



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 27, 2024

Youth Winter Retreat

Our “Reset” Youth Winter Retreat was this past weekend and y’all, it was amazing! We had 25 amazing youth and six brave adults who traveled over to Camp Loucon in Western Kentucky for the weekend.

Throughout the weekend, we explored different themes related to what it means to follow Jesus. Our first session together we talked about “Pressing Start.” We explored the call of the disciples and how Jesus invited those first followers to “press start” and follow him. Likewise, in our own journeys of faith, Christ is calling each of us to “press start” and follow as well.



We also explored what happens when following Christ gets difficult. What happens when we “Get Stuck?” What do we do when life gets hard? When there are big questions that we don’t have answers for? When we see people proclaiming to be followers of Jesus but do things that harm and destroy others? We spent some time sitting in that tension, asking questions, and wondering what we are supposed to do when we feel overwhelmed.



Every journey needs a break and a time for rest. We explored what it means to hit “Reset” and find times to rest and grow in our faith, so that we can do the work and be the people Christ has called us to be.

And before we left Loucon, we shared communion together. We encouraged each other to keep “pressing start,” so that we can do justice, love kindness, and do so humbly together. We encouraged each other to be honest when we feel “stuck.” We encouraged each other to hit “reset” when we need moments of rest. It was a beautiful and holy weekend.

Thanks especially to our amazing chaperones: Kim Clark-Endicott, Tara Davis, John Gulden, Tyler Swim, and Abbi Wolfe.

~ Justin Sizemore



Lent at Highland: What's Saving Your Life?

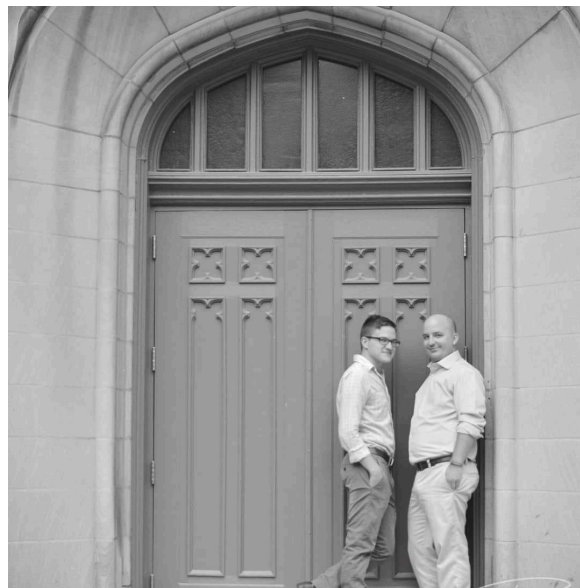
Barbara Brown Taylor was once asked to speak at a church, and when she asked the pastor (who just happened to be John Claypool) what she ought to speak about, he simply said, “Come tell us about what is saving your life now.” So, what is saving your life right now? What are the practices, activities, and experiences that your life depends upon? How are you “wringing out your sponge” like we talked about this week?

I love seeing some of your responses to these questions on social media and I've included some of them below. It's a beautiful practice – a way of leaning into delight as an aspect of the holy in this world. We would love to hear your responses, too! Feel free to respond on social media using the hashtag #LentatHighland.

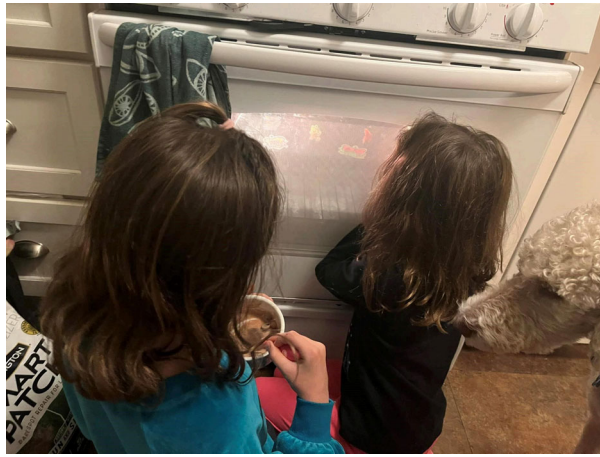
Mary's Photo: Had a beautiful and blessed retreat day with a great group of Norton Healthcare CPE residents at Valaterra yesterday. My soul is happy. HBC folks- it was a good day to wring the sponge out.



Steven's Photo: Today I want to intentionally delight in my husband, David, who puts up with the roller coaster that is going through life with me. I know people talk about how their spouse is their rock, but legit he's a rock and I'm the balloon that is tied to him. If I didn't have him, I would float away. He's the strategist in my life. A constant presence. My muse.



Paige's Photo: Following Mary Alice's sermon at Highland, tonight I'm delighting in the simple joy of shrinky-dink anticipation!



~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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'm so glad that Joe Phelps will be returning to Highland help lead Don's service, and I'm grateful to Kathy Collier for helping to plan this service to honor Don's rich history of meaningful liturgy and worship at Highland.



We will livestream this service in order to make it available to Don's friends and family across the country and in Canada. You can learn more about Don's life and legacy in [this tribute](#).

