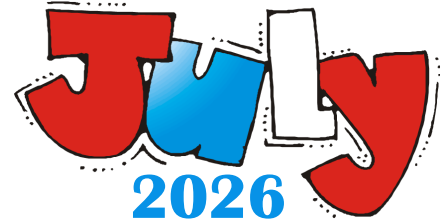


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 7

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Summer Sunday School

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Mission Parking Lot Fundraiser

Festival at Main Square

Prayer List

Dear All,

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

I greet you from the great city of Milwaukee, where Heather Casiano and I are serving as commissioners to the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am still filled with the love laid upon us with the laying on of hands and prayers on June 21st! The theme for the assembly is *Persevering Toward Wholeness*, and it is rooted in the scripture from *Revelation 22*: "On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." What a fitting image to guide us as we meet alongside the beautiful Milwaukee River! What a powerful passage to consider at this moment in time, when there is so much healing needed in this nation and in nations across the globe!

We have just now started to do the business of the full assembly in plenary sessions, following three days of hard work online last week in smaller committees. We will be doing A LOT of mutual discernment, seeking God's will for the Church on many important, challenging questions. We continue to covet your prayers as we do this work with and on behalf of the Church from the congregation to the presbytery to the denomination and back again. Such is the beautiful connectional nature of the body of Christ!

Our first day consisted of collective action for the Kingdom. We heard speakers whose lives have been shattered by gun violence, and then we marched to the Milwaukee City Hall to encircle it in prayer. We prayed for those who have been traumatized by gun violence, and we prayed for an end to gun violence. As part of this collective action, we had the really cool opportunity of witnessing the embodied word!

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***

A blacksmith was onsite doing the work of transforming guns and bullets into gardening tools. Before our eyes, ears, and noses, the words of *Isaiah* came to life: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares.” I pray that we will continue to find creative ways to transform systems of violence into systems of cultivation as a nation, as a denomination, and as a congregation!



Please know that as you continue to pray for us, we pray for all of you! Rough weather has struck our community, and some of you and some of our mission partners have been directly impacted. I have been blessed by witnessing so many of you coming together to help those in need. Just like the leaves of the tree in *Revelation*, you are bringing healing. Thank you!

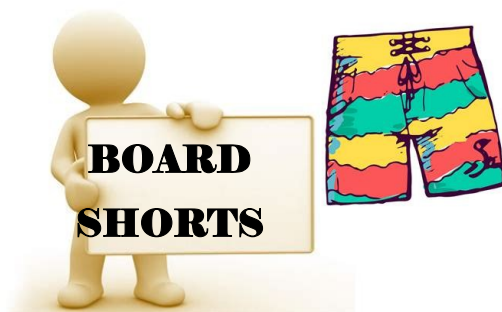
I pray that the articles in this edition of the Larger View uplift you and cultivate life! I leave you with these words from *Isaiah* and *Revelation*:

*He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler



SESSION

- The accumulated donations of \$3460 in the Endowment Fund will be sent to Vanguard to be invested.
- A question was raised by the Trustees about the TVs which are currently not connected in the sanctuary. We have asked our IT consultant to price the equipment that is needed to get them working.
- We will be having a calendar fundraiser in August. Thanks, Hunter Balczo, for volunteering to coordinate this for our church.
- Salad sales will be the 4th Sunday of each month, at least through August. Get a delicious salad for lunch and support our church, too!
- Session is going to set up a joint meeting with Trustees in late September to discuss project priorities and future financial needs.
- Elder Jeffery Savage reported on the Presbytery meeting from 6/2/26. Rev. Tyler and Heather Casiano were commissioned as our commissioners to the General Assembly on 6/22/26 - 7/2/26 in Milwaukee. Vima Courtier-Cruz was recognized as an inquirer for the process of ordination in the PCUSA.
- Faith Development is planning a fall programming kick-off on September 20th. Stay tuned for more details in August.
- The financial review committee will be meeting this summer to conduct an audit of the church finances.

JULY AND AUGUST HOSPITALITY

July 5	Endowment/Shine the light/Blanche	August 2	Faith Development
July 12	Worship and Music	August 9	Mission /Clara
July 19	Session/Hospitality	August 16	Session/Hospitality
July 26	Deacons	August 23	Stewardship/Finance
		August 30	Choir

TRUSTEES

- The business entity report and boiler inspection report have been filed with the state.
- AED pads have been replaced, and the sprinkler system needs some repairs.
- Projects are being prioritized which include: boiler repairs, refinishing front doors, disconnecting sanctuary exhaust fans, and cleaning AC filters in sanctuary.
- The Comcast bill is being explored as to the breakdown of charges.
- A tent will be put up for the 4th of July parking lot fundraiser.
- The parking lot sealing is complete.

DEACONS

- The Deacons served 12 meals for Sharon's Table in June.
- Kiwanis made and distributed lunches on Sackurday in May.
- Deacons are in the process of delivering 2026 church directories.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
May 31, 2026

	Month of May	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$9,166.12	\$10,427.08	\$89,449.90
Operating Expenses	13,119.77	15,630.44	77,638.06
Excess (Deficit)	(\$3,953.65)		\$11,811.84



Stewardship of Civility

Written by Rob Blezard, Submitted by Jamie Ham

There used to be a wise saying about arguments that kept things civil. One party or the other would say, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it."

That sounds downright quaint in today's climate, where partisans are more likely to say, "I disagree with what you say, and you are evil and have no right to that opinion."

