HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH

A thinking, feeling, healing community of faith

The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church
November 11, 2026

The Commons

I missed being with you on Sunday, but I'm so glad Lauren Jones Mayfield shared a meaningful word and offered her pastoral presence in my absence. We look forward to witnessing all her good work at the Festival of Faiths later this week!

This month, traditionally centered on gratitude, is a fitting final month of our liturgical calendar - the term we use for the church's year, which begins with Advent and ends with the Reign of Christ. As our yearly worship seasons come to a close, we plant our feet firmly where we are and pause. We pause to look back and praise God for the wonders we have witnessed, the heartbreaks we have endured with the Spirit's consolation, and the blessings that have been ours to steward. We pause to look forward with hope - not that the future will turn out exactly as we want it, but that it will be filled with God's presence, grace, forgiveness, and resurrection surprises.

In our church life, we're diligently preparing for what's ahead. Advent begins soon, and Finance will present the 2027 budget tonight. Personnel Ministry Group and staff are discussing staffing models and listening to feedback, while Renee is scheduling Wednesday night classes for the new year. We covet your prayers and participation as we steward this year's resources and gifts for a new year that sets the stage for God to dwell among us and invites us into transformative, bold ministries that embody hope for our city.

~ Carol Harston



Highland Welcomes New Member



Liz Bowman joined Highland on November 8, 2026

Personnel Ministry Group and Staff: Listening Tour This November and December

After several months of exploring staffing approaches, the Personnel Ministry Group and staff have begun a “listening tour” to share a new staffing model, explain the thinking behind it, and hear everyone’s questions and feedback. Your input is invaluable. So far, we have met with the Ministry Council and Adult Education Task Force. We will meet with our youth community (including parents of current 4th- and 5th-graders) on Sunday during Bible study hour in the Youth Room, followed by a meeting with the Deacons on November 16. The whole church is invited to hear about the possible staffing model and offer feedback on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:15 PM. Our initial thought is that the Personnel Ministry Group will present a job description for a vote at the January Quarterly Church Conference, with a search committee formed after the vote.

It's Time to Order Poinsettias



Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for $15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. You may order poinsettias through our website here. You may also submit payment and information by contacting Leslie in the church office or at 502-451-3735. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Monday, November 23.**

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.

Veterans Day Today

Today we celebrate Veterans Day. This is a federal holiday and is always observed on November 11. The purpose of the holiday is to honor, recognize, and thank all military veterans. This includes men and women who have served in all branches of the United States Military.

We are so fortunate here at Highland to have recently organized a Veterans Group. Please contact Larry Marcum for further information at 502-239-5119.

~ Nancy Jurgevich

Joining Day on November 15

Have you considered joining Highland but haven't been sure how to do so? Did you recently attend the Highlights class and are ready to make a commitment to officially be part of Highland? Have you wished someone else might join when you do, so you aren't being introduced all on your own?

If any of these describe you, you are invited to take the membership leap on Sunday, November 15! During the Hymn of Response immediately following the sermon, you're invited to let the congregation know of your decision to become a full participant in this faith community alongside others who wish to do the same. We look forward to welcoming you! If you have any questions prior to Sunday, please contact Renee Purtlebaugh here.

~ Renee Purtlebaugh

Thanksgiving Brunch



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

Ballot Vote on November 22 in 8:45 and 11:15 Services

Our congregation will vote by ballot on the 2027 ministry budget, Ministry Council chair (Alan Spade), vice chair (Jesse McClain), and congregational representatives (Carolyn King, Kelvin Thompson, Amy Pacyga, Missy Smith), Congregational Engagement Ministry Group members (Robin Ramsay Lee, Janie Blome, Mark Sanders), Trustees (Bob Connolly, Jim Straus), Finance Ministry Group (David Henry, Jason Baker), and Personnel Ministry Group (Doris Hornbuckle, Andrew Schaftlein).

Sorting Soiree



RSVP to Renee Purtlebaugh

Hanging of the Green Reception November 29



An evening of good food, holiday decorations, and celebrating the start of Advent with our church friends is right around the corner. The Hanging of the Green service is Sunday, November 29 at 6:00 PM and the Hospitality Ministry Group needs your help! This is a fun event that wraps up Thanksgiving weekend and gets our minds ready for the Advent season. The Hospitality Ministry Group needs help in the following ways:

- Decorating Sunday afternoon
- Bringing finger food that evening
- Setting food out during the Hanging of the Green service
- Cleaning up afterwards

If you can help in any of these areas, we would appreciate it! When people step in to help, it makes the event more personal and holiday-ish! Please contact Marilyn Whisler at 502-262-2760 to find out how you can help or click here to sign up. Thank you for pitching in!

