

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 6

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Dear All,

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

This past Sunday was such a joyful celebration of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! Pentecost Sunday is always a special occasion, but this year was exceptional. The shared joy of our worshipping community was palpable with our tongues of fire, musical instruments, singing in other languages, and inbreathing of God's breath, air, wind, Spirit! As I mentioned on Sunday, it is clear that First Presbyterian Church of Highland is a Spirit-filled congregation! Throughout June, I encourage you to pay attention to the ways that you experience the Holy Spirit moving in our midst. How is she present in the service that we provide to the community? How does she manifest in our services of worship? How does she guide our decision making? How does she inspire our joy?

Our joy certainly is inspired, isn't it? We have so many reasons to give God gratitude! In June, one of the most significant reasons is our celebration of fathers. As Father's Day approaches, let us take intentional time to honor and connect with the father figures who have blessed our lives. Let me start by saying thank you to our church fathers—the men who have embodied God's love so beautifully in our midst here at FPCH! We have many to thank who are now in Glory. We have many to thank who are still blessing us. Let us also honor the ways that God, whom Jesus called Abba, is a good, good father to us! As I did with church mother theologians in preparation for Mother's Day, let me suggest some church father theologians to read: Gustavo Gutierrez, James Cone, and Walter Brueggemann.

Father's Day, June 21, will also be our first outdoor worship in the garden for 2026. We plan on doing this the third Sundays of June, July, and August. It is always a profound experience to worship in the wonder of God's Creation!



Note from Rev. Tyler

Session Shorts

Scripture in the Park

Flower Vouchers

Summer Pledges

Prayer List

*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*

Vima and I will have the additional blessing of experiencing the wonder of God's Creation at the beginning of the month, as we will be traveling to Juneau, Alaska, to spend time with my brother Josh. We will be away on Sunday, June 7, and will be back for worship on Sunday, June 14. We look forward to sharing all about our time in the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

At the end of June and beginning of July, then, Heather Casiano and I will be representing the Presbytery of Wabash Valley as commissioners at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are delighted to serve the Church in this capacity, and we ask for your prayers! We will be sharing much more about this opportunity and what it means for our congregation in the weeks ahead.

I look forward to the ways that the wind of God's Spirit will be blowing this season!

I close with these words from *Acts* and *Joel*:

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler



Thank You, Gale!

Last month, Gale Churitch finished up her time as the moderator of FPCH's Ministry of Hospitality. She has blessed all of us with her many gifts in this role for many years. With a small but MIGHTY team, she has made our fellowship time happen week after week, year after year. She has also been responsible for the beautiful decorating that has blessed the Fellowship Hall and Narthex, always keeping us up to date with the changing seasons. Further, she has made every visitor to worship know that they belong and are beloved by giving them a lovely gift bag. Those are the broad strokes, and there are so many more details that could be shared! For every smile, hug, kind word, cup of coffee, meditative moment by the fountain, and so much more—THANK YOU, GALE!





SESSION

- Pastor Tyler Orem thanked all who made the Watch the Gap and Rummage Sale fundraisers a success!
- A salad sale is scheduled for June 28th.
- Plans are made for our outdoor services on the third Sundays of each summer month beginning with June 21st.
- Watch for news on a calendar opportunity for giving!
- Elder Jeffery Savage will be our commissioner to Presbytery Assembly on 6/2. Pastor Tyler Orem and Heather Casiano will be installed at this meeting as commissioners from our Presbytery for the General Assembly (GA) in late June-early July in Milwaukee.
- Session approved an Endowment Grant for patching, crack sealing, sealcoating, and striping of the church north and south parking lots in the amount of \$5023.
- Session approved the changing of communion Sunday from June 7th to June 14th.
- Session discussed setting up a meeting between Trustees and the Session to coordinate and prioritize various projects around the building and develop more of a long-range plan for our facility.
- To ease the work of the Ministry of Hospitality, each ministry that is assigned refreshments is also asked to set up before worship, make the coffee and drinks, and clean up after fellowship.

DEACONS

- Sunshine Bags: A bag was given to Kristen Wilson for Administrative Assistant recognition. Bags will be given to our graduates: Brian Scott, (Purdue University, Northwest) and Ella Severson, (Highland High School).
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawl committee continues to work diligently to make beautiful, comforting shawls. Three new shawls have been blessed and are available for gifting.
- Blessing Box: Deacons continue to fill and maintain the Blessing Box daily.
- Sharon's Table: Krissy LaFlech and Munster High School students will be taking a summer break and will return next September. A thank you will be sent in appreciation for their hard work this year. The Deacon members will share preparations on May 16th and June 20th.
- Sackurdays: Kelly LaFlech, Kamri and Eric prepared and distributed 40 meals on April 25th. Pam Porter will verify if Kiwanis are preparing May 30th.
- Smock Grant: Smock Foundation funds continue to assist members of our congregation in need. Application can be made and funds disbursed at Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter's discretion.

TRUSTEES

- The floor drain in the boiler room has been routed out.
- The shingles on the sanctuary roof have been repaired (under warranty).
- Voting took place on May 3, and the next election is Nov. 3.
- AED pads have been ordered.
- An endowment grant was submitted to patch and seal the north and south parking lots.
- AED training needs to be scheduled.
- The exit door on SE corner of old building needs repair.
- Air handler units in sanctuary need to have filters cleaned.
- Discussion continued about sealing off the exhaust fan above the sanctuary.
- Sanding and refinishing the outside sanctuary doors is a future project.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
April 30, 2026

	Month of April	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,353.00	\$10,427.08	\$80,283.78
Operating Expenses	15,464.99	15,630.44	64,518.29
Excess (Deficit)	(\$9,111.99)		\$15,765.49



Don't let your offerings take a holiday

Ahhh, summer! A time to relax and grab much-needed R & R. Vacations and weekend getaways may keep you away from church, but our congregation is still bustling with activity. The bills never take a summer holiday.

