



## ***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church December 10, 2024***

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### **Coming Up in January**

Mary Alice and the Personnel Ministry Group have been working ahead on plans for January at Highland, and we have an outstanding group of preachers and teachers lined up for this season! Once an Interim Pastoral Committee is in place, they will take the lead on shepherding further plans beyond January. Until such time that the Interim Committee is fully functioning, rest assured that your Church Staff is already preparing to coordinate with this group in planning pulpit supply and weekly worship services beginning in February.

#### **Guest Proclaimers**

**January 12:** Bob Cunningham, Interim Associate Pastor at Highland

**January 19:** Carol Harston, Former Associate Pastor at Highland, [\*Moving Faith Forward\*](#)

**January 26:** Brian Henderson, Executive Director of the [Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists](#)

#### **Wednesday Nights**

**January 8, 15, and 22:** Moving Faith Forward

Since leaving Highland's ministerial staff in 2021, Carol Harston has been deepening her traumatizing theology research by wondering what it looks like for people to move past their beliefs and grow into spiritual maturity. Carol's vision is a future in which people can live at peace with the past, confident in their ability to face whatever life brings, and open to a revived spirituality that evolves as life changes. To get there, Carol offers a three-step process of working through beliefs: (1) placing former beliefs in the context of what was happening when we received them, (2) putting words to beliefs that have stood the test of time, and (3) learning to accept what has been, integrate core beliefs, and engage in spiritual practice tailored to our real lives (you can read case studies that apply the three steps at [www.carolharston.com](http://www.carolharston.com)). Catch up with Carol in this Wednesday night class to learn more about the three-step process and explore what it looks like to

move faith forward.

**January 29:** Cloud of Witness

**Work with the Center for Congregational Health**

Our consultant from the Center for Congregational Health, Charity Roberson, will be at Highland **January 18-19** and facilitating church-wide conversations over the course of the weekend. More info will be in the newsletter next week about specific dates and times and how to best plan for this important time together.



*Around Highland  
on Dec. 8, 2024*



**The Watch of Wondering Love: Advent 2024**

## Wednesday, December 11

Families with Children are invited to gather for an **indoor** hot chocolate bar and Christmas party at **Highland** from **6:00-7:15 PM**. Please note change in venue.



## Sunday, December 15 ~ Joy Sunday

### ***Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 11:15 AM***

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Brass presenting Rutter's *Gloria* at 11:15 AM, with special music from the Brass of Highland's Orchestra.

### ***Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM***

This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music includes special solos, duets, and Highland's Handbell Choir. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.*

## Wednesday, December 18

### ***Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM***

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on one of the longest nights of the year. *Childcare available [by reservation only](#) for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.*



## Fridays, December 20 and 27

Join us as we sing the carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM! We will end the service on the 20th with candlelight.

## Sunday, December 22 ~ Love Sunday

### ***Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 11:15 AM***

Justin Sizemore is our proclaimer.



## Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

### *Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM*

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth! *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.*

## Sunday, December 29

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 AM** - no Bible study classes that morning.

# Children's Advent Service





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## 2025 Ministry Fund Adopted by Congregation

This weekend, the congregation voted on the proposed 2025 Ministry Fund as presented by the Finance Ministry Group at the November 20 Quarterly Church Conference. The proposed budget of \$1,341,000 was adopted with 110 responses—102 yes votes and 8 no votes.

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## La Casita Thank You

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who took time out of your busy schedules to share some loving kindness with our neighbors at La Casita Center. Your gifts will continue to make a significant difference in the lives of those who depend on La Casita's presence in our Louisville community.

One of my favorite biblical stories happens in Exodus. Moses and the Israelites are on their journey to the promised land when a neighboring nation impedes their journey with a battle. Moses noticed that when his hands were raised, Israel prevailed. Naturally, he did all that he could to keep his hands in the air, like he just don't care. When he grew weak and tired, Aaron and Hur provided him a place to sit while they held his hands up. Not to spoil the ending, but Israel won the battle and continued along their journey. This story is one of depending on community to notice what needs have to be met, lending a hand to a friend, and helping each other find victory in our battles.



Several of our members and their families gathered at La Casita on December 2 to put together bags filled with your contributions. We had an evening full of helping our community feel supported and loved. We filled bags with toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, household cleaning supplies, menstrual hygiene products, and other necessities. These gifts given by you mean that those who receive them will not have to make the difficult choice between household necessities or gifts for

their family. These families now have more autonomy to gift their loved ones with items they want or need.



