



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church September 29, 2026

The Commons

I had the great privilege of meeting with 20 people from Highland on Friday night to explore our Mission and Justice ministries and to dream about what we hope to do together. We named all the people for whom our hearts break. We named what has made mission and justice efforts meaningful in the past. We listed Highland's abundant resources and thought creatively about what we could do together. We asked ourselves: How will we know we're being faithful in the future? What will be the signs? Communication came up often during our time together - how it enables engagement, participation, and connection.

One project Highland is exploring is a partnership this school year with Byck Elementary in Louisville's West End. A group of us met with Byck's principal and family resource counselor on Friday and left with three direct ways to take hopeful action for families in the Russell and Portland neighborhoods. (1) Byck has large freezers that sit empty year-round, except for the turkeys donated at Thanksgiving. What if we could fill their freezers with frozen protein, veggies, fruit, and bread for families? (2) Byck is hosting its Fall Festival on Thursday, October 29, in the evening. What if we could have volunteers lead games or pass out candy? (3) Byck's kids could benefit from adults reading with them or working on basic math. What if some people could visit for 30-60 minutes on a weekday?

We're still working on the details, but all the information will be shared in the GroupMe group. If you're interested in learning more, [sign up for the GroupMe group here](#). A big thanks to Elizabeth Howell and everyone who helped her gather donations for a Byck mom whose young twins have been in the NICU.

This October, we'll focus on hopeful action we can take by supporting Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Global Missions Offering. Thank you in advance for your faithful gifts and prayers for all those serving those most in need around the globe!

~ Carol Harston



 **2026-2027 Offering for Global Missions**



October is the month in which we collect our Offering for Global Missions. This year's theme is Transforming Abundance through Christ.

Here at Highland, we have chosen to connect with other like-minded Baptists in the United States and around the world by being a part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship works in the US and globally in a variety of ways, and the offering we collect this month helps support that effort by funding the salaries of the field personnel who work with the CBF.

The word (and maybe even the concept of) "missions" can bring up many images for us – some positive and some negative. The old-style paternalistic missions, with assumptions of cultural and theological superiority are not a part of the DNA of CBF. CBF fosters true partnerships between themselves and local, national, and international bodies of like-minded believers. Highland supports local and regional CBF field personnel such as Scarlett Jasper in eastern Kentucky and Annette Ellard here in Louisville. Annette will lead us in worship this Sunday, October 4 as we kick off our month of emphasis on Global Missions. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is Highland's primary denominational affiliation, and this offering is the most significant way we show our support. This year's goal is \$10,000.

You may contribute to the Offering for Global Missions by using the QR code on the back of the order of worship, using an offering envelope found in the pews (identifying your contribution for Global Missions), or via the [Highland website](#).

~ Global Partnership Team

Quarterly Church Conference Scheduled for October 18

Join us on Zoom on Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m. for our Quarterly Church Conference.

The Ministry Council will bring the following amendment regarding the number of Ministry Council congregational representatives.

Move to amend Article VII, Section 1 of the bylaws by deleting the following:

- Chair of the Ministry Council
- Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council
- Six at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation

and replacing them with:

- Nine at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council shall be drawn from these nine representatives and nominated and elected as provided in Section 5.

Article VII, Section 1 as amended

Section 1. Membership

The Ministry Council will be composed of the following individuals:

- Ministerial Staff
- Chair of Deacons
- Vice-Chair of Deacons
- Chair of Finance Ministry Group
- Chair of Personnel Ministry Group
- Nine at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council shall be drawn from these nine representatives and nominated and elected as provided in Section 5.

This makes clear that the Chair and Vice-Chair occupy two of the nine at-large seats. They are not two additional members. It also preserves the existing language in Article VII, Section 5 governing their nomination and election.



Worship Care Volunteer Training



Highlights Class Begins October 18

Our next Highlights class begins on Sunday, October 18. Designed for those who are new to Highland, this three-week class is 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. Let us know you plan to attend by contacting [Cheryl Davis](#) by Wednesday, October 14.

