



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
September 4, 2024***



Gather
Round



Sunday, September 8

This Sunday, September 8, we will finally celebrate our traditional “Gather Round” day as we worship together again in the sanctuary and kick-off the fall semester. In worship, we will officially welcome our new Kindergarteners and recognize our new 6th graders who have recently joined the youth ministry. After the 11:15 service, we will enjoy picnic lunches and games on the lawn. The cost is \$7 per person with a \$21 family maximum. You're also welcome to bring your own food for lunch.

We have extended the deadline to RSVP! Please use [this link](#) to sign up or call the church office at 502-451-3735 by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 3 to let us know if you're planning to attend. Lunch will include sandwiches, chips, grapes, and cookies. Please specify if vegan, vegetarian, or gluten free options are needed. When you sign up using the link, you will have the option of paying online through our website.

Along with lunch, there will be lawn and outdoor games set up for all to play as we gather round and fellowship together. The playground will also be open for our younger friends. **Be sure to bring your lawn chairs or blankets for sitting outside!**

If you haven't been to Highland in awhile and want to get reconnected, if you've gotten out of your regular rhythms during our summer schedule, if you're new to Highland and want to meet more people, and/or if you're with us each week and want to enjoy a beautiful day with the Highland family, Gather Round is for ALL of us to join together! We hope you will come Gather Round with us on Sunday.

~ Your Church Staff

Engaging with the Liturgies of Cole Arthur Riley

"Liturgy comes awake in the arms of the collective. This is my invitation.

We get free together." ~ Cole Arthur Riley

Have there been occasions when you wanted to participate in liturgy that has not yet been written? What does it mean for us, as a primarily white congregation, to think together about Black Liturgies? How can we find healing and empowerment from the spiritual practices offered in this beautifully written work?



In her latest book, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*, bestselling author Cole Arthur Riley explores the sacred, often communal experience of liturgy, including breath prayers, poetry, letters, confession, benediction, and more. For the next two Wednesday nights, we will come together to consider these compelling questions!

- **September 4** - Using quotes and examples from the book, Erin Phelps and Vicki Runnion will *lead a discussion about the communal concept of liturgy* and what it means for us to engage with black liturgy specifically.
- **September 11** - Join Abbi Wolfe, Brooke Hasl, and Sally Evans for a *collective liturgical writing experience* with a white, anti-racist focus as an act of solidarity and liberation.

To culminate this series, we are honored to host Cole Arthur Riley on Sunday evening, September 15th at 6:00 PM as part of Pastor Renee Purtlebaugh's Clergy Renewal Grant with the generous financial support of the Lilly Endowment. There will be a book signing to follow. Carmichael's Bookstore will have Riley's books available to purchase as well.

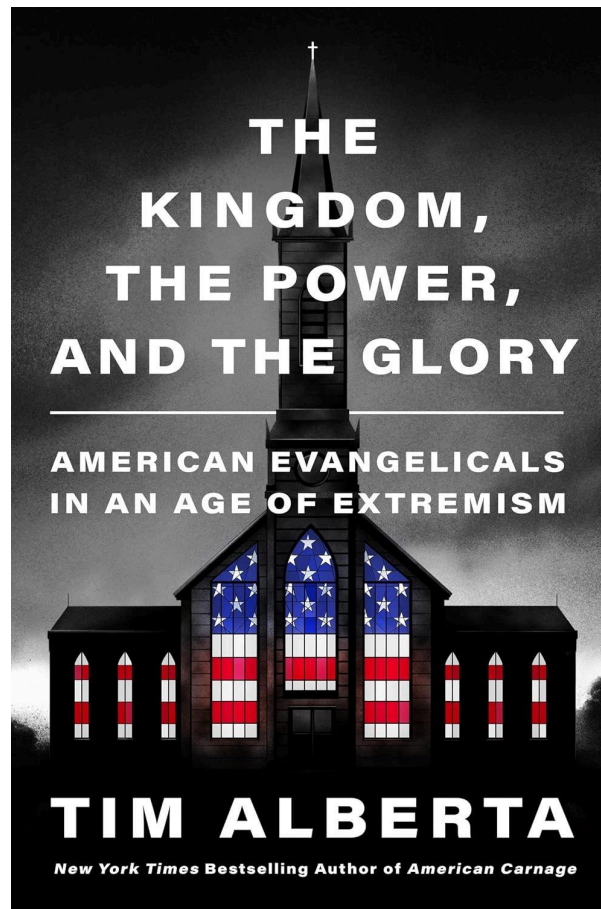
Registration is required and we invite everyone to register using [this link](#). Click "Sign Up," then "Save & Continue" to complete registration.

