

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

November



2023

Volume 16 Issue 11

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Board Shorts	3-4
Treasurer's Report	4
Worship & Music	6
Faith Development	7-9
Stewardship/Finance	10
Ministry of Mission	11
News From the Pews	11-13

Dear All,

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

The month of gratitude is upon us, loved ones! I am always grateful for all of you, but I am feeling it especially poignantly right now. A few weeks ago, I was floored by the outpouring of love you showed to celebrate my fifth anniversary as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Highland. You blessed me with a stunningly beautiful stole that you have seen me wearing non-stop since. You blessed me with delicious cake and fellowship. You blessed me with words of encouragement and support in cards and upon lips. It is these words in particular that I will treasure in my heart, as Mary liked to say. Five years! I could not ask for a better congregation to serve alongside of! For five years we have navigated unprecedented challenges together. We have made difficult decisions and important changes in order to stay true to our Gospel calling through a global pandemic and a rapidly changing world. We have encountered each other in holy ways in vulnerability and grief. We have encountered each other with grace and courage. We have done the work of the Kingdom with creativity and boldness. I am so deeply thankful for all of you for being in beloved community with me. You inspire me! You amaze me! You give me hope!

We, of course, owe oceans and skies of gratitude to God for God's faithfulness over the years. God has provided for us in truly remarkable ways! Expressing gratitude to God is one of the most meaningful spiritual practices there is. I have found that I feel much closer to God and thus feel much more joyful in life when I bookend my days with gratitude—when I wake up with thanksgiving in my thoughts and when I go to bed with gratitude on my lips. Saying prayers of gratitude helps us to open our hearts and minds to the reality of God's presence and providence in our daily lives. Saying prayers of gratitude helps us to maintain healthy perspective in the midst of global turmoil. This Thanksgiving month, I encourage everyone to incorporate prayers of gratitude into your daily life. I also encourage everyone to communicate gratitude to others—to lift up others' strengths and gifts and to tell others why they matter to you.



Hanging of the Greens

Bake Sale

Adopt-A-Family

Craft Show Fundraiser

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Stewardship Sunday

Commitment Sunday

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

As I read through this edition of the Larger View, my gratitude deepens even more. I am reminded of the immense joy we experience as a church family, as was on full display at our hayride and bonfire outing. I am inspired by our church family's commitment to the Kingdom through missions that share God's love with those most in need. I am excited about our upcoming celebrations that will fill the rest of the year. You are amazing, Church Fam!

I want to express anticipatory gratitude as we prepare for this month's stewardship campaign. Soon you will be receiving a letter regarding our annual stewardship campaign, along with your pledge cards. I am persistently in awe of the spirit of generosity and the generosity of spirit that thrive in this congregation, and I trust that I will continue to be in awe. Hopefully you have been reading Stewardship and Finance's monthly Larger View articles in preparation for this campaign. If you have not, now is a good time to start!

I leave you with these words from *Philippians 1*:

I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

- The Nominating Committee for electing officers for the boards and committees will begin meeting soon. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Charlotte Abernethy, Anettia Holmes (both are members elected from the congregation), Elder Lois Fozkos, Trustee Jeffery Savage, and Deacons Pam Porter/Barb Morton.
- Session voted to hold a called Congregational meeting on December 10th after worship for elections and amendments to the Endowment Guidelines.
- Session approved the 2024 Budget Schedule.
- Rev. Tyler and the elders then went over the calendar of events for the remaining Sundays of this year. Here are some of the significant dates to remember:
 - NOV 5 Communion and All Saints' Day
 - NOV 12 Stewardship Sunday
 - NOV 19 Commitment Sunday (return pledge cards), lunch after worship, Mission Bake sale
 - NOV 26 Hanging of the Greens
 - DEC 3 First Sunday of Advent and Communion
 - DEC 10 Choral Cantata, Congregational Meeting, Cookies and Caroling
 - DEC 24 Christmas Eve morning and evening services
- A Spirit Wear fundraiser was discussed. Elder Tracy Oprea is organizing this sale, and there is be an online store where items can be purchased. T-shirts will be \$27, and Hooded Sweatshirts will be \$40.
- We are participating in a craft fair on Nov. 4th at St. James the Lesser Catholic Church in Highland from 9 am – 3 pm. Come support our crazy crafters and our church!

TRUSTEES

- The funding for the heating/cooling furnace for the Fellowship Hall has been secured from an Endowment Grant and Endowment General Fund money. This project is to be completed by the end of the year.
- The second phase involves installation of new air conditioning units in the sanctuary and should begin in the spring. To help with funding for this, we received a \$30,000 grant from the Smock Foundation, thanks to Pastor Tyler's grant writing abilities. Also, we just received a generous gift of \$14,000 from the Hammond First Presbyterian Church to help with some of the cost of this project. Session will be discussing additional ways to be raise money to cover the entire cost.



