



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*



The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church October 13, 2026

New Partnership with Byck Elementary: Opportunities to Get Involved

Our new partnership with Byck Elementary is off to a wonderful start! Many Highland members have already expressed interest in getting involved, and we are grateful for your enthusiasm and willingness to serve. We encourage everyone involved to join the HBCxByck Partnership GroupMe, where we'll share updates, volunteer opportunities, and ways to stay connected. [Join the GroupMe here.](#)

Whether you have a few hours to give or are interested in an ongoing commitment, here are several ways to participate:

1. Byck Fall Festival — Thursday, October 29, 5:30–7:00 PM

Help make Byck Elementary's Fall Festival a fun and memorable evening for students and families! We need 8–10 Highland volunteers to join Byck staff and Shawnee High School students in distributing candy to approximately 150–200 children and helping supervise games. We are also collecting an estimated 20–30 bags of candy for the festivities. Volunteers who can stay to help with cleanup are welcome, but this is not required.

[Sign up to volunteer for the Fall Festival here.](#)

2. Become a Volunteer Tutor or Mentor - Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 AM

A little time and encouragement can make a lasting difference in a child's life! Highland volunteers are invited to work with kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade students, providing support in early literacy, math, and writing. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with children while helping them develop foundational skills and confidence. Before volunteering, all participants must complete the [JCPS School Volunteer Records Check here](#). Once the school receives your completed check, we will schedule an orientation with Byck Principal Dr. Kim Coleman.

[Sign up to tutor or mentor here](#).

3. Help Stock Byck's Freezers - Ongoing

Another important part of our partnership is helping ensure that Byck's food pantry is well stocked for students and families who need additional support. The school has identified a particular need for perishable foods that can be stored in its refrigerators and freezers. Ms. S'avea Carter, Byck's Family Resource Center Coordinator, has provided a list of requested items, which is available through our partnership's GroupMe. Steve Gowler and other Highland volunteers will meet this Friday at 8:30 AM at Byck to assess the pantry's capacity and determine next steps.



Highland Welcomes New Members



**Jake and Sarah Williams joined Highland on October 11, 2026.
They are pictured with their children, James and Luke.**

Come Hear Updates about Highland's Ongoing Morocco Partnership This Wednesday



This Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 PM, come hear Rev. Karen Thomas Smith offer updates regarding Highland's ongoing Morocco Partnership. Karen, a Kentucky native and current president of the Protestant Church of Morocco, will share an overview of that organization's work. Highland has been in partnership with this group since 2008. Highland has sent individuals and groups to Morocco for many years, including a young adult group and choir tour. Highland specifically supports the Protestant Church of Morocco's work with migrants and refugees.

~ Roy Fuller

2026-2027 Offering for Global Missions



October is the month when 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](#).

~ Global Partnership Team

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 This Sunday

Our next Highlights class begins this 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.

Quarterly Church Conference on Sunday

Join us on Zoom this Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 PM for our Quarterly Church Conference. Our agenda

includes reports from the Congregational Engagement and Finance ministry groups, an update from the Adult Education Task Force, and a bylaw amendment and election of church officers (clerk, moderator, and comptroller) from Ministry Council. A detailed agenda and Zoom link will be emailed on Friday.

Children's Worship Care Training

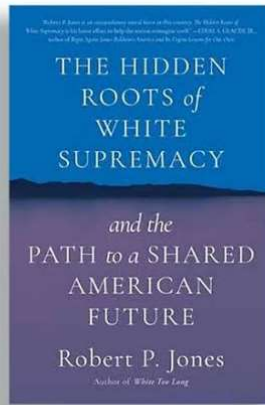


Our second worship care training of the fall took place on Sunday, October 11. Well attended by Worship Care Volunteers and Sunday Captains, only a dozen or so of our 65+ worship care volunteers remain to be trained. We give great thanks for all of those who support our ministry to families with young children by giving of their time in this way!

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

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

Senior Adult October Outing



Our activity this month is lunch at Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville. There will be great food and time for catching up with our church friends!

Who: Senior Adults and all their friends

What: Lunch fellowship

When: Thursday, October 22, 12:00 noon

Where: Claudia Sanders Dinner House - 3202 Shelbyville Rd, Shelbyville, KY

Why: Cause we're fun!

[Please let me know here](#) (or by calling me at 502-451-3735) if you plan to attend. Additionally, please let me know if you would like to ride the church bus. Our limit is 29 and we are currently more than halfway to that number. [Here is the link to Claudia Sanders](#) if you've never been before so you can get a look at the

menu and a feel for the place.