~ Sally Evans



Christian Nationalism: Reading and Learning Together

As many of us do, I'm always paying attention to what others are reading and adding books to my list to check-out from the library or purchase. When several people mention a particular book to me, I usually bump it up the list. That's exactly what happened earlier this year when a pastor friend recommended the book *The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory: American Evangelicalism in an Age of Extremism* by Tim Alberta as one of the most insightful and important reads on what is happening in the evangelical Church today. The next week, Robert Davis shared that he was reading it, too. Then Robin Ramsay Lee mentioned it at lunch one day. I purchased the book that day, and it's come up in countless conversations ever since.



Alberta writes from his perspective as a political journalist, a practicing Christian, and the son of an evangelical pastor. After the unexpected death of his father in 2019, Alberta expected to receive condolences and love from his father's congregation at the funeral. Instead, person after person offered him critical remarks about his recent political writing. "In our house of worship," he writes, "people were taunting me about politics as I tried to mourn my father."

After that experience, he sets out to interview pastors, churches, and organizations across the country in order to piece together what he believes is the foundational problem in evangelicalism. "America," one pastor says to him. "Too many of them worship America."

As *Publishers Weekly* has shared, "Alberta adeptly illustrates how Christian nationalism is 'destroying the evangelical church' on a big-picture level, as well as how it's justified individually, framed scripturally, and blared over pulpits...While he suggests a 'true Christianity' might still be salvageable, Alberta's own evidence reveals how deep the rot has already spread. It's an incisive, unsparing look at a movement in crisis."

On October 16, 23, and 30, Bruce Maples, Robert Davis, and I will be co-leading a Wednesday night series on Christian Nationalism and will facilitate discussion around excerpts from Alberta's book. While reading the book in advance is not necessary, we wanted to give you plenty of time to

join us in reading before the conversation if you're interested. If you're like me, you might consider bumping this book up your list. It offers significant insight into this election season and awakens all of us to the dangers of marrying our love of "God" and "country."

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners



Meal costs are \$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 are still in need of one more person each week to help dry dishes. Serve one week per month. **Contact** [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help.

It is important that we have accurate numbers of folks who plan to attend each week. Please make your reservations by Monday at 12:00 Noon for that week's meal. You can either make standing reservations or make them weekly by emailing [Kathleen Gordon](#) or calling her at the church office, 502-451-3735.

September Menus:

September 4: BBQ Pork / 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

Friday Church Update

We continue to meet in Fellowship Hall with new experiences each week. This month, in addition to Mary Alice's visit, we had special messages from HBC members. Sam Potter spoke on "Spiritual Food" and Mary Burks brought a message about "Jesus and Temptations." This past week we had a special treat from one of our own Friday Church Ministry Group Members, Bill Campbell, who proclaimed "Do Not Lose Heart!" The Friday Church congregation joined in with a joyful voice.



Come celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Friday Church on September 27 when we will welcome lots of special guests. There will be cake, too!

