

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 4

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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!**

Hallelujah!  
**Hallelujah!**



Soon and very soon we are going to join our hearts and voices in that joyful declaration which means...everything. On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth! What joy it will be! What joy it already is! Even thousands of years later, it still means everything! In the resurrected Christ we live and breathe and have our being. Because he lives, we also live. Because he lives, our loved ones also live. Because he lives, all Creation lives—in the here and now and in the Great Hereafter. God is so good! God did not just give Jesus to the world to die. God gave Jesus life and then life again! God gives us life and then life again! Hallelujah!

But let us not forget that there was suffering and death before there was new life. On Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be observing Maundy Thursday. We will join Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper as we break bread together. We will hear the story of Christ's passion. We will speak aloud his last words on the cross. As we do so, may we consider all the suffering that is being unleashed upon God's Creation and God's children today.

**Calling All Graduates**

**Take a "Walk of Faith"**

**Flower Vouchers**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Easter Sunday**

**Easter Flowers**

**Rummage Sale**

**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*

May we understand that Jesus knows this suffering intimately because of his experience on the cross. May we choose to carry the crosses of those suffering today as we would for Jesus himself, and so may we choose to ease the burdens of those being most harmed. May we choose to dismantle the systems that are causing harm. May we choose life and new life! May we choose to be people of the Resurrection!

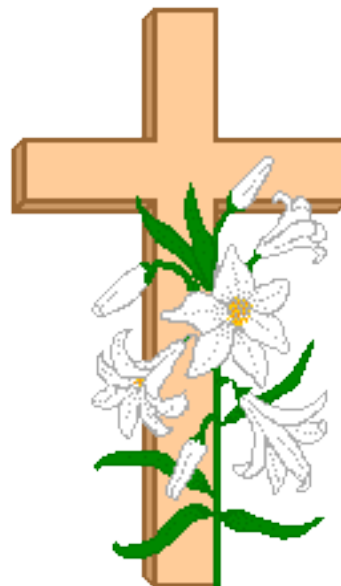
As we embrace the truth of new life, we are called to bring new life to others. We are called to create peace, give reason for hope, and shine with love. We are called to be healers in a broken world. The First Presbyterian Church of Highland is a brilliant example of what it means to be the people of the Resurrection! As you read through the pages of this edition of the Larger View, you will see the evidence of it in all the ways that we embody our mission to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus. I want to lift up in particular how we all came together quickly and generously to respond to the devastation wrought by the tornado in Lake Village. I also want to lift up the multiple years' worth of work that went into serving families through the Karing Kitchen, which is now finding new life in a new location. Read about these acts of love and more as you flip through these pages. You will also find opportunities to contribute to our Resurrection work moving forward—through flower voucher sales for our Ministry of Mission, rummage sale donations, and a new campaign to help support our General Fund. We can and shall have new life, FPCH!

I leave you with these words from *Matthew*:

*The women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





## SESSION

- Fundraisers:
  - Soup sales have done well but will go on hiatus until the fall. Look for possible salad sales in the future.
  - Rummage sale plans are proceeding. The sale will take place on May 1 and 2. Items will be accepted from April 14-April 25. More volunteers are needed during the days of the sale and during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lexa Miller or Donna Nelson if you are interested.
  - “Watch the Gap” fundraiser is coming in April. Be sure to get on board!
- Session approved the collection of three PCUSA special offerings this year: One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering and Christmas Joy Offering.
- Marvin Kohler joined the church on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Welcome Marvin!
- The Holy Week schedule was reviewed:
  - Palm Sunday Worship on March 29<sup>th</sup> and luncheon hosted by Blanche Greene after worship.
  - Maundy Thursday Worship on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm.
  - Easter Sunday Worship on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.
- We received the report that Presbytery has approved Vimary Courterier Cruz as an inquirer under the care of our Session to pursue her path to ordination.
- Rev. Tyler Orem and Elder Jesse Casiano attended the Presbytery meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Quincy Worthington (former pastor of Westminster Church in Munster) gave a powerful sermon. He is an advocate for immigrants and the marginalized of society and has attended weekly pastor gatherings at the Broadview detention center in Chicago.
- After many dedicated years of being the moderator of the Ministry of Hospitality, Gale Churitch is stepping down. Thanks, Gale, for all your hard work for so many years! You are so appreciated! So, we need the congregation’s help. We need to find individuals who would like to join this ministry and contribute their talents in decorating the Fellowship Hall, ordering supplies for fellowship, decorating the Narthex, or welcoming newcomers to our church. AND, you don’t have to provide food each week as the ministries already do that. Please consider joining this important welcoming group!

