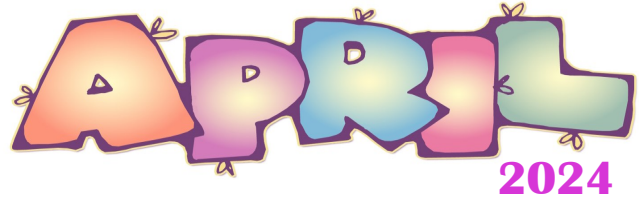


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 17 Issue 4

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Dear All,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! What profound joy it is to proclaim that truth now and always! During our Lenten study and practice sessions over the last 6 weeks, we learned from and were inspired by various liberation theologies. This season, we are blessed to be reminded over and over again that the greatest liberation of all is liberation from death through the Resurrection! For, if death does not have the final say, then we have freedom to live life without fear, to live and love fiercely and fully. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear!" Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



On Easter Sunday we read the story of the Resurrection in *John*. In it we found Mary Magdalene in the garden, weeping outside the tomb. When she turned around, she found a man standing there who, she thought, was the cemetery gardener. Then he spoke her name, and realization flooded her. It was there in his voice. It was there in the way that he said her name. It was there in the way that he simply knew her. This was Jesus of Nazareth, the one who was supposed to be in the tomb! And of course he knew her. For, this gardener had planted a seed in her heart and had nurtured it oh so very well. This gardener was the best gardener who ever was, for he knew how to make the human heart grow!

Throughout the season of Easter, our hearts will be growing in God's garden, in the garden of the greatest gardener, in the garden of new life! As flowers and vegetables grow in the Spring season, as many of us tend our own gardens, let us imagine what it would have been like to be there with Mary and to encounter our risen Lord. Let us reflect on the processes that take place when vegetation dies in the Fall and lies dormant in the Winter. Let us reflect on how those processes create the fecundity necessary for new life to bloom

**Board Shorts**

**Bring Your Own Bible**

**Call All Graduates**

**Spring Read-A-Long and Book Discussion**

**Easter Flower List**

**Soup Sale**

**Per Capita**

First Presbyterian Church  
of Highland  
8727 Delaware Street  
Highland, IN 46322



***The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland  
is to be  
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ***

And so let us be inspired to grow closer to God ourselves as we come out of the suffering, death, and grief of Lent. And so let us be inspired to accompany others on their journeys of growth.

We are blessed to have a stunningly beautiful garden here at First Presbyterian Church of Highland! I invite you to spend some meaningful time out there this April, watching new life bloom. Pay attention to the shoots and the buds and the blossoms. Volunteer with our gifted garden crew if you have some time and energy! If that is not where your passion lies, then consider participating in something else at church that will help you to grow closer to God during this Easter season! There are many opportunities presented in this edition of the Larger View.

I am reminded of songwriter Eleanor Farjeon's masterpiece:

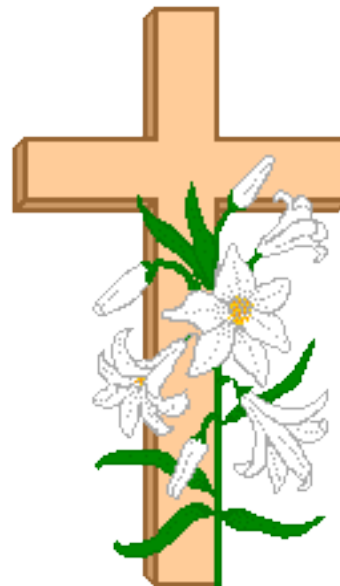
*Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing  
Praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass*

*Mine is the sunlight  
Mine is the morning  
Born of the One Light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





