



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church *October 29, 2024*

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

Throughout the fall, we have been talking about how we stay spiritually grounded in difficult seasons. When I asked our Honor Deacons (Procter Eubank, Nancy Goodhue, Jim Hawkins, and Reece Little) this question, a common thread quickly emerged among their responses. I was amazed at how each of them immediately recalled ways that our community of faith at Highland had provided the encouragement, comfort, solidarity, love, or courage they needed in difficult times. Whether it was through the death of a loved one, a divorce, a health crisis, or other challenging seasons in our world or in their own lives, they each named specific people and countless ways that Highland was the sacred grounding place they needed to fall back on, and how this community had offered them boundless love and grace upon grace.



It makes sense for us to come together to offer one another a similar grounding place on Wednesday evening, November 6. 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 be still and remember that God is God. I hope you'll join us for this sacred pause in this significant week.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



My Faithful Giving Story



I have been a member of Highland Baptist Church for 21 years. At the time we joined, my husband, Phillip, and I were looking for a place where we could serve, do a bit of healing, and raise our two daughters, Molly and Jillian, then 7 and 3 years old. We experienced radical welcome from friends both old and new!

Phillip and I had been married for 12 years at that point. We had been active in church for all of that time and we had always given money to the church. My reason for giving stemmed largely from being taught as a child that following God meant that a portion of my financial resources belonged to God, and that I was expected to give that portion to the church to do God's work. I believed then and still believe that God expects us to be good stewards, seeking to use our financial resources wisely, and that as a member of a church, I should support the church financially. Whether that always manifests itself as a 10% tithe may be up for discussion. I have never felt pressured to give a designated percentage at Highland, but I have been inspired to examine my reasons for giving and to practice and grow in my generosity.

So, why do I choose to give to Highland Baptist Church? This place, this community of believers, provided sacred space where our young family was nurtured. Our girls have grown and carry with them the thinking, feeling, healing heart of Highland, as do all of us and as did the folks who came before us over the past 131 years of our church's history. All of our gifts work together to make Highland a thriving faith community where other folks can flourish for years to come! Of course, I give to keep the lights on and maintain the integrity of our property and all of the necessary things that are far from glamorous, but as Mary Alice lovingly articulated last week, maintaining this building does so much more than provide a beautiful, contemplative space for Sunday morning worship. It makes space for Kentucky Refugee Ministries and NA and Friday Church. We are able to touch lives and share God's abundant love with people whose paths we might not cross otherwise. The dollars we give support refugees in Morocco, build homes in Appalachia, do justice, and offer radical welcome to all. We get to share in the stories of so many who are blessed by the existence of Highland Baptist Church. I give to provide benefits and salaries for our beloved staff who pastor, challenge and encourage us. I can't imagine Highland without their leadership. I give because my dollars do so much more when they are combined with yours. I give because I love God, and God loves me.

In case you missed them, here are other faithful giving stories from this fall.

September 22 - [Matthew Neal](#)

October 13 - [Michelle Vaughn](#)

October 27 - [Scott Schaftlein](#)



Fall Festival
OCTOBER 27



Latest Gift from the Reparations Fund

Last week a Reparations Fund payment in the amount of \$5,000 was sent to REBOUND, Inc. (Rebuilding Our Urban Neighborhood Dwellings), a local nonprofit organization whose goal is to

assist residents in the West End in buying homes or renting an apartment as a first step to owning a home. In operation since 1993, REBOUND buys land on which to build new homes, rehabilitates run-down houses, and has built and is currently building new apartments. The staff offers HUD-certified education courses to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process of buying and keeping a home, and a family service worker on staff works with families on issues that might affect the family staying in the home.



This year REBOUND owned 30 apartments which they helped families rent, and next year another 43 units will be added. They help ten to fifteen families get a house each year. (For more information about REBOUND, [click here.](#))

The goal of Highland's Reparations Fund is to help reduce the wealth gap between African Americans and whites by giving to Black organizations working with Blacks to buy homes, get a college degree or job training, and in other ways be able to make a living wage. Earlier this year fund money was used to help one person secure a building for a start-up business and to help another person, whose goal is to become a nurse, pay for initial expenses to attend Simmons College.

