



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church April 14, 2026

The Commons

I am back at work this week after spending a week with my boys, and I'm enjoying jumping back into these early weeks of work alongside you. Just as I delight in watching spring unfold, I delight in witnessing the energy flowing through the church. As I said on Sunday, here is our learning ground for how to love one another, forgive those who have hurt us, and apologize to those we have hurt. Church is like forgiveness school, where we are all students, learning each day to come back together and try again.

We learned on Sunday that Rev. Dr. Jeremy Shoulta, a native of Louisville, passed away from cancer. I knew Jeremy back in the day in a CBF Peer Group when he served as a pastor in Louisville after attending Georgetown College and BSK Theological Seminary. Since then, Jeremy served churches in North Carolina and Georgia. Many of you may know Jeremy's parents, Bill and Jill Shoulta (former pastor at Melbourne Heights), and Jeremy's sister, Rev. Molly Shoulta Tucker (pastor at Ridgewood). I know you join us as we hold in our prayers Jeremy's wife, Valerie, their two girls, the wider Shoulta family, and the congregation where he served as senior pastor, FBC Gainesville, Georgia.

I'm excited this week to attend Finance Ministry Group, lead a Wednesday night discussion, join the good folks at Friday Church, and worship with you on Sunday morning as we continue to add to our Easter toolbox. I hope to see each of you at some point along the way. God is gathering us and equipping us for

the holy work that i ou to do - for which we say *Thanks be to God!*

~ *Pastor Carol*



Around Highland
April 12, 2026



Highland Welcomes New Member



Melissa Gandy joined Highland on April 12, 2026.

Highland Celebrates Children's Sabbath April 26

*Each child belongs to all of us, and they will bring us a tomorrow
in direct relation to the responsibility we have shown to them.*

~ Maya Angelou



Join us for the 11:15 worship service on Sunday, April 26, as we shed light and love on Highland's youngest – our children ranging in age from birth through the fifth grade. Beginning with a lively and joy-filled processional to the final choral benediction, our children will lead us through music, prayers, and the well-loved Psalm 23. Come to celebrate and support, but also to learn and be changed by seeing God's

love through their eyes and action. Highland, they are our future!

~ Kathy Collier



Our New Financial Secretary



Please welcome Leslie Morris as the most recent addition to our Support Staff. Leslie began work last week, spending a great deal of time with Susan Pierce and Lauren Swim as she learns the ropes of how bookkeeping and accounting work in a Baptist church. Most recently Leslie served as the bookkeeper at Bowen Elementary School. She is quickly proving her value as a member of the staff. She can be reached at leslie@hbclouisville.org or accounting@hbclouisville.org. Please stop by and introduce yourself if you are in the church office Monday through Thursday. Welcome, Leslie!

~ Walter McWhorter

Deacon Nominations Open Now

Who will serve our church this year?

Each year, our congregation nominates members to serve as Deacons — not as an administrative board, but as servant leaders who invest themselves in the life and care of our congregation. Deacons serve a three-year term. Our deacon body is intentionally diverse: new members and longtime Highland families, younger voices and seasoned ones. The deadline for nominations this year is April 26.



How nominations work: You nominate up to 10 people using the online form or paper forms in upcoming

orders of worship. A subgroup of current deacons reviews all nominations and then brings a proposed list to the full congregation for approval.

[Submit your nominations here by April 26!](#) Need help or want to submit your nominations by phone? Call the church office at 502-451-3735.

~ Paige Harlow, Deacon Chair

Wednesday Night Series at 6:15 PM

April 15 & 22: Easter Toolboxes

Easter's arrival interrupts our Lenten practices with joy and delight, which can feel a little jarring when we sense that Good Friday's reality isn't fully behind us. We still encounter dead ends and face challenges. We see a world suffering from bombs, bullets, and bad news. We proclaim God's good news in worship—how do we live it out in our daily lives? In step with my Eastertide sermons on the spiritual tools that help us practice resurrection faith, we'll ask each other: What's in your Easter Toolbox that lifts your spirits on tough days? What habits help you practice resurrection when you've been knocked down? What people inspire you to open your imagination about what's possible? What verses keep you going when you're tempted to give up?

~ Carol Harston

Make a Difference: Become a Wall Volunteer!

Do you enjoy volunteering but also have a busy schedule?

We are looking for dedicated individuals to join our team of "Wall Volunteers"—a vital group that serves just once per month to help set up and take down the walls that are used on Sunday mornings for adult Bible study classes in the Fellowship Hall.



We need folks who can commit to a regular schedule, but we also understand your time is valuable. By serving once a month for one hour, you can help us offer space for Bible study without the demand of a weekly commitment.

What the Role Involves

- **Time Commitment:** Monthly for one hour, with options for early or late Sunday morning volunteers. We also have a need for once quarterly volunteers.
- **Role:** Setting up or taking down the walls as part of a team.
- **Impact:** Your consistent service ensures that our community has space for Bible study classes each week.

How to Get Started

1. **Contact:** Cheryl Davis, Office Manager - phone her at 502-451-3735 or [email her here](#). Cheryl will be glad to work with you to determine the best Sunday and time for your service.
2. **Learn on the Job:** our experienced volunteers will help you "learn the ropes" to be a wall volunteer.

Join us in serving our community, one hour at a time!

