



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church October 6, 2026

The Commons

In the wake of this past week's revelations about sexual assault and institutional neglect at Cornell University, survivors of sexual violence and harassment remain on my mind and in my heart, especially "Jane Doe." As I think of her, I pray that she has a church community of clergy and friends who can support her and bear witness to her suffering. I pray for all those who have had similar experiences, as well as for those who have been paralyzed into silence when they witness men who go too far in group settings. I pray for the college students for whom sexual assault is commonplace and for all the families who are struggling with anxiety about their own college students' safety.

In "Trauma + Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World," Serene Jones suggests that churches can do three things to help people who have experienced disorienting trauma. (1) We are listening ears for people who can tell their story whenever they are ready to bring into the light what happened in the shadows. (2) We create a safe space so that when survivors share their stories, we act as witnesses, not overwhelmed by the details, but standing firm as patient listeners. (3) We help survivors "begin the process of telling a new, different story together: we must begin to pave a new road through the brain."

We, the church, are called to be courageous communities where people can bring their whole story and be received with tenderness and kindness. Maya Angelou writes, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived; but if faced with courage, it need not be lived again." As we move through our days, let

us pray that God enables us to be the church survivors need us to be.

~ Carol Harston



Chorister Choir to Sing and Ring in Worship + A Musical Greeting Card!

Come, children, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen! When learning to sing this well-loved hymn of praise, the choristers discovered that the original lyrics were written for children and first published in a hymnal for children in Scotland. The popularity of the hymn meant the opening text was soon changed to "Christians" to include everyone. The Chorister Choir is excited to lead our processional hymn in next Sunday's 11:15

AM service on October 11. They will also call our hearts into prayer with a beautiful, combined setting of *This Is My Father's World* with *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. The Children's Handbell Choir will ring the prelude. It will be a beautiful morning of worship – please make plans to join us!

Church is good but would be better with you! This greeting is part of a project our K-3rd graders in Chorister Choir recently completed and soon will be shared with Highland's Continuing Care members with their assigned deacons. It all began with the young choristers working on their rhythm skills using greeting cards. We enjoyed hearing about their mail carriers, when their mail is delivered, and what kind of mailbox they have at their house. It was a lively discussion. The children expressed how receiving a card in the mail is special so we brainstormed all the greetings our Continuing Care members might like to hear and settled on two that could be spoken and then played on unpitched percussion instruments. They sang a simple refrain, *Postman, Postman, bring me a letter. Postman, Postman, two would be better* to stitch everything together. Click [here](#) to watch and listen!

~ Kathy Collier

2026-2027 Offering for Global Missions



October is the month in which we collect our Offering for Global Missions. This year's theme is Transforming Abundance through Christ.

Here at Highland, we have chosen to connect with other like-minded Baptists in the United States and around the world by being a part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship works in the US and globally in a variety of ways, and the offering we collect this month helps support that effort by funding the salaries of the field personnel who work with the CBF.

The word (and maybe even the concept of) "missions" can bring up many images for us – some positive and some negative. The old-style paternalistic missions, with assumptions of cultural and theological superiority are not a part of the DNA of CBF. CBF fosters true partnerships between themselves and local, national, and international bodies of like-minded believers. Highland supports local and regional CBF field personnel such as Scarlett Jasper in eastern Kentucky and Annette Ellard here in Louisville. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is Highland's primary denominational affiliation, and this offering is the most significant way we show our support. This year's goal is \$10,000.

You may contribute to the Offering for Global Missions by using the QR code on the back of the order of worship, using an offering envelope found in the pews (identifying your contribution for Global Missions), or via the [Highland website](#).

Cloud of Witness Series Continues This Wednesday



Join us this Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for the next session of our Cloud of Witness series. Our speakers are John Kubar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade. Come hear stories from Highland's "saints-in-process" interviewed by Bob Cunningham.

Quarterly Church Conference Scheduled for October 18

Join us on Zoom on Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 PM for our Quarterly Church Conference. The Ministry Council will bring the following amendment regarding the number of Ministry Council congregational representatives.

