



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
November 21, 2023***

**Please note the Church Offices are closed November 23-24
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**



Advent Beyond Imagination

Sunday, December 3 ~ Hope Sunday:

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

Join us for the first Sunday of Advent as we begin a new liturgical year and this year's theme, Advent Beyond Imagination. Special music from the woodwinds of Highland's Orchestra.

Hanging of the Green at 6:00 PM

We will gather at 6 PM for our annual Hanging of the Green service to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries and La Casita Community Center. (See a detailed list of needed items in the Commons). The service will be followed by a church-wide holiday reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday, December 4:

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

Wednesday, December 6:

On our last Wednesday night of regularly scheduled activities for the year, join Mary Alice for some of our learnings from our Advent Small Groups based on Kate Bowler's, "Bless The Advent We Actually Have."

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 ~ Peace Sunday:

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

The Second Sunday of Advent is our time to remember those who have been killed in our city by acts of violence. We will read each name and place crosses on the front lawn as an act of remembrance and a call to action in our community. Special music from the brass of Highland's Orchestra.

Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM

Children's voices and the ringing of bells are a highlight of the season! Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children's Handbell Choir—ages 3 through 5th grade.

Tuesday, December 12:

La Casita Community Center Resource Day 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Many volunteer opportunities are available to prepare for and serve this event! See sign-ups in the Commons.

Wednesday, December 13:

Families with Children are invited to gather an outdoor hot chocolate bar and to enjoy the Christmas lights at Brown Park from 5:45-7:00 PM.

Friday, December 15 and 22:

Singing the Carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM

Join us as we sing our favorite Christmas carols and end each service in Candlelight.

Sunday, December 17 ~ Joy Sunday:

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

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra singing Bach's Magnificat at 8:45 and 11:15 AM, with special music from the strings of Highland's Orchestra.

Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM

This delightful concert includes special solos, duets, and Highland's Handbell Choir.

Thursday, December 21:

Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a beloved family member or friend, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year.

Sunday, December 24 ~ Love Sunday:

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

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

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols, the centuries-old English tradition, tells the Christmas story through Scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth!

Sunday, December 31:

Online Worship. No in-person services or activities.



Vote on 2024 Ministry Fund Budget

Following a robust discussion about the 2024 Ministry Fund Budget last week, we plan to move forward in voting on the budget over the weekend of December 1-3. You will receive a link to vote in your email inbox on Friday, December 1 and will be able to vote through the weekend until Sunday, December 3 at 5 PM. If you have follow-up questions or feedback about the budget, you're welcome to reach out to David Bannister (Chair of Ministry Council), Charlie Suer (Chair of Finance), Arlette Tinsley (Chair of Personnel), or Mary Alice Birdwhistell.

Hanging of the Green Reception

Following the Hanging of the Green service on December 3, we will have a church-wide reception in the Fellowship Hall to kick off the holiday season together! We ask you to bring desserts and/or appetizers for this gathering.



Please note that we won't have a way to keep items warm this year, but you're welcome to bring desserts, cookies, cheese, crackers, small sandwiches, fruit, veggies, etc. If you plan to bring something, please contact Kathey Golightly Sanders at ktgsanders@aol.com.

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 next Monday, November 27.**

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!

Highland Welcomes Returning Member



Greg Buntun joined November 5, 2023

Cloud of Witness Returns

Our next Cloud of Witness evening will be on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:15 PM. Bob Cunningham will facilitate the conversation as Mary Burks, Paul Henderson, and Kent Pugh share their stories of faith. We hope you will join us!



Jean Janes Group Prepares Christmas Boxes



The Jean Janes Baptist Women's group filled about 45 Christmas boxes for 4th grade boys in Eastern Kentucky, assisting in the ministry of CBF field personnel, Scarlette Jasper.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Thank you so much for your generosity, Highland! We collected nearly \$2,000 for our donation to the Baptist Habitat for Humanity Home this Spring, 2024. It's not too late to give. If you would like to contribute, please use [this link](#) and make note that it is for Habitat for Humanity. Or you may send a check to the church office. Make it out to Highland Baptist with "Habitat" on the memo line.

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 month 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 will pack 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. 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 are 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

Cream of the Crop News



Captain's Quarters Lunch Outing on November 14

**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 vwsimrn@gmail.com

~ David Wells



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.

Please note: no Wednesday night activities on November 22

Menu for November 29: spaghetti & meatballs, green beans, salad, garlic bread, desserts

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

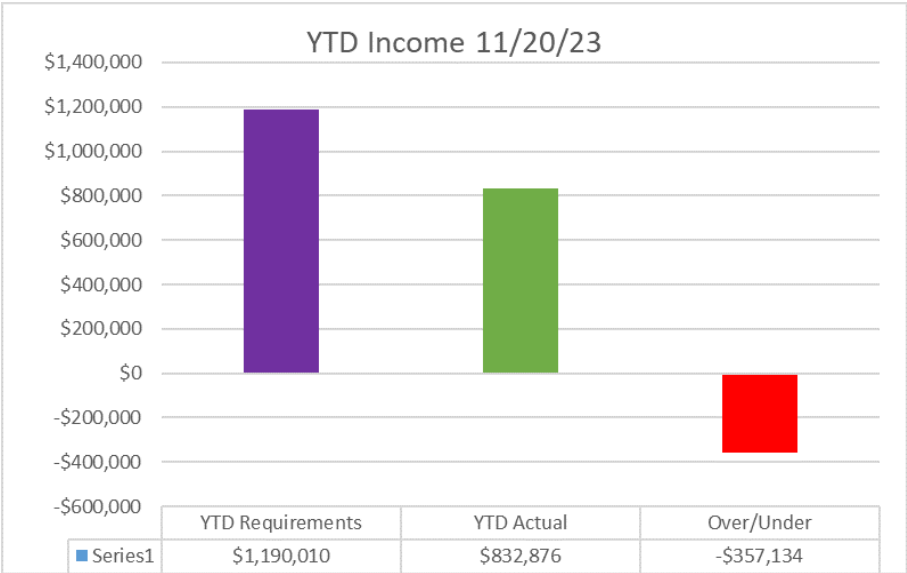
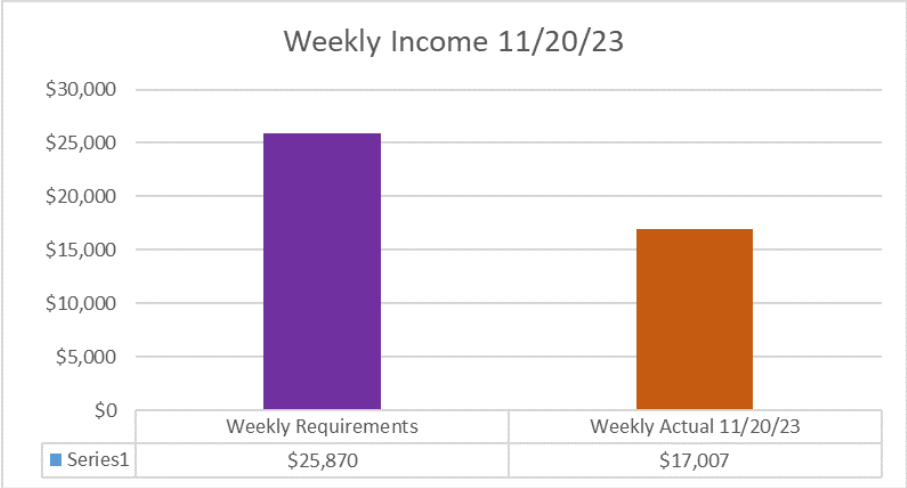
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

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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