



## The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church July 21, 2026

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### The Commons

Back in June, when Al Mohler spoke out (again) against women in ministry, I invited us to shift our attention from the pulpit to the women and children whose health and safety at home are affected whenever misogyny runs rampant throughout the church. To shift the spotlight, we announced that Highland would give \$2,500 from our Mission and Justice funds to Family Scholar House, run by Highland's own Cathe Dykstra, which assists families who have experienced persistent poverty, unstable housing, and domestic violence.

Since sharing this news, we are humbled to report that people from within Highland and beyond its walls donated an additional \$3,525 to accompany our gifts. This week, we will mail a check to Family Scholar House for \$6,025. As we send it, we remember that Jesus calls us beyond the Baptist battles and into places where people are suffering the real-life consequences of traumatizing theology.

Rooted and grounded in love, we are God's people, persisting in the holy work of nurturing small seeds sown with love. Sharing this holy work with you is the greatest privilege.

~ Carol Harston

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## Highland Welcomes New Members



**Diane Bricker and Daniel Osborne joined Highland on July 19.**

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## Quarterly Church Conference Report

There was a Quarterly Church Conference (QCC) meeting last Sunday at 4:00 PM, where we gathered via Zoom to conduct church business and hear updates. The meeting began with Bruce Maples being nominated and unanimously approved as moderator, followed by approval of the agenda and minutes from last quarter. Paul Henderson presented the membership report showing recent additions including multiple new members who joined between May and July.

Vaughn Bell provided an update from the Congregational Engagement Ministry Group, reporting progress on groups including youth ministry rebuild and new member additions. Walter McWhorter presented the Sacred Space Project update, noting the project was 95% complete with final testing and balancing reports pending, and mentioned that the contractor expressed appreciation for hiring a Black-owned business. Justin Boldt delivered the finance report, highlighting that the \$333,000 bank loan for the Sacred Space project had been fully paid off, leaving only about \$400,000 in remaining payments to be made from church reserves.

The Adult Education Task Force report was presented by Carol Harston, who explained their work on researching and gathering data about Sunday morning Bible study needs and teacher recruitment openings. The conversation ended with Carol sharing updates about Highland hangouts and an upcoming HVAC project celebration tentatively scheduled for October.

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## Advocacy Camp Reflection

If you ask any of our children who attended Advocacy Camp what our week was about, you'll likely get a variety of responses.



They might tell you about Wonder World, a creation of their own making where we invited them to create a "wonder corner" with various materials and objects where they could practice wondering about many things, including artistic renderings of the story of the bent woman, the blind man by the pool of Bethesda, or the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him through the roof to see Jesus. In the end, it became their world complete with multiple cities (e.g. Rainyville, Sunnyville, Middleville, and Nightville) and a space of adventure and imagination.



They might tell you about tending the garden on the playground—the heat and humidity that had us all sweating profusely, the tiny stinging bugs that plagued a few of us multiple times, spreading the bags of dirt and adding to our raised beds, removing the weeds, digging holes and loosening the roots, planting basil and lemon verbena and tomato plants.



They might tell you how seriously they took creating cards to send to our church members who just can't get to church as much anymore, if at all, or folks managing some intense health situations even if they are able to attend.



They might tell you how they interviewed our office staff and volunteers, practicing what it means to get to know other people we don't yet know.



Perhaps they might share the most in-depth conversation of the week where we even stepped into the reality that wondering without context can be dangerous, as Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche shares about in her 2009 Ted talk entitled, "The Danger of a Single Story." Together, we watched the first 10 minutes and wondered about moments when people assume we are one thing, when we are actually something else, something more. These are some of our children's reflections:

- People think I'm only American, when I'm also Japanese.
- People think I'm a lot crazy, when I'm only a little crazy.
- People think I'm [my twin], when I'm really [me].
- People think I was born in Kentucky, but I was born in North Carolina.



Or perhaps they would tell you all about our open-ended, process art where they had the opportunity to reflect on each day's theme and all of its content and respond in some way through watercolor, clay, and any other art medium you can imagine. To see their artistic renderings of our week together, visit their art gallery located in the Commons outside the sanctuary any time between now and August 2.

For wonder that was the root of love and growth during our week together, we say, "Thanks be to God."

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

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## Highland Hangouts

Here are a few photos from the last of our Highland Hangouts! We hope these beautiful times of fun and fellowship have kept you connected to new and old Highland friends over the busy summer. Stay tuned

for more joy-filled events headed your way this fall!!

~ Troy Burden and Paul Henderson



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## Deacon Faith Stories

During July, our congregation has the opportunity in Sunday worship to hear from those who have been elected to serve as deacons as they share their faith stories.

We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. Our newly elected deacons are: Kathy Belcher, Casey Boggs, Bob Cunningham, Larry Davis, Joey Eubank, Kimbrough Gossett, Brooke Hasl, Cheryl Priddy, and Alison Schureck.

