



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church September 16, 2025

For Such a Time as This . . . Spiritual Formation for Children, Youth, and Their Families

Commitment Sunday is September 21!

Highland Baptist Church values spiritual formation across the generations. Today we highlight our children and youth! Like formation opportunities for adults, we apply similar principles when approaching formation for Highland's young people: theological soundness and depth, thoughtful design, age appropriateness, and intentional cultivation of curiosity and wonder. We aim to provide a new voice in faith for kids and youth. We also aim to support families in their quest to provide their children an environment where they can get to know God, who loves all and accepts all, more fully.



Meeting children, youth, and their families where they are is our goal, and in order to meet that goal, your financial contributions are needed. These contributions directly impact the vision and mission of Highland and how we approach, minister alongside, and equip children, youth, and their families to encounter God's forming and transforming love in the world.



Please give to Highland Baptist Church to drive the ministries of children, youth, and their families forward. Your gifts will off-set the cost of retreats and camps, as well as provide books, construction paper, instruments, and even pizza.



Together, we can continue to create a vibrant, supportive, and faith-filled community! Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

We will make our commitments to God's work through Highland this coming Sunday, September 21. You can make your pledge using the form on the back of Sunday's highlight insert or via the church website. We hope you'll join us in financially supporting the mission and ministries of Highland in the coming year!

In faith and service,

~ Faithful Giving Ministry Group

Thomas Bolton, Tracy Holladay, Kelsey Grizzle Kahne, Hollie Spade;
Staff Liaisons – Chris Caldwell, Renee Purtlebaugh



 Highland Welcomes John Kubar



Dear Highland family,

I am grateful for the chance to step into this season of ministry with you as Interim Associate Pastor to Youth. While I have only just begun settling into the office and meeting the wonderful staff, I am eager to get to know our youth and the wider congregation in the weeks ahead.

A bit about me: I've served in youth and congregational ministry for several years, and I find deep joy in creating space where young people can grow in faith, ask honest questions, and know they are beloved. I'm originally from Lexington (Go Cats!) and most recently served as an associate pastor in Anchorage. Outside of ministry, I'm husband to Katherine (Associate Pastor at Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church) and a dad of two young kids (Burnam, 4 and Maggie, 15 months) who keep life joyful and lively. I also love disc golf, playing banjo, and a good puzzle.

Thank you for welcoming me into this chapter of Highland's story. I look forward to walking alongside you.

With gratitude and hope,
~ John Kuper



Anti Racism Team Invitation for Screening and Discussion

Throughout this year, the Anti Racism Team will be exploring the connections between white supremacy and Christian Nationalism. To kick off this focus, the team invites you to a two-week screening and discussion of the documentary *God and Country*. **Join us Wednesdays, September 17 and September 24 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 PM** as we ask the question: What happens when a faith built on love,

sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism?



Chorister Choir Learns through Discovery and Wonder



The past few weeks in Chorister Choir have exemplified the best of learning through discovery and wonder that we so cherish here at Highland. Children learn best through curiosity and wonder, and exploring an anthem, titled “Pleasant Words are Like a Honeycomb,” based on Proverbs 16-17 afforded the perfect opportunity to do so! You’re invited to imagine the journey our children have been on through the photos below:

- Kathy Collier, our children’s choir coordinator, found the anthem back in the summer when planning for the year. Children’s choirs usually sing each fall in worship during October. Imagine her surprise when the Psalm noted in the lectionary for October 19 also reflected the themes of the anthem!
- Our K-2nd grade Choristers created a honeycomb art installation on the 2nd floor – decorating hexagons with color and words. They also read books about bees to discover how they help our environment, culminating with a honeycomb cereal art project.



- Andrew Schafflein brought honeycombs from their family beehives to show the children up close what they look like. He brought his bee suit and demonstrated what is used to produce smoke and cause the bees to calm down.
- Children and volunteers got to taste that same honey made by the Schafflein’s bees, straight off the comb! Spread on the tastiest bread, it was a delicious and sweet treat. Some kids even chose to

chew some of the honeycomb like gum, absorbing all the honey sweetness without swallowing any of the wax.



