



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 11, 2025*

**The church office will be closed on Friday, February 14.**

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### **A Note from Mary Alice**

Dear Highland Family,

I can't begin to communicate how much the February 2 service and celebration meant to Evan and me. It was such a meaningful day, and your words of affirmation, prayers, the generous and thoughtful gifts and notes, beautiful flowers, the slideshow that so wonderfully captured my time at Highland, the incredible CAKE and reception, the music and choral anthem...it was all such a gift that I will be reflecting on for some time. Truly, my cup overflows!



I can never do an adequate job of thanking everyone who has supported me during my time at Highland, but I do want to extend my thanks to several groups:

**To the staff (current, former, and interim)** – Thank you for being such good colleagues and even better friends. Together, we weathered COVID, multiple staff transitions, a major building renovation, and yet your love for this community never wavered. Thank you for caring and believing so strongly in what God is doing in this place!

**To the lay leaders with whom I've served (Deacons, Ministry Council, Personnel, Finance, Sacred Space Campaign, Friday Church, and more)** – Thank you for the countless ways you give yourselves to the work of Love that we share. I am continually amazed by your deep investment, hard-won wisdom, faithful commitment, and continual love for this community. I want to extend a special thank you to the Personnel Ministry Group for all the ways you have coached, guided, and supported me over the past 4.5 years.

**To my search committee (Bob Cunningham, Kathy Belcher, Carolyn King, Noah Cooksey, Tyler Swim, Alecia Fuller, and Earl Shelp)** – When you reached out to me in the fall of 2019, my life changed forever, and I'm so grateful. I wouldn't be here today without you! Thank you for seeking me out, believing in me, and empowering me to take this next brave step in my journey.

**To everyone who organized Sunday's service and reception (and then re-scheduled and re-arranged again and again)** – thank you for your thoughtfulness and for going out of your way to make it such a meaningful day.

**Thank you to everyone who embraced Evan and me, celebrated us, and cared for us over the past few years.** We went through a Marriage 101 intensive in the highs and lows of our first year of marriage, and you were by our side through it all. Thank you for showing up for us, in joy and in pain, and for loving us so well.

**Finally, thank you Highland!** I meant what I said a couple months ago that *the very best part of Highland is you*. Thank you for who you are. Highland is a better, richer, and fuller community because of each and every person among us, because you help to reflect God's expansive love in this place.

In Eugene Peterson's translation of Philippians 1, he says, "There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it." And I believe with every fiber of my being that the God who began *this* good work in *you* will keep at it – if you will continue to co-labor with God. I have a hunch that God is about to birth something new within you that is better than what any of us could have asked for or imagined, and I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads you next.

With so much love and gratitude,  
~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell



## Change of Plans for Adults Tomorrow Night

With the postponement of Frank Woggon's *Empathic God* book study, we are offering this learning opportunity for adults on Wednesday, February 12:

Have you wondered how to engage with the needs of those in our city affected by changing policy and practice related to the welcome of refugees and immigrants? Join us tomorrow night, February 12, for the opportunity to learn more via the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ). The

ICIJ recently gathered leaders from organizations around the city—like La Casita Center and Kentucky Refugee Ministries with whom we partner—who are hearing stories from this population in our community and seeking to offer care and tangible hope. Join us to hear some of these stories, to hear what needs are rising, and to wonder about the ways each of us might engage in ways small, large and everywhere in between in this work of care and accompaniment to our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

*~ Renee Purtlebaugh*

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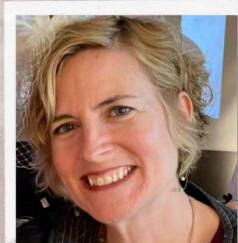
## **February Children's Bible Study and Music Teacher Appreciation Month Continues**

We continue saying thank you to Bible study and music teachers who give of their time and energy to nurture Highland's children on their faith journeys! This week we say a special thank you to those who teach the language of our faith through singing and music-making.