Help Us Strengthen Sunday Morning Faith Formation

We are taking a closer look at our Sunday morning Bible Study offerings at Highland, and we'd love your input! Our goal is to better understand the unique strengths of each class, the people who participate, and the ways we might create additional opportunities for faith formation and community. In the coming weeks, Bible Study classes will be invited to complete a brief Bible Study Class Inventory Survey as part of our evaluation process. We are also preparing an Individual Survey for members and regular visitors to share what they're looking for in a Sunday morning learning experience, as well as ideas for Wednesday nights and other small-group opportunities.

Your feedback will help us celebrate what is already happening, identify gaps or opportunities, and consider ways classes might grow, welcome new people, connect across generations, or develop new offerings. We hope to make recommendations to Ministry Council before the end of the year.

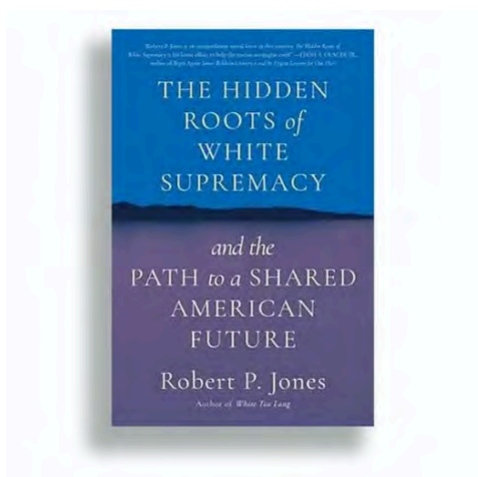
Thank you for helping us imagine what faith formation at Highland can look like in this next season!

~ Adult Education Task Force



Join in Our Next Community Read

The Anti-Racism Team invites you to read Robert P Jones' book *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. The team will lead a discussion of the book on **Wednesday, October 21 and October 28**. Many of you have already engaged with Robert P Jones' work through our study of *White Too Long* and shared that your lives and perspectives were transformed. This will be a read that will help to guide our steps as we continue seeking to be an antiracist organization.



You may purchase this book at Carmichael's with a 10 percent discount. Thank you in advance for engaging this important community read prayerfully and with courage and openness.

~ Missy Smith



Call for Support for Armelle Bondonga



Armelle arrived in the U.S. as a young girl; she is a JCPS graduate and a valued member of our community. She was married in our sanctuary to a U.S. citizen, has completed all requirements for her green card, and has a young son at home who needs his mother. Continuing to detain Armelle is both cruel and unnecessary. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the authority to release her and allow her to complete the process to obtain her green card.

If you did not write a postcard regarding Armelle Bondonga to Mayor Greenberg last Sunday or Wednesday, you'll have another opportunity this Sunday after both services in the Commons.

You are also invited to attend a community conversation sponsored by ListenLearnAct to build support for Armelle. The conversation will be held October 6, 6:30-8:00pm, at Bates Memorial Baptist Church (Armelle's church), 620 Lampton Street. Speakers will include Sadiqa Reynolds and Ryan Davis, a former teacher of Armelle and a friend.

~ Immigrant Support Group, Anti-Racism Team

Wednesday Night Adult Class Schedule

We look forward to gathering with adults of all ages in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:15 p.m., for community prayer, faith formation, and faith expression.

- **September 30:** No Wednesday Night Programming due to JCPS Fall Break
- **October 7:** Cloud of Witness with John Kubar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade, facilitated by Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- **October 14:** Connecting with Global Mission Partners with Global Mission Team (Mission & Justice)
- **October 21:** Exploring Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* with the Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)
- **October 28:** Exploring Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* with the Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)

Cloud of Witness Series Continues Next Wednesday



Join us next Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for the next session of our Cloud of Witness series. Our speakers are John Kupar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade. Come hear stories from Highland's "saints-in-process" interviewed by Bob Cunningham.

