



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 26, 2025

**The church office will be closed next Monday, September 1
in observance of the Labor Day holiday.**

Next week's newsletter will be published on Wednesday, September 3.



Faithful Giving Season Begins

As we move into the season of Faithful Giving, and as ministers and lay leaders are formulating Highland's Ministry Plan (aka "Budget") for next year, I want to say a brief word about commitments to giving during an interim period.

As most of you know, my role at Highland is defined as 20-28 hours per week, and as you know, with Justin's departure, there will be an interim person serving in a less than full-time role. When you stir in that Jim England's role is defined as "interim," it would be reasonable to think, when considering one's commitment to giving to Highland's ministries in 2026, "The needs of the church are less right now in an interim period, so maybe I can kind of cruise on my giving."

It's true that Highland's personnel expenditures are lower right now than they will be after a new pastor comes and other ministers are then hired in permanent roles. But, please bear one thing in mind: Any pastor considering coming to Highland will be provided with your 2026 Ministry Plan (budget) numbers, and they will not be looking at those figures through the lens of an interim period. They will be asking themselves, "Is this church capable of supporting the complement of permanent ministers required to achieve their mission?"

And here's the other thing you need to remember. There are two parts to a pastor search: 1. The church finds someone they feel is called to come help lead the church; 2. That person has to agree to come and serve. All this is to say, as you begin thinking about your level of ministry support for next year, please think of it in terms of a level of support that will fill the winds of Highland's sails once a new pastor comes, not just during this interim period.

It's a pleasure serving you during this transitional period!

~ Chris Caldwell





A Word of Thanks

Highland Family,

On behalf of the whole Sizemore crew, I wanted to say a HUGE thank you for the love, support, and encouragement you sent us off with just a few weeks ago. We have spent the last few weeks moving into our new house in Frankfort and getting the girls settled into their new school.

I have also been reflecting on my time at Highland. It was the honor and joy of a lifetime to be one of your pastors and to minister to and alongside you. I am so thankful to still be in Kentucky where I know we will get to continue partnering in the good and necessary work of justice here in our state and beyond.

Throughout this month, I have had some much-needed time away from church ministry to reflect, recharge, and prepare for the work ahead. One of the things that excites me the most for my first Sunday at First Baptist on St. Clair is knowing that when I walk into that pulpit, I will be carrying each of y'all with me -- the gift of my new pulpit Bible and your words of encouragement and signatures inside mean the absolute world to me!

I cannot express enough how thankful I am for each of you. Our family will always be thankful and blessed to be a part of the Cloud of Witness that is Highland Baptist Church.

See y'all around!

~ Justin Sizemore

Deacon Ordination Service



New Home for Refinished Door



This door has found a new home, now located in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. It was originally the door leading into the baptistry in the sanctuary and was removed during the Building Love campaign when baptistry dressing rooms were reconfigured and the new sanctuary entryway was created. The door was rediscovered during the HVAC renovation. Many thanks to Chip Miller and Joe Phelps for refinishing the door and to Chip and Bob Uphaus for installing it in its new location.

~ Walter McWhorter



Deacon Retreat 2025

This past weekend, 26 deacons gathered at General Butler State Park for our annual retreat. Friday night kicked off with pizza, games, and plenty of laughter—Qwirkle and Mennonite Madness quickly became favorites!

Saturday was a full day of learning and connection: deacon “speed dating,” an inspiring message from Chris Caldwell on being called “for such a time as this,” practical tips, ShelbyNext training, and communication insights. In the afternoon, Paul Henderson guided us through the practice of communion, Rev. Jim England shared wisdom on listening, and Renee Purtlebaugh spoke on leading in times of transition. We closed the day in prayer, breathing deeply for the season ahead.

On Sunday, we joyfully ordained the Class of 2028. The deacons are ready and eager to serve this wonderful community!

~ Paige Harlow, deacon chair

Deacon Retreat at General Butler State Park



Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners



Welcome back to Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners! We ask everyone to make a reservation so that we have an accurate count for meal preparation. **Please make your reservations by Monday at 12:00 Noon for each 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. Meal costs are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Dinners can be [paid online here](#), by check, or

cash at the door. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship!

August Menu

August 27: Fried/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

September Menus

September 3: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert

September 10: Baked Ziti, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

September 17: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Dessert

September 24: Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert



Louisville Pride Festival

Join *True Colors*, Highland's LGBTQ+ ministry group, as we celebrate love, inclusion, and community at this year's Louisville Pride Festival on Saturday, September 6, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Highland's booth will be open until 8:00 PM.



We're looking for friendly, welcoming volunteers to help staff Highland's booth throughout the day. Volunteer duties are fun and meaningful—you might be offering glitter blessings, chatting with festival-goers, or helping folks create their own custom buttons with our popular button maker!

Can't volunteer? No problem—come by, say hello, and show your support. Let's show up loud and proud for our LGBTQ+ family and help make this year's Louisville Pride celebration unforgettable!

