



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *June 25, 2024*

**Reminder: The newsletter will not be published next week.
The church office will be closed on July 4th and 5th.**

New Sunday Summer Schedule

In this time of renovation without air conditioning, we are pivoting to a **new Sunday schedule** in order to meet in cooler spaces around the building. **Bible studies for all ages will meet in various locations around the building at 9:00 AM, with worship in the Fellowship Hall starting at 10:15 AM.** We will begin the new summer schedule starting this **Sunday, June 30** through at least the end of July. Children's Bible study locations remain the same, with the exception of the 4th/5th grade class. Worship Care will be offered for Infants-Pre-Kindergarten aged children.

Basement

- **Prodigals:** Fellowship Hall Stage
- **Transformers:** Back of the Fellowship Hall

First Floor

- **Challengers:** Room 101 (Cheryl's Office)
- **Generations:** Choir Room
- **Gray Matter:** Mary Alice's Office
- **SALT:** Nursery Room 112 (Bed Babies Room)
- **Seekers:** Lobby

- **Youth Group:** Room 103

Second Floor

- **Good Time Gospel Hour:** 2 y/o room in the Preschool Suite
- **Messengers:** Room 200 (4th/5th grade Bible Study room)
- **Nomads:** Children's Commons

The **20-Somethings** will meet in the Lobby (by the glass doors) **AFTER** worship and share plans for their morning gathering time.

While we realize that these plans and meeting locations may not be ideal, we are hoping that they will be manageable for the summer weeks and keep each of us safe and coolish during the rising temperatures. We continue to be grateful for your patience and flexibility in our renovation process. We can do this, Highland!

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



Gratitude for Sally Evans

I don't think there is a corner of our church who hasn't been touched by Sally Evans' joy-filled presence over the past 3 months. We don't want to miss this opportunity to also say a wholehearted thank you to Sally for her beautiful and intentional ministry among us during Renee's sabbatical. Her dynamic and engaging leadership in worship, thoughtful encouragement to our children's teachers and volunteers, and energetic and enthusiastic spirit have breathed fresh new life into all of us. Thank you for spending this intentional season of ministry with us, Sally! Your ministry among us is a gift to our entire congregation and community.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

A Reflection from Sally



Thinking back on the past three months as Interim Associate Pastor to Children and their Families, I'd like to share three themes that summarize this season for me:

1. Our Children's Ministry would not exist without faithful volunteers. There are close to 50 worship care volunteers that serve on a rotating basis to care for our youngest children. There are worship care captains at the helm all morning coordinating and responding to specific needs that arise each Sunday. A group of fabulous teenagers assist with Children's Worship during the 11:15 service. Kathy Collier leads our Wednesday night Children's Choir teachers providing early childhood music experiences that often leads to lifelong music makers. Our Bible Study teachers are dedicated foundation builders who show up every week to creatively engage the children of Highland. Many of these teachers have made a long-term investment of 5, 10, and even 20+ years in our kids! *These are all invaluable guides who are passing on the stories of Jesus and the songs of our faith to a new generation with the gift of their time, energy, and care.*

2. Renee is such a brilliant architect of Children's Ministry! Not surprisingly, my respect and admiration for Renee has grown during this time. As someone with kids participating in this part of our church, I now realize I was aware of about 15% of what was actually going on. Like the iceberg analogy, I now see more of the 85% below the surface that most of us take for granted. Much of this essential work is also done by our amazing **Megan Fuller**, who assists in everything from recruiting and coordinating volunteers to printing curriculum to graphic design. Today we truly build on a strong foundation of family ministry in this congregation and for the past 17 years Renee has patiently, steadily lived out "a long obedience in the same direction" (Eugene Peterson), growing this system that serves our families so well. *Highland, what an immeasurable gift to have her leadership, organization, wisdom, and beautiful heart!*

3. In the words of Jesus, "If you do not go back to square one and start over like a child, you will never be able to see the new reality." (Matthew 18:3/The Message) Children remind us of the necessity of embracing a "Beginner's Mind". Richard Rohr writes, "Every time the disciples

are tempted to get into their heads, into their religious smugness, or to settle the dust before they've learned its lessons, Jesus brings a child in front of them." It can be vulnerable and uncomfortable to lean into something new for adults, but little ones around us often show us how to stay curious....how to get up and try once more rather than beat ourselves up for not being perfect. Just like I reminded Stanton Blackie at the baby dedication at the beginning of my time in this role, each one of our beloved kiddos is an important part of a larger story. *They are a vital part of the great family of God in this place!*

Over these past few months I had the privilege of being a part of so many wonderful aspects of our church community, from assisting with my first Baby Dedication to leading Communion to singing with Cherub Choir.

