



## The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church June 3, 2025

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### Celebrating Pride with Our Community



Highland Family,

June has begun which means its time to celebrate all things PRIDE! One of the things I love so much about our community here at Highland is that we show up for one another. Pride month is a chance for us to show our support and love for our LGBTQIA+ community, and there are many exciting ways for us to celebrate together:

- **Drag Revival on June 5** – Highland is joining eleven other congregations in sponsoring the Fourth Annual Drag Revival at Highland Community Ministries, 1228 E Breckinridge Street. The Drag Revival is a family friendly, interfaith evening to celebrate the relationship between LGBTQ+ folks and faith. Tickets are free this year, thanks to a generous grant from the Fund for the Arts. [Click here](#) for tickets and more information.
- **Racing Louisville Soccer Game on June 6** – Highland has teamed up with 16 other open and affirming congregations and Racing Louisville FC to reserve 200 seatback tickets in Section 116 for the June 6 match vs. Utah Royals, in celebration of Kentuckiana Pride Night.
- **Pride Sunday on June 15** – We are excited to welcome Rev. Rachel Small Stokes as our proclaimer for Pride Sunday! Rachel is the Pastor at Immanuel UCC here in Louisville. Pastor Rachel brings a deep spirit, an openness to all, and a sense of joy, creativity, and humor. She and her wife Les (a native Louisvillian) have two very energetic sons, Jack and Everett. They love being a rainbow family! 🏳️‍🌈
- **Kentuckiana Pride Parade on June 21** – We will once again be marching in the Pride Parade this year! Sign-up for the parade will be available shortly. Please plan to join us for this fun day of celebrating our LGBTQIA+ community! One note, we will NOT have a booth at Pride this year. The True Colors Ministry Group decided to sponsor a Trans group that has wanted a booth at Pride for years and hasn't had the money to be present. This is one of the ways we can show up and support our community!

~ Justin Sizemore

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## A Time to Say Goodbye and Hello

Ecclesiastes reminds us that "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." And so, we offer a word of Goodbye and a word of Welcome on the church staff.



We say goodbye to Bob Cunningham who has served as our Interim Associate Pastor, focusing his time on pastoral care for both the congregation and the church staff. Bob has faithfully and lovingly visited, made phone calls, and written notes to myriad members of the Highland family in recent months. His words of warmth, tinged with humor and affection, have served as reminders to many in our congregation that we, as a community, love and care for them as they experience physical and emotional struggles, grief, and live through times of need. Bob's many vocational years as a chaplain served us well as he became the very hands and voice of the Divine among us. Thank you, Bob!

As Bob departs, Jim England rejoins our ministry staff. Jim has served as a pastor and a chaplain in his work life, and this is his fourth time to work as a minister on our staff. Jim steps into the role that Bob filled, and he's already begun his transition into caring for those who are part of our family. Jim is well-known and deeply respected by members and staff alike, and we welcome him back as he serves among us as a loving and caring presence. Welcome Jim!

~ Walter McWhorter



## Congregational Conversation Summary

Our second Congregational Conversation was lively on Sunday morning as we shared results of internal and external surveys of “who we are” and “who we want to be” as Highland Baptist Church.

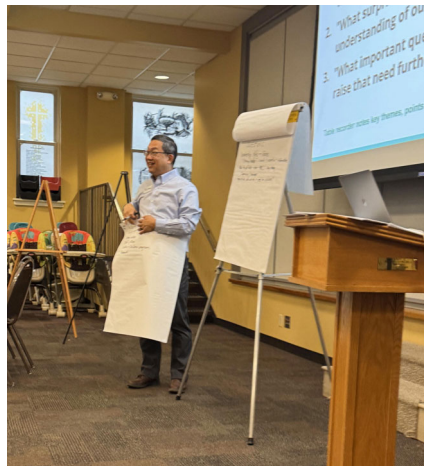




Our time together yielded several focus areas for the next three years: Leadership (Pastoral and Lay); Community-Building; Financial Stability; Public Actions; and Fun Together. Highland members were challenged to select an area where they might contribute their talents.



