



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church May 19, 2026

Please note: the church offices will be closed next Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. Next week's newsletter will be published on Wednesday, May 27.

Summer at Highland: Grow, Serve, and Play!

As summer approaches, Highland's regular rhythms shift. While our worship schedule remains unchanged on Friday evening and Sunday morning, our Wednesday dinner and programming pause. Families with children gather for fellowship and fun at different locations each week (details coming soon!). Our choir meets for a shorter time in June and then takes a break from weekly practices in July.

As we move through the summer, we invite everyone to find ways to grow, serve, and play! We'll share lay-initiated ways to grow, serve, and play in the newsletter throughout the summer to encourage you to stay engaged in your faith journey during these warm months.

Grow: Several of our ministry groups have identified books they're reading over the summer. We'll share those titles with you in the newsletter.

Serve: The Anti-Racism Mission Team is offering care for KRM when they are in our buildings on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. See newsletter article below about this opportunity.

Play: Read all about Highland Hangouts below in this newsletter!

~ Carol Harston



Around Highland
May 17, 2026



Supporting Immigrants

For the last several years, clients of Kentucky Refugee Ministries have attended English classes held at our church three days each week. For the last three months, several Highland members have been at the church building during the hours the KRM clients are here to keep an eye out for officers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement—known as ICE—and to give support and a level of protection to the clients and to church staff.

We need more volunteers to fill the two-hour shifts on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings. If you are interested, you will need to participate in one of two trainings held Wednesday, May 27 at 6:00 PM and Sunday, May 31 at 7:00 PM, both in the Commons. The training will last about an hour. (You don't have to commit to being a volunteer to attend the trainings.)

If you have questions, you can ask members of the Anti-Racism Team who will be in the Commons after Sunday services, and you can sign up for one of the trainings then.

~ Nancy Goodhue





We're trying something new this summer: lay-led, informal social gatherings to create connections through play. Like an experiment, we're going to test it as the summer goes on to see what works and what we might try differently next summer.

Why?

- *HBC's Strategic Plan*: Highland's recently developed strategic plan identifies the need for lay-led structures to build a more robust community inside and outside the walls.
- *Power of Play*: From my years in youth ministry, I've learned that one of the best ways to foster a sense of community and belonging is to play together. Catherine Price says "true fun" comes from three elements: playfulness (not taking yourself too seriously), connection (sharing an experience with others), and flow (getting completely lost in the moment).
- *Summer Schedules*: During the church season, when our Wednesday night programming pauses, we've got more flexibility to identify many different ways to connect.

How?

- A layperson (either individually or with a partner) identifies an activity they'd like to host. Write a short description of the activity.
- Pick one date and a rain-backup date that work for you. [Email Cheryl Davis](#) to verify whether that works with the church calendar.
- Identify the following:
 - Any equipment and/or experience that will be needed, whether equipment will be provided, and whether instruction will be available for people wanting to learn.

- If you need a sign-up deadline because your activity requires advance planning (such as pairing for a game), set the deadline.
- If there is an age limit, we will note that anyone under 12 must have a parent present to participate.
- If there is a cost for participants.
- Email Cheryl the short description, date (and rain-backup date), details, and contact information.

Questions? Carol Harston, Paul Henderson, and Troy Burden are working through the details as we get Highland Hangouts up and running. Reach out to [Carol](#), [Paul](#), or [Troy](#) with questions and ideas!

Racing Louisville Pride Night Ticket Deadline Extended!



Highland Baptist Church at Racing Louisville FC Pride Night is coming up on Friday, May 29 at 8:00 PM at Lynn Family Stadium.

Because congregations are still purchasing tickets, Racing Louisville FC decided to hold the ticket link open for a bit longer. **You can still join us and other people from welcoming and affirming congregations across Louisville for a fun night of soccer, community, and Pride celebration.** [Here's the ticket link!](#)

At least 15 Highland folks are already planning to attend, and there's still time to join us. If you would like to sit near the rest of the group, it would probably be [best to email me](#), or text me at 502-803-7457 so I can help bunch seats together while seats are still available.

~ Alan Spade

Highland Veterans Gathering



A group of Highland veterans met with senior pastor Carol Harston to get acquainted and share experiences during past military service. Services represented included Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy. Another informal gathering is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 AM at Fante's Coffee, 2501 Grinstead Drive. All Highland veterans are invited.

Calling All Graduates!

