

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW

APRIL  
2025

Volume 18 Issue 4

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## Faith Formation Opportunities

**Calling All Graduates**

**Flower Vouchers**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Palm Sunday**

**Maundy Thursday Service**

**Easter Sunday Service**

**Easter Flower Order Form**

Dear All,

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

We are well into our sacred season of Lent, and what a season it has been so far! We have had ashes imposed upon our foreheads and considered the possibility of rising from the ashes. We have learned and received great inspiration from some of the courageous women who dared to put themselves into Jesus' path and thus who dared to transform the world. We have deepened our spirituality by going through prayer activity stations, doing our daily calendar devotional, and engaging in study and discussion. We have been awed by the Choir's stunning Lenten cantata. We have sung weighty songs about Jesus' wondrous love for us. All of this means that we are fast approaching Holy Week!

On Sunday, April 13, we will wave our palms and joyfully sing and shout, "Hosanna!" to welcome our King into our hearts. On Thursday, April 17, we will gather in the evening for our Maundy Thursday celebration of the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room and our annual recitation of Jesus' last words on the cross while the candles are extinguished. We will remember "Hosanna!" turning into shouts of, "Crucify him!" We will feel. We will mourn. Then, on Sunday, April 20, we will come back to the reality that Jesus came back! We will sing and shout, "Hallelujah!" It will be glorious!

*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*

I encourage you to participate in whatever ways you can as we proceed through Lent and into Holy Week. This season is the heart of the annual cycle of our faith. We are the people of the Resurrection! This means that we honor the reality of mortality and that we live into the hope of the life that comes next. This means that we strive to embody new life in a world consumed by death. This means that we show the courage that so many women demonstrated in their interactions with Jesus—the courage to be vulnerable, the courage to show great love, the courage to reach out for healing.

As you read through the pages of this edition of the Larger View, you will find ways to be active at church, at home, and in the community. Whatever ways you choose, I pray that you encounter God in ways that give you new life!

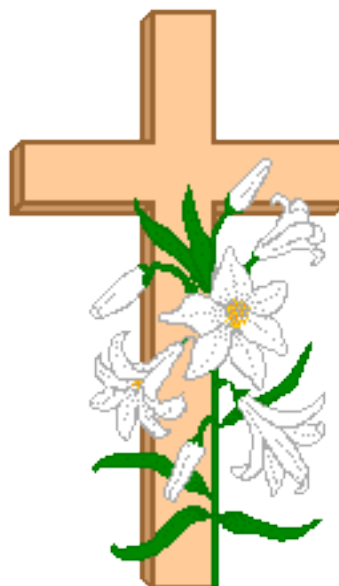
I leave you with these words from my favorite Lenten hymn, *My Song Is Love Unknown*:

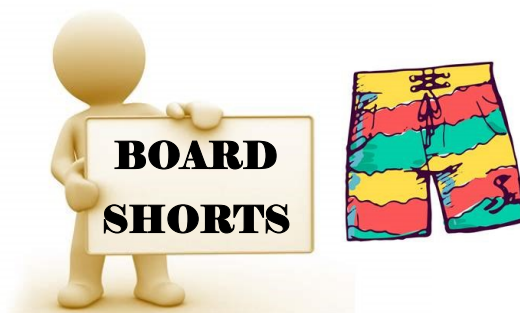
*My song is love unknown—  
my Savior's love to me;  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?*

*Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.*

In Christ and with Love,

**Rev. Tyler**





## **TRUSTEES**

Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees, reported on the following:

- Signs have been placed in washrooms to make sure water is turned off when not in use.
- The irrigation contractor has been changed to Rainmakers for this year.
- Matt's Landscaping contract was accepted for lawn mowing and fertilizing with some changes.
- Christian Science Society has asked about using a room in our building for services and a monthly meeting.
- The holes in the sanctuary have been plugged up as we have had bird visitors in our church building.
- The sign in the parking lot has been replaced.
- Other items to be explored include looking into the other outdoor signs and replacement of the sanctuary main doors.
- Garden plans – Plans are being made for seasonal garden work this year.
- Re-painting of the lines in parking lot is being planned.

