



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church November 18, 2025

 **Join Us for Advent at Highland!**



**Out of the Blue engages the theme of surprise.
We are surprised by mercy, new beginnings, wild growth,
love in the face of violence, and a baby in the manger.**

Please note that during the Advent and Christmas season we will offer one Sunday worship service each week at 11:15 AM.

Sunday, November 30—Hope Sunday

First Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Join us as we begin a new liturgical year and this year's theme, *Out of the Blue*. Links to our Advent devotions will be emailed each morning, beginning this Sunday.

Hanging of the Green, 6:00 PM

We will gather at 6:00 PM to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries (throw-size blankets and \$25 gift cards to Kroger, Walmart, and Target) or final donations for La Casita. The service will be followed by a church-wide holiday reception in Fellowship Hall. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.*

Tuesday, December 2

Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth from 6:00-8:00 PM at La Casita. All ages are invited to join. Contact [Renee Purtlebaugh](#) to RSVP.

Sunday, December 7—Peace Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Peace Sunday is our time to remember those in our city who have been killed by acts of violence. We will read each name and place crosses on the front lawn as an act of remembrance and a call to action in our community.

Children's Advent Service, 6:00 PM

Children's voices and the ringing of bells are a highlight of the season! Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children's Handbell Choir—ages 3 through 5th grade. Cookies and milk reception to follow. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.*

Wednesday, December 10

Families with Children Hot Chocolate Night

Join us for pizza, hot chocolate bar, and games from 5:30-7:00 PM at Highland!

Sunday, December 14—Joy Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra presenting glorious music of the season.

Wednesday, December 17

Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM

This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music includes a choral ensemble. *Childcare available by reservation only for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting [Megan Fuller](#) to RSVP.*

Friday, December 19

Join us as we sing the carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM! We will end the service with candlelight.

Youth Christmas Party

Youth are invited to gather for the Christmas Party at the home of Kathey and Mark Golightly Sanders from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Contact [John Kuper](#) to RSVP.

Sunday, December 21—Love Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 11:15 AM

Longest Night Service, 6:00 PM

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, or a life transition, all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year. *Childcare available by reservation only for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting [Megan Fuller](#) to RSVP.*

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

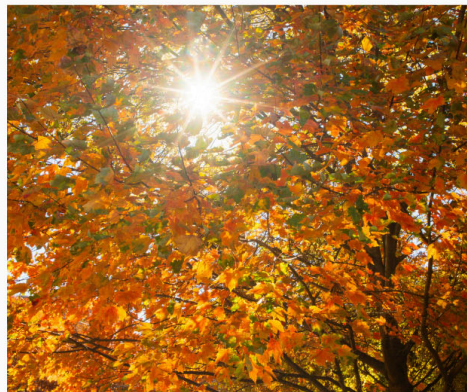
Christmas Eve Services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth! Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Sunday, December 28

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM

Join us for this casual worship service and enjoy singing beloved Christmas carols. Please note Bible study classes will not meet. We will resume our regular Sunday schedule on January 4.



Financial Information and Vote on the 2026 Budget

Greetings Highland,

We met at the Quarterly Church Conference last Wednesday to present the proposed 2026 Budget. Here are the highlights of the discussion:

For 2025, our year-to-date expenses and income/giving are matching very closely our expectations. We are currently at a \$83,847 deficit of income-to-expenses. For 2026, we have received \$722,276 in pledges from 117 giving units. We are expecting a few more to come in, likely totaling ~\$775,000.

As for the budget, we are expecting income to be similar from 2025 to 2026. Giving is holding steady and our other sources of income are little changed: with the exception that we are making more interest income from the bank and we have lost our rental income after selling the Foree House.

Expenses for the 2026 budget are little changed as well. Most of our ministries were able to keep steady/flat for this upcoming year. Here a few of the notable changes: Worship ministry has increased due to rising costs of the sign language service; Technology and Facilities have increased to match expected demand; the Sacred Space interest payments will decrease significantly! Personnel budget is overall lower. Some factors decreased their budget: not filling the associate pastor position and having interim roles for head pastor and youth pastor for part of the year. While other factors increased their budget: staff salary market adjustments and COLA's and rising costs of medical insurance.

