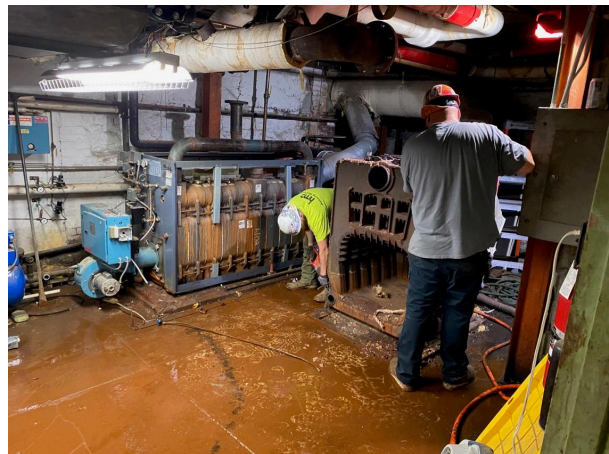




The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *April 2, 2024*

Sacred Space Project Update - Make Note!

Major changes are underway in the church building! This week the two boilers in the “old” mechanical room and the air handler were shut down and are being dismantled and removed from their home of the past few decades. This removal is a major milestone in our project! First, it means that preparation can begin in that room (new flooring, electrical work, and mechanical work) so that we can continue moving forward with new systems for our geothermal system. The two pictures below show the boilers before demolition began and in the middle of being deconstructed.



Second, and here’s the place where you really need to pay attention: as of this week we have NO heat (or air conditioning) in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall! Please watch the weather as you prepare to come to services & events at church. If it’s cold outside, wear a sweater for worship, adult Bible study class in Fellowship Hall, or Wednesday night supper. If it’s warm outside, wear short sleeves. Our building will be like this for several weeks.

We know this may be inconvenient or uncomfortable for a little while, but it's all part of tending to this building of ours. Thanks for your patience, your encouragement, and your ongoing financial support (you may donate [here](#))!

~ Walter McWhorter



Holy Week and Easter Gratitude

What an incredible Holy Week and Easter morning we shared together, Highland! We are filled with gratitude for all the people who helped out in ways big and small to create sacred and meaningful spaces for our church and community throughout the week. For those who planned

and prepared for our worship experiences, decorated and set up our spaces for various services and events, adorned the Easter cross with fresh flowers, prepared food and spaces of hospitality for our Easter breakfast, practiced long hours to share such beautiful music in worship, organized hundreds of Easter eggs, exchanged Easter eggs for goody bags, greeted and welcomed guests, cared for children during our services, prepared and printed worship bulletins, and more – this week would not have been possible without each of you. Thank you, thank you, Highland family. Christ is Risen indeed, within each of you and within our beloved community of faith!

~ All the Ministerial and Support Staff

Easter Morning at Highland



Renee Purtlebaugh's Sabbatical

Today begins Renee Purtlebaugh's 12-week sabbatical. Last week, we shared a blessing with Renee Purtlebaugh at the end of worship. As one who continually invites us to curiosity, wonder, and imagination, we gifted Renee a shirt that says "Blessed are the Curious, for They Shall Have Adventures!" We are thrilled that Renee has received a generous grant from the Lily Foundation to help fund her curiosity and adventures over the next 3 months. The grant will also support some of our experiences here at Highland this year that coincide with Renee's sabbatical.



During Renee's time away, we are excited to welcome Rev. Sally Evans back on staff as our Interim Associate Pastor to Children and Families. Sally will be working 12-15 hours each week, tending to the pastoral needs of families with children, participating in worship leadership, coordinating children's worship, and tending to any needs that arise. She'll be present on Wednesdays, leading Cherub Choir and offering support to the overall Wednesday evening set of activities. Sally will be in the church office on Tuesdays as well. For any need related to children and family ministry, you can reach out to Sally at sally@hbclouisville.org beginning April 2 through June 24.



We are also grateful to Megan Fuller, who is taking on some extra hours and responsibilities in her role as Children and Family Ministry Assistant. She will be in the office three days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday). In addition to her usual work, she'll take on additional administrative tasks and preparations for summer camps.

