



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church November 5, 2024

Service of Unity and Hope Wednesday, November 6 at 6:15 PM

We know that regardless of the results of this week's election, our work as people of faith remains the same. As we shared on Sunday, our calling is to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God – and we're not turning back. Our work is to show extravagant love for all God's children – and we're not turning back!

In order to find the courage for whatever the coming days hold, we also need to take time to be still. To breathe deeply. To listen. To remember that God is God – and we are not.

On Wednesday evening at 6:15 PM, we will do just that. We may or may not know the results of the election that evening, but either way, we will be carrying the intensity of emotions surrounding this time in the life of our country. It will be good to be together: to pray, to sing the songs of our faith, and to listen for the voice of the Holy One. I hope you'll join us for this sacred pause in this significant week.



We are grateful to Tory Parker for her prayer in worship on Sunday that expressed what so many of us are feeling these days. May her powerful words continue to guide our prayers in the days ahead:

Creator

The fear is bone deep.

The anxiety hums in the back of the throat.

The darkness creeps in.

But because of you and your love, we know the way.

Because of the saints that have come before us and the saints that stand beside us, we are not alone.

We exist in the context of all in which we live and what came before us.

We live in uncertainty of what will happen next, but never in how we must respond.

When hate comes for our neighbors, we meet it with love.

When destruction comes for our neighbors, we meet it with love.

When fear and anxiety, darkness and pain come for our neighbors and for ourselves, we meet it with love.

As you have taught us, we do not turn back.

As you have taught us, we move forward in community with those who need us, and those we hold dear.

God of Grace and Wisdom, if these are unprecedented times, let us, as people who are ready to transform and to be transformed by your word, set the precedent.

That: we are afraid because our hope is so great.

That: we are anxious because there is so much we can do, especially together.

And that there is darkness, as there always has been. But that there is light, as there always will be.

Amen.



2025 Pledge Season Update

As of Sunday, November 3, 98 pledges have been made toward our 2025 Ministry Fund totaling \$553,438. This is an increase of 24 pledges and more than \$110,000 over the past two weeks. Additional pledges to the Sacred Space campaign remain at just over \$97,000 compared with the numbers reported two weeks ago. We are a bit below where we were with pledging last year at this time when we had received 122 pledges for the 2024 Ministry Fund totaling \$610,962. Your pledges make a crucial difference in Highland's numerous ministries and are especially important in helping us as we are adding \$120,000 in loan payments for our recent facilities renovations into

the 2025 Budget. Thank you for assisting with the budgeting process with your pledge, but most of all thank you for your generosity!

No commitment is too small, so keep those pledges coming! Our goal is to have 100% participation. If you haven't already done so, you are invited to make your pledge by any of the following methods:

- Use the QR code provided below.
- Turn in your pledge card by placing it in the offering plate OR mailing it to the church.
- Contact Kathleen, our Financial Secretary by phone (451-3735) OR [email here](#).



Feel free to contact Kathleen with any questions regarding your pledge or giving to Highland.

Let's work together to continue the 131-year legacy of ministry at Highland Baptist Church! Thank you all for your support and commitment to this faith community — we couldn't do God's transforming work of love without each and every one of you!

~ The Faithful Giving Ministry Group

Associate Pastor Search Update

On behalf of the Personnel Ministry Group and the Search Committee for the Associate Pastor position, we are writing to let you know that we have paused the search process until next year. We have notified all applicants about this decision.

