



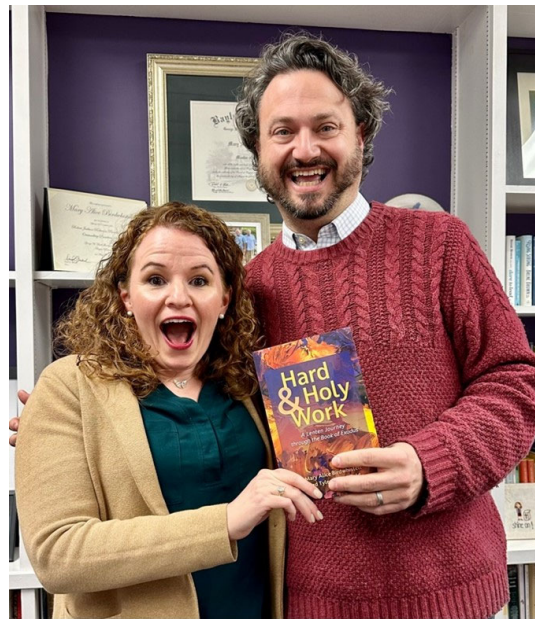
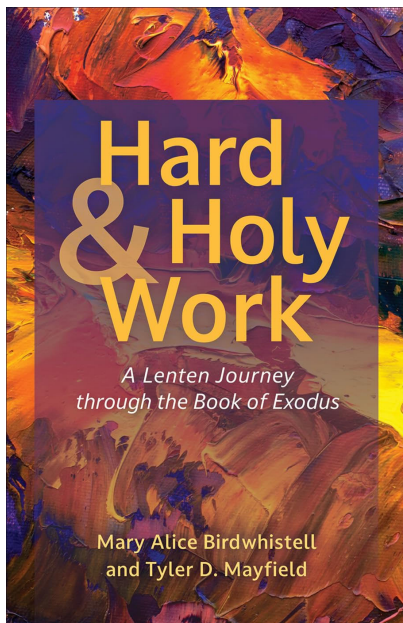
## ***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church January 23, 2024***

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### ***Hard and Holy Work Book Release***

Highland's ministers and the Personnel Ministry Group invite you to join us in celebrating the release of *Hard and Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus*. We give great thanks for the hard and holy work of our pastor, Mary Alice Birdwhistell alongside congregant Tyler D. Mayfield's new book!

Join us on Sunday, February 11 at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a brief reception and book signing with Tyler and Mary Alice. Copies of the book will be available for purchase that morning at the reduced rate of \$10 each. Several of our Sunday morning Bible Studies will be using the book throughout the season of Lent, and Mary Alice and Tyler will be joining different classes throughout Lent to participate in the conversation together. If you're not currently in a Sunday morning class, the season of Lent would be a great time to consider joining!



“Surely Christians in Lent have no more important work to do than to engage the scriptural promises of and mandate to emancipation, especially in our world that is so bent on enslavement, the practice of cheap labor, and the systemic abuse of vulnerable lives. This book makes one wish: that Lent were longer in order to do more of the Exodus. This is a most winsome invitation to fresh faith.” ~ Walter Brueggemann

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Around Highland  
on January 21



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## Highland Welcomes New Member



**Gray Shaw joined on Sunday, January 21**

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## **Highlights Class this Sunday, January 28**

If you are new to Highland, whether through membership or visiting, please join us on Sunday for our Highlights Class. This brief tutorial provides lunch and space to meet with fellow newcomers, as well as long-time congregants.



We will hear from one another about what brings us to this wonderful and unique church family, and we will learn a bit more about what it means to be a progressive Baptist. If you're able to join us, please RSVP to [Lauren Jones Mayfield](#) as soon as possible. Childcare will be available.

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## **MERGE**

Highland's 5<sup>th</sup> graders gathered for our first *MERGE* event on Sunday afternoon, as they prepare to enter youth group this fall. Designed to intentionally prepare Highland's kids to merge into this new middle school life stage, we started off with an afternoon of being together!





Video games, favorite snacks, and some (very cold) outdoor fun with Pastor Justin became the official start of this journey toward youth group. We'll continue to meet each month through July.

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## **"What's Going On in the Sanctuary?"**

If you were in worship at 11:15 on Sunday you had a unique experience as you sat on cushioned chairs instead of our traditional pews. For the next couple of months this will be our new normal as Sacred Space Project work begins in the sanctuary. Here are pictures showing what the sanctuary looked like before and after worship on Sunday.



