

My friends, let's choose joy today!



Living With Purpose

William F. Holland Jr., DD., C.E.D.D.

I'm honored to have the opportunity to share my heart each week. The messages lately have given us some things to think about, as God's word brings us into a reverential fear and awareness of His presence. Many different types of people read faith columns, including some who are not openly religious, but are curious spectators. I respect

your caution and where you are in your journey, and hope you will consider the Bible passages. For those who confess Christ as their Lord, our walks are at different levels of passion as the spiritual fires burn at various degrees within us. Some of you watch the news and browse the internet to see what's happening in the world, while others have decided that listening to the tsunami of opinions, speculations, and conspiracy theories is taking a toll on their blood pressure and are determined to step away to keep their minds and their conscience as clear and clean as possible. Which, by the way, I sincerely respect you. Whatever the case, we realize that wherever we are, absorbing negative knowledge weighs heavily on our emotions and well-being.

Yes, truth seekers are relentless because they want

to know what's going on, and that's good, right? They do not want to be deceived, and I can perfectly relate to this way of thinking. However, we seldom consider that much of what we hear is not accurate. Misinformation has become like a plague, and among the many reasons people spew rumors, we can agree that careless gossip comes from a lack of concern and the absence of integrity. The root of slander includes being offended, which is directly associated with falling into a snare trap of hatred and misery. People are paid for their videos, as the general goal is to gain popularity and hopefully go viral. But politics is like the old cycle of he says, she says. We do not positively know what they are saying is true, and we also do not know if it is, or at least a portion of it. So what's the answer? Ephesians 4:29-32 is a great

place to start. I know some of you are thinking that we should be like a watchman on the walls, sounding the alarm, and blowing the trumpet to warn the people of danger. I understand, and considered myself as God's messenger, but here is the key: Standing for truth is one thing, but spreading things that might be tainted with deception is another. Besides, if we spend more time dwelling on how evil the world is, we are becoming lopsided in our responsibility to allow God's light to shine within us. We are filled with light because Christ is greater than sin, but we decide how much of His light is released. He is not focused or depressed about rampant wickedness, and neither should we. The inspiration here is that God knows all about it, and one day soon, He will create new heavens and a new earth. It's

easy to be consumed with discouragement, but it takes faith to climb out of this snare trap and stand firmly in what God has promised. Pause a moment to read Philippians 4:8; it's a step to renewing the mind and living in peace. Our point this week is that we all need a large daily dose of hope. The more darkness we listen to and absorb, the more unsteady and powerless we become. In Nehemiah chapter eight, Ezra the priest spoke refreshing words of the Lord to the people, and as they were weeping, he encouraged them to enjoy God's goodness and reminded them that the joy of the Lord was their strength. The enemy of our souls has a simple but devastating scheme to distract God's people from His truth, which makes them physically, mentally, and spiritually free. This freedom is a divine spiritual contentment that passes

natural understanding. Psalm 62:5-6, "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly, he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." So, let us "choose" joy today! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, the nature and character of a spirit-filled life, and the heart of our personal relationship with Jesus. When we are worried, upset, angry, and disheartened, we drift into depression and hopelessness. Can you see Satan's strategy? How can we represent God when we are filled with doubt, fear, and confusion? Allow Psalm 42:11 and Romans 15:4-6 to fill your heart with confidence and hope.

(Dr. Holland is an ordained Christian minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com)

Hburg

from 1A

Michael Hayman, an internationally known author and naturalist, will present "Trees for Urban Sites," offering a look at trees and their role in urban environments.

Residents can learn what not to do when caring for trees during the aptly named "How to Kill a Tree" training Wednesday, Oct. 14, at noon at the University of Kentucky Extension Office. UK Extension Horticulturist Jessica Bessin will lead the program, focusing on common mistakes and ways residents can help young trees thrive. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch.

Tree Week moves outdoors Thursday, Oct. 15, with "The Big Spring Tree Walk and Volunteer Tree Care." Beginning at 5 p.m. at the Big Spring, participants will take a walk, learn about native trees and lend a hand caring for the important natural area.

Local activities conclude Saturday, Oct. 17, with a volunteer tree planting at Anderson Dean Community Park. Beginning at 10 a.m., volunteers will plant a grove of ginkgo trees.

Those taking part are encouraged to bring a shovel, gloves and a post driver if they have one. Volunteers should park near the basketball courts.

Organizers are emphasizing community participation throughout the celebration with the theme, "Plant, Learn, Explore, Grow." All of the events are free and open to the public, and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the planting and tree-care activities.

Tree Week is celebrated statewide Oct. 9-18, focusing on appreciating and protecting Kentucky's trees and urban forests.

Board

from 1A

Since 2021, total revenue for the district has increased from \$23.6 million to \$35.8 million while total expenditures have increased from \$21.1 million to \$30.4 million, according to the working budget.

In August, the school board unanimously approved a general fund tax levy of 69.9 cents on real property—0.6 cents lower than the prior year—and 70.5 cents on personal property—1.4 cents lower than the prior year.

