



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 18, 2026

The Commons

Three things this Tuesday afternoon that I want to share:

Armelle Bondonga is on our minds this week after we learned from Ryan Davis, one of Armelle's high school teachers, that she had been detained by ICE. Armelle was an active community leader, a wife, and a mother. We are discussing how Highland's Immigration Team might participate in justice efforts for Armelle. [More information on Armelle's case can be found here.](#)

On Sunday, I offered a pastoral prayer inspired by my time listening to those in our faith community who are caring for aging parents. [You can find the pastoral prayer here.](#) As I've mentioned here before, I'm open to gathering others around other life stages or life experiences if there is interest. Recently, I talked with someone about the possibility of hosting a conversation with people who are feeling out of sorts with faith - those who find themselves in a new life season where they don't "feel" faith as they used to, or who are frustrated that it doesn't come easily to them (compared to how they perceive it does for others). Would anyone else identify with that feeling and be interested in talking about it? [Email me if you're interested](#), and we can go from there.

Over the next three weekends, my sermons will explore the question: *What kind of church does Jesus want us to be?* We'll wonder together: What kind of person does Jesus lift up for us to emulate (Aug 23)? What obstacle impedes the church's progress (Aug 30)? How do we handle internal conflict (Sept 6)?

This we know for sure: we believe the church Jesus wants us to be is one that includes you. Your voice and your faith are important to our life as a community of faith. Thank you for journeying in faith with us.

~ Carol Harston



Highland Welcomes New Members



**The Beasley Family joined Highland on August 16
Chelsea, Mike, Ava, and Michael**

 **Save the Date!**

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 19: Cloud of Witness with Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith) - Sanctuary
- 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 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)

Cloud of Witness Series Continues



Join us this Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary for the next session of our Cloud of Witness series. Our speakers are Georgianna Miller, Scott Schaflein, and Kim Waller. Come hear stories of their faith journeys as we continue this beloved program. We are in our ninth year of the series with plans to continue indefinitely. Hope you will join us!

~ Bob Cunningham

A Look at Our First Wednesday Night Back!



Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

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 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

If any of these items look familiar, please claim them from the kitchen pantry.



 **Food is Running Low at Highlands Community Ministries**

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL TO

PACK THE PANTRY



Scan to give online

Items Needed Most:

- **Proteins:** soups and chilis with meat, canned chicken, canned tuna.
- **Breakfast:** cereal, oatmeal, granola bars.
- **Milk for cereal:** shelf-stable boxed milk.
- **Cooking basics:** rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cooking oil.
- **Seasonings and baking:** salt, pepper, basic spices, sugar, flour.
- **Comforts that matter:** coffee and tea.
- **Family staples:** peanut butter and jelly.
- **Household and personal care:** dish soap, period products.
- **Celebrations:** cake mix and frosting for birthdays.



If you are unable to bring food items, consider giving online. It allows us to buy most-needed items in bulk.



Highlands
Community
Ministries
grow. heal. play.

PLEASE DROP ITEMS OFF AT 1228 E BRECKINRDIGE ST LOUISVILLE, KY 40204
DROP OFFS ACCEPTED 9AM TO 4PM MONDAY - FRIDAY | (502) 451-3695 X260
TMURPHY@HCLLOUISVILLE.ORG

Peace Walk on August 22



WALK FOR PEACE LOUISVILLE

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

Sponsored by



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!

~ The Property and Space Team

Interfaith Vigil in Jeffersonville



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!

Senior Adult Potluck Luncheon in September

Join us on Tuesday, September 8 at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck luncheon! Bring a side dish or dessert to share and Highland will provide the meat. Entertainment will be provided by Ron Creager (see his bio below). [Please email](#) or call Paul Henderson at 502-451-3735 to let him know you're planning to attend.



Ron Creager is an American pianist, composer, and musical director with a career spanning over five decades. Based near Louisville, Kentucky, he is well known for his work as a cruise ship pianist, a hotel lounge performer, and a long-time musical director for cabaret artist Toni Lamond and her sister, pop artist Helen Reddy.

