

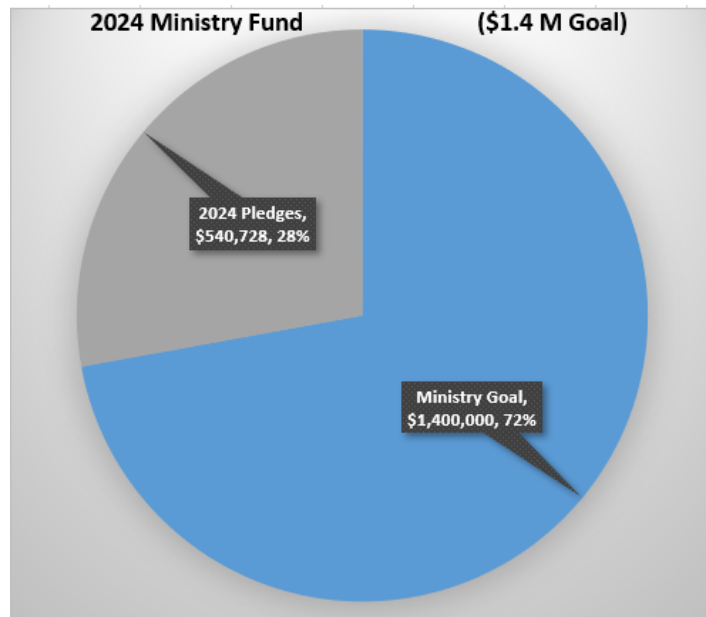


The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *October 31, 2023*

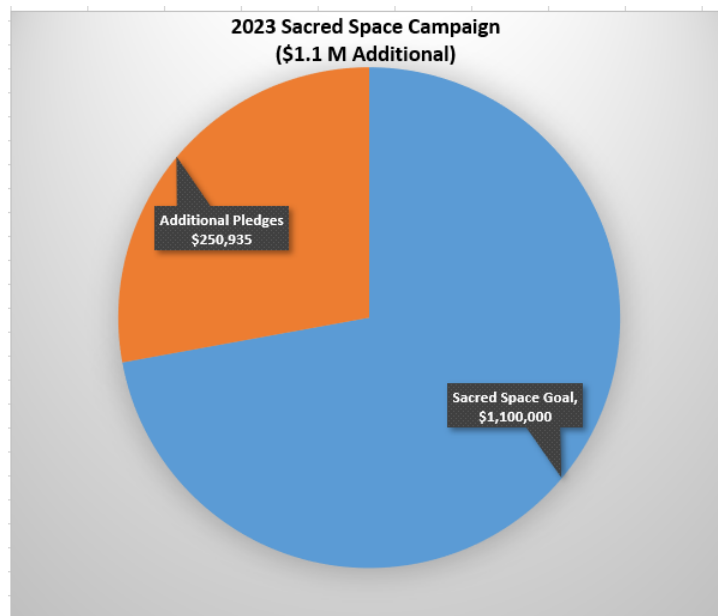
Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

2024 Financial Commitment Update

During Sunday's Quarterly Church Conference, our Finance Ministry Group provided an overview of our current financial position and the 2024 budget. As we've seen in our weekly newsletter, our income is lagging behind our expenses, more so than in past years. While this wasn't unexpected to a degree, given that donations toward the Annual Ministry Fund usually drop when a significant Capital Campaign is underway, the shortfall did impact the preparation of our 2024 budget. It was clear to our Finance Ministry Group that, with the level of current giving, budget cuts would be necessary in order to truly be good stewards with your donations. All bodies of the church involved in the budget, Finance Ministry Group, Personnel, Staff, and Mission Groups, have done some hard and heavy work in preparing a budget (which is still in process at this time) where expenditures more closely align with realistically estimated revenue. They have had to make some very tough decisions, eliminating staff cost of living increases while attempting to maintain the benefits available without extra cost, reducing mission spending, and thinking outside the box to continue our ministries without disruption with less financial resources. Even with the cuts to the present version of the budget, as it stands now 2024's budget exceeds 2023's budget. Another consideration is our reserve funds. Last year's budget had a line item in which our reserve funds would be needed to cover anticipated expenses per our budget. We really can't continue to pull on our reserves to fund our operating expenses; it's best for HBC to live within its financial means, just as it is for us individually.



