

First Presbyterian Church Of Highland

THE LARGER VIEW

November 2026

Volume 19 Issue 11

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Dear All,

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

We should practice gratitude in all seasons for so many reasons, and the month of November gives us a special invitation to do so with intention. As we approach Thanksgiving, I am taking the opportunity to express my gratitude *to* all of you and to express my gratitude to God *for* all of you!

First, thank you for the goodness that was Pastor Appreciation Sunday! It filled my spirit to be honored in such a way and to be blessed by your collective generosity! Thank you for all of the thoughtful notes! Thank you for the picture board full of great memories! Thank you for the beautiful cake and fun fellowship! Thank you for the gift cards! Thank you for the smiles, handshakes, and hugs! All of it meant so much and continues to mean so much! I am thankful to God that I have been called to be your pastor! It is hard to believe that 8 years have passed!

Second, thank you in advance for the commitments that you will be making to First Presbyterian Church of Highland during our stewardship campaign! We kicked things off this past Sunday with a sermon bearing the title, "Be the Good News." This will be our theme throughout the season, as we strive to bring the Kingdom of Heaven near to each other, to our neighbors, and to the world. As you consider your pledges for next year, please consider how powerful of a force for good (*and the good news!*) we are when we join together and combine our monetary resources, our time, our energy, and our spiritual gifts. Remember, we may be a mustard seed of a congregation, but Jesus honored the power of mustard seeds to grow and provide shelter and sustenance to those most in need!

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

Third, I want to express gratitude to God for the saints of our congregation, community, families, and the world who have joined the Resurrection over the past year. On November 1, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day. We will light candles and speak words of love in memory of the blessed children of God who were gifted to us in life. We will embrace the truth that the Body of Christ is alive on earth and alive in heaven. The Resurrection occurred over 2,000 years ago, and the Resurrection is still occurring to this day. Thanks be to God! I invite you to spend intentional time throughout the month offering your own gratitude to God for your loved ones who have blessed you throughout your life and who are now experiencing the unmatchable joy of life in the direct presence of God forever.

My list of thanks could keep going on and on and on. Expressing gratitude to God and to each other is a powerful spiritual practice. As you read through this edition of the Larger View, you will find much to give thanks for! There is even a calendar activity to support you with the spiritual practice of gratitude. Also, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the hard work Kristen Wilson put into making this newsletter happen. She recently had to learn a new computer program in order to make it happen, and she did so with grace! Thank you, Kristen!

I leave you with these words from *Phlippians*:

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the ***GOOD NEWS*** *from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

- The nominating committee for this year consists of Carol Callaway and Anettia Holmes (Congregational Reps), Charlotte Abernethy (Session Rep), Rodney Fozkos (Trustee Rep), and Pam Porter (Deacon Rep). If you are called, please consider prayerfully this opportunity to serve our church.
- We approved an all-church bake sale, featuring pies and breads and other sweets for November 22, 2026 after worship and the stewardship luncheon. The proceeds will go to the General Fund.
- Elder Jean Smith was elected as commissioner for the Presbytery Assembly Meeting on December 1, 2026.
- There will be no Session meeting in November. Our next meeting will be December 15th at 6:30 pm.
- We voted and approved the following events for the rest of this year:

October 25, 2026	Stewardship Sunday Sermon
November 1, 2026	All Saints' Day
November 22, 2026	Stewardship Luncheon and Hanging of the Greens
November 22, 2026	Bake Sale featuring pies, breads and other sweets
November 24, 2026	Interfaith Worship Service–Westminster Presbyterian 7 pm
November 29, 2026	First Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2026	Advent Crafts and Caroling
December 13, 2026	Christmas Cantata
December 20, 2026	Congregational meeting – for purpose of electing officers and approving Pastor Orem's Terms of Call
December 27, 2026	Worship Online only

TRUSTEES

- The sanctuary door refinishing has been completed. Session members remarked that the doors look very nice.
- On election day, November 3, we are hosting a polling place at our church.
- Heating: All radiators have been bled, but the heat hasn't been turned on yet. Trustee, Rodney Fozkos, is going to program the units in the sanctuary, which will hopefully use less electricity than manually resetting.
- The sprinkler system has been winterized.
- Kaz Smailis removed the weeds behind the fences.
- The Northeast door of the old sanctuary has been repaired.
- Rodney Fozkos discussed ways to save money this winter. One possibility might be not plowing the north parking lot during the winter, unless there is a large event planned.
- The chair lifts are due to be inspected.
- Trustee Dennis O'Donnell continues to work on many projects around our church.
- Thanks to all the Trustees for their continued work to maintain our church and property.