- The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland met on March 19, 2024, in person and hybrid.
- We were blessed to have Tracy Oprea as our substitute clerk while Jean Smith traveled. Thank you, Tracy!
- We had a fruitful discussion on the Presbyterian Outlook article, “In Defense of the Common Congregation.”
- We joyfully received reports from the church’s boards, ministries, and committees. Everyone has been hard at work!
- We discussed the progress of our temperature control capital campaign. As of Monday, 3/19, we had raised \$54,330.00 out of the \$57,500.00 needed. We are on the home stretch and hope to be done by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Soup Sales on March 17<sup>th</sup> went very well! We will be taking a break in April and then starting up Salad Sales.
- Outdoor worship services for the summer were discussed. A schedule will be forthcoming when we learn more of Highland’s plans in the park.
- Lois Fozkos reported back from February 24<sup>th</sup>’s presbytery assembly meeting, lifting up opportunities for deacons’ funds from the Smock Foundation and an inspiring message preached by Rev. Alonzo Johnson from the PCUSA headquarters in Louisville. Thank you for being our commissioner, Lois!



## Treasurer’s Report

For the Month of  
February 29, 2024

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$18,791.04	\$10,673.57	\$52,438.05
Operating Expenses	15,915.78	15,505.61	28,657.05
Excess (Deficit)	\$2,875.26		\$23,781.00



**Gifts were given in the month of March to the Endowment Fund:**

In Memory of: Sharon LaFlech

**These gifts were given by the following donors:**

Peter & Gale Churitch, Jean Smith, and Jan Oprea

**Gifts were given in the month of March to the Blessing Box:**

In Memory of: Sharon LaFlech

**These gifts were given by the following donors:**

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, Bruce Cooper, Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, Carolyn Ham,  
Doran & Karen Lounsbury, and Jean Smith

**Gifts were given in the month of March to Gladys' Table:**

In Memory of: Sharon LaFlech

**These gifts were given by the following donors:**

Fred & Carol Callaway, Bruce Cooper, Doran & Karen Lounsbury, and Janet Terpstra

**A Donation was made in Lieu of Easter Flowers by:**

Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry McKnight

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***Stewardship: "Not Just Giving, It's a Way of Living!"***

Submitted by Lee Ann Cheesebrough and John Toren

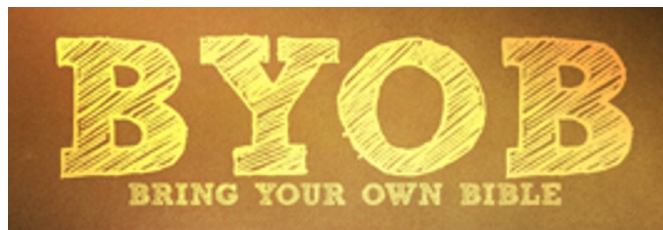
Stewardship simply asks as a part of our daily living that we look for and act on opportunities to use our time, talent and treasure to love, support and uplift our neighbors and our world. Every day we encounter others whose day may be enriched by a smile or a simple gesture of recognition. So—smile, hold a door, free up a stuck grocery cart for someone, let someone go ahead of you in line or in traffic, be unexpectedly kind in a difficult situation, share a skill, be generous to someone in need. Offer the gesture and see the response. The response may inspire you to incorporate these simple actions into a "Way of Living," a way that inspires you to continually find even more ways to share your gifts and to show your commitment to the Second Greatest Commandment. By the way, it may have a way of catching on!

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life."—John 14:6*



## ADULT CONNECTIONS

“The Bible in Today’s World” class meets in person on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in the upstairs meeting room. We are finishing up our study of the book, “The Difficult Words of Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine. In class we discuss the Scriptures and essential issues each chapter is based on and watch a short video by the author to better understand some of Jesus’ most confusing teachings. Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions.



### BYOB IS BACK!

The Wednesday evening “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group will begin meeting again on April 10 and will meet weekly through May 15. There is NO BYOB on April 3. BYOB meets online on Zoom from 7-8 pm. We read and discuss various Scripture passages and their meaning for each of us. Each week is independent of the other weeks, so you can join in whenever you’re available without missing a lesson. The link to join the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. If you are not on the email list and would like to be, contact Kristen in the church office or Heather Casiano.



