



***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
January 9, 2024***

**The Church Offices are closed Monday, January 15
in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
Next week's newsletter will be published on Wednesday, January 17.**



EPIPHANY LESSONS

Following the Signs of the Holy One

JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 11 IN WORSHIP

Epiphany feels like it gets the short end of the stick in the liturgical calendar. We're all worn out by Advent and Christmas activities and celebrations, and we just want to catch our breath a bit before Lent and Easter, so we tend to "skip over" the season of Epiphany. But Epiphany has such rich wisdom to offer, especially as we begin a new year together, if we would take the time to follow the signs that it offers.

The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek, "epiphaneia," meaning "appearing" or "revealing." Each Sunday of Epiphany, I believe we are offered an opportunity to see or encounter the Holy One with us in a new way.

In her blog, *Journey with Jesus*, Debie Thomas writes, "During this brief liturgical season between Christmas and Lent, we're invited to leave miraculous births and angel choirs behind, and seek the love, majesty, and power of God in seemingly mundane things. Rivers. Voices. Doves. Clouds. Holy hands covering ours, lowering us into the water of repentance and new life. In the

gospel stories we read during this season, God parts the curtain for brief, shimmering moments, allowing us to look beneath the ordinary surfaces of our lives, and catch glimpses of the extraordinary.”

On Wednesday evening at 6:15 PM, we will discover more about the season of Epiphany and invite you to participate in the tradition of receiving Star Words to guide us in the new year. Just as the magi followed the star to find the Christ child, we also begin the new year seeking Christ and trusting in the many ways God brings stars and signs to draw us closer to the Holy One.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

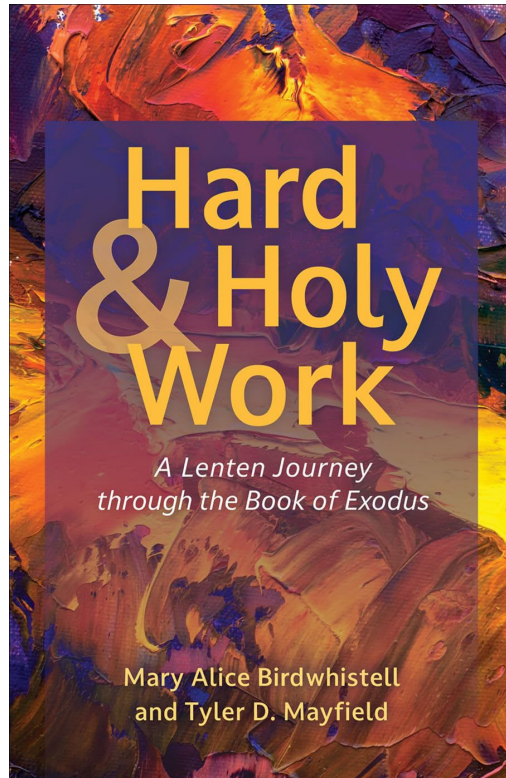


Around Highland
on January 7



Virtual Book Launch: *Hard and Holy Work*

Tyler Mayfield and I couldn't be more excited to finally share our book and labor of love with the world! Tomorrow, on **Wednesday, January 10**, Sally Evans will be interviewing Tyler and me on Highland's Facebook and YouTube accounts for a livestreamed, virtual event at 11:00 AM to help officially launch our book into the world. We would love for you to join us!



This book was birthed out of some of my earliest sermons at Highland at the height of the pandemic, and in the midst of the protests for justice for Breonna Taylor here in our hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. Whenever we find ourselves in the wilderness, like we did in 2020, we long for the spiritual sustenance to carry us through, especially when the journey ahead feels so overwhelming. *Hard & Holy Work* provides a space for just that, helping readers to become more attuned to God's boundless presence with us, even and especially in the wilderness.

However, an awareness of the holy ground beneath us is just the beginning. Like Moses, we can't walk away from a burning bush and not be changed! Instead, we leave the burning bushes of our lives with an invitation from God - a call to join in what we call "hard and holy work," creating a world where justice and love are abundant.

Throughout the book, we explore this invitation alongside stories from the book of Exodus that have inspired the work of liberation for centuries, coupled with Tyler's thought-provoking insights as a Hebrew scholar all along the way.