DEACONS

- Sunshine Bags continue to be distributed to those who need some good news.
- Two more Prayer Shawls were completed with love and blessed for gifting.
- Deacons discussed options for replacement of the Blessing Box. Current structure of the Blessing Box is deteriorating.
- For Sharon's Table, meals were prepared and delivered by the Deacons on October 15th (Thursday) due to a conflict on Saturday.
- For Sackurday, Kelly LaFlech, Kamri and Eric will prepare and distribute bag meals on October 31st.
- The Smock Foundation funds continue to assist members of our congression in need. Application can be made and funds disbursed through Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday











Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
September 30, 2026

	Month of September	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	$7,276.00	$10,427.08	$120,165.05
Operating Expenses	14,458.68	15,630.44	132,026.95
Excess (Deficit)	($7,182.68)		($11,861.90)



Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund in Memory of Bill Holmes by:

Sandy Buono, Dan & Lexa Miller, and Dennis & Nancy O'Donnell

Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund in Memory of Jan Oprea by:

Sandy Buono, Robert & Patricia Fitzsimons, Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, and Loane Kacak

A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in Memory of Rich Terpstra, Jr. by:

Sandy Buono

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Stewardship And Finance

Written by Lois Fozkos

Thanksgiving is coming soon.
We all have much to be thankful for after the weather glitch in August.

People in our communities and our church have shown how to be the Heart, Hands and Feet of Jesus.

Sometimes it came with a ride, a generator, a sharing of ourselves or sharing what we could with others.

After enduring these trials, we have been reconnected with neighbors who we only waved to or said a quick hello to before.

We are still in recovery mode, but we have much to be thankful for: Family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and strangers who came to help.

The ways we show kindness and thanksgiving can be a smile or a plate of cookies, whatever gives welcome blessings to people.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ministry of FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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FUN TIME AT THE HAYRIDE

Thank you to everyone who came out for the annual Hayride and Bonfire. On Sunday, Oct. 4, several FPC Highland folks gathered at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park. After a song-filled adventurous hayride, the group enjoyed roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfire. In between eating and sharing in fellowship, they shared "Bubble Blessings" and participated in an outdoor "Visio Divina" practice. A special thanks goes out to the Faith Development ministry and Pastor Tyler for planning the event and providing the food.













Ministry of FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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ADVENT PRACTICES COMING

This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls on November 29 – right after Thanksgiving. Once again, Faith Development will be providing an Advent devotional booklet for everyone. Watch the weekly bulletins and announcements for more details as it gets closer.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, Dec. 6th. Make plans after worship to join in the festivities! There will be a light lunch served, followed by Advent/Christmas craft stations, a card station, cookie decorating, and then we'll go Christmas caroling to a few of our church members. Stay for the whole time, or pick and choose which activities you'd like to participate in. More details will be coming closer to December 6. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.



GRATITUDE CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

The month of November, when the holiday of Thanksgiving happens in the United States, is often a month of reflection on gratefulness for many people. Faith Development has created a "Gratitude Calendar" as a tool for those who would like to be more intentional about giving thanks and practicing gratitude throughout the month. Each day has a different question or activity for you to consider, as well as some free spaces for you to choose your own activity. No matter how you may use this calendar, know that the ministry of Faith Development is thankful for you!

