



## The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church April 28, 2026

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### The Commons

Sitting in the pew on Sunday, I felt overcome with awe and wonder at how reverently and energetically our children led us in worship of God. They helped us connect with God by bringing Psalm 23 to life through all our senses. Suzanne Lord's anthem, "Do You Know Your Shepherd's Voice?", was especially moving as the children sang, "As the world shouts its orders, that are easiest to hear, won't you draw away and listen to your Shepherd standing near?" Renee invited us to listen more deeply, calling us to notice, pay attention, remember, and move our bodies.

In these early weeks on the job, I'm doing a lot of listening and writing notes everywhere I go - as I visit Bible Study classes, meet visitors, make phone calls, and attend meetings. My office is already covered with large sheets of poster paper as I piece together what I'm hearing to see how it fits within our church ecosystem, which, despite our many varied parts, forms one body that is Highland Baptist Church.

As this newsletter arrives in your inbox, I'll be wrapping up a day of dreaming and planning with Renee, John, Walter, and Paul. As Highland's pastoral staff, we are committed to noticing the congregation's needs, paying attention to those suffering in our world, remembering the gospel we share, and moving our bodies in response to God's call. For your continued prayers for Highland Baptist and its staff, we say, "Thanks be to God."

~ Pastor Carol



## Highlights Class Series Begins May 3

If you are new to Highland, whether through membership or visiting, please join us on May 3, 10, and 17 for our Highlights Class—a time to learn more about our congregation and its ministries while meeting other visitors and new members. Please plan to attend all three sessions, if possible. We'll gather in the Commons, just outside the sanctuary, at 10:00 am each week. You can let us know you plan to join us by [emailing Cheryl Davis](#) by Wednesday, April 29.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

## Highland Celebrates Children's Sabbath

As I reflect on Sunday's Children's Sabbath, the word that keeps coming to mind is Divine. Divine as in delight, absolutely—but also Divine as in *God came near*. I am extraordinarily grateful for the many volunteers who gave so much time and energy to prepare our children for this worship leadership experience over the last six weeks: our elementary classroom scripture and drama coordinators (Sally Evans, Kim Henderson, Andrew Schafflein, Sharon Sanders, Linda Campbell), our seven elementary Bible study teachers, our 17 member children's music team from babies to handbells and every age in between, snack setup volunteers, worship care volunteers and Captains who served making it possible for parents to attend the service, parents' commitment to bring their children each week, Megan Fuller's coordination of several behind the scenes elements like t-shirts, and Kathy Collier's brilliant ability to envision how all the pieces can come together to form a whole picture.



Most importantly, we give thanks for the life-giving energy of 65+ children in our midst who are learning and growing and leading us, even as their faith is still forming. What a gift their lives and light are to us,

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## Quarterly Church Conference This Sunday, May 3

Plan to join us Sunday afternoon, May 3, at 4:00 PM on Zoom for our Quarterly Church Conference. Topics to be covered include reports from the Sacred Space project, the Finance Ministry Group, the Personnel Ministry Group, and the Congregational Engagement Ministry Group. Check your email on Friday, May 1, for the Zoom link and meeting agenda.

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## Youth Lock-In

At Friday night's youth lock-in, middle and high schoolers spent the evening stepping into the world of the early church, forming "house churches," carrying messages, and finally making the dangerous journey from one gathering place to another in a game of Romans and Christians. Between cheese balls, movies, laughter, and very little sleep, they also made a striking connection: for many immigrants in our own time, the fear of being stopped, taken, or kept from reaching a safe place is not a game at all.



As we reflected together, the vulnerability of early Christians under empire opened into a deeper conversation about the vulnerability many families live with today. What stayed with me was the way our youth began to see that Christian faith is not only about believing certain things, but about learning to stand with people who are afraid, to notice who is at risk, and to become the kind of community where no one has to carry fear alone.

A special thank you to Tyler Swim, Jesse McClain, Megan Fuller, and Amber Burke for volunteering to make our lock-in happen.

~ John Kupar

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## Adult Education Task Force

Highland's Ministry Council has approved the formation of an Adult Education Task Force to make recommendations focused on growing and supporting adult education at Highland Baptist Church. The task force is looking to bring together members from a variety of ages and Bible study backgrounds. If you are interested in serving on the task force or would like to learn more, [please reach out to Elizabeth Howell](#) before May 1.

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## Highland's Orchestra Presents "A Classical Feast"



You are invited to the Orchestra's spring concert on Sunday, May 17, at 6:00 PM. The theme of the program is "A Classical Feast." We'll be presenting classics from a variety of times and places, including some of your favorites! So invite your friends and family and join us for a wonderful evening!

PS -- Bring something to write with.

~ Bruce Maples

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## Racing Louisville FC Pride Night is Coming Soon!





~ Paul Henderson

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## An Invitation to the Roots Bible Study Class

The Roots class is a creative, intimate space for learning deeply from each other while exploring the connections between our faith and the social, ecological, and economic systems in which we live. We value cultivating community engagement, healing, deep connection, and fun.

