand chimes. Highland Ringers meets weekly on Sundays at 1:30pm in the sanctuary. If you are interested in ringing, please contact me at vini.frizzo@hpclouisville.org.

Sunday, January 7th is our first rehearsal of the year!

Sunday, January 28th is bell maintenance party. We'll meet same time and place but will learn how to do some yearly maintenances. Remember, many hands make work light, and this is an important step to learning more about our instruments.

Please note that there will be NO REHEARSALS on the following dates:

February 4th (Choir Retreat) March 31st (Easter Sunday) April 28th (Cedar Ridge) May 12th (Mother's Day)

This year, I would like us to have more of a role during the season of Lent. Therefore, we will play in all the Sunday services of Lent (much like we did in Advent). Please mark in your calendars the following dates of services.

February 18th, Lent 1B

March 3rd, Lent 2B

March 10th, Lent 3B

March 17th, Lent 4B

March 24th, Palm Sunday

March 29th, Good Friday

March 31st, Easter Sunday

HPC ORCHESTRA

Do you play an instrument? If so, HPC Orchestra is always looking for folks to play with us. Think about it! We have loads of fun! Interested in playing? We tailor the music to fit everyone's level.

So come talk to me or shoot me an email, vini.frizzo@hpclouisville.org.

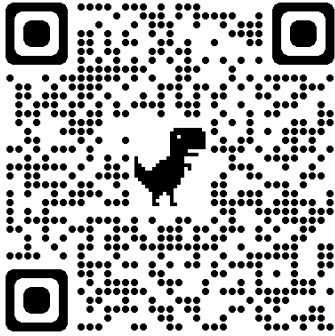
- We will play in the service of April 21st, Good Shepherd Sunday
 1. Deadline to participate will be Sunday, February 18th.
 2. Parts will be distributed the week of March 11th. Letting me know by February 18th is critical so I can write you a part by March 11th.
 3. Rehearsal will be Tuesday, April 16th at 7pm.
 4. Warm up on the day of the service, April 21st, will be at 10am on the button.

Stewardship



"Let your generosity be the spark that ignites endless possibilities for generations to come." – Oprah Winfrey

Join us in imagining the endless opportunities through your generous pledge for 2024. Scan the QR code to make your commitment today!

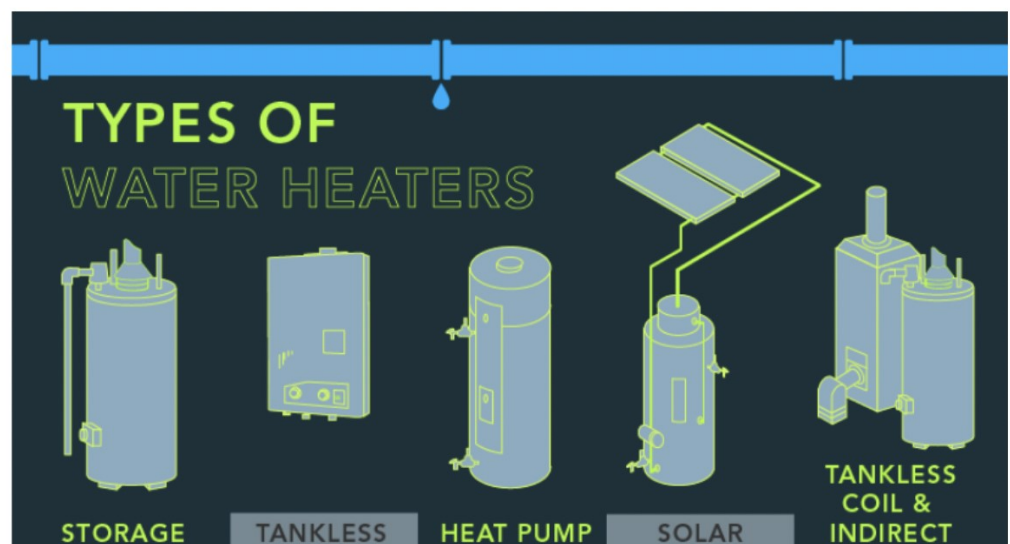


Giving just got easier, whether it's a regular donation or a one-time event. This QR Code will take you to a selection of 18 different categories that allow you to donate. You can also go to the Highland Presbyterian Website (hpclouisville.org) and click on "give" at the top of the page. Either method will take you to the following giving categories; **Pledge Payment**, Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser, Gift, Community Relief, KRM – Music for a Purpose, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Rapier Fund – Worship, Memorial Fund Gift, Grace Children Scholarship Fund, Kevin Youth Scholarship Fund, PCUSA – One Great Hour of Sharing, PCUSA Pentecost, PCUSA – Peace & Global Witness, PCUSA – Christmas Joy Offering, Youth Postcards, Youth Activities, Youth Summer Trips, Advance Pledge, Capital Campaign Pledge.