Of course, Tyler and I do not pretend to have all the answers, and this study is not our attempt to fix all the complicated systems of injustice in our world. Instead, it is our humble effort to take a faithful next brave step in the right direction. So, we invite you to join us! We are traveling toward greater awareness in God's world, with all its beauty and challenges, as the Spirit calls us toward the work of justice and love.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Pastoral Update Regarding Don Burke

Our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke, passed away on January 4 at his home in Florida. Don was deeply loved here at Highland, and his ministry, personality, and passion have and will continue to have a profound effect on who we are as a community of faith.



Don's loved ones are planning a memorial service in Canada, where his family still resides. We will also be planning a special time for us to remember, grieve, and celebrate Don Burke as a congregation.

Children's Choirs Resume This Week

This is the week for Highland's mid-week programming to resume and our second floor will be filled with children but there's always room for more so please consider joining us! Choir and music activities are provided for children ages 3 through 5th grade with a team of fabulous teachers. Our

winter and spring will be filled with new music skills as we prepare to sing in morning worship on February 28, Palm Sunday on March 24, and our Spring Recognition Service on Sunday evening, May 19. For further information contact [Kathy Collier](#).



Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. at Friday Church

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Friday Church will be hosting Duane Nathaniel. He will deliver Mr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech on Friday, January 19 at the 7:00 PM service.



If you have heard Duane deliver this speech before, I'm sure you will want to be there. If you haven't heard him - you will be in for a very moving experience. We hope to see you there.

~ *Becky Smith*

Six-Year Anniversary of Cloud of Witness Series

Six 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. As they 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, 100 different people have entrusted their stories to us! It seems fitting for us to gather again on the 6-year anniversary (Jan 17, 2024) for a special Cloud of Witness. Carol Harston will interview Bob Cunningham about his faith journey, and together, we will share what we have learned from Cloud of Witness over the past six years. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:15 PM for this special anniversary event as we look back over the past and as we look forward to all the new stories that will be shared here in this sacred space.

~ *Mary Alice Birdwhistell*

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-5th 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 Fuller](#) for more information on how to subscribe!



Wednesday Night Suppers resume this 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

Upcoming Menus:

January 17 Cold Cut Subs / Potato Salad / Chips / Dessert

January 24 Chicken Tenders / Tots / Salad / Vegetable Medley / Dessert

January 31 Hamburger Pasta / Salad / Green Beans / Dessert
February 7 Green Gumbo / Rice/ Salad / Dessert



TABLE TALK
SHARING A MEAL AND
CONVERSATION

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 PM
Mesh Restaurant
3608 Brownsboro Road

Contact Alexandria Glaser by
Monday, January 15 at 11:00 AM
for reservations.
Email: skippy750@icloud.com

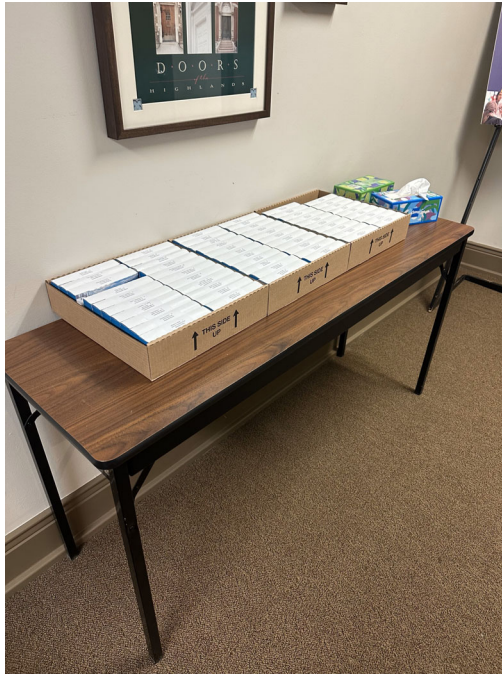


Looking Ahead

- January 10 Virtual Book Release of *Hard and Holy Work* by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler Mayfield at 11:00 AM
 - January 10 Wednesday Night Supper and Activities Resume at 5:20 PM
 - January 17 Cloud of Witness 6-Year Anniversary Evening at 6:15 PM
 - January 19 MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech by Duane Nathaniel at Friday Church, 7:00 PM
 - January 28 Highlights Class for Newcomers after 11:15 AM Worship - More Info Soon!
 - February 11 Church-Wide Celebration of *Hard and Holy Work* book release - More Info Soon!
 - February 14 Ash Wednesday - The Season of 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 hallway leading to 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.

