



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church June 30, 2026

The church offices will be closed on July 3
in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

The Commons

This morning, my phone buzzed with notifications while I sat in a staff meeting. As expected, the United States Supreme Court announced its decisions on court cases - rulings that either bring cheers or jeers, depending on the case and your political views. As I read about the decision allowing states to bar transgender athletes from girls' sports, one particular mom came to mind, someone I came to know a few years ago. I thought of her and wondered where she is today, how she received the news, and how she would share it with her daughter, whose future athletic participation will be affected.

What does it look like to be a community of faith in days like these? This weekend, we'll read Jesus' words from the Gospel of Matthew - "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I pray that we can be a place where all families can come to lay down their heavy burdens and find rest, especially when those burdens stem from the continued legislation against their human rights.

~ Carol Harston



Highland's Website

Check out the homepage of www.hbclouisville.org and admire the drone footage from inside the sanctuary. Many thanks to John Pacyga for providing the beautiful shot!

~ Walter McWhorter

Deacon Nominees

Beginning in July, we will have the opportunity in Sunday 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. The nominees are: Kathy Belcher, Casey Boggs, Bob Cunningham, Larry Davis, Joey Eubank, Kimbrough Gossett, Brooke Hasl, Cheryl Priddy, and Alison Schureck.



JOEY EUBANK

I was born in Atlanta and raised, after age 8, in Greenville, S.C. Though my parents were not religious and my childhood was difficult — my mother was mentally ill, and my sister and I spent our teenage years in a children's home — I always felt God's presence. "My grace is sufficient for you..."

After graduating from Winthrop College, I married and moved to Louisville, where joining Highland in 1983 became the best decision our family ever made. Through divorce and the challenges of raising two daughters alone, my Highland Church family was a wonderful support.

I earned my MSSW from U of L in 1999 and served as Director of HomeCare at ElderServe for 18 years. In retirement, I married longtime Highland member Procter Eubank — gaining two more daughters and three grandchildren!

During my time at Highland, I've taught Children's Bible Study, served three times as deacon, and participated in several Ministry Groups. I would be honored to serve in the Deacon Body again.



KIMBROUGH GOSSETT

I grew up in church and have been a regular attendee at one church or another my entire life. While my belief in who God is and who is worthy of God's love have grown over time (spoiler: it's everybody!), my desire to be part of a body of believers has remained.

I have been attending Highland for 5-ish years. I am a member of the Good Time Gospel Hour, volunteer in the nursery, and have walked with Highland in the Pride Parade several times.

A large part of what drew me to Highland is that it is a thinking feeling healing community that strives to be doers of the word, not hearers only. I appreciate that doubts and questions are openly welcome. As a new deacon, I hope to remind people that they are worthy of God's love exactly as they are.



ALISON SCHURECK

I have been a member of Highland Baptist Church for about 28 years and I have sung in the choir almost that entire time. Todd and I were married here and my children were raised here.

I love the community I have found as part of the SALT Bible Study class and Mission Minded Women. I have served in Children's Worship and the children's music program.

I believe this will be my fourth term serving as a deacon. I look forward to serving the congregation again in this way.

Grace Space Parking!



The parking place in front of the Education Building, formerly reserved for the senior pastor, has been named the "Grace Space" parking place. The sign reads "Reserved for volunteers, guests, and those needing a little extra help today." If that description fits YOU, on any day of the week or weekend, you're welcome to use the spot on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday Church News

Friday Church celebrated God's amazing and abundant love this June. The first Friday of the month, we celebrated community with grilled burgers, hot dogs, and lots of other food before the Friday service and then celebrated with communion during the service. Proclaimers during June included George Mayes (formerly of Quinn Chapel), Richard Lockette of St. Stephen, and our own Carol Harston. Musicians included Sally Evans, Chris Sanders and Mark Sanders (who have been with Friday Church since its beginning more than 20 years ago), Gloria McBee, April Morrow (from Quinn Chapel), and a host of wonderful singers.

God's love is expressed in many hues and colors. Many years ago, Roz Heinz was walking down the street, and saw Friday Church outside on the grounds and wondered what it was about. Roz found a community of faith and for many years helped foster that community (sometimes with the title "deacon" but mostly by just being herself). Please know that you, too, are welcome.