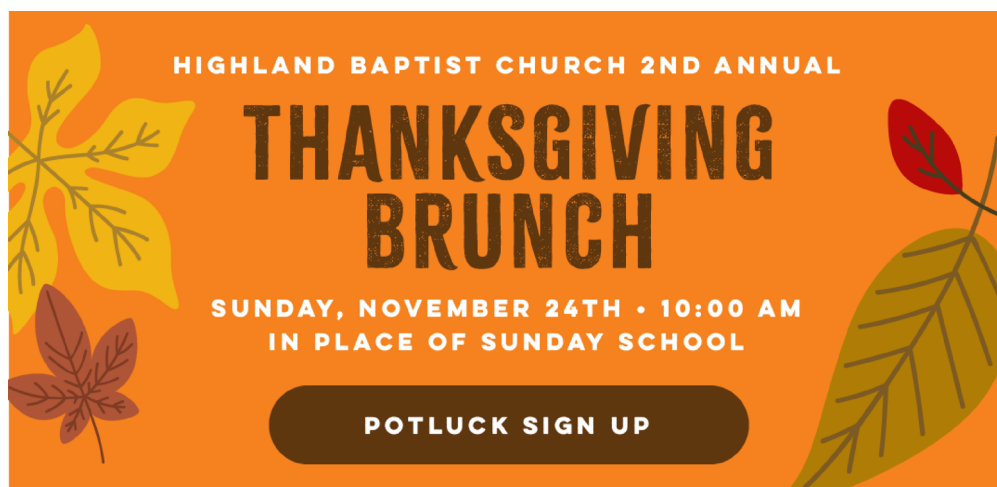
Because the church is still in process of finalizing a budget for 2025, we believe the search

process is best paused now and restarted in alignment with our work with the Center for Congregational Health regarding implementation of mission and vision of our church. Current applicants as well as future applicants will be considered. We strongly believe that this role is necessary for the health of church; we hope to re-consider the salary for the position after the 2025 budget is finalized. We want to ensure we can move forward to attract the best candidates for this position while being fiscally responsible. Church operations and management as well as faith formation continue to be essential functions the Personnel Ministry Group sees as priorities for next year.

Arlette Tinsley, Chair of Personnel Ministry Group

Tanya Cornely, Chair of Associate Pastor Search Committee

Thanksgiving Brunch and Service of Gratitude



On Sunday, November 24, we will gather for brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM, including a time to share our gratitude with one another as a congregation. There will be no 8:45 service or Bible study classes for any ages during this time to allow the entire church family to participate in this beloved Highland tradition. The deacons invite you to bring a dish to share for brunch that morning. You can [sign up here](#). Thanksgiving Worship will follow brunch in the sanctuary at 11:15 AM.

One Sunday Worship Service for Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas Season

The end of the year includes some beloved traditions in worship at Highland, and starting on November 24, we will consolidate our schedule into **one Sunday morning service** so that we can

experience the richness of this season together. There will be no 8:45 worship starting on November 24th through the end of the year, and we will continue with our current schedule of Bible study at 10 AM and worship at 11:15 AM. (The exception to this will be Sunday, December 29 when we will have no Bible Study and one worship service at 10 AM). This change is a huge support to our pastors, choir members, musicians, worship leaders, and other volunteers during this busy season, and it allows us to invest more time and energy in the special services we offer throughout Advent and Christmas. Additionally, the Deacons have expressed how meaningful it was for Highland to worship together in one service over the summer, and we hope this change will offer a similar opportunity for us to worship together throughout the holidays as the family of God in this place.

Friday Church 20th Anniversary



Opportunities to Make Music

If you play a musical instrument or sing, we would love to have you join us in Friday Church. Friday Church is an informal time of community, hope, welcoming and affirmation of God's great love for all the people of the world. If you play keyboards, guitar or percussion, let us know. If you play a dulcimer, flute, violin, Irish tin whistle, or some other instrument that can be used to help our congregation lift our hearts to God, let us know. We are looking for people who can play on a repeating basis as well as people who wish to play just once or twice. If you would like to know more, contact [Bill Campbell](#) or come to a Friday service to see for yourself.

~ Bill Campbell

Cream of the Crop News

Tuesday, November 12 at Noon - Potluck Luncheon at Highland

Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.



Richard Ryan and Sally Evans will present the one act play "Pokeweed and Mrs. Gasp" by Anita Higman. This funny and touching play teaches us lessons about loving and accepting all people with God's love. Don't miss this very special 30-minute show!

Mark your calendar and bring a friend!

An Important Apology

On October 25 President Joe Biden made a long-awaited apology to survivors and Indigenous communities on behalf of the U.S. government for forcibly removing Native children from their families and placing them in boarding schools. This practice, which lasted from 1819 through 1969,

was part of a strategy to deal with “the Indian problem” by destroying Indigenous cultures and family ties and assimilating the children into the dominant American culture. Many of the children endured abuse of every kind—physical, emotional, and sexual. They were forced into hard labor, were malnourished, and punished for speaking their own language. Many never returned home. Nearly a thousand children died. Many of the government boarding schools were actually run by Christian denominations and churches.



