



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church June 23, 2026

The Commons

Over the past month, I've begun sharing with staff and leadership the dreams that have been on my mind in these early months. Here are a few of those things:

- *Bolstering our faith formation and expression*: a "Highlights" short-term Bible Study for those new to faith, caring for exvangelicals, starting a "Faith and the Arts" ministry, exploring our use of parental language for God, deepening our confession of racial justice, and starting an adult short-term class to learn more about baptism
- *Caring for the eldest in our community*: visiting and listening to those who cannot make it to our building, and offering bereavement care
- *Expanding our city engagement*: getting to know local nonprofits, seeking hands-on, tangible mission opportunities, dreaming of interfaith work, and wondering about care for LGBTQ+ people not yet ready to walk into a church building
- *Strengthening our internal operations*: supporting lay leaders in the office, getting curious about socioeconomic diversity, building a staff structure that reflects our staff's gifts and the church's needs, and creating a regular system for reaching out to HBC people we haven't seen in a while
- *Loving our building*: wrapping up the HVAC project, preparing mentally for the projects to come, and considering how we can enhance the building's aesthetics as a hospitality and gospel-witness to visitors

As I type them all out, I can already think of more I didn't list. I'm eager to explore all of these, but I also know that all good things take time, and I'm just over 12 weeks into the job. As you read this list, do you find yourself intrigued and curious about getting involved? [Please email me here!](#) I'm hoping to start several brainstorming groups in the coming months, and I would love to include you.

There's a Swahili phrase that my family and I quote regularly, one our guides once shared with us as my dad and I hiked Mount Kilimanjaro in 2010: "*Pole, Pole,*" which means "Slowly, Slowly." Even as I catch glimpses of some of God's dreams for Highland, I trust that we "journey in stages," as we read in Genesis. Day by day, we show up and seek to be faithful in these hours, in this place, with these people.

Wherever you are today, may you journey in stages, trusting that you are right where you need to be.

~ Carol Harston



Deacon Nominees

Beginning in July, we will have the opportunity in worship to hear from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories. In the meantime, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter.

We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. **We will vote on the full slate of folks on July 5 (please note date change)** by paper ballot.



BOB CUNNINGHAM

I grew up Evangelical United Brethren church. Around age 15, my parents moved us to a Southern Baptist church. The support and encouragement of a loving youth group brought me out of my painfully shy side. Although my current theology differs greatly from that time, I am grateful for the foundation I gained as a teen. I've learned that questions are as valuable as answers—maybe more so.

I came to Southern Seminary in 1976, earned my M.Div degree and served as chaplain at Baptist Hospital East for nearly 35 years. I have been a member at Highland almost 30 years. I've taught the SALT class and for several years the Prodigals Bible Study. I chaired a pastor search committee. My most meaningful work at HBC has been facilitating the Cloud of Witness series.

I am glad to serve again as deacon and pray that my ministry as a deacon will offer this community even a small measure of the grace and love I've received as a member of Highland.



CHERYL PRIDDY

My spiritual journey began as an infant in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). My parents were faithful church members. I was baptized at 10 and deeply involved in that church as an adult until about 13 years ago, when I felt God calling me toward a more mission focused church. My best friend suggested Highland, and I began attending the early Sunday service. I sensed Highland was where God intended me to be.

It was difficult to leave the faith community that I was raised in but I made the decision to join Highland. I attend the Challengers Bible Study class, sing in the sanctuary choir, and participate in Jean Janes Women's Group. I previously served on Ministry Council and in the Faithful Giving Ministry Group.

I am grateful to be part of such a vibrant faith community that seeks to be Doers of the Word. I am honored to be nominated for Deacon and look forward to serving Highland and providing a deeper level of care to the congregation!

Highland Welcomes New Members



Clint Mattox



Gwen and Scout Gividen

Highland Hangouts

We're trying something new this summer: lay-led, informal social gatherings to create connections through play. To learn more about hosting a gathering or activity, [click here](#).



