



## The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church June 24, 2025

**Please note: Highland's newsletter will not be published next week.  
The church office will also be closed July 3-4 for the holiday.**

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### Reflections on Passport Kids

On the second night of camp, we gathered in the basement of our dorm for our church group devotion. This time of reflection is designed to bring all the threads from the day together, allowing our children a safe place with our church group to continue wrestling with what we've been talking about through the day.

We'd spent the day talking about God's welcome and the invitation to welcome others in scripture. I love beginning and ending our days with children's books, and for this night, I had chosen a book by Kobi Yamada entitled *Noticing*. It's the story of a child who befriends a painter and is enamored by the painter's ability to see things that the child cannot see. The painter invites them to use their imagination, to be curious, to notice, and to recognize that what we see on the surface isn't always all there is to see.

As we finished the book and kids moved back to their seats, a bit of a chaotic shuffle ensued—as happens in almost every camp transition. In that space, one of our campers spoke vulnerability into the gathering though. "Sometimes I'm like that. I can be really happy on the inside, but I don't show it on the outside."

This picture was one of the best ones we took during the week – full of smiles, hugs, joy and fun. But like our book reminded us, there is so much more to see beyond those smiles.



I see the energy of our first-time campers, who leapt into the experience and soaked up every moment and new activity. I see friendships forged at camp last year and the year before, and how the kids picked up right where they left off despite not really seeing each other much during the school year. I see beloved chaperones whose fierce love for Highland's children was always loving and calling our children to be their best selves (so much gratitude for you Buddy and Angela!). And I see Highland's promise to tell the stories of Jesus and sing the songs of faith for our kids, and how that promise is shaping each and every one of them.

Thank you, Highland, for supporting this experience with your financial offerings that provided mini-bus maintenance, chaperone costs and meals, supplies, and salaries for staff to prepare and go. And most of all, thank you for loving our kids just as they are at this moment in time, trusting that in every step they are growing to know God more deeply.

With joy and gratitude,

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

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## Choir to Sing Home Concert before England Trip

In the spring of 2024, the Louisville Master Chorale, Second Presbyterian Choir, and our very own Sanctuary Choir had the honor of being invited to sing in the Royal Chapel of St. George's, Windsor July 17-24, 2025! Since then, nearly half of our choir has committed to go on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.





Our Louisville choir, named *Coro Louisville*, will present a sacred music concert just minutes before joining groups from the United Kingdom to present a larger concert conducted by Welsh composer, Paul Mealor. Near the end of our week together, *Coro Louisville* will present a lunchtime concert at Winchester Cathedral, to be followed by a chamber group from within leading a choral Evensong. We are grateful to have Highland's own John Dickson conducting *Coro Louisville's* concerts.

**On July 13, *Coro Louisville* invites everyone to Second Presbyterian Church (3701 Old Brownsboro Road) for their home concert. The concert begins at 3:00 PM with doors opening at 2:30.** The free concert will include a large portion of the repertoire they have learned for their overseas concerts. The singers would love to receive your support as they share their music at their one and only home concert! We hope to see you there!

~ Paul Henderson



## Celebrating Pride with Our Community

# Pride Parade 2025



## Strategic Planning Team Update

Thanks to everyone who participated so actively in our conversation on June 1. The interest in our future together as HBC is palpable!

The next step is to create actions in five strategic areas. Many of you selected an area you would like to help plan. A member of the strategic planning team will contact folks in the next few weeks to set up meeting times in late July or in August.

The five strategic areas are:

- Leadership and Organizational Development
- Community Building, Fun, and Faith Formation (Internal)
- Faith in Action (External)
- Financial Sustainability

- Communication

We continue to welcome input and ideas on how to best achieve these goals. A draft plan will be presented to the Ministry Council in the fall and will be a resource to the Pastor Search Committee.

Once again, thanks for being part of our future together!

~ Carolyn King



## Highland Families with Children



## Join Us for Trivia Night on July 12!



# TRIVIA NIGHT

## WITH DESSERT AUCTION

### FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**\$15.00 per person, teams of up to 8.**

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT [hbctrivianight@gmail.com](mailto:hbctrivianight@gmail.com)**

**HAVE A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
OR OTHER GROUP TEAM;  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS; BRING YOUR TEAM;  
COME HAVE FUN.**

**Contact Steve or Margie Brown with questions;  
Contact Marilyn Whistler to donate a dessert.**



## **Sermon Series Beginning July 20**

Beginning July 20th, I'll continue following the lectionary but will be preaching a four-part sermon series: "Insightful Critics of the Church, and Bill Maher." In the first three sermons, we'll take a look at four people who know churches well, and we'll see what we can learn from their critiques. In the final sermon, I'll have something to say about Maher profiting from sloppy stereotyping and the need for the Church to know when to stand its ground.

