

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 3

**Inside this issue:**

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Board Shorts	3
Stewardship/Finance	4
Faith Development	5-6
Treasurer's Report	7
Trustees	7
Ministry of Mission	8
Worship & Music	9-10
News From the Pews	11



**One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Easter Cantata**

**Palm Sunday**

**Easter Flowers**

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**

**Soup Sale**

Dear All,

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

Lent is upon us! We started this sacred season with contrite hearts and repentant spirits on Ash Wednesday and then were blessed with a baptism on the First Sunday of Lent. Celebrating the baptism of a blessed child of God provided us with the remarkable remembrance of Jesus's own baptism in the Jordan River, when God claimed him and called him beloved. Upon experiencing this brilliant display of love, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit out into the mountainous, desert wilderness where he embarked upon the 40-day fast that forms the foundation of our Lenten fast. May we know that we are claimed by God's love in the same brilliant way throughout this season! May we attune ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit! May we open ourselves to the possibility that angels are around us, looking out for us in the most difficult of situations!

As we proceed through Lent, I pray that all of us will be intentional about deepening our relationships with God. We have several opportunities to do so with FPCH—with our Worship Services, our Prayer Activity Stations, our Lenten Study and Practice, and our Devotional Booklet. You can read more about each opportunity in this edition of the Larger View.

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***

We also have our regular opportunities to study and the Word and to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus through acts of service to the most vulnerable. If you have other activities that open your heart to the God's Spirit, do those as well! As we find a spiritual rhythm that works for us over these 40 days, we can keep dancing to it throughout the rest of the year and throughout the rest of our lives!

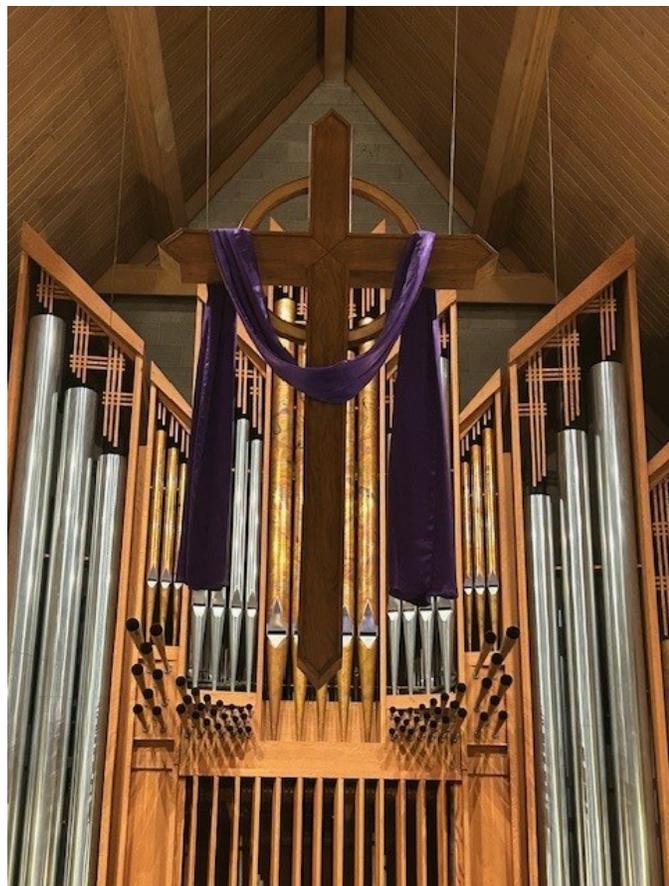
Speaking of rhythm, let me draw special attention to our Easter Cantata on Sunday, March 15. This year our choir will be leading worship with the music and readings of *The Weeping Tree* by Joseph M. Martin. This is a powerful production of music to tell the greatest story ever told! Please be sure to join us for worship that day, and please be sure to invite others to come and encounter God's Spirit at FPCH!

