



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church* *January 3, 2024*

### **Five-Year Anniversary of Cloud of Witness Series**

Five years ago, on the night of January 17, 2018, Highland had our very first session of the "Cloud of Witness" series, inviting three different members of the Highland family to share parts of their faith stories with the congregation. Bob Cunningham interviewed Terri Phelps, Vicki Runnion, and Reece Little, and as these three individuals shared so openly and honestly with us about their spiritual journeys, we quickly knew that we were standing on holy ground together.



Since that time, we have shared both laughter and tears as 100 different people have entrusted their stories to us throughout the Cloud of Witness series. It seems fitting for us to gather again on the 5-year anniversary (Jan 17, 2024) for a special Cloud of Witness. Carol Harston, who originally envisioned the idea for this series, will interview Bob Cunningham. We will view a slide show of all those who have been interviewed over the past five years. Finally, we will end with a time to share what we have learned from Cloud of Witness over the past five years. We hope you will join us on

January 17th at 6:15 PM for this special anniversary event as we look back over the past 5 years and as we look forward to all the new stories that will be shared here in this sacred space.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



## Pastoral Update Regarding Don Burke

Dear Highland Family,

Our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke, went into the hospital in Florida last week with pneumonia. He had been doing well previously and was even planning to go on a cruise over the

holidays. However his sickness quickly became more serious, and he returned home on hospice care a few days later. Don is now resting peacefully at home in Pompano Beach.



I was able to speak with Don last week and to assure him of Highland's deep love for him and our gratitude for the beautiful ways he has pastored this church over the years. Of course, he wanted me to know his deep love for each of you and for this community of faith that has continued to minister to him long after his tenure as pastor. He has continued to worship with us online as recently as Christmas Eve, and he would regularly call us to offer words of blessing and encouragement. I know several of you have stayed in a close relationship with him, too. When he visited us last Holy Week, he had a feeling this might be his last time here with us. Oh, how he relished each moment back in this sacred space with us!

Please keep Don in your prayers in these final days as he prepares to join our great cloud of witness. We are in communication with several of his close friends and family members. They are making plans for a memorial service at Don's former church in Canada, where his family still resides. However, we will also discuss ways that we as a church can grieve and remember Don's beautiful legacy with us in the days ahead.

With great love,  
*Mary Alice*

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## Christmas Eve Services



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## End-of-Year Giving

We are so grateful for your generous giving to help us finish the 2023 year strong. We continue to receive final donations (postmarked by December 31) and our Financial Secretary, Kathleen Gordon, is hard at work processing our remaining 2023 income and expenses. Know that we will share final numbers and information as soon as possible with the congregation. For now, know that our gratitude abounds for all the ways you give to the work of Love we share at Highland.

*~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell and the  
Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

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## Children's Camp Registration Opens January 18

# 2024 SUMMER CAMPS

SAVE THE DATE

Completed  
Grades

**JUNE 10-14**

**Music Camp**

**1st-5th**

**JUNE 24-27**

**PassportKids**

**3rd-5th**

**JULY 8-11**

**Discovery Camp**

**K-2nd**

As we turn the page on the new year, summer is just around the corner! Registration for Highland's summer camps for children (completed K-5<sup>th</sup> grades) will open on Thursday, January 18. Information about our children's camp offerings for Summer 2024 will be available in this week's *Family Ministry Happenings*, our weekly Thursday e-newsletter for families with children. Reach out to [megan@hbclouisville.org](mailto:megan@hbclouisville.org) for more information on how to subscribe!

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## Sacred Space Project Update

The Christmas and New Year holidays didn't slow down work on our Sacred Space project. First, the main parking lot is available to use again. It's been patched and the parking bumpers are back in place. The final re-surfacing of the lot won't occur until this Spring, but feel free to park in the lot

now!



The new mechanical room UNDER the sanctuary is approaching its final size. This is the space where the new equipment that will power heating and cooling for the sanctuary and the choir loft will live. Note that all of the dirt from the room has been removed BY HAND, in five-gallon buckets and in wheelbarrows. The crew responsible for digging this out has done amazing work.



Later this month you'll experience some big changes in the sanctuary as work begins to repaint and relight that space. Stay tuned!

