



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
January 28, 2025***



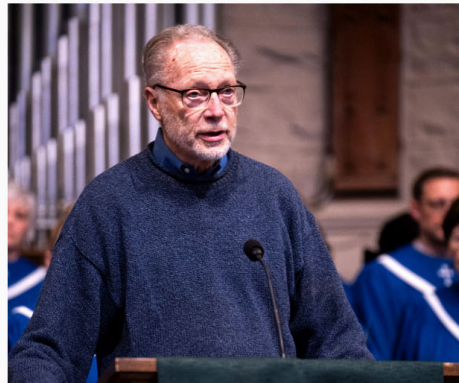
**This Week's Proclaimer
Mary Alice Birdwhistell**

Sunday, February 2

Please join us for a church-wide reception to
honor Mary Alice following Worship

Quarterly Church Conference on February 2

Our next Quarterly Church Conference will be held via Zoom this Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 PM. We will send out the agenda and accompanying documents via email on Friday, January 31. We will vote on a new trustee (Arlette Tinsley) and a new member of Personnel Ministry Group (Rebecca Jagers).



Feedback on our Congregational Conversations from the Center for Congregational Health consultants: Rev. Dr. Charity Roberson, and Rev. Dr. Michael Cheuk

Having heard of Highland Baptist for years in our Baptist circles, it was so good to be with you all in person. We spent time with various leadership team members, had dinner with staff, and led two congregational gatherings on Sunday.

When we begin working with a congregation, we like to ask the question, “What is your most meaningful or powerful moment at Highland Baptist?” Your answers were about **community, acceptance and social justice** towards others. This question allows us to get at the heart of what makes your congregation different and unique. Each time we do this activity, a church’s identity reveals itself.

We realized in our last session that there was something missing from your responses. Most times when we do this with congregations, there are at least a handful of people that share something that is pining for the days of old. They are lauding a former pastor and all of the visits they would make or the packed sanctuary they could fill. I did not hear that. When former ministers were mentioned, it was how they came along and cared for you. You did not pine for former days of church glory. Most of those powerful moments were based on members of the congregation living their values and being “Highland Baptist.”

You are a congregation that is already looking forward. Many congregations are looking back, hoping to reclaim something they had in the past. **Highland Baptist is far ahead in creating a new future** because you do not need to be convinced to move forward. Much of what made those seasons of ministry successful had as much to do with outside influences as it did the leadership, and thus not re-creatable. Not looking back will serve you well in this time of transition.

You are also a congregation that already sees that the pastor, while important in the system, is not the church. **You are the church.** The people in the pews, visitors and members alike. You are ready to step up into leading the congregation during the time of transition. You know that the right leader can take you further, but your future and identity do not depend on your pastor. **That is very unique** and will serve you well.

During this interim period, Highland Baptist has the opportunity to live out its value of **Christ-centered hospitality** by taking the time to host and welcome the diverse perspectives and divergent thinking of its members, leaders, and staff in order to collectively **think, feel,** and **discern** future possibilities where **healing** and **wholeness** can take place inside and outside of Highland Baptist.

Clarity about how to move forward to create systems that are clear about your purpose, clear about your resources and clear about who is making decisions is important. We look forward to the possibility of helping you during your time of transition.

Please use the QR code below to offer your feedback about our gatherings.

Feedback and Evaluation of Congregational Conversation- January 19, 2024



~ *Charity Roberson and Michael Cheuk,*
The Center for Congregational Health

Friday Church Invitation



The Friday Church Ministry Group would like to invite you to visit our service this Friday, Jan 31. When there is a fifth Friday in the month, we traditionally have a "social" of some type at 6:30, before the service at 7:00. Because of renovations, we will just be having appetizers and dessert. Please join us to see what's happening in Friday Church! And, it would be great if you could bring an appetizer or dessert or anything. After all, it's Friday Church!!

