



*A thinking, feeling, healing  
community of faith*

## ***The Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church January 12, 2022***

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### **VIRTUAL WORSHIP CONTINUES THROUGH JANUARY**

The church offices will be closed Monday, January 17  
in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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## **Love is Always the Way . . .**

Dear Highland,

Dare I say happy 2022? It certainly hasn't been the beginning of the new year that any of us were expecting. Omicron is raging among us, and it seems that after almost two years of COVID, this stage of the pandemic has been harder on us than any other.

Many of you have mentioned to me the grief you felt in seeing the empty sanctuary on your screens on Sunday, and it seems that even our beloved church building is crying out right now, too. Walter McWhorter discovered a plumbing issue in the church building early last week, and for over a week, there was no running water in the building. Subsequently, we are having problems with the heat in many parts of the building due to the boiler's inability to run over the past week. Many of our students and teachers are beginning NTI again this week, while others deal with the challenges of in-person learning in the midst of Omicron. And, I'm writing this message to you as my own weary body continues to recover from COVID-19. Can we simply return 2022 and say we'd like a refund?!

I'm not always good at listening to my body. I tend to push it to or even past

exhaustion most of the time. But while I may not like what it's telling me, 2022 is forcing me to listen to my body. To rest. To drink more fluids. To know when it's time to stop. And to allow my body to recharge, even if it's taking longer than I would like.

There are so many things that are simply out of our control these days, but one of the things that is in our control is how we care for ourselves and one another. I'm continuing to be mindful of words that writer Shauna Niequist shared recently that I shared with our deacons yesterday: **“Now is not the time to be stingy with love and care, not with ourselves, not with each other.”**

Perhaps 2022 is asking us to begin this year by caring for ourselves, for our church, and for one another in extravagant ways. Let's love one another wholeheartedly in these difficult days. Check on one another: our parents, our senior adults, our students. Give yourselves the grace you would give to a dear friend. Listen to your bodies. Know when to take a break. Rest.

Now is not a time to be stingy with love, Highland family. May Love be an ever-present compass to guide us in these unknown days of 2022, because Love is always the way.

With great love,  
~ Mary Alice



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**Feasibility Study with Ashley|Rountree**

In our last Quarterly Church Conference, Highland approved funding for an ad hoc committee to begin working with a consultant to guide us in our upcoming capital campaign as we prepare for our HVAC renovation and additional building updates and repairs that may accompany this project.

After seeking several bids last fall, we have chosen to move forward with Ashley|Rountree and Associates, a local agency that works with nonprofits and churches. We are eager to get started in our work together in this timely and important project! Some of you may be contacted as early as this week asking you to participate in initial interviews with representatives from Ashley|Rountree as part of our feasibility study for the capital campaign.

You will hear more about this work at our upcoming QCC on January 23, and in subsequent church meetings on February 13 and February 27. Thank you for joining with us as we seek to be good stewards of our physical space and to invest in the continued work of Love at Grinstead and Cherokee!

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**We will meet virtually for our Quarterly Church Conference  
at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 23.**

Our agenda includes voting on upcoming Ministry Council members, Moderator, Church Clerk, Comptroller, and other ministry group positions, a year-end financial review from the Finance Ministry Group, and updates on our next steps as we prepare for the upcoming capital campaign for the HVAC renovation and additional building updates and repairs that may accompany this project.

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## **White Too Long Book Groups**

This year, we are inviting all of Highland to read [White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity](#) by Robert P. Jones. This book was chosen for the city-wide book club by Empower West last fall, and our friend, Dr. Lewis Brogdon, [interviewed the author](#) at a CBF Kentucky and Baptist Seminary of Kentucky event this fall as well. After consulting with several church leaders and friends of Highland, we believe that Jones' book speaks to this particular moment in Highland's story and will be a helpful tool for our continued conversation.

If you order your copy through Carmichael's and tell them it is for the "Highland Baptist Book Study," you will get 20% off! However, please be advised that due to supply chain difficulties, Carmichaels may have limited copies. In the meantime, copies are also available at [Cokesbury.com](#) and Amazon.com and through the Louisville Free Public Library.

We are currently working on book group plans in light of Highland's decision to meet virtually this month, and we will be in touch with more information about how we will engage this book conversation together.

*~ Mary Alice*

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## **Water Flows Freely - A Plumbing Update**



The church is now the proud owner of a Wilkins RPZ Backflow Preventer which has allowed water to flow freely in the building once again. As of Tuesday afternoon, water service has resumed in the building (with the exception of one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor water heaters).