As we are in graduation season, Highland would like to recognize those in our church family who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, certificate programs, or any other meaningful program of study. [Please send Cheryl Davis](#) the graduate's name, school or program, degree or area of study if applicable. We are grateful for the chance to celebrate the hard work, growth, and next steps of those connected to our community.

~ John Kuper

Highlights Classes



Over the past three weeks, 22 visitors and new members have gathered in the Highlights Class to share what brought them to Highland, a bit about their religious and spiritual background, and what they hope to give to and receive from this congregation.

We've talked about how finding a Bible study class and a way to serve are the best ways to find meaningful connection here. We've wondered what it means to be Baptist, what it looks like to participate in congregational polity, and we've explored the structures that undergird Highland's day-to-day functioning. Every week found us on holy ground, and we give thanks for Highland's Deacons and the New Members Ministry Group for hosting these meaningful sessions.

We look forward to two "Joining Sundays" set aside to welcome those who wish to become members of Highland—May 31 and June 7. One can join on any Sunday, but these days will allow folks to join alongside others attending the Highlights class or alongside a friend.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

[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>

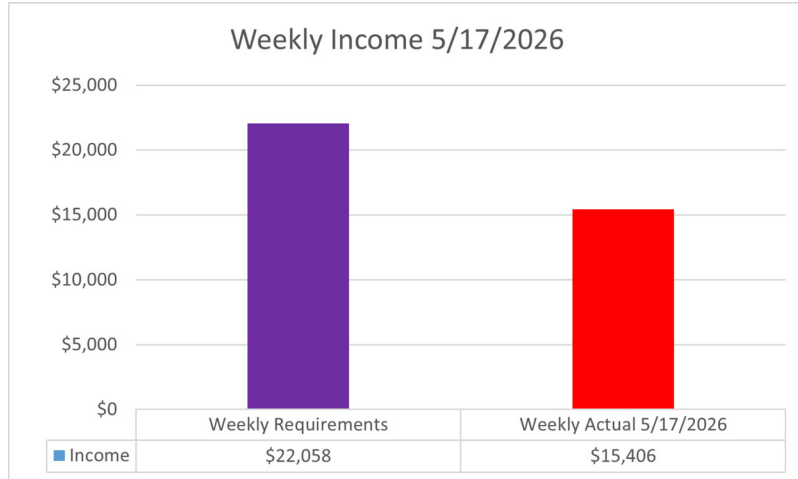
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

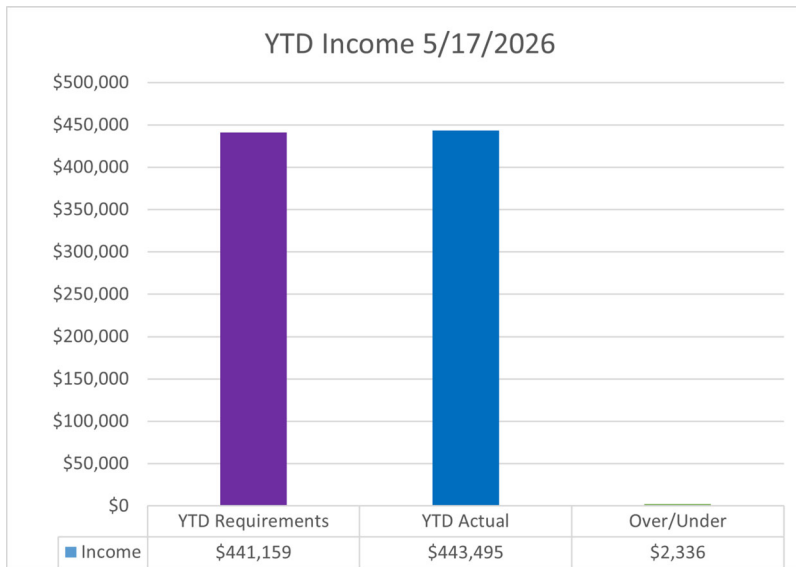




- May 27: Immigrant Support Training, 6:00 PM in the Commons
- May 29: Pride Night at Racing Louisville FC, 8:00 PM, Lynn Family Stadium
- May 31: Immigrant Support Training, 7:00 PM in the Commons
- June 6: Veterans Gathering, Fante's Coffee, 9:00 AM
- June 14: Pride Sunday at Highland
- June 20: Pride Parade and Festival

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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