I am so grateful for this time with you all! Thanks Be To God,

~ Sally Evans

Sacred Space Project Update

We have a target date for turning on the new air conditioning system in the sanctuary. Last Sunday at the QCC I announced that we hope to turn on that portion of the system on Monday, July 29. If we achieve that goal, it means that we can resume Sunday Worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 4. Of course, as with all construction projects, target dates can shift a bit, so we remain flexible in our anticipation.

Turning on the AC in the sanctuary is our number one priority, with the Fellowship Hall, Youth Space, Commons, and Fireside Room area coming online within a few days of each other. In the meantime, we anticipate cooler temperatures in the Fellowship Hall for both Friday Church and Sunday Worship for the upcoming weeks.

~ Walter McWhorter

Friday Church News



This coming Friday and through July, Friday Church will be meeting in Fellowship Hall, where it is cooler than the sanctuary. (If it is cool enough outside, we may meet outside on the church grounds between the walkway to the atrium and the church building.) Come and join the celebration of faith and God's great and wide community of love. Services are at 7 p.m. All are welcome. Join in person or through our Friday Church Facebook link.

Pride Reflection



It happened again! The cheers, the celebration and encouragement, the loud “WOO-HOO”s from strangers along the Pride Parade route when they saw the Highland Baptist Church banner coming through. I even heard a shocked “They’re Baptists!” And they cheered us on too. This has become the recurring experience for me in recent years: THEY were cheering for US. After all

these years of HBC's work for justice, liberation, inclusion, and taking courageous prophetic stands in support of persecuted minorities, the LGBTQ+ community has taken notice. They and their allies in Louisville recognize the work the church has done for their benefit. It is a known witness. And they celebrate it.

We had a marching crew of over 50 people- some on their first Pride Parade. Others from church were marching with crews from different groups and agencies. Apparently HBC is more integrated into the work for justice across the city of Louisville than I knew.

Like before it's still a family event: parents celebrating their children and friends, tons of straight allies, people tossing colorful beaded necklaces and friendship bracelets, balloons galore. And all the colors, SO MUCH color. Why? Well... **RAINBOWS!!**

~ David Tribble



It's been a wonderful celebration of Pride month at Highland! Special thanks to **Molly Braun** for the lovely banners and communion table covering in the sanctuary. They have pointed us toward the vibrant artistry of God's goodness, creativity, and boundless love!

PASSPORT*kids!* Camp!



This week, our 3rd-5th graders are at PASSPORT*kids!* Camp at Berea College. Please be in prayer for our 13 kids and 5 chaperones (Phil Collier, Angela Collins, Buddy Lee, Renee Purtlebaugh, and Justin Sizemore). They will also enjoy lunch and time on Mary Alice's family farm in Madison County on their way home at the end of the week and are looking forward to a great time together.

Survey For Churches and Diversity Study at Bellarmine University

The Ministry Council has approved the participation in a research project led by Iris Jasmin, a doctoral student at Bellarmine University. Iris, focusing on social change and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), has interacted with our community and wants to further explore our commitment to DEI. She's conducting a study on the effectiveness of language and strategies in fostering an inclusive environment within congregations. Your insights will aid in evaluating how well churches create inclusive spaces. You're invited to complete a questionnaire, which forms part of a wider study involving two churches. Any data you supply will be used to understand congregational attempts to promote inclusivity and belonging. We appreciate your support and participation in Iris' study as we strive to learn and grow together.

If you are willing to participate, please use [this link](#). The first page of the questionnaire is the informed consent that you will need to review. Once you review, you will need to click on the response 'I understand' to proceed to survey questions. The deadline for completing the questionnaire is July 2, 2024. Thank you in advance for your participation.

LGBTea This Sunday



On the final Sunday of Pride Month, please join us for LBGTea this **Sunday, June 30 from 2 to 4 pm**. We'll meet where it's cool in the **Children's Commons**! True Colors, Highland's LGBTQIA+ ministry group, hosts this casual time for members of the community and allies to come together for fellowship. At Kentuckiana Pride, we invited folks from the community to join us for this event. We'll make friendship bracelets, eat snacks, and enjoy conversation. Whether you're LGBTQIA+ or an ally, all are welcome!