Combined, here are the final numbers for the 2026 budget: total income of \$1,108,500. Total expenses of \$1,195,515 for an expected deficit of \$87,015. We also gave a Sacred Space update. We will give a detailed update in an upcoming newsletter.

A full copy of the budget, year-to-date finances, and progress on Sacred Space is available in PDF form and available upon request. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Finance ministry group.

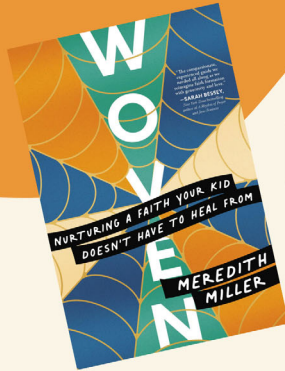
Thank you,
*~ Drew Harston, Justin Boldt, Andrea Hunt, Lauren Swim, Rick Holtmeier,
Susan Pierce, Tracy Holladay, Robert Davis, and staff liaison, Chris Caldwell*

Vote on the 2026 Budget

The vote on the 2026 budget will take place online via SurveyMonkey. If you are a member or a voting affiliate of Highland Baptist Church, you should receive an email this Friday morning offering you the opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" on the proposed budget. Votes will be accepted between Friday, November 21 at 9:00 AM and Sunday, November 23 at 10:00 PM. Should you have problems voting please call the church office at 502-451-3735 on either Friday, November 21 or Monday, November 24th.

Parent Chat Part 2:

Join us for a discussion
on nurturing a faith
your kid doesn't have
to heal from



Wednesday,
November 19
6:00 PM
Children's Commons

Woven
by Meredith Miller



Holiday Giving Opportunities at Highland

The Louisville Solidarity Project

This project collects needed items and shuttles them where they are needed using nothing but willing folks. Highland has named itself a willing partner, and will be collecting donations as long as the need exists. The Anti-Racism Team has a large list of items that are being collected for local high schoolers, and if you want a copy of the long list feel free to reach out to any member of our team. We are focusing on collecting the items that are most requested: dried beans, bags of rice, diapers, and menstrual pads.

Highland Community Ministries



Highlands
Community
Ministries

grow. heal. play.

This season, our congregation is proud to partner with Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) and other Highland congregations to bring warmth and joy to families in need. Our goal is to contribute to HCM's mission by collecting gift cards and cozy throw blankets — with a collective target of 500 gift cards and a blanket for every family.

We're excited to be part of this meaningful effort, and we invite you to join us in making a difference! Donations will be collected on Sunday, November 30, during the Hanging of the Green service.

Specific items needed:

- \$25 gift cards for Kroger, Target, or Walmart
- NEW throw-sized blankets

La Casita



La Casita is collecting household necessity items to support the Resource Day La Casita will host in early December. This year, because of Highland's faithful partnership through the years, we have been asked to collect a unique list of items related to hygiene. Because the resource day happens so early in the month of December, we will collect these items throughout the month of November.

Families with children and youth will gather at La Casita on Tuesday, December 2, to sort and pack items that will be given out on the Resource Day. We'll gather from 6:00-8:00 PM, and pizza will be provided.

Specific items needed:

- 200 rolls of toilet paper
- 100 bars of soap
- 100 tubes of deodorant
- 100 bottles of liquid dish soap (medium/single family, 15-18ish ounces)
- 100 bottles of laundry detergent (medium/single family, 30-35ish ounces)

[Link to Sign Up Genius for La Casita](#)

**Please place items for each of these organizations
in the appropriate labeled boxes in the Commons.
Thank you!**



A Note from Chris

Our friends at The Alliance of Baptists asked pastors to reflect upon how their congregations were responding to the turmoil and cruelty in today's society. Here's what I sent.