Move to amend Article VII, Section 1 of the bylaws by deleting the following:

- Chair of the Ministry Council
- Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council
- Six at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation

and replacing them with:

- Nine at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council shall be drawn from these nine representatives and nominated and elected as provided in Section 5.

Article VII, Section 1 as amended

Section 1. Membership

The Ministry Council will be composed of the following individuals:

- Ministerial Staff

- Chair of Deacons
- Vice-Chair of Deacons
- Chair of Finance Ministry Group
- Chair of Personnel Ministry Group
- Nine at-large representatives who are nominated and elected by the congregation. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ministry Council shall be drawn from these nine representatives and nominated and elected as provided in Section 5.

This makes clear that the Chair and Vice-Chair occupy two of the nine at-large seats. They are not two additional members. It also preserves the existing language in Article VII, Section 5 governing their nomination and election.

Worship Care Volunteer Training



**Worship
Care
Volunteer
Training
Session**

Whether this is your first time to serve or you're a returning volunteer, attending one training session is required.


**October 11
10:00 AM**


Children's Commons

Fall Night at the Farm



Families with children and youth are invited to join us on Saturday evening, October 17, from 4:30-7:00 PM at the home of Jesse and Esther Dansby-McClain on their farm in Mt. Eden, KY. We'll have a hayride, roast hot dogs on the fire, make s'mores, play games, and enjoy an evening with the cows, chickens, and a lovely sunset. Highland will provide the hot dogs, s'more ingredients, and drinks. You are invited to bring a side dish (nut free) to share with the group, as well as camping chairs or a blanket to sit on. Feel free to bring yard games, balls, frisbees, etc. as there is plenty of space to run and play. Please RSVP no later than Thursday, October 15 if your family plans to attend!

RSVP to Fall Night at the Farm

Highlights Class Begins October 18

Our next Highlights class begins on Sunday, October 18. Designed for those who are new to Highland, this three-week class is a time to learn more about our congregation and its ministries while meeting other visitors and new members. We'll gather in the Commons, just outside the sanctuary, at 10:00 am each week. Let us know you plan to attend by contacting [Cheryl Davis](#) by Wednesday, October 14.

Friday Church



Services at 7:00 PM on Fridays in the Sanctuary and [on Facebook](#). All are welcome!

Help Us Strengthen Sunday Morning Faith Formation

We are taking a closer look at our Sunday morning Bible Study offerings at Highland, and we'd love your input! Our goal is to better understand the unique strengths of each class, the people who participate, and the ways we might create additional opportunities for faith formation and community. In the coming weeks, Bible Study classes will be invited to complete a brief Bible Study Class Inventory Survey as part of our evaluation process. We are also preparing an Individual Survey for members and regular visitors to share what they're looking for in a Sunday morning learning experience, as well as ideas for Wednesday nights and other small-group opportunities.

Your feedback will help us celebrate what is already happening, identify gaps or opportunities, and consider ways classes might grow, welcome new people, connect across generations, or develop new offerings. We hope to make recommendations to Ministry Council before the end of the year.

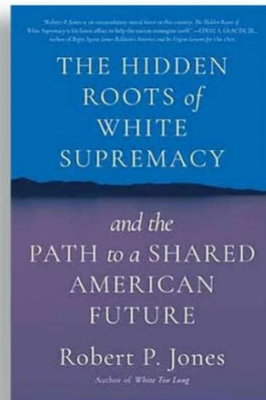
Thank you for helping us imagine what faith formation at Highland can look like in this next season!

~ Adult Education Task Force

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 21 and October 28. 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

Call for Support for Armelle Bondonga



Armelle arrived in the U.S. as a young girl; she is a JCPs graduate and a valued member of our community. She was married in our sanctuary to a U.S. citizen, has completed all requirements for her green card, and has a young son at home who needs his mother. Continuing to detain Armelle is both cruel and unnecessary. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the authority to release her and allow her to complete the process to obtain her green card.

If you have not had a chance to write a postcard regarding Armelle Bondonga to Mayor Greenberg, you can do that Sunday in the Commons after both services.

