



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
November 14, 2023***

Advent Beyond Imagination

“Advent is the glorious affirmation that God creates newness—
in the world and in your life and mine; that something new is coming.
That is the gift, the miracle of the newness that God will give to those
with imagination enough to receive it.
That is new birth that can happen in and for each and every one of us.”

~ John Buchanan



Tuesday, November 28:

Advent Small Group(s) in Homes at 5:30 PM (Register with Mary Alice by Monday, Nov. 20) - meeting each Tuesday through December 19.

Sunday, December 3:

First Sunday of Advent Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:15 AM

Hanging of the Green at 6 PM. Please bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries and La Casita Community Center.

Monday, December 4:

Sorting Soiree for Senior Adults at 9:00 AM in the Commons

Wednesday, December 6:

Last night of dinner and regular Wednesday night activities for the year.

Large Group Reflection on Kate Bowler's "Blessing the Advent We Actually Have" at 6:15 PM

Friday, December 8:

Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth and Young Adults at 6:00 PM at La Casita

Saturday, December 9:

Youth Christmas Party (Location TBD. 6:00-8:30 PM)

Sunday, December 10:

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Services with Crosses on the Lawn at 8:45 and 11:15 AM

Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 12:

La Casita Community Center Resource Day 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesday, December 13:

Families with Children Outdoor Hot Chocolate Bar + Christmas Lights, at Brown Park, 5:45-7:00 PM

Sunday, December 17:

Third Sunday of Advent Worship Services with Choir and Orchestra Singing Bach's Magnificat at 8:45 and 11:15 AM

Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 21:

Longest Night Service, a worship space for those who are grieving this holiday season, at 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 24:

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 10:00 AM (No Bible Study)

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 31:

Online Worship. No in-person services or activities.



2024 Budget Proposal

The Ministry Council, Finance Ministry Group, and Personnel Ministry Group have been working on additional reductions to the proposed 2024 budget. Last week, the Ministry Council

unanimously voted to approve an updated budget with \$27,000 additional cuts from what was previously presented to the church in the QCC. **Our proposed budget for 2024 is \$1,343,858, compared to our 2023 budget of \$1,345,229.**

The Finance Ministry Group and the Ministry Council recommend moving forward with presenting this budget to the church to discuss and vote on. We are also very mindful that if our income does not change over the next 12 months, more cuts will need to be made next year.

There will be a special called business meeting to discuss this budget and the additional changes in more detail on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will also make this meeting available online for those needing to be home, and there will be a way for you to ask questions from home as well. The link to join us via Zoom is available [here](#).

Even as we feel the pain of these budget reductions, the Ministry Council believes that we continue to be in a healthy place as a congregation. These changes are a reality for many churches and organizations navigating their way forward in a post-COVID world. Just as you have to trim and scale back in gardening in order to allow for future growth, we sometimes have to do the same in everyday life. We believe Highland can do this, and we are continually grateful for the generosity, wisdom, and faithfulness of this congregation.

With hope,

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Pastor

David Bannister, Chair of Ministry Council

Charlie Suer, Chair of Finance Ministry Group

Arlette Tinsley, Chair of Personnel Ministry Group

Thanksgiving Sunday at Highland



We look forward to a full and fun day together as the Highland family on Sunday, November 19. We will offer 2 Thanksgiving worship services that morning at 8:45 and 11:15 AM, both of which include the music of our orchestra. Additionally, between services, all ages are invited to join us for a finger-food breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a time of reflecting on our gratitude together. The Common Goods Holiday Market will be open from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM to allow people from both services to shop and support local refugee artists. We will also receive our offering for Habitat for Humanity in both worship services. Feel free to come to church dressed casually for a day of shared gratitude and generosity as the family of God in this place!