Cream of the Crop News



July 25 – Tour of the Kentucky Derby Museum

We'll be going to the Derby Museum for a private tour on Thursday, July 25 from 10:00 AM-12:00

Noon, then lunch afterwards at Wagner's Pharmacy (lunch is limited to 25-30 people). The tour is \$17 which includes a viewing of "The Greatest Race," (a 360 degree 18 minute film), tour of two floors of exhibits, and access to resident horses at the stable.

Payment must be made by **July 5** by check to the church office or [via online payment](#) on the church website (**specify Derby Museum tour**). Please RSVP to Kathy Maize by July 5 at 502-384-3372.

August 13 – Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon with entertainment by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson from the American Songbook repertoire

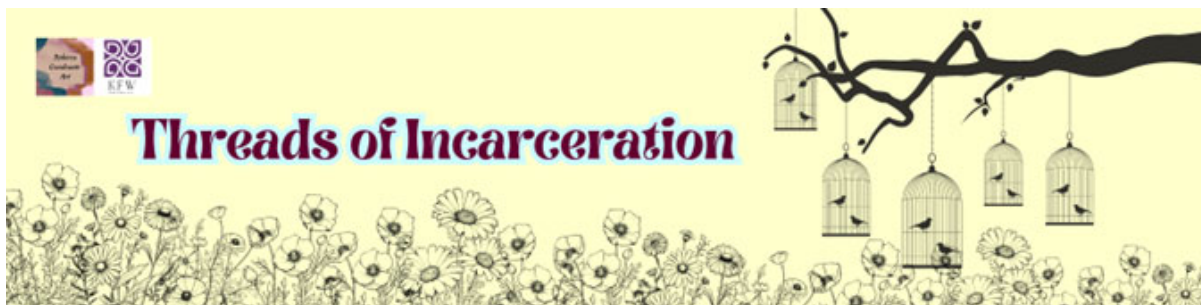
Shredded pork taco bar. Sort school supplies we will collect through July.

Looking Ahead...

October 14-17 – Chartered Bus Trip to Chicago

Cost \$622 for double occupancy, \$771 for single occupancy. Price includes transportation, lodging, six meals, and tours. [Contact me](#) for further information.

~ Paul Henderson



The Anti-Racism Team will host local artist Rebecca Cavalcante and her **Threads of Incarceration Workshop on Sunday, July 14** from 2:00-4:00 PM in the 4th/5th grade classroom area. Due to our space limitations, the workshop is limited to 30 attendees. Please RSVP and send questions to [Missy Smith](#) by Wednesday, July 10.

[Threads of Incarceration](#) is a community art project connecting and visualizing the threads of impact of incarceration on Kentucky families, led by artist Rebecca Cavalcante. Through art workshops, an online survey, and research, this project will culminate in a digital zine and a large-scale community art piece juxtaposing the beauty of nature with the starkness of data to visualize the impact of incarceration on Kentucky families. This project is funded by the Kentucky Foundation for Women's [2023 Art Meets Activism grant](#).



Workshop Details:

- **Duration:** 1.5 - 2 hours
- **Goal:** Using artmaking to create a space of connection and discussion around how incarceration impacts Kentuckians.
- **Agenda:**
 - 30 minutes: Introducing the project and artists involved. A short introduction into incarceration data. Demonstration of artmaking.
 - 1 hour 10 minutes: Artmaking time, participants will be encouraged to engage with one another
 - 20 minutes: Closing, let folks share what this experience was like, give details about the future of the project and how to stay connected.
- **Art:** We will be making flowers out of pipe cleaners and paper. All supplies will be provided, all flowers will be included in a final large scale project that will go on exhibit this summer and will be donated somewhere local (not sold). The final piece will be a large scale version of the branch pictured below. The branch contains strings that answer the question “have you a loved one, or a close friend been incarcerated? Yes Pink, No Teal.” The final piece will contain all strings collected on smaller branches over the last year and will remain interactive as it is on exhibit. The flowers made in workshops will adorn the chains/rope that holds the branch. All participants will be named with the final piece.