~ *Becky Smith*

Coming Up in February

Mary Alice's Final Sunday

Mary Alice's final Sunday in the pulpit is this Sunday, February 2 at 11:15 AM. We will have a farewell reception for her following the worship service.

Worship in February

We will have one Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 AM again this weekend. This will allow all of us to worship together on Mary Alice's last Sunday. **Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on February 9 with 8:45 AM Worship, 10:00 Bible Study, 11:15 AM Worship.**

Upcoming Proclaimers

February 2: Mary Alice Birdwhistell

February 9: Bob Cunningham, Interim Associate Pastor

February 16: Justin Sizemore, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

February 23: Sally Evans, Former Interim Associate Pastor

March 2: Jim England, Former Interim Pastor

Wednesday Nights

January 29: Cloud of Witness - Justin Boldt, Greg Bunten, Linda Waller

February 5: Moving Faith Forward - Carol Harston (final session)

Youth Mentor Groups

Youth Mentor Groups are back up and running! We kicked the semester off by ice skating together. We had such a lovely time together and I am happy to report that no one fell or was injured. A huge shoutout to our mentor group leaders Kim Clark-Endicott and Tyler Swim. And our other adult volunteers for the day, Andrea Sinclair and Noelle Gulden. You may notice from the pictures that Kim had the most fun of us all!

Youth Ice Skating



We are always looking for others to join in the fun with our youth! If you have any interest in chaperoning a youth trip, participating in mentor groups (we don't always go ice skating or do things that can lead to injury,) or provide food for youth gatherings, please [email me!](#)

~ Justin Sizemore

The Empathic God: A Book Presentation and Discussion in Three Parts



Frank Woggon's book *The Empathic God: A Clinical Theology of At-onement* (Fortress Press, 2024) constructs a reinterpretation of the Christian narrative of salvation from the clinical perspective of a spiritual care practitioner, utilizing case studies and interdisciplinary dialogue to suggest a faithful Christian practice of participating in God's ongoing work of salvation. Join Frank Woggon as he discusses the argument and central themes of his book in three presentation sessions:

February 12: The Shadow of the Cross: A Problematic Atonement

February 19: Shame, Empathy, and the Human Condition

February 26: Practicing At-onement: How the Empathic God-event Calls Upon Us

Rev. Frank Woggon, PhD, BCC is the director of Chaplaincy Services at UofL Health, an ACPE Certified Clinical Educator, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville. He is married to Kelley, and they are long-time members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice



Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

**New Challenges,
New Opportunities
Calls to Action**

January 28, 7-8:30 PM
The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort
Or on Zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/ICIJJan28>

Join us tonight!

Women's Retreat in March



Join us March 7-9 (1 or 2 night options) for our Women's Retreat, led by Sally Evans. Contact [Ginger Miller](#) to sign up or call her at 502-599-6569 for more information.



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.

January Menu:

Jan. 29: Soup, Salad, Corn Bread, Dessert

February Menus:

February 5: Fried & Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert

February 12: Lasagna, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

February 19: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

February 26: Meatloaf, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)



Fat Tuesday, March 4, 2025 • 5:30PM - 7:30PM
Highlands Community Campus (1228 E. Breckinridge St)
\$60 All-inclusive Ticket • \$75 VIP Bourbon Experience



Scan for Tickets

Your attendance directly helps neighbors stay nourished and housed through Highlands Community Ministries

Celebrate The Highlands at this lively Mardi Gras party, sponsored by **King + Company**, **Peoples Bank**, & **Givhan and Mitchell Realtors**!

- **Sweet and savory bites** from The Highlands' finest restaurants
- Pair your plates with exceptional **local spirits and beverages**
- Upgrade for \$15: VIP bourbon tasting from **Limestone Branch Distillery**!

Questions? Contact **Steven Michael Carr**, HCM Development Director at scarr@hcmloouisville.org OR (502) 451-3695 ext. 208.

Jean Janes Yard Sale March 15

Please start collecting all the household items you would like to get rid of! The long delayed yard sale will be held Saturday, March 15th. More information to come on when you can bring items to church.