~ Nancy Goodhue

Friday Church Celebrates 20th Anniversary This Week



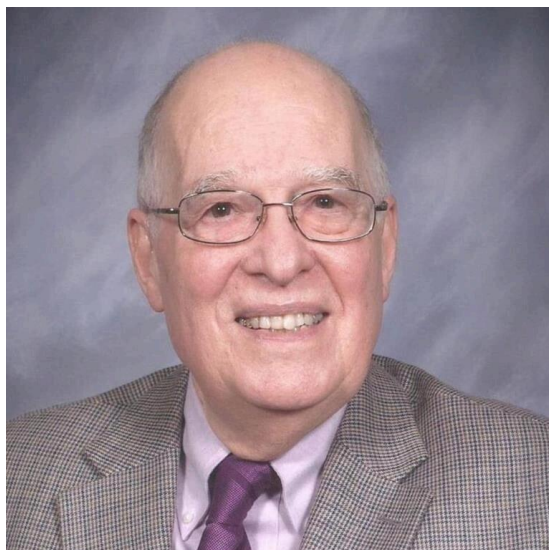
Our 20th anniversary celebration is scheduled for this Friday, November 1. We will have a time of gathering and community in the lobby at 6:30 PM, followed by a service in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Friday Church began as a vision of a lay member of Highland along with Highland's minister at the time. 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

Wednesday Night Dinners - More Economical - But We Need Help!

In an effort to avoid losing money on catered Wednesday night dinners, weekly teams of volunteers have been purchasing and preparing food for our meals this fall. We've been quite successful in reducing costs, but, there's a catch! It takes more work by volunteers and we need help! Specifically, both the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday teams need 1-2 more people who can assist with meal prep and serving. It would mean helping once each month, beginning around 4:00pm. It might include assembling a salad, heating already prepared food, plating desserts or helping carry food to the serving table. Each weekly team has a captain to guide the work. Being a part of a team once a month can be a great way to make new friends and get involved in one of Highland's longstanding traditions. If you would like to help or get more information, please contact Kathy Belcher, 502-216-6471 or kibelcher53@gmail.com.

Remembering Dr. David D'Amico



This week, we celebrated the 90-year-long life of Dr. David D’Amico, and I shared [this article](#) he wrote back in 2010 in his memorial service on Saturday. These words just as easily could have been written today, and they help to articulate the kind of life that he lived – one that was deeply committed to sharing the gospel across the world and working with people of all races, nationalities, and cultures. This deep commitment even led him to serve as a representative of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to the diplomatic community the United Nations for ten years.

David’s son, Steve, told me this week, “Dad could just as easily befriend the diplomat at the United Nations as he could the janitor at his church in Houston, Texas, coming back and forth from Mexico. He worked to know everyone by name and saw *all people* as beloved children of God.

“Our America,” David wrote back in 2010 “settled by Pilgrims avoiding religious persecution and later moving westward, displacing the native population – may need some spiritual awakening as to who is ‘the stranger’ in our midst. The way of Jesus Christ, who was a refugee as a child and died on the cross between two thieves and under a sign written in three languages, demands better of us. Let’s remember the prophet Micah’s words: ‘What does the Lord require of thee? To seek justice, to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.’”

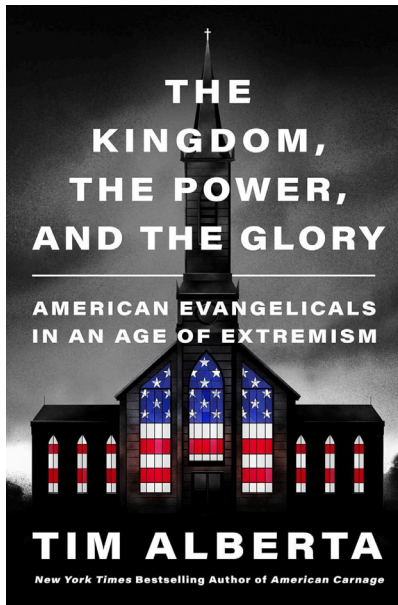
May we go and do likewise.

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Christian Nationalism Series Concludes on Wednesday

On October 30, Robert Davis and Mary Alice will co-lead our final Wednesday night session on

Christian Nationalism and will continue discussion around excerpts from Tim Alberta's book, *The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory: American Evangelicalism in an Age of Extremism*. We will begin shortly after 6:00 PM.