The Kentucky Department of Education must review the budget.

The school board's budget process has three steps: the draft budget is due for review by Jan. 31 by law, the board must approve the tentative budget by May 30, and the working budget must be approved by Sept. 30.

Chief Finance Officer Amber Minor also gave her monthly report at Thursday's meeting. Minor told the board that year-to-date actual revenue in August was \$12.2 million, a five percent increase over last year.

"We are moving in the right direction," Minor told the board.

On the expense side, year-to-date actuals through August were \$2.8 million,

an 11 percent increase over last year. Minor said August contains the first major payroll of the fiscal year. Minor said the district recorded a \$9.4 million ending balance, an 11 percent increase over last year.

Minor said the district's finances were on track.

The school board met at the new Mercer County Elementary School, where they heard a report from MCES Principal Nekita Johnson.

"Every student in our school is in our house," said Johnson, who took the board members through a PowerPoint presentation, showing them the cafeteria and gym as well as classrooms including music, arts, STEAM, and first grade, second grade, and preschool.

"All of our preschoolers are in," said Johnson, who said the move from the old school "was really smooth."

"This is probably the toughest summer transition," said Superintendent Jason Booher. "I appreciate all the work she did this summer."

Booher said students and teachers loved the new school, as well as its audio enhancement system, which he said saved teachers' voices.

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AREA CHURCH NEWS

Bruner's Chapel Church

REFIT®, a cardio dance program, meets at Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church's community building on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. These classes are free and open to the public. Class also meets at the Christian Activities Center on Chiles St. on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for \$3 per class. Text 859-613-3481 for more information.

The Bruner's Chapel Cemetery is requesting donations for mowing and maintenance. Donations can be sent to Bruner's Chapel Church, 5346 Mackville Rd., Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

Mt. Hebron Cemetery

Mt. Hebron Cemetery in Dugansville is requesting donations for mowing and maintenance. Checks can be made payable to Mt. Hebron Cemetery Association, Ruth Ann Conover, 902 Wheatfield Rd., Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

Isaiah House Treatment Center

The Isaiah House Treatment Center has open beds for men with Kentucky Medicaid. Call admissions at 859-375-9200.

The Lisa Walker Center has open beds for women struggling with addiction. Call 859-375-9200.

Church Directory

St. Barnabas Church of the Encourager

312 S Main St
We are a home church with a focus on relationships & living our Faith. We are liturgical, evangelical & charismatic.
(859) 734-3377
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church

2782 Harrodsburg Rd.
859-481-2664
Rev. Jordan A. Simpson
Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
"Hebrews 13:5"

Harrodsburg United Methodist Church

128 South Chiles Street
859-734-3704
Rev. Sylvia Baker-Noren
In-person worship services 11 a.m. in sanctuary
Worship services can also be viewed on our Facebook page

Fellowship Baptist Church

481 Cornishville Street
Residing in His Presence
Reigning in His Power
Resting in His Peace
Pastor Lynn Releford
(270.562.4097)
Fellowshipbaptist.life
Sun. 11am & 6pm & Wed. 6pm

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

131 Short St.,
(859) 734-3569
www.stphilipsharrodsburg.org
The Rev. Jim Winborn
Sunday Services 10 am
All are welcome!

Tim Murphy's Hair Company

734-2591
Paul Mitchell, Nioxin, Bare Minerals
861 S. College Street
Harrodsburg

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Our Changing Lives



Each new season reminds us that we can't hold onto time...how do we let go of one season and successfully move onto the next? We can share the joys and sorrows with others on the same journey. With help, we can embrace each phase of our life and prepare for the next. God's wisdom can guide us through our seasons and help us be prepared. Worship at His house this week and find fellowship and faith to help you on your way.

Weekly Scripture Reading

1 Cor. 1:1-17	1 Cor. 1:18-31	Proverbs 8:1-36	Proverbs 9:1-18	Proverbs 10:1-32	Proverbs 13:1-25	Proverbs 14:1-35
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United Presbyterian Church

Rev. John White
326 South Main Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
www.upcharrodsburg.org
734-4710
Sunday service 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

The Carpenter's Christian Church

1340 US Hwy. 127
Senior Minister Greg Warren
734-0670
www.carpenterschristian.church
Sunday School 10 am
Sun. Morning Worship: 8:30 & 11 am
See website calendar for Sunday evening schedules
Wed. Small Groups

Harrodsburg Community Church

1501 Danville Rd.
859-734-3036
Pastor Terry Morrison
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Wednesday 7 pm
A church with life in the spirit.
Ministering God's healing grace.

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

Corinthians 14:25-27

Harrodsburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Micki McHugh
Senior Minister
305 South Main Street
734-3224
Sunday School 9:30 am
Fellowship 10:15-10:30 am
Family Worship Service 10:30 am

Mercer Church of Christ

1200 Louisville Road
Sun. Morning Bible Study 9:30 am
Sun. Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
Wed. Bible study 7 pm

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