Environmental Stewardship

Energy efficient water heaters

A water heater typically uses 20 percent of a home's energy, the second highest energy expense in your home. When it's time to replace a water heater, there are two practical energy saving options: a heat pump water heater or a tankless water heater. A **heat pump water heater** pays back replacement costs in saved energy in two to four years (depending on whether it replaces a gas or electric water heater), the fastest return on any energy saving home appliance. Heat pump water heaters are sometimes called hybrid water heaters indicating they have back-up resistance water heating to cover peak use periods. A **tankless water heater** takes much longer to pay for itself but is 24 to 34 percent more energy-efficient than a storage tank water heater. Usually both tankless and heat pump water heaters can be installed in the same location as your current water heater. Tax credits are offered for both choices. As in any major purchase, personal preference and home layout need to be taken into account before purchasing a new energy efficient water heater. Investigate your options before you buy.



Fellowship

Men's Pub Night - A group of men will be gathering on **Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00pm** for a beverage and some good conversation at TEN20 Craft Brewery at 1020 E. Washington St. Plenty of socially distanced outdoor seating. Come join us. No agenda, just conversation in good company. If you would like to be added to the list for announcements about the upcoming men's pub nights, please email Ralph Bowling at ralbow87@gmail.com.



Attention Bridge Players: Highland hosts bridge on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm. If you would like to be included on our player list, please call or email Patti Pinkley at patti.pinkley@gmail.com or 419.1003. **Meets January 4 at 1:00pm.**

WINGS - meets **Monday, January 8 at 6:30 pm**. All women of the church are invited! Contact Kathy O'Hearn at kathyreed330@gmail.com for more information.

ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS: The HPC book club returns! We will begin meeting again the last Monday evening of the month at 7pm in Memorial Lounge. Our first meeting will be January 29, 2024. Our book for January features a Highland member's book. We will discuss *Bogustan* by David Grise. The book is sold by Amazon for both Kindle and in print. We will be reading at least four books during 2024 by Highland authors. As a group we will select other books for our reading pleasure and discussion. Contact Patti Pinkley at patti.pinkley@gmail.com or phone 502.419.1003 if you have questions or need more information. Hope to see you on **Monday, January 29 at 7pm!**

Wednesday Night Dinner - January 17th - This month, our Wednesday night dinner will take place Wednesday, January 17th. Dinner and fellowship starts at 5:00 pm in the dining room. Come enjoy good food, and good fellowship! RSVP to Kathleen in the church office by noon Monday, January 15th.

Discover Highland - If you are interested in joining Highland or learning more about who we are and what we do - we are hosting Discover Highland (our inquiry class) on **Sunday, January 21st** following worship. We will meet in the Session Room (which is across the street in the KRM building.) We can meet in the fellowship hall and walk over together so no one gets lost! There will be lunch and childcare provided; the class should run about an hour. If you have any questions or desire to attend, please let Megan McCarty know by email: megan@hpclouisville.org.



In Other News

Are you making New Year's Resolutions??? We'd like to ask you to add one more to your list.

"Make Reservations for Church food events!" We were thrilled with the attendance and response to the Advent luncheon and workshop, but we only had reservations for 40 people. We planned for 80. And at least 110 people ate lasagna, salad, French bread and ice cream. It's really hard to plan events when we have NO IDEA how many will attend. We love preparing meals and enjoying this fellowship, but we really need your help. Please make reservations with Kathleen in the church office. XOXOXO – Kitchen Committee

Crafty Spirit Contemplative Arts Circle - Join Angie Andriot for a creative and inspiring journey at the January Vision Board Workshop! Set your intentions for the year ahead by crafting a personalized vision board using paints, magazine cutouts, and a variety of other materials. I'll provide all the basic supplies, but feel free to bring any magazines or scrapbooking items you'd like to include in your masterpiece. No artistic experience is required, just a willingness to explore and express your dreams. Date: **Wednesday, January 24th**. Time: 6pm. Location: Pleune-Mobley Classroom 111. Contact: angieandriot@gmail.com or 765.760.4569. This event is free, but if you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$20 or so to help pay for arts & crafts supplies - or just to support Crafty Spirit - you can do so here on Highland's website. We can't wait to see the beautiful visions you'll create!