I leave you with these words from *Romans*:

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





## SESSION

- Soup sales went well in February. Our next soup sale will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are always needed to make soup. Contact Elder Jeff Savage to sign up!
- Elder Charlotte Abernethy reported on the rummage sale plans for collection of items during the last few weeks of April. More information will be coming next month.
- Look for a new fundraiser called “Watch the Gap” coming soon!
- Elder Jesse Casiano and Pastor Tyler attended the Presbytery meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> and will report on it at the March meeting.
- Session approved a request for membership by reaffirmation of faith for Marvin Kohler. He will be welcomed at an upcoming worship service.
- Elder Jean Smith gave a technology update. Our IT consultants are working on a plan to get the TVs in the sanctuary working so that we can project words and images during the worship service. The sound system has also been readjusted, and we purchased a new CD/DVD player that will be used during the cantatas.
- Session previously approved the baptism of Ophelia Rose Giglio, daughter of former member Amber (Farkas) and Joshua Giglio. The baptism occurred during worship on February 22, 2026.
- Fellowship hosts were assigned for March and April:

March 1	Session	April 5	(Easter) Hospitality
March 8	Deacons	April 12	Stewardship/Finance
March 15	Trustees	April 19	Faith Development
March 22	Endowment/Shine the Light	April 26	Worship and Music
March 29	Mission		

## DEACONS

- Sunshine Bags were given out.
- Prayer Shawl committee continues to work diligently to make shawls. Multiple completed shawls have been scheduled for blessing on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Deacons continue to check the Blessing Box daily.
- The Deacons renamed “Gladys’ Table” to “Sharon’s Table” in honor Sharon LaFlech. Krissy LaFlech verified that her Munster High School students will prepare February 21st meal and the Deacons will deliver.
- Sackurday was rescheduled to February 7<sup>th</sup> due to weather. Kiwanis will prepare and disperse the February 28<sup>th</sup> meal.
- Smock Foundation funds continue to assist members of our congregation in need. Application can be made and funds disbursed through Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter’s discretion.

## TRUSTEES

- The Trustees spent their meeting time helping the Mission Ministry relocate the supplies from the Karing Kitchen to another area church.
- The Trustees have been working on routine maintenance issues during January and February.



## Lenten Stewardship and Nurturing a Deeper Connection to Christ

Submitted by Jamie Ham

How can stewardship help us deepen our commitment to the Lenten spiritual journey and ultimately draw us closer to Christ? Stewardship is a way of life rooted in the belief that everything we have – our time, talents, and treasure – is a gift from God. We are called to be good stewards of these gifts, using them to serve God and others. Stewardship goes beyond the idea of simply giving back to God; it's about recognizing that all we have is ultimately God's, and we are entrusted with these resources for a purpose. Here are some ideas on how stewardship can be integrated into one's Lenten journey:

**Give Time in Service:** Lent is a time for self-examination and a renewed focus on serving others. By volunteering your time in service, you can actively participate in almsgiving. Choose a cause that resonates with you, whether it's helping the less fortunate, visiting the elderly, or mentoring the youth. Stewardship reminds us that time is a valuable resource and dedicating it to others is a way to draw closer to Christ's selfless love.

**Share Talents with the Community:** Your unique talents and skills are gifts from God, and they can be used to serve your faith community during Lent. Whether you have musical talents, artistic abilities, or organizational skills, consider how you can contribute to your church. Share your talents to enrich the liturgy, contribute to spiritual growth, or support your fellow parishioners in their Lenten journey.

**A Lenten Sacrifice of Treasure:** The concept of tithing is an essential aspect of stewardship. During Lent, consider making a financial sacrifice as a way to live out almsgiving. This could involve increasing your regular giving to your congregation or contributing to a special charity or mission project. The act of sacrificial giving not only helps those in need, but it also serves as a reminder of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our salvation.

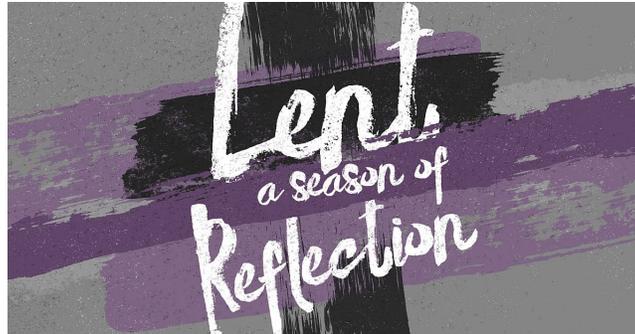
**Cultivate a Prayerful Heart:** Stewardship extends to our spiritual lives as well. A key aspect of stewardship is recognizing the importance of prayer and deepening our relationship with God. Use Lent as an opportunity to focus on prayer, both in personal reflection and communal worship. Pray for guidance in stewarding your time, talents, and treasure in a way that honors God and serves God's people.