At the heart of the Christian faith is living by these words of Jesus: "love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Admitting wrongdoing, repenting, and making amends to do what we can to right a wrong done to a fellow human is so important Jesus said to do that before you give your offering to God (Matt. 5:23–24). Though it is unlikely any of us at Highland Baptist had anything directly to do with the boarding schools, as with slavery we have inherited what our ancestors have done and the consequences, and we can be part of the movement to make amends.

The Indigenous nations have mostly welcomed President Biden’s apology—and they point out that it is a good *first* step. They look for action to make the apology meaningful.

One important action would be for the U.S. government to pay for language revitalization for all the tribes, since the government’s actions caused a generation to lose the ability to speak their own language and. Currently, tribes have to compete against each other for grant dollars for language programs, according to Joseph Rupnick, Illinois’s Prairie Band Potawatomi chairperson, whose mother was three years old when federal agents took her from her parents and sent her to a Catholic boarding school in another state. She never spoke her first language again.

Another important action is to bring home the bodies of children who died and are buried at the boarding schools and have them buried in their own communities.

A third action would be to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies as has been used in other countries like Canada and South Africa. A bill being considered in the House of Representatives—HR 7227—would form such a commission.

November is National Native American Month. We Highland people can honor Indigenous people and support Indigenous communities by urging our elected officials to engage in these and other acts of reparation. More information about how you can respond will follow on Sunday and in next week's newsletter.

~ Highland's Anti-Racism Team



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.

November Menus:

November 6: Meatloaf / Scalloped Potatoes / Green Beans / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

November 13: Lasagna / Steamed Vegetables / Salad / Bread Sticks / Dessert

November 20: Fried and Baked Chicken / Mac & Cheese / Green Beans / Salad / Rolls / Dessert

November 27: No Wednesday Evening Activities



Guns to Gardens

Safe-surrender event turns unwanted guns into garden tools

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..." Isaiah 2:4

Grace Hope Presbyterian Church
702 E. Breckinridge St., Louisville, KY 40203

**Sunday
Nov. 10, 2024
2-4 p.m.**

HOW: Anyone can bring unwanted guns. Those bringing guns are anonymous. Each person surrendering one or more guns will receive a \$50 Kroger gift card.

- Guns must be unloaded prior to entering church property and placed in trunk or rear of vehicle. Skilled personnel will remove firearms from vehicles and take them to a chop saw for disabling while the person bringing the gun is present.
- Serial numbers will be recorded to document the gun's destruction.
- Ammunition will not be accepted.
- The gun pieces will be forged into tools, art, or jewelry at a later date.

WHY: Many guns in our community are no longer wanted for a variety of reasons:

- There is concern that the gun might fall unintentionally into the hands of children or grandchildren in the home.
- The gun may have been used in a suicide or accident.
- Someone can no longer handle guns safely because of age or disability.
- A person inherited a gun but does not want it or know how to use it.

WHO: This event is organized by a coalition of individuals from faith and community groups concerned about gun violence in Louisville. It is part of a national Guns to Gardens movement launched in cooperation with [RAWtools](#) and [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#).

Guns to Gardens is a step toward reducing gun violence, a path for people to take action to reduce the number of guns in our homes and communities

Cosponsored by the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation

For more information: guns2gardenslouisville@gmail.com

Highland Family Invited to Baptist Seminary of Kentucky Gathering

Many of Highland's people can attest to how a quality seminary can impact lives for the good of all. While the seminary landscape has changed so much over the past decades, we give thanks that God is still at work through high-quality theological education rooted right here in Kentucky. As trustees, we are excited to unite our love for Baptist Seminary of Kentucky with our Highland family through a drop-in gathering that will include some BSK staff, including BSK President Dr. Cassady.



We invite all our Highland family to Carol's home on Sunday, November 24, between 5:00 and 7:30 PM for a drop-in to celebrate BSK's good work! Before the Thanksgiving celebrations begin, we will enjoy some small bites and drinks to give thanks for all God is doing in our midst. It's a joyous occasion that we look forward to sharing with you! To attend, please [click this link](#) for details and to RSVP.

