



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church April 9, 2024

A reminder that for the next few weeks we have no heat or air conditioning in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Pay attention to the weather to help you know how to dress appropriately for worship, adult Bible study, and Wednesday night activities!

Opportunities for Connection and Community

Whenever I find myself in a small group of folks at Highland and I ask about what we most need in this season of our life together, “opportunities for connection” continues to be one of the things that rises to the top of the conversation. We long to better know one another’s names, to hear each other’s stories, and to share life together in more authentic ways outside of our weekly gatherings. Whether you have called Highland your home for 40 years, are brand-new to Highland, or are trying to find your place again after COVID, we all need ways to connect with one another as the family of God in this place.



Below are some upcoming opportunities to do just that over the next few months. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to attend a Party with Your Pastors, I hope you will sign up for one of our spring or summer events. These gatherings are a fun and relaxed way to meet new people – maybe you've seen them in the pews but you've never met them before – and to get to know our pastors in a more personal way, too. We create space for intentional dialogue with one another so that it's not just "small talk," and don't worry, we've got great questions to spark the conversation, too! You can RSVP for our upcoming Party with Your Pastors at Paul and Kim Henderson's house [here](#). Remember, if you have already attended a party, please allow others to sign up so that everyone has a chance to participate.



I hope you'll save some of these upcoming dates and take advantage of these opportunities to relax, re-connect, and have fun with our fabulous community of faith.

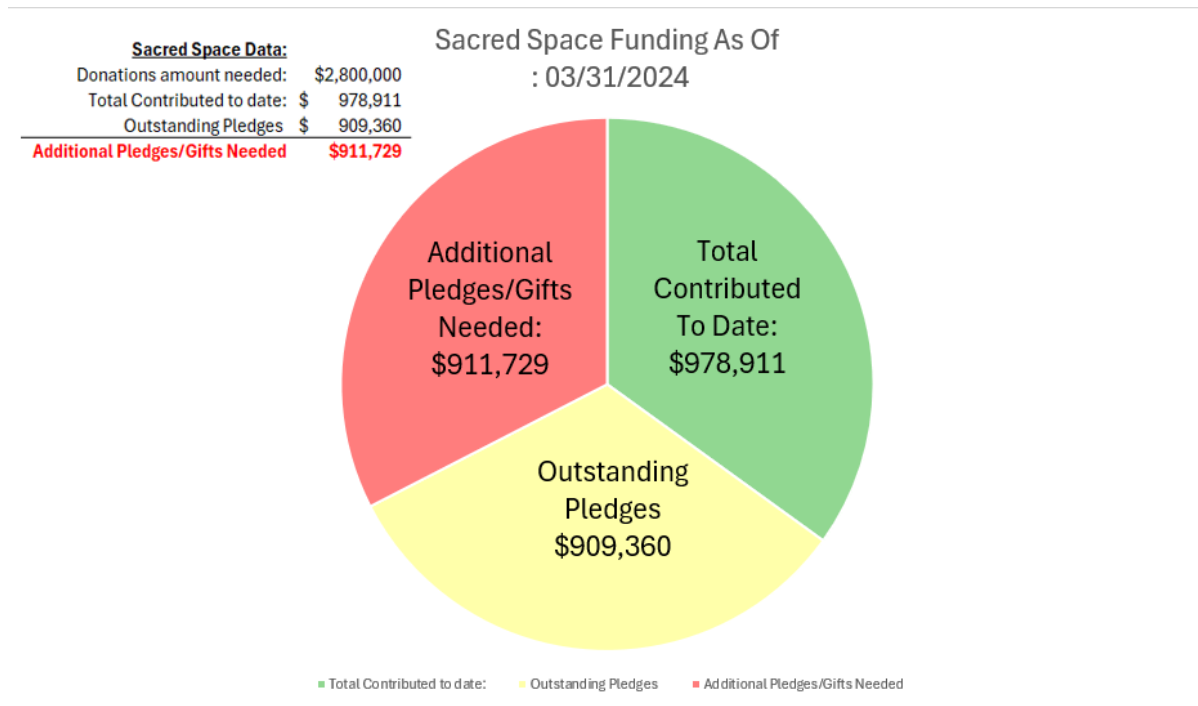
- April 28: Party with Your Pastors (Henderson House, 4:00-5:30 PM)
- May 29: Homemade Ice Cream Social (Church Lawn, 6:00-7:30 PM)
- June 7: Racing Louisville Game (Lynn Family Stadium, 8:00 PM)
- June 13: Drag Revival: A Family-Friendly Spiritual Night of Music and Joy (Highlands Community Ministries)
- June 15: Kentuckiana PRIDE Parade and Festival (NULU and Waterfront Park, Parade begins at 12:00 PM)
- July 21: Party with your Pastors (Purtlebaugh House, 4:00-5:30 PM)

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



Sacred Space Financial Update

As you can see (and feel) on a regular basis around Highland these days, our renovation work continues on numerous fronts to all of our church buildings. With the excitement and anticipation for the completion of this project also comes the upcoming deadline when we will owe final payment to the various companies completing this work. We are in the final phases of securing a large loan to make sure we can pay our bills!



