



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church July 28, 2026

The Commons - A Note from John

Summer Youth Reflection

As I sat in the hallway of a dorm at Converse University in Spartanburg, South Carolina, during Passport Youth, listening to the giddy squeaks reverberating from the boys' rooms, I could not help but recognize the importance of such a trip. I have no idea what had caused the excitement that night. It may have been a joke, an unexpected discovery in someone's suitcase, or simply the release of energy that comes when teenagers are supposed to be settling down. Whatever it was, the laughter spilling into the hallway was a reminder that something meaningful was happening. Youth ministry is often described through programs, lessons, and events. We list what we did, where we went, and how many people attended. This summer, that list is especially full. We hiked at Clifty Falls, tried disc golf, traveled to South Carolina for Passport, gathered for a pool party, and spent a day together at Holiday World. But the importance of these experiences cannot be measured only by the calendar.

A New Call and Continued Connection

Following the congregation's vote at St. John United Church of Christ this past Sunday, I am preparing to begin serving as their new pastor. My final Sunday in worship at Highland will be August 23. I am grateful, however, that this new call will not mean an immediate end to my ministry with Highland's youth. During this interim season, I will continue to be present with them on Wednesday nights and at occasional youth events, though I will no longer be part of Highland's regular Sunday worship and programming. That continued connection feels especially meaningful after a summer like this one. These months have

reminded me how much trust is built over time and how much formation takes place in moments that cannot be planned or measured.

The Work of the Whole Church

Across all these experiences, I was reminded that youth ministry is about creating places where young people can belong while they are becoming who they are. But creating those places cannot be the responsibility of youth leaders alone. The work belongs to the whole church. Young people need more than a program designed for them. They need a congregation willing to know them. They need adults who learn their names, ask about their lives, listen without rushing to correct them, and notice when they are absent. They need people beyond their parents and youth leaders who will celebrate their gifts, take their questions seriously, and remind them through consistent presence that they are part of the church now, not merely its future.

Not everyone can hike a trail, sleep in a dorm, play disc golf, or spend a day at an amusement park. But everyone can help create a church in which young people know they are seen. That may mean starting a conversation on a Sunday morning, attending something in which youth are participating, volunteering when an opportunity arises, or simply remaining curious about the people they are becoming. The church goes alongside its youth when it refuses to leave their formation to a handful of adults. It goes alongside them when their joys, questions, doubts, struggles, and ideas are welcomed into the life of the whole congregation.

Sometimes that formation sounds like a thoughtful question during Bible study. Sometimes it is a young person trying something new, deciding it is not for them, or discovering that they want to keep going. And sometimes it sounds like giddy squeaks coming from a dorm room long after everyone was supposed to be quiet. Thanks be to God for all of it.

~ John Kubar

A Note from the Personnel Ministry Group

On behalf of the Personnel Ministry Group, I celebrate with John Kubar and his family as he accepts the pastorate of St. John UCC. John has been and continues to be a gift to our youth and the larger congregation. We are profoundly grateful for his ministry with us and for the difference he has made. We are also grateful for his willingness to continue that ministry on Wednesday nights and through youth activities outside of Bible Study while we embark on the search for a new Associate Pastor for Youth. Personnel will be working with Carol Harston to prepare a job description to discuss and approve at our September meeting and then with Ministry Council to form a Search Committee.

~ Kathey Golightly Sanders



 Join Us for Gather 'Round!



Join us in celebrating Gather 'Round as we worship together and kick-off the fall semester on Sunday, August 9. During 11:15 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. Meals are \$7.00 each with a family maximum of \$21.00. [You may pay online here](#) or by cash or check at the event on August 9. [Please sign up here to place your meal order](#). Of course, you are also welcome to bring your own lunch!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners Begin August 12!

We hope you can join us for Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners! 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 make standing reservations or make them weekly by emailing [Leslie Morris here](#) or calling her at 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](#), or by check or cash at the door. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship!



August Menus:

August 12: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert

August 19: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

August 26: Mexican Casserole, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Chips & Salsa, Dessert

Volunteers still needed:

Bring Dessert (1 more volunteer needed) Provide 3-4 dozen servings of dessert. They can be prepared at church in our new convection oven (coming soon!) or brought to church by 4:30 PM on Wednesday.

Dry Dishes (4 more volunteers needed) Help with dish drying and cleanup. Work begins around 5:45 PM.