Gratitude Calendar

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Read words of thankfulness: Psalm 107:1-3	2 What is a location you are grateful to have visited?	3 Write a letter/email/text to a friend you're thankful for	4 Who is a community leader you are thankful for?	5 Sing or read the lyrics to a song that you are grateful for	6 FREE SPACE: Create your own act of thanksgiving	7 "Thank you, God" can be a complete prayer. Try it out!
8 What are you grateful for in this moment?	9 Show your thankfulness for food by donating 1-2 items to the Blessing Box	10 FREE SPACE: Create your own act of thanksgiving	11 What kind of images or artwork evoke feelings of thanksgiving for you?	12 If thankfulness was a color, which color would it be for you?	13 Why should we give thanks to God? Read 1 Chronicles 16:34	14 Draw a picture or write a poem about something you are grateful for.
15 Show your gratitude for God's creation by going outside	16 If you could touch gratitude, what would it feel like?	17 How do you define gratitude? What does it mean to you?	18 Make a donation of time, items, or money to an organization you're thankful for	19 When should we give thanks? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	20 FREE SPACE: Create your own act of gratitude	21 Are there church leaders, past or present, you are grateful for? Say a prayer for their ministry.
22 What in God's creation are you most thankful for?	23 Be thankful for who God created you to be! Philippians 1:3-4	24 Call someone in your life for whom you are grateful	25 FREE SPACE: Create your own act of thanksgiving	26 Why are you thankful today?	27 If you could smell thankfulness, what would it smell like?	28 Who are you thankful for today?
29 FREE SPACE: Create your own act of gratitude	30 What are you thankful for about your faith community?					

Ministry of FAITH DEVELOPMENT

FALL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are two options to join a Bible study or Scripture discussion group. These opportunities are open to all who are interested, from middle school students to the most mature of adults. You don't have to be a church member to participate, so invite your friends and family to join in the discussions with you.

- Sunday Morning Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in the middle classroom at the church (across from Pastor Tyler's office). We've just started a new study on the book of First Corinthians, "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other." It is not too late to join in. To get a study book, or with any questions, contact Heather Casiano.

- "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the scriptures from the upcoming Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and encountering the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. If you're not familiar with how to use Zoom, or to get on the e-mail list, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano.

If you have an idea for a group or class that isn't currently offered, please let us know. We would love to help get a new group formed as there is interest. Groups can meet any day of the week, at the church or elsewhere. Share your ideas and we'll help make them happen!



As we're all aware, the price of just about everything continues to rise. In an effort to keep the congregation informed, it was decided by the Board of Trustees to publish the amounts of our NIPSCO, water and phone bills in the Larger View monthly. In explanation of the bills, keep in mind that the NIPSCO bill includes gas and electric; the water bill includes two meters for the old sanctuary and the rest of the building; and the phone bill also includes internet service. Hopefully, this explains in part why our budget numbers are what they are. Below are the amounts for October.

	October
NIPSCO	752.16
Water	176.58
Phone	426.44
Maintenance	200.00

WORSHIP & MUSIC



We will be celebrating All Saints' during Worship on Sunday, November 1st.



Sunday, November 22nd

The Ministry of Worship & Music invites every willing and able-bodied person to stay after worship on November 22nd 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.



There will be an Interfaith Worship Service on Tuesday, November 24th at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM.



CANDLE LIGHTERS

11/29: Gerry & Nancy Veltman

WORSHIP & MUSIC



November Liturgists:

11/1: Tracy Oprea
11/8: Karen Lounsbury
11/15: Carol Callaway
11/22: Hunter Balczo
11/29: Vimary Couvertier Cruz



November LiveStreaming:

11/1: Tristan Casiano
11/8: Nolan Severson
11/15: Tracy Oprea
11/22: Jean Smith
11/29: Jamie Ham



