HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
November 3, 2026

The Commons

In recent weeks, our staff has named a goal: tending well the information and data that undergirds the work of ministry that happens through Highland. On one hand, it's data in our database system, ShelbyNext: emails, phone numbers, addresses, attendance records, etc. On the other hand, it's so much more—it's the information that gives us the ability to connect with one another, to do meaningful work with one another, and to live out our faith as we follow God the best we can, together.

Here are some examples:

- A ministry group functions best when we know who is on the group, have accurate contact information for each member, and each member's information is easily accessible to the leaders of that ministry group. When this information is accurate, we can easily invite new folks into service on these groups, meetings can be scheduled, and the work can get done.
- When you fill out your membership card and join the church, our database holds information about what steps of the membership process you've completed, who is in your family, and the ways you've already gotten connected in this body of Christ. When this information is accurate, it's easier to help you plug into various areas of church life and service.
- When you sign in on the friendship register in worship, your attendance is recorded in our database, helping us know who hasn't attended worship in the last month or so and who is visiting with us. When this information is accurate, it's one additional way we can notice who's been missing from our worship services and make connections with those who are curious about our church.

Over the next two months, with the affirmation of Personnel Ministry Group and the support of our staff, Megan Fuller will be spending an additional 5 hours a week diving into the depths of our database and shoring it up for the season of ministry ahead of us in the coming year. Together, Megan and I will be identifying better systems for updating this information periodically, and our staff will be identifying how to use it to make ministry opportunities more accessible to each of you.

After all, the heartbeat of Highland is its people, you who are being moved by the Spirit to join in God's good work, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh



November 4: An Evening of Prayer and Song

When we gather tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM, regardless of what happened today as the election results came in, we know our country's future will weigh on our hearts and minds. We plan to meet in the Sanctuary to pray, read Scripture, and sing our faith, speaking to God what weighs on us, listening for God's voice, and opening ourselves to the Spirit's care.

Highland Welcomes Lauren Jones Mayfield as This Sunday's Proclaimer

We hope you can join us this Sunday, November 8, as Lauren returns to Highland as our proclaimer in both services!



Rev. Dr. Lauren Jones Mayfield serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Relations. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Lauren was on the pastoral staff here at Highland for nearly 8 years working with young adults, the mission and justice teams, and pastoral care. Lauren likes asking big existential questions about life that lead to more questions rather than pat answers. She and her husband, Tyler, have three children—Livia, Jude, and Taft, as well as Rosie the dog and Kiwi Rainbow the cat.

Holiday Giving Opportunities at Highland

Highlands Community Ministries

grow. heal. play.

This season, our congregation is proud to partner with Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) and other Highland congregations to bring warmth and joy to families in need. Our goal is to contribute to HCM's mission by collecting gift cards and cozy throw blankets — with a collective target of 500 gift cards and a blanket for every family they serve.

We're excited to be part of this meaningful effort, and we invite you to join us in making a difference! **Donations will be collected on Sunday, November 29, during the Hanging of the Green service.**

Items requested:

- $25 gift cards for Kroger, Target, or Walmart
- NEW throw-sized blankets

La Casita is collecting necessity items to support the Resource Day La Casita will host on December 1st. This year, because of Highland's faithful partnership through the years, we have been asked to collect a unique list of items related to hygiene. Because the resource day happens so early in December, **our collection deadline has been set for Sunday, November 22.**
Specific items needed:

- 200 rolls of toilet paper
- 100 bars of soap
- 100 bottles of liquid dish soap (medium/single family, 15-18 ounces)
- 100 tubes of toothpaste
- 200 toothbrushes

Please use this link to sign up to bring items for La Casita. It is our way of tracking fulfillment of our commitment to La Casita. These items can be dropped off in the bins located outside the choir room.