## TRUSTEES

- Our elevator has been recertified, and the permit is posted inside elevator.
- Trustee Dennis O’Donnell submitted a list of maintenance items he completed around the building. Discussion on several maintenance items that need attention from Trustees was held. This included: the dishwasher that is not currently working, the hot water heater in new sanctuary that is making noise, the sanctuary doors that need staining, and inspections and filter changes on AC/Heating units.
- Authorization was given for use of building for elections on May 5 and Nov. 3, 2026.



- The contract with Matt’s Lawn Care and Landscaping will be renewed which includes weekly lawn mowing at \$50 per week and grub control application at \$58 per application.
- Defibrillator pads will need to be ordered before 7/30/2026. Training sessions for recertification of users was discussed.
- We received a thank you note and monetary contribution from John Wachala for use of our sanctuary for his flute students’ recital earlier in February.
- It was decided to donate the old cell phones to “Highland Neighbors for Sustainability,” a group that addresses local environmental issues.
- The parking lot on the north side of our building is deteriorating. We need to get pricing for resealing pavement and repainting lines as soon as weather permits.
- Repainting and repairing of the Blessing Box may be needed soon.

## DEACONS

- Sunshine Bags: Sunshine bags were delivered to several members.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Prayer Shawl committee continues to work diligently to make beautiful, comforting shawls. A bag of beautifully crocheted baby caps were donated from an unknown person.
- Blessing Box: Deacons continue to check box daily. Kiwanis donated canned goods that were gathered during their Souper Bowl collection. Deacons discussed the structural deterioration of the current Blessing Box and possible ways to replace it. Discussion was shelved till next meeting.
- Sharon’s Table: Krissy LaFlech, Kristen Wilson and Dawn Dal Santo were informed per verbal or written notification of the Deacons renaming “Gladys’ Table” to “Sharon’s Table.” Krissy LaFlech’s Munster students prepared the meal on March 21<sup>st</sup> and Deacons delivered the meal to our homebound.
- Sackurday: Kiwanis prepared and disbursed 60 meals on February 28th. Kelly LaFlech will be preparing and distributing meals on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Smock Grant: 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.



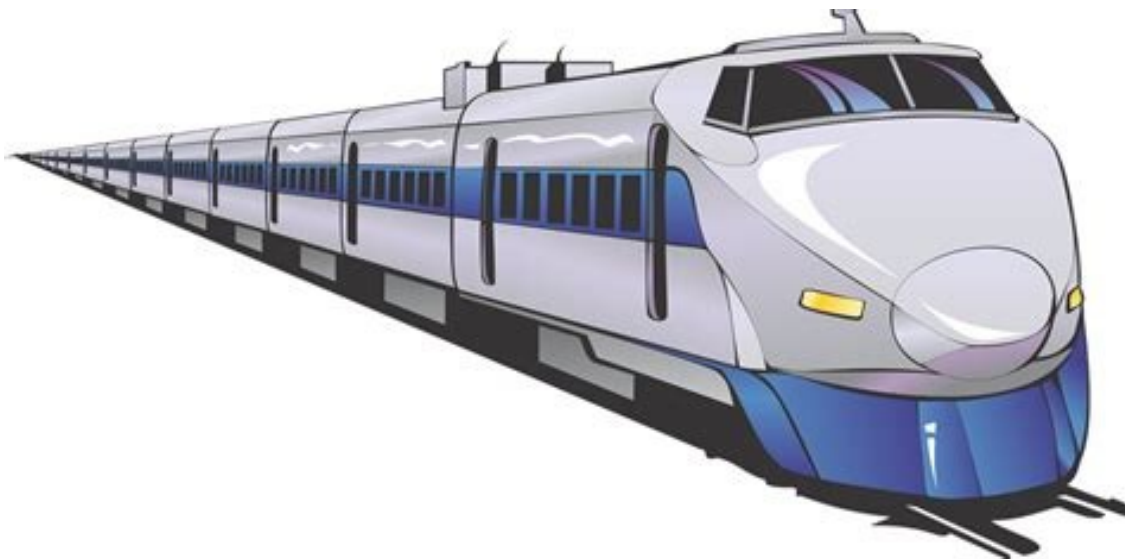
## Watch the Gap!

