



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church* *March 5, 2024*

**Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour this Saturday night!**

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### **Renee's Upcoming Sabbatical, Welcoming Rev. Sally Evans**

Beloved Highland, somehow it is already March! Plants are budding, a few flowers are blooming, and the energy that comes from spring springing is palpable in the air. With that comes the recognition that I will begin my Sabbatical just a few short weeks from now.

From April 2-June 24, I will step away from the life and work of Highland for a season of intentional renewal and rest. I hope to relish caring for the core of my being by slowing down, tending the garden in my backyard, connecting with my family, and reading to my heart's content. In so doing, I hope to bring a rested and renewed self back to you in June, ready for the next iteration of our life and work together as pastor and people.

While I am away, my work will be tended by two incredible people, both of whom you already know well. Our Children and Family Ministry Assistant, Megan Fuller, will take on an additional day of work in the office each week to offer additional support to all things related to the administration and logistics of our ministry to children and their families.

To oversee the pastoral functions of my work, we are overjoyed to welcome back Rev. Sally Evans. While I am away, she will tend to the pastoral needs of Children and Family Ministry by offering presence on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, providing guidance for Megan in her daily work, overseeing activities and events, and providing care and support for families.

As I spend the next few weeks preparing to rest, please know how thankful I am for this

opportunity and for Highland's long arc of providing space for renewal for its pastors through Sabbatical. It is a gift for which I am deeply grateful.

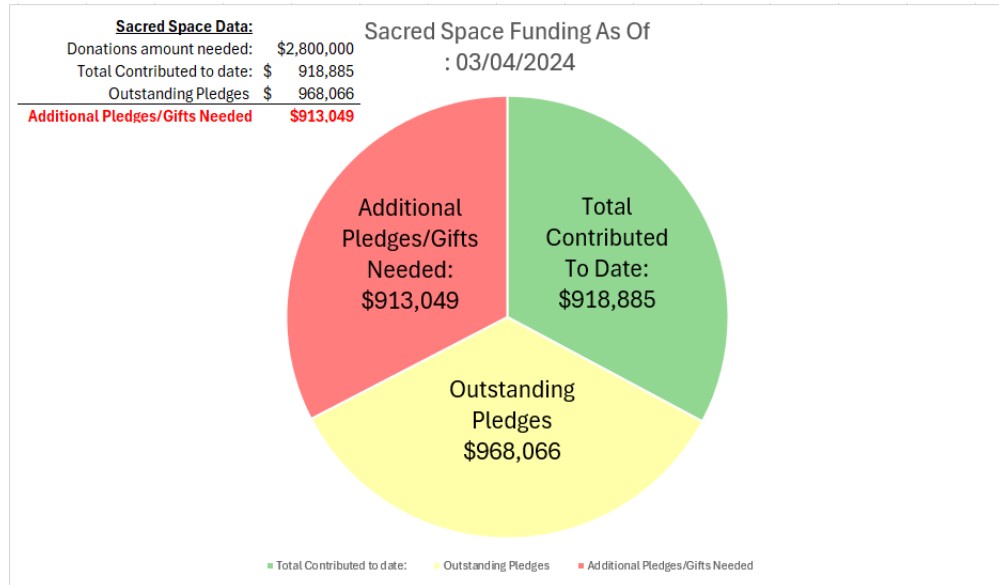
*~ Renee Purtlebaugh*



## Sacred Space Financial Update

Thank you for your generous gifts to our Sacred Space campaign! Going forward, we will be sharing monthly reports in the newsletter on fundraising finances related to this important project. As you can see from the graph below, we have received over \$900,000 toward the campaign, with about \$970,000 in outstanding pledges to be received over the next several years. However, the sooner we receive your pledges, the less debt the church will need to absorb in the coming years,

and the lower our interest payments will be. **To reach our total goal of \$2,800,000, additional pledges/gifts of \$913,049 are needed.**



If this amount is not raised, Highland will have to carry long-term debt which will significantly impact our funds available for ministry and missions, and it will further increase the cost of future interest payments.

There are two actions **each of us** can take to help Highland in this pivotal moment:

- **If you can accelerate your pledge payments**, please consider doing so.
- **If you have not pledged or given to the Sacred Space campaign**, please seriously consider doing so. Every amount makes a difference!

We continue to be grateful for your generous and faithful giving, and we are trusting God to continue to provide in abundance as we go about this crucial work. Thank you, Highland!

*Tracy Holladay, Finance Ministry Group*  
*Rob Thompson, Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

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## **Following Jesus Retreat Reflections**

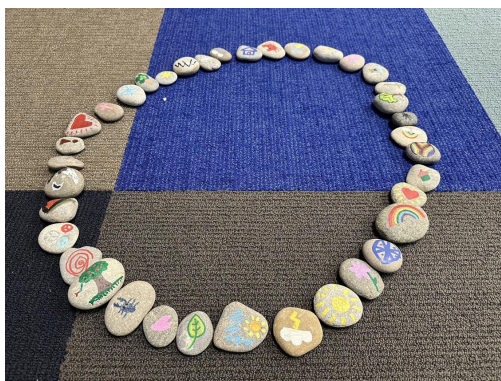
Last weekend, 12 of Highland's 4th and 5th graders gathered to explore in more depth what it means to follow Jesus by making their faith their own and baptism.

