

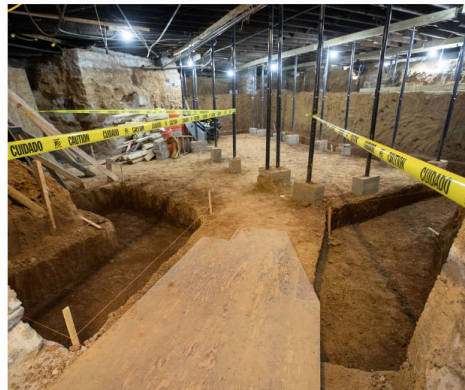
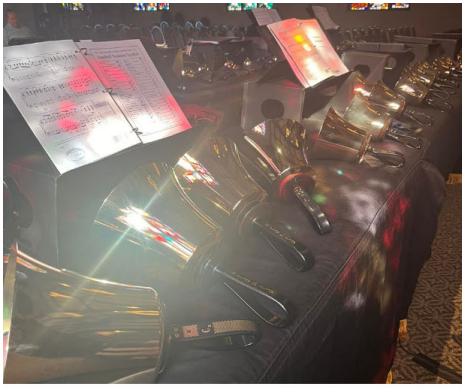


The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 13, 2024

Ash Wednesday Service



Join us for Ash Wednesday on February 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 PM. Please note that the sanctuary is not available during the week due to renovation work. Therefore, we will gather around the tables with one another in the Fellowship Hall for a time of reflection, prayer, music, discussion, and sharing of ashes as we begin of the season of Lent. There will be childcare for infants, toddlers, and two's. Carol Choir will meet for our preschool children (3s, 4s and PreK). Kindergarten-5th grade children and youth are invited to participate with us in this family-friendly service.



Lifesaving Practices for Hard and Holy Work: Lent at Highland

Barbara Brown Taylor was once asked to speak at a church, and when she asked what the pastor wanted her to speak about, he simply said, “Come tell us about what is saving your life now.”

She writes, “It was as if he had swept his arm across a dusty table and brushed all the formal china to the ground...all I had to do was figure out what my life depended on. All I had to do was figure out how I stayed as close to that reality as I could, and then find some way to talk about it that helped my listeners figure out those same things for themselves.

The answers I gave all those years ago are not the same answers I would give today – that is the

beauty of the question—but the principle is the same. My life depends on engaging the most ordinary physical activities with the most exquisite attention I can give them. My life depends on ignoring all the touted distinctions between the secular and the sacred, the physical and the spiritual, the body and the soul. What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world.”

So, what is saving your life right now? What are the practices, activities, and experiences that your life depends upon, and do you make space for them in your day-to-day life? Or, do your to-do lists, busy schedules, and the stressors of modern life take charge on most days? Maybe it’s time for us to rediscover what our lives truly depend upon – and what they don’t.

Many of our Bible Study classes will be using *Hard & Holy Work* as a guide throughout the season of Lent. We will certainly reference the book in worship as well, but we’d like to dig a little deeper and ask ourselves, how are we sustaining ourselves to do hard and holy work for the long haul? What are the life-saving practices that make this hard and holy work possible? When the work begins to feel more “hard” than “holy,” how do we replenish ourselves along the way?

“

Rest is not the reward of our liberation, nor something we lay hold of once we are free. It is the path that delivers us there.

This Here Flesh

Spirituality, Liberation and the stories that make us
by Cole Arthur Riley

@rootsoflaborbc

Remembering Don Burke

On Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 PM, we will honor the life of Highland's beloved Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke. I wish I could have known Don better, but I will always be honored by the sincerity of his encouragement and the depth of his prayers for me over the past few years as he has pastored me over many telephone conversations, visits, and voicemails. I'm so glad to share that Joe Phelps will be returning to Highland help lead Don's service, and I know the two of them developed a deep friendship over the years. I'm also grateful to Kathy Collier for helping us to plan this service to honor Don's rich history of meaningful liturgy and worship at Highland.



