



## *The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church* *October 17, 2023*



### **Commitment Season Continues**

Greetings, Highland family,

Giving season is underway!

We are now deeply engaged in discerning our 2024 financial support for the ministries and Sacred Space project with the first pledges coming in last Sunday! This is a major decision directly affecting how we will be doing the work of Love and renewal of our church facility in the coming year. We rejoice in the commitments you have made so far and the courage and dedication they represent.

As many others of you consider your 2024 pledges, be assured your gifts are very important to sustain the transforming love generously shared through our community of faith called Highland.

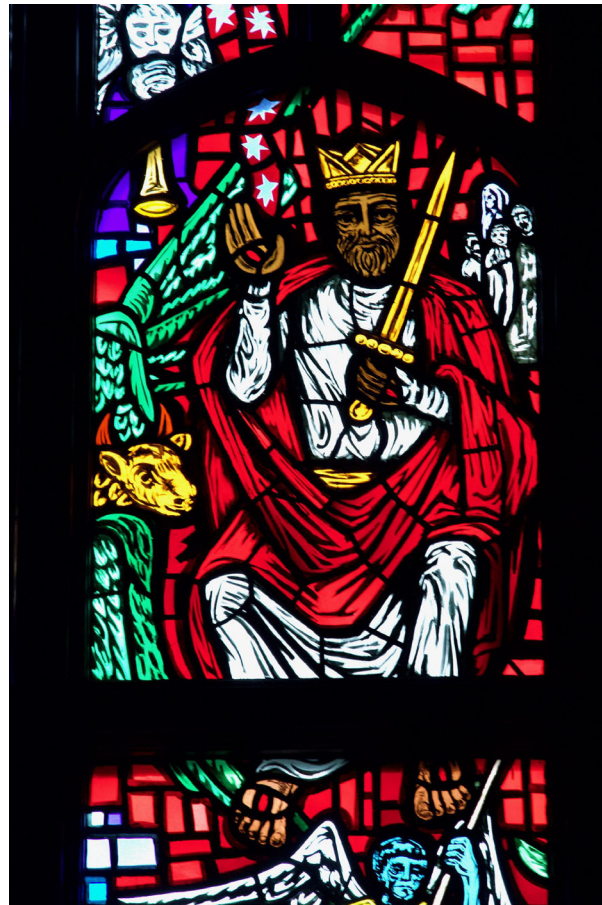
With confidence in our future together,  
*Faithful Giving Ministry Group*  
Kelly Garrett, chair  
Jim Hawkins, Cheryl Priddy, Renee Purtlebaugh,  
Rob Thompson, Michelle West, and Kelly Young



Around Highland  
on October 15



## Highland's Reparations Work Continues



Highland Baptist Church's Ministry Council formed [the Reparations Task Force](#) in the fall of 2020 to explore our church history as it relates to racism and to consider how the congregation might offer reparations to the Black and brown communities in Louisville.

After they penned the 2021 history "[Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage: A Historical Summary of Highland Baptist Church; Louisville, KY; and Race, 1893-2021,](#)" the task force developed a four-pronged approach to reparations in [their 2022 recommendations](#) to the church. First, they invited Highland to engage in regular confession as part of their liturgy for the sins of white privilege and racism. Second, the task force recommended an examination of the church's symbols and imagery in the sanctuary and throughout the building. Third, they suggested Highland pay reparations to organizations in the city supporting home ownership and educational endeavors. Fourth, the task force invited Highland to advocate in many ways but especially for the passage of US House Resolution 40, which establishes the "Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans."

The task force hired five local Black leaders to consult on these four points. Concerning the issue of [the church's imagery](#), the sanctuary's stained-glass windows display two enslavers and one radical segregationist. When the consultants gathered in the sanctuary to view the windows, they disagreed about how the church might respond to the enslavers and the segregationist. However, as their gaze moved upward to the larger Revelation Window and the Christ figure, they were

unanimous in their invitation to tint Jesus' skin tone to a shade of brown.

Noting the ways the American church has both idolized and promoted a white nationalist Jesus, the consultants affirmed that a light-toned Christ figure creates problems. Further, such light skin offers an inaccurate representation of a first-century Palestinian Jew, who would have had a darker skin tone. Historically accurate representation creates a space of welcome for people of color who worship in Highland's sanctuary and affects our belief systems and approaches to worship.