## **DEACONS**

- Prayer List: Current list was updated.
- Sunshine Bags: Have been prepared and delivered to several in our congregation.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Two new Prayer Shawls were blessed and ready for gifting.
- Blessing Box: Deacons continue to check and stock the box daily for perishable and outdated items.
- Gladys's Table: Krissy LaFlech's High School Students prepared Gladys' Meal on March 15th with Deacon's delivering. Eleven meals were delivered for the month of February.
- Sackurday: Kiwanis prepared and handed out 48 bag lunches for the month of February. Kelly LaFlech prepared lunches on March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Smock Grant: Pastor Tyler shared that The Smock Foundation has approved the replenishing of our Grant with \$10,000. Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter will continue to disburse funds to parishioners in need. Thank you will be sent to the Smock Foundation for their monetary generosity.
- Directory: The Deacons are contacting members of their clusters to make sure the directory information is correct.



## SESSION

### Easter and Lent Plans:

- Palms have been ordered. Easter flowers will be tulips, lilies, and hyacinths for \$10.
- Easter Cantata 3/30
- Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion 4/17 at 7:00 pm
- Resurrection Sunday Worship 4/20

Fundraising: Fundraising ideas were generated. Soup sales raised \$116 on March 16. Salad sales will begin in July. Got Sneakers is an ongoing fundraiser. Looking ahead, we are possibly doing a coffee sale in the fall and a fundraising dinner.

Endowment Fund Guideline Changes: Session discussed changes to the Endowment Fund Guidelines which would allow us to be more flexible in the percentage for the allotment each year to help with the general fund and decrease the deficit. A congregational meeting will be held in April to vote on specific changes.

Presbyterian Foundation Workshop: On May 18<sup>th</sup> after worship, a workshop on planned giving will be presented by Sherry Finke, a representative from the Presbyterian Foundation. Other churches will be invited to attend.

Concrete steps to reduce the deficit: In addition to fundraising, Session discussed other ideas to raise money, which included having each ministry downsize their budgets, looking for possible assets we can sell that are no longer needed, renting parts of the building, offering cooking classes or other programs where members have an expertise, and having an organ or other music concert. We also reread ideas from the congregation. If anyone has an idea that they would like to try, please let us know. We welcome people from the congregation who would like to organize an event.



## **Treasurer's Report**

For the Month of  
February 28, 2025

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$24,109.03	\$9,677.50	\$56,059.28
Operating Expenses	14,511.99	15,141.42	28,561.46
Excess (Deficit)	\$9,597.04		\$27,497.82



***Stewardship: Taking Care of Each Other, Taking Care of Our Church,  
Taking Care of the World***

**Reflecting God's Goodness in All You Do**

*Submitted by Jamie Ham*

People have been created by God's goodness, as a reflection of God's goodness, to do good. Being created in the image of God means that people have intrinsic value and worth. They have free will. They have been given the job of caring for God's good world. They have the capacity to grow in Christlikeness, becoming more and more like Jesus, so that they, too, display godly attributes such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Action flows out of being, thus when people become loving, joyful, peaceful and kind humans, they behave in ways that are loving, joyful, peaceful and kind. As they do this, they reflect God's goodness to the world.

People are created to do good (Ephesians 2:10) and their good works reflect God's goodness to a broken world. When people selflessly give in a way that helps better someone else's condition, they share God's goodness. When they choose forgiveness and restoration over bitterness and resentment, they inhabit God's goodness. Try it this week. Do something that benefits someone else without expecting anything in return, choose to strengthen and improve life for those around you just as God has done for you.

*Adapted from GCU "Theology Thursday: Reflecting God's Goodness in All You Do"*  
*Michele Pasley; 1/12/23*



The 2024-2025 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 2025, 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 16.

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# Bible Study



## **BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES**

There are two opportunities 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 from 9 to 10 am at the church. We're continuing our reading of the book "A is for Alabaster" by Anna Carter Florence. The book takes us through the alphabet of both the Old and New Testaments, focusing on one Scripture story per letter. Each week's lesson is independent from the other weeks, so feel free to jump in any time. Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions or to get a book for the study.
- **"BYOB"** (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group has become the "Lenten Study & Practice" each Wednesday of Lent (March 12-April 16) from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. **The usual BYOB format will resume on April 30.** There will be NO Wednesday night study of any kind on April 23. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. You can connect to Zoom with a smart phone, tablet or computer. If you're not familiar with how to use Zoom, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano for assistance. The usual BYOB discussion will resume on April 30.