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## Highland's Generations Class Ready for a New Chapter



Highland's Generations Class is looking for people willing to serve as teachers for its long-standing group. Jim Hawkins writes the following about his beloved class:

"Generations says we have always been a mix of ages, experience, and faith traditions. We have learned and been enriched by this variety. Class sessions are engaging and insightful. Compassionate in caring about each other. Shared stories add familiarity and understanding. Age has bred resilience and wisdom. Connections with each other add strength and endurance over some 40+ years of friendship. We have

always benefited by learning more about our faith experiences and from the teachings and model of the Christ and awareness of Spirit and Creator surrounding all of life. We are a welcoming group striving to be blessing givers.

We have grown in faith and fellowship with teachers who bring these features of personhood:

- Presents maturity of experience and learning.
- Enjoys general good health and positive outlook.
- Well-rounded Bible knowledge and always a growing appreciation for the Christ's teachings and life.
- Able to use teaching resources that deepen our HBC understandings of faith, scripture, life, and community.
- Clear presentations in class that allow interaction with members. Humor, well-placed, adds flavor. We are an easy bunch!"

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## Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children



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## Small Group for Those Caring for Aging Parents

On Tuesday, August 4, at 5:00 p.m., we invite anyone caring for aging parents to meet in the Commons at Highland. This group will be similar to the Veterans Group that met in May, offering a space for people in

our community of faith who share a common experience to gather, support one another, and build fellowship. To learn more, [email Carol](#).

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## Save the Date!

Join us in celebrating Gather Round as we worship together and kick-off the fall semester on Sunday, August 9. During worship, we will officially welcome our new Kindergarteners and recognize our 6th graders who have recently joined the youth group. After the 11:15 worship service, we will enjoy picnic lunches on the lawn. Stay tuned for sign ups!



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[Click Here for Church Signup Links](#)

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**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>

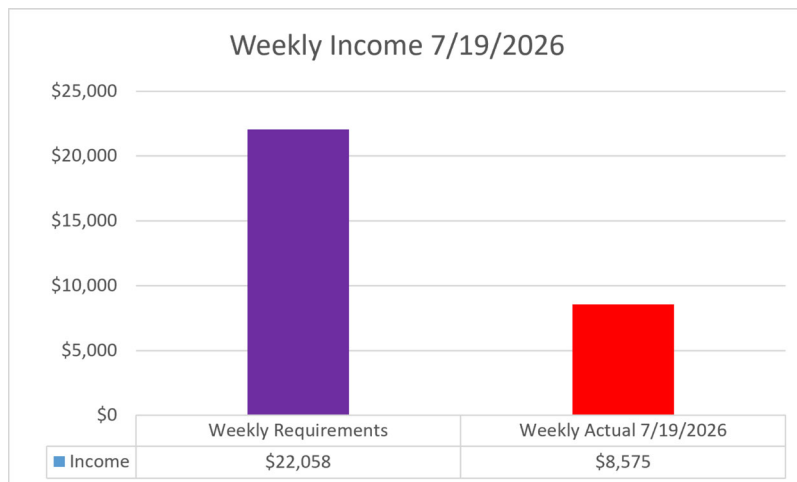
**Streaming  
Worship  
Links**

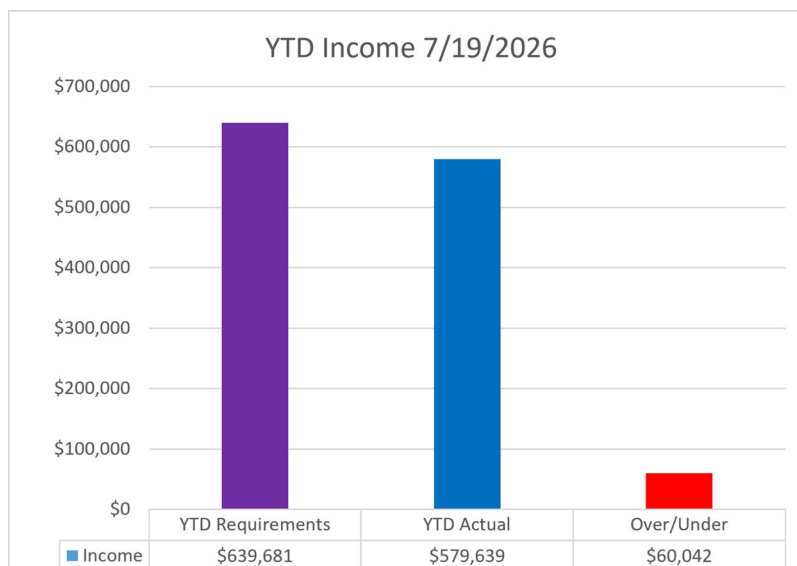




- July 22: Youth Trip to Holiday World  
Summer Fun Crawl for Families with Children, Gelato Gilberto, 6:00-7:00 PM
- August 4: Caring for Aging Parents Gathering, 5:00 PM, Commons
- August 9: Gather Round Sunday - stay tuned for signups!
- August 12: **Wednesday Night Dinner and Programming resumes!**
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## 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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