



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church December 17, 2024

**Please note this is the final newsletter to be published this year.
Our next full newsletter will be sent on January 7.**

The Watch of Wondering Love: Advent 2024

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.



A Giving Invitation from Mary Alice



[Click here](#) to view Mary Alice's video invitation.

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.

Worship in January

We will continue to have Bible study at 10:00 AM and one Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 AM on Sundays in January. This will allow all of us to worship together on Mary Alice's last Sunday, and it will accommodate our schedule when the Center for Congregational Health is in town. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on February 2.

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). 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

The Center for Congregational Health will be visiting Highland over the weekend of January 18-20. Leadership from Ministry Council, Personnel, and the Strategic Planning Team are currently in conversation with the CCH about our next steps and are still discerning what this time in January will look like. However, we would like to ask you to reserve Sunday, January 19 for church-wide conversations. We will follow our original schedule, with the first conversation taking place from 9:30-11:00 AM. Children's and youth Bible studies will still meet that morning to allow parents to participate. Following worship and a break for lunch, there will be a second church-wide conversation that afternoon from 2:00-3:30 PM, allowing our children's and youth volunteers to participate. These conversations will be a valuable and meaningful time for the congregation as we begin this interim season. **Please make every effort to attend at least one of the sessions, if not both.** We will follow up with more details after the holidays.

Orchestra and Handbell Concert



Faithful Giving Update

"It's that time of year when the world falls in love ..." says Old Blue Eyes' Christmas album. We just hope it is so, but around this faith community we are fully engaged in it in so many ways. It's the Christmas Season and Advent at Highland Baptist Church!! I hope you are present in as many events as possible. I did have to pause the celebrating last week when I realized I am a bit behind in my intended and pledged giving to the church 2024 ministry budget. So, I will get to it and catch up before December 31. It is really important that we all do the same.

As of November 30, our expenses exceeded our income by approximately \$195,000. Your generous support is crucial to helping us meet our budget goals! To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212 or visit our [website here](#).

Highland folks are very faithful in caring, sharing, and doing Christ-like works of love. This makes me very grateful and happy to be one of you.

~ Jim Hawkins

Longest Night Service Tomorrow at 6:00 PM



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Books for Families at La Casita

Thanks to a beautiful vision and generous donation from Rick and Mary Holtmeier, as well as the partnership of a local publishing company, Highland was able to gift families at La Casita with special books last week at their Family Resource Day. Dr. Janan Sarwar is the CEO and founder of Global Bookshelves International, an independent publishing house focused on creating a more empathetic world, and she works with authors and illustrators from around the world. Janan was able to have one of her most recent books translated into Spanish, and each family participating in last week's Resource Day received a copy as a gift from Highland. We are grateful to Rick for introducing us to Janan's beautiful work and for his generous spirit in bringing this idea to fruition. You can learn more about Janan's work at www.bookjanan.com.



Janan Sarwar (Global Bookshelves International), Jo Rodman (La Casita Center), and Rick Holtmeier at the Family Resource Day at La Casita

Hot Chocolate Bar and Christmas Party



Last Wednesday evening, Highland's children and their families (37 of us!) gathered for pizza, a hot chocolate bar, and a Christmas party filled with crafts and games. With plenty of Christmas lights strung about the second floor, we enjoyed the company and fellowship of our church family on a cold, cold night!

Stocking Stuffers



This Sunday morning, Highland's Children and Family Ministry has a gift for you! Pick up a set of Nativity Stickers, a background, and a Christmas morning activity sheet on the 2nd floor or in the Commons. These packets make great Stocking Stuffers for your children and grandchildren, perfect to use as an activity on Christmas morning or at your holiday meal. Enjoy!

[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>

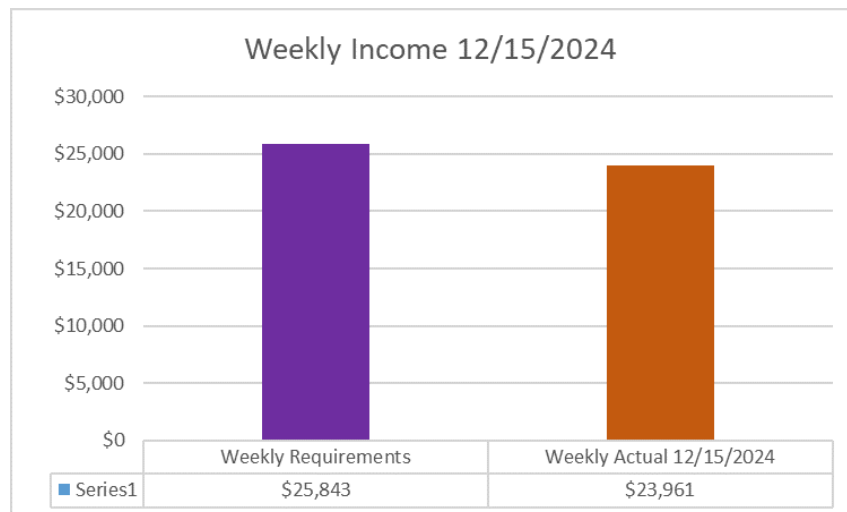
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

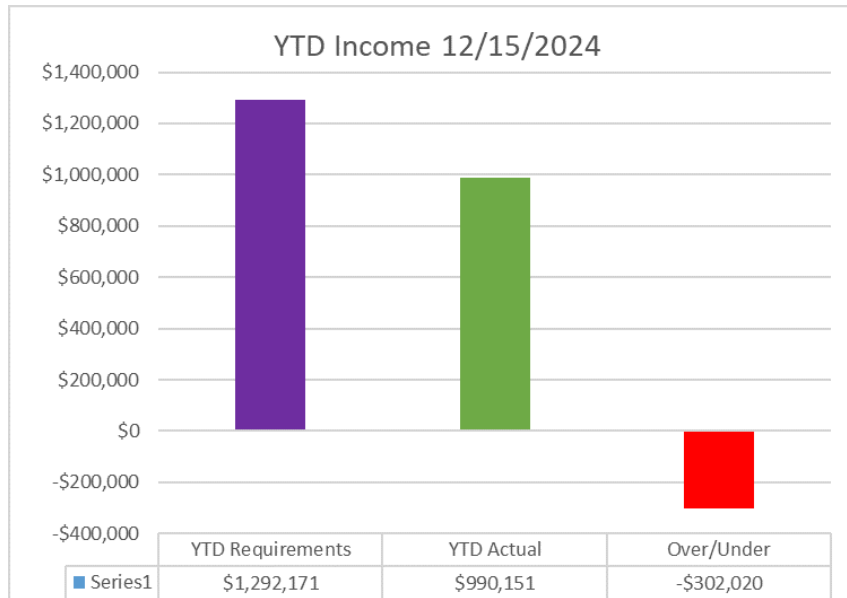


Looking Ahead

- December 18: Longest Night Service, 6:00 PM
- December 22: Love Sunday - Justin Sizemore 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 - reception will follow 11:15 worship
- January 8: Wednesday Night Supper and activities resume
- January 18-20: Weekend with Center for Congregational Health
- February 2: Regular Sunday schedule resumes; QCC at 4:00 PM on Zoom

Financial Reports





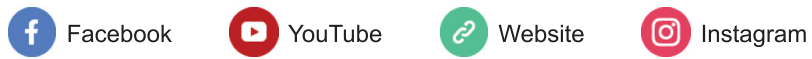
**To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link or use the QR code below.**





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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