~ Bill Campbell

Friday Church



Youth Passport 2026: Vamos!

Our youth spent the week of June 21 to 26 at PASSPORTchoices at Converse University in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It was a full week of worship, Bible study, evening activities, church group devotions, laughter, conversation, and the kind of shared experience that helps young people grow in faith and community.



The theme for the week was “Vamos,” or “Let’s go,” with Hebrews 12:1 as the guiding verse: “So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us.” Throughout the week, students were invited to think about faith as something we practice, prepare for, and live out together.

Each day carried a different theme. On Day 1, the theme was “On Your Mark,” rooted in Jesus’ words from John 13:35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Day 2 was “Get Set,” drawing from Proverbs 24:27 and the importance of preparation. Day 3 was “Go,” shaped by Isaiah 1:17: “Learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.” The final full day was “Finish Line,” centered on Mark 6:31, where Jesus invites the disciples to come away and rest.



On Wednesday night, we had our church free night, where we visited Goodwill, got Cookout for dinner, and went to the Spartanburgers game.

We are grateful for the students who participated, the adults (Tyler Swim and Kelly Garrett) who gave their time and energy, and the congregation that helped make this trip possible. Thank you for praying for our youth and supporting the ministry that helps them grow in faith, friendship, and love. Vamos. Let’s go.

~ John Kupar

Reflections on Passport Kids

Imagine the scene with me. It’s the second full day of camp, and we’ve been talking about “getting set” as if you are running a race (e.g., on your mark, get set, go, cross the finish line). We’ve just left worship, where we’ve sung the familiar children’s song many of us learned as kids about the age of our campers, or even younger... “The wise person built their house upon the rock...the rains came down and the floods came up...and the house on the rock stood firm.”

Now we’re gathered in the basement of our dorm. Some kids are sitting at a high-top table, others are

sprawled across the floor, others are curled up in couches and chairs or on ottomans.

The conversation begins with wondering what our kids have learned about “getting set”—what does that mean? One shares that it means thinking about what you’ll do before you do it. Another shared that it meant going to Home Depot and getting all of your materials to build ahead of time.



From there, we moved into reflecting on what the story could mean for us. One of the kids ironically shouted out, “Don’t build a house on the beach!” While they meant it to be funny, suddenly we were on a muddier path than we’d been on before.

Having just been to the beach with my family, I instinctively pushed a bit: “Well, don’t folks who build their houses on the beach sometimes build the houses up on stilts to give them more stability?” Many nods around the room. We ended up talking about hurricanes and beach erosion and so much more. But then I wondered aloud with our kids if they knew what the word binary meant—some raised their hands as if to say yes, and others didn’t. I shared that binary in its most general context means “or” – meaning either this OR that, with no in between.

I pushed a little further: “So does it make someone foolish to build their house on sand if they don’t have access to the materials to build their house on rock?” Someone exclaimed, “Well, then they should go to Home Depot and get them.” “And if they don’t have the financial resources to do that?” I pushed back (along with pointing out there were no Home Depot’s in Biblical times).

The back and forth continued a bit as our kids started to realize the in between space in this story and how it might relate to the daily lives of people around them. Sometimes, it isn’t quite as clear as it first appears.



“So, what might it mean to “get set” or prepare for folks who might want to build their house on rock, but literally can’t?” I wondered.

And suddenly the Divine depth emerged. “Well, you could see what materials you do have and build the best thing you can on the sand,” someone replied. “And you could think ahead, and build your house as far away from the edge of the water as you could get,” said another.

As we’ve said in Highland’s worship a number of times recently, not all Biblical stories are binary tales of morality. Sometimes the waters are a bit muddier than they first appear. Camp is sometimes about keeping things simple; other times, it’s about working our abstract thinking muscles to realize “getting set” can sometimes be about thinking ahead and preparation for the reality before you, and other times it can be about the preparing for the ideal. Two things can be true.

Either way, Jesus calls us to be wise builders, wise thinkers, and wise companions tuned into God’s wisdom on this race that is life.

Many, many thanks to Megan Fuller, Beth Hedges, Buddy Lee, and Ron Smith who were my wise companions on this journey to camp! Their care and love for Highland’s children on this journey was beautiful to behold in every way.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

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](#).