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## **An Invitation to Prayer and Reflection**

***PLEASE NOTE:  
THIS GROUP WILL POSTPONE GATHERING  
THROUGH JANUARY.***

Stay tuned for further updates.

Anyone who is interested in shared meditation/prayer/reflection is invited to try out a new group that is forming.



The group will engage primarily in silent meditation, prayer, and/or reflection. A facilitator will start the meeting with a short reading, and possibly a few minutes of music, and then we will sit together for about 30 minutes. Participants will have the opportunity (at any point) to call out the name of a person, group, or situation for which they would like others to pray, and others can incorporate that concern into their silent prayers or reflection, as they wish. For example, "the reparations task force," or "those affected by the tornadoes in western KY." (To be clear, we do not plan to ask participants to share details about a situation or need.) We will be masked throughout, and chairs will be spaced around the room.

It may be that only the facilitator and one or two others come in one week, and maybe 10-20 come another week. It is not expected or required that participants come every week, although we hope that the experience of praying and reflecting together will be meaningful in a way that encourages you to come whenever you can.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Vicki Runnion at 502-396-3325 or Carolyn King at 502-541-9636.

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## **Streaming Worship Links**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY7dObZSxKI\\_X5h4DGqE\\_5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY7dObZSxKI_X5h4DGqE_5w)

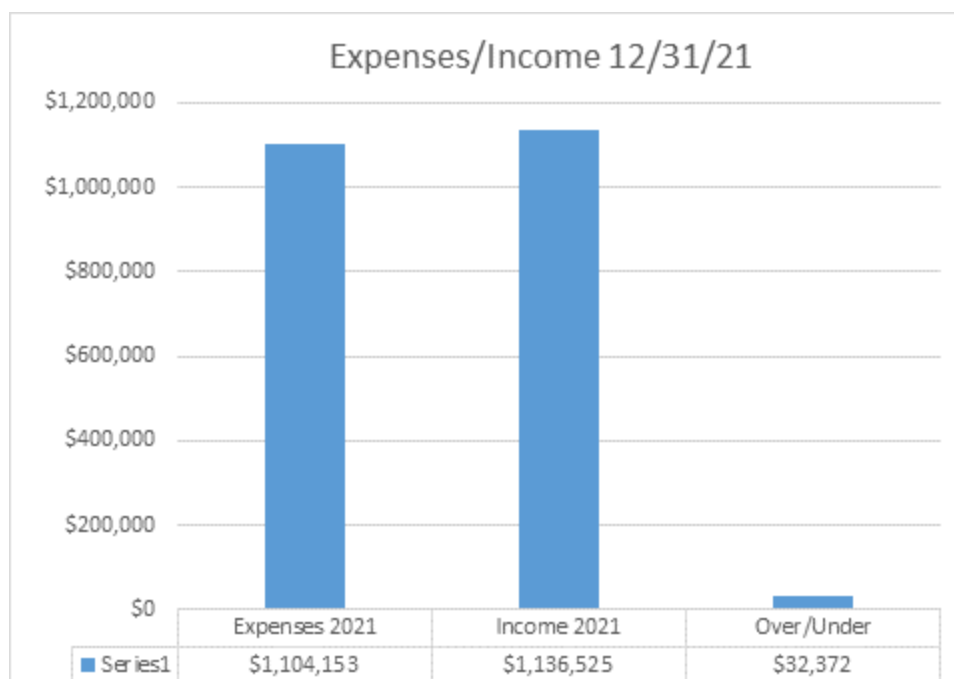
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# Finance Report

**THANK YOU** for your generous support of the mission and ministry of Highland Baptist Church in 2021! Your gifts of \$1,136,525 are a sign of your love and support of the work that we seek to carry out here in Louisville and around the globe.

The good news is that our income in 2021 exceeded our expenses by \$32,372! With your gifts in 2021 we were able to share over \$100,000 with outside ministry partners and that is something to celebrate as well.

We will share more details during the Quarterly Church Conference on January 23. But again, from the Finance Ministry Group and the Faithful Giving Ministry Group, we say thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of HBC during 2021.





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## Offering Envelopes Available

For those who use them, boxes of offering envelopes are located in the hallway near the commons. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and would like to request one, please contact Kathleen at 502-451-3735 or by email at [Kathleen@hbclouisville.org](mailto:Kathleen@hbclouisville.org).



## 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.

- Dojuan Jefferson, 22, killed December 17
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