



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *October 15, 2024*

My Giving Story



In my church as a child, during most giving Sundays, the speakers would speak about a “tithe,” and speak about how it was God’s willing that we give 10% of our income each year to the church. I am thankful that here at Highland we don’t use that kind of language. Instead, though, I worry sometimes that we think of church as another kind of subscription service, the kind that many of us have too many of. I love a good subscription. At this juncture in my life, it’s crucial to be able to swap between “Paw Patrol” on Paramount Plus and “Gabby’s Dollhouse” on Netflix, and “Bluey” on Disney Plus. And if thinking about church as a kind of Netflix is helpful to you, I won’t stop you from thinking in those terms. But it bears considering that if everyone paid the amount of a Netflix subscription for church, we would need 5,500 “subscribers.”

I think the reasons for giving to church are fundamentally different from a purchase of any kind. There is a lot that I receive from my church: it is where I find community, it is where we had our wedding, it’s where my child learns to sing, and I deeply appreciate the amazing talents on display every week during worship. But I do not give to church in order to receive something in return. I give to church because it connects me deeper to the eternal. Forgive me for invoking the language

I complained about before, but in one of the scriptures which first describes a “tithe” (2 Chronicles 31), the redactor describes a situation where the community gives, and is strengthened in the giving. In the New Testament, Jesus commends the poor widow for her gift of two coins for the same reason: she gave what she had because it connected her to God – it was her call as a member of the community to give what she could.

So, please, make your pledge! When you do so, consider more than what church is worth to you. Consider how you can give so that your offering connects you deeper to this community, and connects you deeper to God.

~ Robert Kahne,
from last Sunday's 8:45 worship service



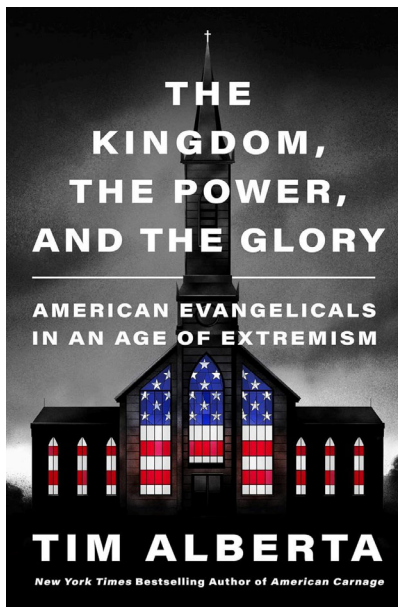
Highland Welcomes New Members



**Jesse McClain and Esther Dansby-McClain joined October 13, 2024.
They are pictured with their children Jude, Ari, Ava, and Evie.**

Christian Nationalism Series

On October 16, 23, and 30, Bruce Maples, Robert Davis, and Mary Alice will be co-leading a Wednesday night series on Christian Nationalism and will facilitate discussion around excerpts from Tim Alberta's book, *The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory: American Evangelicalism in an Age of Extremism*. While reading the book in advance is not necessary, we wanted to give you time to join us in reading before the conversation if you're interested.



This week, Bruce will lead us in a presentation and discussion on Christian Nationalism and its ongoing effects in our country's religious and political landscape. You can read some of what Bruce has written about Christian nationalism [on his website](#), including [this article](#). We will start shortly after 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall each week.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Cloud of Witness on October 9





We hope you'll join us for a church-wide fall festival on the lawn on Sunday, October 27 from 3:00-5:00 PM. There will be treats, activities for children, and face-painting. We will vote on the best carved pumpkins by our youth mentor groups. All ages are invited to dress up (no scary costumes, please), and there will be prizes for best costumes for all ages, too. Bring a lawn chair and join us for what we hope will be a beautiful afternoon together!

Cream of the Crop News

SENIOR ADULT VISIT TO TRIBE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

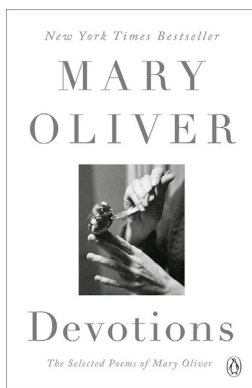


Tuesday, October 29

Join us Tuesday, October 29 for a visit to the Animal Tribe Sanctuary, a farm that provides care and sanctuary for abused and neglected animals, located at 2604 Flat Lick Road. **Please meet in the church parking lot at 9:15 to carpool or to ride the van.** Reserve your spot for this event by emailing [Paul](#) or calling the church office at 502-451-3735. **The deadline for reservations is noon on Monday, October 28.** Indicate if you wish to ride the van, which has 11 seats available. A \$13 donation is suggested for each participant, payable upon arrival.

Following the Tribe Animal Sanctuary tour, we will gather for lunch at The Goose Eatery at 812 Lyndon Lane at approximately 11:30. Also, we are asking for donations of paper towels, an item the Tribe Animal Sanctuary can always use.

Calling All Creatives: Join Us in Crafting Advent Devotions



The Worship Ministry Group invites creatives to contribute to this year's Advent devotions. We'd especially love to include some personal art and photography submissions, accompanied by thought-provoking prompts or questions to encourage curiosity and meditation. WMG is planning our congregation's latest Advent journey through the lens of Mary Oliver's poetry from her book, *Devotions*. If you have questions or wish to submit an idea for your material, email [Paul Henderson](#) by October 18.