On Tuesday, October 10, 2023, after an earlier church vote, Highland's Anti-Racism Team funded a local stained-glass window artist to adhere brown stained-glass to the face, hands, and feet of the Christ figure.



Going forward, as we sing our praise, share our liturgies, hear the word of God proclaimed, and give shape to the work of justice in and beyond our sanctuary at the corner of Grinstead and Cherokee, Highland Baptist Church now gathers in the presence of a brown Jesus. May this symbol serve not as a final offering of our reparations but as an inspiration that fuels our ongoing work of racial justice. We pray that this brown Christ figure will spur on our intersectional commitments to equity, compassion, justice, and love. May it be so, Highland.

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## Children to Lead in Worship

The Chorister Choir and Children's Handbell Choir will lead in worship on Sunday, October 22.



The choristers will sing an anthem of welcome along with a beautiful new children's anthem in English and Japanese! Please take time to view their beautiful Japanese display on the white board outside of the sanctuary. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will ring a setting of two familiar hymn tunes as the prelude in the 11:15 worship service.

We hope you will be in worship with us this Sunday!

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Geothermal well drilling is complete! We are now the proud owners of 22 holes in the ground, each around 400 feet deep. This week the drilling crew is cleaning up the residue from the drilling process, and performing “grouting,” which consists of filling the space in the hole between the

pipng and the rock.



Next they'll dig small trenches in order to be able to connect the pipes between each hole, so that each well is connected to the next one and we end up with one continuous loop. They'll also run a pipe beneath the brick alley so that the loops of pipes can be connected to gear that will be installed inside the church basement.

Also, initial asbestos abatement under the choir loft has been completed, so the abatement crew will soon begin work underneath the sanctuary. But first, the crawlspace opening between the two areas will have to be enlarged.

~ *Walter McWhorter*

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# Building Accessibility Support

In these weeks when portions of our parking lot (including some of our handicapped parking spots) are unavailable, we want to make sure to support those in our congregation needing assistance getting into the building. If you know someone who might need help, would you call to check on them and offer to bring them to church? If you need support getting into the building during this time, please reach out to any of our deacons or call the church office (451-3735), and we will do our best to arrange support for you. As a friendly reminder, please reserve the closest parking spots for those who need them most in the coming weeks. Thank for you helping us care for the Highland family in this way!

~ Mary Alice Birdwhistell

## Young Adult Fall Retreat



The Young Adults had an amazing Fall Retreat at Red River Gorge this past weekend. Hiking, community building, rest, and eating really good food guided us through our time together. A special thank you to the Young Adult Ministry Group for helping make such a great weekend happen! We are already looking forward to next year's retreat!

~ Justin Sizemore

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## Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Mister Rogers walks into his television house, all mild-mannered and happy to see us. He assures us that it is a beautiful in the neighborhood. He changes into his homemade sweater and sneakers. The neighborhood is a place of greeting, learning, and social, spiritual development. Mr. Rogers also invites many diverse visitors into his home with an expansive welcome.



Mr. Rogers, a Presbyterian minister and well-known children's advocate, still has much to teach us about our neighbors. In our growing context of religious diversity, you may be curious about what it means to pray to Allah with our Muslim siblings, or meditate alongside our Buddhist siblings, or pray with our Jewish siblings.

Rev. Dr. Tyler Mayfield will lead us in reflecting on the biblical and theological category of "neighbor" with special attention to the ministry of Fred Rogers. Together we will examine biblical passages like Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:25-37. Please plan to join us for 5 Wednesday evenings (October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15) to inquire together about just who our neighbors might be.

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# Sermons from the Sofa

Join us on Thursdays in October on Facebook  
for a mini-sermon from the book of Philippians  
... from the comfort of Mary Alice's sofa!

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**Join us on Wednesday nights!** Dinner begins at 5:20 PM and children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00 PM. Adult programming begins at 6:15 PM.

**Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (age 4-11), with a family max of \$35.** Children below three years and below eat for free. We heartily encourage you to sign up in advance this year as our new caterer requires us to provide the number of people that will be eating five days before the meal.

