

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 10

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Note from Rev. Tyler
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Dear All,

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

This past weekend Vima and I were on the road and had this remarkable moment of looking to the left and seeing one of the most beautiful sunsets even and then looking to the right and beholding the harvest moon large and low in the sky. It was simply breathtaking! I am regularly amazed by God's magnificent displays of natural wonder, reminding us whose creation we have the blessing of existing in! This wonder is beginning to appear in the brilliant changing colors of the leaves as well. There is a tree right outside our apartment that is beginning to look a bit like what I imagine the burning bush to have been, with all of its reds and oranges and yellows. How blessed we truly are! How are you experiencing the magnificence of God's creation these days?

In addition to the natural beauty of transformation that occurs during this season, October gives us a glimpse of the natural beauty of diversity in us, God's human creations. The first Sunday of October is always World Communion Sunday, one of the most importance celebrations of our liturgical life together. As we break bread together on October 4, we will be embracing the truth that we break bread with fellow Christ-followers across the world. We call the Church the body of Christ, as we are called to be the continued incarnation of the love and labors of Jesus of Nazareth today. World Communion Sunday is a reminder that the body of Christ is alive on every continent, in every country, in all creation. And so the body of Christ has every skin color, speaks every language, eats every delicious cuisine, dances to every type of music, wears every style of clothing, and loves in every healthy way. What a magnificent display of wonder! How blessed we truly are to be part of this diverse body! As this month proceeds, let us reflect on all that we can do as a diverse body that spans the globe. Let us consider the force for good that we can be if we embrace this diversity and work together.

*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*

As you read through the pages of this edition of the *Larger View*, I invite you to pay attention to the ways that the First Presbyterian Church of Highland is living into our call to be the incarnation of the love and labors of Jesus of Nazareth today. I invite you to consider the particular things that you might be called to do in this work, drawing upon your particular giftedness and particular passion. Does FPCH provide the opportunity for you to live into that call? If not, is it possible for us to create that opportunity? Let me know!

Finally, please do join us for our annual hayride and bonfire event on the afternoon of October 4! We have been following the Holy Spirit through fiery phenomena in our scriptures over the past several weeks in preparation, and now we get the chance to gather around the fire together out in God's wondrous creation!

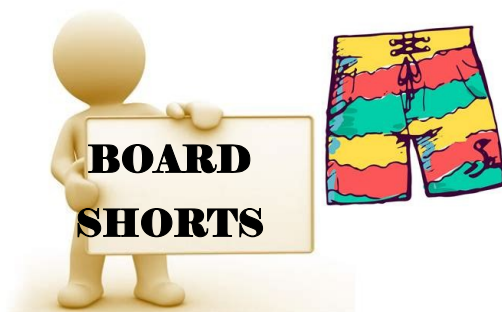
I leave you with these words from *Romans*:

For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

- Session approved a transfer of \$25,000 from the Endowment Fund at Vanguard to our General Fund. We are hoping this one-time transfer can take us until the end of the year. (However, additional funds are still available to be transferred from Vanguard if needed this year.)
- Session approved Heather Casiano to be the Ruling Elder Commissioner at the Presbytery Assembly meeting on September 22. Rev. Tyler and Heather reported at that meeting on the General Assembly meeting in Milwaukee where they were the Presbytery Commissioners.
- The Trustees and Session had a joint meeting on September 29th at 6:30 pm to discuss and plan projects and priorities for the future.
- The calendar fundraiser was a great success and took in over \$1000 to help with our General Fund. Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to Hunter Balczon for coordinating this fundraiser!
- We will be collecting the World Communion offering during the month of October. This offering cultivates reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- We congratulated Vima Couvertier Cruz for completing her second to last exam on her path to ordination! Way to go, Vima!
- Pastor Tyler read a letter from the Session that he had written to Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Schererville thanking them for hosting us for two Sundays in August when we were without power. We were so grateful for their hospitality and friendship!

