

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

Volume 18 Issue 6

June
2025

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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! **Hallelujah!**

There is one week of the Easter season remaining in June. Let us keep those hallelujahs on our lips and upon our hearts! We are always people of the Resurrection, so let us keep those hallelujahs forever! Even so, the liturgical season is coming to an end. This means that Pentecost is on its way! On June 8th we will be wearing red and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our hearts. We will see doves and tongues of fire flying in the Spirit wind. We will feel that wind cleansing our lungs. We will pray in the different languages with which God has blessed us. We will embrace the diversity with which God has created us. We will be prophetic. We will be creative. We will be Spirit-filled!

God's gift of the Holy Spirit is God's promise that we are never alone. When Jesus ascended to heaven after the Resurrection, we were not left behind. We were blessed with the truth that God is with us always, that God dwells within us and within all Creation. How blessed we are! Again, let us say, "Hallelujah!" As you read through the pages of this edition of the Larger View, I invite you to pay particular attention to the ways that the Spirit is moving through the First Presbyterian Church of Highland. The Spirit is moving in how we give glory

First Presbyterian Church
of Highland
8727 Delaware Street
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*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland
is to be
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ*

to God in worship and in mission. The Spirit is moving in how we prepare and serve meals for people in need. The Spirit is moving in how we share our resources for the good of the Kingdom. The Spirit is moving in how we join each other in fellowship and embrace the joy of beloved community. In short, the Spirit is moving in how we love God, each other, and Creation. How else is the Spirit moving in you?

Vima and I will be away for a bit in June, spending much-needed time with our family in Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean. While we are away, you will be blessed with worship leadership by Heather Casiano and Rev. Carol McDonald. You are in the best hands available! I deeply appreciate your grace and flexibility while we are away!

I leave you with these words from the hymn *Spirit*:

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

- Session members discussed ways to address financial concerns, which included the Endowment Fund recent guideline changes, the PCUSA Financial Planning workshop and various fundraisers.
- Elder Jean Smith reported on the Presbytery Assembly meeting that she attended that day on May 20th. The main items decided there included the decision to sell Geneva Center and the examination and approval of Jay Janke to the ministry at Lake Village Presbyterian Church.
- Plans were made to celebrate Pentecost on June 8th. The red geraniums, red paraments and doves will decorate the sanctuary.
- Pastor Tyler Orem thanked Gale Churitch, Abdul Savage, Jeffery Savage, Jean Smith and Cheryl Steen for cleaning up the cluttered attic in the old sanctuary.
- Plans were discussed for the first outdoor service of the summer on June 15th. Salad sales will be on June 22nd.
- Pastor Tyler Orem expressed his thanks to the choir for sharing their gifts of music this year. They will be on hiatus until the fall.
- The Session will not be meeting in June, so the next scheduled meeting will be on July 15.

TRUSTEES

Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees, reported on their current focus to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs. This focus includes the following areas for consideration.

- NIPSCO will be contacted to do an energy audit and evaluation.
- The old refrigerator in the fellowship hall will be unplugged and removed. It is old and does not hold its seal. The refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen will remain.
- The air conditioners in the sanctuary can be reprogrammed during the week, when they are not used.
- Estimates are being gathered to replace the front sanctuary doors as they need to be replaced. There is a gap between the doors that allows outside air to come into the building.
- The feasibility of enclosing the large exhaust fans that are located behind the organ in the sanctuary is being considered.
- Ways to save energy in the old sanctuary building are being explored.

DEACONS

- Joys and concerns of the congregation were shared and the current prayer list was updated.
- A Sunshine Bag was prepared and Prayer Shawls are ready for gifting.
- Deacons continue to check and stock the Blessing box daily.
- Krissy LaFlech and her High School Students have done a wonderful service of preparing meals throughout the school year. Meals were prepared and delivered in April and May to homebound members of our congregation.
- Kelly LaFlech prepared forty sack lunches that were handed out on April 26th for Sackurday. Kiwanis will prepare and serve on May 31st.
- Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter will continue to disperse funds to parishioners in need through the Smock Grant.
- New church directories have been approved and will be ready for Deacon's disbursement.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
April 30, 2025

	Month of April	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,908.44	\$9,677.50	\$68,367.31
Operating Expenses	12,438.75	15,141.42	57,333.83
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,530.31)		\$11,033.48



Endowment Fund
Committee

Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund In Memory of:

Jeanne Nestor

Gifts were given by:

Sandy Buono, Jean Smith, Ron & Cathy Toren



No Time Like the Present!