- Gutter cleaning has been done, sprinkler systems winterized, and other lighting needs and routine maintenance was discussed.
- Additional memorial bricks will be positioned in the path by Angotti Landscaping

DEACONS

- Prayers and concerns were offered for those in our congregation experiencing times of grief and illness.
- The prayer list was updated and a sunshine bag is being prepared to deliver.
- The prayer shawl ministry will meet on October 24th. Two shawls were dedicated in September during worship.
- Gladys’ Table lasagna meals were prepared on October 21st to be delivered to homebound members of our congregation.
- The Blessing Box continues to be monitored by the Deacons. The congregation is encouraged to bring non-perishable items for the box.
- Kiwanis prepared 40 bag lunches for Sackurday on September 30th.



Treasurer’s Report

For the Month of
September 30, 2023

	Month of September	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,413.06	\$10,038.59	\$96,973.40
Operating Expenses	14,281.95	14,862.86	123,255.73
Excess (Deficit)	(\$8,868.89)		(\$26,282.33)



Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'—Matthew 25:37-40

This month's *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the Ministry of Faith Development! The hayride and bonfire event brought our church family together in a beautiful way, and you all are responsible for making it happen. A fabulous time was had by all! Thank you for doing your part to respond to the *Matthew 25* call to build congregational vitality!

If you witness anyone or any group embodying the *Matthew 25* call upon our lives, please let Pastor Tyler know so that he can highlight them in this section!



We will be celebrating All Saints during Worship on Sunday, November 5th.



Sunday, November 26th

The Ministry of Worship & Music invites every willing and able-bodied person to stay after worship on November 26th to help prepare the church building for Advent. Help will be needed putting up and decorating the sanctuary tree, putting candles/hurricane lamps and greenery in the windows, setting up the Advent wreath/stand, and candles and hanging the swag/wreath from the balcony.



November Liturgists:

- 11/5: Carol Callaway
- 11/12: Tracy Oprea
- 11/19: Robbie Casiano
- 11/26: Lois Fozkos



November LiveStreaming

- 11/5: Tracy Oprea
- 11/12: Jean Smith
- 11/19: Tristan Casiano
- 11/26: Jamie Ham



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

All youth in 6th grade and older, plus young adults, are invited to participate in Youth Connections. Friends are always welcome! Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events:

November 19: Join with the entire congregation after worship for the annual Stewardship Luncheon. Great food and fellowship!

November 26: Hanging of the Greens, after worship. Help us put up the large Christmas tree in the sanctuary and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas

December 10: Annual Cookies & Caroling event, after worship. You'll get lunch, then we bake and decorate Christmas cookies. Around 3 pm we'll head out to several homebound/elderly church family members' homes to sing and deliver the cookies. Bring a friend or two – always a fun event!

December 31: We're looking into the possibility of holding a New Year's Lock-In at our church. There will be fireworks across the street at Main Square Park, lots of food, games, movies, and other activities.

PLEASE RSVP TO HEATHER CASIANO IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED AND ABLE TO ATTEND. We need to have a minimum of 5 youth (including friends) to make it work, as well as 1 or 2 additional adult chaperones.

If there are any adults who would like to be involved with Youth Connections, either helping lead a session or providing food for the youth on a particular date, let Heather or Pastor Tyler know.



ADULT CONNECTIONS

Both of our classes are open to all youth and adults of all ages. Friends are always encouraged to join in as well – you do not have to be a member of this congregation to participate.

- “The Bible in Today’s World” class meets in person on **Sunday mornings from 9-10 am**, in the upstairs meeting room. They are making their way through the book, “The Difficult Words of Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine. In class they discuss the Scriptures and essential issues each chapter is based on, and watch short videos by the author to better understand some of Jesus’ most confusing teachings. Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions.
- The Wednesday evening “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on **Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm** online on Zoom. This fall they are taking a look at “Scripture Stories in Stained Glass” – looking deeper into the Scripture passages depicted in the many stained glass windows around our sanctuary. The link to join the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. If you are not on that email list and would like to be, contact Kristen in the church office or Heather Casiano.



FALL HAYRIDE & BONFIRE

After having to postpone a week due to rain, we were blessed with beautiful weather on Oct. 22 for our fall hayride and bonfire. Almost 30 members and friends (and 2 canine friends!) met at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park, with the sun shining on the vibrant fall colors. After enjoying a ride around the park in a hay wagon, everyone gathered around the campfire, where we roasted hotdogs and marshmallows, enjoyed apple cider and s'mores, and sang some fun camp songs led by our musical pastor, Tyler. Thanks to the Faith Development team for arranging this event, and thanks to everyone who was able to come out and enjoy some outdoor fellowship time!