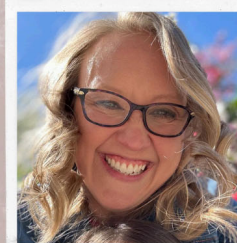
# Children's Music Teachers



## CHERUB CHOIR



Sally Evans



Renee Purtebaugh

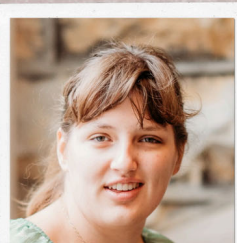
## CAROL CHOIR



Angela Dennison



Marc Dowell

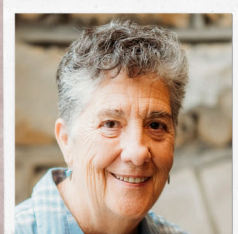


Katie Metcalf



Tina Parsons

## CHORISTER CHOIR



Lauren Blackwell



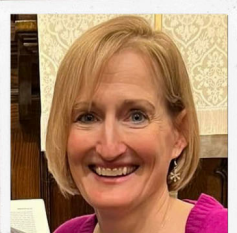
Linda Campbell



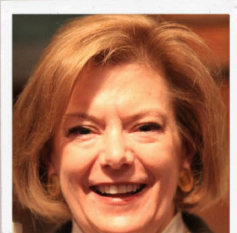
Angela Collins



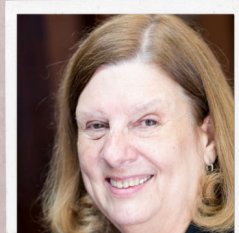
Kathy Collier



Beth Metcalf



Patty Martin-Nichols



Sharon Sanders



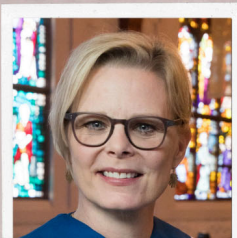
## HANDBELLS



Rick Finklea



Beth Hedges



Kim Henderson



Kim Shippey\*

\* AND CHORISTER CHOIR

Join us in saying a wholehearted “thank you” in one of the following ways:

- **♥ making a donation ♥** to our Sacred Space campaign in honor of a past children’s Bible study or music teacher, or in appreciation of one of our current children’s teachers. We’ll have hearts available in the Children’s Commons and the Sanctuary Commons, where you can write a note of gratitude (that we will post on a bulletin board on the 2nd floor) and make your donation. Or go online [using this link](#), choose “Other” and note “Teacher Appreciation - [insert name]” in the “More Information” box available.



- writing a card to one of our current children’s teachers, thanking them for the gift of time, creativity and life journeying they do with our kids.
- helping your child create a personal expression of gratitude for their current children's teachers at Highland and deliver it on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night sometime this month!

~ Pastor Renee

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## Kentucky Fairness Rally

Highland Family,

Our friends at the Fairness Campaign are hosting their annual “KY Fairness Rally” on Wednesday, February 19 starting at 1:30 PM. The True Colors Ministry Group would like to invite folx to join us in Frankfort as we show up and rally for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. This is such an important time to show up and show out as an inclusive, loving, and safe faith community. Please consider joining us

as we put our faith into action by showing up for those we love!



If you are interested in going, please let [Justin Sizemore](#) or Kim Clark-Endicott know by Monday, February 17. Also, please go to <https://www.fairness.org/rally/> and let the Fairness Campaign know you are coming as well!

We will plan to meet at church on Wednesday, February 19 around 11:30 AM and head towards Frankfort. If we have enough folks who wish to join, we will consider taking the church bus for transportation; otherwise, we will carpool. We will be back before Wednesday evening dinner and activities.

*~ Justin Sizemore*

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**The Empathic God: A Book Presentation and Discussion  
in Three Parts - **Postponed Until Further Notice****



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.

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**Save the Date for Highland's Summer Camps for Children**





We are already looking forward to summer sunshine as well as learning and growing together in community! Each summer, Highland provides overnight and day camp experiences for children who have completed Kindergarten-5th grade. This year's options are PassportKids, Discovery Camp, and Advocacy Camp. Registration will open Thursday, February 13, and links to register will be available in our Family Ministry Happenings e-newsletter and via our private Facebook group and Instagram. Need to sign up for the newsletter or one of these social groups? Do so by emailing [Megan](#) or [Renee](#).

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## Information Update

### Upcoming Proclaimers

**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**

**February 12, 19, 26:** *The Empathic God* book study and discussion with Frank Woggon - ***please note - postponed until further notice***

## **Who Ya Gonna Call?**

Here is a listing of whom to contact among our church staff and lay leaders when you have various needs or questions during this interim season.

