



*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church March 19, 2024

Holy Week at Highland

Holy Week is a time that many of us want to skip over. It's fun to come to church on a sunny Palm Sunday morning and to see children waving palm branches as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. And we love coming to church on Easter Sunday to a cross filled with beautiful flowers symbolizing Jesus' resurrection. But it's hard to come to a dimly lit space on Thursday and Friday night to be reminded of Jesus' death.



Yet I've grown to love the way the church feels on these nights, too. The light peeks in the windows from an angle we don't know on Sunday mornings. There's a quietness and a peace that I don't always feel on Sunday mornings, or maybe I'm just not in a state of mind to experience it. The music is a little softer, and we walk in a little more slowly. We look into each other's eyes and hear each other's voices a little more clearly.

We don't always come wearing our Sunday best. We come after a full day of work or school, and we come as we are. But we're present. We're here. To me, this whole time together just seems so real. There's something real about coming to church not because it's Sunday, and that's what we do on Sunday, but because it's a weekday, and we want to be here. We come because we believe God has something to say to us on ordinary weekdays, too.

Not only is there something real to me about these weekday service; there's also something incredibly real to me about the weekday Jesus who meets us here. The weekday Jesus sits with us in our doubt and pain and confusion, when there is no resurrection in sight. The weekday Jesus serves from the very core of his being, considering others as better than himself. The weekday Jesus loves to the very end. And then, he calls us to do the same.

Rev. Emily Heath wrote the following in an article for Holy Week a few years ago that I return to every year. They write: "What if we became known not just as the people who knew what to do on Sundays, but the ones who knew how to stay with you when your life was falling apart, just as Christ asks us to do on Maundy Thursday? Or the ones who could stand by and still love you even when you call out your doubts, as Jesus did on the cross? What would happen if we weren't just known for our Easter Sunday celebrations, but for our Thursday night solidarity? Our Friday afternoon compassion?" (Read the full article [here](#).)

Friends, this is the extent to which Christ is calling us to follow him....not just on Sundays, but even and especially on the days in between. Even in times when there is no hint of resurrection in sight. No matter the road on which we find ourselves, Holy Week reminds us that we're surrounded by the love of a God who has walked this road, too, and who walks with us, still.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



*Around Highland
on March 17*





Holy Week at Highland Baptist Church

Palm Sunday: March 24, 8:45 and 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

This service of worship celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry and begins with a traditional palm processional led by the children of Highland. The Carol and Chorister Choirs will sing: *Blessed Is He!* The people of Highland will also lift their voices in praise to begin Holy Week.

Sanctuary Choir Anthem: *Lift Up Your Heads*—G. F. Handel



Cloud of Witness: March 27, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Bob Cunningham facilitates conversations as Highland's "saints-in-process" share their faith stories. This evening will include Noelle Tennis Gulden, Margaret Pennington, and Abby Sizemore.



Maundy Thursday Service: March 28, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This intimate service takes place in smaller gatherings around the Fellowship Hall. This year, we will start early to offer a time of fellowship with charcuterie snacks. Afterward we will join in a time of communion, hymns, reading Scripture, and hand washing.

Tenebrae Service: Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Service of Darkness is based on the ancient word Tenebrae (shadows) and remembers Christ's suffering and crucifixion through music and scripture. Highland's Sanctuary Choir provides the music for the service.



Easter Sunday: March 31, 8:45 and 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

Join us for this time of celebration as the Sanctuary resounds with congregational singing, choirs, and instruments. Our 2nd and 3rd grade children will process with Easter lilies in the 11:15 a.m. service. Together, we will proclaim that Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Sanctuary Choir Anthem: *Psalm 148*—Gustav Holst

Easter Breakfast, Egg Hunt, and Resurrection Cross on the Lawn: 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a finger-food breakfast in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the resurrection together on Easter morning. Please sign up via the link in the newsletter to bring a breakfast item to share.



We also invite you to bring fresh flowers to help adorn our Easter cross, created by Chip Miller, outside in front of the sanctuary. Children will also have the opportunity to participate in an Easter egg hunt for different age groups.

Whether you are new to Highland, looking for a way to re-connect, or are with us on a regular basis, we hope you will join us. We look for-



ward to a beautiful Easter morning together with the Highland family!



Worship Care for infants-preschool children is available during all Holy Week and Easter services.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH ■ 1101 CHEROKEE ROAD ■ LOUISVILLE, KY 40204 ■ (502) 451-3735 ■ WWW.HBCLLOUISVILLE.ORG

Highland Welcomes New Members



Easter Morning Happenings

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.



We encourage you to sign up [here](#) to bring a breakfast item to share that morning so that we will have plenty of food for guests joining us. You're also welcome to bring fresh flowers throughout the morning to help adorn our Easter cross, created by Chip Miller, outside in front of the sanctuary.

Whether you are new to Highland, looking for a way to reconnect, or with us on a regular basis, we hope you will join us for a beautiful Easter morning with the Highland family!