For those unable to participate in the activity on Sunday, [this link](#) will take you to a form that gives you an opportunity to let us know your interests. You can also request one of the printed response cards from a staff member. We will have follow-up sessions over the summer for each of these focus areas, so please be sure to include contact information.



Thanks to Dr. Michael Cheuk from the Center for Congregational Health, Casey Boggs from Reputation US, and the Strategic Planning Team for the work they contributed to make a meaningful experience during this interim time of discernment.

## Pastor Search Committee Update

The pastor search committee has met twice and has meetings scheduled every two weeks. Bob Cunningham, chair of the previous search committee, joined us for our first meeting and provided valuable information and guidance. Kathey Golightly Sanders was selected to be chair of the committee and Jess Smith is serving as vice-chair. We are editing and updating the pastor and congregational profiles and expect to finalize these documents at our next meeting on June 12. Once this work is complete we will post the position and reach out to Highland's extensive network to get recommendations.

We are grateful for your trust in us and covet your prayers throughout the journey.

~ The Pastor Search Committee

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## Recognizing our College and Other Graduates



Calling all college and other graduates! We want to recognize YOU during the 11:15 AM worship service this Sunday, June 8! If you would like to be recognized during this service, [please contact Justin](#) ASAP! We have several Highland folk to celebrate and we cannot wait to do so!

~ Justin Sizemore

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## Journaling Group Continues



If you are a journaler, or have wanted to be, consider the possibility of sharing some journaling time with others. Vicki Runnion is facilitating a journaling group on Mondays through June 23 from 10:00-11:30 AM in room 200 (upstairs above church offices).

A good many people have found that having a location away from home to journal with others can be helpful. Vicki shares some journaling prompts to try, and we will have some protected time for our own writing.

If you are interested, please contact Vicki at 502-396-3325 or [email her here](#).

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## Join the Cream of the Crop in Elizabethtown

Cream of the Crop is headed to the Whistlestop Café in Elizabethtown on June 18! Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM, and we will plan to leave the church at 9:30 AM. Reservations are limited to 25, so call (502-451-3735) or [email Paul](#) to be placed on the list.



~ Paul Henderson

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## A Journey for Every Season



You are invited to complete a travel interest survey for travel opportunities with Paul and Kim Henderson, which can be found by [following the link here](#). The list will be available for a month and then an in-person session will be held in August to share some of the most popular suggestions.

- Offering both international journeys and regional getaways
- Experiences designed for our progressive community
- Options for various interests, timeframe, and budgets

~ Paul Henderson

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# Guns to Gardens

## Safe-surrender event turns unwanted guns into garden tools

*"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..." Isaiah 2:4*

**All Peoples Unitarian Church**  
4936 Brownsboro Rd., Louisville, KY 40222

**Sunday  
June 8, 2025  
2-4 p.m.**

**HOW:** Anyone can bring unwanted guns. Those bringing guns are anonymous. Each person surrendering one or more guns will receive a \$50 Kroger gift card.

- Guns must be unloaded prior to entering church property and placed in trunk or rear of vehicle. Skilled personnel will remove firearms from vehicles and take them to a chop saw for disabling while the person bringing the gun is present.
- Serial numbers will be recorded to document the gun's destruction.
- Ammunition will not be accepted.
- The gun pieces will be forged into tools, art, or jewelry at a later date.

**WHY:** Many guns in our community are no longer wanted for a variety of reasons:

- There is concern that the gun might fall unintentionally into the hands of children or grandchildren in the home.
- The gun may have been used in a suicide or accident.
- Someone can no longer handle guns safely because of age or disability.
- A person inherited a gun but does not want it or know how to use it.

**WHO:** This event is organized by a coalition of individuals from faith and community groups concerned about gun violence in Louisville. It is part of a national Guns to Gardens movement launched in cooperation with [RAWtools](#) and [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#).

