



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church ***September 24, 2024***

Discovering the Unshakeable

Over the past couple of weeks, I have had the privilege of spending time with our Honor Deacons here at Highland: Procter Eubank, Nancy Goodhue, Jim Hawkins, and Reece Little. I have been wrestling with a question lately, and I wondered what wisdom our Honor Deacons might have to offer related to it. The question is, “How do we stay spiritually grounded in difficult times?”

It’s a significant election year – and we can all feel the anxiety in the air as we get closer to November. In the midst of the atrocities in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, the increasing effects of climate change, the rise of gun violence, at a time when the Surgeon General is issuing advisories related to the mental health of not only [our young people](#) but also [of their parents](#)...when it feels like the world around us is falling apart, how do we stand strong?

Procter, Nancy, Jim, and Reece have each lived through significant challenging times – both in the world and in their personal lives. They have lived through the Cold War, bomb shelters, and the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. They each named the rampant racism that came to the forefront of Louisville in the 1970’s when Jefferson County Schools were integrated through bussing children across town, including their own children. They shared stories with me from hopeful times in our world, like man landing on the moon in 1969, the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989, and Nelson Mandela being freed in 1990. They also shared stories from times of anxiety, fear, and unknown: like after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, the Vietnam War, and 9/11.

And yet, they are still standing strong. They are each like trees planted by streams of water (Psalm 1), and on Sunday, we bore witness to the fruits of their wisdom.

Honor Deacons on September 22



Procter, Reece, Nancy, and Jim, thank you for your vulnerability and courage in sharing your stories with us in worship. Thank you for the powerful reminders that God is present with us, holding and sustaining us through:

- The faces of friends and pastors who show up when we need them the most.
- Cards and letters in the mail (like one Highland member who has sent Reece and Sandy a card every month for the past 7 years).
- Our partners, friends, and loved ones whose faith keeps us grounded and gives us the courage to believe in Love and in our own belovedness.
- Signs in the doctor's office, reminding us that "God won't get you around it, but God will get you through it."
- Ministry groups, Bible study classes, teachers, deacons, and all those who participate with us in the work of Love.
- Contributing to the common good: offering hospitality to our refugee neighbors, welcoming people to Highland, teaching and mentoring others, or painting pet portraits for the Humane Society.
- The promises of Scripture, like the reminder in Psalm 16, that "I will not be shaken, for the Lord is always right beside me."

- The music of Carole King and James Taylor, [“You’ve Got a Friend”](#), and the fierce and loyal love of our pets.

As we continue this topic on Sunday, I’d love to hear how **you** would respond to my question. What are you holding onto – or perhaps, what is holding you in those moments when it feels like the world is falling apart? How do you stay spiritually grounded in anxious times? [Feel free to shoot me an email](#) or respond to my question on social media. I’m curious to hear your stories, too, so that we might all learn from, give to, and receive from one another as we journey in faith together.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



Save the Date: Two Church-Wide Sessions with the Center for Congregational Health on Sunday, October 20

On Sunday, October 20, we will shift our Sunday morning schedule in order to welcome the Center for Congregational Health and begin our strategic planning process together. **There will be no 8:45 AM worship service that morning and no regular adult Bible studies.** From 9:30 – 11:00 AM, all adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Part 1 of our congregational listening session. We will break for worship at 11:15 and lunch on your own, and then you're invited to join us back in the Fellowship Hall for Part 2 from 2:00-3:30 PM. More details will be available as we finalize our Strategic Planning Team and can begin preparing for the weekend with them. Whether you have called Highland home for many years or are new to Highland, you have an important voice in this process, and we hope you'll plan to join us for these important conversations together as we dream about where the Spirit may be leading us in the days ahead.

Highland Welcomes New Members



Friday Church Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

A place of hope. A place to find community. A place where I am accepted. All of these have been

used to describe Friday Church. This Friday, September 27, we will have a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Friday Church. There will be a time of gathering and community in the lobby at 6:30 PM, followed by a service (including a baptism) in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM.



Friday Church began as a vision of a lay member of Highland along with Highland's minister at the time. Friday Church grew and has been blessed by countless lay leaders and church staff over the past 20 years. To all who are seeking God, whether in the recovery community or along some other path of life, Friday Church has been a reminder that through it all, God—the Great God of Love—is with us; and, that God the Creator is not done. Come and see.