**Age:** 30's-40's

**Where:** The room to the left of the stage in Fellowship Hall.

**What's Next:** We have started a 4-5 week series based on Robin Wall Kimmerer's [\*The Serviceberry\*](#). Our discussions will center on how nature can influence our systems, values, and faith. Join us!

## Our Thanks to Chip Miller



We give thanks for Chip Miller's many years of faithful, caring teaching in the Generations Class. As Chip takes a break from teaching while he and Nancy move homes, we offer gratitude for Chip's leadership and celebrate the Generations Class' community, which enables all members to grow in faith and connect as a thinking, feeling, and healing community of faith.

~ Pastor Carol

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## Wednesday Night Dinners



**We hope you can join us for our two remaining Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners this semester!** 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 Menu:**

April 29: Pizza, Salad, Steamed Veggies, Dessert

**May Menu:**

May 6: Fried and Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

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 **A Note for Highland's Veterans**

One of Highland's veterans recently reached out to ask how many fellow veterans are part of our community of faith. We are exploring the possibility of getting Highland's veterans together for fellowship and support. You can reach out to [Carol Harston via email here](#).

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[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)

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 **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

**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>

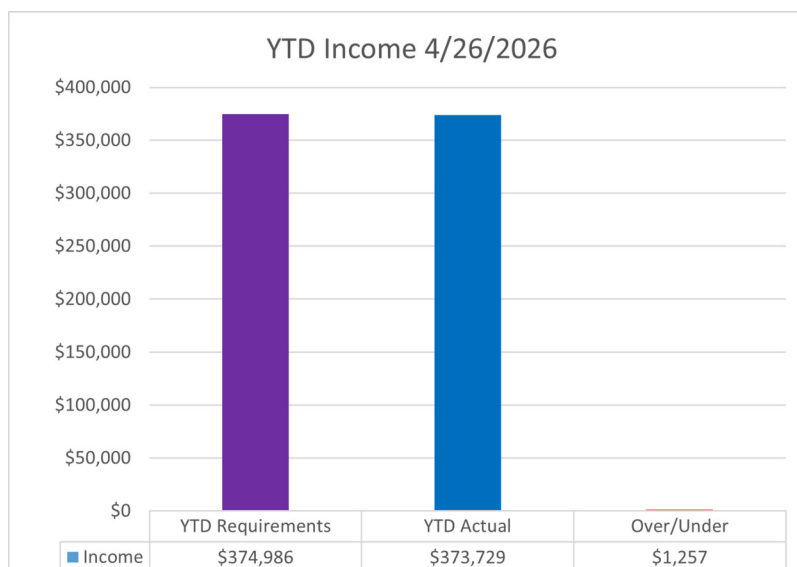
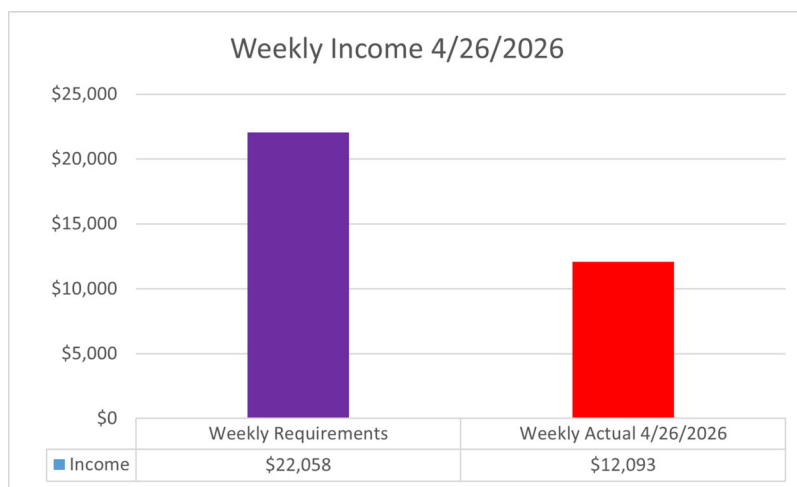
**Streaming  
Worship  
Links**



*Looking Ahead*

- April 29: Cloud of Witness at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary - Kim Fritschi, Steve Gowler, and Kim Shippey
  - May 3: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM on Zoom
  - 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
  - May 17: Highland Orchestra Spring Concert - "A Classical Feast" at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
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## Financial Update



**Please Note:**

Our comptroller, Lauren Swim, and former comptroller, Susan Pierce, have been working with the financial secretary, Leslie Morris, to complete the quarterly giving statements. We are asking for your

patience and understanding to help us make sure that your giving and pledge information is accurate. If you should have any questions or feedback, please email us at [accounting@hbclouisville.org](mailto:accounting@hbclouisville.org) or you may reach out to the church office at (502) 451-3575.

**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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