These words are not meant to bring fear, for our beloved Highland is in far better shape than many other churches at this very chaotic time. We are growing! We are a vibrant congregation! We are doers of the word and not hearers only! So, what can we individually do to help HBC's financial position improve now and reduce the need for additional budget cuts for 2024? You are already helping by continuing to turn in your pledge cards and giving more generously. As of Sunday, our total pledges increased to 100 and the pledged amount went up to \$540,728. While an increase from last Sunday's total is wonderful news, we remain behind 2023's total pledges and pledged amount at this point in commitment season. Prior to 2023, we were accustomed to receiving about 200 pledges. We are asking every person that calls Highland home to think creatively, outside the box just as our leaders have, in order to increase giving to reduce the financial gap between income and expenses we currently have, to make a pledge toward 2024's Annual Ministry Fund, and to extend and/or increase your Sacred Space commitment.



Is there something you could do without in your personal budget to find a path to increase your generosity to Highland? Every pledge, no matter the amount, will help our leadership better gauge our 2024 revenue and finalize a budget for recommendation. If you give consistently without having made a pledge, it would be so helpful if you would pledge what you reasonably expect to give in 2024 so that our leaders will not have to make further budget cuts. Please know that if something should happen and you are unable to fulfill your commitment, there's no judgment, no condemnation, no calls from a collection agency - EVER! Always remember that EVERY GIFT, no matter the amount, is deeply appreciated and will help to close the gap between our income and our expenses.

~ Cheryl Priddy and the Faithful Giving Ministry Group



Around Highland
on October 29



Thanksgiving Services on Sunday, November 19

Instead of meeting on Thanksgiving morning this year, Highland will have services of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 19 at 8:45 and 11:15 AM. In lieu of a Bible study hour that morning, all ages are invited to gather for a finger-food breakfast hosted by the deacons and a family-friendly time of reflection on gratitude in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM.



The reasoning for this year's shift is multi-faceted, including building logistics during renovation and a desire to make this beloved tradition accessible to a larger number of our church family while also honoring time off for our staff and lay leaders to be with their families over the holiday weekend. For a fuller explanation of this shift, see our original article from a past newsletter [here](#).

Of course, there are important elements of Highland's Thanksgiving service tradition that we don't want to lose. We want to continue the time of sharing our gratitude which we will do together in the Fellowship Hall that Sunday morning. Further, we will still collect the offering for Habitat for Humanity at the close of both Sunday services. Lastly, we as a church family want to continue to offer space for those who may not have a place to go on this holiday. We hope that if there are folks in your circles who need welcome this year, you will consider inviting them to join us on Sunday as well as to your own celebrations at home later in the week.

We hope you will plan to join us on Sunday, November 19 in this re-imagined way of expressing our gratitude together!

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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, Americana, and other vendors will set up a market in the Commons for us to shop for holiday gifts.

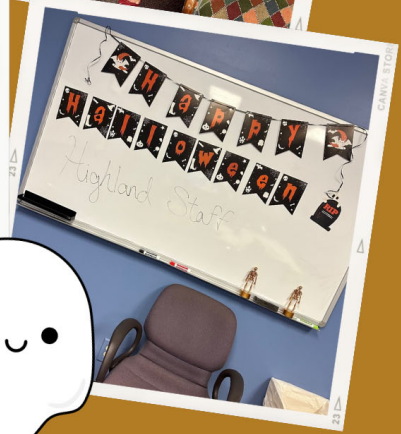


This is all going to be so beautiful this year! We will collect items for HCM and La Casita at the Hanging on the Green service on Dec. 3, or you may bring them to church anytime during the coming weeks. Please give the gift cards to Lauren Jones Mayfield and leave the other items in the brown bins outside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

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

~ Lauren Jones Mayfield

Staff Halloween Costume Party



Sacred Space **FOR EVERYONE**

This week the subcontractors continue to focus on two areas of work, inside and out. On the outside, trenches were dug to allow for the connection of the tubes that will run from well to well.



At the end of the trenches, a large hole is being dug to allow for these tubes to pass underneath the brick alley, into the current boiler room. Once the hole is excavated pipes will be pushed beneath the alleyway, hopefully without having to disturb any of the bricks.



