



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *July 30, 2024*

Thank You, Fred Bogert

In Luke 10, a lawyer approaches Jesus and says, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Of course, Jesus immediately throws the question back at him. “What does the law say,” Jesus asks the man, “and how do YOU read it?” And he responds, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Like a student in a spelling bee, he immediately spits back the correct answer. Maybe it’s why Jesus is so quick to say, “You have given the right answer. Do this, and you will live.” We often know the right answer. “Just do it,” like Nike would tell us, are the words we really need to hear. In fact, the verb Jesus uses here could actually be translated to mean “keep doing this.” Because loving God and loving one another are not a one-time occurrence that we check off the list. We keep doing them. And of course, we will never get it right 100% of the time, which is why we are to keep at it. “Keep doing this,” he says, and “you will live.”

When we set out to truly to love God with all that is within us, and to love one another as ourselves, I think we discover something that we can’t know from simply saying the right answer, which is that these things can’t happen without the other. There is something about loving God than is always going to lead us toward a greater love for our neighbor. And there’s something about loving our neighbors, and being loved by our neighbors, that always helps us to discover even more about God’s love for us.

If I could summarize in just a few words what Fred Bogert’s ministry with Friday Church has meant to us, I would say that he has beautifully lived out the answer to this question in Luke. Because Friday Church is an embodiment of what love of God and love of neighbor look like. And Fred has kept at it! For over a decade, he has showed up, week after week, with passion, and creativity, and JOY, and humor, and a God-sized imagination. With a love and belief in this community of faith,

and a love and awe and wonder for the God who meets us here.

Grady Nutt once said late in his life, “I believe that the essence of living is this: to look back across your life, and with a solid smile on your face, to say, “Wow, I’m really glad I did that.” And Fred, I know that you have not just a solid smile, but a HUGE smile on your face when you look back over the past years at Friday Church. And we have the same. We’re really glad you did that, too.

So let’s keep doing this, friends. Keep loving God, and keep loving one another. Keep at it. And by God’s grace, which is higher and wider and longer and deeper than you and I can ever imagine, “you will live.”

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Friday Church on July 26 - Celebrating Fred Bogert



Sacred Space and Sunday Summer Schedule Updates

Many parts of the building have been transformed over the life of the project. Some are temporary and some are permanent. Here are examples of each. The picture on the left shows what WAS the Worship Ministry Group closet (full of banners and other worship supplies) but is now a storage room for electrical and mechanical supplies. One day the Worship team will reclaim this space. The picture on the right shows further growth of the new mechanical room beneath the sanctuary. It used to be dirt and rock but is now permanently filled with heat pumps, blowers, duct work, and other essentials that will one day cool the sanctuary.



We will continue with our Summer Sunday Schedule and relocation through at least mid-August. We are promised by our General Contractor that we will have cool air in the sanctuary by Sunday, August 18. However, knowing that we have already and could likely experience further delays, we are postponing Gather 'Round Sunday until September 8 to ensure that we are back in our regular locations and rhythms as we kick-off the new year together. Please note that even after we return the sanctuary, the HVAC will not be fully operational, and there will be several more weeks of continued construction work around the building.

~ Walter McWhorter



Congregational Votes on July 28

We are happy to share that on Sunday, the church voted to move forward with a search for an Associate Pastor of Ministry Coordination and Formation, with Tanya Cornely, Troy Burden, Robert Davis, Tracy Holladay, Margaret Pennington, Carol Harston (consultant/ex-officio), and Mary Alice Birdwhistell (ex-officio) serving on the search committee. Additionally, the church voted to affirm the following slate of deacon candidates for the coming year: Greg Bunten, Bruce Carroll, Roy Fuller, Kelly Garrett, Noelle Gulden, Bonnie Lindsay, Corey Moran, Gene Nisbet, Gene Streible, Charlie Suer, and David Swim. We are grateful for all of those who have agreed to serve our community of faith in the days ahead!

Newly Elected Deacons

Over the next several weeks, we will continue to hear from those who have been elected to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories during worship. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter. We are excited about the gifts that each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity.



COREY MORAN

Growing up in southeastern Kentucky, I attended a Southern Baptist church with my parents and younger sister. My father often led the Sunday morning song service while my mother played the organ. She was also heavily involved in other aspects of the church. I eventually fell away from the conservative theology (and accompanying ideologies) espoused by that church and many in its congregation. However, I still value the silent lessons learned from how my mother lived out her faith (and continues to do so) by investing herself in that institution and its members.

