



November 3, 2020



This Sunday: Called Business Meeting to Discuss 2021 Budget

On Sunday, November 8, there will be a called business meeting on Zoom at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the 2021 budget. The budget will be emailed to the church to review prior to this meeting. Please make plans to attend as we work together to discern important ways to move forward with our budget in the coming year.

Zoom information:

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8422237206?pwd=ck56R1ozZEZ0WHN2ZjV2WlJ3d2E5dz09>

Dial-In: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 842 2223 7206

Passcode: 290640

Update on Church Business

When Covid-19 hit the country, Highland applied for and received funds from the Paycheck Protection Program. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a loan program developed as a response to Covid-19 designed to provide direct support for small businesses (including non-profits and churches) to keep their workers on the payroll. The Small Business Administration will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met and the funds are used for eligible expenses.

Our hope in writing here is to give you a more thorough understanding of the process Highland followed to apply for these funds, the concerns we have received, and how they have been addressed thus far.

On Saturday, **March** 28, 3 members of Finance Ministry Group participated in a Zoom call hosted by CBF North Carolina with experts in church finance, Cheney and Associates, to learn more about the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) and what it meant for churches. That Zoom call named that time was of the essence and applications for aid money would likely open by the end of the week, just 5-6 days later. That evening, Finance gathered via Zoom to talk

through this possibility for Highland.

In the days that followed, Finance initiated conversations with staff, Personnel, and Ministry Council and gave them an opportunity to respond with questions and concerns. Ministry staff specifically considered the question of separation of church and state at the request of Finance. Wisely, one of our ministers asked if the aid was available for all faith groups (churches, synagogues, mosques and other religious bodies). If the answer was yes, given the global pandemic and the uncertainty and intensity of the season, the ministry staff was supportive of proceeding. Members of Finance researched this question, and the report was that all religious groups were eligible for aid. Ultimately, the decision was made to move forward, understanding that application did not necessarily ensure receipt of the funds.

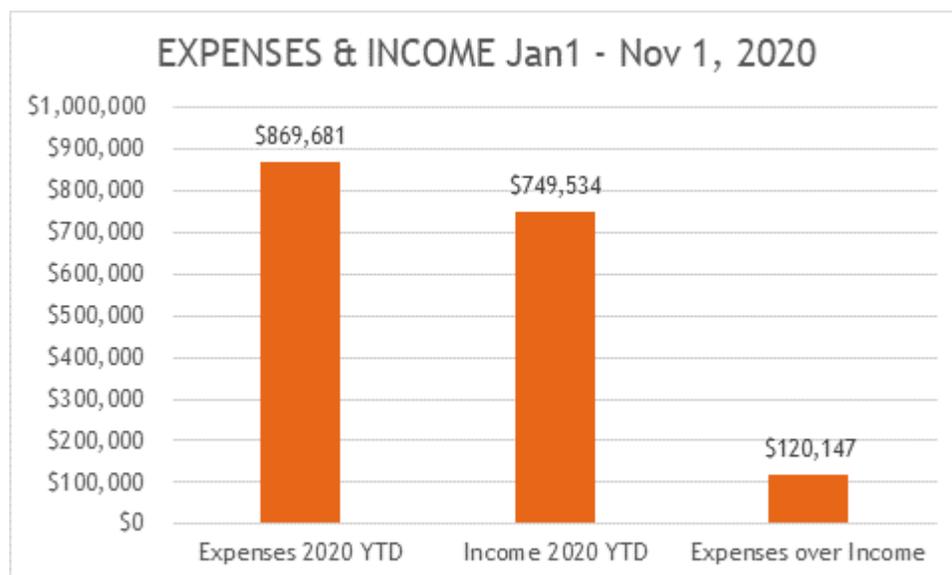
The Ministry Council continued to receive monthly updates on this process from the Finance Ministry Group and reported updates to the church. (See minutes from the newsletter [April](#) and [July](#)). At first, we received notification that we did not receive the PPP funds we had applied for. However, in **mid-April**, Congress considered more funding. On **May 6**, we received communication that Highland would receive the requested PPP funds, and the next day, the money was deposited into the Highland account.

[Story continued on our website.](#)

Grateful for 185 Pledges Received to Date

As of Tuesday morning, we have received 185 pledges totaling \$764,796.76. These pledges represent an increase over last year's pledges. Thank you for your faithfulness to this faith community through your giving.

- Through November 1, 2020 expenses are \$120,147 over income.
- Pledged Income is at 95.3%



I'm ready to make my pledge online!

How Do We Pray in 2020?



How do we pray in 2020? This question has been rolling around my head, heart, and soul lately. I've never been more in need of my faith *AND* been so disoriented in my faith as I have been in 2020. "Why do we pray" is a question that life is answering for us.

We're praying because there's a global pandemic plaguing us, a racial reckoning calling us, a political season dividing us, families are together 24/7, single people are without community, and the list could go on. We need prayer because we've got some things to say to God, and God listens and responds to those who are listening. We are yearning for prayer because 2019's faith no longer fits, and 2021's faith depends upon what happens within and around us now.