Submitted by Jamie Ham

There is an old saying that reads “You cannot find happiness in the end of your journey if you didn’t bring it with you all along.” I think the same concept also applies to stewardship. We, too, often find ourselves thinking, “There just isn’t any room for giving in my budget right now, I will be able to give when I’m more successful,” or we convince ourselves that we have no spare time to volunteer, thinking, “I can help out later when life is not so hectic.” I believe that if you want to experience those warm feelings we all get from being generous with our time, talents, and treasure, there’s no time like the present. Remember, you should not compare your level of generosity to that of others; they are on a different path. What God cares about is that you are as generous with your gifts as you can be at every stage of your journey. If you want to be considered a kind and generous Christian at the end of your journey, you will need to be one all along the way.



Congratulations to our 2025 graduates: Savannah Ham, Robbie Casiano, and Lindsey Wilson (not pictured)!



SUMMER HIATUS

Both of our Bible study and discussion groups are on a summer hiatus. The Bible in Today's World 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!

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." It will be a 6-week informal Bible study group that will meet from 6:30-7:30 pm on Thursday evenings from July 10 to August 14. Our first meeting will be at Redar Park in Schererville (217 Gregory St, Schererville, IN), at the picnic shelter. "Scripture in the Park" will be a combined group of folks from our church and from Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Come join us in July and August for great discussion and great friends new and old! If you have any questions, please contact Heather Casiano.



SUMMER PRAYER WALL

This summer we will have a prayer station located inside door D, by the church office, for everyone to participate in. This "Prayer Ribbon Wall" uses different colors of ribbons to represent our prayers.

A piece of chicken wire hangs on the wall, and there are multiple colors of ribbons on a table each representing a type of prayer. Choose one or more ribbons that represent the type of prayer you want to lift up at the time, and then tie the ribbon(s) onto the chicken wire. There is nothing to write down, and all prayers remain anonymous except to our God, who knows our needs even before we do!

Over time, the ribbons will fill in the wire and become a beautiful piece of prayer art. Everyone is invited to say a prayer for all the ribbons already tied on and the needs they represent, regardless of whether you add your own ribbons or not. If you have any questions about this interactive prayer station, contact Heather Casiano.



Ministry of Mission Update

City Rescue Mission: On Saturday, May 10th, Cheryl Steen, Ella Severson and Tracy Oprea prepared a delicious meal for 40 people, which included Italian Sausage Sandwiches, mac and cheese, green beans, coleslaw, brownies and milk. Ella Severson and Tracy Oprea delivered the meal to the shelter and the recipients were anxiously awaiting our arrival and were extremely appreciative and thankful.

Tradewinds: Mission made a monetary donation to Tradewinds for their upcoming functional skills day camps for children and youth of all abilities.

Hammond Area Career Center: Mission made a monetary donation to the Hammond Area Career Center for the upcoming SkillsUSA Nationals event, which Robbie Casiano will be competing at.

Parking Lot Fundraiser: Mission's Annual 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser begins on Wednesday, July 2nd and runs through Sunday, July 6th. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, June 8th. Sign up early and often. This is a major fundraiser for Mission, and without the support of the congregation this event would not be possible.

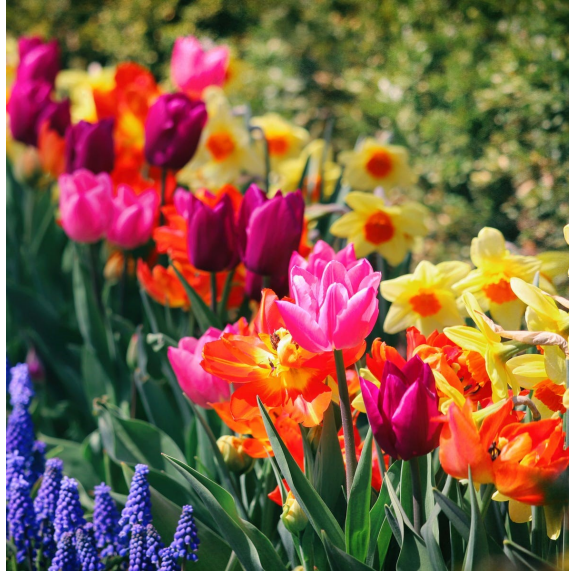
FOOD TO SALVATION ARMY PANTRY

A BIG "Thank You" to all of you who donated food to our pantry. We were able to deliver 17 boxes and bags of food to the Salvation Army pantry for distribution on May 21st.