The first work that will be done in the sanctuary will be the installation of the new LED chandeliers and lighting system. Then the sanctuary will get a fresh paint job on both the walls and the ceiling.

A huge thanks to all for your continued [financial support of the project](#), for your patience with the temporary changes in the building, and for your assistance with moving chairs and hymnals!

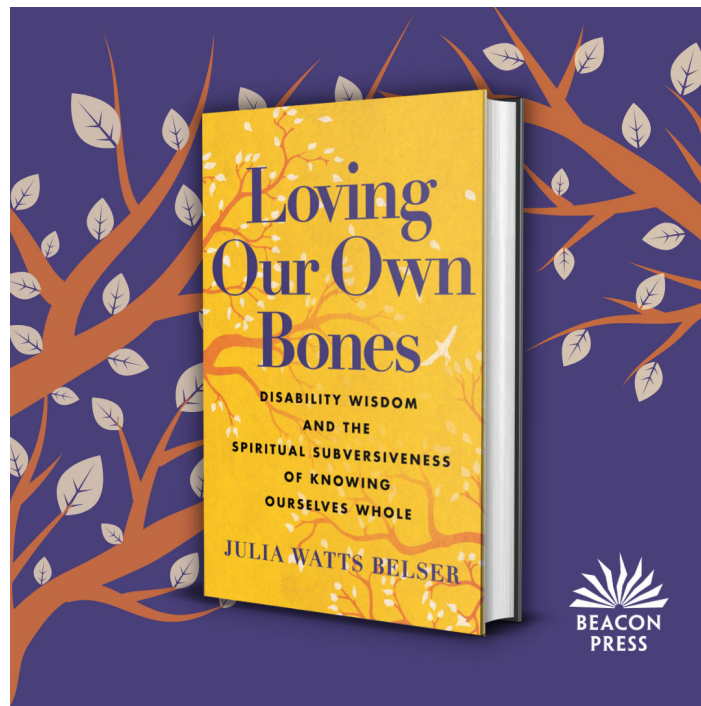
Also, as of last Thursday, according to the General Contractor's tracking system, our project is 19.17% complete. Rejoice in the slow but steady progress!

*~ Walter McWhorter*

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## **Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole**

I recently preached about the internal messages we tell ourselves and the inadvertent impact they have within us. We say things to ourselves that we would never say to anyone else! At least, I know that has been the case for me in my recent journey toward recovery. As I looked around the sanctuary that day, I saw quite a few nods and tears wiped away from your eyes, which tells me that I'm not alone in this struggle.



If you'd like to continue learning and growing to love yourself as God created you to be, I'd like to invite you to join me for our upcoming Wednesday night class on the book *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*. **The class will be held for the next three Wednesdays, January 24 - February 7, at 6:15 PM.**

I deeply appreciated reading this book throughout my own recovery over the past several months and think that the author, Julia Watts Belser, a rabbi, Hebrew scholar, and wheelchair user, has such rich wisdom to share with us. Her writing challenges not only ableism but racism, sexism, and all the other prejudices that are so deeply rooted within us. She writes:

“In this book, I bring disability wisdom into conversation with my own religious tradition, with spiritual practice, with questions of the heart. Diving deep into my own disability experience has led me to unexpected insights as a teacher of Jewish text and tradition. Everything I know about God comes through these disabled bones.”

You are welcome to read the book along with us, but it is not required. The conversation around our tables will be richer because of everyone who participates. To read an excerpt from the book, [visit here](#).

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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**Cream of the Crop Agape Luncheon  
Tuesday, February 13  
Fellowship Hall at 12:00 Noon**

Potluck luncheon with meat, bread, and drinks provided.  
Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.  
Enjoy a time of good food, lots of fun,  
and plenty of fellowship!



***Cancellation policy:*** If Jefferson County Schools are closed or using NTI due to inclement weather, the Cream of Crop activity or luncheon will be cancelled.

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## **Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. at Friday Church - Date Rescheduled**

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, February 2 at the 7:00 PM service. This has been rescheduled due to last week's inclement weather.



