



## The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church December 16, 2025

### 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



### Looking ahead with Gratitude and Hope

A couple Sundays ago, 12 adults, along with 5 children joined the fellowship of Highland Baptist Church. I'd like to offer a few quick thoughts on this blessed event.

- I hope you know how exceedingly rare this is in today's church. I doubt you could find another church of Highland's size that has had something like this happen this year.

- Renee welcomed them warmly and graciously, calling them all by name, and calling their children by name, without looking at any notes.
- The “Highlights Class” that provided information and ways to connect to prospective members, which was held a couple weeks earlier, was an effective way to assure people felt welcomed and informed.
- These decisions didn’t happen overnight. Many people had been connecting with Highland more than a year before making their decision. Several people began attending when Mary Alice was pastor, so these decisions point to the ongoing impact of her ministry.

Two final but important points:

- As much as I hate to admit it, those who study these things tell us that preachers *somewhat* influence these decisions, but that a sense of connecting with people is the *main* reason people join a church. This means that these decisions are a wonderful affirmation of who you are as a congregation and how you connect with new people who show up. Especially important in forming these connections are the Bible Study Classes.
- There were many different things our new members mentioned that caused them to connect with Highland: choirs, classes, ministry groups, community activities, and more. **Please bear in mind that your financial support is a key part of helping all these things to come together. The Finance Ministry Group reports we are still running a bit behind in supporting our 2025 Ministry Budget. If you're able to complete your pledge or make an additional end of year gift, please do so.**

I’m thankful for all the blessing I’ve received serving you this year, and I look forward to all the new year offers to Highland!

~ Chris Caldwell

 **Don't Miss this Year's Orchestra Christmas Concert Tomorrow Night at 6 PM!**



Highland's orchestra will perform their annual Christmas concert tomorrow: **Wednesday, December 17th at 6 PM** – and this year they're joined by the Highland Singers! Join us for an evening of old favorites and new arrangements, including a jazz vocal trio on "Santa Claus Is Comin'" and a tone poem on "In the Bleak Midwinter." (Plus, a rare event: our conductor singing a solo!) *Childcare available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.* See you then!

~ Bruce Maples



**Longest Night Service on December 21 at 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 during the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year. The Pastors will lead the service with the musical support of the Sanctuary Choir. *Childcare available by reservation only for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting [Renee Purtlebaugh](#) to RSVP.*

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## **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.**

**Wednesday, December 17**

### ***Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM***

This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music includes a choral ensemble. *Childcare available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.*

### **Friday, December 19**

#### ***Friday Church, 7:00 PM***

Join us as Friday Church celebrates the hope, peace, joy and love of the season, including a time of Christmas carols at 7:00 pm. We will end the service with candlelight. There will be a time of fellowship and light dessert beginning at 6:30. All are welcome.

#### ***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***

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 [Renee Purtlebaugh](#) 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.



## **Youth Christmas Party**



HIGHLAND BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

# CHRISTMAS PARTY



DECEMBER 19  
5:00-8:00 PM

HOME OF MARK AND KATHEY GOLIGHTLY SANDERS  
RSVP TO JOHN KUPAR FOR ADDRESS



The Christmas Party this year will be at the home of Kathey and Mark Golightly Sanders on December 19 from 5-8 PM. Youth are invited to bring a wrapped White Elephant gift (\$20 limit please) and a dessert to share. There will be pizza, chips, and drinks provided. I can tell you from my past youth Christmas parties that the games we will play will be quite a joy.

*~ John Kupar*



## Scarlette Jasper Speaks at Highland on January 5

All in the church are invited to hear Scarlette Jasper speak about her ministry work. Scarlette is a CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) field personnel who currently serves in Appalachia. **She will be at Highland on Monday, January 5 at 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.** Our church supports Scarlette's ministry through our donations to CBF, and this is a chance to hear about her wonderful and important work. You can read more about Scarlette Jasper here: <https://cbfky.org/cbf-field-personnel/scarlette-jasper>



## In Appreciation of Doris Hornbuckle



The flowers on the chancel this Sunday were given by the Nomads Bible Study Class in honor of Doris Hornbuckle for her 15 years of co-teaching the Nomads. Previous to the Nomads she also co-taught the Deborah class with Dottie Frank for 5 years. We are grateful for her years of leadership, friendship, and the genuine care for those in our class over the years.