As you can see from the updated chart, almost \$1 million has been contributed with a little over \$900,000 in pledges outstanding and almost the same amount still needed in additional gifts. Over the next several months, we will be borrowing well over \$2 million, as we expect all \$3.8 million worth of work to be completed by July or August. We are very grateful to Susan Pierce and Tracy Holliday for the **hours** of work, wisdom, and perseverance they have put into helping us in the loan application process.

We are also grateful to all of you who have contributed so far and to those of you who are continuing to make your pledge payments! Please remember:

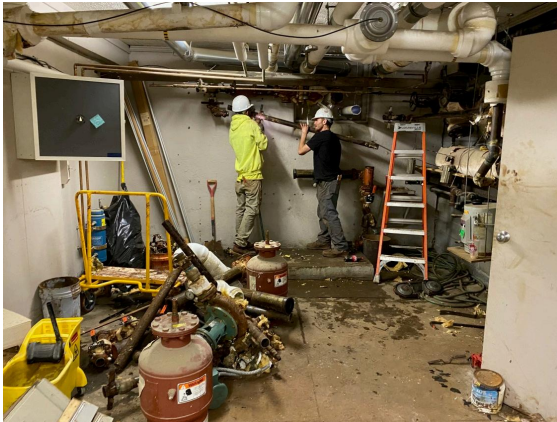
- If you have not made a pledge, we would be very delighted to receive it! All gifts (pledged and un-pledged) are greatly needed, and gratefully received!
- The more gifts we receive now for Sacred Space, the less debt we will incur in the coming months and years. Your giving to this campaign **directly** affects the funds available for the ongoing mission and ministry of Highland, especially as we consider our budget for 2025.
- Every gift of every size helps make a difference not only now, but also for the future work and witness of Highland! [Click here](#) to make a donation.

If you have any questions about our continued work and/or how you can participate, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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

Sacred Space Project Update

The old boilers, air handlers, pumps, and related hardware from our OLD heating system are gone! Their absence explains the comment at the top of the newsletter, concerning how you dress at church in the coming weeks, but it also marks the next step in preparing the space for our new HVAC systems. Below are the “old” pump and mechanical rooms.



Beneath the sanctuary, trench work is well underway to make space around the sanctuary's perimeter for new ductwork. As of this writing the trench has reached from the organ console to the back corner of the sanctuary (organ side). Because all that dirt must be dug by hand, a conveyer system was added to move the dirt from the far reaches beneath the sanctuary back to the new mechanical room, where it can be wheelbarrowed out of the building. (pictured on the left below)

Also underway are conversations to determine specifications for the layout of ductwork under the choir loft and chancel in the sanctuary. (Architect Bruce Rogers, general contractor David Bryant, and one of our subcontractors are pictured on the right below)



~ Walter McWhorter

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.

Deacon Nomination Process Begins Now

Each year, our church nominates members to serve as Deacons at Highland. Our Deacons are not an “administrative board,” but rather servant leaders who invest themselves in the life of the church and care for our community of faith in a variety of ways. The deacon body is a blend of new and long-time Highland Baptist Church members, young, seasoned, and diverse. You are invited to nominate up to 9 people to serve as Deacons at Highland in the coming year. More information can be found on this [online nomination form](#).



For those who do not have online access, we ask that you call the church office to make your nominations (502-451-3735). Nominees are considered by a subgroup of deacons who then proposes a list of names to the congregation for approval. The nomination deadline is Sunday, April 28.

Cream of the Crop News

Save the Date – May 14!

There will be two mission opportunities in May for the Cream of the Crop group. First is a 'Collection Drive' of Ace Bandages and/or Coban wrap. Second is a mission opportunity led by Ginny Sims on May 14 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at **SOS**, 1500 Arlington Avenue, to learn about the organization and to do some hands-on volunteer work. This event will be followed by lunch at the Kingfish Restaurant on River Road at 11:30 AM. You can do both or just pick one event in which to participate. The contact person is [Ginny Sims](#). More information will follow in next week's newsletter.