Friday Church Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

As confirmation that sometimes in life, we have to make adjustments, we had to reschedule the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Friday Church due to weather.



The celebration is now scheduled for Friday, November 1. We will have a time of gathering and community in the lobby at 6:30 PM, followed by a service 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 join us.

~ Bill Campbell



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.

October Menus:

October 16: Spaghetti, Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

October 23: Soup (two kinds), Mixed Green Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

Mission Minded Women Donate Backpacks

Our Mission Minded Women's group filled 30 backpacks with food and toiletries last week to be given to the houseless by Kim Clark-Endicott.



Another Bulletin Board Makeover!



Thanks to the dynamic duo of Angela Collins and Bonnie Lindsay for updating our "New Member" bulletin board so beautifully. And many thanks to Norma Pendleton for creating and donating the lovely flower arrangement!



- October 16 Wednesday Night Series Begins: Christian Nationalism
 - October 27 Fall Festival on the Lawn, 3:00-5:00 PM
 - October 29 Cream of the Crop visit to Tribe Animal Sanctuary, 10:00 AM
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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

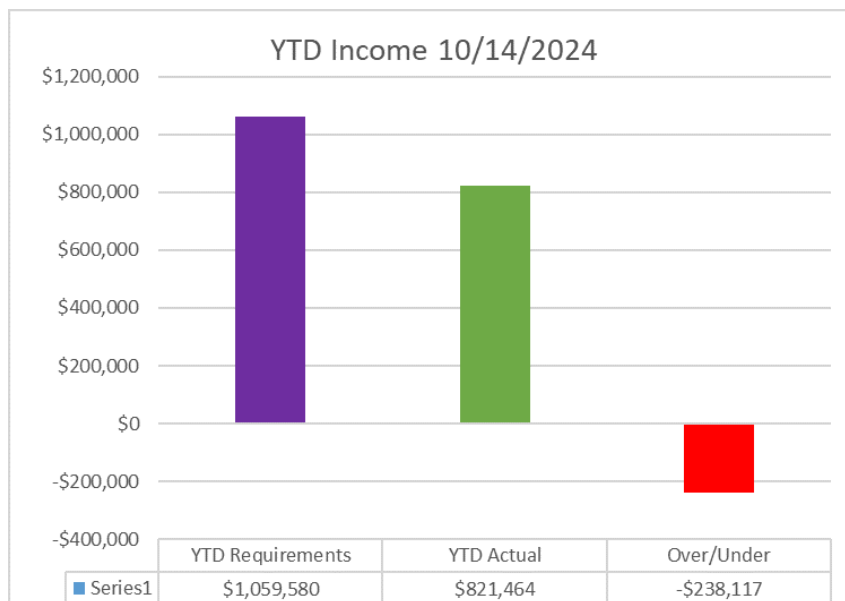
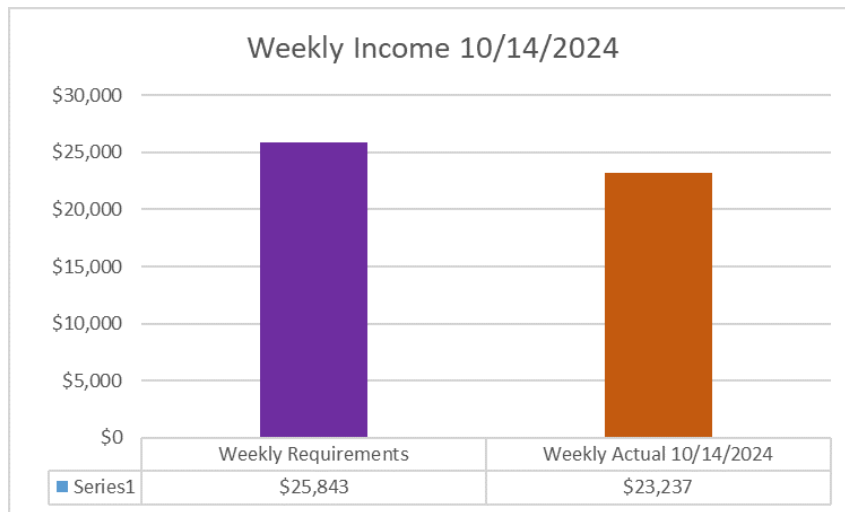


Click Here for Church Signup Links



The annual **Festival of Faiths** returns **Nov. 13-16** to the Kentucky Center, where a diverse lineup of spiritual teachers, thought leaders, movement makers and artists will celebrate the beauty of creativity and the power of ideas to change the world. Share in this experience of *Sacred Imagining* as we lean into our highest potential, explore our authentic selves and reimagine what the future might hold. Right now get 20% off your ticket price with code word SACRED. [Buy tickets/passes and learn more here.](#)

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.

- Olvin Jaziel Ramirez-Pena, 28, killed September 23
 - Durrelle Moxley, Jr., 18, killed September 30
 - Titan Walker, 15, killed October 8
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