 Highland Hangouts

Here are a few photos from the last of our summer Highland Hangouts! We hope these beautiful times of fun and fellowship have kept you connected to new and old Highland friends over the past several weeks. Our next hangout will be Beer and Hymns on Sunday, August 30 from 6:00-7:30 at Trellis Brewing. Stay tuned for others coming this fall!

~ Troy Burden and Paul Henderson



Deacon Faith Stories

During July, our congregation has had 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.

Peace Walk Coming Soon



Sponsored by

 **DREPUNG GOMANG**
Center for Engaging Compassion

 Nonviolent
Louisville

WALK FOR PEACE
LOUISVILLE

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

**Saturday,
Aug 22
9 – 11 am**

Gathering outside
PCUSA
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202

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](#).

[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>

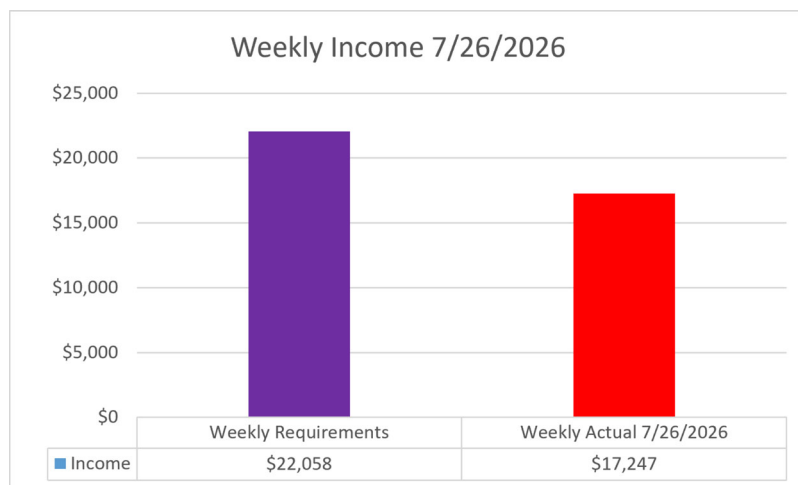
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

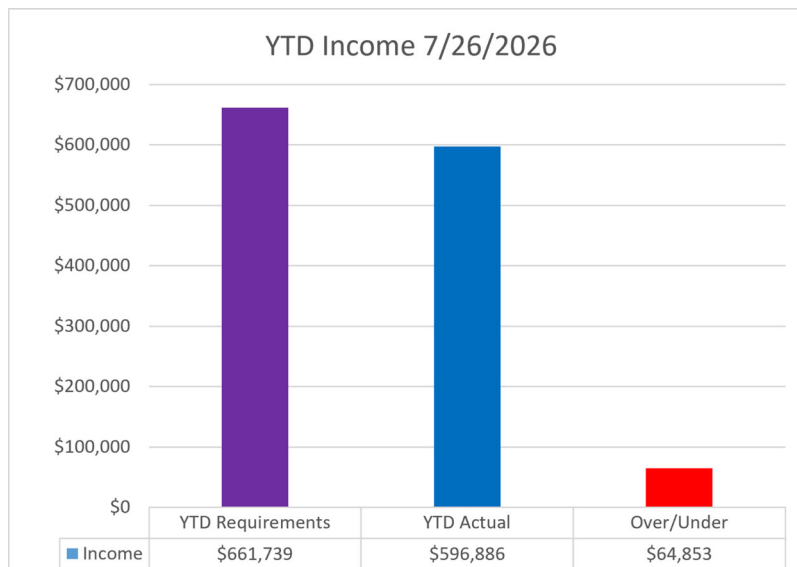




- August 4: Caring for Aging Parents Gathering, 5:00 PM, Commons
- August 9: **Gather 'Round Sunday!**
- August 12: **Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner and Programming resumes!**
- August 15: Highland Veterans Group, 10:00 AM in the Commons
- August 28-29: Deacon Retreat, General Butler State Park
- August 30: Deacon Ordination Service, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary
Highland Hangout - Beer and Hymns, 6:00-7:30 PM, Trellis Brewing
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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.

- Jahlil Pierre Brown, 14, killed July 11
- Maurice Gasaway, Jr., 53, killed July 12

- Giovani Castillo Garcia, 28, killed July 19





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