



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church August 25, 2026

Rooted for What's Next: Faithful Giving Season Begins

New beginnings and new opportunities abound at Highland Baptist Church! This is the season to prepare for what lies ahead by establishing roots for our church's future through faithful giving. We are entering the commitment season, when we ask for 2027 pledges: fiscal IOUs that help guide the church's financial planning.



In the coming weeks, you will receive a brochure in the mail and hear from some of your church family in

worship about why they give and what giving means to them. We hope you will be inspired to prayerfully consider what you can contribute.

The activities and programs that make HBC special, along with the beautiful facilities and grounds we love, require people and materials that come at a cost. To keep Highland healthy, we must care for it from the very roots, which means faithful giving. Please prayerfully consider what your contribution might be for the coming year.

~ Faithful Giving Ministry Group

(Thomas Bolton, Kelsey Grizzle, Drew Harston, Tracy Holladay, Hollie Spade)



Highland Welcomes New Members



Renee Folger



Nancy Jurgevich

You Are Invited!



You are invited to join us this September as Carol Harston is installed as our Senior Pastor. It will be a momentous occasion, as all the living Senior Pastors in Highland's history plan to return for this joyous day: Paul Duke, Phil Christopher, Joe Phelps, and Mary Alice Birdwhistell. After the service, we'll conclude the afternoon's festivities with a reception in Fellowship Hall.

If you cannot attend, we invite you to send Carol a note of encouragement or a word of affirmation by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. We'll assemble and give them to her on the day of her installation. Please send to: Rev. Dr. Carol Harston, c/o Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204 or drop your card by the church office.

*Care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will be provided during the installation service **by reservation**. [Contact Megan Fuller](#) to reserve care for your child(ren) by Wednesday, September 9.

August 30: Wall Crew Appreciation Sunday

This Sunday, we have the great honor of expressing our deep appreciation to all who have served on our Wall Crew (those folks who put up and take down the temporary walls in Fellowship Hall each week) over the past two decades! We will recognize them during morning worship services and offer them a gift in the Commons between services. We've been compiling a list of those who have worked on walls over the years, but we know it's incomplete. [Please email Cheryl Davis](#) to add to our list!

Greg Aguilon, Vincent Arnold, David Bannister, Bob Belcher, Randy Biery, Justin Boldt and family, Peter Brown, Bill Campbell, Steven Carr, Bruce Carroll, Greg Clark, Rob Cosby, Bob Cunningham, Larry Davis, Cathe Dykstra, Roy Fuller, Steve Gowler, John Gribbins, Drew, James, Collier, and Walt Harston, Steve Helm, David and Jessa Henry, Larry Hoover, Richard Hornbuckle, Elizabeth Howell, Becca Jaggars, Scott Kerr, Marvin Lazaro, Buddy Lee, Walter McWhorter, Lewis Miller, Corey Moran, Nathan and Natalie Rider, John Pacyga, Sam Potter, Robin Ramsay, Autumn Reece, Mark Sanders, John Sensbach, Dean Sipe, Jess and Wes Smith, Ron Smith, Vance Smith, Charlie Suer, Rob Thompson, Brandon Tschirhart, Bob Uphaus, Eric Watson, Marilyn Whisler.

Wednesday Night Adult Class Schedule

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.

- 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: Family Roots - More Than an Origin Story with Phil Collier (Faith Formation)
- September 30: No Wednesday Night Programming due to JCPS Fall Break
- October 7: Cloud of Witness with Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- October 14: Connecting with Global Mission Partners with Global Mission Team (Mission & Justice)
- October 21: Exploring Robert P. Jones' "Hidden Roots of White Supremacy" with Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)
- October 28: Exploring Robert P. Jones' "Hidden Roots of White Supremacy" with Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)
- November 4: Digging into Proposed 2027 Operating Budget with Finance Ministry Group (Congregational Life)
- November 11: Marking the Completion of our HVAC Project with Sacred Space Team (Congregational Life)
- November 18: Cloud of Witness with Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- November 25: No Wednesday Night Programming due to Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 2: *Open Space. Looking for someone to highlight art and poetry about memory-sorting and memory-keeping.*

Upcoming Wednesday Night Adult Classes

August 26: Exploring Parental Language for God with Carol Harston

Highland's theological trajectory has been moving toward expanding beyond exclusive language that limits God—an effort that mirrors the inclusive love we find in God. But how do we read scripture that presents parental language for God as central to God's identity? Let's explore together how adapting our theological language can create both opportunities and obstacles as we read scripture.

September 2: Immigrants in Louisville Today with Immigration Team

How are immigrants in Louisville faring these days? What is being done to support them? What can we do to support them? Join the Immigrant Support subgroup of the Anti Racism Team on Wednesday, September 2, as state representative and immigration attorney Nima Kulkarni joins us to discuss the current legal landscape surrounding immigration and how ICE is currently operating in our community. She will speak specifically to recently detained community member Armelle Bondonga.