~ Bill Campbell

Faithful Giving Story

I would like to share some thoughts on why I give as we enter a season of giving here at Highland.

For those of you who don't know me, I started visiting Highland in January of 2020, right after moving to Louisville, and I managed to sneak in a few Sundays just before the world around us changed very quickly because of the pandemic.



As I moved to Louisville, church became a complicated thing for me. I had spent the past 10 years in more conservative evangelical spaces, and after finally being open and honest about my bisexuality, I had some decisions to make.

I was fortunate enough to connect virtually with the Good Time Gospel Hour Bible study throughout the pandemic. During that time, I mostly did a lot of listening and thinking—partly because I was relearning how church could look and sound in progressive spaces. I'll admit it was also hard to keep up with the many pop-culture references being brought up and how they intersected with the Bible and theology!

But in all seriousness, at that point in my life, I deeply needed to relearn how church looked, sounded, and felt. My past churches were much more focused on providing clear answers to the hard questions that life poses. That time in the virtual Good Time Gospel Hour was all about questions—embracing the gray rather than seeking black and white answers.

So why do I give to Highland? I give for many reasons, but one key reason is the safe space that Highland provides for wanderers and questions.

If you're just beginning your journey here at Highland and need time and space to listen and think, like I did, come listen and think. If you need to feel and heal, come feel your heart out and heal. But if you are already a part of this community—if you have listened, thought, felt, and healed in this space—I invite you to join us. Not only with your time and efforts but also by supporting Highland with your monetary gifts. Large or small, every gift helps keep Highland a space for wanderers to listen, think, feel, and heal.

~ Matthew Neal
as shared in Sunday, September 22 worship services

Worship Care Training

Did you know we have 64 volunteers caring for Highland's infants through prekindergarten age children each month during worship services? Over the past two Sundays, volunteers have participated in one of three offered training sessions to refresh our knowledge of the important procedures we follow related to caring for children and their various needs. We are so grateful for each volunteer and their "yes" to this important work of love in our congregation each week!



~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Young Adult Ministry Collaboratory

This past week, Abbi Wolfe and I traveled to Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey to take part in the Young Adult Ministry Collaboratory. It was an amazing time gathering with seven other churches from across the country.

For the Collaboratory, we were encouraged to think about who young adults are, where they gather, and how the church can listen, understand, and perhaps even meet the needs of young adults in their communities. We created maps of our communities, thought about where young

adults are most central, and how we can meet them where they are.



For the pastors who came, we were able to listen to the voices of young adults as they asked deep questions of faith and expressed a deep desire to be known, trusted, and loved in their faith communities. One of the young adults present said, “don’t just ask us to work with children and youth unless we ask for that first. If we are working in finance or leadership, trust us with that and the skills we have.”

Abbi Wolfe mentioned how grateful she has been that Highland has been a place that sees her and provides belonging for her. As an architect, she has been using her gifts and skills to serve on the HVAC committee throughout the course of this project.

As I mentioned last week, part of this program and grant is that Highland will begin working on a “Pop-Up” event that centers the voices of young adults in our community. Abbi and I are working on putting out team together for this event and will share more details in the coming weeks. For participating, Highland will receive a micro-grant of \$500 to help get our project off the ground.

Abbi and I will be sharing updates about ways others can be involved and help with our project. Thank you so much for the space and time to be away to attend this Collaboratory with so many amazing young adults and ministers.

~ Justin Slzmore



On Wednesday, we will continue showing and discussing the recent documentary **1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture**, a film that follows the story of researchers who trace the origins of the anti-LGBTQ movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible. The film has been shown at festivals and at churches across the country and is now available to stream online as a rental via Amazon. For more information, please visit 1946themovie.com. We will start the film just after 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



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.** Volunteers serve one week per month. **Contact [Kathy Belcher](#) if you can help.**

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 Menu:

September 25: Taco Bar / Rice / Black Beans / Chips, Salsa, and Guacamole / Dessert

October Menus:

October 2: No Wednesday Night Supper (JCPS Fall Break)

October 9: Shredded Barbecue Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad, Dessert

October 16: Spaghetti with Meatballs and Sauce, Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

Empty Bowls 2024

Sunday
October 13
4:30-7:00p

Highlands
Community
Campus



Benefitting HCM's Emergency Assistance Program

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



Looking Ahead

Sept. 26

Senior Adult Sponsored Retreat, Copperfield Sub. Clubhouse, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

October 2
6:15 PM

No Wednesday Evening Activities with the exception of Sanctuary choir rehearsal at

October 4-6 "Unstructured" Women's Retreat - contact [Ginger Miller](#) if interested.