Highland, I cannot express how proud I am to be part of a community who acknowledges the needs that have to be met in their community and helps uphold the hands of their neighbors. Thanks to your generosity and loving kindness this giving season, our friends at La Casita can work to meet the needs of the Latinx community in Louisville and continue a cycle of holding up hands that need it.

I cannot say this enough - thank you so incredibly much for your generosity and love in this Advent season. You are simply amazing!

All the love,  
*Kathryn Sappington*



**Highland's Staff enjoyed a Christmas Brunch at**

Paul and Kim Henderson's home this week.  
We missed Mary Alice, who was unable to join us due to illness.

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Click Here for Church Signup Links

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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



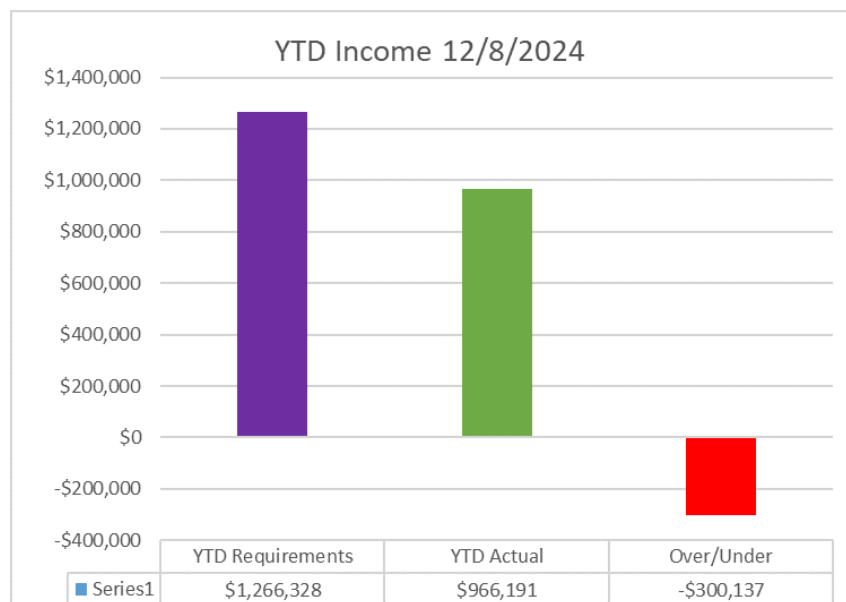
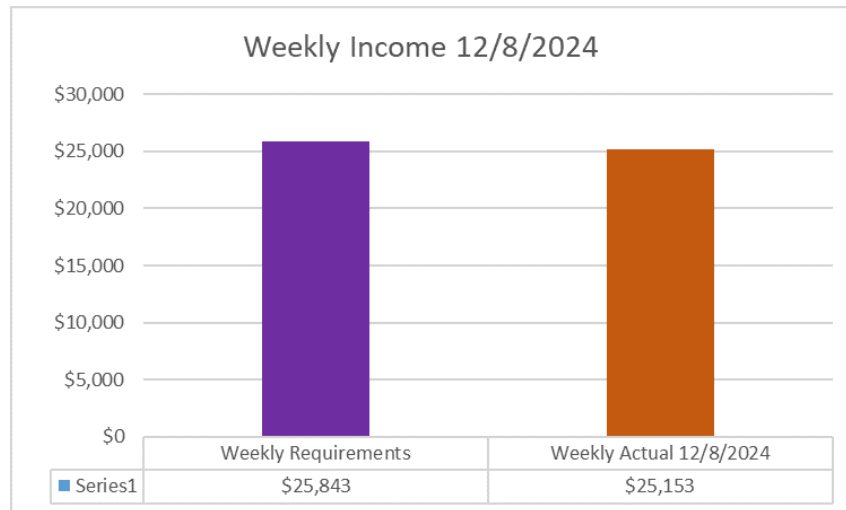
Looking Ahead

- December 11: Families w/Children Hot Chocolate **at Highland**, 6:00-7:15 PM
- December 13: Young Adult Christmas Parties (see Justin Sizemore for more info)
- December 14: Youth Christmas Party, 6:00-8:00 PM
- December 15: Joy Sunday - Sanctuary Choir and Highland's Brass  
present Rutter's *Gloria*, 11:15 AM  
Orchestra and Handbell Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM
- December 18: Longest Night Service, 6:00 PM
- December 22: Love Sunday - Justin Sizemore, guest proclaimer



- December 24: Christmas Eve Services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM
  - December 29: One worship service at 10:00 AM
  - January 5: Mary Alice's last Sunday at Highland
  - January 18-19: Weekend with Center for Congregational Health
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## 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.

- Earl Crawford, 54, killed November 17
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