*By Tyler Orem*

**All aboard!** The session of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland is excited to announce an opportunity for the church to address our deficit budget! The train is in the station (well, the narthex), and ready for some generous passengers to hop on! Be sure to have your fares ready! Oh, and **watch the gap** as you step on! If you are more familiar with the British version, please, mind the gap.

Over the past few years, we have taken steps as a congregation to get **back on track** financially. We have been creative, we have been flexible, and we have been faithful! And yet, we still continue to run on a deficit budget. Our most effective way to address this has been the congregation's thoughtful decision to update our Endowment Fund guidelines to allow the Session to release more money into our General Fund. Throughout the beginning of 2026, we have taken a look at our projected income (including allowable income from the Endowment Fund) and estimated that the **gap** between our income and projected expenses is approximately **\$5,000**.

We think we can make up that amount in a month if we work together! Starting on Resurrection Sunday and running throughout April, we are asking people to give a bit more and to reach out to others who love FPCH to see if they are willing to contribute. Checks and envelopes should bear the memo: "**Watch the Gap.**" Listen for the whistle and look out for the conductor! **It's full steam ahead!**





FAITH DEVELOPMENT



### **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.

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### **TAKE A "WALK OF FAITH" THIS MONTH**

The ministry of Faith Development is sponsoring a "Walk of Faith" on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Join us for fellowship time where you can grab some "hiking food," and then we'll head outside for a leisurely, reflective walk together. We'll start at our church building, walk around and through Main Square Park, and return to the church. Along the way there will be opportunities to reflect and meditate on the messages and meanings of the Resurrection for each us, while engaging in a healthy activity for our bodies in God's creation.

Bring comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. If there is inclement weather, we will reschedule for May 17. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those interested in going on the walk. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Heather Casiano. All are invited, so please invite your family and friends to join us!

If you cannot join us for the group walk, there will be a resource sheet for you to do your own Walk of Faith at a time that works better for you, in the location of your choice.



## **SPRING 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. There will be NO class on April 5. The class is beginning a new study on April 12 – watch the weekly bulletins for the title and description. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) will resume weekly Scripture discussions on Wednesday, April 22, from 7-8 pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is emailed out weekly on Wednesday mornings. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, contact Heather Casiano or Kristen in the church office.



# Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
February 28, 2026

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$50,331.77	\$10,427.08	\$66,334.69
Operating Expenses	16,611.11	15,630.44	32,785.38
Excess (Deficit)	(\$33,720.66)		(\$33,549.31)



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 March.

	<u>March</u>
NIPSCO	1,833.93
Water	91.22
Phone	424.44
Maintenance	345.00



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

Peter & Gale Churitch, Jean Smith

**Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Memory of Nancy Engle:**

Peter & Gale Churitch

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

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, The Adams, Churitch, and Toren Families; Jeffrey & Joyce Borgerson, Sandy Buono, Fred & Carol Callaway, Julie Carlson, Jeanette Chung, Bruce & Lucy Hoekema, Marjean Reed, Jean Smith, Cheryl Steen, John & Judy Toren, Ann Williams

**A Donation was made in Lieu of Easter Flowers by:**

Hunter Balczo and Yvonne Suroviak



**The Pantry**

Mother Hubbard's cupboard is now bare and ready to be re-stocked! There was a truck bed full of food delivered to Brothers' Keeper in Gary on Tuesday, March 3rd. They have an overnight shelter and an open pantry for the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. They are part of our rotation when our pantry gets full, and Mission also supports them with a \$100.00 donation every month. A big "Thank You!" to the Kiwanis Club for their generous donations to our pantry! It makes it so much better when you have a full pantry to distribute to the three organizations we support. I couldn't have completed this project without the help of Kaz Smailis and Jeff Savage. Thank you both for your muscles and being able to share your time! *Cheryl Steen*





## **Karing Kitchen**

This is to let everyone know that the Karing Kitchen is no longer housed and operating out of our church. Mission has operated it through our church since 2020. We will continue to financially support Love, Inc., with our \$100.00 monthly donation and assist them with their fundraisers. We feel it is a very worthy organization and we can continue to support them without the responsibility of housing items and delivering them to clients. We will also continue to adopt families for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A special "Thank You!" to Carolyn Ham and Jeff Savage for their years of helping me collect, log and organize items. "Thank You!" to Jeff for bringing my muscle and being my sidekick in delivering items to clients.

Moving day was very busy, but with the help of Jeff Savage, Rodney Fozkos and Kaz Smailis, we managed to get it all done in one day!

The new location of the Karing Kitchen is Riverside Community Church , 7449 Jefferson, Hammond, IN.

