



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church November 25, 2025

Please Note: The church office will be closed this Thursday & Friday for Thanksgiving

Office Schedule

December

Mon-Wed - office open 9 am to 5 pm
Thu - office open 9 am to 1 pm
Fri - OFFICE CLOSED

December 24, 25, 26

OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas

December 31

Office open from 9 am to 1 pm

January 1

OFFICE CLOSED



Report on 2025 Budget Vote

By an overwhelming majority, Highland's 2026 Budget was approved in the vote held last weekend.

~ Walter McWhorter



Join Us for Advent at Highland!



**Out of the Blue engages the theme of surprise.
We are surprised by mercy, new beginnings, wild growth,
love in the face of violence, and a baby in the manger.**

Please note that during the Advent and Christmas season we will offer one Sunday worship service each week at 11:15 AM. We will resume our regular Sunday schedule on January 4.

Sunday, November 30—Hope Sunday

First Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Join us as we begin a new liturgical year and this year's theme, *Out of the Blue*. Links to our Advent devotions will be emailed each morning, beginning this Sunday.

Hanging of the Green, 6:00 PM

We will gather at 6:00 PM to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries (throw-size blankets and \$25 gift cards to Kroger, Walmart, and Target) or final donations for La Casita. The service will be followed by a church-wide holiday reception in Fellowship Hall. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.*

Tuesday, December 2

Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth from 6:00-8:00 PM at La Casita. All ages are invited to join. Contact [Renee Purtlebaugh](#) to RSVP.

Sunday, December 7—Peace Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Peace Sunday is our time to remember those in our city who have been killed by acts of violence. We will read each name aloud, and place crosses on the front lawn as an act of remembrance and a call to action in our community.

Children's Advent Service, 6:00 PM

Children's voices and the ringing of bells are a highlight of the season! Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children's Handbell Choir—ages 3 through 5th grade. Cookies and milk reception to follow. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.*

Wednesday, December 10

Families with Children Hot Chocolate Night

Join us for pizza, hot chocolate bar, and games from 5:30-7:00 PM at Highland!

Sunday, December 14—Joy Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra presenting glorious music of the season.

Wednesday, December 17

Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM

This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music includes a choral ensemble. *Childcare available by reservation only for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting [Megan Fuller](#) to RSVP.*

Friday, December 19

Join us as we sing the carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM! We will end the service with candlelight.

Youth Christmas Party

Youth are invited to gather for the Christmas Party at the home of Kathey and Mark Golightly Sanders from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Contact [John Kubar](#) to RSVP.

Sunday, December 21—Love Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Longest Night Service, 6:00 PM

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, or a life transition, all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year. *Childcare available by reservation only for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting [Megan Fuller](#) to RSVP.*

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth! Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Sunday, December 28

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM

Join us for this casual worship service and enjoy singing beloved Christmas carols. Please note Bible study classes will not meet. We will resume our regular Sunday schedule on January 4.



Sacred Space Campaign Update

Dear Highland,

We write to share an exciting update on our Sacred Space capital campaign. Much has been happening in 2025! As of February, we had \$1.4 million toward our project and today that total has grown to **\$3.3 million!**

As a reminder, the project is expected to cost **\$3.8 million**, and that remains our target. To date, we have received:

- **\$1,668,018** from congregational contributions
- **\$1,312,414** from state and federal tax credits
- **\$312,620** from the sale of 2120 Grinstead Drive

To reach our goal (and get out of debt!) we still need \$506,948. If all current pledges are fulfilled, we expect to receive up to \$399,104, leaving \$107,844 still to be raised.

As you can see, we are close! We need everyone to complete their pledges, and we are hopeful for some additional funds to come from generous givers (maybe you?!).

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Finance Ministry Group.

Thank you for your generosity,
~ Drew Harston, Justin Boldt, Andrea Hunt, Lauren Swim, Rick Holtmeier,
Susan Pierce, Tracy Holladay, Robert Davis, and staff liaison, Chris Caldwell



Holiday Giving Opportunities at Highland

The Louisville Solidarity Project

This project collects needed items and shuttles them where they are needed using nothing but willing folks. Highland has named itself a willing partner, and is collecting donations as long as the need exists. The Anti-Racism Team has a large list of items that are being collected for local high schoolers, and if you want a copy of the long list feel free to reach out to any member of our team. We are focusing on collecting the items that are most requested: dried beans, bags of rice, diapers, and menstrual pads.

