



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church October 24, 2023*

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### **3 Paths to Holiday Giving at Highland**



It's never too early to think about the holidays, right?

There are three paths to generosity this November here at church. Our partnerships with Highlands Community Ministries and La Casita Community Center will continue. Plus, we will have a new opportunity to support the refugee and migrant community through a Common Goods Holiday Market.

1. **HCM**: We will collect blankets and \$25 gift cards to Kroger for Highlands Community Ministries.



2. **La Casita:** Start shopping now for bags of black beans and white rice, canned fruit and veggies, spaghetti, size 6 diapers, baby wipes, \$10 Walmart gift cards, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We will also collect specialty Latinx holiday foods, again. More information is forthcoming.



3. **Common Goods Holiday Market:** On Sunday, November 19, we will have the opportunity to purchase hand-made items by local refugee artists. Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Americana and other vendors will set up a market in the commons for us to shop for holiday gifts.



This is all going to be so beautiful this year! We will collect items for HCM and La Casita at the Hanging on the Green service on Dec. 3, or you may bring them to church anytime during the coming weeks. Please give the gift cards to Lauren Jones Mayfield and leave the other items in the brown bins outside the choir room.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, Church. God invites us to be good neighbors, let us celebrate!

*~ Lauren Jones Mayfield*

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## An Update from Mary Alice

Highland, it was SO good to be back in the pulpit with you on Sunday! As I shared then, the first word, and the most important word I want to say to you right now is *“thank you”*. Thank you, Highland, for ALL the ways you have been the family of God for me and for Evan over the past several months. For those of you who don’t know us (because I saw SO many news faces on Sunday), we were married in June, went on our honeymoon in July, and by the beginning of August, Evan had finished residency at UK, moved to Louisville, we moved into our new home and were so excited to finally begin our lives together. My accident resulting in multiple broken bones and the difficult days that followed nearly knocked the wind out of our newlywed sails. And I truly don’t know what we would have done without you.





So, today, from the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you to our beloved and steadfast and fiercely faithful church family. Thank you for your Love that has carried us on the hardest and most painful days of this journey. For meals that have fed our bodies and souls. For prayers that have given us strength when we didn't think we could keep going. For cleaning our house and doing our laundry and beautiful flowers and unexpected deliveries and for driving me to and from PT 3 days a week right now. For cards and notes that have brought encouragement, laughter, tears, and the reminder that never for one second were we ever alone. Thank you.

And to the staff – I love you all, I am so grateful to call you colleagues and friends, and I thank God for the gift of doing the hard and holy work of ministry alongside you. You stepped in for me in ways big and small over the past 2 and a half months, and you cared for and continued the ministry of this congregation so very well. Thank you!

I'm thrilled to share that I am back to full-time work at Highland, although I'm not quite back in the office as I continue physical therapy and am not yet able to drive. I'm able to do a good deal of my work from home right now, which also allows me to rest and/or do daily exercises as needed. I also regularly Zoom in to meetings with staff and lay leaders throughout the week.

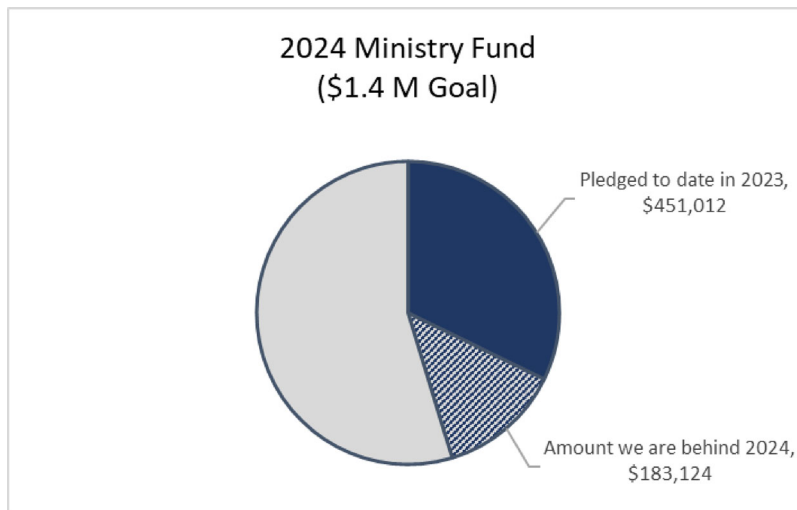
One of the benefits of PT is being able to see tangible results each week, which is especially valuable in a profession in which we often work in the intangibles! And I'm able to see visible results of my continued improvement and healing every week right now. I'm hopeful that I will be back to more of the day-to-day life of the church in the next few weeks!