You are also invited to attend a community conversation sponsored by ListenLearnAct to build support for

Armelle. The conversation will be held this evening, 6:30-8:00 PM, at Bates Memorial Baptist Church (Armelle's church), 620 Lampton Street. Speakers will include Sadiqa Reynolds and Ryan Davis, a former teacher of Armelle and a friend.

Update: we learned this afternoon that Armelle will be home within 48 hours, as noted in [this Facebook post!](#)

~ Immigrant Support Group, Anti-Racism Team

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.

- **October 7:** Cloud of Witness with John Kubar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade, facilitated by Bob Cunningham (Community of Faith)
- **October 14:** Connecting with Global Mission Partners with Global Mission Team (Mission & Justice)
- **October 21:** Exploring Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* with the Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)
- **October 28:** Exploring Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* with the Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)

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!



October Menus:

October 7: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes. Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

October 14: Geoff Hale's Famous Cheesy Potato Soup & Baja Chicken Enchilada Soup, Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

October 21: Baked Ziti, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Bread, Dessert

October 28: Mexican Casserole, Steamed Veggies, Salad, Chips & Salsa, Dessert

Thank You

The Burke family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the cards, calls, texts, and messages of support during their recent time of bereavement.

~ Ken, Dawn, and Rob Burke

I Love Morocco 20th Anniversary Dinner

Join us for the

I Love Morocco 20th Anniversary Dinner

October 10, 2026
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Broadway Baptist Church
4000 Brownsboro Rd, Louisville, KY

A delightful evening of Moroccan couscous, cookies, fruit, mint tea, and fun to benefit the salaries of pastors in Morocco.

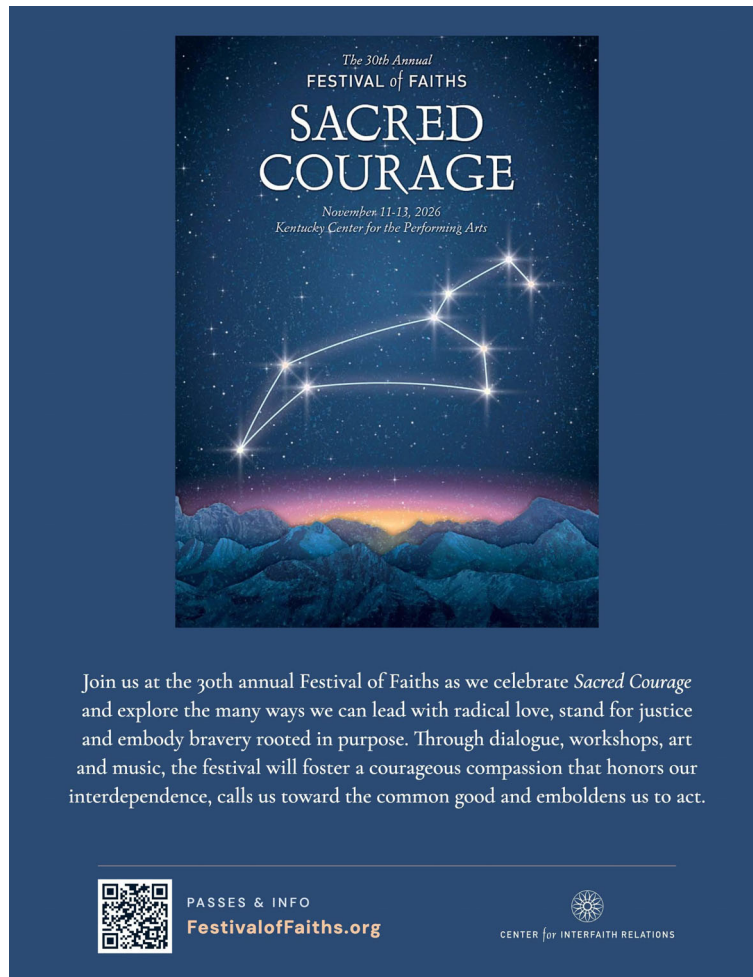
Register at cbfky.org



Help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of CBF KY's partnership with Morocco

