



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church September 15, 2026

The Commons

On Sunday afternoon I expressed my gratitude, but I knew that if I began naming names, I wouldn't be able to include everyone and still get us down to the delicious feast at the reception. Here, I fear the same challenge, but I want to express my deep gratitude to my co-workers in the office, the Pastor Search Committee, the Hospitality Team, the choir, the brass quintet, timpani, and handbells, former pastors, church historians, sound and technical support, those who brought "Greetings and Affirmations," the Installation Committee, childcare workers, those who helped with gifts, and my family. Ministry is a team sport, and I could not do this work without each of you.



On the days when life feels chaotic and uncertain, frustrating and confusing, may we find ourselves more than ready to face them together, for we remember that God is more than capable of carrying us forward. God invites us to hopeful action, laying sinew on dry bones and breathing new life upon us. On those days, may our city see that we, though flawed and imperfect, are a church that goes where God goes, a church that suffers with those who suffer (for that is where God is to be found), and a church that works for justice with a stubborn hope, reminding each other that God does God's best work in the darkness of the tomb.

I love how this weekend's festivities are followed by Commitment Sunday this Sunday, which serves as our tangible reminder that we are called not just to "plant the stake right here" (as Paul Duke preached on Sunday) but to move beyond by committing to give sacrificially in the coming year so that we can venture together as God's people into the future.

On behalf of all of us who work on Highland's staff, thank you for all the ways, big and small, that you have supported us through this new season of working together. We are grateful for one another, enjoy working alongside one another, and feel lucky to be part of this chapter in Highland's history.

~ Carol Harston



 **Rooted in Generosity: This Sunday is Commitment Sunday**



This fall, we've been learning what it means to be **rooted** — grounded in faith, planted deep in God's love, and drawing life from something far greater than ourselves. A tree with deep roots weathers every storm. It doesn't just survive; it flourishes, bears fruit, and gives shade and shelter to others.

That image sits at the heart of what we're celebrating this Sunday.

This coming Sunday, September 20, is our official Commitment Sunday, and we invite every member of our church family to take part. Commitment Sunday is the day we come together to prayerfully make our pledges for the year ahead, a tangible act of faith that puts down roots for the future of our congregation.

We ask that **everyone make a pledge**, whatever the amount. A pledge isn't just a number; it's a commitment of the heart. When each of us commits, our leadership can plan faithfully and boldly, knowing the ground beneath us is firm.

Giving is one of the most rooted things we do as people of faith. When we give faithfully, we're not just funding programs, we're nourishing the soil that allows our whole community to grow: worship, discipleship, care for those in need, and a welcome for all who walk through our doors.

In case you missed it, here is [Scott Schaftlein's Faithful Giving story](#) from last Sunday. Please consider giving this Commitment Sunday to sustain the day-to-day ministry of Highland Baptist Church.

Thank you,

~ *The Faithful Giving Ministry Group*

Thomas Bolton, Kelsey Grizzle, Drew Harston,

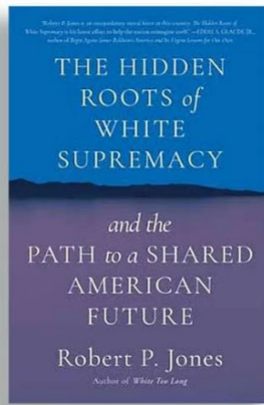
Tracy Holladay, Hollie Spade, with creative help from Dean Sipe

Installation Service and Reception



Join in Our Next Community Read

The Anti-Racism Team invites you to read Robert P Jones' book *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. The team will lead a discussion of the book on Wednesday, October 28 and November 4. Many of you have already engaged with Robert P Jones' work through our study of *White Too Long* and shared that your lives and perspectives were transformed. This will be a read that will help to guide our steps as we continue seeking to be an antiracist organization.



You may purchase this book at Carmichael's with a 10 percent discount. Thank you in advance for engaging this important community read prayerfully and with courage and openness.

~ Missy Smith

Ministry Council Nominations Open Now

Who will serve our church this year?

Each year, our congregation nominates members to serve on our Ministry Council. The Ministry Council attends to the business of the church and supports the work of its ministry groups. Ministry Council Representatives serve a three-year term. Our Ministry Council body is intentionally diverse: new members and longtime Highland families, younger voices and seasoned ones. **The deadline for nominations is this Sunday, September 20.**

How nominations work: You nominate up to six people using the yellow paper forms that are available during worship services. The Congregational Engagement Ministry Group reviews all nominations and then brings a proposed list to the full congregation for approval.

Need help or want to submit your nominations by phone? Call the church office at 502-451-3735.

An Invitation to a Choral Evensong and Benediction



Highland
Baptist Church
Joseph Parr, organist &
chamber choir conductor



Choral Evensong & Benediction

The Feast of St. Michael & All Angels (observed)

Sung by the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Advent and the Highland Baptist Church chamber choir

Sunday, September 27, 2026

5:00 PM

Service immediately followed by
Song of the Vineyard music fundraiser.
See Advent's Facebook page for more details.

adventky.org

901 Baxter Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204

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.

- 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

Upcoming Wednesday Night Adult Classes

September 16: Seeing with Bill Campbell

Photography as a means for seeing more closely—seeing people, seeing God's world, and seeing God's light. Photographs will be used as an invitation for group discussion of how we see God's presence in the world around us and how we can better see "through God's eyes."