**Self-Examination and Reflection:** Lent is a season of self-examination, repentance, and turning towards God. Embrace the practice of regularly examining your stewardship in your daily life. Are you using your gifts and resources to their fullest potential in service to God and others? Consider making a commitment to reevaluate and adjust your stewardship practices as you journey through Lent.

**Practice Gratitude:** Stewardship is grounded in gratitude for the blessings we've received. Throughout Lent, consciously practice gratitude for the many gifts God has entrusted to you. Reflect on how these gifts can be used to serve others and draw closer to Christ.

Embracing stewardship during Lent can be a transformative experience as we seek a deeper connection to Christ in preparation for His resurrection at Easter. It reminds us that our time, talents, and treasure are gifts from God, and it challenges us to use these gifts to serve others and glorify God. By giving of ourselves in a spirit of stewardship, we can live out the core principles of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — in a way that reflects Christ's love and sacrifice. Ultimately, this way of life can help us grow closer to Christ and become better disciples of His love.

*Adapted from catholicstewards.com*



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

- **LENTEN STUDY AND PRACTICE WITH PASTOR TYLER**

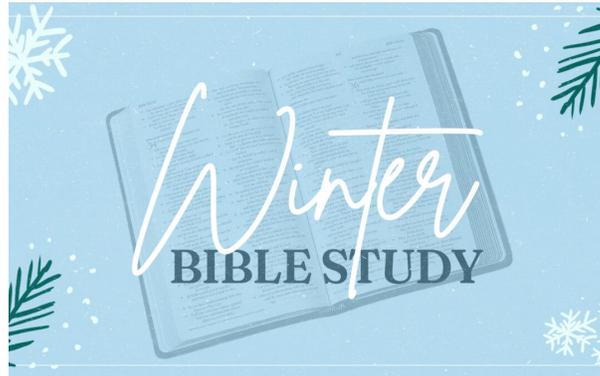
Pastor Tyler is leading us in a special Lenten Study and Practice during the season of Lent. Join us **each Wednesday of Lent, Feb. 25 - April 1, from 7-8 pm online on Zoom** (during our usual BYOB time). This year's theme is "I Lift My Eyes Up to the Mountains." *Psalms* 121 is a powerful salve in times of great challenge and need. We will explore it and other mountain passages as we seek hope and healing. All are welcome! The sessions will be recorded for those who would like to participate but cannot make the live sessions on Wednesdays. The Zoom link is sent out via email weekly; if you are not currently receiving this email and would like to, please contact Kristen in the church office.

- **PRAYER ACTIVITY STATIONS**

There are Lenten Prayer Stations set up around the church for everyone to use. In the church library room (across from the church office) there are several prayer stations that help us experience Lent through our senses, as well as some finger labyrinths. There is also a prayer station and activity in the narthex of the church. The prayer stations are appropriate for all ages, so you are encouraged to share this space with the children, youth and adults in your life. The prayer stations will be available on Sundays before and after worship, and during regular church office hours (Mon. –Thurs., 8 am to noon). If you cannot come to the church and would like an at-home version of the stations, please contact Heather Casiano at [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org), or call the church office.

- **LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**

The Ministry of Faith Development is once again providing a Lenten devotional booklet. This year's devotional is titled "Discipleship in a Divided Age," from the Presbyterian Outlook, and guides readers to journey through Matthew's Gospel to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion and faithful discipleship amid the fractures of our age. The booklet provides a daily Scripture, a focus verse, a theologically rich reflection, guided questions, and a closing prayer. This Lenten devotional has been emailed to those on our email list and mailed to those who don't have email. We have a few extra printed copies in the narthex for those who prefer a printed version and do not have access to a printer.