Croquet on the Lawn - June 25

Hosted by Norma Pendleton, enjoy some fun playing croquet or cornhole on the front lawn at Highland! This Thursday, June 25 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Norma will bring a cold treat to share with everyone. Sign up and bring a friend! [Click here to sign up.](#)

Hiking - June 27

Join us for a hike this Saturday, June 27 - **weather permitting!** Hosted by Roy Fuller, Phil Collier, Lauren Blackwell, and Diane Brewer, the hike is the 5 mile Chinquapin/Pawpaw loop at Turkey Run Park. Those interested will meet at the main parking lot located at the Seatonville Road entrance of Turkey Run Park at 9:00 AM. Diane Brewer is the contact at dk.brewer@icloud.com or text 502-396-8798. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Pickleball - June 28

Friends of all ages, if you love to play pickleball or if you've ever thought about learning, come out and join us! Hosted by Mary Cooksey and Tanya Cornely on Sunday, June 28 from 6:00-8:00 PM at Charlie Vettiner Park (5550 Charlie Vettiner Park Rd, 40299). If you have an extra paddle bring that along for any new players. The alternate rain date is Tuesday, June 30 (same time and location). [Click here to sign up.](#)

SALT on Tap - July 10

Join the SALT Bible study class for SALT on Tap! We will get together for fun and fellowship on Friday, July 10 at Noble Funk, located at 922 S 2nd St, from 6:00-8:00 PM. They have a nice food menu and there is plenty of parking. This hangout is hosted by Jennifer Baker. Please bring money and ID - they have food and drinks. Everyone welcome! (Parents must accompany children). [Click here to sign up.](#)

Indiana Backyard Potluck/Pool Party - July 10

Join host Carolyn King for an Indiana Backyard Potluck and Pool Party on Friday, July 10 from 6:00-9:00 PM. Location is 615 E. Maple in Jeffersonville. Bring a dish to share. Swimming is optional. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Sunday Afternoon High Tea - July 12

Enjoy an afternoon High Tea at the home of Troy Burden & Mike Mayo on Sunday, July 12 from 3:00-5:00 PM. Hot and iced tea options will be available as well as a selection of finger sandwiches and sweets. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Dungeons and Dragons - July 13

Steve Brown will host D&D **for beginners** on Monday, July 13, from 6:00 - 10:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for six to seven players. Come explore the world of the grandfather of fantasy role-playing games. Participate in a short adventure with characters provided. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Dungeons and Dragons - July 15

Steve Brown will host D&D **for experienced players** on Wednesday, July 15, from 6:00 - 10:00 PM in

Fellowship Hall for six to seven players. We will use the 2024 rules system in the world of Grayhawk setting. The forest of Vesve needs adventurers - will you answer the call? [Click here to sign up.](#)

Capoeira - July 16

Join us for Capoeira on Thursday, July 16 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Gazebo at Baringer Hill in Cherokee Park, hosted by Jessa Henry. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art with elements of dance & gymnastics that utilizes kicks & dodges. It's done to music and in addition to learning some movements, we will spend time learning some call and response songs in Portuguese and playing the different instruments. There's a little something for everybody! 100% beginner friendly! [Click here to sign up.](#)

Marching in the 2026 Pride Parade!



Our thanks to Carol Harston and Judy Taylor for the photos!

Highland's Youth and Children at Passport Camps

Highland's youth and kids are at Passport camps this week! Renee Purtlebaugh, Megan Fuller, Beth Hedges, Buddy Lee, and Ron Smith are with our kids at Berea College through Thursday. John Kupar, Tyler Swim, and Kelly Garrett are with our youth at Converse University (in South Carolina) through Friday. Please join us in prayer for our young people and adults as they seek to encounter Christ, embrace community, and extend grace to the world.



Passport's 2026 theme is Vamos! Let's Go! What makes you want to get up and go? What stirs something deep in your heart and pushes you to take the next step forward? Something inside is telling you that you were made for more. Following God is like running the most important race of your life—a race that's not about speed, but about purpose. You don't just show up; you prepare, you listen for God's direction, and you build strength through every challenge. God is calling you to join in making the world more like heaven—full of love, hope, and light. Are you ready to run? Vamos! Let's go.

~ Carol Harston

Senior Adult Trip to Huber's



The senior adult group had a wonderful time of fellowship and enjoyed good food at Huber's Family Restaurant on June 11. No one went home hungry for sure! The group will take a break during July and August, and then return to a full schedule of monthly activities in September. If you are interested in being apart of this beautiful group of people, make sure to check the newsletter for coming events!

~ Paul Henderson

Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children



Caring for Aging Parents

One of Highland's members recently reached out to inquire about gathering with others in our community of faith who are caring for aging parents. We are exploring the possibility of forming a group for fellowship and support. You can reach out to [Carol Harston via email here](#).

Walk for Peace This Saturday



Sponsored by



WALK FOR PEACE LOUISVILLE

JOIN THIS CITY-WIDE EVENT
TO USE OUR WORDS, OUR FEET,
AND OUR HOPE TO DECLARE
THAT LOVE TRANSFORMS!