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*

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**Wednesday Night Suppers have resumed!** 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 and cancellations 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 24:** Chicken Tenders / Tots / Salad / Vegetable Medley / Dessert

**Upcoming Menus:**

January 31      Hamburger Pasta / Salad / Green Beans / Dessert

February 7      Green Gumbo / Rice/ Salad / Dessert



January 28      Highlights Class for Newcomers after 11:15 AM Worship  
February 2      MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech by Duane Nathaniel at Friday Church, 7:00 PM  
February 4      Quarterly Church Conference at 4:00 PM via Zoom (please note date change)  
February 11      Church-Wide Celebration of *Hard and Holy Work* book release  
February 13      Cream of the Crop Potluck "Agape" Meal at 12:00 Noon  
February 14      Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent Begins  
March 8-10      Women's Retreat at Loretto; contact [Ginger Miller](#) for more information

## Streaming Worship Links

Here 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**

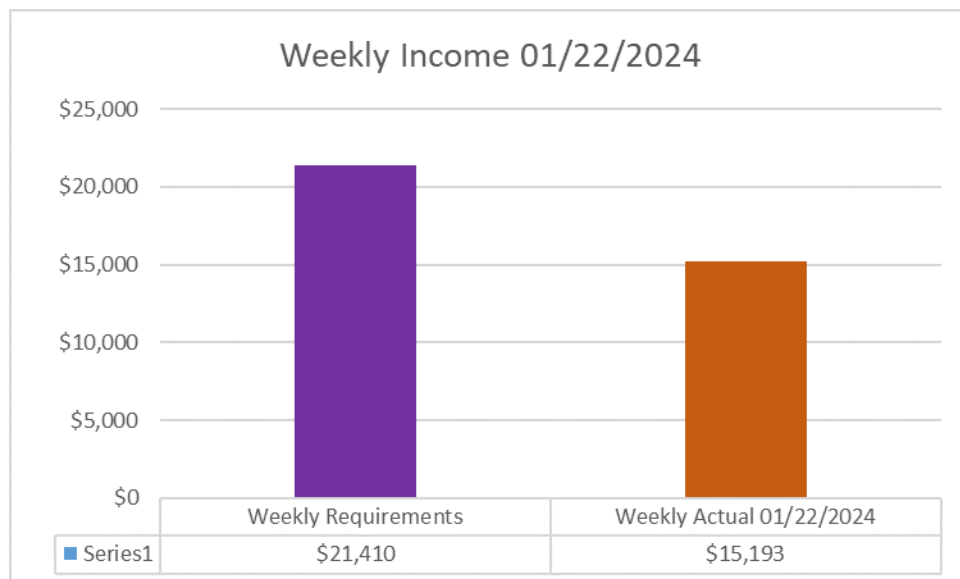
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

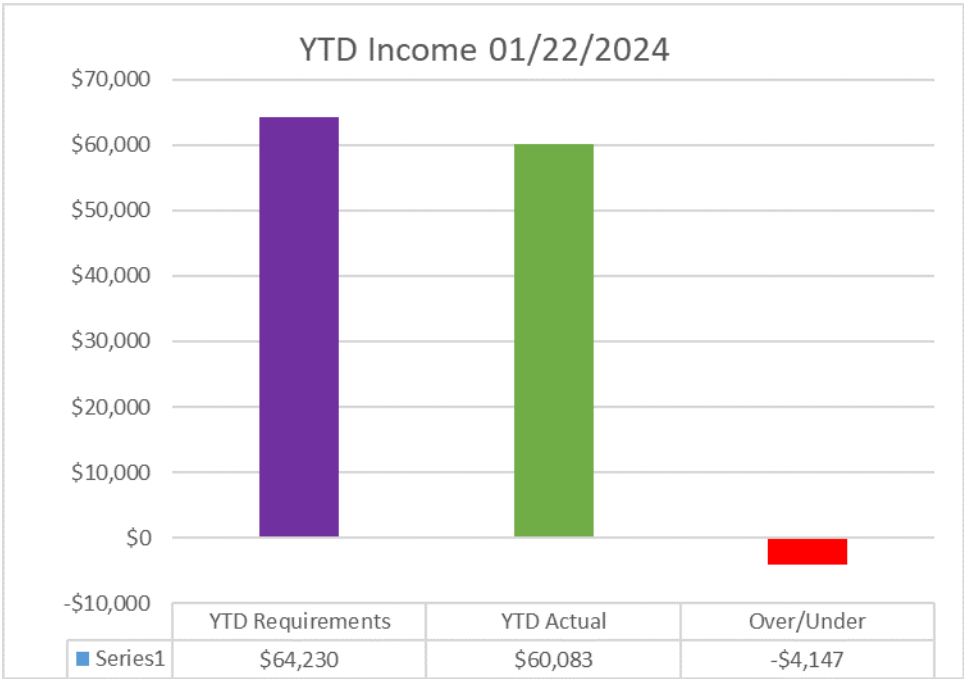
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

**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.

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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.

- William Kannamore, Jr., 31, killed January 9
  - Daniel Q. West, 32, killed January 13
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