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>

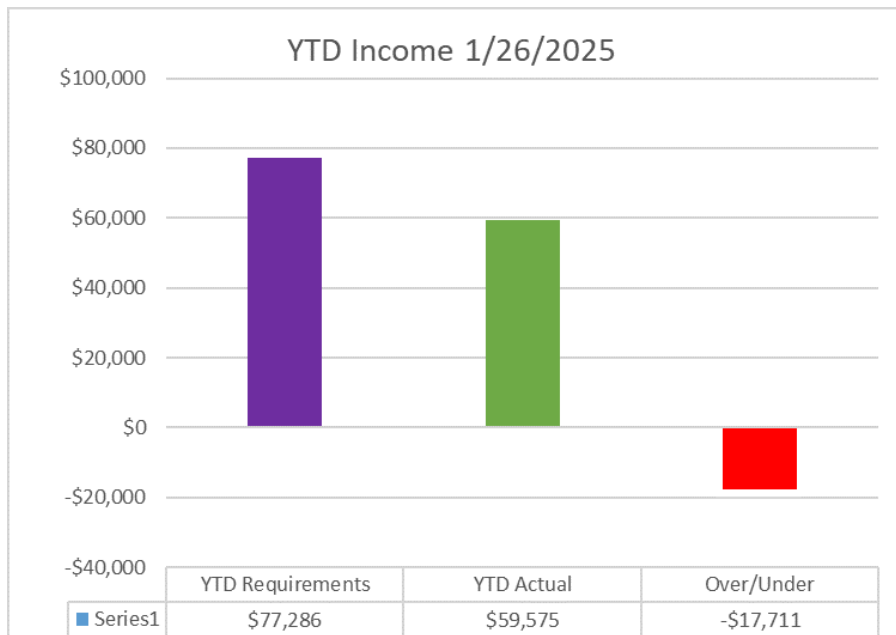
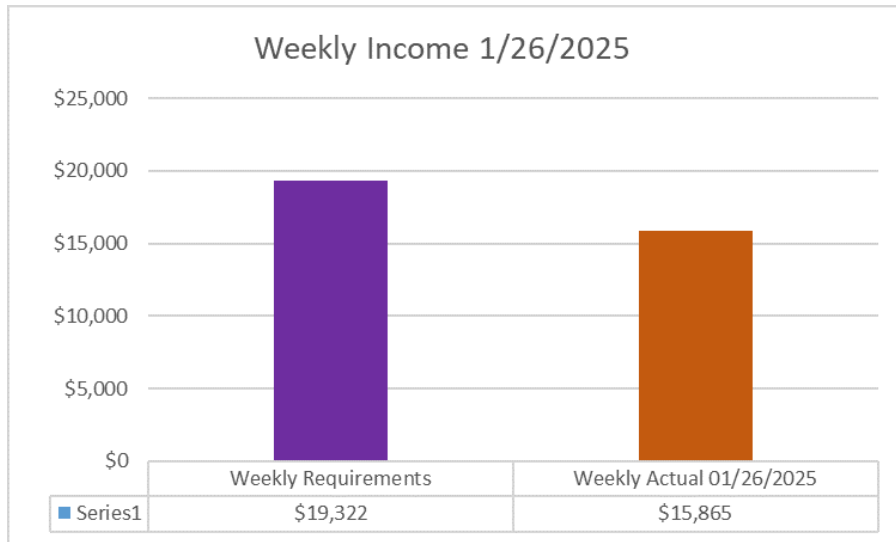
Streaming
Worship
Links



Looking Ahead

- January 29: Cloud of Witness: Justin Boldt, Greg Buntten, and Linda Waller
- February 2: Mary Alice's last Sunday with reception to follow; QCC at 4:00 PM on Zoom
- February 9: Regular Sunday schedule resumes
- March 7-9: Women's Retreat
- March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale

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.

 Facebook  YouTube  Website  Instagram

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