Easter Lilies



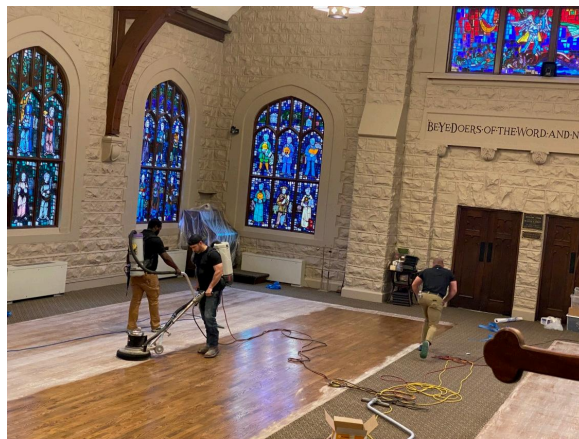
This Easter we will once again adorn our Sanctuary with beautiful Easter lilies. All members are invited to purchase a lily for \$15 in memory/in honor of a family member, friend, or loved one. The deadline for orders is next Monday, March 25. Here is the [order form](#) to submit and pay for your order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

Sacred Space Project Update

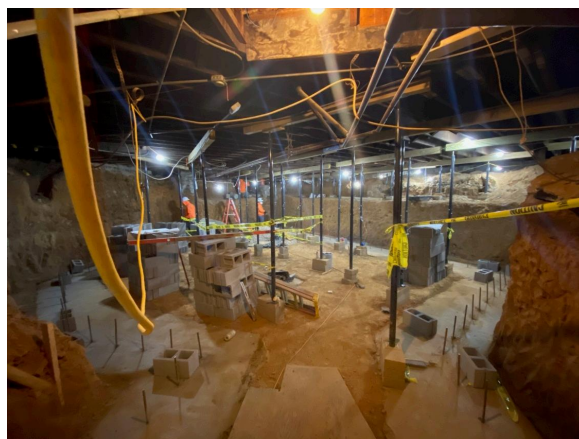
Late last week saw the removal of the chiller that once provided cooling to the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and other parts of the building. Installed 20 years ago and having served its purpose well, we struggled with keeping the chiller running in recent years with multiple patches and fixes. Below are before and after pictures.



In anticipation of the pews returning to the sanctuary, the hardwood floors are being buffed and sealed.



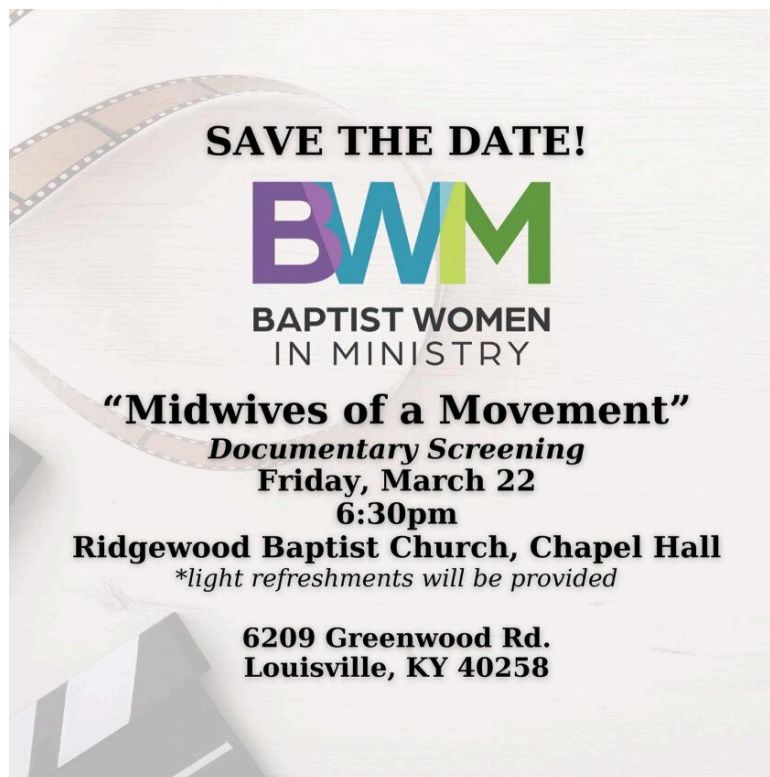
The build-out of the new mechanical room beneath the sanctuary continues.



~ Walter McWhorter

Midwives of a Movement – Documentary Showing at Ridgewood Baptist Church

This spring, Baptist Women in Ministry is hosting screenings of their new documentary, [Midwives of a Movement](#), across the country. We are invited to attend a community showing at Ridgewood Baptist Church on Friday, March 22 at 6:30 PM. Meredith Stone, Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry who preached at Highland last fall, will also be present for this screening and conversation following.



This film chronicles the stories of the women who boldly birthed a movement to seek greater visibility and opportunities for women in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and features two of Highland's own: Lela Hendrix and Pat Bailey. Despite great opposition, their courage blazed pathways for advancing women in ministry and leadership among Baptists.

As BWIM shares on their website, "challenging religious patriarchy, and specifically Baptist patriarchy, is not only a subject of the past. It is as relevant today as it was forty years ago.