~ Marilyn Whisler

Mission Minded Women Works with Americana

The Mission Minded Women group recently organized and donated items to the clothes closet at Americana Community Center.





This center ministers to the immigrant population in the Iroquois area. Many of these neighbors are in

need, as they have journeyed from countries where they didn't need warm clothing. This is an ongoing project for the Mission Minded Women.

~ Gloria McBee

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 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

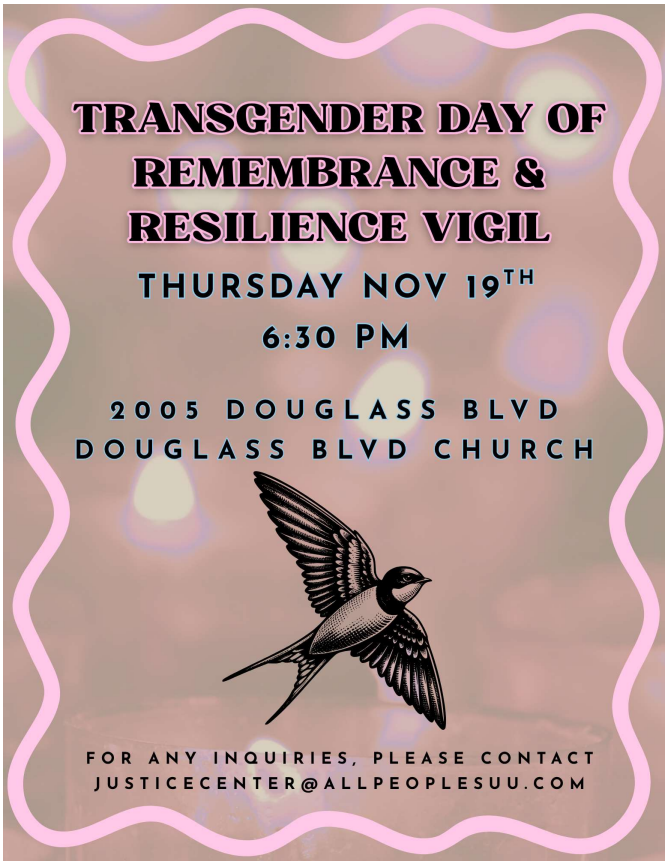
Join us at the 30th annual, nationally acclaimed, Festival of Faiths November 11-13 as we celebrate **Sacred Courage** and explore the many ways we can lead with radical love, stand for justice, and embody bravery rooted in purpose. Through dialogue, workshops, art and music, the festival will foster 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. Ticketed events include panel discussions, keynotes, interviews, and more, including a live recording of Interfaith Alliance's State of Belief podcast, 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



Click Here for Church Signup Links

Sunday, 11:15 AM

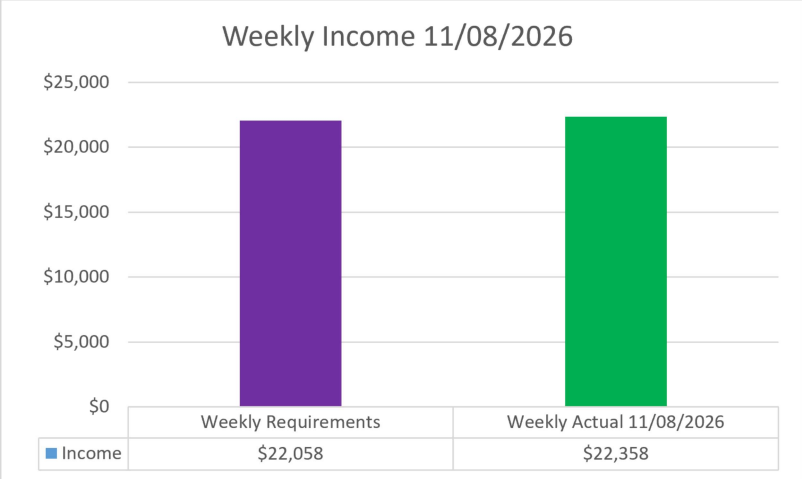
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https://www.youtube.com/@highlandbaptist
Friday, 7:00 PM
https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org

