



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church November 13, 2024

Mary Alice Birdwhistell Resignation



We hope you received [this letter](#) from Mary Alice yesterday sharing both grief and peace that she will be resigning as Pastor of Highland after the holidays. Below are some words from the Personnel Ministry Group in response:

To members and friends of Highland Baptist Church,
We know this will be a time of both grief and joy, as we celebrate Mary Alice's ministry over the past four and half years, through some of the most trying times our congregation has experienced, and as we say farewell to her as our Pastor. Please know that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Personnel Ministry Group, Arlette Tinsley and Tanya Cornely, have been working with Mary Alice to prepare a timeline that works for her and her personal goals, as well as the church, and we have met with our consultant from the Center for Congregational Health to discuss best practices and options as we move to a season of interim leadership. Our Highland Baptist Church Bylaws state:

“The Pastor Selection Committee will be made up of seven church members elected by the church. Members of this committee will be recommended by the congregation to, and subsequently nominated by, **an ad hoc committee made up of the Chair of Deacons, three members of the Personnel Committee, and three members of the Deacon body.** A separate seven-member Pastoral Interim Committee will be elected by the same means, and will be charged with securing an interim pastor and/or supply preachers until a permanent pastor is employed. An interim pastor must be approved by the church.”

Personnel Ministry Group will be working closely with other members of the Ad Hoc committee to run the process for creating the seven-member Pastoral Interim Committee, as outlined in our Bylaws, so that we may secure an Interim Pastor or Pastors as soon as possible. Please pray for Ad Hoc Committee members as we gather and begin this process.

With love,

Arlette Tinsley, Chair and Tanya Cornely, Vice-Chair
On behalf of Personnel Ministry, Highland Baptist Church



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.

2025 Pledge Season Update

The pledges keep coming! As of this past Sunday, 107 pledges have been made toward our 2025 Ministry Fund totaling \$592,062. In addition, we are up to \$1,848,056 in pledges to the Sacred Space campaign. Thank you to all who have already pledged for generously supporting the ministry and mission of Highland and moving us toward reaching our financial goals for next year.

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.
- Make your pledge [online here](#).
- Turn in your pledge card by placing it in the offering plate OR mailing it to the church.
- Contact Kathleen Gordon, 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. Thank you for all your generosity. Each of us doing our part makes it possible to do

God's transforming work of love!

~ *The Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

Quarterly Church Conference Scheduled

Our quarterly church conference is scheduled for next Wednesday evening, November 20, shortly after 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. During this time, the Finance Ministry Group will present the budget for 2025 and we will vote on incoming ministry council members, as well as Church Clerk, Moderator, and Comptroller. Please join us on Wednesday.

Youth Disciple Now Weekend

This past weekend was our first Disciple Now weekend here at Highland! The theme for our retreat was "Messy Spirituality." Over the weekend we explored how messy life can be, and that even in the messes of our lives, God is always present with us. God also calls us to the messy work of Justice and Love in our world. Our very own Mary Alice Birdwhistell was our pastor for the weekend.



DNOW is designed to give our youth a chance to fellowship and grow closer together, learn more about faith, and to serve in the community as well. On all those points, I would call the weekend a huge success!



Fourteen remarkable youth participated in the weekend, mentored by four dedicated young adult volunteers. These young adults led engaging Bible studies, arranged an exciting scavenger hunt through the Highlands, and led meaningful evening worship times.

DNOW was an amazing time, and I look forward to building and continuing this tradition in the years to come!

~ Justin Sizemore

Christmas Poinsettias



Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. You may order poinsettias through our website [here](#). You may also submit payment and information by contacting [Cheryl in the church office](#) or at 502-451-3735. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Monday, November 25.**

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.

Conflict of Interest Policy Approved

Recently the Trustees and Ministry Council reviewed and approved a conflict of interest policy for

the church. In applying for 501c3 status, it was discovered that we needed to submit such a policy along with the application. [Here is a link](#) to the policy.

~ Lauren Blackwell

Highland Family Invited to BSK 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 BSK Theological Seminary 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

A Simple Action to Support Indigenous Americans

If you were in church or streamed the service on Sunday, you heard the mission moment about

President Biden's historic apology to American Indigenous people for the boarding schools that Native children were forced to attend far from their homes between 1819 and 1969. You heard that the Indigenous nations have mostly welcomed the apology and at the same time want concrete actions to make the apology meaningful.



