

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

Volume 18 Issue 1

January
2025

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Dear All,

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

Happy New Year 2025! Each new year is an opportunity for us to dream and to embody the hope and imagination necessary to bring dreams to fruition. Indeed, each new day is an opportunity for us to do so! Our scriptures are full of dreams, both the aspirational kind and the sleeping kind. The prophets received visions in dreams about the world that could be if the people only changed their hearts, minds, and actions in ways that would bring them closer to God and closer to God's plan. At this turn of the year, I invite us all to consider what we should be dreaming and envisioning as the Church writ large and as the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland. How should we be changing our hearts, minds and actions? What is God beckoning us towards in this moment?

For insight into this, we can turn to the story that sets in motion the season of Epiphany, the season that we commenced with joy, awe, and wonder on January 5th. The magi followed the brilliant star of Bethlehem to the Christ child. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Then there is the part that we know so well: "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Then something else very important happened. They had a dream! In that dream, they were warned not to go to Herod on their way home, for Herod had evil plans to kill the child. By changing their route based on that dream, they saved the life of Jesus and thus played a significant role in saving the world. They chose the life of the child over the command of an earthly king. As the kings of the world continue to take the lives of children at horrifying rates in order to maintain their power, may we follow the example of the magi! May we also dream this dream!



Board Shorts

Star Words

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Poinsettias

Christmas Cantata

Soup Sale

Annual Meeting

*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 be willing to practice disobedience in the face of the powers that be for the sake of children who are suffering because of guns, because of wars, because of genocide, because of climate change, because of hunger, because of poverty, and because of homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia.

As we dream for the children, we have wonderful opportunities to bring dreams to fruition at FPCH. Our missions to the community and the world seek to address hunger and poverty. Our consistent work of welcoming everyone combats those phobias that break children's spirits. Our support of our siblings in Zambia helps children and families facing the worst drought in decades. We are certainly pursuing God's vision! Thank you for being so amazing, loved ones!

We also have our own internal dreaming and working to do in order to sustain our congregation in a new year. Let's dream together about how we can build resources and steward resources in a way that propels us forward and allows us to keep serving God's children. Let's dream together about how we can spread the good news of God's love in creative ways. Let's dream together and listen for the voice of God calling out to us. And yes, let's look to the stars and be overwhelmed with joy!

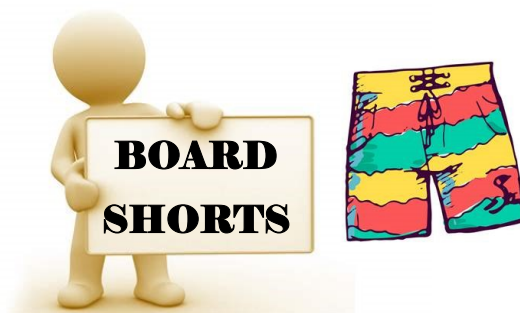
I leave you with these words from *Isaiah*:

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

1. The minutes from the congregational meeting of December 8th were approved. At that meeting, Rev. Orem's Terms of Call for 2025 were approved and the following people were elected for offices in 2025:

Session (Class of 2027)	Charlotte Abernethy, Rene Williams
Trustees (Class of 2027)	Carolyn Ham, Kaz Smailis
Deacons (Class of 2027)	Pam Porter, Peggy Fozkos(Class of 2026) Lois Fozkos
Financial Review	Peter Churitch
Endowment Fund	Anettia Holmes

Nominating Committee Congregational Representatives Anettia Holmes, Gale Churitch

2. Clerk Jean Smith sent in 7 Session and Trustee minute books from 1946-2013 to be archived at the Presbyterian Historical Society.
3. Heather Casiano's 2025 contract as Faith Development Coordinator was approved by Session.
4. Rev. Tyler and Elder Jean Smith gave a report from the Presbytery meeting on December 3. Pastor Tyler was honored for his service to the Presbytery the past 3 years.
5. Fellowship Hosting Schedule was set for January and February.

Jan 5 Trustees	Feb 2 Stewardship/Finance
Jan 12 Endowment/Shine the Light	Feb 9 Faith Development
Jan 19 W & M	Feb 16 Mission
Jan 26 Session	Feb 23 Deacons
6. The ordination and installation of officers for 2025 was tentatively set for January 5, 2025.
7. The Congregation Annual Meeting was set for January 26, 2025.
8. Elders Cheryl Steen and Lois Fozkos have served on Session for 6 years and are rotating off the board. They were thanked by Pastor Tyler and the other Session members for their dedication and service.
9. The Session approved the budget for 2025 as prepared by John Toren and the Stewardship and Finance Ministry. It will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Once again, it is a deficit budget. Session began discussing ways to address this deficit.
10. Kaz Smalis was received into membership on December 22, 2024 by reaffirmation of faith. We welcome Kaz into our church family.
11. We will be having a spirit wear fundraiser where members can order gray T-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps. It will run from January 19th-February 2nd. More information will be coming on this.
12. Session decided to once again do soup sales on the third Sunday of each month after worship beginning on January 19th.



TRUSTEES

Trustee President, Jeff Savage reported on the following:

- Some water issues with the bathrooms have been fixed.
- They are still talking about signage, particularly in the parking lot and new signage in the front of the church.
- Fall clean-up on the property was done thoroughly by Matt's landscaping.
- Bren Mark has cleaned the gutters.

