



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church* *July 9, 2024*

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**Save the Date: Cole Arthur Riley at Highland  
Sunday Evening, September 15**



We are thrilled to host author **Cole Arthur Riley** at Highland on **Sunday evening, September 15**. Cole is the author of the NYT bestsellers, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* and *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*. Her writing has been featured in The Atlantic, Guernica, and The Washington Post and has been deeply meaningful and prophetic to many of us at Highland. This event is made possible through generous funding from the Lily Foundation for Renee's sabbatical and our entire church family.

More details related to the event and registration will be available in August.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



## Highland Welcomes New Members



**Carolyn Downey joined June 30, 2024**



**Ainsley Braun joined July 7, 2024**

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## Deacon Nominees

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will have the opportunity in worship to hear from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter.

Those nominated are: Greg Bunten, Bruce Carroll, Roy Fuller, Kelly Garrett, Noelle Gulden, Bonnie Lindsay, Corey Moran, Genene Nisbet, Gene Streible, Charlie Suer, and David Swim.

We are excited about the gifts that each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. We will have the chance to vote on these folks later this month.





ROY FULLER

I have been around Baptist institutions for all of my adult life. Having been born and raised in St. Louis, MO, I attended a Southern Baptist church and was baptized while a senior in high school. Little did I know that my decision would link me to Baptist educational institutions for the next 12 years. While a religion major in college at Southwest Baptist University, I came to believe that a teaching career is what I was to prepare myself for, so upon completion of college, I chose to come to Louisville and attend Southern Seminary.

I have been a member of a number of Baptist churches, but I have to say that Highland is a rare balance and mix of people. It was an honor to serve previously as deacon at HBC and I still consider it an honor to serve. I believe that we are entering a time in which we will have an even greater impact for the Kin-dom than we might imagine. What this will require is certainly nothing new, just the same element it always requires, a willingness to follow wherever God leads.



DAVID SWIM

Having grown up in the Baptist church I always assumed that I would someday be a deacon as my father before me. I have been asked a time or two before and always declined thinking myself to be too busy with work or too busy raising my kids to take on more responsibility. I have finally, at age 64, matured to where I feel obligated to serve the church that has been so good to me and my family.

I grew up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and the church was an important part of my family's life. I was baptized at age 8 at Harlan Baptist Church. When my family moved to Louisville in 1971 we joined Hurstbourne Baptist where I was very involved in the youth program until I completed high school.

Lauren and I joined HBC in 1986. Over the years we have taught the toddler Sunday School class and I have been a member of the choir for nearly my entire time here,

I am honored to serve as a Deacon and look forward to what this ministry opportunity brings.

## PASSPORT Kids and PASSPORT Missions

What a special, amazing, and admittedly exhausting time it has been at camp! For the past two weeks, I have been in Berea, Kentucky hanging out at PASSPORT Kids and PASSPORT Missions camp with our children and youth.

The theme for camp this year was "Come to the Water." Each day, our children and youth were challenged to discover more about what God is calling each of us to do. They learned what it

means to float, even when the waves and storms of life seem so overwhelming, God is always present with us. They learned what it means to dive in, trusting that God really is with them and will lead them where they need to go. And lastly to swim, to follow God in the work of doing justice, loving kindness, and doing so humbly. The theme this year was phenomenal and resonated well with all our campers.



Our youth attended PASSPORT Missions camp, which was directed by our very own Paxton Vaughn! We worked with several local ministries and helped clean up community gardens, parks, senior centers, and assisted living places in the Richmond/Berea area.

Not only were worship, Bible studies, and our mission groups amazing this year, but we also had some awesome parties. From the Mario Party Rec Party to the Tacky Tourist Dance, and a fantastic Disney Cruise Ship Variety Show, we had a ton of fun at camp as well. [Here are more photos](#) to give you a glimpse of our week!

We have had an incredible two weeks of work and ministry with our children and youth. Special thanks to these fabulous chaperones for spending their time investing in the lives of our young people: Kim Clark, Phil Collier, Angela Collins, Buddy Lee, Becca Potter, Renee Purtlebaugh, Missy Smith, Charlie Suer, and Tyler Swim, along with yours truly.

“Come to the water. Jesus said, all who are thirsty come to me. Come to the water and you’ll never



be thirsty again.” These were the words to the chorus of our theme song each night. May they wash over you and may you be called to the water once again.

