

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 16 Issue 10

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Dear All,

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

Happy October, loved ones! This is the anniversary month of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg in 1517. There is no doubt in my mind that he planned it that way, so that it would occur on All Saints’ Eve, also known as All Hallows’ E’en, also known as Halloween. Luther’s passion for reforming the Church spread, sparking the sacred imaginations of other reformers like John Calvin, whose ideas became the theological stream from which we Presbyterians descend. It is for good reason that we call that stream of thought the Reformed Tradition. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) thrives on the idea that we are Reformed and always reforming. We come from the tradition of reformers, and we recognize that we must always be in the process of reforming—of critically examining ourselves, making necessary changes, and being made new.

It strikes me that the First Presbyterian Church of Highland has been living into this tradition very well this year! On September 17 we had a luncheon meeting to follow up on our visioning luncheon from May. During that luncheon we discussed some reforms that we are going to be trying out. Thanks to the labors of love from our Clerk, Jean Smith, we have a record of those reforms:

CONCRETE IDEAS:

- Return to in-person meetings and offer hybrid option in next calendar year, particularly referring to Session.
- Fellowship time – Rotate through the ministries/boards/committees. Signups will be done on the white board in Fellowship Hall. Other congregation members are encouraged to also sign up.
- Have quarterly meals following worship to continue conversations.
- Do joint meetings of Session/Trustees/Deacons a couple of times during the year.
- Allow flexibility in ministry meeting times and frequency.
- Make activities and programs intergenerational.



Board Shorts

Star Words Check-In

Hayride & Bonfire

Christmas Decorating for Habitat

Pastor Appreciation

Craft Show

Food Pantry

*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*

- Focus on homebound needs.
 - Deacons are already doing this with monthly meals for the homebound.
 - The office mails worship service with the sermon to homebound members.
- Update website and social media. Advertise what we are doing.
 - The updating of the website has begun already.
 - Spirit wear is being investigated.
- Possibly reduce number of people on boards, especially Trustees.
- Plan Seasonal/liturgical worship and activities with staff and ministry representation.
- Incorporate more contemporary music along with traditional.
 - This is already being done with hymns, responses and choral music.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- The changes in the music are enjoyed and appreciated. It is more uplifting.
- Glad we are updating the website and focusing on social media. Everything in society now is on the computer, and we need to focus on this way of communicating.
- Need more communication between boards and ministries. The Trustee/Session meeting was great.
- QUESTION: Could a person just come to a board or ministry meeting?
 - Anyone is welcome to come observe a Trustee or Session meeting. They could not vote but are welcome to bring concerns or questions or just observe.
 - If a person wants to attend the Deacon meeting, they should contact Rev. Tyler first as some of their meeting concerns confidential information regarding the congregation.
 - Everyone is welcome to any ministry or committee meeting.
- QR code: A suggestion was made by Tristan Casiano that instead of assuming we know what the community wants, we should survey the community. One way is by publishing a QR code which would open up a survey which would give us important information about the programs we might offer. It could be published in the Town water bill flyer or on the Chamber of Commerce site, as we are members of the Chamber.
- We need to reach out to the community regarding youth and children programs and opportunities.

It was another hopeful and invigorating conversation! May we continue to listen for and lean into the winds of the Holy Spirit as we follow the ever-reforming river! Thank you, everyone, for your continued creativity and efforts on this voyage!

As you read through this edition of the Larger View, hopefully you will see those winds of the Holy Spirit at work. Hopefully you will be inspired to participate in whatever ways you can! Happy Reformation Month, everyone!

In honor of World Communion Sunday, I leave you with these words from *John 6*:

Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler



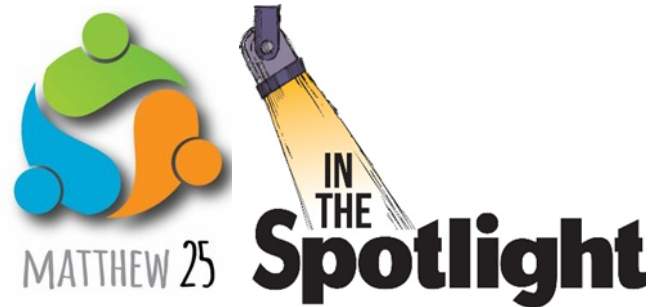
SESSION/TRUSTEE JOINT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2023:

- The Trustees presented their plans for the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary heating and cooling projects.
- The projects will be done in two phases with Phase 1 being the Fellowship Hall heating and cooling, which will begin this fall. The financing of \$18,000 for this project will come from an Endowment Fund grant and money from the General Fund portion of the Endowment allotment that is available to Session.
- Phase 2 will be for Sanctuary air conditioning with the possibility of also providing heat if necessary. It will cost approximately \$60,000 and the financing for this will come from a \$30,000 Smock grant available for churches in the Presbytery and the remainder from other available funds and a possible capital campaign.
- The Trustees were thanked for their work in researching different companies and working on a plan that meets our church's needs.
- The Session then reviewed plans for our fall luncheon on Sunday, September 17.

DEACONS' MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2023:

The Deacons continue in their prayerful and dedicated work attending to the needs of our congregation. The following projects were discussed:

- The current prayer list was updated.
- A sunshine bag was given out in August.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet monthly.
- The Deacons continue to check and stock the box daily for perishable and outdated items. Funds and items for stocking are both low. Donations are appreciated.
- Gladys' Table meals of lasagna, bean salad, garlic bread and cookie bars were prepared and delivered on September 16th to homebound members of our congregation.
- The August 26th Sackurday lunch program prepared and delivered 40 lunches of meatball sandwiches. The Kiwanis will be serving on September 30th.
- The Deacons will continue thinking about ways to lighten the workload yet still care for their clusters and carry out projects.



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 all who contribute to our food pantry, and especially on our food delivery crew of Cheryl Steen and Jeff Savage! As you will see later in this edition, many items were donated to our siblings at the Salvation to serve the hungry. Thank you for doing your part to respond to the *Matthew 25* call to eradicate systemic poverty!

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!



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
August 31, 2023

	Month of August	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,013.04	\$10,038.59	\$91,560.34
Operating Expenses	12,112.20	14,862.86	108,973.78
Excess (Deficit)	(\$7,099.16)		(\$17,413.44)



October Liturgists:

- 10/1: Karen Lounsbury
- 10/8: Renee Williams
- 10/15:: Tristan Casiano
- 10/22: Heather Casiano
- 10/29: Tracy Oprea



October LiveStreaming

- 10/1: Robbie Casiano
- 10/8: Robbie Casiano
- 10/15:: Robbie Casiano
- 10/22: Robbie Casiano
- 10/29: Robbie Casiano



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections is back for the school year! We're going to meet once a month this fall. All youth in 6th grade and older, plus young adults, are invited. Friends are always welcome! Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events:

October 15: Hayride and Bonfire, Oak Ridge Prairie County Park, 4:45 pm

November: Hanging of the Greens Nov. 26 after worship

December: Cookies & Caroling Dec. 10, after worship – lunch, baking/decorating and caroling

If there are any adults who would like to be involved with Youth Connections, either helping leading 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.



STAR WORDS CHECK-IN

On Epiphany Sunday back in January, you were encouraged to select a Star Word during worship or have one emailed to you. This word is to help you with your prayers and meditations throughout the year and to focus on a particular way God might be working in your life. Have you noticed any ways God has been working in you or through you in connection to your Star Word? Are there any new epiphanies God is revealing to you? If you're not sure, or don't see any direct connections yet, that's ok. Star Words are a journey, not a race, and God will reveal things in God's perfect timing. Keep on praying, stay in God's Word, and observe the world around you. You never know where or how you might see a Star!



FALL HAYRIDE & BONFIRE

All ages are welcome to our Fall Hayride and Bonfire on **Sunday, Oct. 15, at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park**, 301 South Colfax Street, Griffith, IN. The hay wagon will leave promptly at 5 pm, so please arrive at the park at 4:45 pm. After the hayride, we will have hotdogs and marshmallows to roast over the bonfire, as well as other treats and beverages. (If you have any special dietary needs, please let Heather Casiano know ahead of time.) Please bring a lawn chair for around the fire if you have one.





**Generosity of Spirit
Spirit of Generosity**
Submitted by John Toren

The New Testament provides us with ample direction for relating to others and living our lives generously. Paul succinctly summarizes many of these teachings in chapter 12 of his letter to the Romans. You will probably agree that they apply as much today as they did then. The following is some “food for thought” from this scriptural checklist for living a good life:

“Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.”

“Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”

“Be ardent in spirit” (be the best you can be)

“Contribute to the needs of the saints (the collective church); extend hospitality to strangers.”

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

“Do not be haughty...associate with (all); do not claim to be wiser than you are.”

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.”

“Live peaceably with all.”

“Never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God.”

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Wow! Love, goodness, energy, contribution, sharing, being a friend to all, peaceful living, positive thinking.....what a very fulfilling way to be!

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”—Romans 12:2

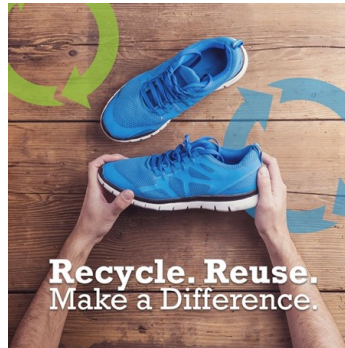


27 boxes and bags of food were delivered to the Salvation Army from our pantry to assist them with their distribution on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

We are once again going to pick up the Christmas decorating project at Habitat. If you have any Christmas trees, ornaments, wreaths, etc. that you are not using, please think about donating them to this project. You can call or text me (Cheryl Steen), and I will make arrangements with you to get them to where they need to be.

Also, please give some thought to donating a few hours October 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th or 28th from 9:30 AM—1:00 PM for decorating at the ReStore. Lunch will be provided.



GOT SNEAKERS?

Did you know that your gently worn sneakers/gym shoes could help us at First Presbyterian Church of Highland?

Well, they can, and here's how...Our church is still participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; all we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers!

Here's how you can help:

Start in your closet and gather as many pairs of sneakers that you no longer want; maybe you've outgrown them, they're out of style, or worn out. You can ask your neighbors, kids, grandkids, friends or co-workers to help out. Every pair counts!

The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our programs and projects here at FPCH AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills.

Blue bins are located inside DOOR D by the office, outside door D and also in the Narthex.



Join us in worship on Pastor Appreciation Sunday October 8th. Come and celebrate Pastor Tyler's 5 years of ministry with us and show him how much we appreciate him! Special refreshments will be served after worship in the Fellowship Hall!



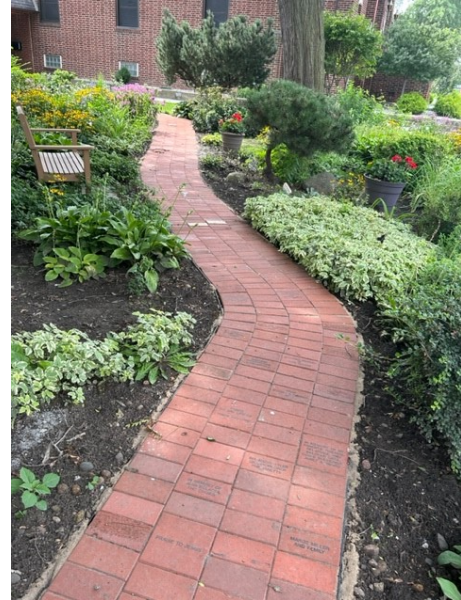
Kaitlyn and Eric Johnston welcomed Jude Richard Lee Johnston to the world on September 12, 2023. Jude weighed 9lbs, 1 oz. and was 22 inches long. Eric is the son of Nancy Auld Johnston and the late Don Johnston.



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!



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!



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!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on October 24th.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Cheryl Steen
- 10 Kris Agbor
- 12 Melissa Mendez
- 13 Nolan Severson
- 14 Khloe Agbor
- 15 Bob Abernethy
- 17 Lois Fozkos
- Pam Porter
- Eric Severson
- 19 Carol Callaway
- Diana Mendoza



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
 Carmelo
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Jeanne Nestor
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Andrew Bobalik
 Gale Snyder
 Yvonne Suroviak
 U. Chong
 Wendy
 Georgette Sknerski
 Jakob Holden
 Denise Matthys
 Steve & Melinda
 Gary Studer
 Jan Oprea
 Janet Vargo
 Laura Wisner
 Ric Jaeggi
 Florance Cody
 Josephine Kim
 Carol Figley
 Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
 Judy
 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).