



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 11, 2026

The Commons

What's curious about this role is that my working hours blend deeply sacred moments with holy *work*. The church doesn't magically come together; it requires devoted time and intense labor. My days regularly weave between holy interactions and emails, phone calls, meeting plans, and more meetings. The newsletter offers only a small glimpse of what's going on at Highland, but if you were a fly on the wall in Highland's offices and meetings, you would see that there are a multitude of initiatives underway in our sacred space. I confess I started writing about many of these initiatives and found that this article was too lengthy for a newsletter. Instead of outlining all the holy work bubbling up at Highland, I offer just one.

This morning, my Strategic Planning notes sit on my desk after a delicious meal and a lively meeting last night. You were on our minds at that meeting. Their work reflects the hours they spent listening to you in congregational and small-group conversations, as well as one-on-one interviews. I shared what I've been hearing from you over the past four months, and we dreamed about how our strategic plan can help Highland move forward in faith in the coming year.

As God is initiating much holy work in our midst, we must remember who we are and what is ours to do. God is sowing seeds and calling us to grow nourishment for a hungry world; *therefore*, we are developing deep roots, seeking to be faithful in small acts, and sharing our lives. We need not rely on ourselves alone. The church doesn't succeed based solely on our effort. The church is where God is helping us be a glimpse of God's kin(g)dom here on earth.

We are a tree planted by water who need not fear on these hot days. God satisfies our needs in parched places, transforming us into a well-watered garden whose springs of water never fail. For this good news, we all say, "Thanks be to God."

~ Carol Harston



Wednesday Night Adult Classes this Fall

We look forward to gathering with adults of all ages in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:15 p.m., for community prayer, faith formation, and faith expression. Below is our initial set of classes coming this fall.

- August 12: Small Acts. Deep Roots. Shared Life with Carol Harston (Faith Formation)
- August 19: Cloud of Witness with Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- August 26: Exploring Parental Language for God with Carol Harston (Faith Formation)
- September 2: Immigration in our City with Immigration Team (Mission & Justice)
- September 9: Navigating HBC Finances with Finance Ministry Group (Congregational Life)
- September 16: Seeing (Faith & the Arts) with Bill Campbell (Faith and the Arts)
- September 23: *Open Space, looking for teacher*
- September 30: No Wednesday Night Programming due to JCPS Fall Break
- October 7: Cloud of Witness with Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- October 14: Marking Completion of Sacred Space Campaign with Walter McWhorter and Carol Harston (Congregational Life)

A Look Back at Gather Round!



Many thanks to Marilyn Whisler who coordinated our delicious picnic lunches and to Becky Biery and Kim Waller for helping her prepare them.



Children's Choirs Resume This Week



It's time to fill Highland's second floor with the sounds of children *singing*! From walking toddlers holding the hand of a parent to the confidence of a fifth grader remembering past music skills, our top floor holds the high energy, movement, noise, and music making from both children and adults each Wednesday, 6:00-7:15 p.m. Come and join in the fun!

Fliers have been sent to families but if you didn't receive yours, please contact [Kathy Collier](#), Children's Choir Coordinator, for all the important information and mark your calendars for tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

This Fall at Highland: Rooted

Small Acts. Deep Roots. Shared Life.

Throughout the fall, you will be invited to join us in recognizing how we feast on the faithfulness of past generations, sow seeds for the generations to come, and establish deep connections by participating in small acts of faithfulness together. We are rooted in the love that sustains us and in all that has been given to us. Look for opportunities to connect with our theme in various ways throughout the year.

*"Blessed are those who trust in God, whose hope is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought, it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit."
~ Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners Resume This Week

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](#) anytime 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:

Please contact [Kathy Belcher here](#) if you can help!

5 dish dryers needed from approximately 5:45 to 6:45PM

- 2 for 1st week of each month
- 1 for 3rd week of each month
- 2 for 4th week of each month

Kitchen Updates!



We have a new stove and ovens in the Fellowship Hall kitchen! The previous equipment was purchased in the 1950's and has served the church well over the past seven decades or so, but the time came to replace them in favor of something a bit more reliable. Many thanks to Kathy Belcher and Geoff Hale for working out what we needed and working out the logistics of purchasing and securing the delivery of the equipment.

~ Walter McWhorter

Peace Walk on August 22



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

Volunteer Painters Needed

The Property and Space group is recruiting volunteers to help paint the chair rail in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 29 at 9:00 AM.



As you can see, the chair rail is doing its job and is getting scuffed. We need Frog-tapers and painters. Please let [John Pacyga](#) or [Mark Sanders](#) know so they can plan accordingly. Thank you!