Highland Community Ministries



Highlands
Community
Ministries

grow. heal. play.

This season, our congregation is proud to partner with Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) and other Highland congregations to bring warmth and joy to families in need. Our goal is to contribute to HCM's mission by collecting gift cards and cozy throw blankets — with a collective target of 500 gift cards and a blanket for every family.

We're excited to be part of this meaningful effort, and we invite you to join us in making a difference! Donations will be collected on Sunday, November 30, during the Hanging of the Green service.

Specific items needed:

- \$25 gift cards for Kroger, Target, or Walmart
- NEW throw-sized blankets

La Casita



La Casita is collecting household necessity items to support the Resource Day they will host in early December. The Immigration Team would like to celebrate that we have received 198 of the 200 rolls of toilet paper requested by La Casita for our Holiday Drive! We have also collected 76 out of 100 bars of soap! The deadline for bringing donations is the Hanging of the Green service on November 30 at 6:00 pm. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our immigrant neighbors!

Families with children and youth will gather at La Casita on Tuesday, December 2, to sort and pack items that will be given out on the Resource Day. We'll gather from 6:00-8:00 PM, and pizza will be provided.

Items of greatest need:

- 100 tubes of deodorant
- 100 bottles of liquid dish soap (small size, 15-18ish ounces)
- 100 bottles of laundry detergent (small size, 30-35ish ounces)

[Link to Sign Up Genius for La Casita](#)

**Please place items for each of these organizations
in the appropriate labeled boxes in the Commons.**

Thank you!



Joining Highland on Sunday, November 30!

Have you considered joining Highland but weren't sure how to do so? Did you recently attend the Highlights Class and are ready to make your commitment to be part of Highland official? Have you wished someone else might join when you do, so that you aren't being introduced all on your own? If any of these describe you, on Sunday, November 30, you are invited to take the membership leap! During the Hymn of Response immediately following the sermon, you're invited to let the congregation know of your decision to become a full participant in this faith community with others who wish to do the same. We look forward to welcoming you! If you have any questions, please contact [Renee Purtlebaugh](#).

~ Renee Purtlebaugh



Hanging of the Green Reception



It's hard to believe, but our Hanging of the Green service is almost here! It's this Sunday, November 30 and the Hospitality Ministry Group needs your help! This is a fun event that needs church-wide participation to make it happen. We need help in the following ways:

- Decorating Sunday afternoon
- Bringing finger food that evening
- Setting food out during the Hanging of the Green service
- Cleaning up afterwards

If you can help in any of these areas, we would appreciate it! When people step in to help, it makes the event more personal and more holiday-ish! You can contact Marilyn Whisler at 502-262-2760 to find out how you can help or [click here](#) to sign up. Thank you for helping out!

~ Marilyn Whisler



At our Hanging of the Green service, we will collect items for organizations in our city to distribute during the holidays. One of these organizations is La Casita Center, which does good work with the immigrant community here in Louisville. We'll have pizza together at La Casita, followed by sorting and packing hygiene bags and other items they have for us to work with. It's a full-circle moment (of which there seem to be very few of!) where children can directly see where their donation ends up, and how it will be used to help someone else. Join us for whatever time you are able, and be sure to let us know you are planning to attend so we can have enough pizza!

[Click Here to RSVP](#)



Worship Ministry Group Decorates Highland



The Worship Ministry Group was hard at work this week making the sanctuary ready for the Advent season!



Friday Church News

On Friday night, Highland member John Sensbach played and sang a song he had written: “If I could sing a miracle of how we could be free, free from the chains that bind us, of the enemy. Hope is there for us, all of us.” John (and we the Friday Church community) celebrated the 12-year anniversary of John’s sobriety, as well as the anniversaries of all those walking the steps. What a wonderful reminder as live in a season of *Thanks*-giving, and we move into Advent and a season of new beginnings and *Hope*, even in the face of the improbable. Emmanuel (“God with us), one day at a time.