Generosity of Spirit

Spirit of Generosity:

“.....making sure everyone is well.....”

Submitted by John Toren

In 1847 the US agent for the Choctaw nation spoke to tribal members about the Irish hunger crisis known as the “potato famine.” He outlined the poor living conditions and abject poverty endured by those working in the land tenure system. When the potato crop failed and government assistance failed, over a million farmers and their families perished. Two million more were forced to leave Ireland to survive. The Choctaw listeners were moved by this. Ten years before, they had been forced from their land to follow the “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma where they, too, became dispossessed, impoverished immigrants. And yet, after the meeting, they raised between \$174 and \$710 (actual amount lost to history) to help. The funds were used to purchase food for those impacted in Ireland. When asked about this history, Waylon Gary White Deer, a Choctaw artist, replied “We heard about another people who were suffering much as we had suffered and so we must help them.” He continued, “Compassion, giving, making sure everyone is well...is what being Choctaw is all about.”

The Irish remembered this act of generosity. In 2018 The Irish Prime Minister visited the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. While there he recounted Ireland’s gratitude for that gift from many years ago and announced the establishment of a scholarship program for Choctaw students to study in Ireland. In 2020, when many Native Americans were particularly hard hit by Covid, the Irish donated nearly \$2,000,000 for their relief. When donors were asked to comment, they said: “it’s only fair”, “repaying an Irish debt”, “for kindness shown to Ireland”, “we remember”...

This is but another example of acts of compassion, generosity and kindness taking on lives of their own and growing beyond imagination! Never underestimate the power of the “Generosity of Spirit” and the “Spirit of Generosity.” (A summary of an article by Richard Grant from the September-October issue of the “Smithsonian”)

“I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”—Philippians 4:12-13



The Ministry of Mission will be having a Bake Sale on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Mission is looking for bakers to help with this fundraising event.

If you can help, please contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181.

Blessings From the Ministry of Mission

There will be a sign up sheet for items for the adopted families for their Thanksgiving meals starting November 5th. Mission will be providing the meat.



2nd Annual Craft Show Fundraiser



When: Saturday, November 4, 2023
Where: St. James The Less Catholic Church
9640 Kennedy Ave. Highland, IN
Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm

The FPCH Crazy Crafters have been busy meeting and making items to sell to support the church's general fund. So far, we have mesh crosses/angels/wreaths; gnome ornaments; fabric animals (a.k.a car-pets); soup/brownies/cookies in-a-jar; and crocheted tote bags.

Come and see us at the Craft Show on that Saturday!



Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



Don't forget that Tuesday, November 7th, is Election Day.

FPCH will be a voting site for Highland, Precinct #8



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on November 28th.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 12th.



Be sure to connect with us for worship on Sunday, November 19th, as we dedicate our 2024 pledges to God through Jesus Christ for the Mission & Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. If you are worshipping from home, please mail in your pledges.



Fellowship Hosts

Our Ministry of Hospitality is seeking hosts for fellowship! There is a sign up board downstairs. Hosting can be as simple as bringing store-bought snacks or as fun as making something if you have the skills!



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!



CHECK OUT THE GARDEN MEMORIAL PATH!

Our faithful trustees recently made sure that our beautiful garden memorial path would continue on in good shape, having the walkway leveled, the foundations improved, and the bricks re-laid. Take a peaceful walk along the path when you have a chance! Thank you, trustees!



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!



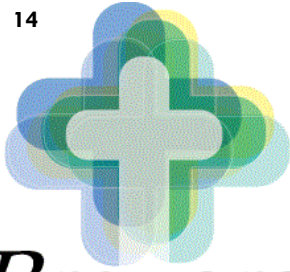
- 2 Shirley McKnight
- 6 Jeanne Nestor
- 12 Jill Elman
- Liz Zuke
- 14 Jesse Casiano



Blessing Box

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.



Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...

Anthony
 George Nelson
 Brady Vanes
 George Griner
 Guy Hendricks
 Bill and Anettia Holmes
 Daniel Litwicki
 David Markley
 David Kingen
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Jeanne Nestor
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Andrew Bobalik
 Gale Snyder
 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
 Robin C.
 Nick
 Laura Buono Domsic
 Annie & Mike Windstrup
 Kevin Windstrup
 Ruth Dekker
 Rick Parker

Barbara Morton
 Caroline Studer
 Cary and Jennifer Pearson
 Carol Finley
 Holly Letnich
 Lily Renfro
 Marla and Jerry Renfro
 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
 Lena
 Mark
 Paulina Martinez
 Sharon LaFlech
 Winnie Owen
 Charity Lynn
 Chestine
 Shannon
 David Hamblin
 Judy
 Breeanne

- 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.

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).