InkWELL Contemplative Writer's Circle - This is a space to come together with other writers to support one another and reflect on the writing life. It is not a critique group. We will discuss our projects, how we are organizing our time, what challenges and joys we encounter in our writing, and what our writing brings up for us. Date: **Thursday, January 18 @ 6:30-8:30pm**. Location: Pleune-Mobley Classroom 111. Contact: angieandriot@gmail.com or 765.760.4569.

Crafty Spirit is part of PC(USA) 1001 New Worshiping Communities and supported by Highland Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, January 14, join us for a luncheon after church to hear how HPC's \$500,000 loan to Housing Partnership Inc. (HPI) is helping to provide affordable home ownership in West Louisville. Andrew Hawes, President of HPI, and others from HPI, will explain how Highland's loan is funding the Beyond Ninth Street Initiative, building and rehabilitating single family homes for sale to people of color on the west side of Louisville. For more information, contact Ken Burgess (502) 439-1558. Please make reservations with Kathleen in the church office.

We are Hiring

We're hiring an energetic, experienced person to serve as Facilities Manager! The Facilities Manager will be responsible for oversight and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, equipment, building systems, general security, and housekeeping on our campus. Those interested in applying can find specific details about qualifications and responsibilities on the church website and should submit a cover letter and résumé via email to louisvillehpc@gmail.com.

We are also hiring a Director of Children and Family Ministries! Check this link to the position description: <https://hpcloouisville.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2023/11/HPC-Childrens-Ministry-Director-Description-10-2023.pdf>.

And we are hiring a Director of Ministry with Youth and Families OR Associate Pastor for Youth and Families . Check this link for more information about the position: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DiryBA0-wPuGBLptIVqBn6vHYYIdIER26cGHIh9rxjE/edit?usp=sharing>.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sun.: 9:30 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 1:30 - Highland Ringers 5:00 – Middle School Youth Grp 6:30 – High School Youth Grp Mon.: 12:30 – Staff Meeting (Jan 2, 8, 16, 22, 29) Tues.: 10:00 - STITCH (not the 2 nd)						
Weekly Meetings: Wed.: 1:00 – Ministerial Staff Meeting 6:00 – Children’s Music Ministry (not the 3 rd) Thurs.: 10:00 – STITCH (not the 4 th) 10:00 – WOW 7:00 – Chancel Choir (not the 4 th)						
	1 <i>New Year’s Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 9:45 PACT Mobile Pantry 5:30 Fellowship	3 6:30 Church in the World	4 1:00 Bridge Club	5	6
7 3:30 Roots	8 6:30 WINGS	9 4:00 Property Committee 4:30 Personnel Committee 7:00 Men’s Pub	10 3:30 Earthcare Committee 5:30 Worship Committee	11	12	13 9:00 HPC Work-day
14 12:15 HPI Presentation	15 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 5:00 Finance Committee	16 1:30 Smoketown Mobile Pantry	17 9:15 NWS Board Meeting 5:00 Wednesday Night Dinner 6:15 Session	18 6:30 InkWell Writers Group	19	20
21 12:15 Children SS Teachers’ Lunch 12:15 Discover Highland 3:30 Roots	22	23	24 6:00 Crafty Spirit Arts Circle	25 5:30 Deacons	26	27
28 12:15 Annual Meeting	29 7:00 Book Club	30	31			



Highland Presbyterian Church

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Louisville, KY 40204

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January 2024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday,
January 28th
12:15 p.m.**



Join us on Sunday, January 28th following worship for our Annual Meeting! We will celebrate the great work of this last year and dream together who we want to be as a congregation going forward. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Meeting should start around 12:15 and last about an hour. Please make reservations with Kathleen in the office.