~ Cheryl Davis

Highland at Racing Louisville FC Pride Night – Tickets Available Now!

Highland will again participate in **Pride Night with Racing Louisville FC on Friday, May 29 at Lynn Family Stadium (8:00 p.m. kickoff)**. This is our third year joining this event, alongside 22 other welcoming and affirming congregations from across the Louisville area.



Our shared goal is to have 500 congregants seated together as a visible sign of affirmation, support, and love for the LGBTQIA+ community in Louisville.

To sit in the section with the other congregations, [use Highland's ticket link here](#). Highland tickets are purchased individually, and each purchase through this link places you in the shared section. No church

coordination or payment collection is needed. Tickets are approximately \$19. If you have questions or need more information, [email Alan Spade here](#).

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 [Accounting](#) or calling 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!

April Menus:

April 15: Barbecue Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

April 22: Mexican Casserole, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Chips & Salsa

April 29: Pizza, Salad, Steamed Veggies, Dessert

Spring Supplies Needed for HCM



Spring Cleaning Checklist

- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deoderant
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Pods
- Dish Soap (small bottles)

Wed - Friday · 10AM - 1PM
May 13 - 15, 2026

[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**





- April 15 & 22: *Easter Toolboxes* - Wednesday night series at 6:15 PM
April 26: Children's Sabbath, 11:15 AM service
April 29: Cloud of Witness at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary
May 3, 10, 17: Highlights for new members and visitors during Bible study at 10:00 AM in the Commons
Please plan to join us for all three sessions, if at all possible.
May 10: Youth Sunday
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West End School Thanks Highland

Everyone at the West End School is so appreciative of your generous contribution (from the Jean Janes Mission group). With 240 students we assure you your gift will be put to good use.

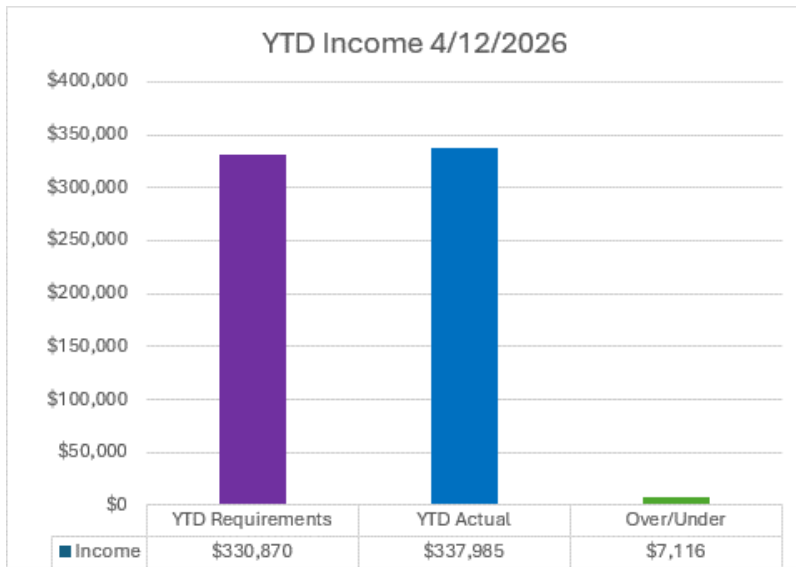
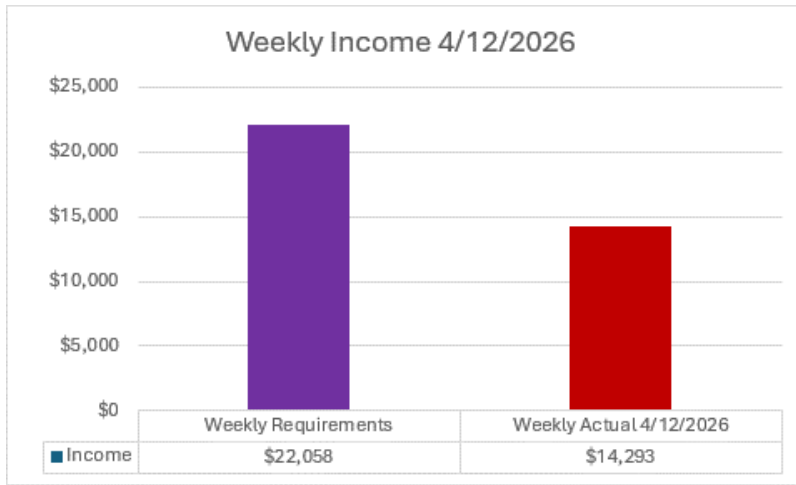
Each day the staff and volunteers strive to help the students excel academically and develop into responsible young people. This process begins in pre-Kindergarten and continues through eighth grade.

This past fall, West End welcomed its first class of primary grade girls. Gradually more grades will be added until the girls' school mirrors that of the boys' in size and philosophy. Though the boys are quite excited to have girls on campus, the boys have not yet realized that once the girls "get with the program" the academic competition will certainly increase - let the games begin!

This growth is made possible by your thoughtfulness and generosity. We are so grateful for both.

~ *The West End School Family*

Financial Update



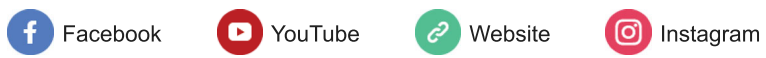
**To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212
and open the link or use the QR code below.**





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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