Beer and Hymns

If you can help with set up or clean up, OR if you would like to learn more about being a song leader or becoming more involved with Beer and Hymns, email [Andrew Schaftlein here](#).

BEER* & HYMNS

Louisville

*Drinking isn't necessary to feel the spirit, but it sure may help!



AUG 30, 2026
5:30-7:00 PM
(UPDATED TIME!)
TRELLIS BREWERY

Hosted this time by
Highland Baptist Church



This event's nonprofit partner is La Casita Center. We'll pass the offering plate and 100% of the money collected will go to them. Come learn more about their mission and how to get involved.

If your congregation would like to host our next Beer and Hymns, come see us at this one and let us know!

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>



Looking Ahead

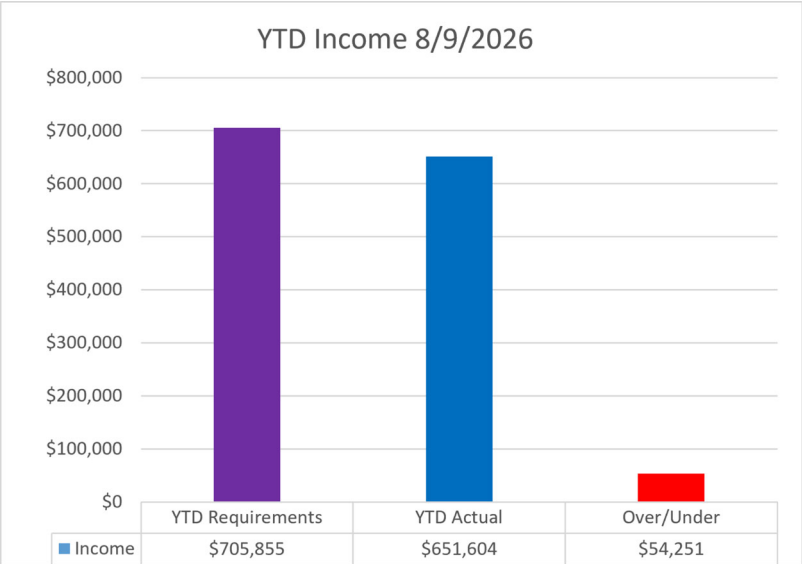
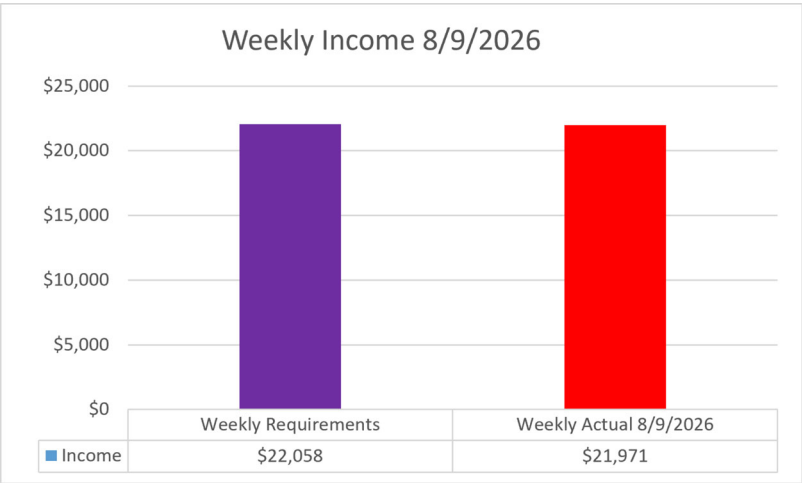
- August 12: **Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner and Programming resume!**
August 15: Highland Veterans Group, 10:00 AM in the Commons
August 19: Cloud of Witness, 6:15 PM, Sanctuary
August 28-29: Deacon Retreat, General Butler State Park
August 30: Deacon Ordination Service, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary
Beer & Hymns, 5:30-7:00 PM, Trellis Brewing
September 13: Installation Service for Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Carol Harston, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary
October 9-11: Women's Fall Retreat, contact Ginger Miller to sign up - 502-599-6569
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Thank You, Highland!

Thank you so much for praying for me for the past five years. Given my diagnosis of late stage ovarian cancer, I am blessed to be here, and I am doing well. All praise and glory to God for this healing, and sincere thanks to each of you who have beseeched the Lord on my behalf. I am humbled and grateful.

~ Janet Howell, Elizabeth Howell's mom

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.

- Da'Jon Anthony Hayes-Burr, 15, killed July 25
 - Bilal Mbeirick, 32, killed August 1
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