



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church February 18, 2025

We are watching the developing winter storm and will notify the congregation about our plans for Wednesday evening meal and activities by noon tomorrow.

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.

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

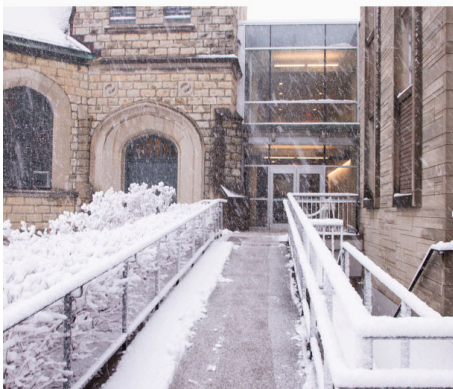
- **♥ making a donation ♥** to our Sacred Space campaign in honor of a past children's Bible study or music teacher, or in appreciation of one of our current children's teachers. We'll have hearts available in the Children's Commons and the Sanctuary Commons, where you can write a note of gratitude (that 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!
- bringing fresh cut flowers to the Children's Commons before the Bible study hour begins, where we will transform them into bouquets of gratitude!



~ Pastor Renee



Upcoming Informational Session, Special Called Business Meetings, and Elections

Ministry Council and the Finance Ministry Group have been prayerfully considering the best ways to meet our current and anticipated financial obligations. One option we have explored is a potential sale of the Foree House, the rental property next door to the church, at 2120 Grinstead Drive.



There will be an informational presentation about the proposal to sell the property at 2120 Grinstead this Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link and a briefing sheet about the proposed sale will be sent later this week. A vote on the recommendation to sell the property will be taken at a Special Called Business Meeting on Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 PM on Zoom. Other agenda items for the March 2 called business meeting include a vote on the Interim Pastor job description (which will be distributed prior to the meeting) and a recommendation for the ordination of Paxton Vaughn.

Additionally, we are giving the required two weeks notice of election for the following members for Ministry Groups and Trustees: Robert Davis and Rick Holtmeier for Finance, Rebecca Jagers for Personnel, and Arlette Tinsley for Trustees. Ballots will be sent electronically after March 4th.

Register Now 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 is open and will remain so until each camp reaches capacity. Links to register can be found in the graphic above, in our Family Ministry Happenings e-newsletter and via our private Facebook group and Instagram, or by using the QR code below. Need to sign up for the newsletter or one of these social groups? Do so by emailing [Megan Fuller](#) or [Renee Purtlebaugh](#).



Let's Celebrate Jerre and Kathleen!



2025 is a 30-year marker for HBC's custodian Jerre Bassett as our longest tenured staff member! This year also marks five wonderful years with Kathleen Gordon as Financial Secretary. Both these staff members play behind-the-scenes yet important roles in helping Highland continue to thrive. We hope you will join us for a church-wide reception to honor them following 11:15 worship on March 2 in the Fellowship Hall.

The Empathic God: A Book Presentation and Discussion in Three Parts - *Beginning This Week*



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 19: The Shadow of the Cross: A Problematic Atonement

February 26: Shame, Empathy, and the Human Condition

March 12: 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.

Frankfort Rally Update

As the weather continues to be an issue this winter, we are CANCELLING our participation in the Fairness Campaign Rally and Lobbying day tomorrow.

BUT PLEASE KNOW, there is so much work you can do from home! Call, write, and reach out to your elected officials! Let them know you support the LGBTQIA+ community. Ask them to oppose Senate Bill 2. You can find a list of resources and ways to advocate and rally from home by clicking [HERE](#).