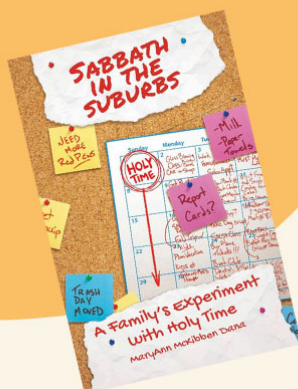
[Sign up to volunteer here.](#)

~ Megan Fuller



Highland Families with Children

Parent Chat: Join us for a discussion of the book, Sabbath in the Suburbs



Wednesday, September 17
6:00 PM

Free copies of the book are
available for each family on
the second floor



Just Creations Board Opportunities

Do you support Fair Trade? Like shopping local? Enjoy being a part of a community that is helping to make the world a better place? If any of these speak to you, then *Just Creations*, Louisville's Fair Trade Marketplace, wants to talk to you! We are seeking new members for the Board of Directors. Volunteers with an interest in finance, development, community engagement, and communications would be appreciated. Meetings are monthly with special events throughout the year. For more information contact [Joan Frisz here](#) or at (502) 897-7319. Information sessions will be held in September and October. Inquiry deadline is September 20, 2025.

save the Date

Woven Together

Support HCM on Give for Good Day
Over \$10,000 in matches & challenges
to boost your gift on September 18th!



Highlands
Community
Ministries

grow. heal. play.

Mark your calendars and help
raise \$25,000 for HCM programs



[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**

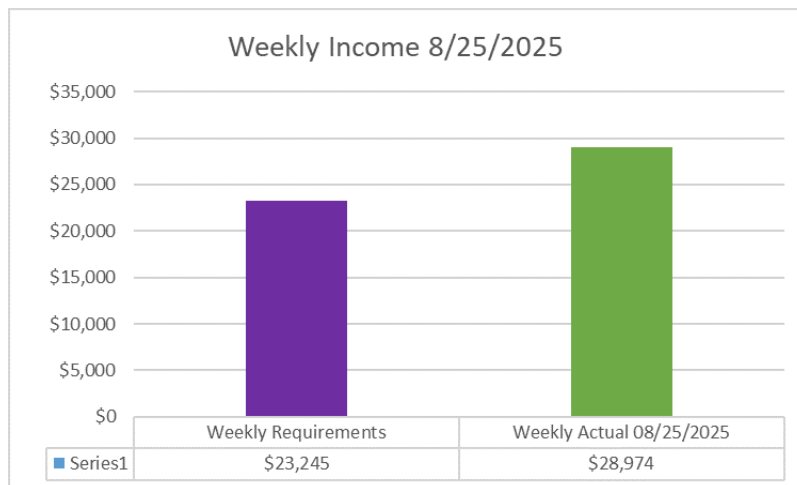


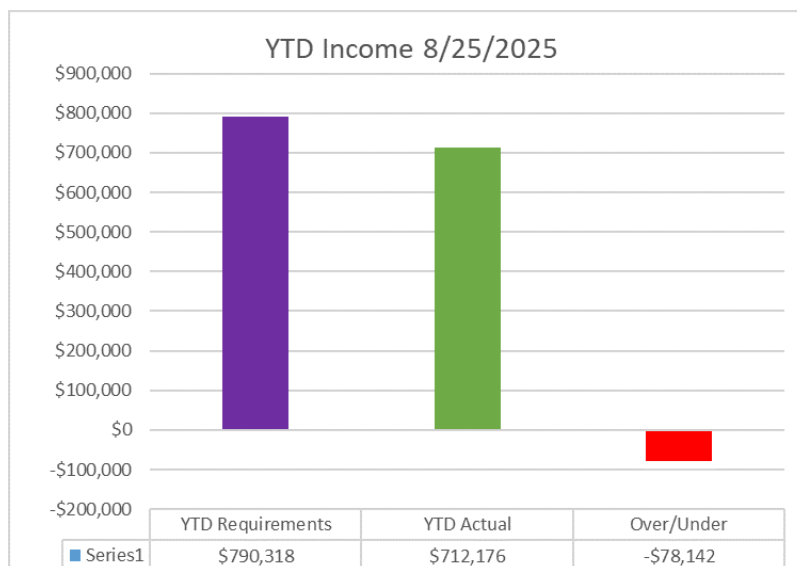
Looking Ahead

August 27: Parable Series with Chris Caldwell continues on Wednesday at 6:15 PM
September 6: Highland Booth at Louisville Pride Festival, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
September 7: Quarterly Church Conference on Zoom, 4:00 PM
October 10-12: Fall Women's Retreat (unstructured) - contact Ginger Miller at 502-599-6569



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.

- Robert Lavon Dryden, 25, killed August 6
- Yunior Gonzales Sombert, 39, killed August 11

- Redaja “Juicy” Williams, 23, killed August 13
 - Jermia Offutt, 28, killed August 13
 - Eric Jerome Watson II, 23, killed August 13
 - Melinda Lee Doolin, 61, killed August 14
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