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Reparations Fund Update

Last October, Highland paid \$2,700 to secure a building that an African American woman planned to rent for a new business. That business, CoLab, had its grand opening on January 11 (see CoLab's website [here](#) and an article about its grand opening [here](#)).

Highland's Reparation Fund group is partnering with MOLO Village to find individuals who need some financial support to take the next step to reach goals for career, education, or home ownership. The owner of CoLab was the first.

This week \$5,000 was given to MOLO Village to go toward tuition at Simmons College of Kentucky for another African American woman to begin her journey toward becoming a nurse. She will begin classes this summer.

The Reparations Fund group continues to look for Black organizations to partner with on behalf of Highland and is thankful for the church's generosity.

Wednesday Black History Month Class

Join Highland members on Wednesday, February 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. 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.

This will be our second Wednesday night watching this, with time for discussion. Please be warned that some of his stories mention physical abuse, including physical and sexual abuse of a jailed child.

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](#).



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 28: Baked Spaghetti / Salad / Garlic Bread / Dessert

Upcoming Menus:

March 6 Fried Chicken / Mac & Cheese / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

March 13 Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Cornbread / Dessert
March 20 Chicken Fajitas / Rice / Salad / Dessert

Cream of the Crop Luncheon

Our next Cream of the Crop Luncheon will be at August Moon (2269 Lexington Road) on Tuesday, March 12 at 12:00 Noon.

For your seat at the table, please contact David Wells by text or phone at 502-931-2510 no later than Monday, March 11. We look forward to a time of great food and fellowship!



February 28 Black History class featuring *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson, 6:15 PM
March 3 Service of Remembrance for Pastor Emeritus Don Burke, 4:00 PM
March 7-9 Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build
March 24 Palm Sunday
March 28 Maundy Thursday
March 29 Good Friday
March 31 Easter Sunday

More information about Highland's upcoming Holy Week activities will be available in next week's newsletter!

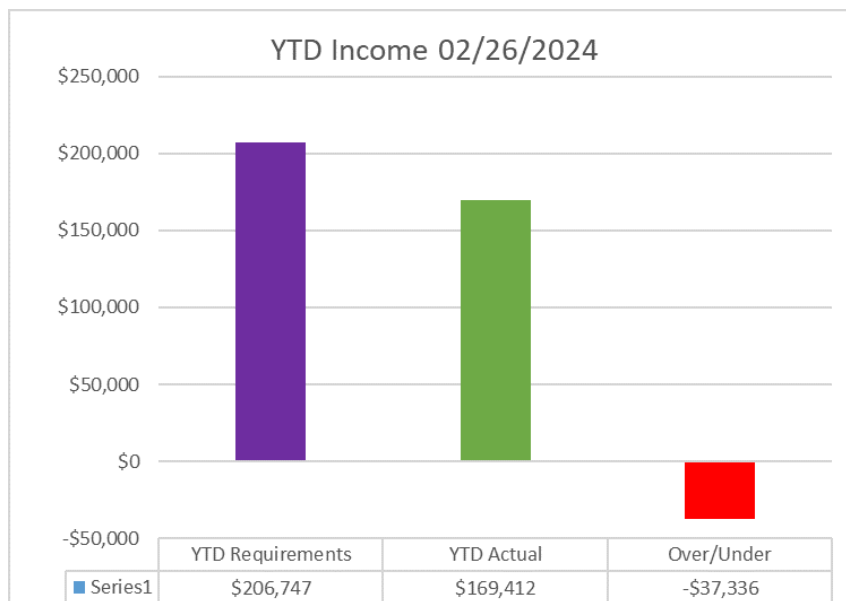
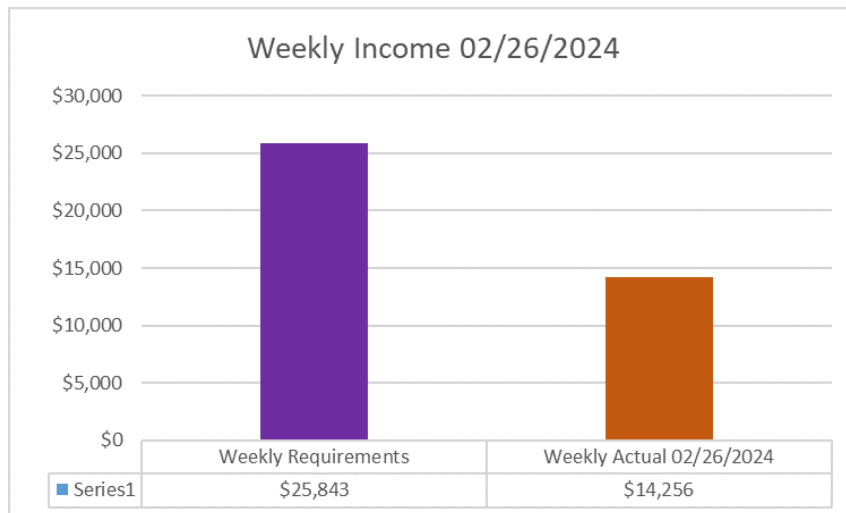
Sunday, 11:15 AM
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

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.

- Kylee Miller, 21, killed February 18
-



Facebook



YouTube



Website



Instagram

Copyright © 2024 Highland Baptist Church, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).