Wednesday Night Fellowship 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 make standing reservations or make them weekly by emailing [Leslie Morris here](#) 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](#) anytime or by check or cash at the door. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship!



September 30: Fall Break - No Wednesday night dinner or programming

October Menus:

October 7: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

October 14: Geoff Hale's Famous Cheesy Potato Soup & Baja Chicken Enchilada Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

October 21: Baked Ziti, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Bread, Dessert

October 28: Mexican Casserole, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Chips & Salsa, Dessert

I Love Morocco 20th Anniversary Dinner



The poster features the word "MOROCCO" in large, bold, brown letters at the top. Below it is the "cbf Kentucky" logo, with "cbf" in blue and "Kentucky" in purple. Two circular maps are shown: one of Kentucky with cities like Louisville, Lexington, and Nashville, and another of Morocco with cities like Rabat, Casablanca, and Marrakech. A dashed line connects the two maps. Below the maps, the text reads: "Join us in celebrating Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Kentucky's connection to Morocco for 20 years!". At the bottom left is a circular logo for "I Love Morocco" with "CBFKY-ERAM Partnership" and "J'aime le Maroc" around it. To the right, the event details are listed: "I LOVE MOROCCO 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER", "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 5:30 PM", and "BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE".

MOROCCO

cbf Kentucky

Join us in celebrating Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Kentucky's connection to Morocco for 20 years!

I LOVE MOROCCO 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 5:30 PM
BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE

[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>



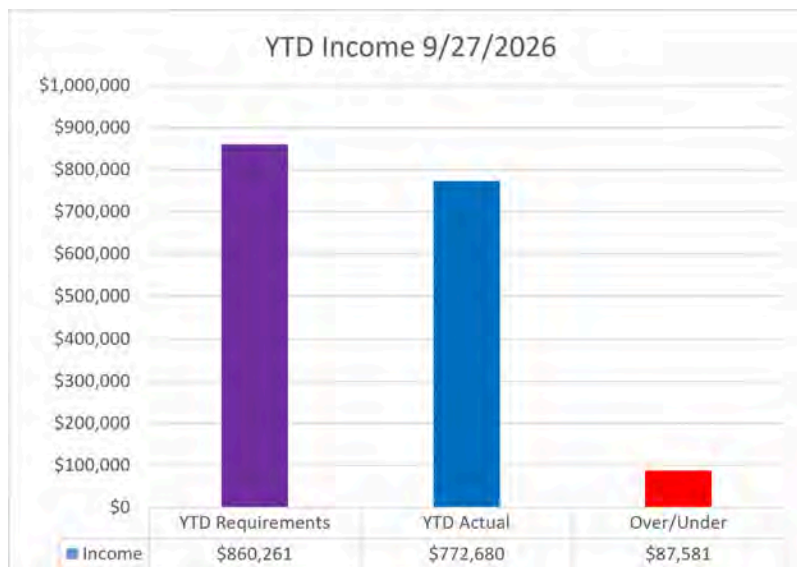
Looking Ahead

- September 30: No Wednesday Night Programming due to JCPS Fall Break
- October 3: Visitation for Ruby Burke, 10:00 AM, and Memorial Service, 11:00 AM
- October 7: Cloud of Witness - John Kubar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
- October 10: I Love Morocco 20th Anniversary Dinner, Broadway Baptist, 5:30 PM
- October 9-11: Women's Fall Retreat, contact Ginger Miller to sign up - 502-599-6569
- October 11: Worship Care Training, 10:00 AM, Children's Commons
- October 18: Highlights Classes Begin, 10:00 AM, Commons
- October 18: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM (Zoom)



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.

- Kameron D. Neal, 17, killed September 12
- Yonlevis Matos, 40, killed September 18,

- Cristian Oliva Calderon, 11, killed September 22

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