~ Justin Sizemore

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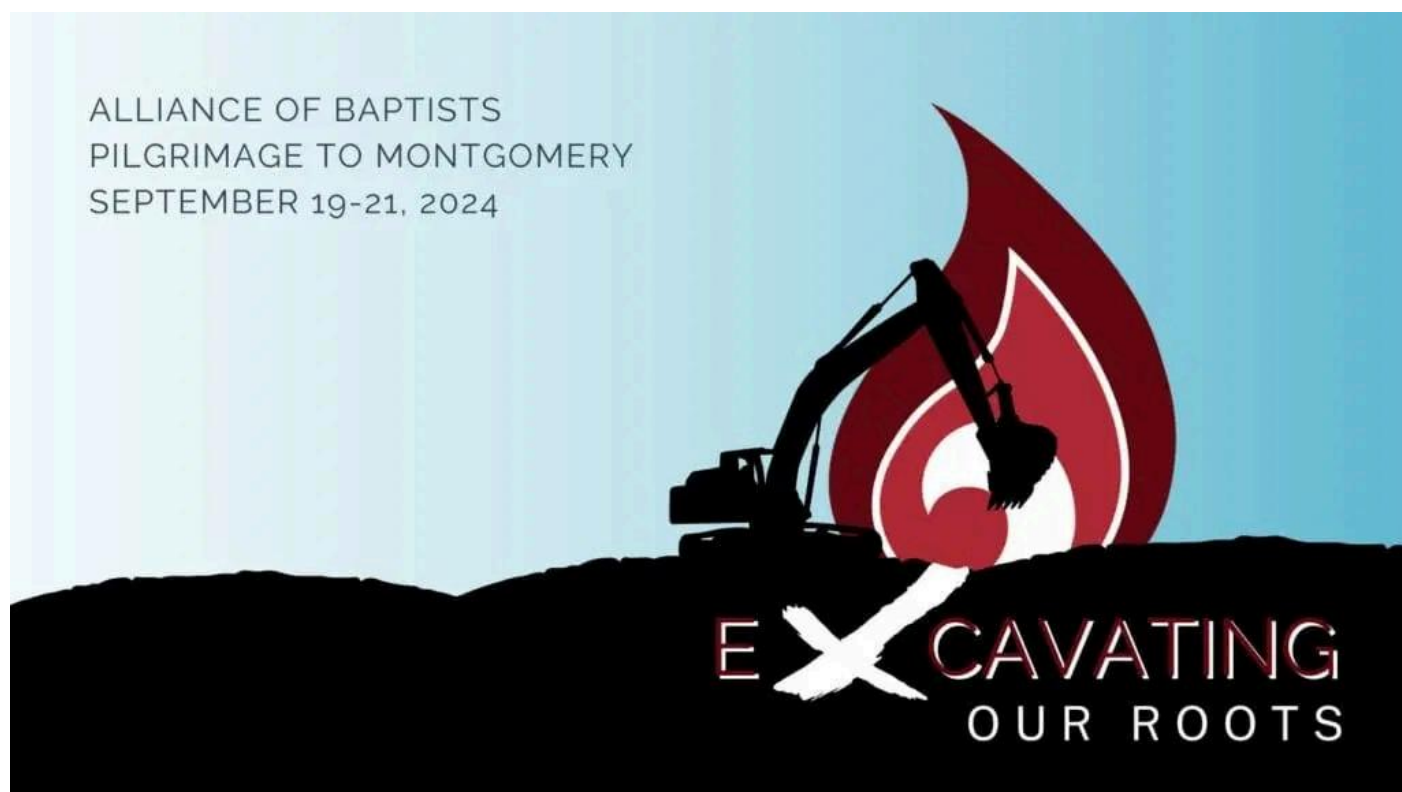
If you haven't yet had an opportunity to attend a Party with Your Pastors, we hope you will sign up for the next one coming up on July 21! These gatherings are a fun and relaxed way to meet new people – maybe you've seen them in the pews but you've never met them before – and to get to know our pastors 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 Justin and Abby Sizemore's house on Sunday, July 21 from 4:00-5:30 PM [here](#). If you have already attended a party, please allow others to sign up this week so that everyone has a chance to participate. However, after July 15, if there are still spaces left, you are more than welcome to join us again!

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## Excavating our Roots: Pilgrimage to Montgomery, September 19-21



If you missed HBC's first pilgrimage to Alabama in 2021, another opportunity to visit the Legacy Sites of the Equal Justice Initiative is being offered by the Alliance of Baptists September 19-21. There are three legacy sites: The Legacy Museum, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice (a memorial dedicated to victims of racial terror and lynchings), and the new Freedom Garden Sculpture Park. For more information and to register, go to [Excavating Our Roots 2024 - Alliance of Baptists](#). You may also contact [Mary Burks](#) or phone her at 502-419-3552. In addition to the site visits, the Alliance will offer education and inspiration for being anti-racist.

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## 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 deadline has passed to sign up for this event.

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

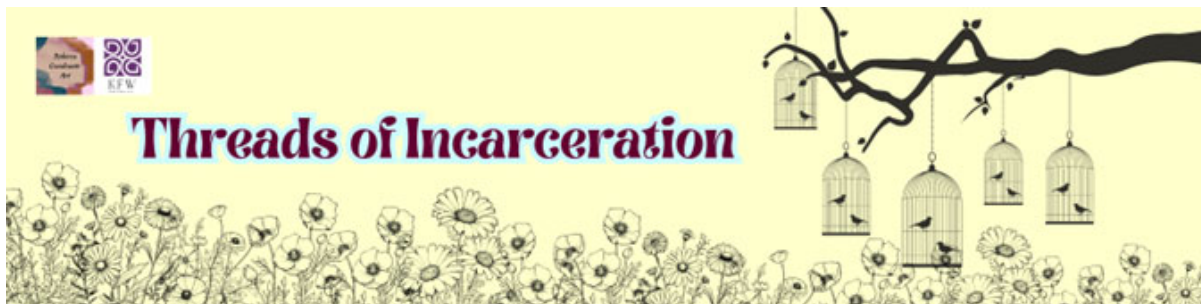
Shredded pork taco bar. Sort school supplies we will collect through July.