New Deacons Ordained and Installed This Sunday Afternoon



Highland deacons inherit a long-standing tradition of those called by God and ordained by the congregation to a ministry of presence and guidance for all whom God gathers to our congregation. This Sunday at 4:00 PM, we will ordain four new deacons: *Casey Boggs, Kimbrough Gossett, Brooke Hasl, and Cheryl Priddy*. Five others will be installed to serve another deacon term.



The ordination service will be a meaningful time to center worship of God, the foundation of deacon service. All current deacons will attend. We ask that all who have ever served as deacons at Highland attend the service, as they are able, to reaffirm the importance of deacon ministry to the church.

~ Carol Harston

Deacon Chair Offers Gratitude

Dear Highland Family,

It has been an honor to serve this church as deacon chair this past year, alongside my fellow classmates who are also completing their three-year commitment: Abbi Wolfe, Ginny Sims, Nelda Moore, Angela Dennison, Greg Aguillon, Becky Dickson, and Lewis Miller.



Most of my job was unglamorous — meetings, retreat logistics, keeping communication flowing, building out a OneDrive, making sure care didn't fall through the cracks. But this past week I got to step in and cover an emergent care need myself, and it knocked something loose in me — a reminder of why any of this matters.

So much of it happens quietly, behind the scenes, that it's easy to forget the size of it — a whole community of people showing up again and again in some of the hardest places and transitions. Knowing that a community exists to love you through both the best and worst is a beautiful, tangible picture of who Jesus is.

That kind of showing up is never really finished — it just changes hands. I've loved being one of the hands for a while. And though I won't be at meetings or passing the offering plate in worship anymore, I'll still be right there in the back row, loving this church the same way it's loved me.

~ *With gratitude,*
Paige Harlow

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 Menu:

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

September Menus:

September 2: Roast Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

September 9: Lasagna, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

September 16: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

September 23: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad Dessert

September 30: Fall Break - no Wednesday evening activities

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

 **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

Volunteer Painters Needed

The Property and Space group is recruiting volunteers to help paint the chair rail in Fellowship Hall this 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 if you can help so that 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.

Caring for Aging Parents Support Group

"You are so lucky to still have your parents." Many people have said that to me. Sometimes I do not feel lucky and then I start feeling guilty. How do I manage to take care of my parents and still find time to take care of grandchildren and me? It has been a balancing act and most days I feel very unbalanced.

During the season of life when taking care of aging parents is not in our game plan, it may be time to reach out for help. Most of the time, help comes from someone who is experiencing the same feelings. Our church has many folks that are in the season where taking care of our aging parents is a daily balancing act. Some can only rely on phone calls because parents are many miles away while others try to make face to face contact several times a week, if not daily.

If you are struggling with how to take care of your aging parents while also taking care of yourself, consider joining us for the Caring for Aging Parents support group. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:15 PM. It is a comfortable place to share your experiences, frustrations, and hear from others. You are not alone. There are other folks struggling with you. [Please email Dawn Burke](#) if you are planning to attend so we will have enough chairs. **Join us on September 8 at 5:15 PM in the Commons** and park in the main church parking lot. Please enter through the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you soon!

~ Patty Martin

Louisville Pride Festival



Join *True Colors*, Highland's LGBTQ+ ministry group, as we celebrate love, inclusion, and community at this year's Louisville Pride Festival on Saturday, September 12, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Highland's booth will be open until 8:00 PM.

We're looking for friendly, welcoming volunteers to help staff Highland's booth throughout the day. Volunteer duties are fun and meaningful—you might be offering glitter blessings, chatting with festival-goers, or helping folks create their own custom buttons with our popular button maker!

Can't volunteer? No problem—come by, say hello, and show your support. Let's show up loud and proud for our LGBTQ+ family and help make this year's Louisville Pride celebration unforgettable!

[Sign up to volunteer here!](#)

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.



**REGISTER
HERE**



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.

Mission & Justice Meeting for All Teams and Interested Individuals

On Friday, September 25, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, we will gather in the Children's Commons to (1) hear from those already plugged into Mission Teams, (2) hear from those interested in getting involved in new mission efforts, and (3) wonder together about what it looks like for Highland to engage in hopeful action in our city, state, and world. We encourage all those already active in a Mission Team, as well as those interested in getting plugged in, to attend. If you can attend Friday Church at 7:00 PM, we'll order dinner for 6:30 PM before we worship together. To RSVP for the meeting, [please email Carol Harston](#).

Trivia Night Coming Soon!