Let's show our support to our Indigenous brother and sisters by urging our senators and representative to support and fund the following actions:

- increase funding for language revitalization for all American Indigenous nations
- continue the work of recovering the bodies of Indigenous children who died and were buried at federal boarding schools, and seeing that the remains of these children are returned to their communities for proper burial
- pass HR 7227, which would establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies

Kentucky:

- Contact [Senator McConnell](#): (202) 224-2541
- Contact [Senator Paul](#):(202) 224-4343
- Contact [your representative](#)

Indiana:

- Contact [your senators](#)
- Contact [your representative](#)

For a sample letter, [click here](#).

~ 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 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

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 13: Cloud of Witness: Brooke Hasl, Penny Mosier, and Andrew Schafflein

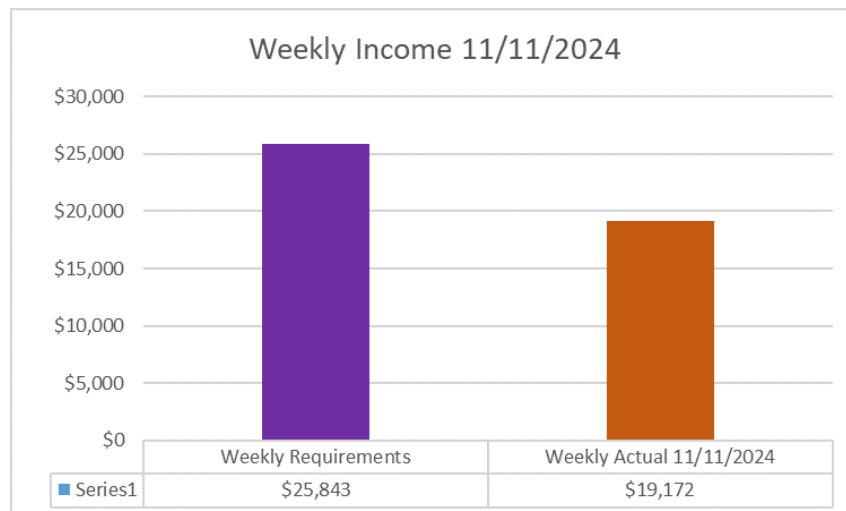
November 20: Quarterly Church Conf. and Budget Presentation, 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
(note date change for QCC)

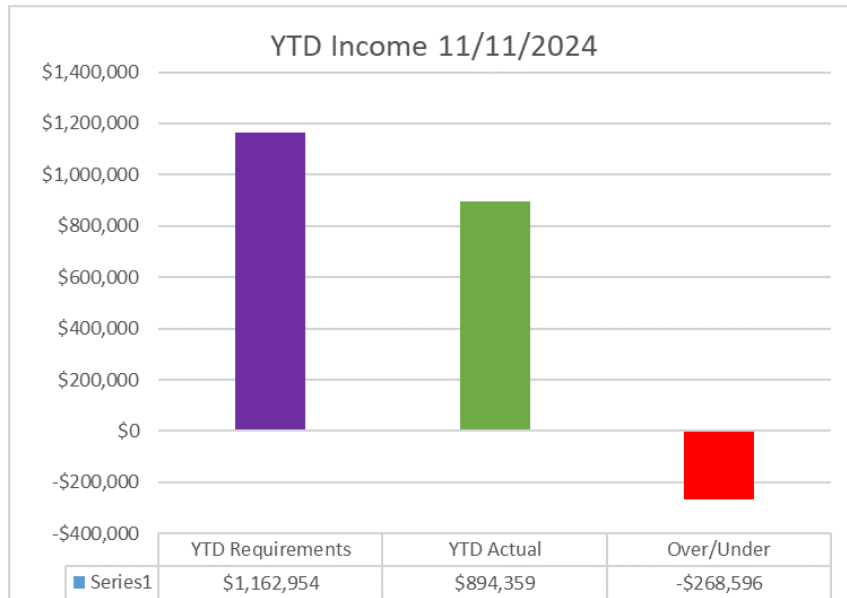
November 24: Thanksgiving Breakfast and Worship

November 27: No Wednesday Evening Activities

December 1: Advent Begins - Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 PM

Financial Reports





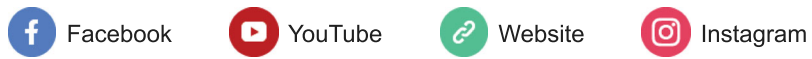
**To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link or use the QR code below.**





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.



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