It's enormously helpful to the congregation's balance sheet if your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to come in regularly, even if you are away. Here are some ideas for staying current:

Pay in advance: Plan ahead by offering more in the weeks in advance of your time away from church.

Make it up: When you return, give a little more in the weeks that follow.

Use your envelopes: Here's a tip that's good not only for summer, but year-round: If you use giving envelopes and checks, simply prepare them weeks in advance and bring them to church when convenient.

Use banking bill pay: Most online banking services will write and send checks for you. Just plug in the church address, the amount of the gift and how often you want it sent. Viola! You're done!

Enroll in electronic giving: Use the congregation's online giving portal to regularize your gift, tithe or offering.

Give monthly or quarterly: Sometimes it's hard to anticipate how many Sundays you'll be away from church. Planning your gift, tithe or offering for monthly or quarterly can keep you current.

Of course, these methods are beneficial not only for the summer months, but also for the whole year through. Those who embrace giving as a spiritual discipline often find that their lives of faith are enriched and their sense of joy and fulfillment is deepened. Choosing a regular-giving strategy can help you to discover the joys of generosity.

--Rob Blezard

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SUMMER BREAK

SUMMER HIATUS

Both of our Bible study and discussion groups are on a summer hiatus. The Bible in Today's World class and BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) are taking a break for a few months and will resume meeting in September. Thank you to all who have participated and those who have facilitated these groups!



SUMMERTIME "SCRIPTURE IN THE PARK"

While our regular Bible study groups are on a break this summer, we're offering a special study and discussion opportunity called "Scripture in the Park." Together with folks from Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Schererville, we will meet for 6 weeks of informal Bible study at Redar Park in Schererville. "Scripture in the Park" will take place on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, July 9 through August 13. More details will be available in the July "Larger View" and the weekly bulletins as it gets closer.



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 May.

	<u>May</u>
NIPSCO	890.91
Water	123.23
Phone	424.04
Maintenance	550.00



A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in Memory of Nancy Engle by:

Fred & Carol Callaway

Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund in Memory of Rev. Dr. Leroy Fassett by:

Dennis & Janis Rubino and Marie Smith

A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in Honor of George Griner's 103rd Birthday by:

Fred & Carol Callaway



MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE

The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser began on Sunday, April 12, 2026. The vouchers are \$17.00 each and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse.

Vouchers are available to purchase in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after church and you can also reach out to Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181 to purchase the same. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge.

Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to all!

Worship & Music

Worship Leaders

June Liturgists:

- 6/7: Carol Callaway
- 6/14: Hunter Balczo
- 6/21: Robbie Casiano
- 6/28: Jean Smith



June LiveStreaming

- 6/7: Tracy Oprea
- 6/14: Jean Smith
- 6/21: Tristan Casiano
- 6/28: Nolan Severson

News from the Pews



REMINDER TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Vacation season is here, and many of us will be travelling and visiting. Please be mindful that even in your absence, your place here will be cooled, lit, and the water will still be flowing. Our church relies solely on the pledges and generosity of our members and friends to operate.

Please give prayerful consideration to keeping your pledges and contributions current because your church's expenses continue, even when your schedule does not permit your attendance in worship.



News from the Pews



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 2026 is \$45.08 per member.



- 1 Thor Severson
- 2 Oliver Keilman
- 4 Pastor Tyler Orem
- 10 Lexa Miller
- Lucy Kikkert
- 14 Darlene O'Brien
- 15 James Toren
- 19 Cathy Toren
- 24 Sam Helmer
- 28 Sonny Buono



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



Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...



Anthony
 Brady Vanes
 George Griner
 Guy Hendricks
 Bill and Anettia Holmes
 David Markley
 David Kingen
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Yvonne Suroviak
 Georgette Sknerski
 Jakob Holden
 Denise Matthys
 Jan Oprea
 Florance Cody
 Annie & Mike Windstrup
 Kevin Windstrup
 Rick Parker
 Gary Everhart
 Ella P.
 Melissa J
 Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon
 Darlene O'Brien
 Charles
 Robin
 Dustin
 Noreen
 Tyler Gall
 Phil
 David
 Trina & Scott
 Joe & Kathy
 Sue Heth
 Tony
 Mildred
 Neal
 Rita
 Tony & Sharon Nevers
 Caroline
 Jean & Clara
 Suzanne
 Don
 Donna
 Phyllis
 Debbie
 Marie Smith
 Bruce Marshall
 Mark & Tina
 Sergio & Anthony
 Dave

Barbara Morton
 Doug and Sue Matthews
 Janet Terpstra
 Glen Nahler
 Tom
 Jana Tolley
 Larry & Bonnie Perryman
 Delta Rose
 Winnie Owen
 David Hamblin
 Breeanne
 Mom Bechtler
 Victor
 Marian Clayton
 Luana Sulkowski
 Katie
 Rita Stromczek
 Edna Cruz
 Jerry & Rena Martinez
 Jean
 Kim
 George
 Mary Ellen Edeus
 Jessica
 Nicole
 Greg
 Jane & David
 Flora R
 Mike Kelly
 Eunice
 Lupe
 Breanne Polan
 Tammy
 Alex
 Ben
 Ron Toren
 Carolyn
 Barb
 Dave Shelborne
 Kali Rosalia
 Marly
 Jeff
 Linda
 Sandy
 Bill
 Rick
 Diane
 Debbie & Meryl
 Sherry
 John
 Hazel

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of Cuba, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- 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.

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).