Guns to Gardens is a step toward reducing gun violence, a path for people to take action to reduce the number of guns in our homes and communities

Cosponsored by the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation

For more information: [guns2gardenslouisville@gmail.com](mailto:guns2gardenslouisville@gmail.com) or [guns2gardenslouisville.org](http://guns2gardenslouisville.org)

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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**

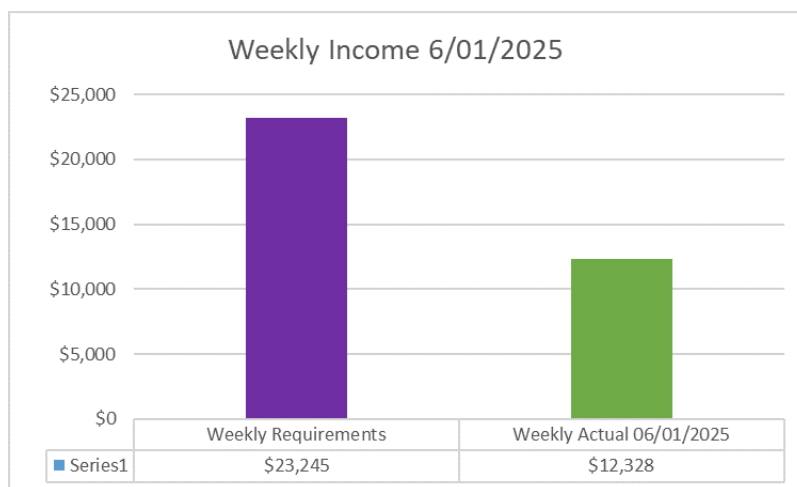


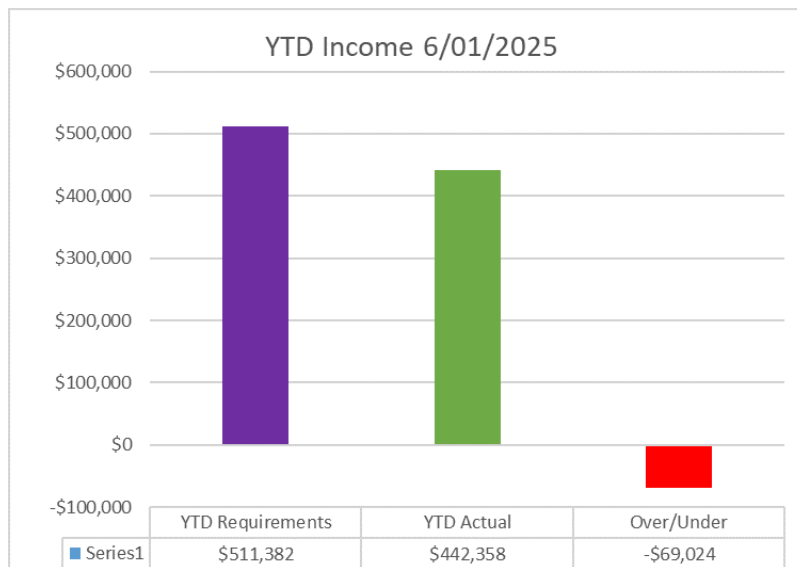
# Looking Ahead

- June 5: Drag Revival 2025 - Highlands Community Ministries, 7:00-9:00 PM
- June 6: Kentuckiana Louisville Racing Pride Night, 7:30 PM
- June 15: Pride Sunday in worship, 8:45 and 11:15 AM
- June 18: Cream of the Crop trip to Whistlestop in E'town, leave church at 9:30 AM
- June 21: Kentuckiana Pride Parade and Festival
- June 22: Quarterly Church Conference via Zoom, 4:00 PM
- July 12: Trivia Night & Dessert Auction for the Sacred Space Campaign, 7:00 PM
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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.

- Mantana Stott, 20, killed April 30
- Martez McAtee, 28, killed May 3

- Autumn Seelye-Hicks, 21, killed May 3
- Sango Rashidi, 34, killed May 17
- Lapriest Maddox, 51, killed May 27

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