There are 3 organizations that we supply with food on a rotating basis. With the federal cutbacks, it is even more in need, so we will start all over again to build up the pantry so we can help Love, Inc.'s pantry, then Brothers' Keeper.

There are decorated bags in the Narthex that you can pick up on your way out of church to help remind you to bring an item or two when you return to the next service.





MINISTRY OF MISSION'S **ANNUAL FLOWER VOUCHER SALE**

Ministry of Mission is having their Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser. The vouchers are \$17.00 each, and, as you know, they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse!

Vouchers will be 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.

The Ministry of Mission greatly appreciates your support!



June Liturgists:

6/1: Carol Callaway
 6/8: Jean Smith
 6/15: Renee Williams
 6/22: Vimary Couvertier Cruz
 6/29: Karen Lounsbury

June LiveStreaming

6/1: Jean Smith
 6/8: Tristan Casiano
 6/15: Robbie Casiano
 6/22: Peter Churitch
 6/29: Tracy Oprea



Pentecost Sunday is on June 8th.
 Please wear RED to Worship!

We are thankful for the beauty of the Geraniums given to the Glory of God for the Sanctuary and Garden by:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, in memory of Jack & Ernie
 Clara Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in memory of the Coapstick & Allmond Families
 Hunter Balczo
 Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of Chuck Fish, whose vision brought our garden to life
 Jesse & Heather Casiano, in honor of their two sons, Robbie & Tristan
 Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of Family
 Lois Fozkos, in memory of Conrad & Cameron
 Karen Lounsbury, in honor and memory of Loved Ones
 Julia McStravog, in memory of Fr. Graham Golden
 Lexa Miller, in memory of her mother, Suzanne Barnes, and her friend, Debbie Amrhein
 Tyler Orem & Vima Couvertier Cruz, in memory of Grandma Virginia, Pappy Jamie,
 Aunt Teresa, Titi Isabel
 Marjean Reed
 Jean Smith, in memory of Jay Smith and Bob & Arlene Diekman
 Cheryl Steen, in memory of Lowell H. Steen and Laura Wisner
 John & Judy Toren, in memory of their parents

Thank You to the Attic Cleanup Crew!

On Saturday, May 3rd, a BRAVE and dedicated group tackled the long-needed task of cleaning up the attic in the old building. Anyone who has been up there over the past few years can attest to how much effort was required! A BIG thank you to Abdul Savage, Cheryl Steen, Gale Churitch, Jean Smith, and Jeff Savage!





4th Annual Craft Show Fundraiser

The FPCH Crafters will be holding a kickoff meeting for this year's Craft Show Fundraiser on June 22 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!. Please bring your ideas for craft projects.



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.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, June 24th, at 1:00 PM.



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.



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!



SALAD SALE

The Salad Sale will be on Sunday, June 22nd. Come prepared that day to get a delicious salad and contribute to our general fund. It's a win-win situation!



The Per Capita for 2025 is \$44.66 per member.



Bulletins

Will you be traveling and attending Worship from afar? If so, please bring back a bulletin with you so it can be displayed on the bulletin board. We'd love to see where you have visited!!



- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Thor Severson |
| 2 | Oliver Keilman |
| 4 | Pastor Tyler Orem |
| 10 | Lexa Miller |
| | Nancy Engle |
| | Lucy Kikkert |
| 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 of Christian Sympathy to the family of Ruth Dekker upon her death



Anthony
 Brady Vanes
 George Griner
 Guy Hendricks
 Bill and Anettia Holmes
 David Markley
 Pat & David Kingen
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Yvonne Suroviak
 Georgette Sknerski
 Jakob Holden
 Denise Matthys
 Jan Oprea
 Florance Cody
 Laura Buono Domsic
 Annie & Mike Windstrup
 Kevin Windstrup
 Loved Ones of Ruth Dekker
 Rick Parker
 Gary Everhart
 Ella P.
 Melissa J
 Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon
 Darlene O'Brien
 Charles
 Robin
 Dustin
 Noreen
 Jane
 David Hamblin
 Loved Ones of Jeanne Nestor
 Loved Ones of Virginia Marshall

Barbara Morton
 Caroline Studer
 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
 Lou Ann Sulowski
 Edie Delgano
 Katie
 Rita Stromczek
 OGB
 Edna Cruz
 Jerry & Rena Martinez
 Betsy
 Jean
 Kim
 George
 Mary Ellen Edeus
 Pastor Jane
 Jessica
 Nicole
 Greg
 Jane & David
 Lodean
 Suzanne
 Jalen
 Flora R

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Lebanon, 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).