Looking Ahead

June 24-27	PassportKids (Berea)
June 30	LGBT Tea (2:00-4:00 PM, Children's Commons)
July 1-5	Youth Passport Missions (Berea)
July 8-11	Children's Discovery Camp (HBC)
July 21	Young Adult Lunch (following Worship)
July 21	Party with your Pastors (Purtlebaugh House, 4:00-5:30 PM)
July 25	Senior Adult Tour of the Kentucky Derby Museum
August 13	Senior Adult Luncheon with Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson (12:00 Noon)
August 18	Gather 'Round Sunday
August 21	Wednesday Night Activities Return

Sunday, 11:15 AM

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

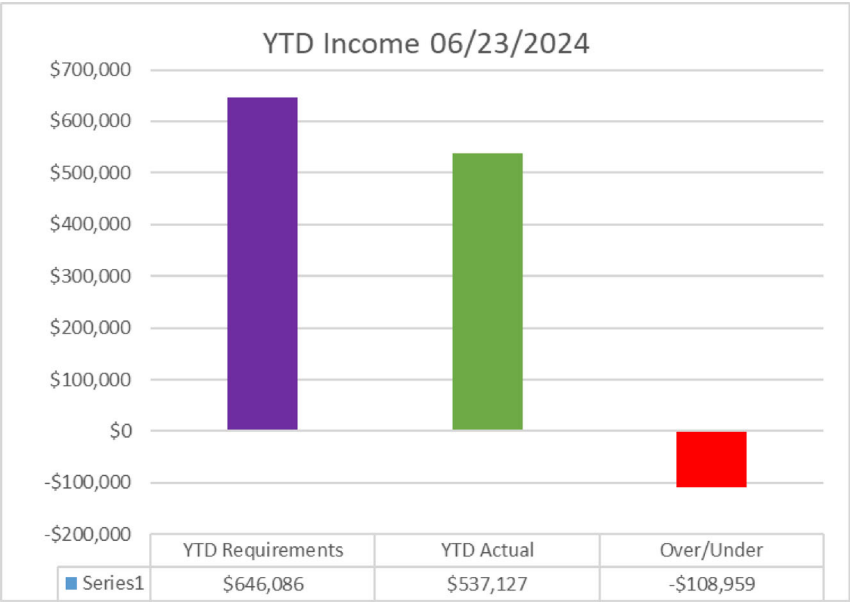
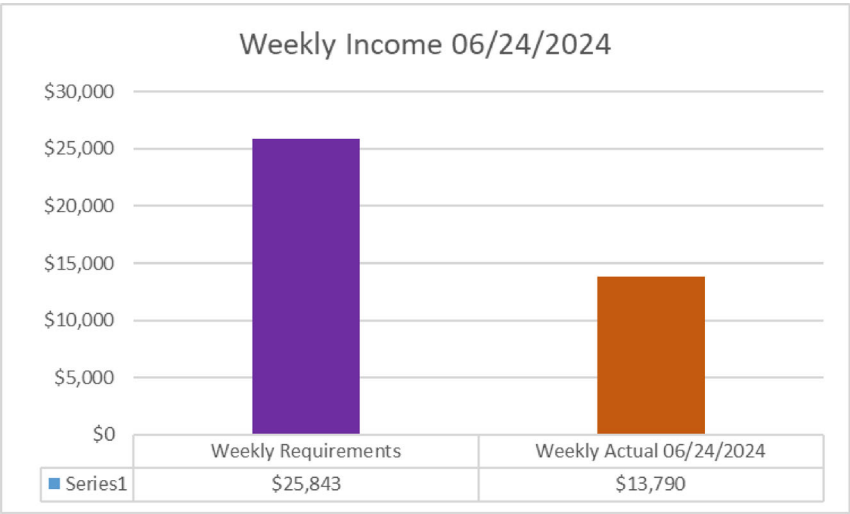
Friday, 7:00 PM

<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 or use the QR code below.





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.

Bob Markert, Stained Glass Artist, Passed Away



We received word today that Bob Markert, the beloved stained glass artist who designed Highland's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall windows, passed away this week. As Joe Phelps shared with Highland on Pentecost Sunday in 2009, "The artistry of Robert Markert illumines a unique collection of women and men whose living artistry illumined the mystery and glory of God, the Artist of Life." Bob's work of love will continue to illuminate our sacred spaces at Highland for years to come, and we give thanks for his incredible life. His arrangements are still pending.



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