~ Walter McWhorter

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**Wednesday Night Suppers resume next week!** 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 January 10: Sloppy Joes, Buns, Corn, Salad, Dessert.**

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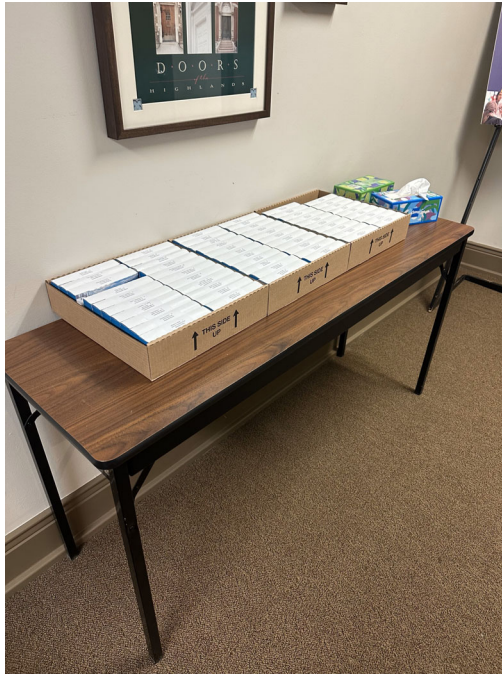
# Looking Ahead

- January 7 Sunday Worship (8:45 and 11:15 AM) and Bible Study Classes (10:00 AM) Resume
  - January 10 Wednesday Night Supper and Activities Resume at 5:20 PM
  - January 17 Cloud of Witness 5-Year Anniversary Evening at 6:15 PM
  - January 28 Highlights Class after 11:15 AM Worship
  - February 14 Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins
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## Offering Envelopes

On behalf of the Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups, I would like to thank you all for your generosity and commitment to Highland Baptist Church. If you requested offering envelopes, they can be found in the Commons from now until January 31. If they have not been picked up by then, I will mail them to you.





As we move forward into 2024, please remember contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. They can also be processed using your credit or debit card. Please review your accounts regularly if you have signed up for Highland to automatically draft your contributions. If you find any discrepancies, please feel free to contact me at the church office by phone at 502-451-3735 or by email at [Kathleen@hbclouisville.org](mailto:Kathleen@hbclouisville.org).

*~ Kathleen Gordon*

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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>

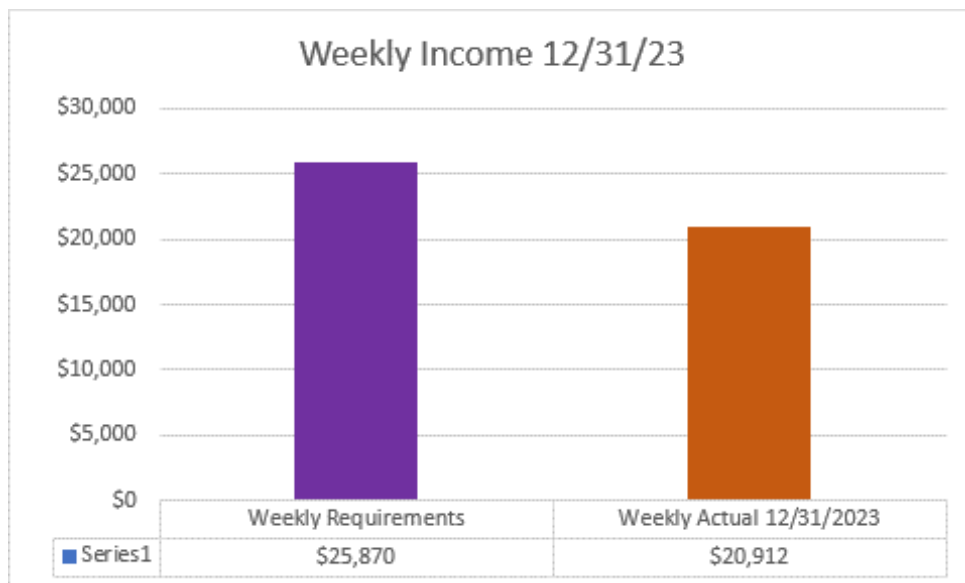
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