In this film, audiences today will find heartfelt stories, painful anecdotes, profound insights, and lighthearted remembrances which will inspire continued confrontation of patriarchy and advocacy efforts so that women find equality and equity among Baptists."

We hope to host our own showing of the documentary at Highland later this year after our renovation project is complete in order to highlight the work of Lela, Pat, and so many other women who blazed trails for churches like ours. In the meantime, we hope you'll consider joining us at Ridgewood next week!

Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 9th from 12:00-1:30 PM

Cream of the Crop Salad and Dessert Potluck Luncheon at church - bring your best salad or dessert item to share with our group! Drinks will be provided.

There will be a flower arranging activity after lunch. We will deliver these arrangements to our church members who are receiving continuing care. If you can deliver a flower arrangement to one of our members on the list it would be greatly appreciated! Please bring a vase (that won't be returned to you) for arranging if you have an extra one. Some vases will be provided, as well as the flowers.

Please RSVP to JoAnne Taheri at jntaheri@gmail.com or 502-387-4785 by Sunday, April 7.



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 20: Chicken Fajitas / Rice / Salad / Dessert

Upcoming Menus:

March 27 Chicken Nuggets / Buttery Corn / Salad / Dessert
April 3 JCPS Spring Break - No Wednesday Night Supper
April 10 Tuscan Chicken Pasta / Salad / Rolls / Dessert
April 17 Beef & Veggie Rice Bowls / Salad / Dessert



March 24 Palm Sunday Services, 8:45 and 11:15 AM
March 27 Cloud of Witness with Noelle Tennis Gulden, Margaret Pennington,
and Abby Sizemore, 6:15 PM
March 28 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 PM (please note earlier start time)
March 29 Tenebrae Service, 7:00 PM
March 31 Easter Sunday Worship and Church-Wide Gathering and Celebration
April 3 JCPS Spring Break - No Wednesday Evening Activities

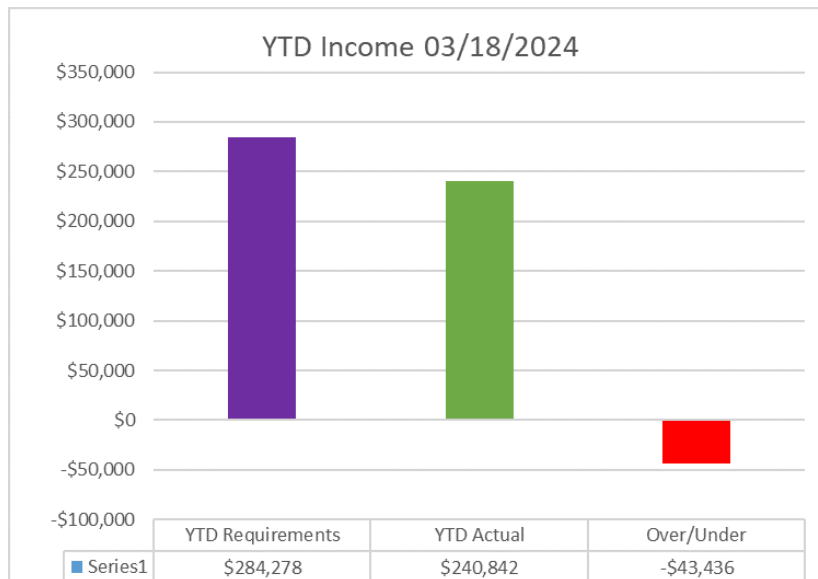
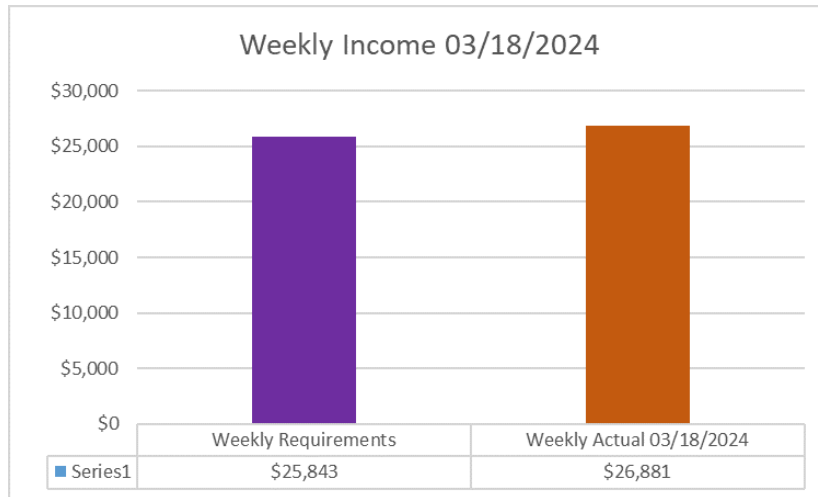
Sunday, 11:15 AM

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

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



Financial Reports



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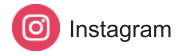
To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link.



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.

- Brian Paulley, 48, killed February 16
 - Devon Johnson, 28, killed February 20
 - Kenneth Frazier, 66, killed February 24
 - Carlos Hamilton, 23, killed March 5
 - Da'moni Martell Smith, 17, killed March 9
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