- Silent auction
- Couscous cookoff (please bring a dish to share if you are willing)
- Pictures throughout the years
- Updates from Morocco

2026 Festival of Faiths



You are cordially invited to attend the 2026 Festival of Faiths, hosted by the Center for Interfaith Relations. Please reach out to lauren@interfaithrelations.org for more information, scan the QR code to learn more at www.festivaloffaiths.org, or follow Festival of Faiths on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

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>

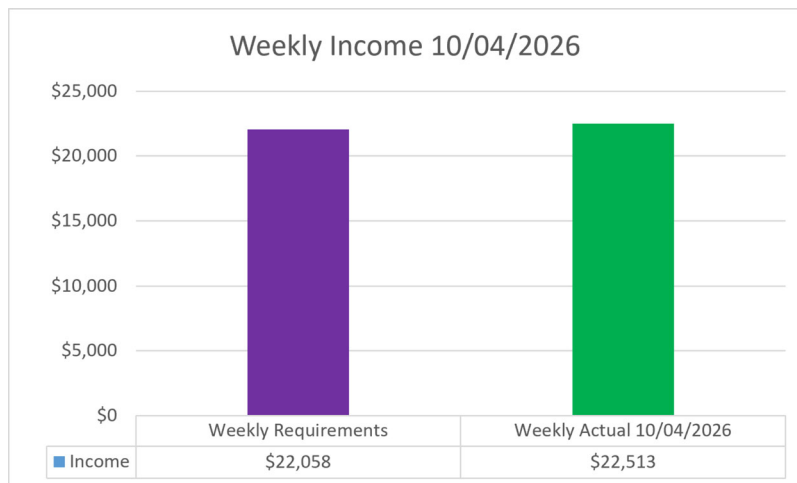
**Streaming
Worship
Links**

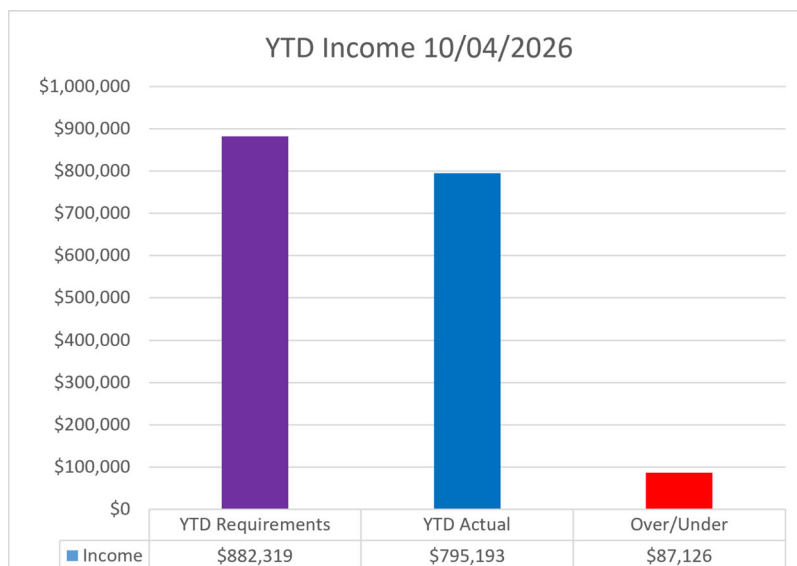




- October 7: Cloud of Witness - John Kupar, Peggy Holthaus, and Alan Spade, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
- October 10: I Love Morocco 20th Anniversary Dinner, Broadway Baptist, 5:30 PM
- October 11: Worship Care Training, 10:00 AM, Children's Commons
- October 17: Veterans Gathering at 10:00 AM, home of Greg Aguillon & Perry Ledford
- October 18: Highlights Class Begins, 10:00 AM, Commons
- October 18: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM (Zoom)
-

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.



Facebook



YouTube



Website



Instagram

Copyright © 2026 Highland Baptist Church, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).