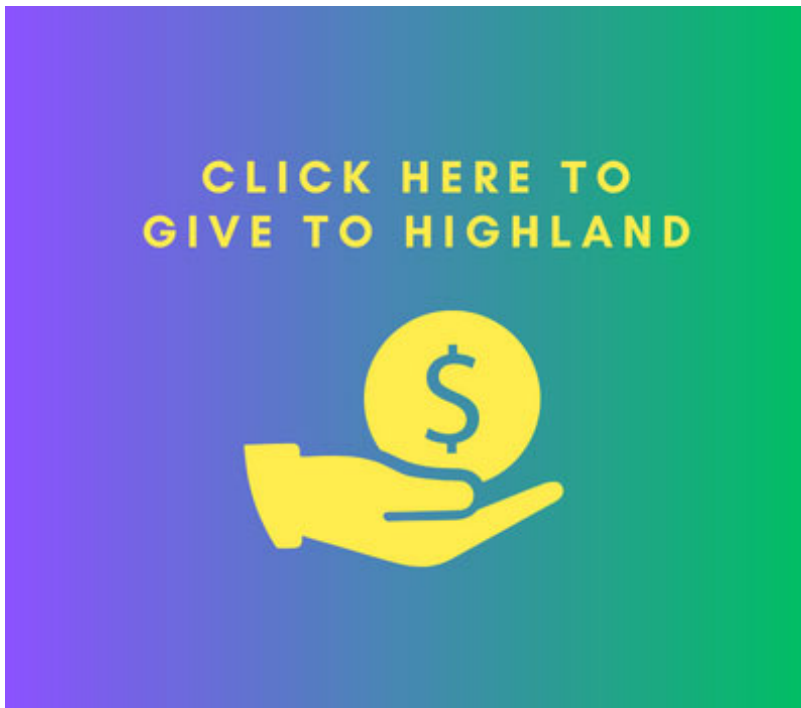
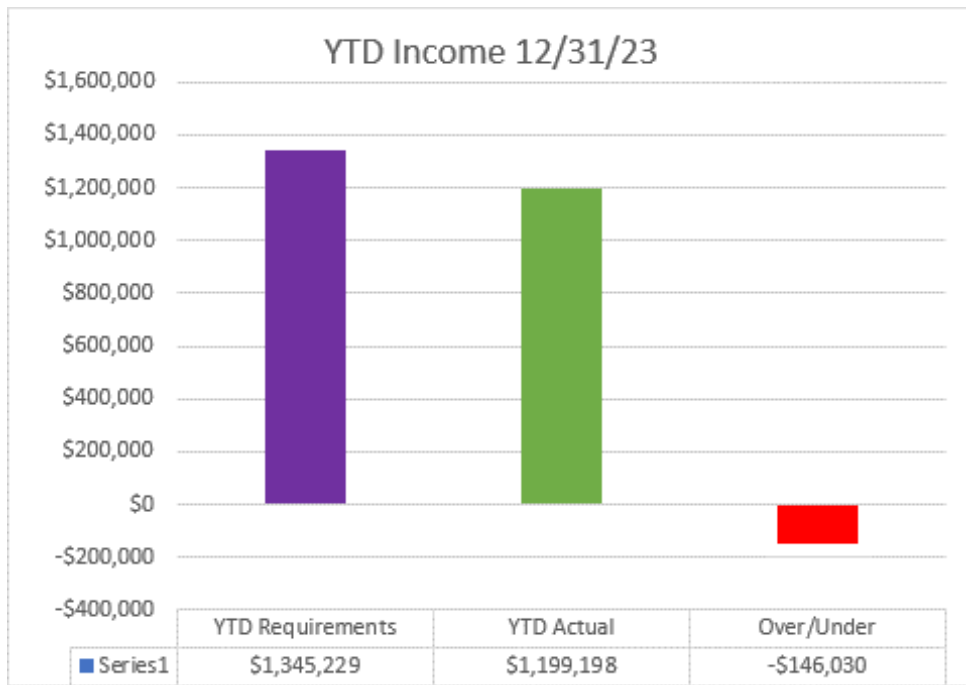
## Friday, 7:00 PM

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

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## Financial Reports





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

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## 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.

- Latia Greenwell, 31, killed December 19
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