Cloud of Witness Series Continues on December 3



Bob Cunningham continues this remarkable series interviewing our beloved Highland "saints-in-process." Join us on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for Bob's conversation with David Swim, Amber Burke, and John Dickson.



Join Us for 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 [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at 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! Note that there is no Wednesday night dinner on November 26, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

December Menu:

December 3: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

Note that December 3 is our final Wednesday Night Dinner until January.



Chicago Spring Tour

Contact & Registration

Trip Coordinator:

Kim Henderson

Email: kim.henderson@fora.travel

Cell: 225-803-3197

Paul Henderson

pauleh@bclouisville.org

Cell: 225-803-3196

Highland Baptist Church

1101 Cherokee Rd

Louisville, KY 40204



American Gothic, Art Institute of Chicago

Quick Facts

Depart: Sun, Apr 19 at 1 PM (after church)

Return: Wed, Apr 22 (5 PM ET)

Hotel: Radisson Blu Aqua
(5 nights)

Transport: Deluxe Motor Coach
(312 Limo)

Includes:

- Daily breakfast
- River Architecture Cruise with Lunch
- Art Institute guided tour
- Frank Lloyd Wright home tour
- 3 Group Dinners (Welcome, Beatrix, Robert's)
- Walking Tour & Pedway Experience
- Taxes, tips & coordination



Highland Baptist Chicago Spring Tour

Art, Architecture & Friendship
in the Heart of Chicago

April 19–22, 2026

Contact [Paul Henderson](#) for complete information and brochure.

[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**

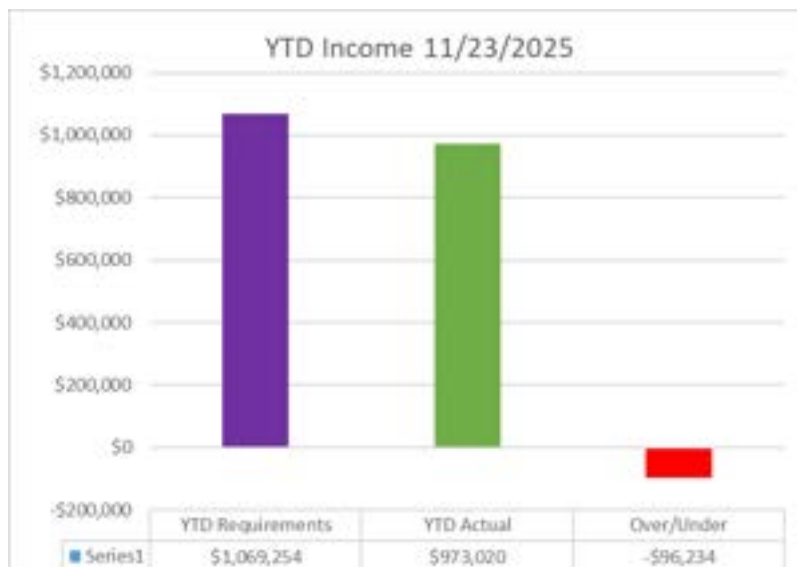


Looking Ahead

November 30:	First Sunday of Advent (Hope), 11:15 AM and Hanging of the Green service, 6:00 PM
December 2:	Sorting Soiree at La Casita, 6:00-8:00 PM
December 3:	Cloud of Witness, 6:00 PM
December 7:	Second Sunday of Advent (Peace), Crosses on the Lawn, 11:15 AM Children's Advent Service, 6:00 PM, Cookies and Milk Reception to follow
December 10:	Families with Children Hot Chocolate Night, 5:30-7:00 PM
December 14:	Third Sunday of Advent (Joy), Choir and Orchestra presentation, 11:15 AM
December 17:	Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM
December 19:	Friday Church sings the carols of Christmas; Youth Christmas Party, 5:00-8:00 PM
December 21:	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love), Longest Night Service, 6:00 PM
December 24:	Christmas Eve Services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM
December 28:	Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM; Bible study classes will not meet



Financial Reports



To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212 and open the link or use the QR code below.

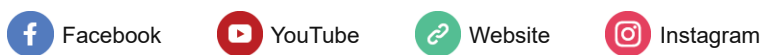




Louisville Homicides

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.

- Richard Kevin Jenkins, 76, killed November 5
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