17TH ANNUAL ANNE BRADEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

KIESE LAYMON

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH BOOK SIGNING

Why America Needs Revision

April 18, 2024
6pm, Bigelow Hall
Miller IT Center

Register: bit.ly/ABML



SOCIAL MEDIA: @ABIATUOFL
WEBSITE: LOUISVILLE.EDU/BRADEN

UL ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH



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 10 Tuscan Chicken Pasta / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

April 17 Beef & Veggie Rice Bowls / Salad / Dessert



- April 10 Faith and Media series with Erin Phelps begins at 6:15 PM
- April 21 Children's Music Composer Jeff Reeves joins in worship with Chorister Choir
- April 28 Party with Your Pastors (Henderson House, 4:00-5:30 PM)
- May 29 Homemade Ice Cream Social (Church Lawn, 6:00-7:30 PM)
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Contact Information During Renee's Sabbatical

During Renee Purtlebaugh's time away, Rev. Sally Evans has returned to staff as our Interim Associate Pastor to Children and Families. Sally will work 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 through June 24.



Sunday, 11:15 AM

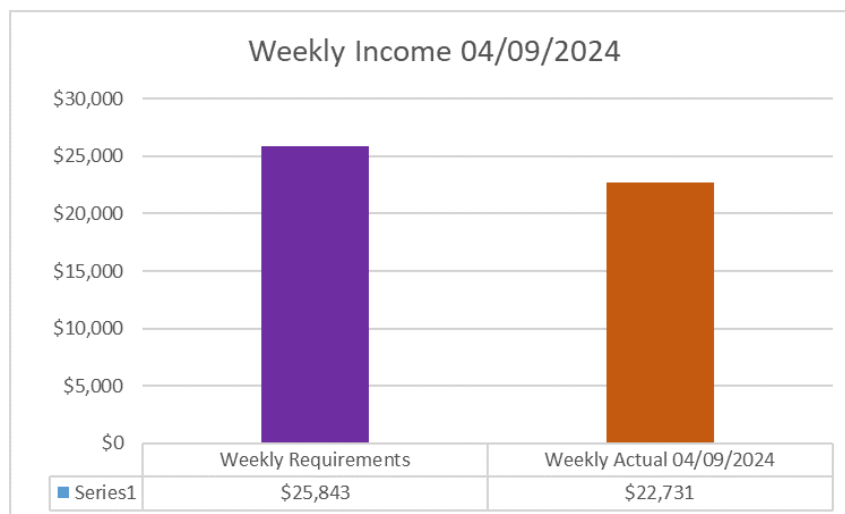
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>
<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

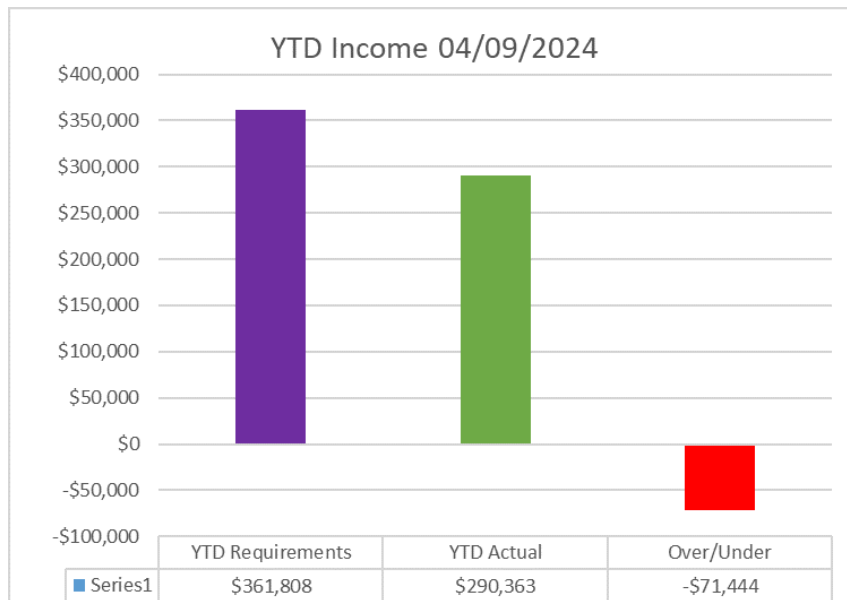
Friday, 7:00 PM

<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.

- Domonique Dudley, 29, killed March 30





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