Alternative Gift Cards for Morocco Partnership



The Global Partnerships team will be selling alternative gift cards to support our partnership in Morocco. The funds raised will be utilized by our partners in Morocco to provide aid to refugees, who are mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa, hoping to transit to Europe for a better life. The International Aid Committee of the Evangelical Church of Morocco provides food, housing, and medical assistance as it has the funds to do so. The gift cards can be purchased after the 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM worship services on the following Sundays: November 29, December 6, 13, and 20. Gift cards may be purchased for any dollar amount.

Highlights Class Wraps Up and Joining Sunday on November 15

Over the past three weeks, 17 visitors and new members have gathered in the Highlights Class to share what brought them to Highland, a bit about their religious and spiritual background, and what they hope to give to and receive from this congregation. We've talked about how finding a Bible study class and a way to serve are the best ways to find meaningful connection here. We've wondered what it means to be Baptist, what it looks like to participate in congregational polity, and we've explored the structures that undergird Highland's day-to-day functioning. Every week found us on holy ground, and we give thanks for Highland's Deacons and the New Members Ministry Group for hosting these meaningful sessions.

We look forward to a Joining Sunday set aside to welcome those who wish to become members of Highland on November 15 in both worship services. While one can come forward in worship during the Hymn of Response to join on any Sunday, Joining Day will allow folks to join alongside others attending the Highlights class or a friend.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Thanksgiving Brunch



Sign up here **to bring a dish for the Thanksgiving brunch!**

Youth October Update

October has been a wonderful month in Highland's youth ministry, filled with laughter, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to grow together. As we've continued exploring our fall theme, *ROOTED*,

I've been reminded that faith formation doesn't always look like what we might expect. Sometimes it happens through a thoughtful question or a meaningful conversation. Other times, it happens in the middle of a ridiculous game, through shared laughter, or simply in the experience of being welcomed and accepted.





This month, we've spent time thinking about the things we inherit from the people and communities who have shaped us. Some of those roots give us strength and stability, while others may need a little untangling. We've explored how growing in faith means learning to appreciate what has been passed down to us while also having the courage to ask questions, reconsider assumptions, and discover what it means to follow Jesus for ourselves.

We've also made plenty of room for fun! From games that encouraged teamwork and connection to our Halloween party at the end of the month, there have been lots of opportunities for our youth to build friendships and enjoy being together. A young person who knows they belong, who feels safe enough to be themselves, and who knows that the church is a place of joy is already experiencing something deeply important about the love of God.



I'm continually grateful for the young people who make this ministry what it is. They bring energy, humor, curiosity, and questions that challenge us to think more deeply about our own faith. And I'm grateful for the adults who show up, offer their time, and help create a community where these young people can flourish.

My hope is that, years from now, when our youth think about the people and places that helped shape their faith, Highland will be among the roots they remember with gratitude.

~ John Kupar

Senior Adults Gather in November



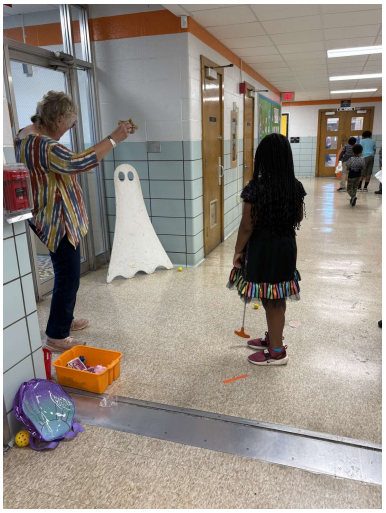
Join us Tuesday, November 10 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving potluck! The church will provide the turkey and seniors are invited to provide the side dishes. Afterwards, we will play Family Feud together! Please call Paul Henderson at 502-451-3735 or email him here to make a reservation.

