

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 18 Issue 8

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Letter from Rev. Tyler

Board Shorts

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Ministry of Mission Update

Salad Sale

Prayer List

Dear All,

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

In the heart and heat of summer, one of my favorite places to be is the Orem farm. Of course it is always one of my favorite places to be with so many of my favorite people to see, but summer is special. For, in the heart and heat of summer there is a veritable explosion of light and life in the woods behind the house and the trees that surround the house. I have never seen lightning bugs so thickly populated anywhere else in the world! They light up the night with patterns that are sometimes random and sometimes seem to be synchronized in marvelous ways. Vima and I *delight* in this connection we share. Where she grew up in Vieques, Puerto Rico, there is the best and brightest bioluminescent bay in the world. There, microscopic dinoflagellates make glow whatever swims through, creating a magical light show. So, we share the bioluminescent connection!

These living lights are powerful images to contemplate as we continue to celebrate this season of Pentecost! Tongues of fire lit up the sky when the Holy Spirit filled those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, and the light of that fire still lives within us. That light shines through us with every act of kindness, generosity, and love. Through us, that light puts on a show of God's glory and abundant beauty. Through us, that light beckons people to come and experience the goodness of God.

My dad loves to play worship songs on the guitar in a way that works for all ages and stages.

*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*

When making music with children, he realized that it would be helpful to re-conceptualize a classic so that they would know just how magnificent their light truly is. He changed that little light to a big one:

*This BIG light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This BIG light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This BIG light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

Loved ones, we indeed have big lights shining through us at First Presbyterian Church of Highland! Those big lights were blazing forth in so many who volunteered to work the 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser. Those big lights were gleaming as our Ministry of Mission chose to send a significant amount of the money made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with the specific purpose of helping those affected by the horrific flooding in the Texas hill country. Those big lights shine every month as people help out with and donate to food pantries here and at St. Tim's, as people prepare meals for the shelter, for home bound members and for community members in need, as people tend to our beautiful building and grounds, as people create crafts and stitch shawls, as people pray and participate in worship, as people meet together to listen for God's will and make decisions for the church, as people delve into God's Word and discover new ways of understanding it from each other's Wisdom, and as people reach out to each other with the right words and right expressions of love at exactly the right times. Oh yes, these big lights are shining!

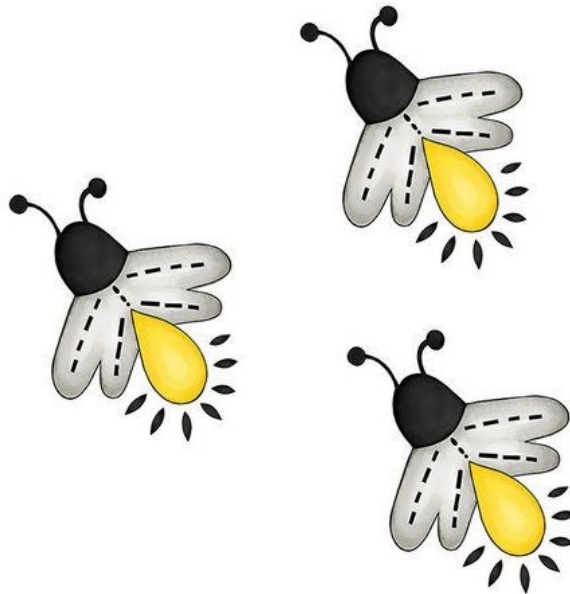
Like the lightning bugs and dinoflagellates, we are living lights!

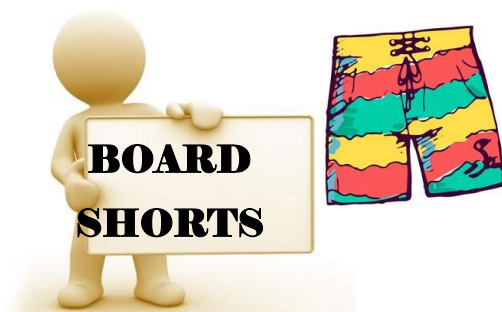
I leave you with these further adapted words:

*Everywhere we go, we're gonna let 'em shine!
Everywhere we go, we're gonna let 'em shine!
Everywhere we go, we're gonna let 'em shine!
Let 'em shine, let 'em shine, let 'em shine!*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





Session

- Session members discussed our church's financial status and possible ways to decrease the deficit. Session had moved to transfer the amount that had been allocated for grants but that was not spent. It was transferred from the Endowment Fund to our General Fund. We will transfer other money when needed to meet our expenditures.
- We are members of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and we decided to support this network which is committed to churches becoming welcoming and truly inclusive of all God's people.
- The kickoff for the Fall Season will be on Sept 7th with a congregation potluck and Session providing the meat and drinks. More information will follow.
- Possible fundraisers were discussed which included a fundraiser for the Highland BBQ Fest in late September, an organ concert, and taco dinner.
- Rev. Orem and Heather Casiano will be attending an online workshop focusing on the many different aspects of Stewardship on August 9th. Other Session and ministry members may also attend.
- Future dates to remember:

Sept 7 th	Fall Programming Kickoff with potluck
Sept 26-28 th	Highland Backyard BBQ Fest
Oct 5 th	Possible date for Hayride
Oct 26 th	Women's Retreat
Nov 8 th	Craft Fair at St. James the Lesser

- Hospitality schedule for August – Sept 14:

August 3	Rev. Orem and Vima
August 10	Jean Allmond and Clara Coapstick
August 17	Ministry of Hospitality
August 24	Renee Williams and Jean Smith
August 31	Charlotte and Bob Abernethy
Sept 7	Potluck – Session and the congregation
Sept 14	Tracy Oprea

Trustees

Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees reported on these items:

- The parking lot stripes were painted.
- Emergency light bulbs were replaced.
- A door service will fix the front sanctuary doors with an astrical that would overlap and cover the gap between the doors. The doors will be refinished sometime this fall.
- The trustees are monitoring and maintaining the church property and building. Current projects that need attention include: one air conditioner, the garbage disposal in the kitchen, regular inspection of the gutters on the flat roof, and the status of some warped shingles on the sanctuary roof.



Deacons

At their June meeting, the following items were discussed.

Prayer Shawls: Possible candidates for Prayer Shawl gifting were discussed.

Blessing Box: Deacons continue to check box daily. Needed supplies to refill stock were divided between members.

Gladys' Table: Krissy LaFlech and her High School students are taking the summer off from meal preparation. Due to Deacon schedule conflicts, Gladys' meal was prepared and disbursed on the Wednesday of June 18th. Pam Porter purchased the food products for the meal.

Sackurday: Kelly LaFlech prepared and served the meal on June 28th.

Smock Grant: Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter will continue to disburse funds to parishioners in need.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
June 30, 2025

	Month of June	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,467.45	\$9,677.50	\$80,840.22
Operating Expenses	15,360.67	15,141.42	85,704.02
Excess (Deficit)	(\$8,893.22)		(\$4,863.80)



**A gift was given to the Endowment Fund In Celebration of
Jerry Veltman's 80th Birthday:**

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy



A True Heartwarming Story

Submitted by Jamie Ham

I have read this true story of Dr. Howard Kelly so many times. But each time I read it, the moral beauty of the story touches me. Maybe you have read this before, but if you have not, you will surely feel touched by what Dr. Howard Kelly did.

I read this touching true story of a boy selling from door to door to pay for his school. One day he found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry and brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly and then asked, how much do I owe you?" You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for kindness." He said ... "then I thank you from my heart." As he left the house, he felt physically stronger, and his faith in God and humanity was strong. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later, that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. A strange light filled his eyes when he heard the name of the town she came from. Immediately he rose and went down the hospital hall to her room. Dressed in his doctors gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He returned to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day, he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won, and Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, wrote something on edge, and sent the bill to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally, she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words ... "paid in full with one glass of milk" (signed) Dr. Howard Kelly. Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank you, God, that your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

Dr. Howard Kelly (1858–1943) was a distinguished physician who was one of the four founding doctors of Johns Hopkins, the first medical research university in the USA.

"No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves." ~ Amelia Earhart

Retrieved from: <https://shubhaapte.medium.com/a-story-of-inspiration-and-the-ripple-effect-of-kindness-707e614068e9>; JUL26,2025



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

We're collecting school supplies to support students and teachers in the Highland area! All are invited to bring a few school supplies to worship August 3-24 to be donated to a local Highland school. If you aren't able to come to worship, supplies can be dropped off weekdays in the collection bin near the church office (during church office hours) August 4-22. If you'd like to help but can't make it to the church building at all, you can mail in a monetary donation marked for school supplies, and we'll do the shopping for you. Thank you for your help in equipping our local students and teachers!

Needed school supplies include:

- #2 pencils
- crayons
- washable markers
- dry erase markers, low-odor
- black, blue and red ink ballpoint pens (not gel pens)
- glue sticks
- highlighters
- single subject notebooks, spiral & composition style
- wide-ruled loose leaf paper
- pocket folders
- 3x5 lined index cards
- scissors
- colored pencils
- large pink erasers
- new backpacks




SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Sept. 7th is going to be our church's "Fall Kick-Off", including a potluck lunch and games for all ages. We'll also have information about the exciting opportunities to participate in this fall across the various ministries of our congregation.

SCRIPTURE IN THE PARK

Our summer Bible discussion group is having a great time together – and there's still time for you to join us! "Scripture in the Park" is an informal Bible study group that meets from 6:30-7:30 pm on Thursday evenings. Our last two meetings are on August 7 & 14. We generally meet at Redar Park in Schererville (217 Gregory St, Schererville, IN), at the picnic shelter. If there is a change in location due to weather, we'll post on our social media pages. "Scripture in the Park" is a combined group of folks from our church and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Bring a Bible and a water bottle, and join us for great discussion and wonderful friends new and old! If you have any questions, please contact Heather Casiano.