September 23: Family Roots - More Than an Origin Story with Phil Collier

When it comes to family trees, it's what is under the surface that really matters. We'll consider how genealogy can unlock more than family secrets – creating connections with history and helping us find our place in a much larger community.

Faith When You're Feeling Out of Sorts

Just as we've brought together our veterans and those caring for aging parents, Carol Harston is facilitating a conversation with those 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). We'll gather Monday, September 21, 5:00-6:15 p.m. in the Commons. [All are welcome and encouraged to RSVP to Carol here](#).

Senior Adult Luncheon

The fellowship at the Senior Adult potluck last week was beautiful! Ron Creager, musical director for Helen Reddy, provided the entertainment.



Next month we travel to Claudia Sanders Dinner House for lunch, and in November we play Family Feud! Consider joining us for one or all of our upcoming events!

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!



September Menus:

September 16: Meatloaf, Hash Brown Casserole, 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



Louisville Pride Festival



Louisville Pride 2026

Around Highland

Congratulations to Kim Clark-Endicott for receiving a Bell Award! Read about the meaningful work that WLKY shares about Kim: *Since 2020, Kim has devoted 10-20 hours per week to unsheltered neighbors and those with food insecurity. She volunteers at least 3 days a week stocking pantry boxes with items she has shopped and purchased. A full-time employee with LG&E, Kim partnered with St. John's UCC in December 2025 to organize a quarterly gathering at the church that offers a hot meal, clothing, and toiletries. Kim serves on the Advisory Council and mission-based services committee for Highlands Community Ministries. In addition, she has raised money for the American Lung Association, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.*

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.



Join the Youth in Collecting Donations for HCM



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](#).

Don't Miss Trivia Night!



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 a table of up to 8, paid by Sept 21 at Venmo QR code below.
(please use this code rather than the 'events' one in the church newsletter)

Steven Brown
@Steven-Brown-1625



PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT
hbctrivianight@gmail.com

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.



[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>

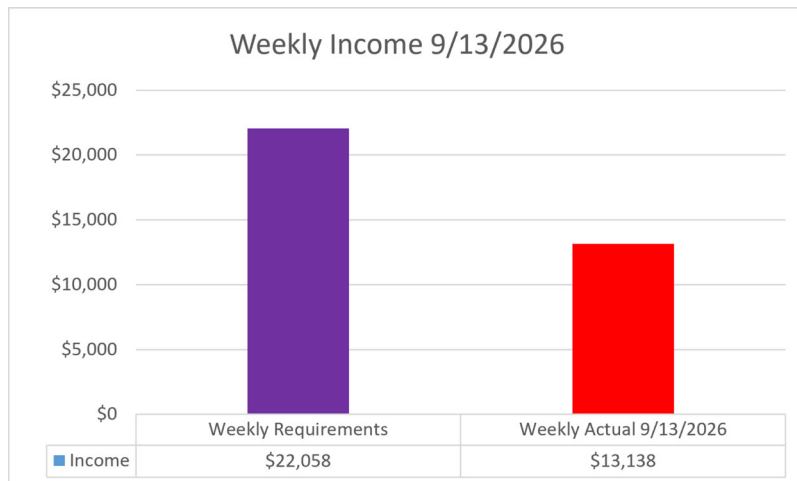
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

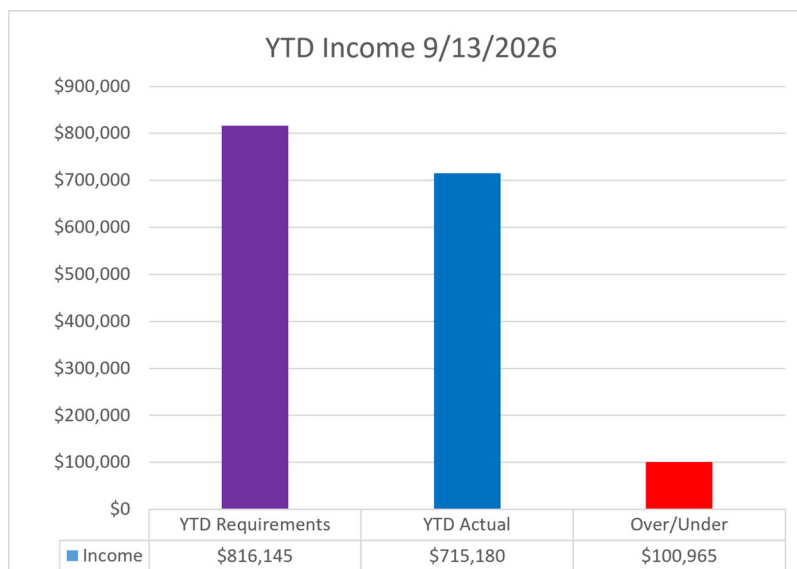




- September 16: "Seeing" with Bill Campbell, 6:00 PM
September 19: Veterans Group Gathering, 10:00 AM, Gary & Margaret Pennington's Home
September 20: Pledge Sunday
September 23: "Family Roots - More Than an Origin Story" with Phil Collier, 6:00 PM
September 25: Missions and Justice Meeting, 5:00-6:30 PM, Children's Commons
September 26: Trivia Night Fundraiser for Sacred Space, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
September 27: Choral Evensong and Benediction, Episcopal Church of the Advent, 5:00 PM
October 9-11: Women's Fall Retreat, contact Ginger Miller to sign up - 502-599-6569
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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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