The 2023-2024 school year is almost over! We would like to recognize all the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2024, we’d like to know. Please email Heather Casiano, [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org), or call the church office, with the graduate’s name and a brief bio that we can print in our newsletter. You can include things like the name of the school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, military, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. If you have a recent picture of the graduate that we can publish, please include that as well. These should be sent to Heather no later than April 18.

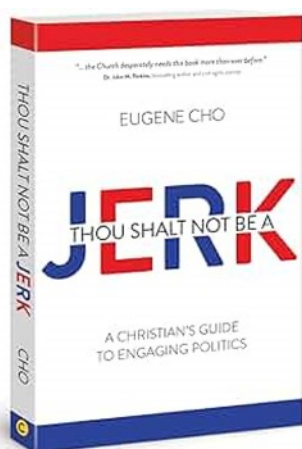
We will also be celebrating our graduates with special recognition during one of the worship services in May. Graduates and families will be contacted with more details as it gets closer.



### SPRING READ-A-LONG AND BOOK DISCUSSION

Faith Development is sponsoring a spring read-a-long on a timely subject for this year. The book is “Thou Shalt Not Be Jerk: A Christian’s Guide to Engaging Politics” by Eugene Cho.

Here is a summary from the publisher, David C Cook:



*According to Eugene Cho, Christians should never profess blind loyalty to a party. Any party. But they should engage with politics, because politics inform policies which impact people. In *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian’s Guide to Engaging Politics*, Cho encourages readers to remember that hope arrived—not in a politician, system, or great nation—but in the person of Jesus Christ.*

*With determination and heart, Cho urges readers to stop vilifying those they disagree with—especially the vulnerable—and asks Christians to follow Jesus and reflect His teachings. In this book that integrates the pastoral, prophetic, practical, and personal, readers will be inspired to stay engaged, have integrity, listen to the hurting, and vote their convictions.*

Author Eugene Cho is the founder and visionary of One Day’s Wages, which works to alleviate extreme global poverty; the president and CEO of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger; and an ordained pastor.

You’re encouraged to start reading the book this month. This book, originally published in 2020, and our discussions, will not endorse any candidates or political parties, so no matter where you may find yourself on the vast spectrum of thought, there is room for all voices.

There will be several ways to engage in discussion:

- A private Facebook group for this read-a-long available starting on April 16
- A Zoom discussion on the first half of the book on May 22 at 6:30 pm
- An in-person discussion of last half of the book on June 12 at 6:30 pm

We have 5 copies of this book at the church that can be checked out to read. Please sign the check-out sheet when you take a book, and sign it back in when you are finished so more people may enjoy the book. “Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk” is also available in paperback and as an e-book (Kindle) through many retailers and bookstores.

We are thankful for the beauty of the Easter Flowers given to the Glory of God by:

Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of loved ones

Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of family

Clara Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in honor of Jean's parents; in memory of

Clara's parents

Lois Fozkos, in memory of family & friends

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Karen & Doran Lounsbury, in honor of their many blessings

Jerry & Rena Martinez

Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry McKnight

Rev. Tyler Orem, in memory of Pappy Bill, Aunt Teresa, Pappy Jamie, and Thierno

Marjean Reed, in memory of Dr. Ronald R. Reed; Reed & Maxwell Families

Jean Smith, in memory of Jay Smith and Bob & Arlene Diekman

Cheryl Steen, in memory of Dr. Lowell Steen & Laura Wisner

In Lieu of Flowers:

Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry McKnight



April Liturgists:

- 4/7: Tristan Casiano
4/14: Robbie Casiano
4/21: Lois Fozkos
4/28: Tracy Oprea



April LiveStreaming

- 4/7: Tracy Oprea
4/14: Tristan Casiano
4/21: Jamie Ham
4/28: Robbie Casiano



A HUGE THANK YOU to Dennis O'Donnell for all his hard work on the new enclosure for our furnace in Fellowship Hall! He purchased, designed and built the new housing for the furnace. He also painted the poles, trim, and stairway. Thank you, Dennis for your hard work and dedication to FPCH!