Johnson Lecture Series September 19

William M. Johnson Lecture Series

COURAGE AND FAITH IN A TIME OF AUTHORITARIANISM



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**REV. PAUL
BRANDEIS
RAUSHENBUSH**

President of Interfaith Alliance

 **SEPTEMBER 19**

 **2:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

 **CRESCENT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
2800 FRANKFORT AVE., LOUISVILLE, KY**

WITH GUEST PANELISTS



**MARK WINGFIELD,
MODERATOR**
Executive Director and
Publisher, Baptist News
Global.



**REV. DR. LAUREN
JONES MAYFIELD**
Executive Director,
Center for Interfaith
Relations.



DR. DARVIN ADAMS
Author and Professor
of Theology, Simmons
College of Kentucky
and Turner Theological
Seminary.



HON. GREG FISCHER
Entrepreneur and
Former Louisville
Mayor, 2010-2023.



PROF. DAN CANON
Civil rights lawyer,
educator, and writer.
Professor of civil
procedure, Louis D.
Brandeis School of Law.

**REGISTER
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>

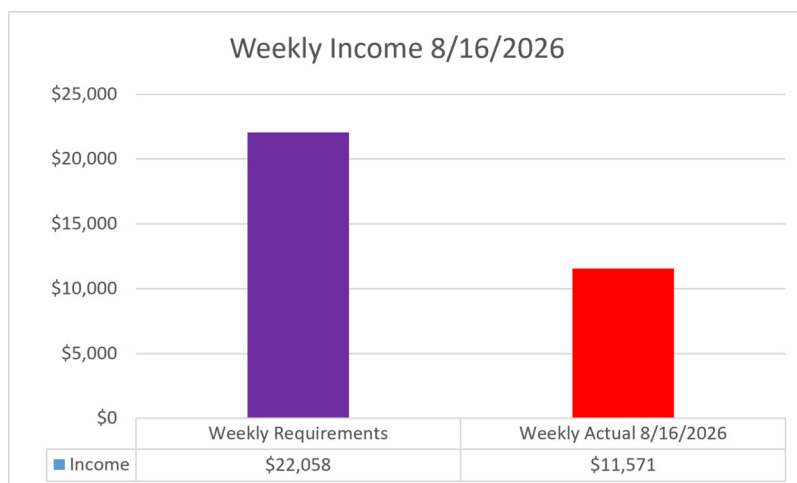


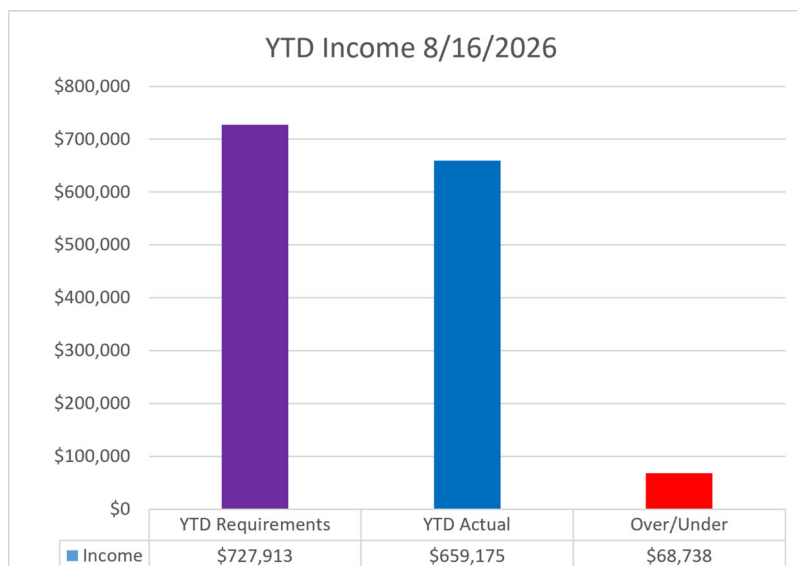
Looking Ahead

- August 19: Cloud of Witness, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary - Georgianna Miller, Scott Schafflein, and Kim Waller
- 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 8: Senior Adult Potluck Luncheon, 12:00 Noon, Fellowship Hall
- 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



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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