Inside the building, asbestos abatement continues beneath the sanctuary as work begins to dig a crawlspace for the new ductwork that will serve the sanctuary.

~ Walter McWhorter

Cream of the Crop Retreat at the Parklands



The next outing for Cream of the Crop is on Tuesday, November 14 at Captain's Quarters at 11:30 AM. We have heard from many of you that this is one of your favorite places. Please sign up by calling or texting David Wells at 502-931-2510. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, November 12. If you wish to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 10:45 AM.

Mark your calendar for our Christmas potluck luncheon on Tuesday, December 5 at 11:30 AM. Look forward to more information and details in the coming weeks.

~ David Wells

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



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:

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!)*).



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.

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

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*.

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>

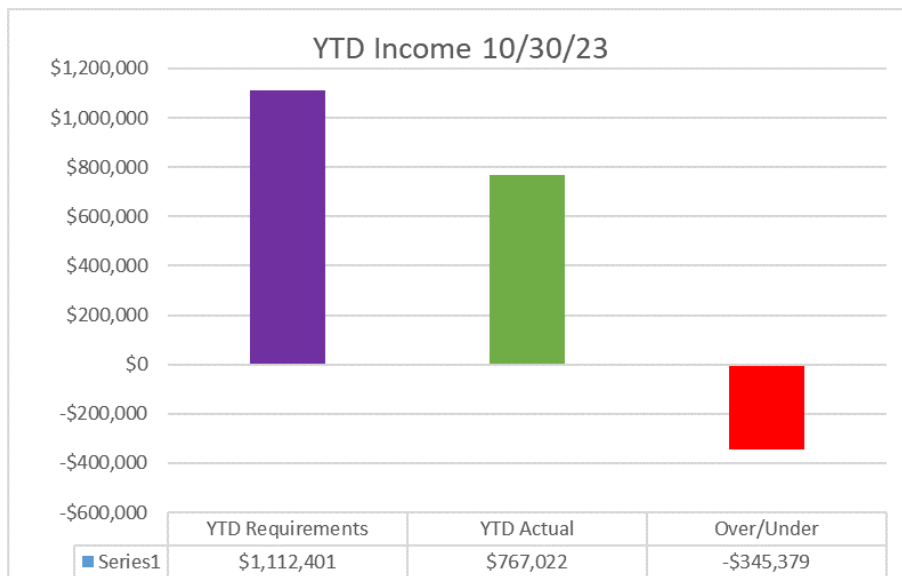
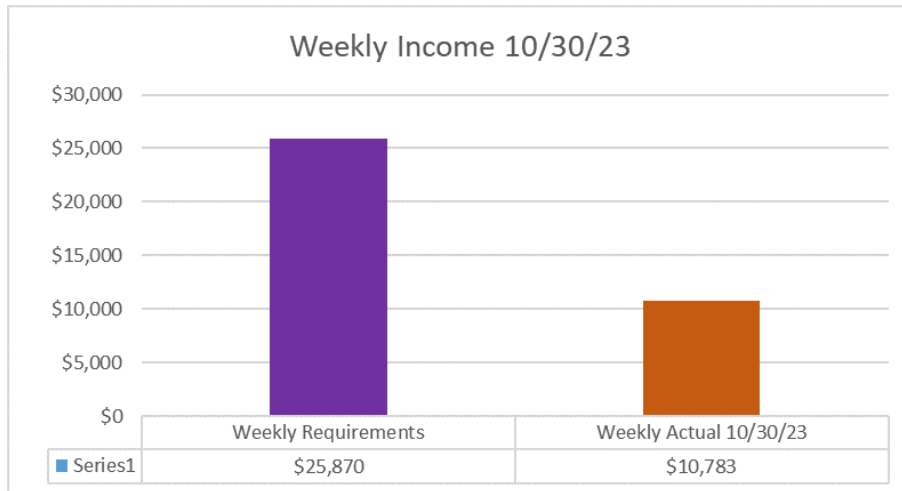
The background features a stylized, torn-edge effect with a light yellow center and dark green borders. The text "Looking Ahead" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script across the center.

Looking Ahead

- 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, Louisville

- 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**



**To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link.**



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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