Not long after Don began as pastor, the church asked when Don would plan their first revival, which was traditional for a new pastor to do. However, according to our history book by Peter Smith, Don thought this was simply a way for a new pastor to “strut his stuff and have a protracted meeting of hotshot preaching.” So, he responded in a different way, holding services that year on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday – services we still hold dearly as part of our Lenten tradition today. I'm still so grateful that Don was able to be with us for Holy Week last year. I know he treasured the chance to participate in these beloved rituals with the Highland family, 50 years after he first began them.

I'm holding Don closely as we begin a new Lenten season and look forward to hearing more stories as we remember and honor his beautiful legacy among us on March 3. You can learn more about Don's life in [this lovely tribute](#).

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Congregational Conversation about Israel and Palestine

The church will gather on Sunday, February 18, for a time to lament, listen, and learn alongside one another about the ongoing struggles in Israel, Gaza, and the Middle East, from 4:00-5:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Tyler Mayfield, Roy Fuller, Lauren and Mary Alice will guide us through a time to think, feel, and heal as we consider our next best step as a congregation.



We hope you will join us in-person for this initial congregational work toward equipping ourselves to do justice and love mercy as we seek to walk humbly with God in the midst of our hurting world.

Wednesday Black History Month Classes

Join Highland members on Wednesdays, February 21 and 28 at 6:15 p.m. in watching an inspirational speech given by Bryan Stevenson at a United Church of Christ General Synod assembly luncheon last year. Drawing on his faith and experience, including his work as an attorney defending vulnerable clients, many individuals on death row, Stevenson talks about how to engage the work of justice with courage, compassion, and a fierce hope for a better world.



Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama, that has won major legal challenges by exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of persons in prison, including those with mental

illness, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. He also led the effort to create the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, which several of our church members visited on a 2022 trip to visit racial justice sites in Alabama.

We will watch the speech over two Wednesday nights, with time for discussion. Please be warned that some of his stories mention physical abuse, including physical and sexual abuse of a jailed child.

Because his audience is made up of Christian leaders, Stevenson does not shy away from how his faith has been the guiding point of his life's work, and he gives a rousing call to action to people of faith.

P.S. Check out our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for more opportunities to learn about Black excellence as we continue celebrating Black History Month. For those who are not on social media, but would like to see HBC's Black History Month posts, please [click here](#).

Thank You, Highland!

What a *delight* it was to celebrate our new book with you on Sunday! Thank you, thank you, to our church family for such a meaningful way to affirm our work over the past several years.



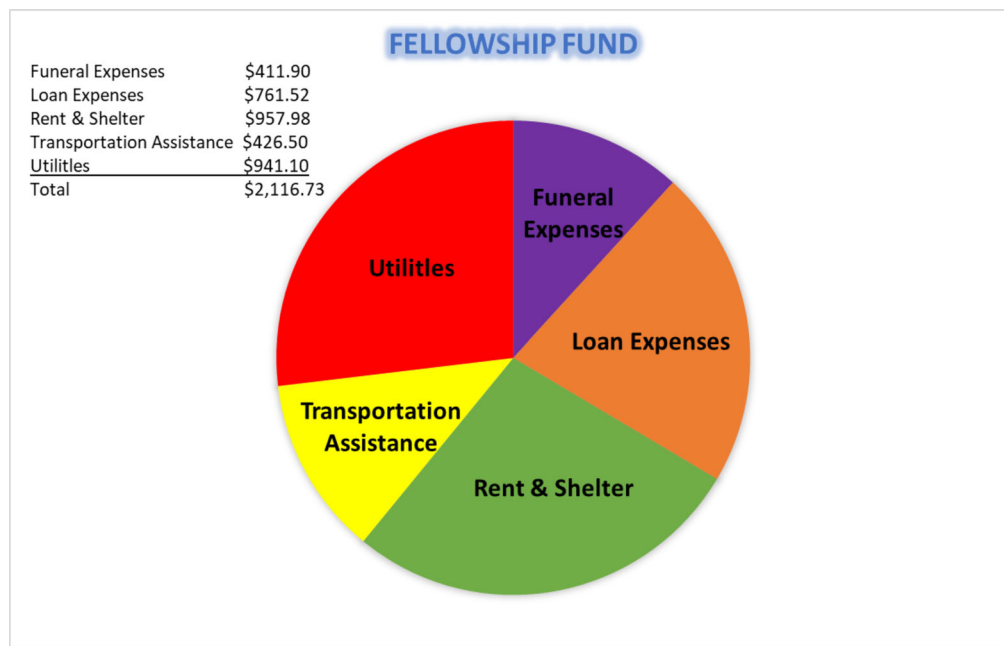
Thanks especially to the Personnel Ministry Group, to Lauren Jones Mayfield and the rest of the staff, and to the Hospitality Ministry Group for all that you did to make this special event possible. We look forward to sharing this “hard and holy work” with you throughout the season of Lent!