 TRIVIA NIGHT
WITH DESSERT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26,
2026**

7:00 PM



Highland Baptist Church
1101 Cherokee Road

\$20 per person at the door or
\$120 for table of up to 8, paid in advance at Venmo QR code below



HAVE A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
OR OTHER GROUP TEAM;
BRING YOUR FRIENDS; BRING YOUR TEAM;
COME HAVE FUN.

Contact Steve or Margie Brown with questions;
Contact Marilyn Whistler to donate a dessert.



Birthday Closet at Cabbage Patch Settlement House



The Cabbage Patch Settlement House is a local nonprofit that builds long-term relationships to empower young people and their families to reach their full potential. Its mission is to provide holistic academic, recreational, and mentoring opportunities grounded in Christ-centered values. We received a request from Cabbage Patch and share it here for anyone who can help restock their Birthday Closet:

We have a birthday closet stocked with donated gifts. On a Cabbage Patch member's birthday, they can visit and pick out a gift of their choice. The closet began by helping children who otherwise wouldn't receive birthday presents, and now it's a way we celebrate all our members on their special day. We also

use it to recognize our Cabbage Patch members with the highest attendance each quarter.

The closet is currently very empty. We have an Amazon Wish List for gifts. People can send gifts directly to The Cabbage Patch, or they can purchase these items at a store of their choosing and drop them off. [Here is the Wish List.](#)

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>

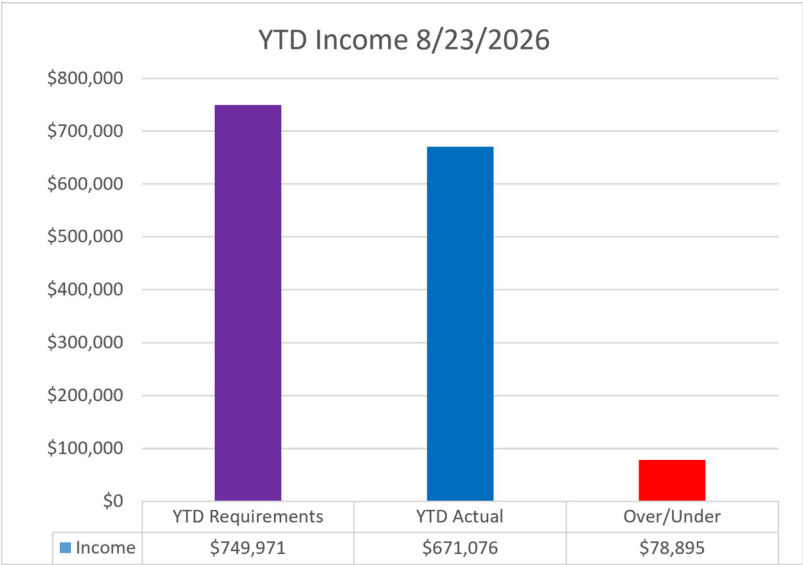
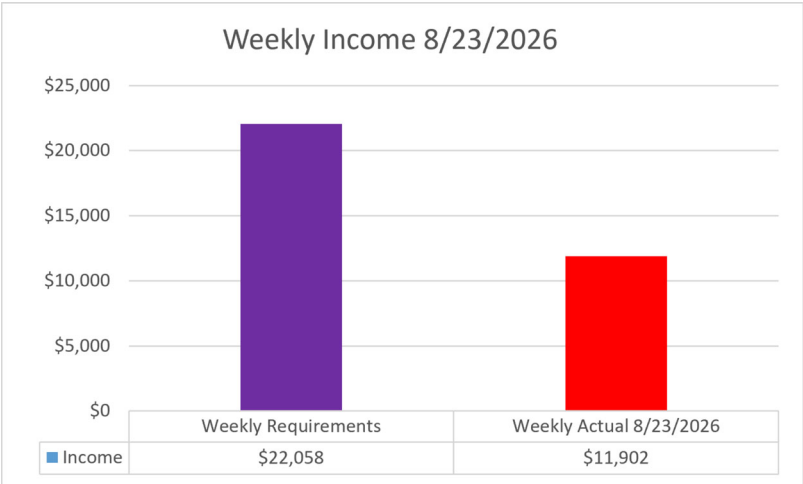
**Streaming
Worship
Links**



- August 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
Caring for Aging Parents Support Group, 5:15 PM, Commons
- September 13: Installation Service for Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Carol Harston, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary
- September 19: Veterans Group Gathering, 10:00 AM, Gary & Margaret Pennington's Home
- September 26: Trivia Night Fundraiser for Sacred Space, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 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.

- Da'Drianna Elliott, 32, killed August 6
 - Arvontai Equadrius Owens, 28, killed August 6
 - Kimberly Alexander, 53, killed August 6
 - Arian Dale, 27, killed August 6
 - Taevion Miller, 18, killed August 12
-



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