**Staff General Areas of Responsibility - all can be reached by phone at 502-451-3735**

**Walter McWhorter (FT): Church Administrator**

[\*\*walter@hbclouisville.org\*\*](mailto:walter@hbclouisville.org)

- HVAC Renovation Project, Building and Grounds, IT, General Church Administration, Supervisor of Support Staff (Cheryl Davis – Office Manager, Kathleen Gordon – Financial Secretary, Jerre and Frank Bassett – Custodians)

**Renee Purtlebaugh (FT): Associate Pastor to Children and Their Families**

[\*\*renee@hbclouisville.org\*\*](mailto:renee@hbclouisville.org)

- Children and Family Ministry, Finance, Faithful Giving, Mission and Justice, Anti-Racism Team, Pastoral Care, Supervisor of Megan Fuller – Children & Family Ministry Assistant

**Paul Henderson (FT): Associate Pastor of Music and Worship**

[\*\*paul@hbclouisville.org\*\*](mailto:paul@hbclouisville.org)

- Music and Worship, Senior Adults, Hospitality/Wednesday Night Dinners, Global Partnerships, Pastoral Care, Supervisor of Joseph Parr – Organist & Music Associate, Supervisor of Choral Scholars

**Justin Sizemore (FT): Associate Pastor to Youth and Young Adults**

[\*\*justin@hbclouisville.org\*\*](mailto:justin@hbclouisville.org)

- Youth and Family Ministry, Young Adults, Social Media Support, True Colors, Pastoral Care

**Bob Cunningham (PT, 15-20 hrs): Interim Associate Pastor**

[\*\*bob@hbclouisville.org\*\*](mailto:bob@hbclouisville.org)

- Primary Minister for Pastoral Care, Adult Ministry (Wednesday Nights, Bible Studies), Staff Liaison to Deacons

**Lauren Blackwell (PT, 10-15 hrs): Interim Ministry Coordinator**

[laurenb@hbclouisville.org](mailto:laurenb@hbclouisville.org)

- Admin of Pastoral Care (Deacon Assignments), Congregational Engagement, Greeters, Various Nominating Processes, ShelbyNext Support

**Tracy Holladay (PT, 10-15 hrs) Interim Staff Coordinator**

[tracy@hbclouisville.org](mailto:tracy@hbclouisville.org)

- Staff Supervisor, Staff Liaison to Ministry Council, Personnel, Center for Congregational Health/Strategic Planning Team and Trustees

**Lay Leadership Contacts**

**Deacons**

Chair: Robin Ramsay Lee / Vice-Chair: Paige Harlow

**Finance Ministry Group**

Chair: Drew Harston / Vice-Chair: Justin Boldt

**Ministry Council**

Chair: Margaret Pennington / Vice-Chair: Robert Kahne

**Pastoral Interim Committee**

Chair: Jim Shelton / Vice-Chair: Kathy Belcher

**Personnel Ministry Group**

Chair: Tanya Cornely / Vice-Chair: Kathey Golightly Sanders

**Strategic Planning Team**

Chair: Carolyn King / Vice-Chair: Erin Phelps

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**Cream of the Crop Potluck Luncheon Next Tuesday**



Bring a dish to share and join a great group of senior adults for a potluck luncheon on Tuesday, February 18 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall! We will enjoy good food and fellowship, board games, and some Mardi Gras fun with Paul Henderson. Don't miss it!

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**Highland's staff enjoyed a fabulous Valentine's Party this week,**

hosted by our party planner extraordinaire, Kathleen Gordon

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## Arts on the Corner



A CONCERT OF

STRUGGLE  
**LOVE**  
HOPE

PERSERVERANCE

Join baritone Edward Caruthers and collaborative pianist Deanna Cattlet as they present songs of struggle, perseverance, hope, and love, featuring music composed by transgender/non-binary composers.

**Sunday, February 16, 4 p.m.**

Highland Presbyterian Church  
1011 Cherokee Rd, Louisville, KY 40204

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*In the dark of winter, when all seems drear,  
when forlorn hearts mourn flowers of bygone days,  
we scarce imagine blossoms not yet here.  
A new day dawns to lift our hearts and give God our praise!*

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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.**

### **February Menus:**

**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

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**Click Here for Church Signup Links**

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## **Volunteer and Donation Opportunities**

One of my former students has started a non-profit for Haitian immigrants. "Route" hopes to provide the following services: Know your Rights, Youth Mentoring, English classes, and Employment Services. If you would like to volunteer in any of these areas, please let me know.

The Schumann Center serves the homeless downtown. They are in need of gently used men's and women's coats, jeans, sweats, and shoes. They also need blankets, sheets, and towels.

If you can volunteer or donate items, [please contact me here](#). Many thanks!

*~ Denee Walsh*

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**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](mailto:scarr@hcmloouisville.org) OR (502) 451-3695 ext. 208.

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## 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.