With gratitude and love,

Mary Alice and Tyler

Fellowship Fund

The Fellowship Fund at Highland Baptist Church exists to support individuals in our church family and in our community who have specific financial needs. As you can see in the graph below, with your 2023 gifts, Highland was able to help 32 different families totaling \$2,116.73 in gifts.



It is Highland's custom to offer grocery, utility, rent assistance, medical bill subsidies, or hotel room expenses for folks needing a safe place to sleep. Deacons collect this offering on the first Sunday of each month at the close of both worship services. Please give generously knowing that your contributions offer a tangible expression of God's love and compassion.

Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build



Highland is looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming Habitat for Humanity Baptist Build. Together we will work with other local churches to construct a new home near Cane Run Road. The dates are March 7-9. We normally work from 8:00-2:00, and lunch will be provided. No experience is required. You may help any day that fits your schedule. If interested, contact [Larry Hoover](#).

A promotional poster for a book club event. It features a photograph of Dr. Carol Anderson, the author of the book "One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy". The poster includes logos for Simmons College of Kentucky and the Center for Racial Justice. Text on the poster includes: "SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY AND THE REVEREND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR. CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE PRESENTS", "CITY-WIDE BOOK CLUB", "THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND | 6:30PM", "SPEAKER: DR. CAROL ANDERSON", "AND HER BOOK 'ONE PERSON, NO VOTE: HOW VOTER SUPPRESSION IS DESTROYING OUR DEMOCRACY'", "BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT CARMICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE", "SPONSORED BY THE BAUGH FOUNDATION", and "ST. MATTHEWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 330 N. HUBBARDS LN., ST. MATTHEWS, KY 40207".

CITY-WIDE BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND | 6:30PM

SPEAKER: DR. CAROL ANDERSON

AND HER BOOK "ONE PERSON, NO VOTE: HOW VOTER SUPPRESSION IS DESTROYING OUR DEMOCRACY"

BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT CARMICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE

SPONSORED BY THE BAUGH FOUNDATION

ST. MATTHEWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 330 N. HUBBARDS LN., ST. MATTHEWS, KY 40207

*IN-PERSON AND STREAMING AT SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY'S FACEBOOK PAGE
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT EVENTBRITE.COM*

Party with Your Pastors

If you weren't able to join us for a "Party with Your Pastors" last fall, don't worry! There will be plenty more opportunities to party this year.



Our first gathering will be at Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Evan Jacoby's home on Sunday, February 25 from 4:00-5:30 PM. [Sign up here](#) to join us for dessert and a great way to get to know our pastors and more of the Highland family. If you did attend a party in the fall, we ask that you leave space for others to participate. Our next gathering will be in April at Paul and Kim Henderson's home.