8:45 AM: Thanksgiving Worship Service

9:45 AM: Breakfast Begins (Fellowship Hall)

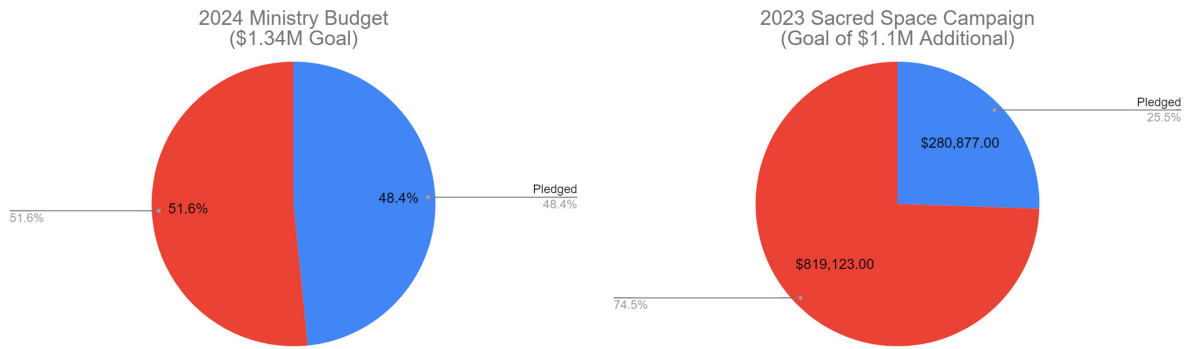
10:15 AM: Reflections on Gratitude

11:00 AM: Common Goods Holiday Market Opens (Fellowship Hall)

11:15 AM: Thanksgiving Worship Service

2024 Commitment Season Update!

The pledges keep coming! As of this past Sunday, 131 pledges have been made toward our 2024 Ministry Fund totaling \$650,482.



Also, \$280,877 in additional funds has been pledged to the Sacred Space campaign during this commitment season. Thank you for generously supporting the ministry and mission of Highland and moving us toward reaching our financial goals for next year.

Each of us doing our part makes it possible to do God's transforming work of Love!

~ The Faithful Giving Ministry Group

Words of Gratitude from the Purtlebaugh Family

Dearest Highland,

Words simply cannot adequately express our gratitude for the care you have showered upon our family over the past two months as Tyler has gone through extended hospital and physical rehab stays. Your cards, texts, phone calls, visits, meal deliveries, gift cards to DoorDash and other restaurants, mowing our yard, tending our flowerbeds, raking our leaves, caring for Eliza's spirit, and hugs have sustained us through one of the most difficult seasons of our family's life to date. And I am beyond certain God working through each of you is the only reason we are feeling as grounded as we are, especially as we look ahead to this new season where Tyler is home and transitioning into outpatient therapies multiple times a week for the next few months. We love you, and we are so deeply grateful for all the ways you have risen as one to cheer us onward. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

~ Renee, Tyler, and Eliza Purtlebaugh

Christmas Poinsettias



Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. You may order poinsettias through our website [here](#). You may also submit payment and information by contacting Cheryl in the church office at 502-452-3735 or cheryl@hbclouisville.org. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Monday, November 27.**

Advent Small Group

Join Mary Alice this Advent season for a small group based on *Bless the Advent We Actually Have*, a free online resource by Kate Bowler written to coincide with her book *To Bless the Space Between Us*. Kate writes about this Advent experience: "My hope and prayer is that this will be a way for you to make the very act of waiting, holy. And as we anticipate Christ's birth together, may we experience the stubborn hope of Christmas, joy in the midst of so much sorrow, a love that knows no bounds, and a transcendent peace amid a world on fire and let's bless the Advent we actually have—*together*."



We will meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM beginning on Tuesday, November 28 and continuing through Tuesday, December 19. Location TBD based on size of group. To access the materials, visit <https://katebowler.com> and click on the very top link. **Please sign up by this Monday, November 20 by emailing maryalice@hbclouisville.org.**

Highland Welcomes Robert Lee as Organist and Music Associate



Highland Baptist has been on a regional search for a permanent Organist and Music Associate for 18 months. We are pleased to announce the search is over! Robert Lee is coming to Highland from a local congregation to be our new Organist and Music Associate. Robert is a wonderful and well-established church musician who will bring many gifts to us. His first day at Highland will be Wednesday, November 15, and his first Sunday will be November 19. Welcome, Robert!