This month, as we celebrate Independence Day, we can relish the freedoms we take for granted, including freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

At the same time, as Christians we remember not only Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31), but also to do unto others as we would have them do to us (Matthew 7:12). The "neighbors" and "others" certainly include those who hold different ideas on issues of the day.

How can we celebrate our freedom of expression in the context of Jesus' commands?

- Listen carefully, being open to another person's ideas.
- Respond thoughtfully and calmly, citing facts to support your argument.
- Do not attack the person, only the ideas.
- Remember the wise old saying, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it."

We are stewards of our relationships with our neighbors. As followers of Jesus, we can be stewards of civility and lead our country to calmer, more amicable times.



SUMMERTIME “SCRIPTURE IN THE PARK”

Starting this month, we’re offering a special Bible study and discussion opportunity called **“Scripture in the Park.”** We’re going to join together with folks from Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Schererville for 6 weeks of informal Bible study at Redar Park in Schererville. The first “Scripture in the Park” night will be July 9th, and will continue on Thursday evenings through August 13, from 6:30-7:30 pm. We meet at the picnic shelter; feel free to bring a Bible, something to drink, and a lawn chair (or you can sit at the picnic tables, whichever is more comfortable). If you have any questions or need directions to the park, contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

This summer we are holding Sunday School classes once a month for all kids age 4 and above. All kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews, and neighbor kids are welcome! There are 2 more classes, on Sunday, July 12, and Sunday, August 2. In July, we’ll begin with everyone together in the sanctuary for the worship service. After the Scripture readings, the teachers will take the kids to the classroom for stories, games, crafts, snacks and fun. Sunday School will go until noon. For the August class, we’ll start in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am (adults are welcome to go to worship), and then we’ll join the worship service at the end of the sermon so that all can be part of communion that day. If you have any questions about Summer Sunday School, contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org.



PRAYGROUND IN THE SANCTUARY

Did you know that we have a Prayground in our sanctuary? It's the special area in the back, opposite the technology booth, that is set up for our younger disciples. Families with kids of all ages are welcome to use this space during worship. There are books, coloring books, paper, art supplies and craft kits, toys, puzzles, and some sensory toys and tools for those who need them. There is a kids' size table and chairs, as well as floor space for those who like to sit on the floor for play. Children are often learning what worship is and how to join in our communal worship service, so this space is for them to worship in their way. We ask that parents/grandparents/responsible adults stay with their children while in the Prayground, and that you help clean up before leaving the space.



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

We're collecting school supplies to support students and teachers in the Highland area! Everyone is invited to bring a few school supplies to worship August 9 & 16 to be donated to a local Highland school. If you aren't able to come to worship, supplies can be dropped off Mondays-Thursdays, 8 am to noon, in the collection bin near the church office from August 10-20. 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!

- ***Boxes of facial tissue (such as Kleenex)**
- ***Disinfectant wipes**
- ***Hand sanitizer**
- ***#2 pencils**
- Crayons – box of 24
- washable markers – box of 8
- dry erase markers, low-odor
- glue sticks and bottles of glue
- highlighters
- single subject notebooks, spiral & composition style
- wide-ruled loose leaf paper
- pocket folders
- scissors
- colored pencils – box of 12
- pink erasers

*most requested supplies by the schools



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 June.

	<u>June</u>
NIPSCO	777.14
Water	112.56
Phone	424.24
Maintenance	250.00



A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in Honor of Rev. Tyler's Birthday by:
Fred & Carol Callaway



The Ministry of Mission is looking for volunteers to help with Mission's Annual 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser. The event begins on Wednesday, July 1st and continues through Sunday, July 5th. A sign-up sheet will be available each Sunday or you can contact Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181. This fundraiser is Mission's major fundraiser for the year, and the event cannot be successful without your help. The Ministry of Mission greatly appreciates your support. Blessings.



Worship & Music

Worship Leaders

July Liturgists:

7/5: Carol Callaway
7/12: Renee Williams
7/19: Hunter Balczo
7/26: Jean Smith



July LiveStreaming

7/5: Tracy Oprea
7/12: Tristan Casiano
7/19: Robbie Casiano
7/26: Nolan Severson

News from the Pews



FESTIVAL AT MAIN SQUARE

Wednesday, July 1st: 5:00PM –10:30 PM
Thursday, July 2nd: 2:00PM –10:30 PM
Friday, July 3rd: 2:00PM –10:30 PM
Saturday, July 4th: 2:00PM –10:30 PM
Sunday, July 5th: 2:00PM –9:00PM

Fourth of July

PARADE

The 4th of July Twilight Parade begins at 6:30 PM, **Friday, July 3rd**. The “All-American Mile Run” kicks off the Twilight Parade and will begin at 6:30 PM.

FIREWORKS

Sunday, July 5th at 9:00 PM (Homestead)

News from the Pews



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.



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.



- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Mary Jo McGee |
| 8 | Grace Helmer |
| 10 | Kelly LaFlech |
| | Jake Toren |
| 11 | Marilyn Shuck |
| 22 | Dakotah Olah |
| 24 | Lee Ann Cheesebrough |
| 30 | Nancy O'Donnell |
| 31 | Tom Porter |



The Per Capita for 2026 is \$45.08 per member.



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 Marie Smith on her death, June 25.



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
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
Don
Donna
Phyllis
Debbie
The Family of Marie Smith
Mark & Tina
Sergio & Anthony
Dave
Wendy
Jessica S.

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
Barb
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Marly
Jeff
Linda
Sandy
Bill
Rick
Diane
Debbie & Meryl
Sherry
John
Hazel

- 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).