~ Kathleen Gordon

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

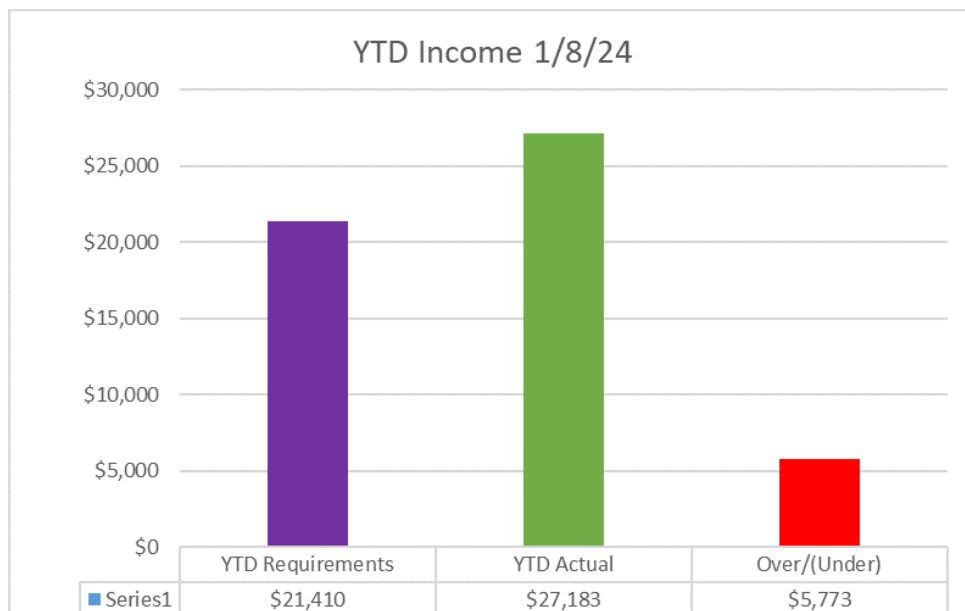
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

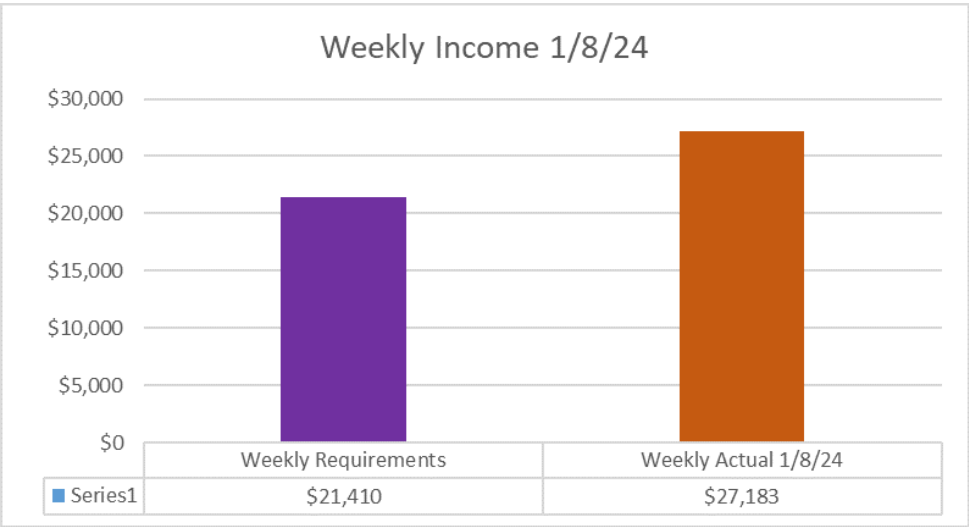
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

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

Financial Reports





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.

- Roderick Ricardo McKisick, 47, killed December 26
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