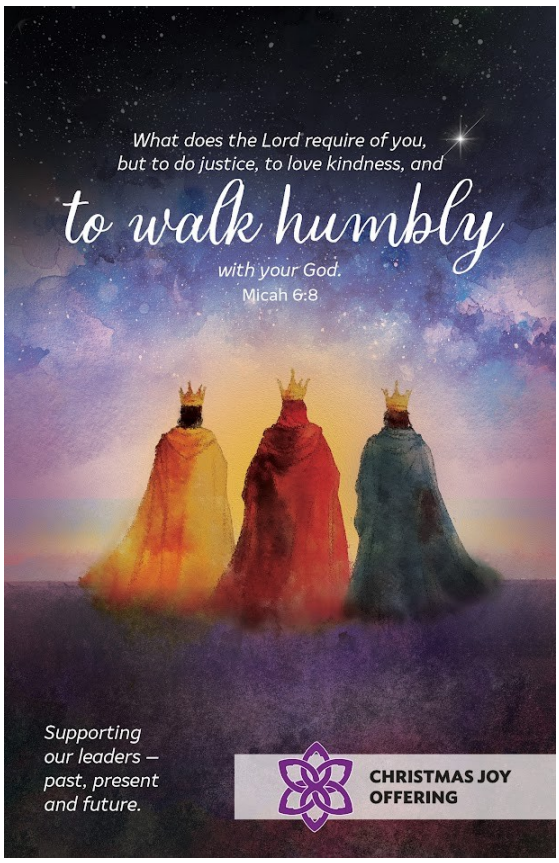
This Advent season, we will be offering red poinsettias for $10/each, as in past years. The florist cannot guarantee shipment of white poinsettias, and even if they do get any, they will be more expensive than the red ones. Order forms will be available in the bulletin on the last Sunday in November (11/29) and in the December Larger View.

Ministry of Mission

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CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

SUPPORTING OUR LEADERS – PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Prior to reunion of the PCUS and the UPCUSA in 1983, each of the predecessor denominations had a tradition of Special Offerings. In the case of the PCUS, the Joy Gift began in the 1930s (though without the name until the late 1940s). In the UPCUSA, a Christmas offering began in 1960. At reunion, the decision was made to fuse the two offerings received at Christmas into a single offering. During the first year, its name consisted simply of the names of the two predecessor offerings: Christmas Offering/Joy Gift. The next year it was called the Christmas Joy Offering, but it took another six to eight years for the offering to achieve a sense of wholeness.

In 2024, the General Assembly updated the ministries supported by the Offering. It still includes the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (which provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families who may be facing financial crises, illness or unexpected hardship), leadership development for people of color, and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. And now it will support ministries with children at risk and youth and young adults.

Through our shared gifts, we can help ensure that our leaders — past, present and future — are supported, encouraged and able to thrive, just as God intends.

WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE:

- Through your congregation
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999
- pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy
  (If giving online, members should provide the name of their congregation so the church will receive credit for their gifts.)
- Scan this QR code

CHRISTMAS JOY

News from the Pews

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Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 1st. Don't forget to turn your Clocks back one hour!



Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. FPCH will be a voting site for Highland, Precinct #8



Be sure to connect with us for Worship, a luncheon and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 22nd, as we dedicate our 2027 pledges to God through Jesus Christ for the Mission & Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your pledges.

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! @firstpchighland



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.



2	Shirley McKnight
12	Jill Elman
	Liz Zuke
14	Jesse Casiano
19	Vimary Couvertier Cruz



The Per Capita for 2026 is $45.08 per member.

The Per Capita for 2027 will remain the same of $45.08 per member.

Prayers & CONCERNS

Pray For...

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Anettia Holmes
David Markley
David Kingen
Diana & Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz & Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Florance Cody
Kevin & Annie Windstrup
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
Ella P.
Melissa J.
Keren, Zuriel, Gedeon
Darlene O'Brien
Charles
Dustin
Noreen
Tina & Scott
Sue Heth
Jean & Clara
Wendy
Jessica S.
Brooke
Arlene
Shelley
John
Pastor Laurel

Barbara Morton
Doug & Sue Matthews
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tom
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
David Hamblin
Mom Bechtler
Marian Clayton
Luana Sulkowski
Katie
Rita Stronczek
Edna Cruz
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Jean
Kim
George
Jessica
Mike Kelly
Lupe
Tammy
Barb
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Rick
Shirley McKnight
Kay Johnson
Loved Ones of Mike Windstrup
Rosie

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people for Cuba, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- We pray for people experiencing chronic physical and mental illness.
- 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