Join us for Wednesday Night Supper! 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 February 14: Chicken & Broccoli Casserole / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

Upcoming Menus:

February 21 Shredded BBQ Chicken / Baked Beans/ Salad / Dessert
February 28 Baked Spaghetti / Salad / Garlic Bread / Dessert
March 6 Fried Chicken / Mac & Cheese / Salad / Rolls / Dessert
March 13 Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Cornbread / Dessert
March 20 Chicken Fajitas /Rice / Salad / Dessert



February 14 Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent Begins
February 18 Congregational Conversation about Israel and Palestine, 4:00-5:30 PM
February 25 Party with Your Pastors—Mary Alice & Evan’s home, 4:00-5:30 PM
March 3 Service of Remembrance for Pastor Emeritus Don Burke, 4:00 PM
March 7-9 Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build

Sunday, 11:15 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

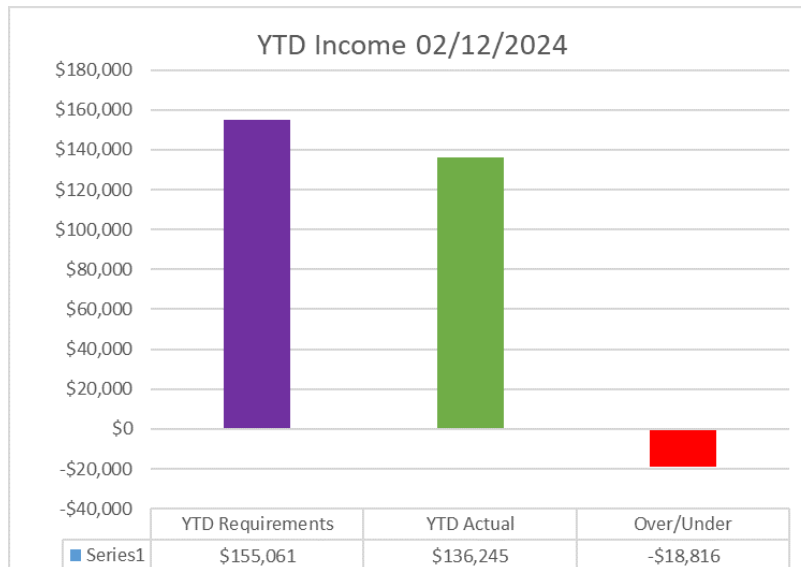
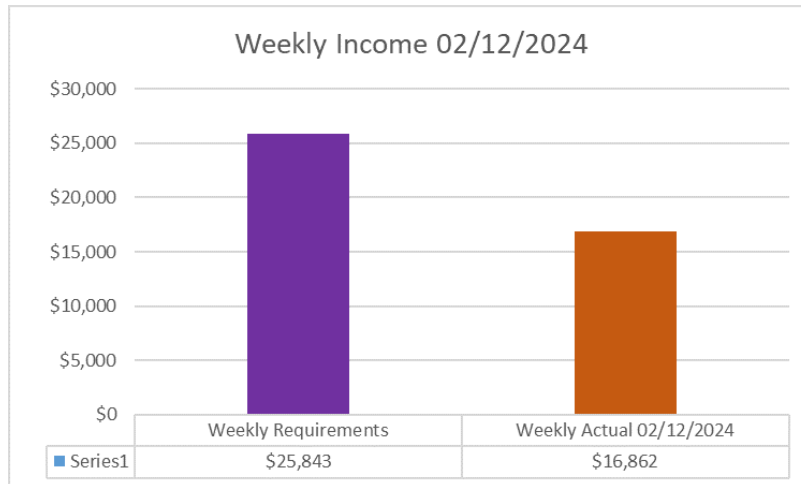
Friday, 7:00 PM

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

Streaming
Worship
Links



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.

- Zacarion Depp, 4, killed January 13
 - Joyce O'Bannon, 56, killed January 26
 - Corey R. Dillard, 22, killed January 31
 - Zagger Zahnd, 22, killed February 1
-



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