Celebrating Sharon Sanders



We will have a special recognition of Sharon Sanders after worship on Sunday, November 26 to celebrate her steadfast service over the past year and a half. Sharon's family will be in town for the holiday weekend and will join us in worship that day, making the celebration extra special. Sharon has given so much of herself to Highland over the past year and a half and has given many, many hours to creating intentional and meaningful worship experiences for our beloved family of faith. She is such a gift to our entire congregation! Please join us in expressing your gratitude for this incredible labor of love she has shared with us!

Paths to Holiday Giving at Highland

We will collect new blankets and \$25 gift cards to Kroger for Highlands Community Ministries. HCM will disburse these items to their community residents during the months of December.

Please bring these items to the church at anytime or to the Hanging of the Green service on December 3.



Start shopping now! We are packing 200 grocery bags and 100 hygiene kits for our friends at La Casita Community Center. This means we need LOTS of donations: bags of black beans and white rice, canned fruit and veggies, spaghetti, size 6 diapers, pull ups, baby wipes, \$10 Walmart gift cards, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We will also collect paper towels, toilet paper, and specialty Latinx holiday foods again.

Shopping lists and the annual family's scavenger hunt are available in the Commons. You will have a chance to sample some of the holiday treats during the Common Goods Holiday Market this Sunday. Please place your donations in the brown bins outside the choir room or bring them with you to the Hanging of the Green service on December 3.

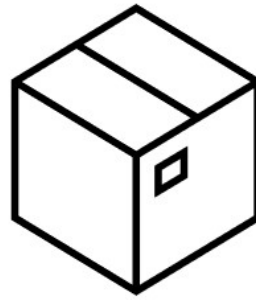
Volunteers needed for the resource day at La Casita on Tuesday, December 12 from 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon or 12:00 Noon-3:00 PM. Please email Lauren at lauren@hbclouisville.org, or sign-up in the Commons. Noelle Tennis Gulden netgulden@gmail.com and Mary Ida Gray maryida@bellsouth.net can answer any additional questions.



2 Sorting Soirees

Senior Adults will gather on Monday, December 4 at 9:00 AM in the Commons to sort the bounty of donations collected the night prior at the Hanging of the Green service.

Families and Young Adults will gather on Friday, December 8 at 6:00 PM at La Casita to pack the food and hygiene bags. Pizza will be served. Please RSVP to one of the email addresses listed above, or sign-up in the Commons.



~ Lauren Jones Mayfield

Common Goods Holiday Market

THIS SUNDAY join us at our **First Ever Common Goods Holiday Market** from **11:00 AM-1:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall!**

The Mission and Justice Ministry Group invites you to our kick-off Market. This is an opportunity for you to engage with and support local organizations whose work aligns with our mission and vision. The organizations will bring information and opportunity to us so that we might learn, support, and share our resources for the great good.

Bring your family—there will be something for everyone!

Bring your credit cards—to shop for the holidays by supporting the common good.



Plan to purchase goods from:

- STITCH (of KY Refugee Ministries)
- Fiberworks (of Americana Community Center)
- Empowered Beads, jewelry made by local refugee artisans

- Beeing2gether
- KY Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

There will be a chance to sample Latinx foods and holiday treats that we will purchase for La Casita this year, as well as space to sign-up for our La Casita holiday partnership. We will also pack care kits for our houseless neighbors.

Trivia Night for Sacred Space Campaign



Last Friday's HBC trivia night and dessert auction fundraiser for our Sacred Space for Everyone campaign was a success, raising almost \$1800. About seventy people attended, and answered ten rounds of questions, the categories of which were taken from the Ten Commandments. Everyone had a great time, and we hope to do this again in the spring or next fall.

~ Steve Brown

Highland Welcomes New Choral Scholars

Highland Baptist recently secured three new Choral Scholars for the 2023-2024 year! We are delighted to have these fine young musicians and look forward to the many gifts they will share at Highland.



