



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church May 5, 2026

The Commons

Driving into the office yesterday morning, I listened to Natalie Kitroeff's interview with Robert Pape on "What Drives Political Violence in America: Has the country entered a new, dangerous phase of political violence?" on *The Daily* podcast from the New York Times. Pape, a professor at the University of Chicago, described how the tipping point for political violence occurs when tens of millions of Americans come to view it as acceptable. Our country is in that season, with people across the political spectrum ("on both sides of the aisle," as we say) seeing violence as a reasonable response. What tools do we need to be Easter People without reaching for the sword?

Our story from Acts 7 on Sunday came to mind, where Stephen spoke before the crowd and, when they dragged him out of the city, did not fight back. Jesus, too, chose nonviolence. In 1958's *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "The nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally, it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality."

In the final years of his life, King expressed frustration that the "conscience" of the opponent seemed not to be "stirred" the way he had hoped. In 1967's "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community,"

King wrote, “Whites, it must be frankly said, are not putting in a similar mass effort to reeducate themselves out of their racial ignorance.” What tools do we need to be Easter People who are reeducating ourselves out of our ignorance regarding race, wealth disparity, and all unjust systems?

Two Sundays ago, our children led us in worship, and this coming Sunday, our youth will lead us. What lessons are our children and youth learning from us as we navigate these days? Alongside the Spirit’s nudging and God’s transformative power, the work we do during these years of national unrest will shape the future our young people will inherit.

As they lead us in worship, may God renew our resolve to strengthen our witness, work for justice, and deepen our faith in God as an act of love for our young people, who are our future ministry group chairs, teachers, prophets, and pastors.

~ Pastor Carol



Youth Sunday This Weekend

This Sunday is Youth Sunday, and I am so grateful for the youth who are willing to lead Highland in worship through scripture, prayer, music, and reflection. They wrote the liturgy themselves, and I am excited for the congregation to receive their gifts, their voices, and their leadership as part of the body of Christ right now. Ainsley Braun will offer her senior reflection, sharing from her experience of growing up at Highland and finding belonging in this community, and I hope you will be present to worship alongside and encourage our middle and high schoolers.

~ John Kubar

Wednesday: HBC's Adults Cheering on Highland's Students as They Finish the Year

Over the past month, Highland's adults have been brainstorming how to cheer on our young people as they wrap up their school year. Whether the school year has been easy or long and challenging, reaching the last day is a big achievement. We want our kids and youth to know how proud we are of their efforts to learn about God's world, practice kindness with classmates, and be brave enough to try new things.

Through our conversations, we agreed that we want our young people to know that we see them and that they matter to us. We are proud of their efforts to love God with their minds. We want them to stay curious as they grow and learn. Therefore, we've got some plans to show our care through messages and gifts that we will create this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Then, beginning at 6:45 p.m., our children and youth will join us for some sweet treats, and we'll have a fun way to hear from our young people about their school years. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. so you can join in our celebration!

~ Pastor Carol

Highland's Orchestra Presents "A Classical Feast"



You are invited to the Orchestra's spring concert on Sunday, May 17, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. The theme of the program is "A Classical Feast." We'll be presenting classics from a variety of times and places, including some of your favorites! So invite your friends and family and join us for a wonderful evening!

PS -- Bring something to write with.

~ Bruce Maples

Highlights Class Continues May 10

If you are new to Highland, whether through membership or visiting, please join us on May 10 and 17 for the second and third sessions of the Highlights Class—a time to learn more about our congregation and its ministries while meeting other visitors and new members. We'll gather in the Commons, just outside the sanctuary, at 10:00 am each week. We'd love to have you!

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Highland Welcomes New Members



Kent Baker and William Haney joined Highland on May 3, 2026.

Racing Louisville FC Pride Night is Coming Soon!



Highland Baptist Church at Racing Louisville FC Pride Night is coming up on Friday, May 29 at 8:00 PM at Lynn Family Stadium.

This is one of the best nights of the season, and it's even better when we show up together. If you're planning to go, grab a few people and make it a group. [Bundle your tickets here.](#)

If you want help getting your group seated together, [email me here](#) and I'll make that easy.

~ Alan Spade

An Invitation to the Roots Bible Study Class

The Roots class is a creative, intimate space for learning deeply from each other while exploring the connections between our faith and the social, ecological, and economic systems in which we live. We value cultivating community engagement, healing, deep connection, and fun.

