



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church September 23, 2025

Please note the newsletter will not be published next week during JCPS Fall Break.

Look for our next publication on October 7!

**Also, please note there are no Wednesday activities next week
on October 1 with the exception of Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:15 PM.**



For Such a Time as This . . . Mission and Justice

Highland Baptist Church values strong partnerships with a variety of organizations doing transformational work in our city and around the world. Chosen for their alignment with our mission, vision, and values, we seek to support the work of these organizations financially, by accompanying them as they work to meet the needs of their constituents, and through the use of our building—some areas being utilized more often to provide community services than by the church itself.

Mission and Justice at Highland



As followers of Jesus, we unapologetically work toward building a world where justice and Love are abundant:

- through reparations contributions centered on housing and educational needs to organizations like MOLO Village, Rebound, Inc., and AMPED.
- by coming alongside organizations supporting immigrants and refugees like Kentucky Refugee Ministries and La Casita.
- through partnerships with Sweet Evening Breeze and Louisville Youth Group to support our LGBTQ+ siblings.
- by building houses with Habitat for Humanity as well as Extreme Build via CBF Kentucky.
- supporting CBF Field Personnel Scarlet Jasper's work in Eastern Kentucky as she daily accompanies those living in rural poverty.
- offering support to migrants and refugees in Morocco through the work of the EEAM (The Evangelical Protestant Church in Morocco).
- offering our building to host some of the longest-standing NA and AA meetings in the city.

Please give to Highland Baptist Church to drive the progress of our mission and justice efforts forward. Your gifts will support organizations like the ones listed above, along with a dozen others, as well as the ability to offer support toward new needs that arise.

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

If you haven't yet made your pledge for Highland's mission and ministries in 2026, please do so!
[Use this link to make your pledge online](#), or pick up a copy of the pledge card in the Commons the

next time you are in the building. Please turn in your pledge by Sunday, October 5!

In faith and service,

~ Faithful Giving Ministry Group

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

A Note about Pledging

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to sincerely apologize for the confusion that has come up around the pledge card during this year's online pledge season. My intention was to make the process as smooth and accessible as possible, but I recognize that there were some miscommunications and difficulties that caused unnecessary frustration or uncertainty for some of you. For that, I am truly sorry.

Your faithful support and commitment to our church's mission means more than words can express. Whether through prayer, service, or financial giving, your generosity is what sustains and strengthens our community. We never take that for granted.

Please know that we are taking steps to ensure future communications and pledge processes are clearer and more user-friendly. If you have not yet been able to submit your pledge, or if you have any questions or concerns, I am more than happy to help—I can be reached [by email here](#) or in the church office Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at (502) 451-3735.

Thank you for your grace, patience, and continued faith in the work we do together. I am grateful to walk this journey with each of you.

~ Kathleen Gordon, Financial Secretary



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 continue this focus, the team invites you to its second week screening and discussion of the documentary *God and Country*. **Join us tomorrow 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?



Worship Care Volunteer Training, September 21

Did you know Highland provides Worship Care—care for infants, toddlers, 2s, 3s and pre-kindergarten

children—during both of its Sunday morning worship services?



Did you know it takes 55 volunteers on a regular, rotating schedule to offer care for our families with young children during these two worship hours?

We are so grateful for the folks who serve in this volunteer capacity, whether they serve monthly or bi-monthly. They ensure our youngest ones at Highland have their basic needs met, and they make a way for our parents of young children to have an opportunity to breathe and nurture their own spiritual lives through worship. Thanks be to God for those in our community of faith who embody God's love for children and live it out in tangible ways!

Our next training session will be held October 12 at 10:00 AM in the Children's Commons, for those who have not yet attended this year.

~ 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 Shepard, a gay college student from Wyoming in the fall of 1998. Recommended for teens and above. [Here is the link to order tickets.](#) Discount code: **EARLY5** (for \$5 off through September 27).

~ Paul Henderson

Lobby Entrance Work

Last week work began to replace the waterproof barrier outside the lobby area. The barrier that was installed during the Building Love project failed and was allowing water to leak into the stairway leading to the stage in Fellowship Hall. Demolition was (noisily) completed last week, and now we're waiting on the rain to abate before the replacement work can continue.



We hope for the water barrier and new cement to all be in place within the next two weeks. Many thanks to an anonymous donor whose gracious gift is paying for the entire project!



Friday Church: Welcome and Community

Recently, a musician from the community showed up to play at Friday Church, and found that his bass guitar stopped working right before the service. The guitarist asked if Highland had any spare wire. No, was the answer, but the story did not end with no. A member of Highland brought some wire from home. The guitarist fixed his guitar during the service, and joined the other musicians to play. Two Fridays ago, someone said they needed furniture right away as they had completed the program at Wayside. When a member of Highland got home from Friday Church, she saw furniture that had been put out for disposal. She contacted the owner, and the next day the furniture went to a new home, giving new life and new hope.