Dominique Cooper (she/her) is a vibrant and creative award-winning mezzo soprano and song writer. She was born in Southfield, Michigan where she began her musical journey by singing in the youth church choir at Word of Faith. Throughout her lifetime she has built an extensive repertoire ranging from gospel and R&B to musical theater and classical music. She recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with her Bachelor of Music Arts degree specializing in Vocal Performance. Dominique is currently majoring in Vocal Performance at the University of Louisville in pursuit of her Master of Music degree. She is happy to be at Highland in our Choral Scholar program!



Jenna Proffit (she/her) is a sophomore at University of Louisville pursuing a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Music. She's from Cincinnati, Ohio and is excited to call Louisville her new home. She loves writing her own music and hopes to have a career performing her independent works or managing other artists who are pursuing that dream.



Joey Partin (he/him) is a sophomore at the University of Louisville pursuing two Bachelor's degrees in music with a concentration in vocal music and political science. Joey is excited to be welcomed by Highland as a Choral Scholar and to have the opportunity to sing with such a passionate, faithful group.

~ Paul Henderson

Sacred Space Project Update

All of those tubes and pipes from the wells in the parking lot have to eventually end up inside the building, where the new HVAC system will pull heat and cooling that was harvested from 400 feet underground. The pipes were pulled underneath the alley, then a hole was trenched next to the building so that the pipes could enter through the foundation (about 3 feet below ground level). For the moment the pipes terminate behind the soon-to-be-replaced air handler in the basement mechanical room.



Last week excavation on the new mechanical room beneath the choir loft began taking shape, as dirt is being removed by the 5-gallon bucket full and the wheelbarrow full. The black poles in the picture are temporary supports that will be removed once steel reinforcement is added to the ceiling of the space.



~ Walter McWhorter

**Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 5
11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall (notice the change of venue)**

Potluck luncheon with meat, bread and drinks provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. You will not want to miss a program of Christmas music presented by Cathy and Richard Ryan. Please let us know of your attendance so that we can plan adequately.

For reservations, call Ginny Sims at 812-987-2665 or email her at vwsimsm@gmail.com

~ David Wells

Youth Faith in Action Day

This past Saturday, several of our youth gathered together for a “Faith In Action” day! We started the day off playing games at Main Event and then went over to La Casita to help unbox groceries, clean up their space, and learn about the amazing work La Casita is doing and Highland's partnership with them.



This day happened because our Fall Retreat had to be rescheduled since our camp location cancelled at the last minute. Highland, I cannot thank y'all enough for your willingness to step up and help when we considered pivoting from Fall Retreat to a weekend retreat here. I am happy to share that Camp Loucon is going to host our group February 23-25 for a Youth Winter Retreat! And I cannot thank y'all enough for your love and support of our youth!



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.

Reservations are due by noon on Friday each week. [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!)*).

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.

Menu for November 15

Chicken / Dressing / Green Bean Casserole / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

Please note: no Wednesday night activities on November 22

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>

Olive Branch Ministries Needs Your Help!

We support Scarlette Jasper and her ministries in Appalachia each year through her Christmas Box programs. The goal this year is to assemble 3500 boxes.

Recently an out-of-state group had to cancel their trip which equates to about 600 volunteer hours to help Scarlette and her team organize and pack the boxes.

Daily volunteer opportunities exist at First Baptist Church in Corbin, KY immediately. Please contact Scarlette directly if you are able to help. (606) 305-3134 or sjasper@cbf.net



Guns to Gardens

Safe-surrender event turns unwanted guns into garden tools

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..." Isaiah 2:4

Westwood Presbyterian Church

Parking lot, 4432 Greenwood Ave., Louisville 40211

HOW: Anyone can bring unwanted guns. Those bringing guns are anonymous.

Each person surrendering one or more guns will receive a gift card, while supplies last.

- Guns must be unloaded prior to entering church property and placed in trunk or rear of vehicle. Skilled personnel will remove firearms from vehicles and take them to a chop saw for disabling while the person bringing the gun is present.
- Serial numbers will be recorded to document the gun's destruction.
- Ammunition will not be accepted.
- The gun pieces will be forged into tools, art, or jewelry at a later date.