If you have any other needs while Renee is away that are unrelated to children and family ministry, please contact Mary Alice. As much as we would all love to stay in touch with Renee throughout this time, we are asking you to reach out to these staff members instead. We want to honor Renee's space for rest and renewal, her travels, time with family and friends, and her time to dream and imagine for ministry at Highland in the days ahead.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sabbatical Gratitude

Beloved Highland,

O how grateful I am for each of you, and for the beautiful moments of Easter joy that have sent me forth into this intentional season of Sabbatical! This unique opportunity for rest and renewal would not be possible without this congregation's thoughtfulness and care for its ministers, the ministers and office staff who will step into my work, and Sally Evans who is returning to our team to lend a hand in my absence. Words to express my gratitude for each one of you is beyond measure. Thank you too for your well-wishes, hugs, emails, texts, gifts, blessings, and notes throughout the

last few weeks. I carry them with me as I seek to rest and renew my mind, body, and spirit for the next season of our life and work together.

With love and deepest gratitude,

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Holy Week at Highland



Easter Season: Discovering God Outside the Box

In 1945, German psychologist Karl Duncker conducted an experiment and instructed participants with the following challenge: to see if they could attach a candle to a cork board and light it. The trick was that the candle wax could not drip on the table below it, and they could only use a book of

matches and a box of thumbtacks, in addition to the candle, to complete the assignment.

Some participants tried to attach the candle to the wall using the thumb tacks, but the tacks wouldn't go all the way through the candle. Others tried to melt some of the candle's wax and use it as an adhesive to stick the candle against the wall, but that didn't work either. The actual solution to the puzzle required them to use the box containing the thumbtacks as well; they simply had to empty the thumbtacks out of the box and imagine it being used in another way. The candle could sit in the box, and the thumbtacks could be used to attach the box to the wall. That way, the box would catch the wax, preventing it from dripping on the table below.

It seems simple when you think about it, and for some participants it was. If they were presented with thumbtacks, an empty box, and a book of matches, almost all of the participants completed the task pretty easily. However, if they were presented with a box that was already filled with thumbtacks, participants were over 50 percent less likely to solve the puzzle.

The experiment was designed to measure what Dunker called "functional fixedness." He hypothesized that the original function of the box to hold the tacks limited people's ability to imagine any other alternative for it.

I wonder if you and I approach our faith with a functional fixedness based on our ideas about who God is and how God works in the world. Early in our faith journeys, many of us were actually taught to put God in a box. However, as we have grown, we've discovered that these boxes aren't necessarily helpful, because we follow a God is always working outside the boxes we put God in. The resounding message of Easter is that just when we think we have God pegged...God always surprises. The Holy One always breaks down our preconceived notions, never adheres to our expectations, and is more expansive than you and I can comprehend.

Our sermons throughout this season of Easter will invite us to think – and ultimately – to live out our faith "outside the box." To consider how we view people who are considered "outside the boundaries" of our own traditions. We'll be looking at the out-of-the-box ways in which God works in the world, learning from outside-the-box people in Scripture, and discovering together what it looks like to be a church who lives out our faith outside the box. Join us in worship throughout this Easter season!

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Faith and Media Series Begins on Wednesday, April 10

Join us for our next Wednesday night program—Faith and Media with Erin Phelps! This class is designed to make participants feel more comfortable in analyzing the media they consume for themes about the Bible and theology. It turns out that sometimes reading the Bible and watching your favorite show can be pretty similar activities! Whether you're a movie critic novice or a pop culture buff, you're welcome to join in! Sessions will run on Wednesdays April 10-24 at 6:15 PM.



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 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.

Upcoming Menus:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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 |
-

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.

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY & THE REVEREND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR. CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE PRESENT

THE 2ND ANNUAL UNITY SERVICE COMMEMORATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S ASSASSINATION

FROM MEMORIAL TO *Movement*:

THE DOJ'S REPORT ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE IN LOUISVILLE

ON THE DAY OF DR. KING'S ASSASSINATION
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024
BEGINNING AT 12 NOON EDT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
KEVIN W. COSBY, PH.D., DMIN.
PRESIDENT, SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KY

REV. DR. FREDDIE D. HAYNES
PRESIDENT & CEO, RAINBOW PUSH COALITION
SENIOR PASTOR, FRIENDSHIP-WEST BAPTIST CHURCH (DALLAS, TX)

SPECIAL MUSIC BY:
JASON CLAYBORN
COURTNEY CAMPBELL
PAT MATHISON
CHRISTOPHER G. SMITH
DR. JOHN PAUL MCGEE & SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KY CONCERT BAND

SPECIAL GUESTS:
REV. DR. DEFOREST "BUSTER" SOARIES
FOUNDER, D-FREE FINANCIAL MOVEMENT
REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN JACKSON
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
DR. SAMUEL C. TOLBERT, JR.
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF AMERICA, INT'L

ST. STEPHEN BAPTIST CHURCH | 1018 SOUTH 15TH STREET LOUISVILLE, KY 40210 AND STREAMING ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

Jean Janes' Mission Group Yard Sale Postponed

The Jean Janes' Mission Group has rescheduled their annual yard sale for September 21, due to current construction. Please continue to save your household items, books and other treasures to donate in the fall!