- The Schaftlein honey was included in the Wednesday evening desserts that Lauren Swim and Kim Waller made on Wednesday, September 10. Kids and adults alike encountered that sweet taste!
- Kim Waller also made the most beautiful bee table tents to decorate the room while we ate. Did you see them?
- Our children came down to Fellowship Hall, shared words to introduce the anthem, and shared the piece with us with great joy. We all loved the “bzzzz” at the end!



Be sure to join us in worship on October 19 at 11:15 am, as our children will share more of their musical discoveries with us, including the call to worship highlighting the connection between the anthem they’ve spent so much time being immersed in and the reference to it in our morning psalm. Come and let our children connect you with the Holy, knowing that every piece offered before God as a gift of worship has been fully explored and rests not just on their lips but also in their hearts. You won’t want to miss it!

Ever grateful for God's good creation that inspires our growth and formation through all the ages and stages of life.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Considering Matthew Shepard in October

Members of Highland's Sanctuary Choir along with members of Voices of Kentuckiana will join forces to present *Considering Matthew Shepard* at Actors Theatre on Friday, October 10 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, October 12 at 2:30 PM.



PRESENTED BY:

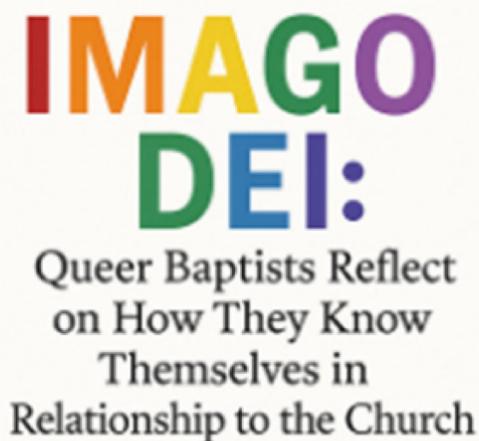


The entire three-part oratorio told through poetry, historical accounts, choral and solos singing, is a powerful and compassionate response to the brutal murder of Matthew Shephard, a gay college student from Wyoming in the fall of 1998. Recommended for teens and above. [Here is the link to order tickets.](#) Discounts codes: **PARTNER** (for 20% off) and **EARLY5** (for \$5 off through September 27).

~ Paul Henderson

Sharing Our Stories: Call for Submissions to Imago Dei

What does it mean to be both queer and Baptist? For many, the answer is complicated. Some of us were nurtured by Baptist churches even as those same churches struggled—or outright refused—to affirm us. Some walked away, weary of hypocrisy. Others stayed, even at great personal cost. And more and more of us have found ways to live fully and faithfully, both queer and Baptist, urging the church to wrestle honestly with these questions.



**IMAGO
DEI:**
Queer Baptists Reflect
on How They Know
Themselves in
Relationship to the Church

A new book project, IMAGO DEI: Queer Baptists Reflect on How They Know Themselves in Relationship to the Church, is inviting personal essays from queer Baptists across the spectrum of experience. This collection will bring together stories of gratitude, grief, resilience, and courage from those who have navigated life at this intersection.

The book will feature an introduction by Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders, former AWAB Board Member, now Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care Leadership at Luther Seminary, and a leading voice in LGBTQIA+ spiritual care. Cody's scholarship and ministry have long helped the wider church listen more deeply to queer voices.

Your Invitation

If you are a queer Baptist with a story to tell, this is your chance to add your voice. The editor, Dr. Paula Garrett, is welcoming submissions of personal essays that explore the complexity, tension, and beauty of being both queer and Baptist.

Essays should:

- Offer a carefully crafted personal reflection.
- Be no longer than 20 double-spaced pages.
- Be submitted by January 30, 2026, to [Paula Garrett here](#).

This is more than a call for papers; it's a call to witness. By sharing your story, you help shape the narrative of how queer Baptists know themselves and how we continue to call the church into fuller faithfulness.