SENIOR ADULT SPONSORED RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
9:30 AM-3:30 PM

**Living Beautifully with
Uncertainty and Change:
Pema Chödrön and
the 3 Commitments**



Pema Chödrön, an 87-year-old American Buddhist nun, lives and teaches in Nova Scotia. She wonders, “How can we relax and have a genuine, passionate relationship with the fundamental uncertainty, the groundlessness, of being human?...Discomfort arises from all of our efforts to put ground under our feet, to realize our dream of constant okayness...When we embrace the groundlessness of our situation and relax into its dynamic quality, that’s called awakening to our true nature, to our fundamental goodness.”

Retreat attendees will look to Pema Chödrön’s teaching about the three commitments that lead to a deep experience of freedom. We will also consider a few Christian theologians who affirm our groundedness in God. Join us on this experience of collective wondering, tangible practice, and mutual efforts to embrace human groundlessness while loving a grounded God.



Rev. Dr. Lauren Jones Mayfield and Rev. Dr. Tyler D. Mayfield will co-lead the retreat. Lauren serves as the Interim Director of Field Education at Louisville Seminary, where Tyler also works as the Interim Dean and Professor of Old Testament.

We will meet at the Copperfield Subdivision Clubhouse, 406 Wickfield Drive. The cost is \$35, which includes lunch. Call the church at 502-451-3735 or email [Paul Henderson](#) to SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 18 and let him know if you'd like a copy of Chödrön's book.

Young Adult Lunch



SEPT. 15TH, OCT. 20TH,
NOV. 10TH



[Click here to sign up!](#)

Thank You from Lauren Jones Mayfield

Dear Highland Friends,

Hello! I hope this note finds you well as summer rolls to a close. Thank you so, so much for your kindness and the gifts you so generously shared with me. The financial gift staggered me. The Carmichael's gift cards truly yield joy. (You know they do!) The gorgeous rattlesnake plant, the precious words you shared on my final Sunday, the Hospitality Ministry Group (who prepared such a thoughtful reception with nourishment from a Black-owned caterer and Palestinian bakery), the goodbye visits and celebrations, the particular and very special homemade gifts, the fabulous

nativity for my collection, and *all* your written notes—well, it represents so much beauty from our joint ministries. I've been overwhelmed by your outpourings of love. Please know that you have inundated me with grace, and compassion, and, again, joy!



Life on my end continues to go well. I have been swimming on the Lakeside Master's team for the last few months and plan to continue throughout the remainder of the year. I more recently began at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary as the Interim Director of Field Education. (It's fun having an office just down the hall from Tyler's.) And I hope you will plan to attend the Festival of Faiths in November where I will be hosting and moderating a panel conversation on faith and imagination.

What a treat to continue counting Highland Baptist Church as a dear friend. I look forward to seeing some of you at Cole Arthur Riley's visit soon! Much love to you, and keep taking good care.

Love,

~ Lauren Jones Mayfield

Lois Anderson Celebrates 100th Birthday!

Lois Anderson will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 12. Lois, along with her daughter, Linda Gray, and Mitch and Eva, have moved to Stanford, KY (for those of you newer to HBC, Linda is the creator of most of our beautiful Sanctuary banners).

If you would like to send Lois a birthday card, please bring it to church by Wednesday, September 4 and give it to Kathy Belcher, Margie Brown, Cheryl Priddy, or another member of the Jean Janes Global Missions group. We will deliver the cards on the group's 'field trip' to Stanford of Saturday, Sept. 7 to celebrate this birthday. If you prefer to mail the card, [contact Margie](#) for their address.



[Link for Tickets and More Information Here](#)

Thank You, Highland

John would have loved the way you have extended love to him and his family. In so many ways and from so many gatherings of church families over decades of his life, he said, "Love me." With cards, hugs, Facebook notes, flowers, and food you loved us, one and all, and we are grateful. Grace, peace, and love to you.