Scripture in the Park

6 week Summer Bible Study

Thursdays, July 10-Aug. 14 6:30-7:30 pm

Redar Park, 217 Gregory St, Schererville

Near the picnic shelter

Bring a Bible, water bottle, and a lawn chair (if you have one)

***Partnership between Immanuel Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Highland. Friends welcome!**



CONGRATULATIONS TO KARSON

Karson Agbor, one of our congregation's young disciples, received his very own Bible on June 22. Congratulations, Karson! Just a few days after receiving his Bible, Karson called Pastor Tyler to excitedly let him know he had been reading through his Bible and found the special verse that had been underlined for him. Karson will start 4th grade in August. Keep on reading and living in God's Word, Karson!

The Ministry of Faith Development typically gives students a Bible during or immediately after their 3rd grade year. If you have a child that age who has not received a Bible, please contact Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org) so we may gift one to them as well.



August Liturgists:

8/3: Carol Callaway
 8/10: Robbie Casiano
 8/17: Hunter Balczo
 8/24: Heather Casiano
 8/31: Karen Lounsbury



August LiveStreaming

8/3: Jean Smith
 8/10: Tristan Casiano
 8/17: Jean Smith
 8/24: Tracy Oprea
 8/31: Tristan Casiano



The Ministry of Mission is so excited to announce that the 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser was a huge success this year! This would not have been possible without the support of the congregation, in particular: *Charlotte Abernethy, Robert Abernethy, Jessie Casiano, Robbie Casiano & Tristan Casiano, Clara Coapstick, Carol Callaway, Fred Callaway, Brandon Chong, Lois Fozkos, Peggy Fozkos, Rodney Fozkos, Carolyn Ham, Jamie Ham, Karen Lounsbury, Melissa Melendez, Piper, Pam Porter, Tom Porter, Marjean Reed, & Terry Langohr, Mindy Sanchez, Jeff Savage, Ella Severson, Kaz Smailis, Jean Smith, Cheryl Steen, Renee Williams, Kristen Wilson, and Eric Wilson*

Texas Hill Country Flooding



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Due to the success of the Parking Lot Fundraiser, Mission was able to immediately send financial assistance to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, specifically for the devastating flood in Texas. Mission sent \$1,000.00 to the PDA for this specific line item. Again, without the success of the parking lot fundraiser these funds would not have been available to Mission to help those in need in Texas.

The Ministry of Mission has sent funds to PC USA (DR000191 - Disaster Relief-U.S. Flooding) in response to the devastating floods in Texas Hill Country. If you would also like to donate, call 800-728-7228, ext. 5885. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P. O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Calling All Members: Please Help Us Stock the Pantry

Things are getting rough out there. The cost of food and essentials just keeps rising and will likely continue to climb. This is hard on all of us but even harder on some members of our community. One of the ways the Ministry of Mission supports our community is by stocking the pantry and donating its contents to the Salvation Army, Brother's Keeper, and Love, Inc. on a rotating basis. The items we need are non-perishable items, such as canned beans, vegetables, fruits, rice, pasta, oatmeal, etc. There's a special need for canned meats, such as canned tuna or chicken. The price of meat in the grocery store is way too high for some families to afford, and canned meats are a good alternative. Your help is much needed and will be appreciated by so many people who are struggling. Please take one or more of the paper bags provided in the church narthex and bring them back with non-perishable items for the pantry as often as you can. Thank you!

News from the Pews



Did you know that your gently worn sneakers/athletic shoes could help us at First Presbyterian of Highland?

Our church is still participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; all we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers! Here's how you can help.

As you clean out your closet, gather as many pairs of sneakers (only athletic shoes, please) that you no longer want; maybe you've out-grown them, they're out of style, or worn out. You can ask your neighbors, kids, grandkids, friends or co-workers to help out. Every pair counts!

The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our programs and projects here at FPCH **AND** will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills.

Blue bins are located inside DOOR D by the office, outside door D and also in the narthex.



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 Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, August 26th, at 1:00 PM.



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



SALAD SALE

The Salad Sale will be on Sunday, August 24th. 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 Carolyn Ham
- Yvonne Suroviak
- 7 Judy Toren
- Marie Smith
- 10 Kylie Agbor
- 13 Suzanne Goldsmith
- 19 Bonnie Perryman
- Cara Scott
- 22 Jeff Savage
- 25 Delaney Rae Toren
- 26 Karson Agbor
- 30 Lewis Owen
- 31 Marjean Reed



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



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
 Tyler Gall
 Dustin
 Phil

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
 Luana Sulkowski
 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
 Suzanne
 Jalen
 Flora R
 Mike Kelly
 Fred
 Loved Ones of Mary Ammachee

- 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).