### **WINTER BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES**

There are currently two options to join a Bible study or sermon/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.

- “The Bible in Today’s World” Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler’s office), from 9-10 am. This group is finishing up the book, “A is for Alabaster” by Anna Carter Florence. Each week is independent of the other weeks, so come as you are able. If you need a book or have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) is on hiatus during Lent, to make space for the Lenten Study and Practice, led by Pastor Tyler, on Wednesday evenings. BYOB will resume on Wednesday, April 15, from 7-8 pm on Zoom.



### **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

The 2025-2026 school year is almost over! We would like to recognize all the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2026, we'd like to celebrate you! Please email Heather Casiano, [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org), or call the church office, with the graduate's name and a brief bio. Please include things like the name of the school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, military, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. If you have a recent picture of the graduate that we can publish, please submit that as well. Graduate information should be submitted no later than April 20.



# Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
January 31, 2025

	Month of January	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$16,002.92	\$10,427.08	\$16,002.92
Operating Expenses	16,174.20	15,630.44	16,174.27
Excess (Deficit)	<b>(\$171.28)</b>		<b>(\$171.35)</b>



**A gift was given to the Memorial Endowment Fund  
in Memory of Jim Ham's 10th Anniversary in heaven by:**

Carolyn Ham and Family

**Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Memory of Caroline Studer by:**

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy and Rodney & Peggy Fozkos



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 February.

	<u>February</u>
NIPSCO	2,229.48
Water	101.89
Phone	424.44
Maintenance	2,230.00



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees —serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Thank you for promoting and supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the call to do justice in Micah 6:8.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

**WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE**

- Through your congregation
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)

- Or you can share this QR code with your members. *Be sure to encourage them to include the identity of your church.*



- In addition, members can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making a gift at any time throughout the year.



**The Easter Cantata will be on  
Sunday, March 15th, at 10:30 AM**

---



**Palm Sunday Worship will be on  
Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 AM**

---



**March Liturgists:**

- 3/1: Vimary Couvertier Cruz
- 3/8: Jean Smith
- 3/15: Hunter Balczo (Cantata)
- 3/22: Heather Casiano
- 3/29: Hunter Balczo



**March LiveStreaming**

- 3/1: Nolan Severson
- 3/8: Tracy Oprea
- 3/15: Jamie Ham/Tristan Casiano
- 3/22: Jean Smith
- 3/29: Tristan Casiano



### Easter Flowers

It's that time again! Time to order your Easter flowers. Hyacinths, lilies, and tulips are \$10.00 each, and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. You may also make a donation in lieu of flowers. Please fill the order form below and include money or check and either drop off or mail to the church office at: 8727 Delaware Street, Highland, IN 46322.

## EASTER FLOWERS - ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HYACINTHS	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
LILY	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
TULIP	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
DONATION IN LIEU OF FLOWERS			\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE: 3/15/26**

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322

# News from the Pews



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS** on Sunday, March 8th. Make sure you turn your clock **AHEAD** one hour.



There will be a Soup Sale Sunday, March 8th, following Worship in the Fellowship Hall.



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.



- 3 Collin Parker
- 6 Nancy Johnston
- 9 Barbara Morton
- 12 Patty Nelson
- 18 Ashley Churitch
- 19 Bill Zuke
- 20 Karen Lounsbury  
Calvin Scott
- 21 Brandon Chong
- 22 Bill Holmes



There are still a few 2026 Pledge Envelopes Boxes left for pick up in the Narthex. Please help us keep costs down in the office by picking up and delivering envelopes for members that are unable to do so.

*Thank You!*



**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



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to the family of Caroline Studer on her death, February 3rd



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  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 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

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  
 Betsy  
 Jean  
 Kim  
 George  
 Mary Ellen Edeus  
 Pastor Jane  
 Jessica  
 Nicole  
 Greg  
 Jane & David  
 Flora R  
 Mike Kelly  
 Eunice  
 Lupe  
 Breanne Polan  
 Tammy  
 Alex  
 Ben  
 Ron Toren  
 The Family of Pat Kingen  
 Carolyn  
 Loved Ones of Caroline Studer  
 Leroy Fassett  
 Barb

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, 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).