In light of the criticisms, the sermons will also set forth practical ways the church can improve, as well as key parts of our theology we need to hold dear. In short, we'll learn from some folks who point out hazards and pitfalls, and we'll consider how we can do better, as we, like the Apostle Paul, aim for God's bullseye but know we'll always miss the mark.

- July 20      Dr. King and White Liberalism
- July 27      Barbara Brown Taylor: The Confining Church
- August 3      Mark Twain and H.L. Mencken: Church for the Sake of Church
- August 10      . . . and Bill Maher: Not Every Criticism is Valid

It's a pleasure serving you during this time of transition!

*~ Chris Caldwell*



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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**



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Looking Ahead

June 30-July 4: PASSPORT Youth Camp in Berea, KY

July 7-10: Children's Discovery Camp

July 12: Trivia Night & Dessert Auction for the Sacred Space Campaign, 7:00 PM

July 13: *Coro Louisville* Home Concert at Second Presbyterian Church, 3:00 PM

July 14-17: Children's Advocacy Camp

July 17-24: England Trip, *Coro Louisville* including members of Highland's Sanctuary Choir

August 10: Gather 'Round

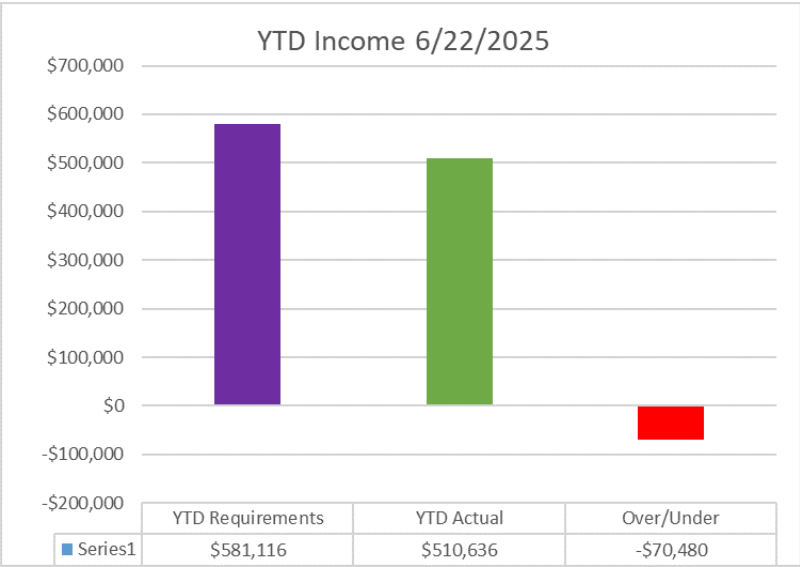
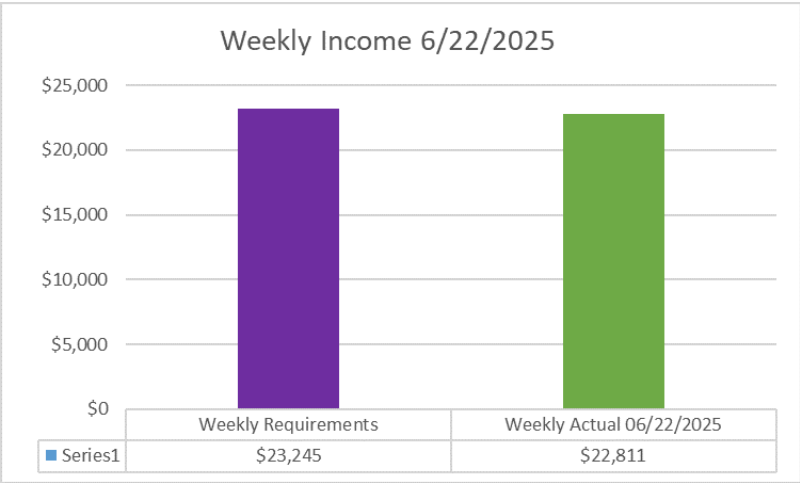
August 13: Wednesday Evening Activities Resume and Cloud of Witness

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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.

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