As I grew older and my perspectives and values evolved, I worried I would never find a faith community where my social and political beliefs would be considered consistent with my religious and spiritual ones. These fears were allayed when I stumbled into Highland Baptist Church after moving to Louisville in 2015.

I'm incredibly thankful for the community I've found here (especially in the Good Time Gospel Hour group). I would be honored to have the opportunity to follow my mother's example and grow my faith through service as a deacon.



GENE STREIBLE

When I was a child, I did not attend church except sunrise services on Easter with my aunt and VBS with the lady next door. Around the age of 14, I started going to church with my cousins, I made my private profession of faith when I was 16, then joined that church publicly at the end of a week-long revival and singing about 30 verses of the hymn "Just As I Am."

I continued going to that church for many years until the pastor started preaching against the sins of homosexuality. My partner and I left and went to a much more moderate church, where I served as a deacon and on many committees. Eventually, some students from Southern Seminary starting causing problems for me. My pastor recommended that I try attending Highland, where his friend Joe Phelps was pastor. When I came here I just wanted to sit in the pew and be fed! But after about a year I was asked to be a greeter, and later to serve on the worship committee and as a deacon. I am very honored to be asked once again! I can't think of another group of people that I would rather walk beside in this crazy world we live in!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners



Wednesday Night Programming and Meals Resume on August 21!

As we shared last week, we are reducing the cost of Wednesday night dinners this year by not using a caterer. Meal costs will be \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship! We also welcome more volunteers to assist with food prep and setup, making desserts, or cleanup. **Contact [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help or want more information.**

It is important that we have accurate numbers of folks who plan to attend each week. Please make your reservations by emailing [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at the church office, 502-451-3735.

August Menus:

August 21: Pizza / Mixed Green Salad / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

August 28: Fried Chicken / Baked Chicken / Mashed Potatoes / Green Beans / Mixed Green Salad / Hawaiian Rolls / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September Menus:

September 4: BBQ Pork w/ small & large buns / Baked Beans / Cole Slaw / Potato Salad / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September 11: Meatloaf / Mashed Potatoes / Steamed Vegetables / Mixed Green Salad / Hawaiian Rolls / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

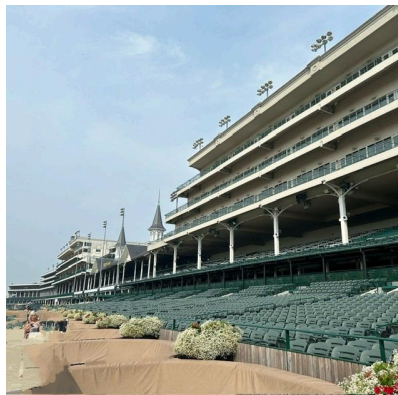
September 18: Lasagna / Steamed Vegetables / Mixed Green Salad / Bread Sticks / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

September 25: Taco Bar (taco shells, soft flour tortillas, ground beef and/or grilled chicken, chopped tomatoes, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, jalepeno peppers) / Rice / Black Beans / Chips, Salsa, and Guacamole / Dessert / Coffee, Tea, Milk, and Water

Thanks,
~ Wednesday Night Dinner Team

Cream of the Crop News

The Cream of the Crop group recently enjoyed a great day of fellowship at the Kentucky Derby Museum with lunch at Wagoner's Diner, a Louisville landmark. Look below to see our coming events and join us!



August 13 – Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon

Join us on Tuesday, August 13 for a potluck luncheon. "Chef Paul" will provide soft-shell pork tacos and the Senior Adult Ministry Group will bring all the condiments. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Following the luncheon, we will be treated with music by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson.

During August, the Cream of the Crop group will collect much-needed and requested items for

the Resource Center at Shelby Elementary School. The following are items that are always needed: pajamas, tooth brushes, tooth paste, Kleenex, band aids, Clorox wipes, and paper plates. **Please bring your donation items to the luncheon on August 13.**

September 24 - Senior Adult Fall Retreat - watch for details coming soon!

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 at 6:00 PM**. 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

I ♥ Morocco Solidarity Dinner



Support critical ministries
of the EEAM in Morocco
AND have a fabulous
authentic Moroccan meal
catered by one of
Louisville's best:

Jarfi's Catering!!