As an interim pastor at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, I've been figuring out the church at the same time they, like all of us, have been trying to figure out how to respond faithfully to what's going on in our country right now. Here is what I have observed.

- People are grieving. When I have said from the pulpit any form of, "I know these are hard times," I see nodding heads and can sense tears in the corners of eyes.
- People are learning. As rights are being threatened, people within the church are staying informed and engaging with others seeking to protect those whose rights are threatened.
- People are resolute. Convictions that were strong before the presidential election are stronger now. I have seen, however, how important it has been, especially in sermons, for the congregation to hear those convictions passionately claimed and proclaimed.
- People are seeking ways to convert worry and anger into action. Highland has a proud history of ministering in and with our city, but I sense there is even greater passion to do this in these days.
- At the same time people are leaning into serving and advocating in the community, I sense them leaning into and upon worship. Etched in stone at the back of the sanctuary are the words, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." Even so, we all sense in this season how doubly important it is to worship and to heal before we go back out to live those words another week.

In short, I am proud of how Highland is responding. As someone who served as a pastor for over twenty-five years, I have seen how stress and struggles tend to reveal the essence of families--for good or for ill. Highland is no more perfect than any other church, but one can see in it a caring and faithful heart as it

follows God the best it can, together.

~ Chris Caldwell



[Click here for sign-ups](#) to help with the brunch.



Joining Highland on Sunday, November 30!

Have you considered joining Highland but weren't sure how to do so? Did you recently attend the Highlights Class and are ready to make your commitment to be part of Highland official? Have you wished someone else might join when you do, so that you aren't being introduced all on your own? If any of these describe you, on Sunday, November 30, you are invited to take the membership leap! During the Hymn of Response immediately following the sermon, you're invited to let the congregation know of your decision to become a full participant in this faith community with others who wish to do the same. We look forward to welcoming you! If you have any questions, please contact [Renee Purtlebaugh](#).

~ Renee Purtlebaugh



Hanging of the Green Reception



It's hard to believe, but our Hanging of the Green service is almost here! It's Sunday, November 30 and the Hospitality Ministry Group needs your help! This is a fun event that needs church-wide participation to make it happen. We need help in the following ways:

- Decorating Sunday afternoon
- Bringing finger food that evening
- Setting food out during the Hanging of the Green service
- Cleaning up afterwards

If you can help in any of these areas, we would appreciate it! When people step in to help, it makes the event more personal and more holiday-ish! You can contact Marilyn Whisler at 502-262-2760 to find out how you can help or [click here](#) to sign up. Thank you for helping out!

~ Marilyn Whisler

Families with Children and Youth are Invited to:

SORTING SOIREE + PACKING PARTY

at La Casita Center

DECEMBER 2 6 - 8 PM



 Pizza will be provided! 



Christmas Poinsettias



Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. You may order poinsettias through our website [here](#). You may also submit payment and information by contacting [Kathleen in the church office](#) or at 502-451-3735. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is next Monday, November 24.**



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!

November Menu

November 19: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Hash Brown Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

December Menu:

December 3: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

Note that December 3 is our final Wednesday Night Dinner until January.



Chicago Spring Tour

Contact & Registration

Trip Coordinator:

Kim Henderson

Email: kim.henderson@fora.travel

Cell: 225-803-3197

Paul Henderson

paul@hbcloouisville.org

Cell: 225-803-3196

Highland Baptist Church

1101 Cherokee Rd

Louisville, KY 40204



Highland Baptist Chicago Spring Tour

Art, Architecture & Friendship
in the Heart of Chicago

April 19–22, 2026

Quick Facts

Depart: Sun, Apr 19 at 1 PM
(after church)

Return: Wed, Apr 22 (5 PM ET)

Hotel: Radisson Blu Aqua
(3 nights)

Transport: Deluxe Motor
Coach (312 Limo)

Includes:

- Daily breakfast
- River Architecture Cruise with Lunch
- Art Institute guided tour
- 3 Group Dinners (Welcome, Beatrix, Robert's)
- Walking Tour & Pedway Experience
- Taxes, tips & coordination



Contact [Paul Henderson](#) for complete information and brochure.