~ Paul Henderson

Friday Church Happenings



Highland's Partnership with Byck Elementary is Off to a Great Start







Seven people have completed orientation and are ready to begin tutoring students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Twelve people helped lead games and hand out candy at Byck's Fall Festival. We've made two food donations for Byck's freezer, totaling 130 items valued at $460, and donated clothing and supplies to a mom whose twins are in the NICU. Thank you for your generosity and prayers! Byck's staff let us know that frozen turkeys would help families at Thanksgiving. If you'd like to support this effort, please designate your donations to Highland for Byck.

~ Carol Harston

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!



November Menus:

November 4: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans or Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Dessert
November 11: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Salad, Dessert
November 18: Fried Chicken/Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

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Festival of Faiths

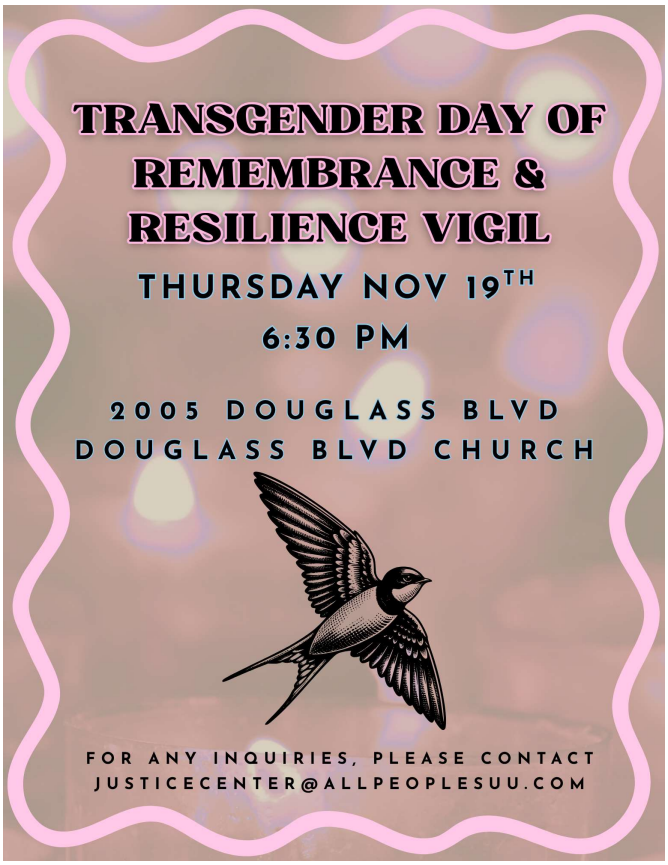
30 YEARS | FESTIVAL of FAITHS

Join us at the 30th annual, nationally acclaimed, Festival of Faiths November 11-13 as we celebrate **Sacred Courage** and explore the many ways we can lead with radical love, stand for justice, and embody bravery rooted in purpose. Through dialogue, workshops, art and music, the festival will foster a courageous compassion that honors our interdependence, calls us toward the common good, and emboldens us to act.

There is no cost to attend the Opening Celebration on Wednesday, November 11 at 5:30 PM featuring Silas House at the Cathedral of the Assumption. Panel discussions, keynotes, interviews, and more, including a live recording of Interfaith Alliance's State of Belief podcast, will be ticketed events all day Thursday and Friday, November 12 and 13. Speakers include Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez, Kaitlin Curtice, Gene Tagaban, Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Sadiqa Reynolds, Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, and so many more!

For a schedule, speakers, tickets and more, click here.

Trans Day of Remembrance



Room in the Inn Program

Could your Bible Study class or circle of friends spend a night serving with *Room in the Inn* this winter? From January 4 through February 28, *Room in the Inn* offers our neighbors experiencing homelessness a warm, safe place to sleep, meals, and a welcoming community at two downtown churches. Alan Spade is putting together a team of Highland folks and their friends to form crews of six who can cover one night at one location, with two people per shift: welcoming guests and serving dinner from 4:30–10:00 PM, staying overnight from 10:00 PM–5:00 AM, and serving breakfast and cleaning up from 5:00–7:00 AM. You probably already know a couple of night owls and someone who thinks 5:00 AM is a perfectly reasonable time to be awake. Ask them!