## Children Lead in Worship

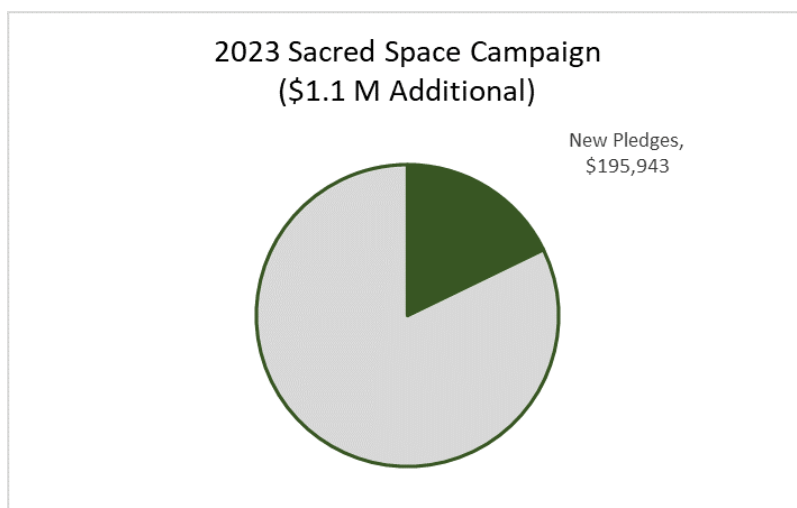


Sunday's worship was enriched by the musical leadership of the Chorister Choir and Children's Handbell Choir. The choristers with the help of Yoko Hargrove and Yoshi Zoeller learned to sing a well-loved folk song in Japanese. Inspired by lyrics describing autumn and the colors of a maple tree, the children painted leaves and also experienced painting Japanese characters. The choristers began worship singing of God's welcoming love for everyone complete with sign language.

## 2024 Financial Commitment Update



With two Sundays of generous pledging behind us, we are well into our 2024 financial commitments season. As we pass this milestone, the Faithful Giving committee and I wanted to provide an update on where we stand on pledged giving for the 2024 Ministry Budget and additional Sacred Space Campaign. To date, we have had 83 pledges for a total of over \$450,000 toward our \$1.4 million ministry budget goal as well as almost \$200,000 additionally pledged toward the Sacred Space investments. We want to thank everyone who has pledged for getting us this far. As I mentioned in my offertory prayer on Commitment Sunday, I know this reflects many people making hard decisions and sacrifices in their commitments. I have heard people tell me they are having hard conversations around the kitchen table and it is paying off - **our average amount on each pledge is up to the highest it has ever been.**



However, I also need to be upfront that we are behind prior years in total amount pledged to the Ministry Budget. After two Sundays last year we had almost \$650,000 pledged to our Ministry budget. In addition, we have a little over \$900,000 to go to meet our additional Sacred Space goal. While this does raise some concern, this is of course primarily driven because many people haven't pledged yet. This is good news because we can recover. While generosity is up (as I

mentioned above), this straightforward math underscores that it does take everyone. If you have not turned in your pledge this year, please take the time to think through your 2024 gift and let us know. **I am hopeful we can get a big turnout of pledge cards this Sunday, October 29th, so we can go confidently into planning for all the amazing things Highland will be doing in 2024.**

Thank you,

*~ Rob Thompson and the Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

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## Building Accessibility Support

In these weeks when portions of our parking lot (including some of our handicapped parking spots) are unavailable, we want to make sure to support those in our congregation needing assistance getting into the building. If you know someone who might need help, would you call to check on them and offer to bring them to church? If you need support getting into the building during this time, please reach out to any of our deacons or call the church office (451-3735), and we will do our best to arrange support for you. As a friendly reminder, please reserve the closest parking spots for those who need them most in the coming weeks. Thank for you helping us care for the Highland family in this way!