Information Update

Upcoming Proclaimers

February 23: Sally Evans, Former Interim Associate Pastor

March 2: Jim England, Former Interim Pastor

March 9: Erin Phelps, Former Intern

Wednesday Nights

February 19, 26, and March 12: *The Empathic God* book study and discussion with Frank Woggon

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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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



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 19: Pizza, Salad, Dessert (**note change**)

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

March Menus:

March 5: Taco Bar, Beans, Mexican Street Corn, Chips, Salsa, Guacamole, Dessert

March 12: Baked Ziti, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

March 19: Fried & Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salas, Rolls, Dessert

March 26: Soup, Salad, Cornbread, 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

- February 19: *The Empathic God* book study with Frank Woggon begins
- February 21-23: Youth Winter Retreat
- February 23: Informational Meeting re: possible sale of Foree House, 4:00 PM via Zoom
- March 2: Work Anniversary Celebration for Jerre Bassett and Kathleen Gordon following 11:15 worship in the Fellowship Hall; Called Business Meeting, 4:00 PM via Zoom
- March 5: Ash Wednesday
- March 7-9: Women's Retreat
- March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale

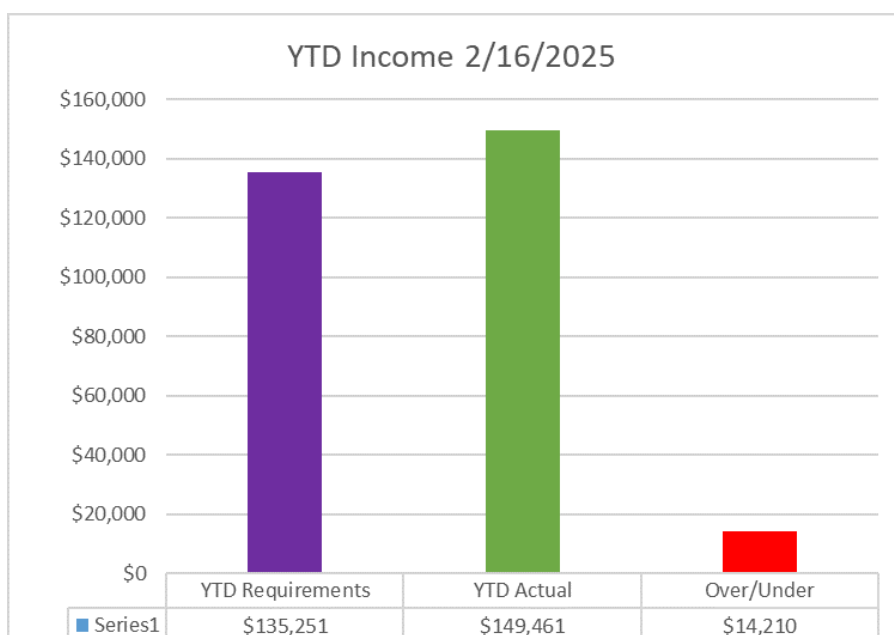
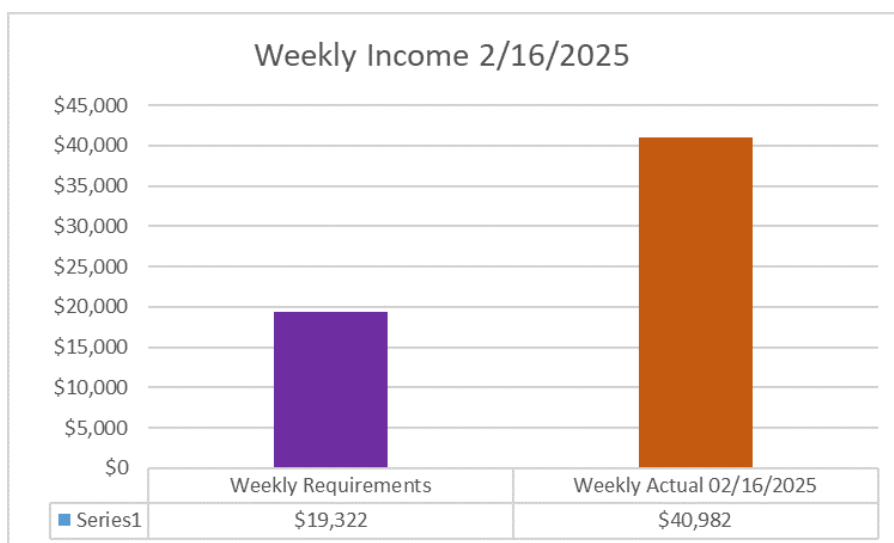
Financial Focus

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.

- Ronald L. Wesley, 49, killed January 26
 - Davion Charles, 19, killed January 28
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 Facebook  YouTube  Website  Instagram

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