Prickles, Purls, and Porch Talk - July 2

Hosted by Beth Hedges on the Prickle Porch

Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting, needlepoint, or other portable fiber arts project and join us for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and fellowship. Whether you're an experienced fiber artist or simply curious to learn, we'd love to have you join us. Bring a project, a friend, a snack, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of stitching and conversation

Thursday, July 2 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM (or whenever we call it quits!) at 309 Westport Drive, Louisville.

[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 - RESERVATIONS FULL

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.

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.](#)

Golf - July 18

Join us for a round of golf on Saturday, July 18, in the evening at Cherokee Golf Course. We'll book tee times a week in advance, **so please sign up by Friday, July 10**. Once we have tee times, we'll reach out with the specific arrival time at Cherokee. Hosted by Buddy Lee and Drew Harston. [Click here to sign up.](#)

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](#).

[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>

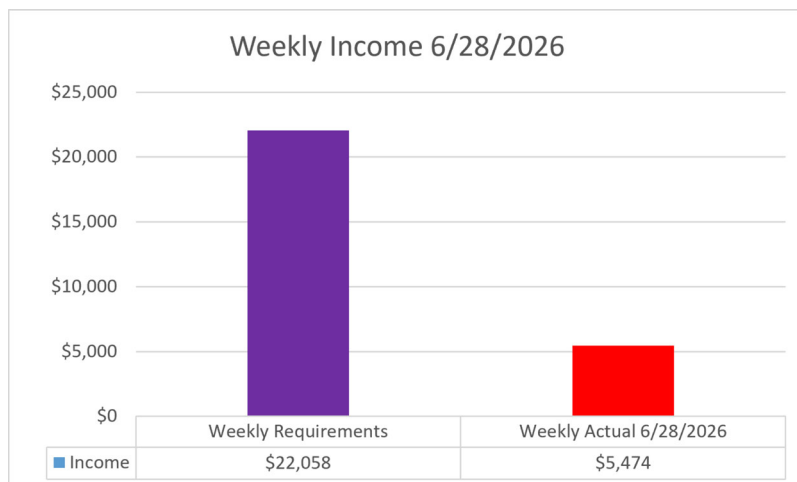
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

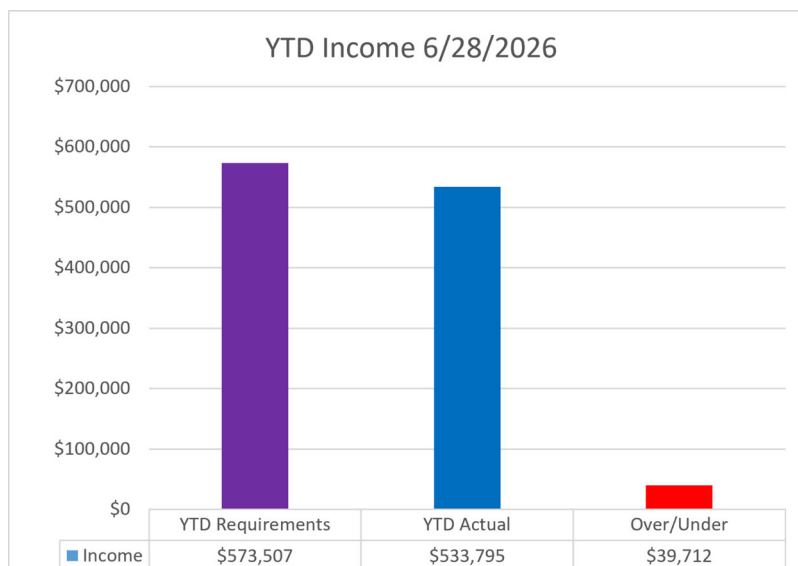




- July 1: Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children, Comfy Cow, 6:00-7:00 PM
- July 2: Highland Hangout - Prickles, Purls, and Porch Talk, 4:00-7:00 PM
- July 5: Ballot vote on deacon nominees during 8:45 and 11:15 services
- July 10: Highland Hangout - SALT on Tap, 6:00-8:00 PM
- July 10: Highland 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 18: Highland Hangout - Golf, Cherokee Park
- 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.



Copyright © 2026 Highland Baptist Church, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).