To explore these themes, we began by listening for God through a story in the style of Godly Play. As we moved through our time on Friday night hearing the story, it became clear that we needed

more practice listening for God in a variety of ways – individually, in pairs, as a group, through the stories of our faith, and through elements of nature that we take in through sight, sound, taste, touch, and hearing.



On Saturday morning, we gathered to listen for God again and then made our way through self-directed stations that allowed us to listen for God in different ways. We painted what we had seen that is good, beautiful, and true. We captured in story form moments of experiencing sadness, anger or fear. We traced labyrinths enveloped in the softness of bean bag chairs. We kneaded and molded clay into our own individual labyrinths. We soaked reed and wove baskets. We drew on post-it notes moments when we had drawn close to God and God had drawn close to us. We used stones with painted images on them to share about what was on our mind.



At one point, one of our children called me over as they traced the labyrinth in the soft, comfy bean bag chair. He said something to me in such whispered tones I had difficulty hearing him. When I asked him to repeat it, he said, "I heard God say that God will be with me through all the twists and turns of my life." As he pointed out markers on the labyrinth along the way, "God's with me at the beginning, to the middle, and then all the way back to the end."

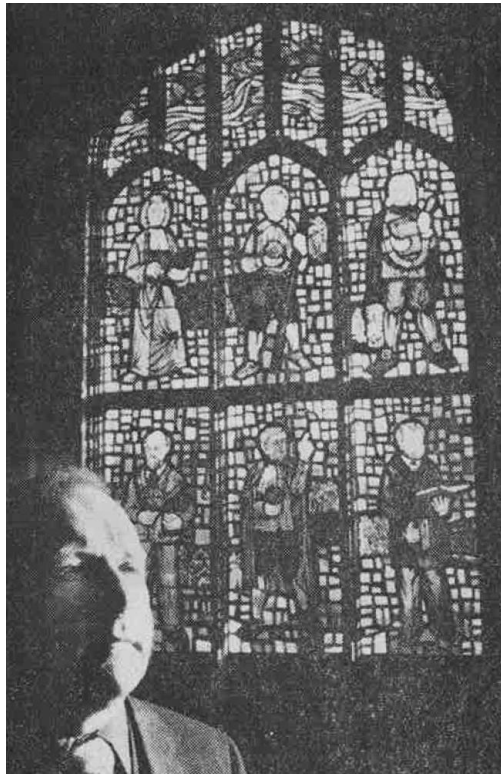
My hope and prayer is that each child was able to hear God at least once in such a profound way through our time together, and that the practice of such listening will allow them to continue exploring what it means to make their faith their own.

*~ Renee Purtlebaugh*

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## **Remembering Don Burke**

This weekend, Highland beautifully honored and remembered our Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke. On the 10th anniversary of Don's pastorate here, the church celebrated him by publishing a book of his public prayers from 1970-1980, words that had deeply ministered to Highland over the years. I'm grateful to Kathy Collier, who carefully combed through this book of prayers and chose ones to guide our service for him. Several of you have asked for a copy of this book, and we will be working to scan copies so that we can make this beautiful resource available on the church website in the coming weeks.



I'm mindful that Don shared so many gifts with Highland over the years – gifts which are still very much part of our identity today. As Jim Hawkins shared with me last week, “Don was always bringing something new and different for Highland to think through. But we always moved forward, and we were a stronger faith community because of it.”

Sometimes Don's gifts looked like stained glass windows that reflect the beautiful spectrum of God's light in the world. Other times his gifts looked like new ideas or worship traditions. Weekly hospital visits to see his namesake, Burke Tinsley, in Indianapolis – complete with cream puffs and doughnuts from Plehn's Bakery.

Sometimes they looked like phone calls to me during a pandemic to pray for the new pastor of his beloved church. Or tea cups to remind you of his hospitality and love. Bit by bit, drop by drop, word by word, prayer by prayer, day by day – Don Burke gave himself over for the sake of this beautiful community of faith – and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The day that our stained glass windows were installed, Don prayed the following words: “Above all, we pray Thee to increase in us the beauty of your holiness, that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ may be seen in our lives. Grant that all those who shall behold these windows may be inspired to think on whatever is honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and worthy of praise.” These words are based on the words from Philippians 4, which goes on to say: “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

And so may the God of all peace tenderly hold our beloved pastor Don Burke in the palm of God's hands. We are a stronger fellowship, a more faithful people, and a vibrant and resilient community of faith because of the beautiful ministry he put into practice among us. Thanks be to God!

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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## Easter Lilies



This Easter we will once again adorn our Sanctuary with beautiful Easter lilies. All members are invited to purchase a lily for \$15 in memory/in honor of a family member, friend, or loved one. The deadline for orders is Monday, March 25. Here is the [order form](#) to submit and pay for your order online.