## **BIN OF HUGS**

Bring in gently used and clean stuffed animals for Pastor Tyler and Abdul to distribute to migrant families in Chicago.



## **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!**

Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex to help the church's food pantry. We'd love to have you take a bag home, place some non-perishable food items in the bag, and bring it back to the church to help keep our pantry stocked!





The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on April 23rd.



Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers.

Please do not donate homemade or perishable items.



The Per Capita for 2024 is \$43.62 per member.

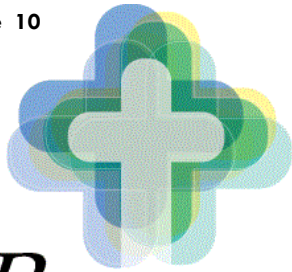


### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

If you don't already follow First Presbyterian Church of Highland on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so and sharing our posts with your friends!



- 5      LeaAnn Kerber
- 11     Jill Cooke
- 15     Tristan Casiano
- 16     Dennis O'Donnell
- 18     George Griner
- 19     Kris Scott
- 20     Abdul Savage
- 26     Holly Severson
- 28     Eric Parker
- 30     Heather Casiano



# Prayers & CONCERNS



## Pray For...



Anthony  
 George Nelson  
 Brady Vanes  
 George Griner  
 Guy Hendricks  
 Bill and Anettia Holmes  
 Daniel Litwicki  
 David Markley  
 Pat & David Kingen  
 Diana and Ray Mendoza  
 Janet Orem  
 Jeanne Nestor  
 Cindy Waltz and Sister  
 Yvonne Suroviak  
 Wendy  
 Georgette Sknerski  
 Jakob Holden  
 Denise Matthys  
 Steve & Melinda  
 Gary Studer  
 Jan Oprea  
 Janet Vargo  
 Ric Jaeggi  
 Florance Cody  
 Josephine Kim  
 Carol Figley  
 Kathy & Chuck Pumnea  
 Nick  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 Annie & Mike Windstrup  
 Kevin Windstrup  
 Ruth Dekker  
 Rick Parker  
 Gary Everhart  
 Gale Osterby  
 Bonnie Kern  
 Collin & Kathy Stein  
 Peter  
 Tim

Barbara Morton  
 Caroline Studer  
 Cary and Jennifer Pearson  
 Holly Letnich  
 Jaden Mendez  
 Frank Falzone  
 Doug and Sue Matthews  
 Robert Urich  
 Richard Simmons  
 Janet Terpstra  
 Glen Nahler  
 Tammy  
 Tom  
 Jana Tolley  
 Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
 Virginia Marshall  
 Delta Rose  
 Paulina Martinez  
 Winnie Owen  
 Charity Lynn  
 Chestine  
 Shannon  
 David Hamblin  
 Judy  
 Breeanne  
 Joe Petersen  
 Susan Agbor  
 Mom Bechtler  
 A Close friend  
 Gloria  
 John Shields  
 John Miramontes  
 Colton Bobonick  
 Cletus  
 The Family of Andrew Bobalik  
 Mary  
 Victor

- We pray for the people of Haiti, Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- We pray for those undergoing treatment for cancer, the mentally ill and their families, those recuperating, those undergoing treatments and those waiting for transplants.
- We pray for first responders and front-line medical workers
- We pray for the health and safety of our service men and women as we pray for an end to the wars that put them at risk
- We pray for the unemployed, the under employed and the homeless.
- We pray for all children in the world.
- We pray for the work of the Holy Spirit within the life of FPCH and within each of us, that we may indeed be and make disciples each new day.
- We pray for our home-bound loved ones.

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In order to keep the prayer list current, we need your input. If there are people you would like to have added or if there is someone who can be taken off the list, please call the Church Office (219-838-6850).