**Reservations are due by noon on Friday each week.** As usual we are providing a list of meals, a link below which will allow you to sign up for dinner, and a link to go ahead and pay for the meals you will need. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone. Come and join us!

Any changes to reservations can be made by emailing [Paul](#) or [Kathleen](#) or calling the Highland Baptist office at 451-3735. If you are in a season of financial hardship that makes paying difficult, you can speak to any of the ministers about assistance for Wednesday Night Supper.

**Meals provided by The TP Experience:**

**October 18 - Cabbage / Sausage/ Potatoes / Cornbread**

**October 25** - Baked Pork Chops / Rice / Green Beans / Salad

**November 1** - Tuna Casserole / Sweet Peas / Rolls

**November 8** - Veggie Soup w/ Beef Tips / Cornbread

[Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot. Payments can be made via cash or check as you arrive, but we also encourage paying ahead [here](#) (Note: those with standing reservations can make payments for the whole month (or more!).)

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**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**WITH DESSERT AUCTION**  
**FUNDRAISER FOR**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**HIGHLAND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**  
**1228 E. Breckinridge Street**

**\$15.00 per person, teams of up to 8.**  
**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT [hbctrivia2023@gmail.com](mailto:hbctrivia2023@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 Whisler to donate a *dessert*.**

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# Streaming Worship Links

Below are the links to stream the worship services each week at Highland. Please bookmark them since they remain the same from week-to-week!



**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>

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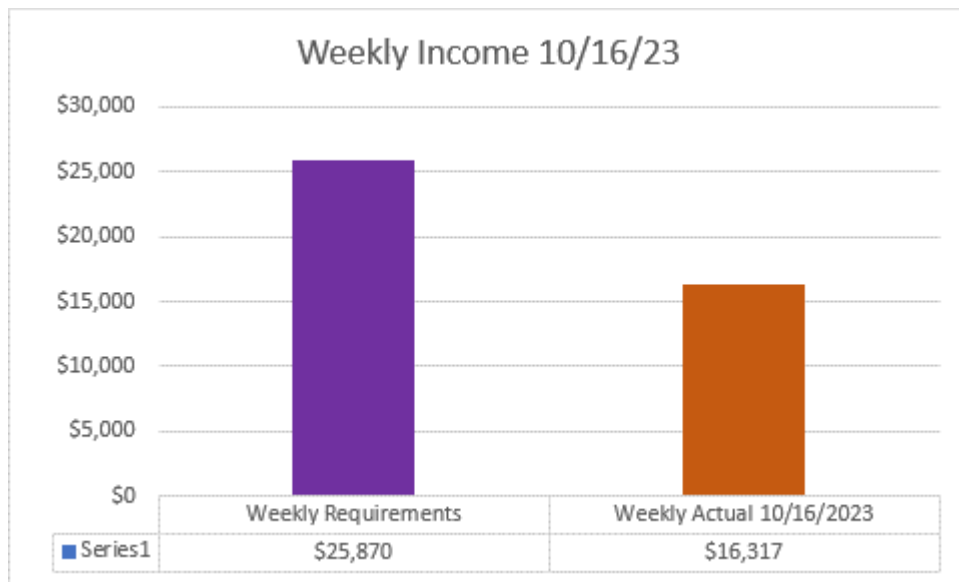
A graphic with the text "Looking Ahead" in a white, cursive font. The text is set against a background of a white, torn-paper-like shape on a dark green background. The letters have a subtle shadow effect.