*~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell*

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## Care for Our Pastoral Ministers

We all know the healing power of a shared meal. Good food binds us together in love and joy. It is theological and meaningful to gather round food prepared as a gift.

During this season of continuing care for our pastoral ministers, we wanted to share a tangible way to help. There are still some open spots available to contribute a meal to the Purtlebaugh family during this time. Please use [this link](#) to contribute a meal.

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# Sally Evans Ordination Service





Dear Highland,

The green grass grows!! A team of volunteers has been working steadily to nurture our young grass at church and we want to thank them for their time. Many thanks to Bill Campbell, Bruce Carroll, Phil Collier, Bob Cunningham, John Dickson, the Harstons, Mark Sanders, and Allison Schureck.



We hope that the beauty of our grounds will inspire pride in our space and joy for God.

*~ Drew Harston*

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**Join us on Wednesday nights!** Dinner begins at 5:20 PM and children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00 PM. Adult programming begins at 6:15 PM.

**Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (age 4-11), with a family max of \$35.** Children below three years and below eat for free. We heartily encourage you to sign up in advance this year as our new caterer requires us to provide the number of people that will be eating five days before the meal.

**Reservations are due by noon on Friday each week.** As usual we are providing a list of meals, a link below which will allow you to sign up for dinner, and a link to go ahead and pay for the meals you will need. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone. Come and join us!

Any changes to reservations can be made by emailing [Paul](#) or [Kathleen](#) or calling the Highland Baptist office at 451-3735. If you are in a season of financial hardship that makes paying difficult, you can speak to any of the ministers about assistance for Wednesday Night Supper.

**Meals provided by The TP Experience:**

**October 25 - Baked Pork Chops / Rice / Green Beans / Salad**

**November 1** - Tuna Casserole / Sweet Peas / Rolls / Salad

**November 8** - Veggie Soup w/ Beef Tips / Cornbread / Salad

[Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot. Payments can be made via cash or check as you arrive, but we also encourage paying ahead [here](#) (Note: those with standing reservations can make payments for the whole month (or more!).)

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Please bring your costumes for kids (tots to teens) to church by next week. You can leave them in the marked box outside the choir room.

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During worship on Sunday, November 19 we will collect a special offering for Habitat for Humanity of Louisville. Each Spring we partner with local churches to build a home, and as costs continue to rise, we need to do our best to support our contribution to this Baptist house. Building volunteer sign-ups will occur in February or March 2024. In the meantime, please consider giving generously to the offering this November.

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**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**WITH DESSERT AUCTION**  
**FUNDRAISER FOR**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**HIGHLAND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

**1228 E. Breckinridge Street**

**\$15.00 per person, teams of up to 8.**

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT [hbctrivia2023@gmail.com](mailto:hbctrivia2023@gmail.com)**

**HAVE A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

**OR OTHER GROUP TEAM;**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS; BRING YOUR TEAM;**

**COME HAVE FUN.**

**Contact Steve or Margie Brown with questions;**

**Contact Marilyn Whisler to donate a *dessert*.**

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# Streaming Worship Links

Below are the links to stream the worship services each week at Highland. Please bookmark them since they remain the same from week-to-week!