*Families with Children Hot Chocolate Party*



**Caring for Downtown Neighbors on "Souper Serve Sunday"**



A couple of months ago, I felt a nudge on my heart and shared an idea with my wife and Debbie Hoover. Then we shared it with our Messenger Bible Study class. Those who were able to attend responded with a beautiful and faithful “yes”. On Sunday, December 7, that yes became our first—though certainly not our last—**Souper Serve Sunday**, as we gathered to serve our unsheltered neighbors downtown.

My heart is overflowing with gratitude for the Messenger Bible Study class, the Mission-Minded Women's group, the Jean Janes group, and so many other loving hands and hearts at Highland. Because of your compassion, generosity, and willingness to serve, our neighbors were fed, clothed, and reminded that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved. Thank you for walking alongside me and for being the hands and feet of Christ this year.

*~ Kim Clark-Endicott*



## Chicago Spring Tour

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

## Contact & Registration

### Trip Coordinator:

Kim Henderson  
Email: kim.henderson@fora.travel  
Cell: 225-803-3197

Paul Henderson  
paulehbclouisville.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  
(3 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

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Click Here for Church Signup Links

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**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**

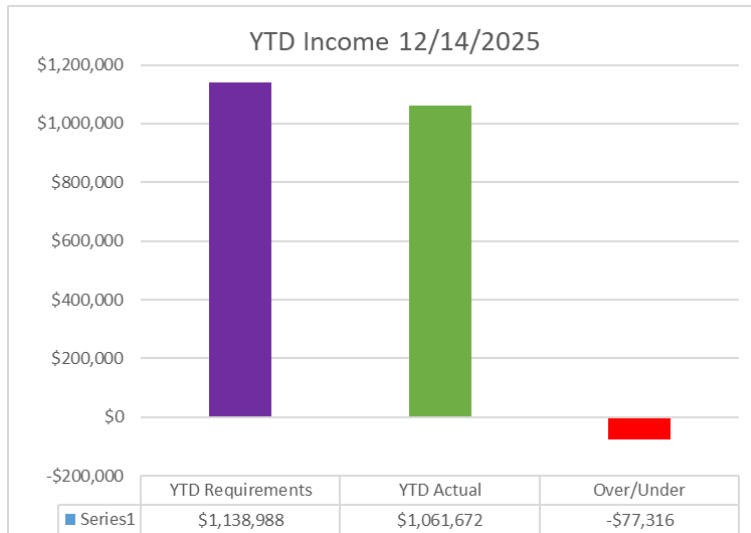
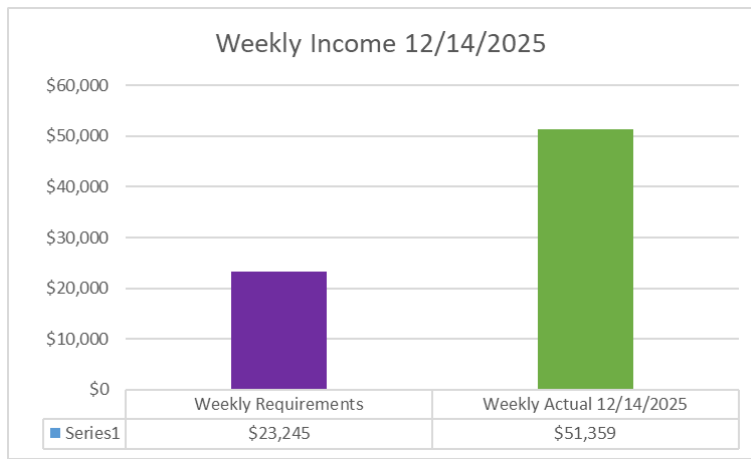


# Looking Ahead

- December 17: Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM
- December 19: Friday Church fellowship and desserts, 6:30 PM  
Friday Church sings the carols of Christmas, 7:00 PM  
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
- January 4: Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes
- January 5: Scarletta Jasper at Highland, 4:00 PM
- January 7: Wednesday Night Dinner and Activities Resume
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## 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.

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