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!



## **FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT**

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

This year's Lenten Study and Practice is entitled Unsung Heroines: The Unnamed Women in *Luke* Who Propelled the Dream Forward. We are meeting and learning from women who were brave enough to enter into spaces that would put them in the path of the Messiah as he was on the path to the cross, and thus brave enough to change the course of history. As always, we will also be implementing spiritual practices that will put us in the path of the Messiah. Join us **each Wednesday of Lent, March 12 - April 16, from 7-8 pm online on Zoom**. All are welcome! We will record our sessions and send out materials if the time does not work for you. 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.

- **SHARING CALENDAR FOR LENT**

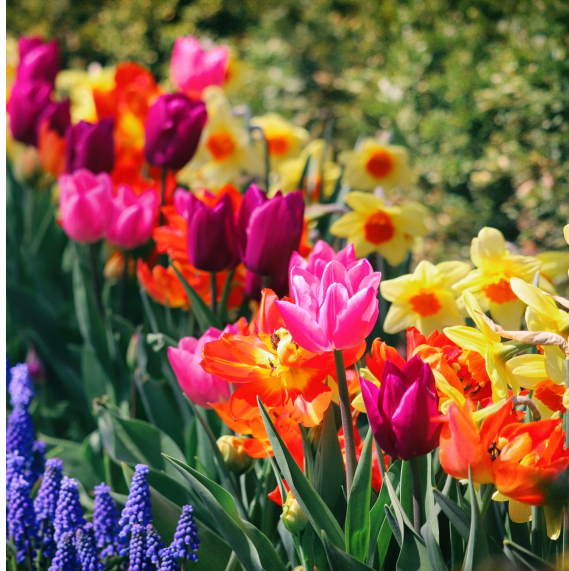
This year's Lent devotional is a calendar instead of a booklet. "A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025" is part of the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering that is associated with Lent each year. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5) and going through Easter Sunday (April 20), there is a suggested prayer, reflection or activity you can do each day except on Saturdays. The reflections and activities are related to the areas of hunger, disaster assistance and self-development of people – the three focus areas of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. As you make your way through this calendar devotional, you might find yourself inspired to try something new, or to pray and reflect in a different way. This Lent calendar devotional is available in worship beginning March 2, and mailed to those who don't have email. If you would prefer to have an electronic copy of the calendar emailed to you, contact Heather Casiano ([hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org)).

This calendar was designed for use along with the annual "fish banks" that we hand out. Some of the activities suggest placing an amount of coins or dollars in your fish bank. You may choose to do this in any way that is appropriate for you – add a certain amount of money with each activity; keep a tally throughout Lent and make one deposit into your fish bank at the end of Lent; or you may choose to participate in the activities and reflections without a financial offering. The fish banks with any financial offerings can be returned to the church on Easter Sunday or the week after.

## • PRAYER ACTIVITY STATIONS

Instead of having a spirituality center set up in one room, as we have in the past, this year we will have a variety of prayer stations set up around the building for you to engage with (most will be located in the Narthex and Sanctuary). One new prayer station will be added each week of Lent. There is also be a walkable labyrinth in the Fellowship Room for anyone to use. The prayer stations are appropriate for all ages, so you are encouraged to share this space with children, youth and adults in your life. *The prayer stations are 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.





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

The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser begins on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. 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!