\$20 (Scholarships Available)



Please RSVP :
<https://cbfky.org/morocco-1>



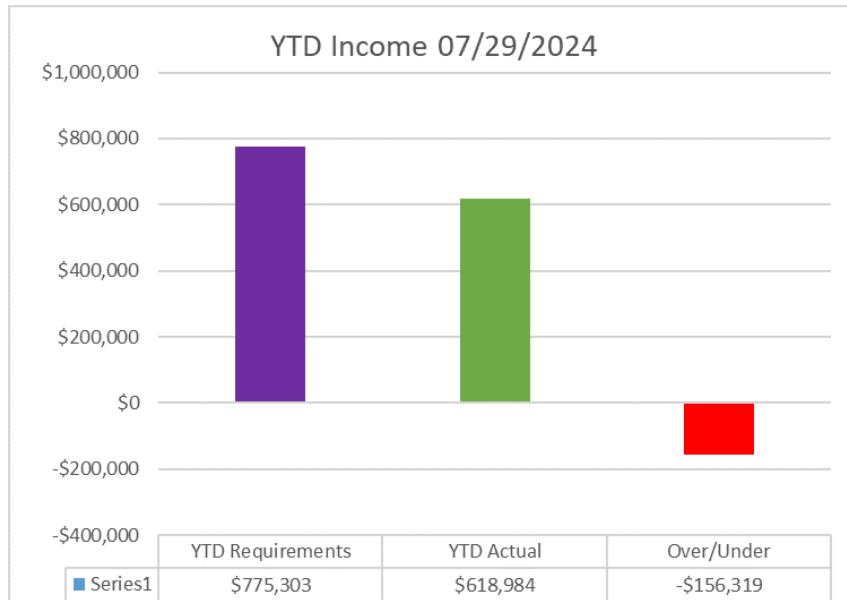
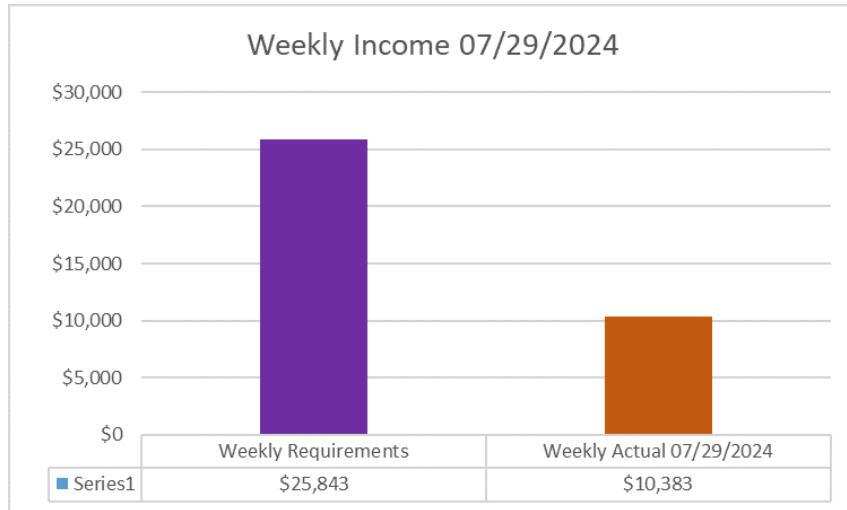
Saturday
August 24
5:00 PM
St. Matthews
Baptist Church

ApplePay and PayPal Now Accepted on Highland's Website

We're pleased to announce that Highland's website is now set up to accept ApplePay and PayPal as methods of payment for donations, Wednesday night suppers, Sacred Space donations, or anything else you need to give money to the church for. (Note that because of restrictions by Apple, ApplePay can only be used if you're on an Apple device, and ApplePay cannot be used for recurring payments.)



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

- August 13 Senior Adult Luncheon with music by Emmanuel Maize and Paul Henderson (No n)
August 21 Wednesday Night Activities Return
August 25 Deacon Ordination Service, 6:00 PM
Sept. 8 Gather 'Round Sunday
Sept. 15 Cole Arthur Riley visits Highland on Sunday Evening, 6:00 PM

Sunday, 10:15 AM

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

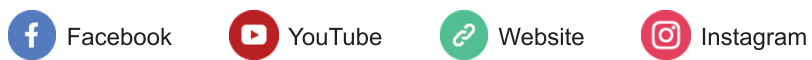
**Streaming
Worship
Links**



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.

- Deariah Young, 27, killed June 26
 - Thaddeus Eugene Miller, 60, killed July 10
 - Zavier Gunn, 23, killed July 15
 - Devontae Beach, 31, killed July 21
 - Gordon Ritchie, 78, killed July 22
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