Let's finish out this year by leaning into the question the year implores us to explore – ***How do we pray right now? What do we pray? To whom are we praying?***

We ask these questions not as the first people to face disorientation, disconnection, and disease. We are "generation to generation" people whose faith has been handed down to us by our ancestors. Therefore, we will bring today's concerns to God with **the Psalms** as our guide.

If you worry that this will be an exercise in "[toxic positivity](#)" or "solar-powered spirituality," as [Mary Alice preached on October 18](#), then you haven't read the Psalms. Walter Brueggemann's teaching on the "Psalms of Disorientation" will show us how the Psalms are a place where "one speaks unguardedly about how it in fact is."

As the priesthood of all believers, let us seek God together in prayer, for our future faith depends a practice of honest dialogue with the God who is leading us forward into the great unknown. ~ *Carol Harston*

To find out more about the series, visit <https://hbclouisville.org/congregational-life/how-do-we-pray-in-2020/>. The first week's psalm can be found online at <https://hbclouisville.org/2020/10/30/how-do-we-pray-in-2020-psalm-74/>.

Weekend Services Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 78:1-8
Amos 5:18-24
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 15:1-13

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

Highland's Word To Our Community

... on NPR: ...continuing to nurture our faith community with Friday and Sunday worship services available on Facebook and YouTube.

... on our marquee:



Please Note:

All in-person services, activities, meetings and events at Highland Baptist Church are cancelled until further notice.

Staying Connected Outside These Walls

As we live through these days where we are rarely, if ever, physically connected with each other we make use of technology to bridge some of the gaps that exist between us. Below are some of the ways that you may use to stay connected to the community of Highland Baptist Church:

Worship from the sanctuary on our Facebook page at 7:00 p.m. on Friday nights and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. These streams also appears on our YouTube page.

Bible study via Zoom. Several adult Bible study classes are gathering weekly via Zoom which allows connectivity via computer or phone. If your Bible study class would like to begin meeting this way, email Carol at carol@hbclouisville.org or Walter at walter@hbclouisville.org.

Saints Memorialized

At Highland Baptist, we have a special fund to which many of you donate in memoriam of a person who has passed. Your gift honors their life and goes to the Work of Love through our ongoing ministries. The Faithful Giving Ministry Group is so grateful for your generosity, and we give thanks.

In observation of All Saints Day this past Sunday, we wish to acknowledge the generous persons who gave to Highland Baptist in the beloved memory of one or more members of our Cloud of Witnesses we lost during 2019 and 2020: Jean Janes Baptist Women, John and Lela Hendrix, HBC Choir, Missy Hitt, Isaac B. McDonald, Wanda and Dave Nakdimen, Anne E. Hickey, Jim and Mary Helen England, Kathleen McCain, Friends of Bob, Becky Smith, Dr. Beth Elliott, Susan and Ken Pierce, Deborah and Thomas Hardy, Joanne Taheri, Barry Germany, Lois and Julius Roemer, Jim and Gloria McBee, Lewis and Ginger Miller, Jane and Wayne Parker, Jim and Mary Helen England, Paul and Janet Whitely, Reece and Sandy Little, Terri and Joe Phelps, Virginia Sims, Flexible Pharmacy Services, Peter and Edye Raymond, Karen and Michael De Carols, Dr. Marilyn Sanders, Frances Price, Marilyn Motsch, James and Donna Wickersham, Bruce Carroll and Virenee Chatmon, James and Cannan Hyde, Marilyn Bollinger, Children of Phoebe, Betty Stivers, Sandra Dempey, Shirley Ann Whittaker Burba, Glenna Whittaker, Diana Zacha, Amy Shuck, Anthony Omer, Harold Omer, James and Patricia Host, Ben and Carolyn Clement, Generations Class, Ruth and Bob Uphaus, Richard and Janice Jones, Bob and Terri Connolly, Ann Brinson, Arthur and Amy Finkleberg, Julia Emberton Moran, Ann Williams, Nancy Goodhue, Vicki Runnion, Robin and Mimi Smith, Victor and Martha Bowman.



All of the persons/groups mentioned above gave in memory of one or more of the following: Barbara Campbell, Betty Hunt, Bob Elliot, Dick Allison, Julie Campbell, Michael French, Phoebe Delamarter, Tish Gardner, Dave Nakdimen, Frank Tupper, and Divina Park.

These saints have blessed our lives immeasurably, and we appreciate those who have memorialized them through this fund.



Christmas Poinsettias

Highland's beautiful stonewall sanctuary will be decorated for the Advent season by our Worship Ministry Group in late November and yes, despite the fact that the pandemic continues to sweep through Kentucky, we would like for poinsettias to adorn our sacred space. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory/in honor/in appreciation of a family member, friend, or loved one. You may submit payment and information through Highland's website at <https://hbclouisville.org/christmas-poinsettias> or contact Andria in the church office (502-451-3735 ext. 26;

andria@hbclouisville.org).