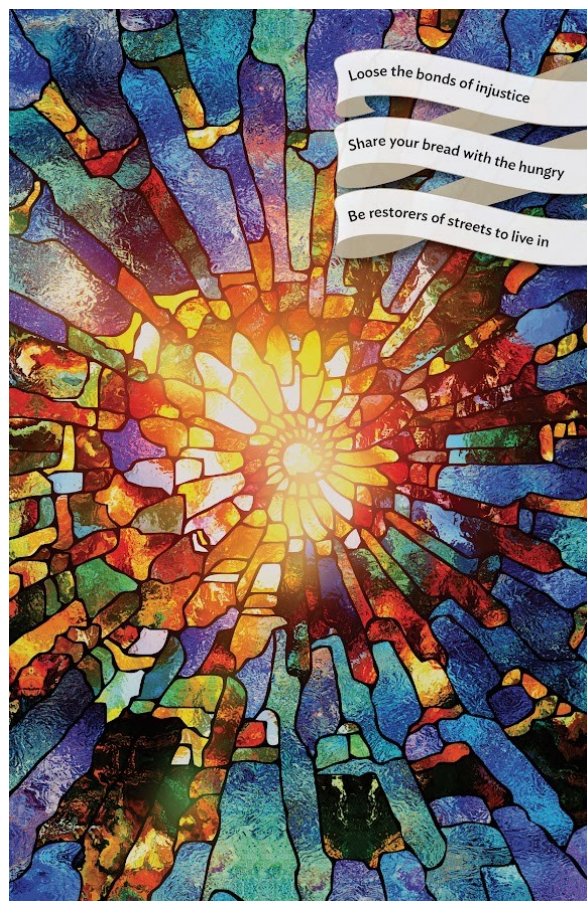


## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), 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.



# Repairing the breach

ISAIAH 58

### THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text OGHS to 91999 to give



[pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)



MATTHEW 25



**April Liturgists:**

4/6: Tracy Oprea  
4/13: Renee Williams  
4/17: Robbie Casiano (Maun. Thurs.)  
4/20:: Heather Casiano  
4/27: Karen Lounsbury



**April LiveStreaming**

4/6: Jamie Ham  
4/13: Tracy Oprea  
4/17: Tristan Casiano ( Maun. Thurs.)  
4/20: Robbie Casiano (Easter)  
4/27: Jean Smith



**Palm Sunday Worship will be on  
Sunday, April 13th, at 10:30 AM**

**Maundy Thursday Service will be  
Thursday, April 17th, at 7:00 PM**



**Easter Sunday Worship will be on  
Sunday, April 20th, at 10:30 AM**



## 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 **Monday, April 7, 2025**. 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: 4/7/25**

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322



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

# News from the Pews



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd 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.

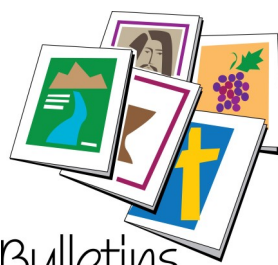


## HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!

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!



5	LeaAnn Kerber
11	Jill Cooke
15	Tristan Casiano
16	Dennis O'Donnell
18	George Griner
19	Kris Scott
20	Abdul Savage
26	Holly Severson
28	Eric Parker
30	Heather Casiano



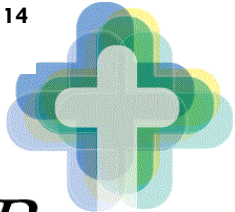
Bulletins

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!!



## 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  
Daniel Litwicki  
David Markley  
Pat & David Kingen  
Diana and Ray Mendoza  
Janet Orem  
Jeanne Nestor  
Cindy Waltz and Sister  
Yvonne Suroviak  
Georgette Sknerski  
Jakob Holden  
Denise Matthys  
Steve & Melinda  
Jan Oprea  
Florance Cody  
Nick  
Laura Buono Domsic  
Annie & Mike Windstrup  
Kevin Windstrup  
Ruth Dekker  
Rick Parker  
Gary Everhart  
Bonnie Kern  
Tim  
Ella P.  
Melissa  
Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon  
The McBride Family  
Darlene O'Brien  
Charles  
Robin  
Sharon  
Janet  
Carol Lestina  
Clara  
Dustin  
Noreen  
Loved Ones of Wally

Barbara Morton  
Caroline Studer  
Holly Letnich  
Jaden Mendez  
Doug and Sue Matthews  
Janet Terpstra  
Glen Nahler  
Tammy  
Tom  
Jana Tolley  
Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
Virginia Marshall  
Delta Rose  
Winnie Owen  
Charity Lynn  
David Hamblin  
Judy  
Breeanne  
Mom Bechtler  
Gloria  
Victor  
Crystal and David Cervantes  
Marian Clayton  
Lou Ann Sulowski  
Edie Delgano  
Katie  
Rita Stromczek  
Loved Ones of Suzanne Barnes  
Bill & Suzanne  
Ashley  
Lois & Tom  
OGB  
Edna Cruz  
Layla  
Melissa  
Connie  
Katie  
Charles  
Jerry & Rena Martinez  
Betsy  
Amaiya  
Jean  
Kim  
George  
Shirely McKnight

- 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).