Saturday,
June 27
9 – 11 am

Gathering outside
PCUSA
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202

[Register here](#) or call 502-614-5616

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>

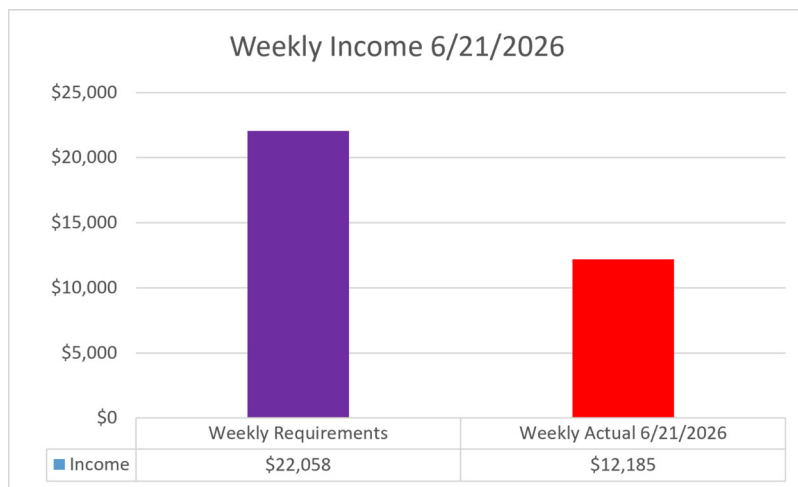
Streaming
Worship
Links

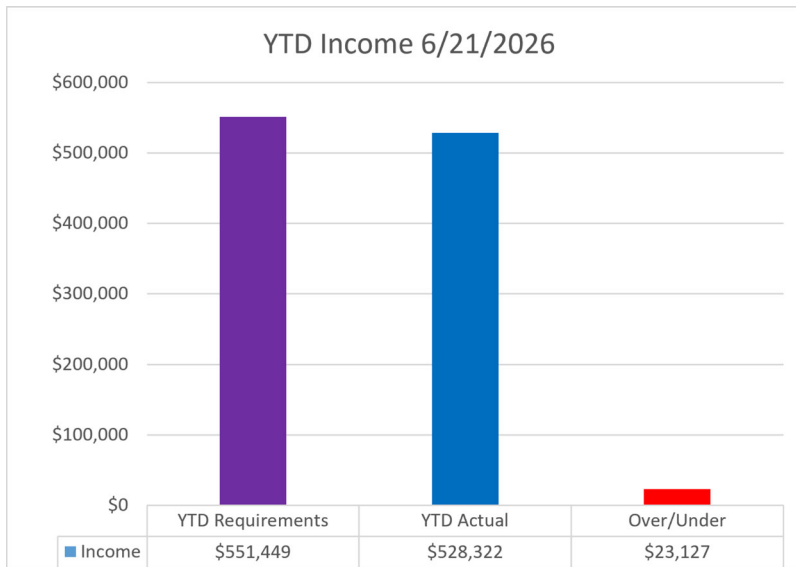


Looking Ahead

- June 24: Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children, Joe Creason Park, 6:00-7:00 PM
- June 25: Highland Hangout - Croquet/Cornhole on the Lawn, 6:30-8:00 PM
- June 27: Highland Hangout - Hiking at Turkey Run Park, 9:00 AM
- June 28: Highland Hangout - Pickleball, 6:00-8:00 PM
- July 5: Ballot vote on deacon nominees during 8:45 and 11:15 services
- July 10: Highland Hangout - SALT on Tap, 6:00-8:00 PM
- July 10: Highland Hangout - Indiana Backyard Potluck/Pool Party, 6:00-9:00 PM
- July 12: Highland Hangout - Afternoon High Tea, 3:00-5:00 PM
- July 13: Highland Hangout - Dungeons and Dragons for Beginners, 6:00-10:00 PM
- July 15: Highland Hangout - Dungeons and Dragons for Experienced Players, 6:00-10:00 PM
- July 16: Highland Hangout - Capoeira, 6:00-8:00 PM
- July 18: Highland Veterans Gathering, Commons, 9:00 AM
- July 19: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM via Zoom
- August 12: Wednesday night activities resume

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.

- Joshua Starnes, 44, killed May 30
- Devante Shields, 32, killed June 1

- Lavonta Churchill, 33, killed June 1
 - Vienna Peoples, 29, killed June 2
 - Labria Miller, 14, killed June 2
 - Clinton "CJ" Henderson, 44, killed June 4
 - Kevonte L. White, 27, killed June 6
 - Alfred Smith, 16, killed June 9
 - Martin Nitzken, Jr., 27, killed June 9
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