October 9 Cloud of Witness with John Gulden, Emmanuel Maize, and Jess Smith, 6:15 PM

October 13 Empty Bowls 2024, Highlands Community Ministries, 4:30-7:00 PM

October 16 Wednesday Night Series Begins: Christian Nationalism

October 20 Center for Congregational Health Sessions: 10:00-11:15 AM and 2:30-3:30 PM

October 27 Fall Festival on the Front Lawn, 3:00-5:00 PM

October 29 Cream of the Crop visit to Tribe Animal Sanctuary, 10:00 AM (more info soon)

Sunday, 10:15 AM

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

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

Friday, 7:00 PM

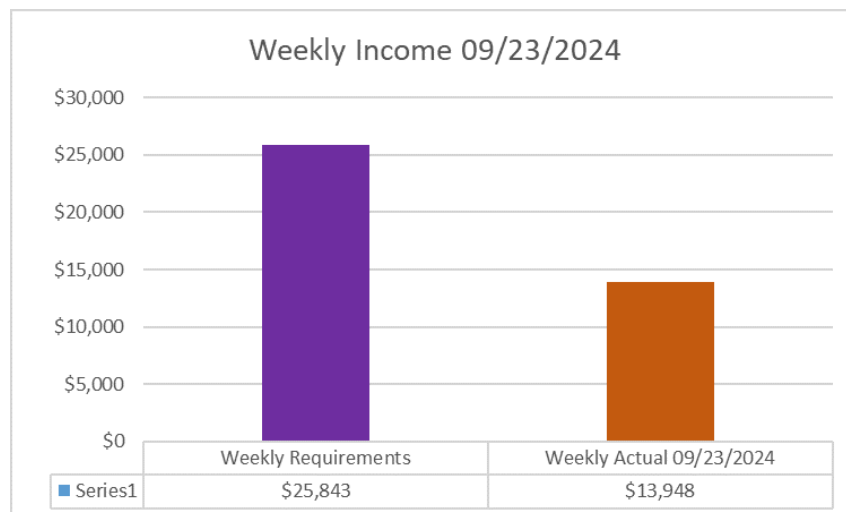
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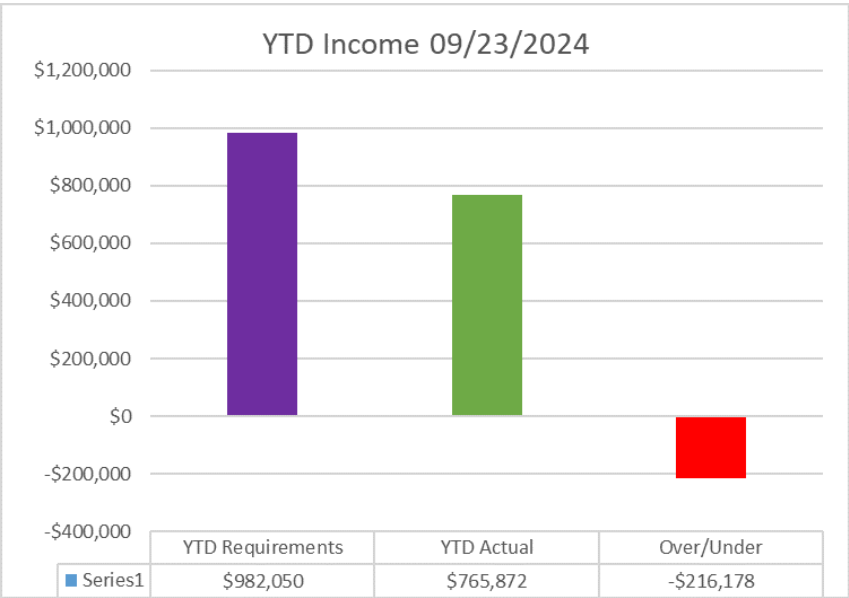
**Streaming
Worship
Links**



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.



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