~ Lela and the Family of John Hendrix

Looking Ahead

- Sept. 8 Gather Round Sunday
Sept. 14 Louisville Pride
Sept. 15 Cole Arthur Riley visits Highland on Sunday Evening, 6:00 PM (registration required)
Sept. 26 Senior Adult Sponsored Retreat, Copperfield Sub. Clubhouse, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
October 4-6 "Unstructured" Women's Retreat - contact [Ginger Miller](#) if interested.
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Sunday, 10:15 AM

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist>

Friday, 7:00 PM

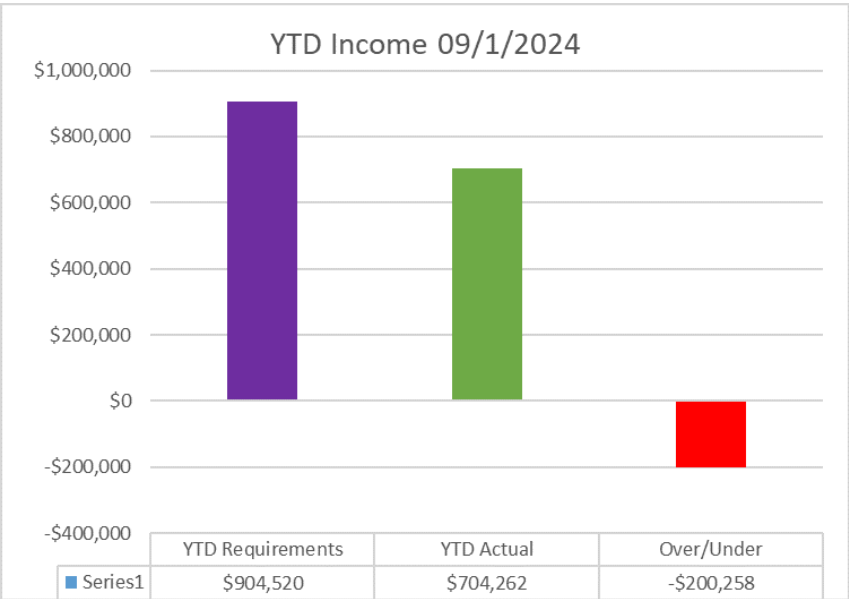
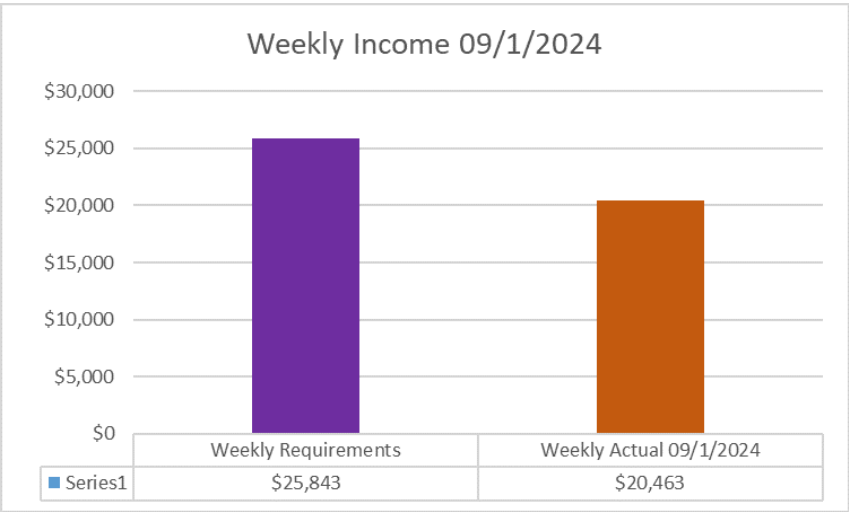
<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

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Worship
Links**



Click Here for Church Signup 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.

- Indira Almaguer Martinez, killed July 30
 - Johnny Eugene Bright, 65, killed August 11
 - Torrance S. Searcy, Jr., 23, killed August 19
 - Shantell Potter, Sr., 41, killed August 21
 - Hayley C. Thomas, 30, killed August 25
 - Eduardo Mendez-Nova, 29, killed August 26
 - Bryce O. Mitchell, 27, killed August 26
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