Cream of the Crop Travels to Midway



For its next lunch gathering, the Cream of the Crop invites you to the Brown Barrel in Midway. They will meet together to enjoy fellowship and food on Tuesday, September 30 at 12:00 Noon. If you would like to attend, please call Paul Henderson at (502) 451-3735 or [email him here](#). We hope you can join the fun!

~ Paul Henderson



Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners



We hope you can join us for 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!

September Menus

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

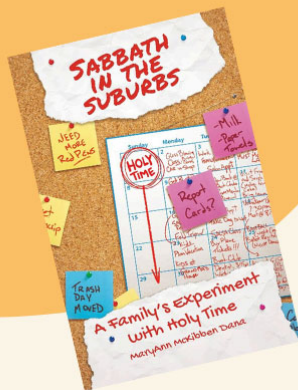
September 24: Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert



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

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

September 17: Parent Chat with Children's Families, 6:00 PM

September 17: Screening/discussion of documentary *God and Country* begins at 6:15 PM

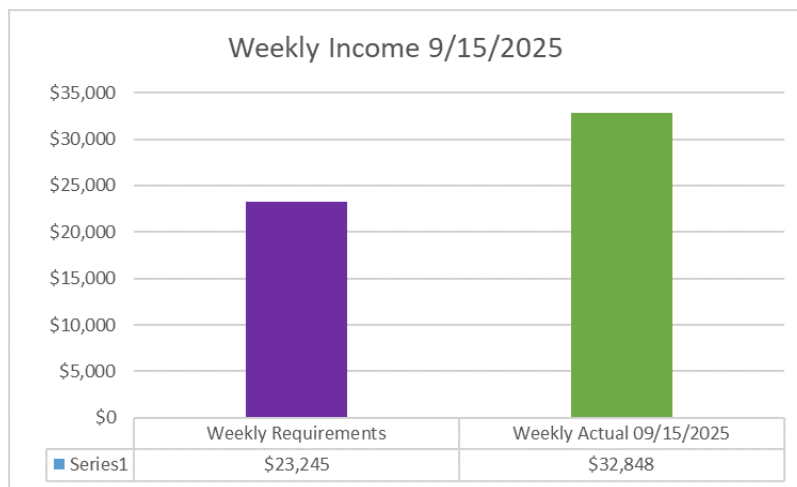
September 30: Cream of the Crop Lunch at the Brown Barrel, Midway, 12:00 Noon

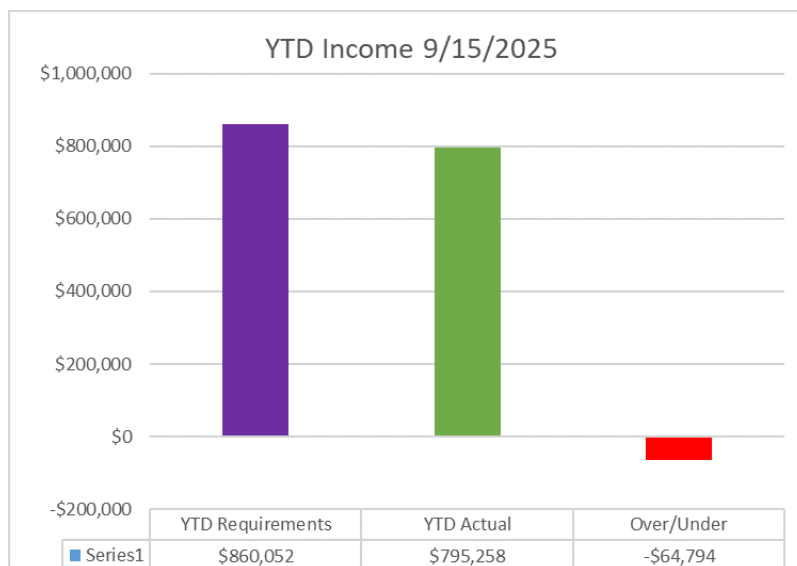
October 10/12: *Considering Matthew Shepard at Actor's Theatre* (see above information)

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.



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