TRUSTEES

The following projects were discussed at their last meeting:

- Hiring someone to refinish the sanctuary doors.
- Replace/repair bathroom windows in main hall washrooms that are badly rotted.
- Rainmakers scheduled for October 8 at 11:30 a.m. to winterize sprinkler system.
- Matt's Landscaping will be contacted for price of a fall cleanup of the grounds.
- Door on SE corner facing south needs repair.
- A branch hanging from the tree in the garden needs to be pulled down.
- The boiler project is mostly done.
- Costs for telephone and internet service with companies other than Comcast are being investigated.

DEACONS

- Prayer Shawl committee works diligently to knit and crochet comforting shawls.
- Deacons continue to fill and maintain the Blessing Box daily.
- For Sharon's Table, Pam and Tom Porter prepared and distributed 8 meals to members and 4 to the Highland Public Works Department in August. Krissy LaFlech and her students prepared meals on September 19th and deacons delivered them.
- Sackurday: In August, Kiwanis members made and distributed 38 meals to cars and 10 to workers at the park clean up. Sackurday on September 26 was canceled due to the funeral of Bill Holmes. The next Sackurday will be on October 31.
- 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. This fund has been a blessing during the recent storms.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
August 31, 2026

	Month of August	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,277.00	\$10,427.08	\$112,889.05
Operating Expenses	12,631.81	15,630.44	117,568.27
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,354.81)		(\$4,679.22)



Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund In Memory of Bill Holmes by:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, Fred & Carol Callaway, Peter & Gale Churitch, Lois Fozkos,
Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, Carolyn Ham, Karen & Doran Lounsbury, Jean Smith and Cheryl Steen,
and Ron & Cathy Toren

Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund In Memory of Jan Oprea by:

Matthew Brozovic, Fred & Carol Callaway, Lois Fozkos, Carolyn Ham, Lisa Haviley Hofferth,
Marianne Mecyssne, Beverly Perotti, Jean Smith, and Bridget Tkach



A Note of Thanks

On behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the August Calendar. Despite economic headwinds and severe storms, the congregation pulled together and contributed nearly \$1,100 for the calendar fundraiser! For perspective, the amount raised could fund two ministries for an entire month! The Committee and I are grateful for the congregation's enthusiasm for this fundraiser. Your generosity and participation helps the church carry out its missions in the community and keep our little community here at First Presbyterian Church of Highland fiscally sustainable for the future generations.

Sincerely,

Hunter Balczo

“Be the Good News”

By John Toren

In August our area endured a weather event that resulted in tree damage, property damage, power outages, refrigerators and freezers filled with spoiling food, no air conditioning, limited phone and cable service and, in extreme cases, no home gas service. It was truly, a dark time, however.... there was a bright side! Many of us have recounted stories of the goodness of neighbors coming together to commiserate, to listen and to help. At a time when bad news dominated, they took the opportunity to be the good news, sharing their time, talent and treasure to help, support and lift up their neighbors. Even small acts of generosity had impacts far greater than expected.

As we consider our ongoing daily interactions with others and our stewardship commitment to the goodness of FPCH, let's not miss an opportunity to use our time, talent and treasure to “be the good news” for all. We look forward to exploring how we at FPCH can “be the good news” as we prepare for this year's stewardship campaign!



FALL HAYRIDE & BONFIRE

Our annual fall Hayride and Bonfire is on **Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3-5 pm** at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park in Griffith. All are invited – bring your friends, family and neighbors! The hayride starts at 3 pm, and lasts almost an hour. Then we'll enjoy a bonfire including roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over the campfire, along with some fun activities and songs. Plenty of food, fellowship and fun for all! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to RSVP, or you can call or email the church office by Oct. 1. If you have any questions about the event, contact Heather Casiano.



SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's School Supply drive! Whether you donated supplies, money, or prayed for the children and teachers, you helped make a difference. Because of everyone's generosity, we collected 610 school supplies that were donated to Johnston Elementary School in Highland! Together we are serving our community as the heart, hands and feet of Jesus.

Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT

FALL KICK-OFF FUN

We officially kicked off the fall ministry season on Sept. 20 after worship with a delicious brunch. We also heard samples of the fall classes from Faith Development, as well as previews of upcoming opportunities from several of our congregation's ministries. There is a lot of life happening here at FPC Highland! Thank you to everyone who attended, to our Session for the great food, and to all the ministries who shared a display or information in the fall flyers. The fall flyer will be available on our website if you missed getting one at church – it has dates and opportunities for our fall programs all in one place.





FALL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are two options to join a Bible study or 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.

- Sunday Morning Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in the middle classroom at the church (across from Pastor Tyler's office). We've just started a new study on the book of First Corinthians, "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other." It is not too late to join in. To get a study book, or with any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the scriptures from the upcoming Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and encountering the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. If you're not familiar with how to use Zoom, or to get on the e-mail list, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano.

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!



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 September.

	<u>September</u>
NIPSCO	616.30
Water	176.58
Phone	425.33
Maintenance	200.00

Worship & Music

Worship Leaders

October Liturgists:

10/4: Carol Callaway
 10/11: Jean Smith
 10/18: Karen Lounsbury
 10/25: Patti Lis



October LiveStreaming

10/4: Jamie Ham
 10/11: Tristan Casiano
 10/18: Jean Smith
 10/25: Tracy Oprea

News from the Pews



Blessing Box

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.



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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Cheryl Steen
 10 Kris Agbor
 12 Melissa Mendez
 13 Nolan Severson
 14 Khloe Agbor
 15 Bob Abernethy
 17 Lois Fozkos
 Pam Porter
 Eric Severson
 19 Carol Callaway
 Diana Mendoza



Per Capita

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

News from the Pews



What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice,
...to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



Reconciling
God's people
at the Table of
Grace through
ministries of
justice.

10M3-26-2-22



The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

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

WAYS TO GIVE —

- ✦ Through your congregation
- ✦ Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give/wco
- ✦ Text GIVEWCO to 41444 or scan this QR code



-Or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by the World Communion Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (USA); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

To learn more about how your gift to World Communion Offering makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/wco.



The World Communion Offering is one of three annual Special Offerings. The Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

News from the Pews



The prophet Micah's charge to "love kindness" is uniquely embodied when people around the world join together around Christ's Table of grace.

The prophet calls us to recognize the inherent worth of every person, to practice welcome, and to make room at the table for all God's children. This is expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment.

Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this Offering.

Feast joyfully, give generously. The table is set, and all are invited!



Please give generously.
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



Joining Together...

As a Young Adult Volunteer with the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness, Phillie Diamini's social media series focused on Sudan has helped connect Presbyterians to a global crisis by linking faith, advocacy, and international solidarity through faithful storytelling that calls the church into awareness and action alongside global partners.



...Making a Difference

Supported by a grant from the PC(USA), the Gullah Farmers' Cooperative Association helps farmers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color with limited resources to come together to secure markets for their products and to get paid fair prices, as well as provide the community with fresh, nutritional foods, including healthy meals for schoolchildren.



Our gifts make a difference in answering the prophets' call to love kindness.

The Al Amana Centre in Oman, a partner of the PC(USA), is one of the few Christian-led organizations in the region working toward reconciliation and sustainable peace through safe, immersive, interfaith experiences. The Centre's facilitated discussions bridge the gap between people of different beliefs and help participants gain deeper insights into themselves.



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:
The Family of Jan Oprea



Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Anettia Holmes
David Markley
David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Florance Cody
Annie & Mike Windstrup
Kevin Windstrup
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
Ella P.
Melissa J
Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon
Darlene O'Brien
Charles
Dustin
Noreen
Tyler Gall
Trina & Scott
Sue Heth
Jean & Clara
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
Mom Bechtler
Marian Clayton
Luana Sulkowski
Katie
Rita Stromczek
Edna Cruz
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Jean
Kim
George
Jessica
Mike Kelly
Lupe
Tammy
Barb
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Rick
Shirley McKnight
Renee Williams
Kay Johnson
Loved Ones of Bill Holmes
Loved Ones of Jan Oprea

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of Cuba, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
- 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).