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## Sacred Space Project Update

Some weeks the work of the Sacred Space Project is behind the scenes and doesn't translate into pictures very well, but other weeks are more photogenic. This week is the latter. First, in case you weren't here on Friday night or Sunday morning, the new chandeliers in the sanctuary were running at full power and it was a wonder to behold!



Secondly, this week the re-painting of the sanctuary continues. Pictured below are the delivery of scaffolding for the painters and some of Gary Waller's handiwork in covering the organ pipes and console.



Lastly, the new mechanical room underneath the sanctuary has had footers poured for the walls and for the two supports that will ultimately carry the weight of the chancel in the sanctuary.



~ Walter McWhorter

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

**Upcoming Menus:**

March 13      Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Cornbread / Dessert

March 20      Chicken Fajitas / Rice / Salad / Dessert

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## 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!



March 7-9	Habitat for Humanity Spring House Build
March 24	Palm Sunday Services
March 27	Cloud of Witness, 6:15 PM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 PM
March 29	Tenebrae Service, 7:00 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday Worship and Church-Wide Gathering and Celebration

As the season of Lent continues, we are preparing for the beloved events and traditions of Holy Week and Easter Sunday at Highland. Between services on Easter morning, we will gather on the lawn (weather permitting) and in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast, adorning our Easter cross with fresh flowers, and Easter egg hunting for children. There will be no Bible Study classes for any ages to allow for this shared time of fellowship, connection, and celebration. More information will be available in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

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Sunday, 11:15 AM

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

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

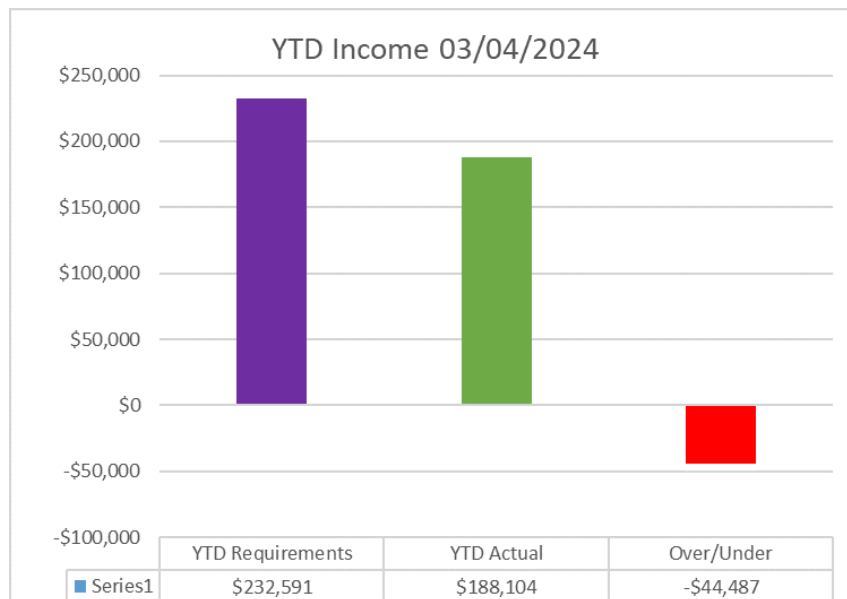
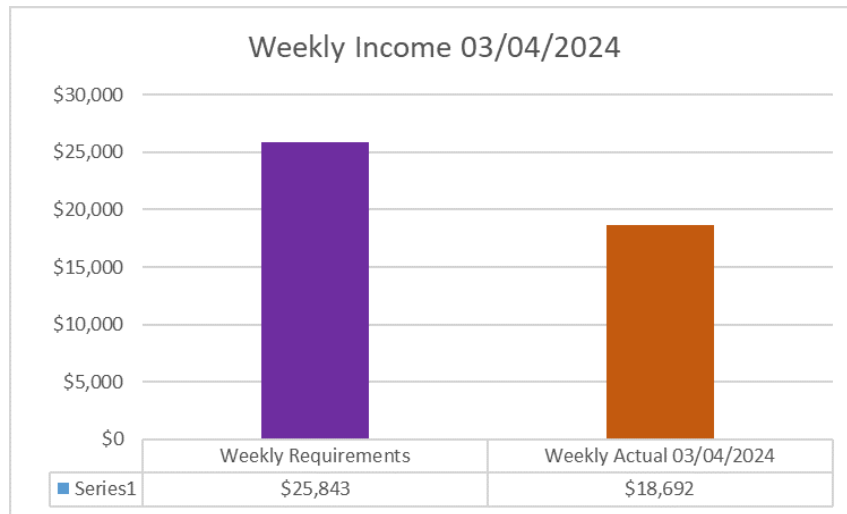
Friday, 7:00 PM

<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.

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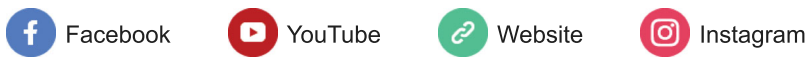


## Louisville Homicides

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.

- Alain Garcia Perez, 45, killed February 25
  - Bettie Bailes Collins, 79, killed February 12
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