WHY: Many guns in our community are no longer wanted for a variety of reasons:

- There is concern that the gun might fall unintentionally into the hands of children or grandchildren in the home.
- The gun may have been used in a suicide or accident.
- Someone can no longer handle guns safely because of age or disability.
- A person inherited a gun but does not want it or know how to use it.

WHO: This event is organized by a coalition of individuals

from faith and community groups concerned about gun violence in Louisville. It is part of a national Guns to Gardens movement launched in cooperation with [RAWtools](#) and [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#).

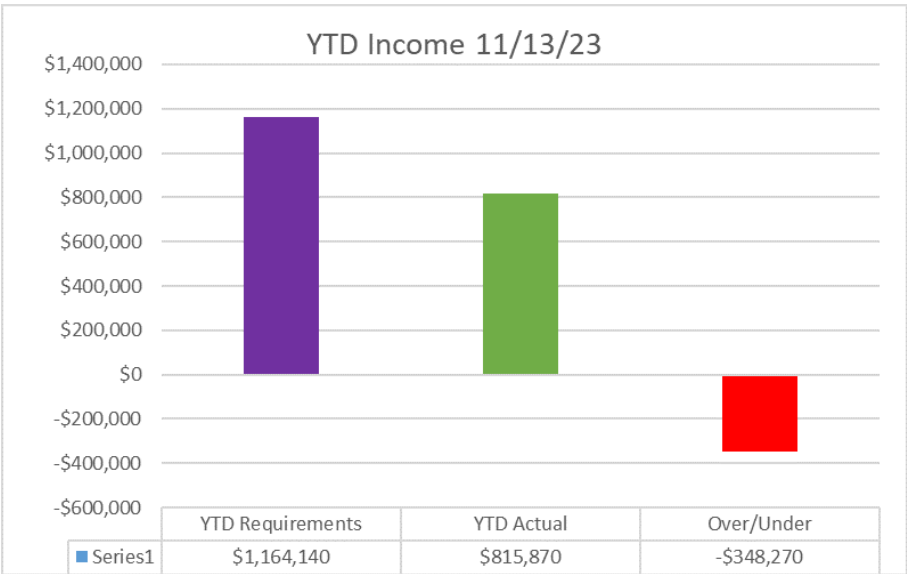
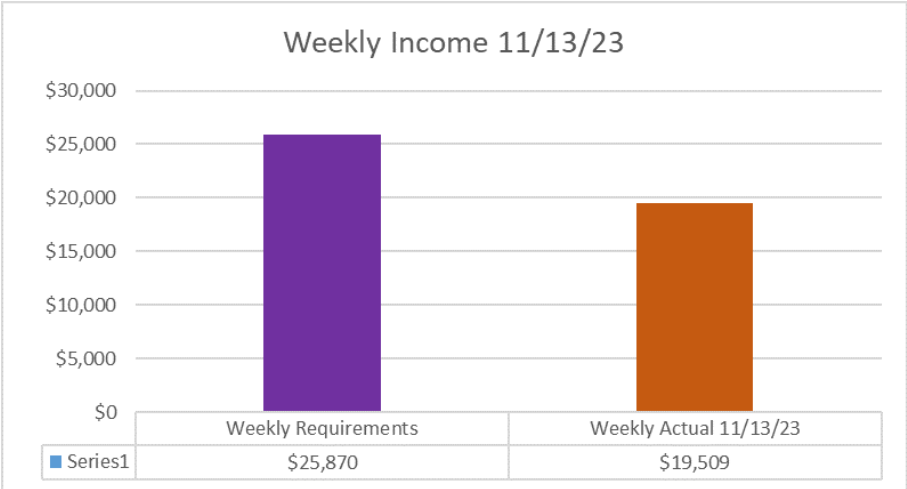
Guns to Gardens is a step toward reducing gun violence, a path for people to take action to reduce the number of guns in our homes and communities

Cosponsored by the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation



For more information: guns2gardenslouisville@gmail.com

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.

- Keith R. Smith, 40, killed November 6
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