Room in the Inn offers a great chance to spend time together, offering care and hospitality to our neighbors during the coldest part of the year. To learn more or get a team involved, contact Alan Spade here or at 502-803-7457.

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

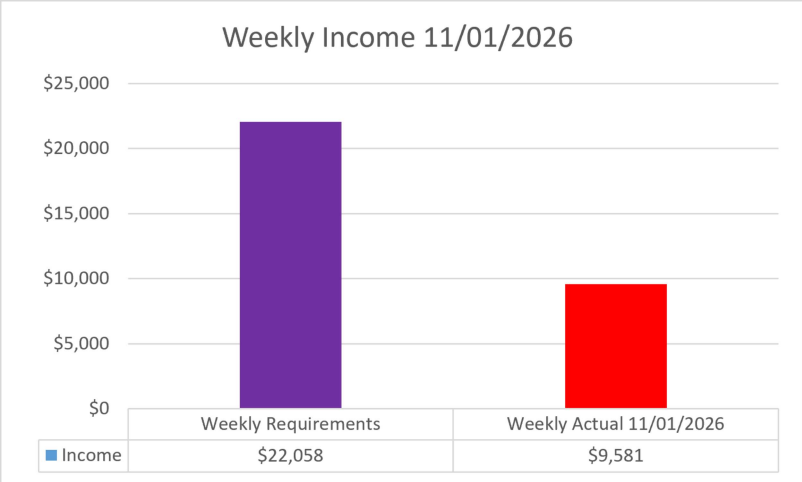


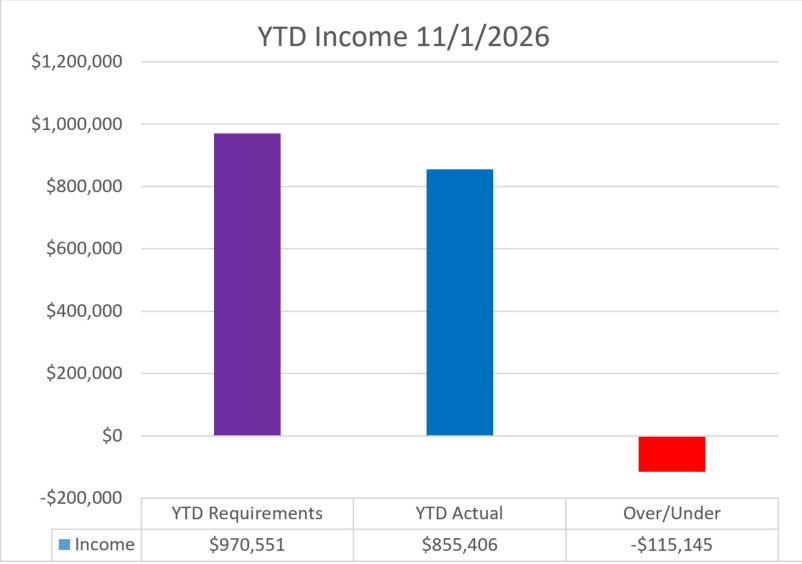


November 4: An Evening of Prayer and Song, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
November 10: Senior Adult Thanksgiving Potluck, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
November 11: Budget Presentation, 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
November 15: Joining Day, 8:45 and 11:15 AM, Sanctuary
November 18: Cloud of Witness, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary

November 22: Thanksgiving Brunch,10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall
A.I. & Faith Gathering, 12:30 PM, Commons
November 29: First Sunday of Advent - Hope
Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
December 4: A.I. & Faith Gathering, 12:00 PM, Commons

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.

- Mequan Deshawn Lee Barfield, 22, killed October 10
- Kaliah Graves, 21, killed October 24

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