Highlands
Community
Ministries

HCM Holiday Curbside Food Drive and Christmas Giveaway Program

[grow.](#) [heal.](#) [play.](#) Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) is hosting a Holiday Curbside Food Drive on Sunday, November 22, 12:00-2:00 pm, front entrance at 1228 East Breckinridge Street. Pull up and our volunteers will unload from your vehicle! We are seeking the following donations:

Non-Perishable Food:

- Hearty Soups and Stews with crackers
- Hearty Pasta and Sauce
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Meat and Tuna



New and Unopened Personal Hygiene items:

- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Shaving Cream

Christmas Giveaway:

HCM is not having our gift list and angel tree this year due to COVID-19. They are seeking \$25 gift cards to Walmart, Target, and Kroger.

Mission Corner



Christmas Boxes for Scarlett Jasper

The Jean Janes Mission Group has long supported Scarlett Jasper, our missionary to parts of Appalachia. One of our annual projects is to put together Christmas boxes for 4th grade boys. Our goal has always been 100 boxes.

Her request for boxes for all ages of children doubled from 1,000 to 2,000 this year! We are asking for contributions so we may increase our number of boxes. All items must fit in a 6 qt. plastic box with a lid. Donations of boxes are welcome.

Each box will include a \$10 gift card from either Walmart, Family Dollar, or Dollar General. We would love to have as many of these as possible. Thank you in advance for your care and support.

Items may be dropped off at the Education Center Entrance at church or directly to Beverly Breyette's home by **November 11**. The following items are welcome: Chapstick, combs, 2 in 1 shampoo in a zip lock bag, brush, toothbrush, small/medium toothpaste, washcloth, soap, markers, age appropriate toys, puzzles, books, card games, wallet, socks, soap, fun stuff, play stuff, anything else a 4th grade boy would love to get!

In order to practice safe social distancing, feel free to also order the items online and have the shipped to church or Beverly. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Annual Christmas Store Gift Donations

Highland is excited to once again serve our community through The Christmas Store at Highland! For the past seven years, this store has served as a wonderful way to build relationships through shopping for Christmas presents with families we have met through a variety of local ministries. This year we will be practicing social distancing and adjusting our usual practices to follow the governor's recommendations for COVID-19 best practices.

This year, the store will look a little different, but our goal will be the same. The store is an alternative to gift sponsorship that allows parents and caregivers the opportunity to provide for and pick out gifts for their children. Each year, you generously donate new toys and books, which constitutes the merchandise in our Christmas Store. Parents shop from a variety of items and buy their gifts at an 80% discount. Each year, the store is staffed with a small group of volunteers, so the shoppers can have a true Christmas shopping experience. They select gifts themselves with their individual children in mind. The store offers gifts for children from birth to age 18. In addition, each family is given one free book per child.

In order to maintain social distancing, this year we invite donations to be shipped directly to the church. Highland Christmas Store % Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Rd, Louisville, KY 40204. Please note that all gifts must be received by December 5. We have wish lists set up at:

- [Amazon](#)
- [Target](#)
- [Carmichaels](#)

Alternatively, you can make a cash donation at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/donate/> which we will use to purchase gifts for our store. Please write "Highland Christmas Store" in the comment section.

If you cannot order or give online, but would like to make a donation to the Christmas Store, contact Alecia Fuller for assistance.



Calling All Mask Makers

Would you like to sew and donate a Christmas-themed reusable mask for shoppers at the Christmas store? If so, please contact Elizabeth Howell.

Couscous, of course!

The I Love Morocco couscous lunch will happen this **Friday, November 6, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time**. Because couscous calls for pumpkin and some of us will have some pumpkins lying around after October 31. Everyone is invited to make your own couscous lunch and join in on the ZOOM call! Karen Thomas Smith, Karen Zimmerman and Nafkot Mamuye will be on the ZOOM with you to give you an update on the pastors whose salaries are paid through the I LOVE Morocco offering, and other latest breaking news from Morocco.

Prayers from Morocco

1. Please pray for the president of one of our partners in France, the Union of French Evangelical Reformed Churches whose name is Jean-Raymond Stauffacher. I stayed with him and his American wife, Christiane, back in 2009 on a partnership trip. Jean-Raymond, Christiane and one of their two children, Emilion have all tested positive for Covid, but Jean-Raymond is gravely ill. He is in the ICU in Marseille, France, and he's fighting for his life. We'll keep you posted.

2. The CEI, refugee and migrant ministry of the national church, will hold a General Assembly with the members of our teams from around the country. We are dealing with a number of difficult challenges, as you can imagine, and we ask for your prayers. We'll begin at 7:00 EST and end at 12:30 EST, Lord willing.
3. Praise: The EEAM has hired a new Chief Financial Officer, thanks to a grant from a German partner who started one week ago. We are so grateful for the work he has already done. He is DONATING 1/4 of his time as a gift to the church and getting paid for 3/4 of his time. Give thanks to God for Elie and the gift he is to us.
4. Praise: Lee Hall, the wife of Pastor David Hall, has recovered from Covid, though she is still having some fatigue. She's back attending our endless Refugee and Migrant Ministry Meetings. Our only other church member to have Covid in all the churches is also doing well.