~ Paul Henderson

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 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

Christian Zionism

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS) and Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) are hosting two major events on the theme of Christian Zionism on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31 at LPTS. Here are some basic details:

- **"Christian Zionism and Its Victims" - a talk with Dr. Mark Taylor - Friday, October 30 from 2:30-4:00 PM**
 - This talk will focus on the urgency for Christian engagement to end the violence in the Holy Land

- **"When Theology Kills: Tools for Understanding Christian Zionism" - Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon**
 - This session will be interactive seeking to answer questions like those below. It is particularly geared for people in congregations wanting to understand and discussing ways of engaging our congregations. Questions that will be considered: What is Zionism? Is there a difference between Christian Zionism and Jewish Zionism? Is anti-Zionism antisemitic? Why did the 2026 PCUSA General Assembly "reject all forms of Christian Zionism? Why might all this matter?

The events are free. [For registration and further information, click this link.](#)

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>

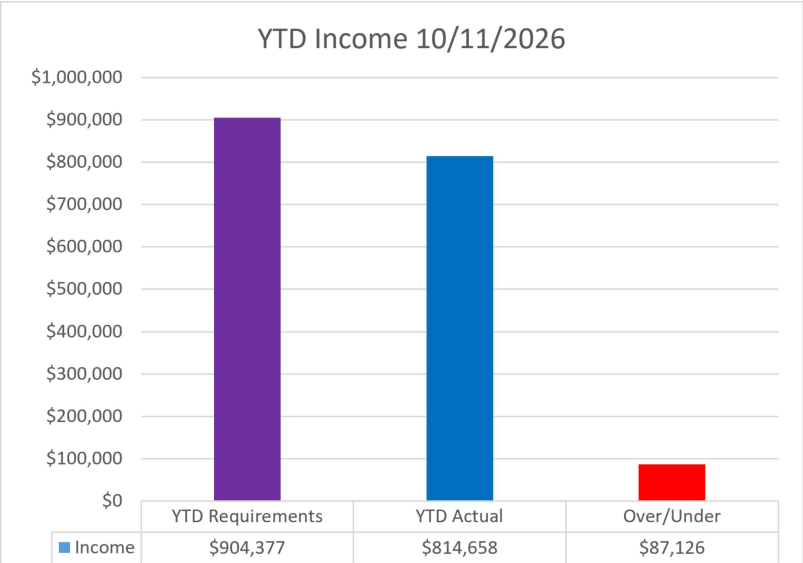
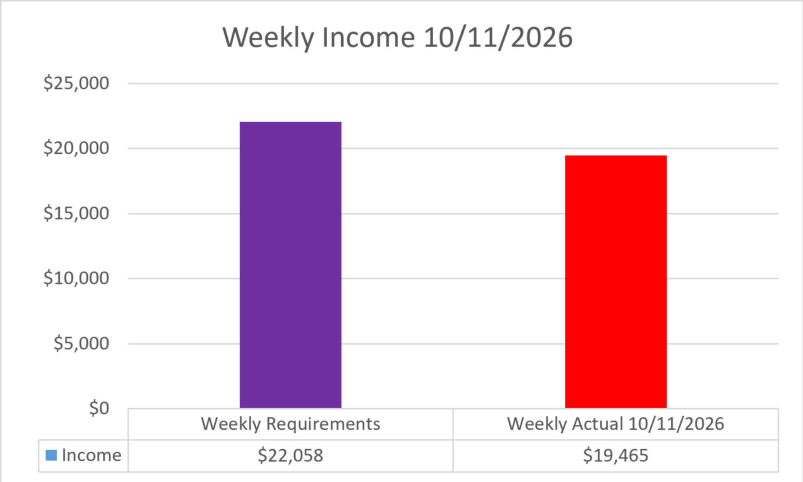
**Streaming
Worship
Links**



- October 14: Global Mission Partnership with Morocco - Karen Thomas Smith, 6:00 PM
- October 17: Veterans Gathering at the home of Greg Aguillon & Perry Ledford, 10:00 AM
Fall Night at the Dansby-McClain Farm, 4:30-7:30 PM
- October 18: Highlights Class Begins, 10:00 AM, Commons
Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM (Zoom)
- October 21: Exploring Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* with the Anti-Racism Team (Mission & Justice)
- October 29: Byck Elementary Fall Festival, 5:30-7:00 PM



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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