



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church July 8, 2025

A Pastoral Prayer for Those Affected by Texas Floods

O Holy One,

We have seen the video of children playing, running, delighting in summer camp. We watched sadly knowing that in a few short hours, their lives would be forever changed. Dear God, we are stunned and overwhelmed by the horrific loss of life. We cannot imagine going to sleep in peace and safety and waking up in the middle of a flood sweeping loved ones away.

Accept our grief as a testimony of love for people we do not know, but for whom our hearts break. Grant strength to cope and comfort. Grant grace to receive help and comfort.

Thank you for those who risked their lives to save lives. Help us carry them in our hearts and minds long after they are no longer in the news. May we learn what needs to be learned to prevent another such tragedy. Help us practice love with generous support in gifts to agencies that rushed to help.

Have mercy on our brokenness even as you welcome those who died. Amen.

~ Jim England



Reflections on Youth Passport Missions Camp

This past week, 26 youth and six adults from Highland traveled to Berea, Kentucky for a week of PASSPORT Missions Camp. The theme for PASSPORT this year is "Wide Open Spaces." As much as I hoped for The Chicks song to play all week, we sadly only heard it once!

Throughout the week, our youth explored what God's Wide Open Spaces look like. Spaces of welcome, spaces to wonder, spaces to act, and even spaces to dance! Through their Bible studies and mission projects, our youth were able to grow closer to God and to grow deeper in their faith.



For our mission times, our group served in several locations throughout Madison County. We worked in gardens that are addressing issues of food insecurity in the area. We worked with nursing homes, playing games with the residents and washing their wheelchairs. We sanded and painted and worked hard to help local non-profits revive their spaces. The work we did last week was challenging and life-giving.

I want to say a HUGE thank you to our amazing chaperones: Kim Clark-Endicott, Lisa Estes, Tara Davis, Charlie Suer, and John Gulden. If you ever want to chaperone or volunteer, we would LOVE to have you!

[Here's the link for more photos](#) from our week together!



Highland Welcomes New Members



Dalton York and Logan Cockrill joined Highland on June 29, 2025



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.

This coming Sunday, 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



Deacon Nominees

Beginning later in July, we will have the opportunity in worship to hear from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter.

Those nominated are: Randy Biery, Diane Brewer, Kim Clark-Endicott, Mary Cooksey, Scott Gunter, David Hartley, Becca Jaggars, Larry Marcum, Vicki Runnion, and Becky Smith.

We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. We will vote on these folks on August 17 by paper ballot.



DIANE BREWER

Diane has been an active member of Highland Baptist Church for 30+ years and has attended Highland since coming to Louisville for seminary in 1983.

She is married to Lauren Blackwell and they live in Fern Creek with their two dogs. She is a member of the Prodigals Bible study class, served several years on the Worship Ministry group leading and co-leading that group, is a faithful part of Highland's Sanctuary Choir, and has previously served as a deacon.

Diane is retired from working with persons with psychiatric disabilities through program development, teaching, training and consulting. She loves being a part of Highland's faith community and is always honored to serve in any way she can.



BECCA JAGGERS

I grew up right outside of Louisville and have spent most of my life here. I vacillated between the Southern Baptist and nondenominational worlds throughout my childhood. I went to ECU for college and spent a year in Asia as a missionary before returning home.

When I settled into life in Louisville, in the midst of my deconstruction journey, I was encouraged to try out Highland. It was clear on day one that I had found a safe space to think, feel, and heal. The folks at Highland have welcomed me like a warm hug on a cold day. I have felt known and loved by my 20-somethings Bible study and encouraged by their passion for justice and nonjudgmental friendship. Their capacity to hold space for my curiosity and questioning as I negotiate what a healthy, mature faith looks like has made all the difference. I have felt the power of this community in my life and I am excited for the years to come. I am honored to serve as a deacon in this sacred space.

~ Robin Ramsay Lee, Deacon Chair



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

**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



Seeking Language Partners

We are looking for language partners for immigrants and refugees who are learning English. Very flexible. You would FaceTime or use WhatsApp to communicate once a week with English language learners. If interested, [please email me here](#). Thanks for considering!

~ Denee Walsh

[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)

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**



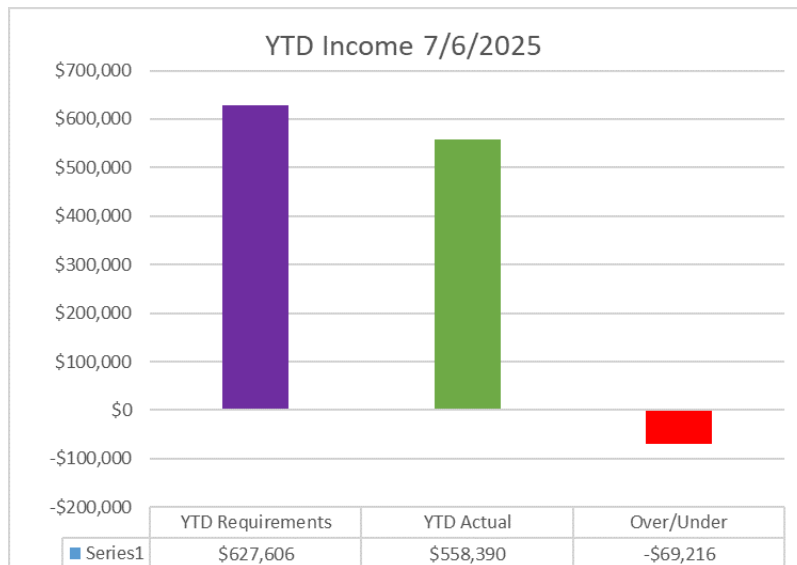
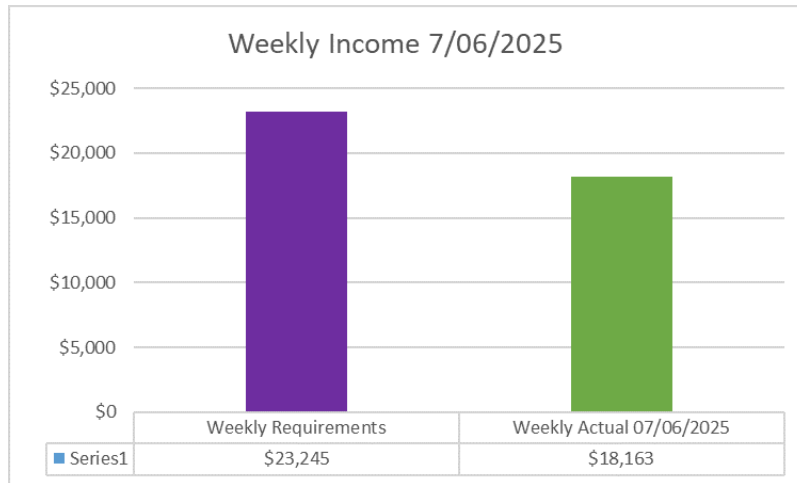
Looking Ahead

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|------------|---|
| 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



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.

- Vernia Penrod, 48, killed June 8



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