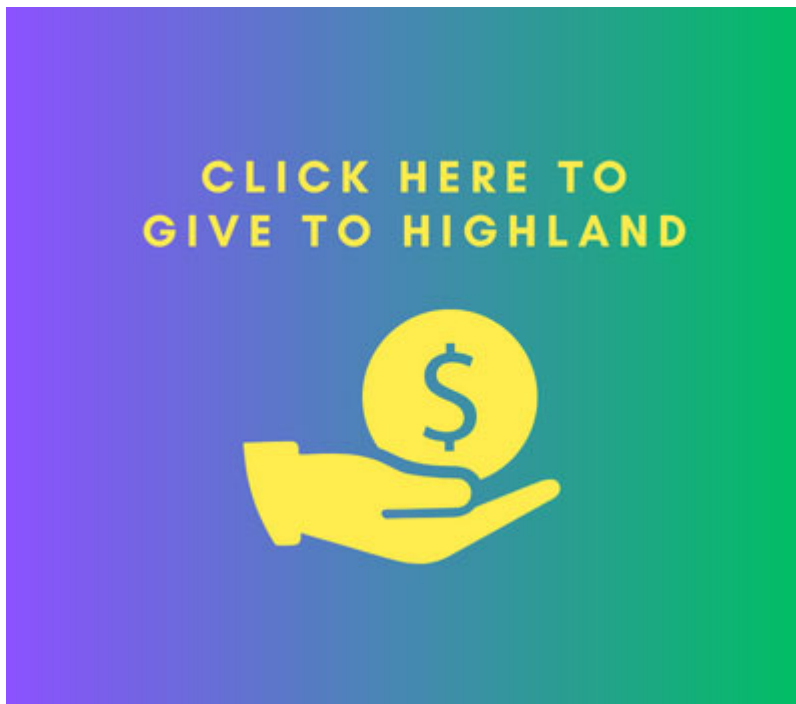
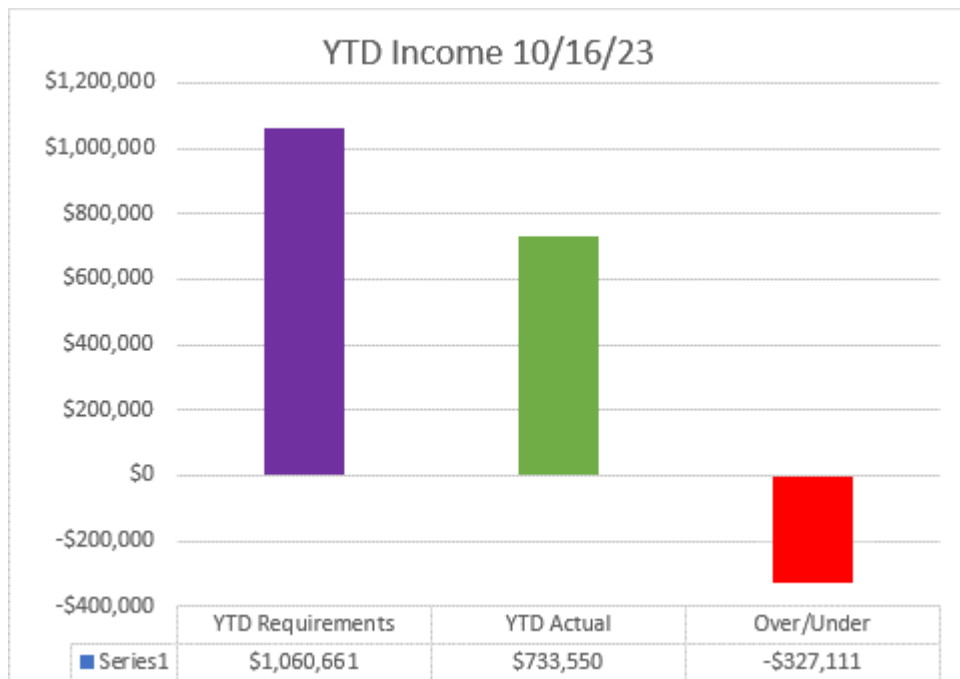
Looking Ahead

- October 18: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" with Tyler Mayfield at 6:15 PM

- October 19: Cream of the Crop Day Retreat, Parklands at Floyd's Fork
- October 22: Sally Evans Ordination Service at 4:00 PM
- October 29: Quarterly Church Conference at 4:00 PM on Zoom
- November 10: Trivia Night and Dessert Auction Fundraiser for Sacred Space at HCM, 1228 Breckinridge Lane, 7:00 PM
- November 10-12 Youth Fall Retreat, Aldersgate
- November 12: Party with Your Pastors at the Henderson's home, 4:00-5:30 PM
- November 19: Thanksgiving services; finger food breakfast and family-friendly time of gratitude/reflection at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

## Financial Reports





## 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.

- Raymel Atkins, 15, killed September 5
  - Chaquia Denar “Kiki” Mitchell, 31, killed September 25
  - Craig Banks, 61, killed September 25
  - Braxton Donovan Tucker, 18, killed October 3
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YouTube



Website



Instagram

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