### **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](#).



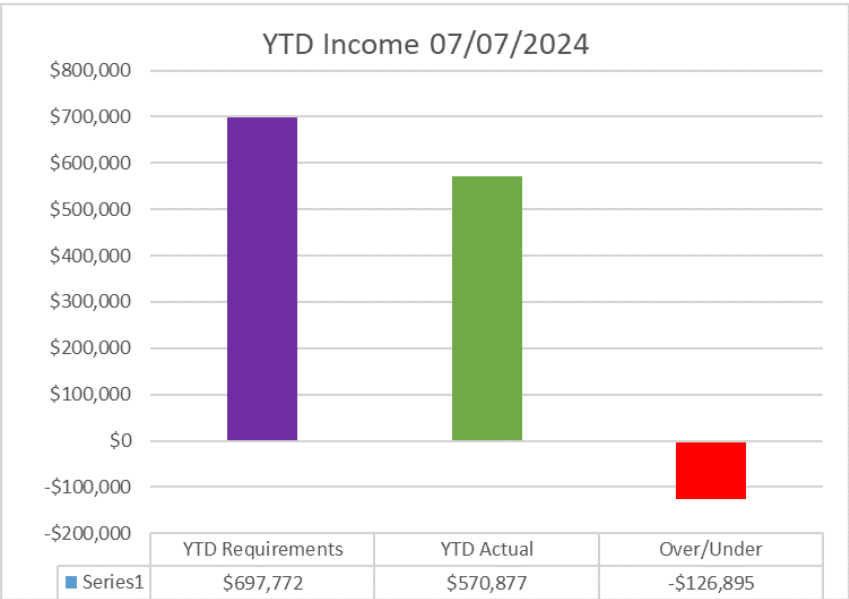
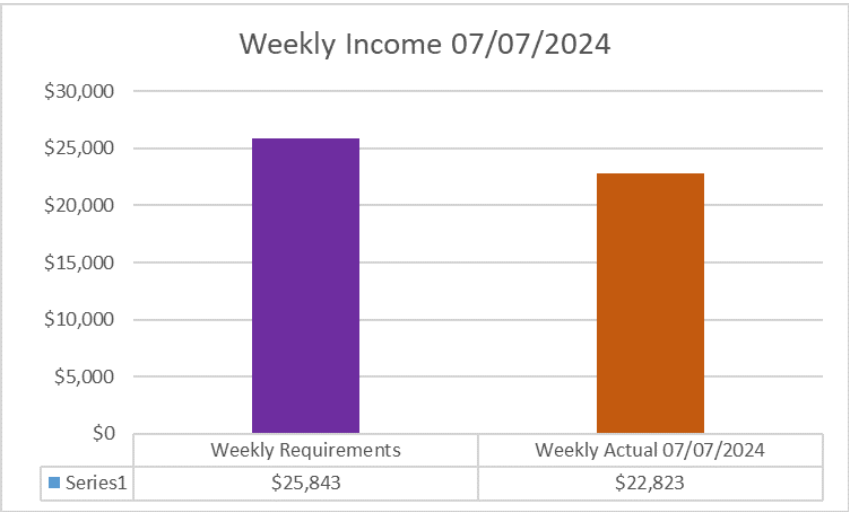
## Workshop Details:

- **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.




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## 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.





# Looking Ahead

July 8-11	Children's Discovery Camp (HBC)
July 21	Young Adult Lunch (following Worship)
July 21	Party with your Pastors (Sizemore 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

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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**



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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.

- Leonardo Rojas Pedroza, 26, killed February 26
- Camren Patterson, 21, killed March 2
- Chrishawn Ravens, 21, killed May 23
- Sanchez Stephenson, 18, killed June 13
- Lajuante Lane, 33, killed June 14
- Jayson Manookan, 20, killed June 18
- Derrick Minott, Jr., 24, killed June 18
- Joseph D. Bowers, 40, killed June 22
- Tayshawn Thomas, 19, killed June 25
- Daviawn J. Blackmon, 13, killed June 26
- Justin Johnson, 12, killed June 27
- Dion Sutton, 29, killed June 28

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## **Note of Gratitude from the Family of Ben Bonnett-Bunten**

We wanted to take a moment and express how truly grateful we are for all the cards, messages, and especially those who stopped by the funeral home during Ben's visitation and funeral service. The outpouring of love, support, and kindness from Highland meant the world. So many of you traveled alongside us during Ben's adoption; holding our hands through the tears, praying for our family, and ultimately rejoicing with us when the adoption was finalized. While Ben's time on this earth was short, he was loved and nurtured by so many of the wonderful saints of Highland, and for this we are enterally grateful. Thank you.

*~ Greg, Joshua, Ashley, and Braydon*

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