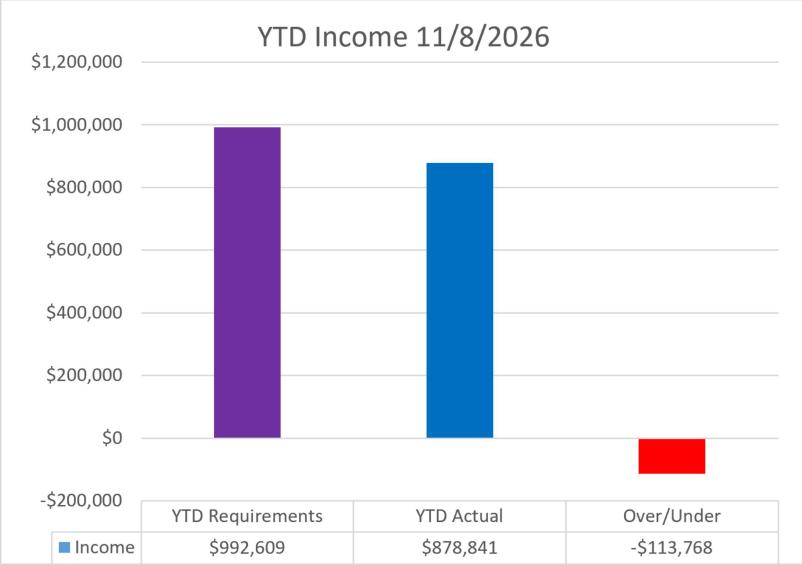
Streaming Worship Links



Tonight: Budget Presentation, 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
November 14: Buckie Smithen Memorial Service, 2:00 PM, Sanctuary
November 15: Joining Day, 8:45 and 11:15 AM, Sanctuary
November 18: Cloud of Witness, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
November 22: Ballot Vote at the conclusion of the 8:45 and 11:15 services
Thanksgiving Brunch,10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall
A.I. & Faith Gathering, 12:30 PM, Commons
November 23: Sorting Soiree, 6:00-8:00 PM, La Casita Center
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.

Prayers of the People

Congratulations to:

Kathy and Bob Belcher on the birth of their granddaughter, Paloma Muir, on November 5

In Remembrance

Buckie Smithen Memorial Service, Saturday, November 14, 2:00 PM

Christian Sympathy to:

Dawn Burke, on the passing of her mother, Lanna

New Concerns

Genene Nisbet, radiation treatments
Marilyn Sanders, broken vertebrae
David Wells, home from rehab

Ongoing Concerns

Emmanuel Maize, surgery recovery
Sue Mattingly, home, recovering after fall
Holly Wallace, home
Matt Williams, surgery recovery

Continuing Care

Sandy Coulter
Miriam Elliott
Penny Mosier
Sam Newland
Jessica Swim
Megan Turner

Friends and Family

Kate Albrecht's parents, cancer
Mary Alice Birdwhistell’s best friend, Ida Jamshidi, breast cancer
Janie Blome’s cousin, Lisa Lee, diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma
Barb Bower's son, Dane Howell, lymphoma diagnosis
Terri Connolly’s grandson, Ethan Stone, complex medical needs and care
Brooke Hasl's mother, Susan Hasl, breast cancer
Roan Hendrix-Verran’s mother, Audrey Campbell, health concerns
Vicki Herrold's friend, Mark Bugg, stage 3 cancer
Lou Ann Iler’s daughter-in-law's mother, Vicki Walters, stroke (aphasia)
Lou Ann Iler’s sister-in-law, Janet Bignon, diagnosed with liver disease
Judy Johnson’s great grandson, Hunter Harkess
Susan Lockwood’s grandson, Quinn Wright, hospitalized in Portland, OR, with meningitis
Linda Luster’s sister, JoAnn, cancer
Emmanuel Maize’s sister, Debbie Maize, treatment for cancer
Patty Martin's father, health concerns
Elizabeth Milazzotto's daughter, Victoria Wethington, primary progressive MS
Jim Shelton’s daughter, Mandy, additional food allergies
Michele Smith’s friend Kris, cancer and cancer treatment
Vance Smith’s mother, health concerns
Greg Spalding's sister, Elizabeth Comeau, suffering with dementia
Rebecca Street, father’s cancer diagnosis
Gene Streible's friend, Derek Stobaugh, lymphoma
Holly Wallace's sister, Ann Wahba, lymphoma
Heidi Yost’s friend, Tom, lung cancer diagnosis
Heidi Yost's friend, Will Adams, former Friday church guitarist, partial leg amputation

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