*Cheryl Steen*

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## **MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE**

The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser begins 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 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. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge.

Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to all!



## Thank You for Helping!!

Our neighboring church in Lake Village was hit very hard by the recent tornado. A HUGE “Thank You!” for responding to their immediate needs. Mission made the necessary contacts and went to work!! We supplied them with two SUV loads of items to help in their day to day living as they try to get back on their feet.

We also connected with Westminster Presbyterian Church and got them involved with supplying items, especially meat. They also contributed a van full of items.

The residents of Lake Village were most appreciative for our donations! I thank everyone who helped with the project! Rodney and Jeff were invaluable with their assistance!!





**Maundy Thursday Service will be Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00 PM**



**Easter Sunday Worship will be on Sunday, April 5th, at 10:30 AM**



**April Liturgists:**

- 4/2: Heather Casiano (Maundy Thurs)
- 4/5: Vimary Couvertier Cruz (Easter)
- 4/12: Carol Callaway
- 4/19: Karen Lounsbury
- 4/26: Bonnie Perryman



**April LiveStreaming**

- 4/2: Tracy Oprea (Maundy Thurs.)
- 4/5: Jamie Ham (Easter)
- 4/12: Tristan Casiano
- 4/19: Nolan Severson
- 4/26: Jean Smith

## We are thankful for the beauty of the Easter Flowers given to the Glory of God by:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, in memory of Martin Kessler & Nity Abernethy

Jean Allmond, in honor of James, Fawn, Michelle and her mom's Birthday

Hunter Balczo

Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of loved ones

Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of family

Clara Coapstick, in memory of her mom, dad and Allen

Lois Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Karen & Doran Lounsbury, in Memory of missed family and friends

Shirley McKnight, in Memory of her husband, Barry

Barb Morton, in honor of Chester & Lillie Belle Morton; in memory of Morton, McDonald,  
and Bannon Family

Tyler Orem, in memory of Grandma, Teresa, Pappy, and Titi Isabel

Marjean Reed, in memory of Dr. Ronald R. Reed; Reed & Maxwell Families

Jean Smith, in memory of Jay Smith and Bob & Arlene Diekman

Cheryl Steen, in memory of Dr. Lowell H. Steen & Laura Steen Wisner

Yvonne Suroviak, in memory of her children: Carol A. Smith, Terri M. Nern, and  
Darren Suroviak

In Lieu of Flowers:

Hunter Balczo

Yvonne Suroviak, in memory of her children: Carol A. Smith, Terri M. Nern, and  
Darren Suroviak



WHAT: The First Presbyterian Church of Highland **RUMMAGE SALE is coming SOON!!!**

**DATE: May 1<sup>st</sup>.and May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

WHERE: The Fellowship Hall of The First Presbyterian Church

WHEN: 8:00am to 2:00pm on both day



## First Presbyterian Church

Hello Rummage Sale enthusiasts,

Below, please read some important information about this upcoming event. We are happy to accept

Your donations from April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup> at Door B. **Collecting time will include:**

(T.W.Th.F.) 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 to 2:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 to 12:00 church members only

Some ideal donations would include (but are not limited to) the following:

Clean clothing and shoes (adult & children), Handbags and jewelry

Glassware, dishes, silverware, pots & pans, small kitchen appliances

Toys and Puzzles

Books and craft items

Holiday items

Towels and Sheets

Pet supplies and pet clothes and Small Tools

IN LIGHT OF SAFETY MATTERS, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:

Children's car seats, strollers Mattresses and Box springs, bed pillows...

Computers, printers

Televisions

pianos

Exercise and medical equipment

Come donate, thrift, or volunteer while supporting The First Presbyterian Church of Highland!

More details will follow about this up-coming event. You may call the church office with questions (219)838-6850. **Start gathering your items!**

**With GRATITUDE:**

The Rummage Sale Committee

# News from the Pews



There will be a Soup Sale Sunday, April 19th, 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.



- 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



### 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 and friends of Rev. Dr. Leroy Fassett, Pastor Emeritus
  - The family and friends of Nancy Engle



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  
 Tony & Sharon Nevers  
 Caroline  
 Jean & Clara  
 Suzanne

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  
 Loved Ones of Pastor Jane  
 Loved Ones of Nancy Engle  
 Loved Ones of Leroy Fassett  
 Barb  
 Dave Shelborne  
 Kali Rosalia  
 Loved Ones of Ray Mendoza

- 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.

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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).