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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

- February 12: *The Empathic God* book study - **postponed until further notice**  
February 18: Senior Adult Potluck Luncheon/Table Games at 12:00 Noon  
February 21-23: Youth Winter Retreat  
March 5: Ash Wednesday  
March 7-9: Women's Retreat - contact Ginger Miller for more information  
March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale

## Financial Focus

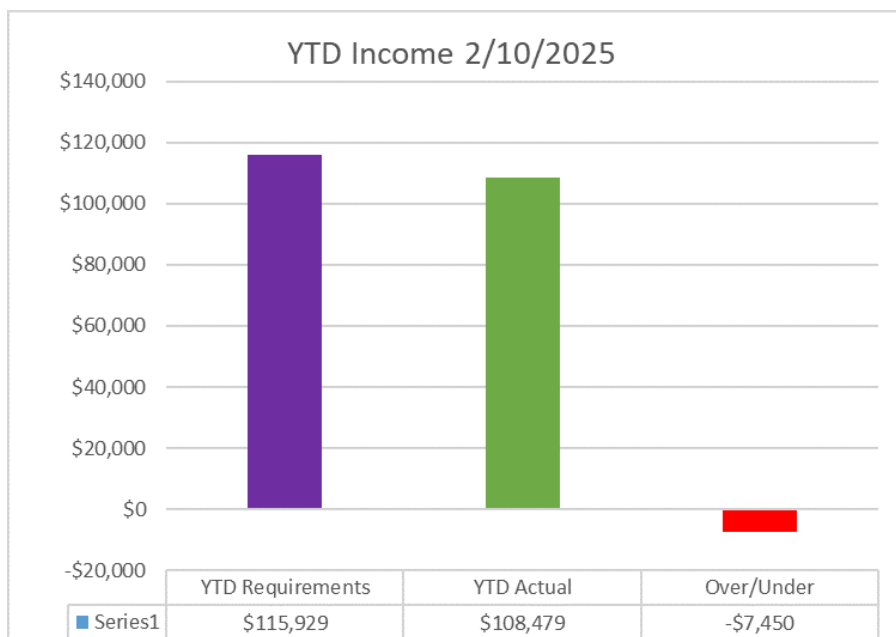
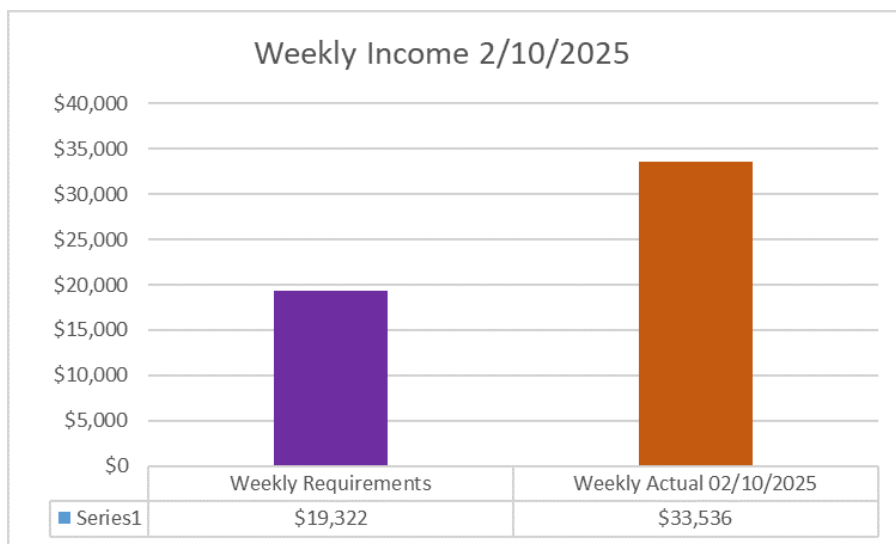
On behalf of the Finance and Faithful Giving Ministry Groups, I would like to thank you all for your generosity and commitment to Highland Baptist Church. If you requested offering envelopes, they can be found in the Commons from now until February 28th. If they have not been picked up by then, I will mail them to you. If you do not see your box, please reach out to me and I will have one out for you by the following week.

As we move forward into 2025, please remember contributions can be debited automatically from your checking account. They can also be processed using your credit or debit card. Note that

Highland incurs no processing fees for auto withdrawals from your checking account, but there are fees associated with credit or debit transactions. Please review your accounts regularly if you have signed up for Highland to automatically draft your contributions. If you find any discrepancies, please let me know right away. You can contact me at the church office by phone at 502-451-3735 or by [email here](#).

~ Kathleen Gordon

## Financial Reports



**To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212**

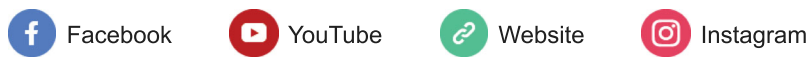
and open the link or use the QR code below.



## **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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