~ Carol Harston and Larry Gray



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.](#)

annual vigil to remember and
honor victims of violence
against the trans community

International Trans Day of Remembrance

NOV. 20 @ 7PM
IN THE FRONT GARDEN OF
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL
2822 FRANKFORT AVE.

donations to benefit Mandala House

Click Here for Church Signup Links

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>

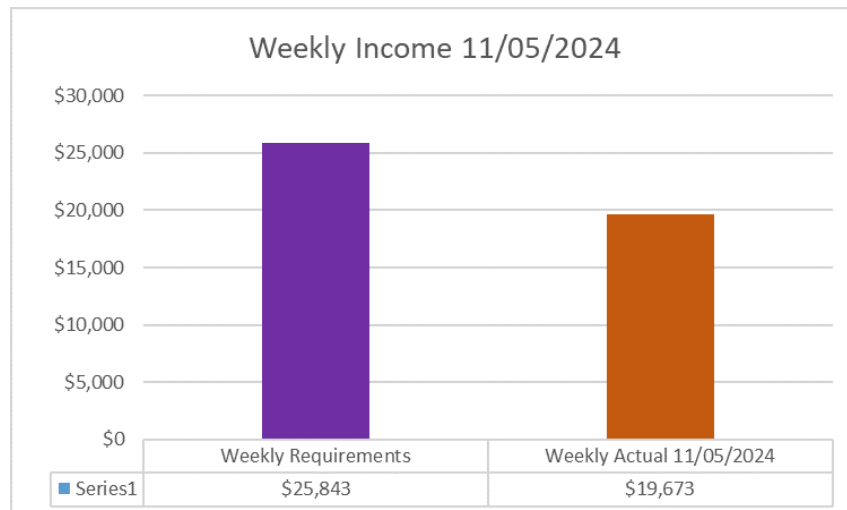
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

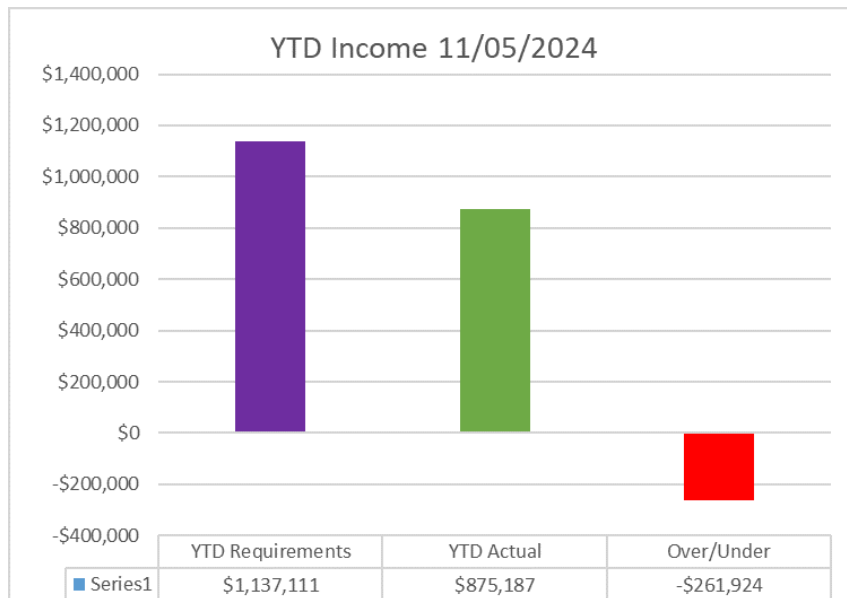


Looking Ahead

- November 6: A Service of Unity and Hope, 6:15 PM
- November 8-10: Youth Disciple Now Weekend
- November 12: Cream of the Crop Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon
- November 13: Cloud of Witness: Brooke Hasl, Penny Mosier, and Andrew Schafflein
- November 20: Quarterly Church Conf. and Budget Presentation, 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall (note date change for QCC)
- November 24: Thanksgiving Breakfast and Worship
- November 27: No Wednesday Evening Activities
- December 1: Advent Begins - Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 PM

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.

- Kyian Nari King, 20, killed September 8
 - Richard Johnson, 45, killed September 27
 - Aubreyon Walker, 18, killed October 10
 - Tanaeah Jones, 17, killed October 17
 - Travis Bierod, 41, killed October 25
 - Montrez Boyington, 34, killed October 29
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