**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>

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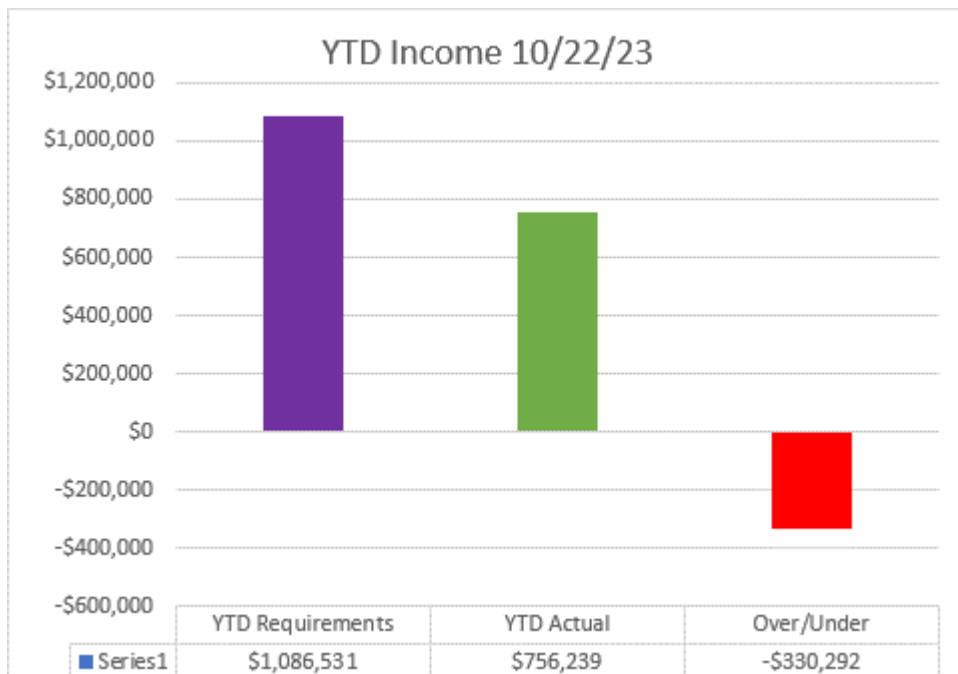
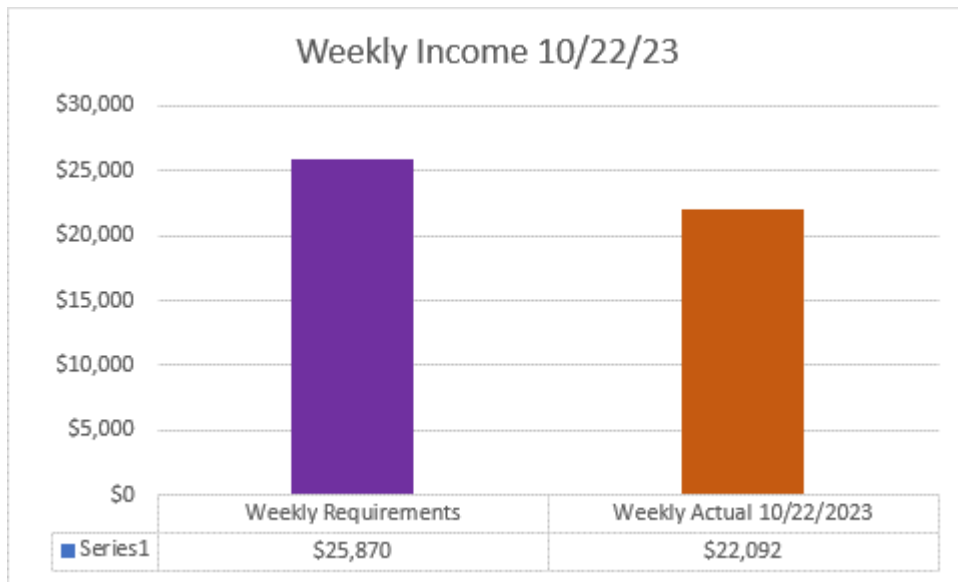
A graphic with a white background and dark green, brush-stroke-like borders at the top and bottom. The words "Looking Ahead" are written in a large, elegant, cursive script in the center. The text has a subtle drop shadow effect.

Looking Ahead

- October 29: Quarterly Church Conference at 4:00 PM on Zoom

- November 10: Trivia Night and Dessert Auction Fundraiser for Sacred Space at HCM, 1228 Breckinridge Lane, 7:00 PM
- November 10-12 Youth Fall Retreat, Aldersgate
- November 12: Party with Your Pastors at the Hendersons' home, 4:00-5:30 PM
- November 19: Sunday Morning Thanksgiving services (8:45 and 11:00); finger food breakfast and family-friendly time of gratitude/reflection at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

## Financial Reports





CLICK HERE TO  
GIVE TO HIGHLAND

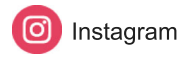


## Louisville Homicides

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.

- William Martin, Jr., 33, killed October 5
  - Nagin Clifford Means, 17, killed October 10
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