Friday Church is a place of hope and community. The people of Friday Church are Highland members and nonmembers, varied racial, economic and religious backgrounds, those in recovery, those who are struggling and those who can provide comfort. Over the past months, attendees have ranged from infants, school-age, all the way to 90. Together, we are community.

Friday Church is an informal, 45-minute service of inspiration, challenge, love and hope. The music is led sometimes by guitar, sometimes with piano. Each week we have a different proclaimer. Each week we are invited to come and see what God can do, and we are reminded that even in our weakness, God is made strong. In others, we encounter the beauty and wonder of God.

Friday Church is at 7:00 PM each Friday in the sanctuary. This week, the proclaimer will be Rev. Richard Lockette, an associate pastor at St. Stephens Baptist Church. All are welcomed. Come as you are. Who knows, maybe you can be the one to start a new tradition of feeding your soul at Friday Church, and feeding your sweet tooth afterwards by gathering others to share a time of dessert and fellowship.

~ Bill Campbell



Wall Crew Invitation

Did you know Highland has nearly 20 volunteers who make sure the walls in the Fellowship Hall are set up and torn down each Sunday for our adult Bible study classes? Many have served in this role for years and a few folks have joined the crew in the past couple of years.



Here's your invitation to join this great group of people whose efforts make it possible for our classes to meet each week! The commitment to our wall crew only requires one hour each month and we will gladly provide "on-the-job" training. [Please send me a note](#) or call me at (502) 451-3735 expressing interest, and I'll contact you with more information.

~ Cheryl Davis



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 Menu

September 24: Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

Please note: No Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner on October 1 (JCPS Fall Break)

October Menus

October 8: Taco Bar, Black Beans, Mexican Street Corn, Chips, Salsa & Guacamole, Dessert

October 15: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

October 22: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

October 29: Lasagna, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

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

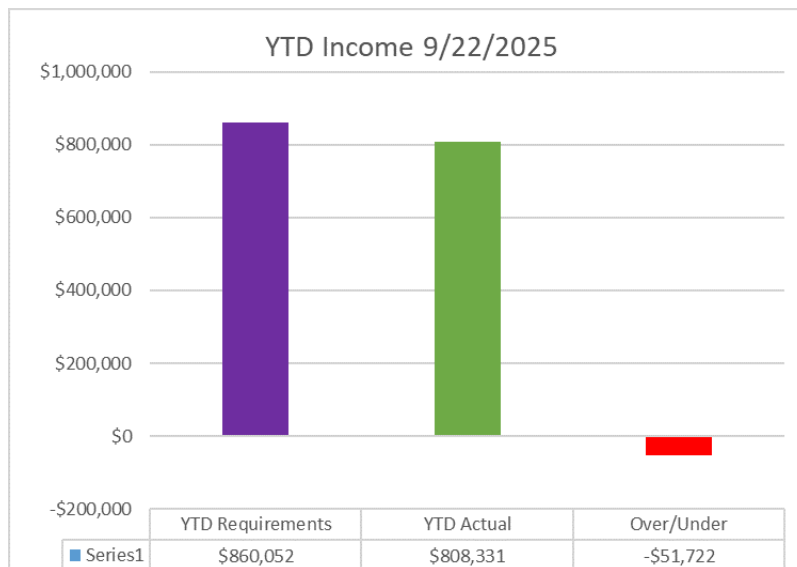
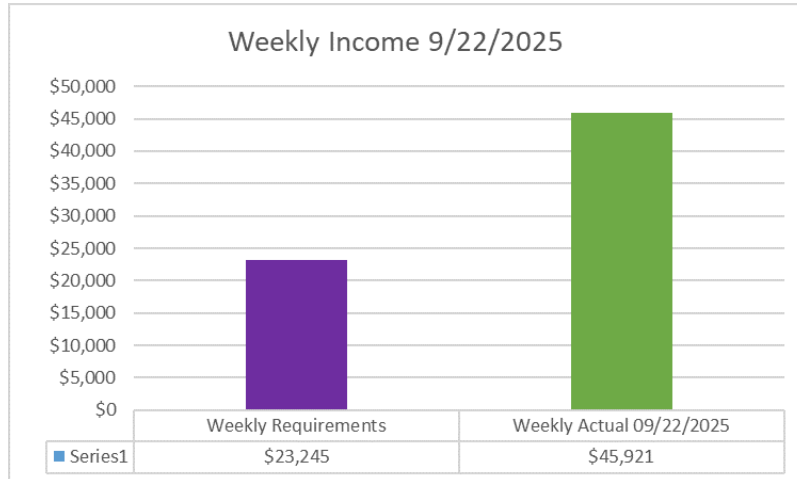
September 30: Cream of the Crop lunch at the Brown Barrel, Midway, 12:00 Noon

October 1: No Wednesday evening activities, except Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:15 PM

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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