~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



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.](#)

Are you interested in being a part of the 2024 Festival of Faiths as a volunteer?

Our Volunteer Team is a critical part of presenting this nationally acclaimed interfaith event and a meaningful way to contribute to our mission while earning a ticket to a session of your choice! To get started, click on [this link](#) to fill out a short form by Friday, October 25.



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

Cream of the Crop News

Tuesday, November 12 at Noon - Potluck Luncheon

Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert. You won't want to miss the special entertainment, so mark your calendar and invite a friend!

[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>

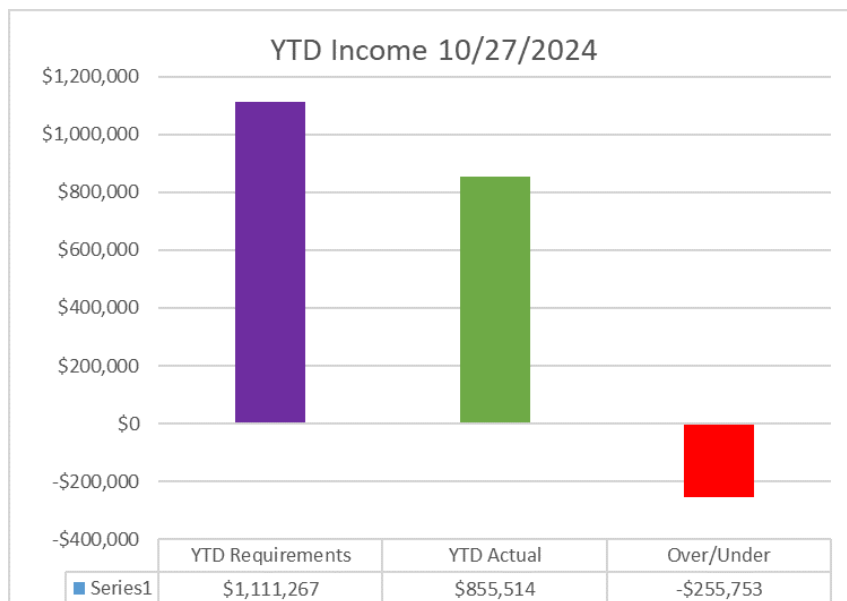
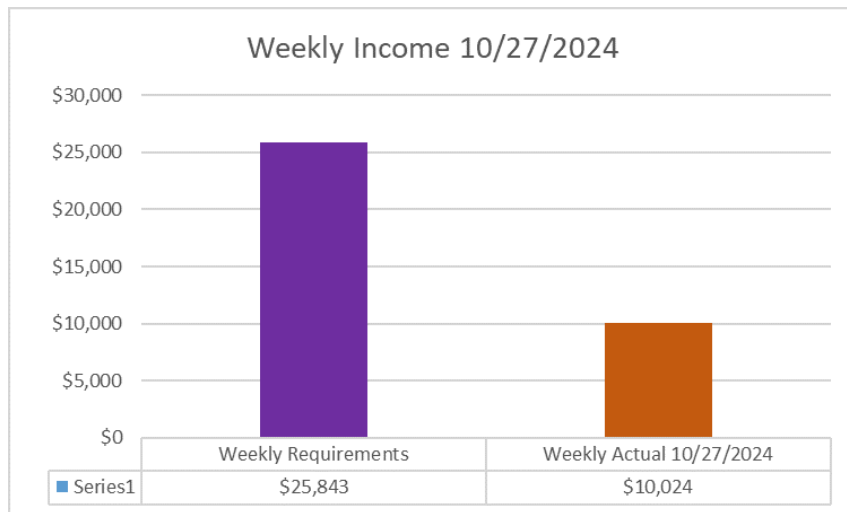
**Streaming
Worship
Links**



Looking Ahead

- October 30: Wednesday Night Series Concludes: Christian Nationalism
- November 1: Friday Church 20th Anniversary Celebration, 6:30 PM
- 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: Quarterly Church Conf. and Budget Presentation, 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
- 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.

- India Isom, 21, killed October 7
 - Aaron Esters, Jr., 17, killed October 8
 - Robert Sarver, Jr., 17, killed October 11
 - Timothy Berry, 15, killed October 17
 - Mitchell Jackson, 34, killed October 20
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