Age: 30's-40's

Where: The room to the left of the stage in Fellowship Hall.

What's Next: We have started a 4-5 week series based on Robin Wall Kimmerer's [The Serviceberry](#). Our discussions will center on how nature can influence our systems, values, and faith. Join us!

~ Natalie and Nathan Rider

Wednesday Night Dinners



We hope you can join us for our final Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner of the semester!

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!

May 6 Menu:

Fried and Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert



A Note for Highland's Veterans

One of Highland's veterans recently reached out to ask how many fellow veterans are part of our community of faith. We are exploring the possibility of getting Highland's veterans together for fellowship and support. You can reach out to [Carol Harston via email here](#).

Click Here for Church Signup Links



Spring Supplies Needed for HCM



This spring, Highlands Community Ministries Food Pantry is focusing on essential hygiene items—things not covered by most assistance programs but vital for daily dignity and stability. Your donations help them support neighbors with more than just food.

Whether you give a little or a lot, every item keeps HCM's shelves ready for those in need.

If the drop-off times (listed above) don't work, email Steven at scarr@hcmlouisville.org to arrange another time.

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**

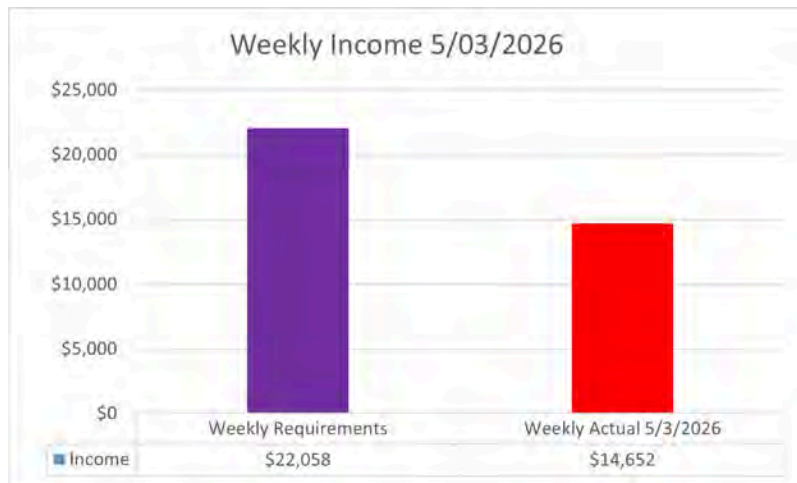


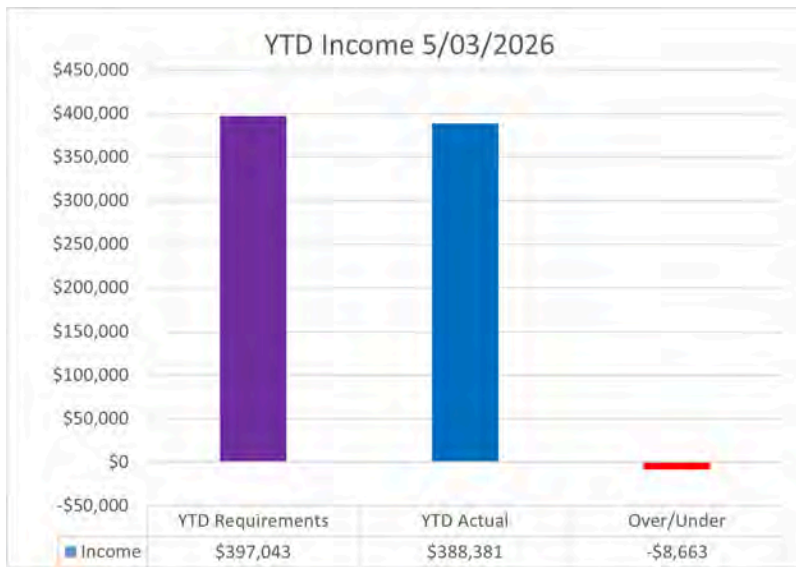


- May 10 & 17: Highlights for new members and visitors during Bible study at 10:00 AM in the Commons
 - May 10: Youth Sunday
 - May 13-15: Spring Cleaning Drive, Highlands Community Ministries
 - May 17: Highland Orchestra Spring Concert - "A Classical Feast" at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
 - May 29: Pride Night at Racing Louisville FC, 8:00 PM, Lynn Family Stadium
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Financial Update





**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.