Looking Ahead

- April 2 Renee's Sabbatical Begins
April 3 JCPS Spring Break - No Wednesday Evening Activities
April 10 Faith and Media series with Erin Phelps begins at 6:15 PM
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Sunday, 11:15 AM

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

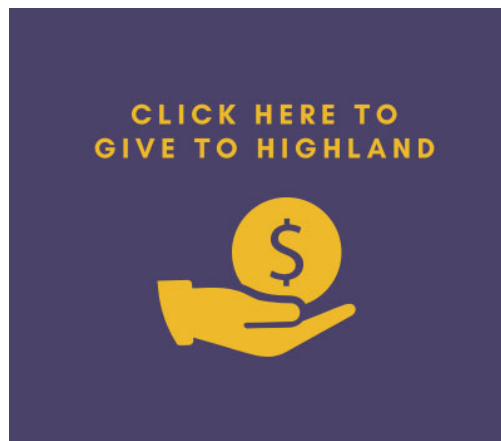
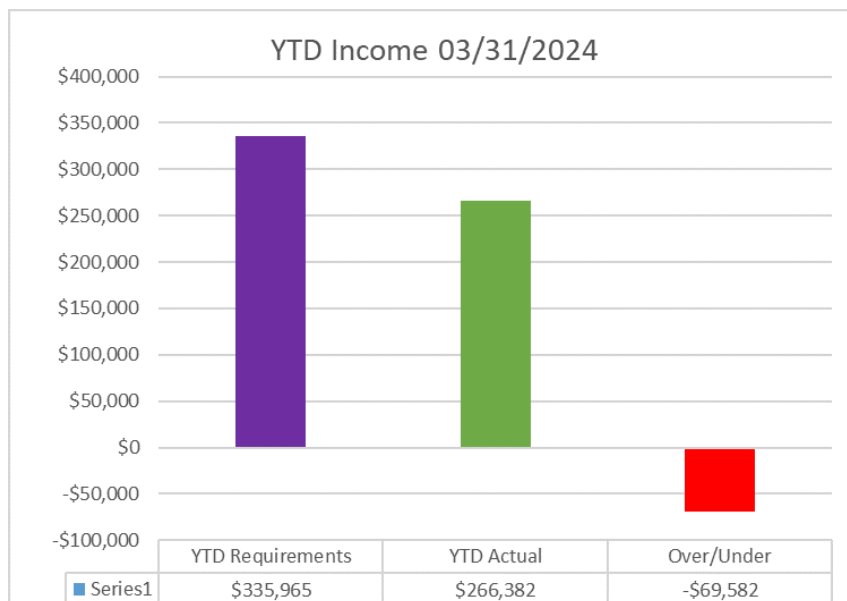
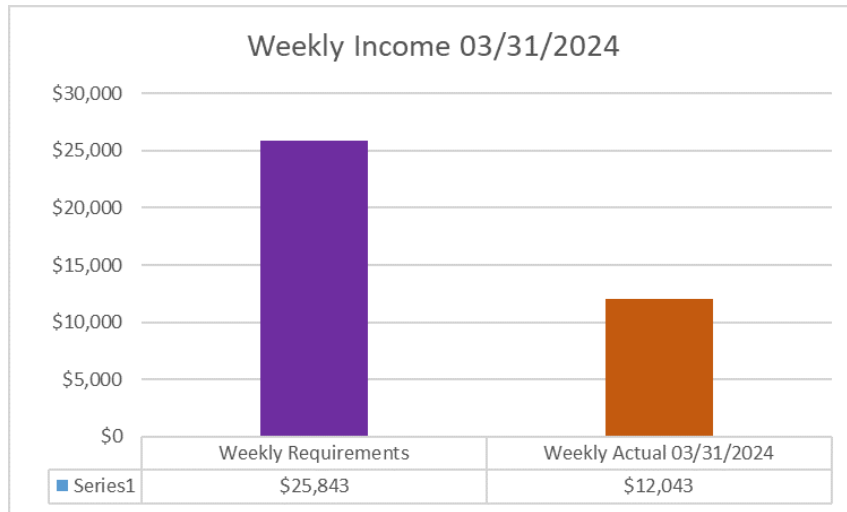
Friday, 7:00 PM

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

**Streaming
Worship
Links**



Financial Reports



**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.

- D'Andre Jenkins, 19, killed March 21
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