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**

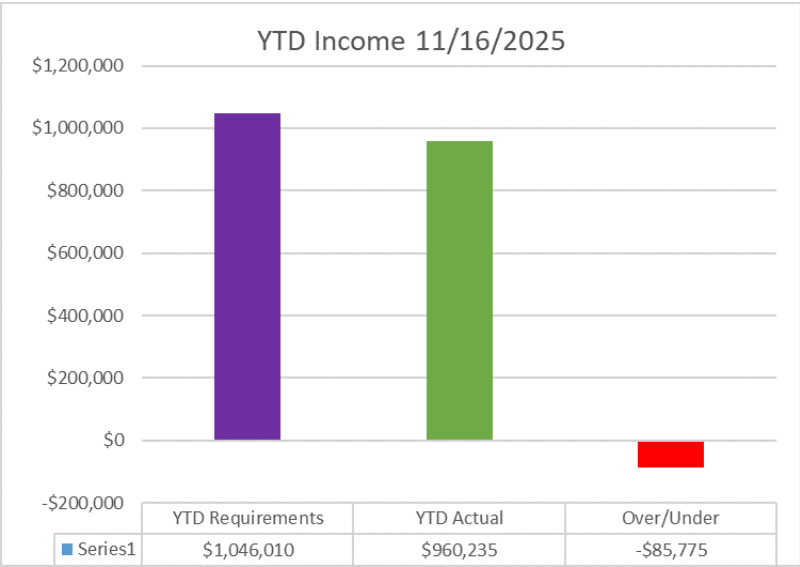
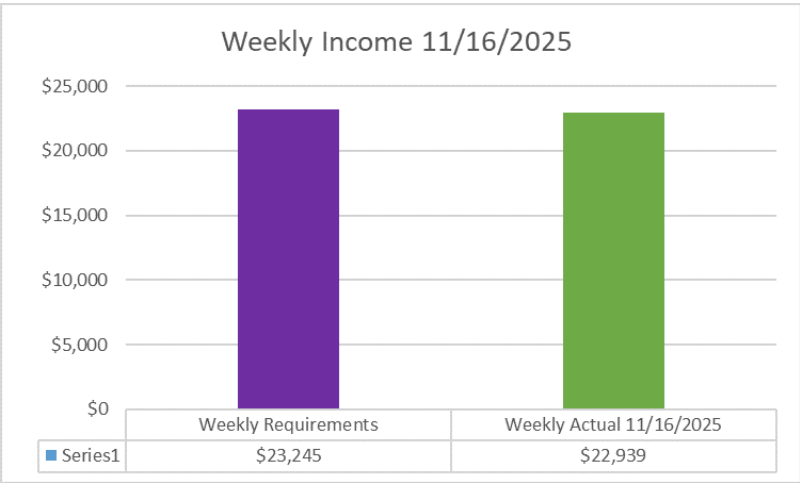


Looking Ahead

- November 23: Thanksgiving Brunch, 10:00 AM
- November 30: First Sunday of Advent (Hope), 11:15 AM and Hanging of the Green service, 6:00 PM
- December 2: Sorting Soiree at La Casita, 6:00-8:00 PM
- December 7: Second Sunday of Advent (Peace), Crosses on the Lawn, 11:15 AM
Children's Advent Service, 6:00 PM
- December 10: Families with Children Hot Chocolate Night, 5:30-7:00 PM
- December 14: Third Sunday of Advent (Joy), Choir and Orchestra presentation, 11:15 AM
- December 17: Orchestra Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM
- December 19: Friday Church sings the carols of Christmas; Youth Christmas Party, 5:00-8:00 PM
- December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)
- December 24: Christmas Eve Services, 4:00 and 6:00 PM
- December 28: Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM; Bible study classes will not meet



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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