DEACONS

- Sunshine Bags: Two Sunshine bags are in the works!
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Shawls were ready to be blessed in an upcoming worship service.
- Blessing Box: Deacons continue to check and stock the box daily, removing perishable and outdated items.
- Gladys' Table: Gladys' Table meals were prepared and delivered on November 16. The meal was prepared by Krissy LaFlech and her students and delivered by the Deacons.
- Sackurday sack lunches: On November 30, 50 lunches were prepared and distributed.
- Pastor Tyler thanked the deacons for their service this year and said a special word of thanks to Barbara Morton, who is rotating off after six years.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
November 30, 2024

	Month of November	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,872.26	\$10,673.57	\$108,865.95
Operating Expenses	13,741.40	15,505.61	152,000.91
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,869.14)		(\$43,134.96)



Repairing the Boat

Submitted and Adapted by Jamie Ham

A man was asked to paint a boat.

He brought with him paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him. While painting, he noticed that there was a small hole in the hull and quietly repaired it. When finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said, "You've already paid me for painting the boat, Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for having repaired the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened. When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention about the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay for your 'small' good deed."

You may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' along the way... for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

So, no matter who, when or how. Just continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find, because you never know when one is in need of us or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

Let's thank everyone who has repaired our boat until now in every way!

Source: <https://www.quora.com/profile/Sheetal-Ragunathan>



Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund In Lieu of Poinsettias by:

Clara Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in Memory of their Parents

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in Memory of Loved Ones

Shirley McKnight, in Memory of her husband, Barry McKnight

**Gifts were given to the Blessing Box and Gladys' Table
in Memory of Sharon LaFlech by:**

Bruce Cooper



STAR WORDS for 2025

On Epiphany Sunday (January 5), those in person at the worship service were encouraged to select a Star Word. This word is to help guide you with your prayers and meditations throughout the year, and to focus on a particular way God might be working in your life. Star Words are a journey for the year, so you may see some connections and epiphanies to your word right away, or it may be a little while before God starts showing you how the word is appearing in your life. All ages are encouraged to participate.



If you did not get a Star Word and would like one, it's not too late! Contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or call the church office and leave a message for her that you would like a Star Word, and she will get you one. You can also get a Star Word online, <https://wheelofnames.com/q56-96m> May your Star Word guide you and your relationship with God this year!

Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT



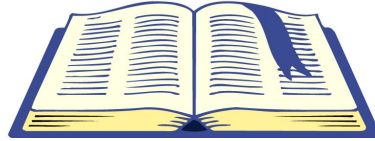
JOYFUL COOKIES AND CAROLING EVENT

Members of the Youth Connections group and several adults gathered on December 15 for the annual Cookies and Caroling event. The church kitchen was a hub of activity as folks baked and decorated several dozen Christmas cookies. Then the group headed out for Christmas caroling and cookie delivery to 3 homes and the long-term care unit at Hartsfield in Munster, where our own member Caroline Studer is now residing. It was a great time of sharing delicious treats and sweet fellowship with those who aren't able to gather at the church with the rest of us. Christmas joy was experienced by all! Thank you to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to Blanche Greene for providing a wonderful lunch for us!





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 reading through 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. Join us for great conversation and perhaps a new perspective on God's Word. 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 meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the Scriptures and sermon from the previous Sunday's worship service, 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. 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.

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!



A special "Thank You!" to all the members of the First Presbyterian Church who donated their time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. We were fortunate to have pretty good weather this year, and our one hour slots filled up quickly.





BROTHERS' KEEPER

Mission has accepted a new organization to add to our pantry distribution. We try to have a full pantry every 3 months, and this time we delivered 27 bags and boxes to Brothers' Keeper.

Brothers' Keeper is a men's shelter in Gary, and they rehabilitate men with training for jobs and teach them the needed responsibilities of living on their own after having overcome some difficulties in life.

We also donate \$100.00 a month to help them with the daily operations of the shelter.





January Liturgists:

1/5: Heather Casiano
 1/12: Jean Smith
 1/19: Robbie Casiano
 1/26: Lois Fozkos



January LiveStreaming

1/5: Jamie Ham
 1/12: Tristan Casiano
 1/19: Jean Smith
 1/26: Robbie Casiano

Thank you for the beauty of poinsettias given to decorate the sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. The poinsettias were given to the glory of God by:

Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of Loved Ones
 Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of Family
 Clara M. Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in memory of Clara Coapstick's parents and Jean Allmond's parents
 Ruth Dekker, in memory of Timothy E. Lanterman; Dankev Dekker; Martha Dykstra Dekker
 Lois Fozkos, in memory of Loved Ones
 Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of Loved Ones
 Blanche Greene
 Carolyn Ham, in memory of beloved husband, Jim; Parents and Friends
 Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry McKnight
 Melissa Melendez, in memory of Mary Herrera
 Tyler Orem & Vima Couvertier Cruz, in memory of Aunt Teresa, Titi Isabel, Pappy Jamie, Dr. David D. Daniels III, and Sergio Centeno
 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 and Laura Wisner

In Lieu of Flowers:

Clara M. Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in memory of Clara Coapstick's parents and Jean Allmond's parents
 Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of Loved Ones
 Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry McKnight





There will be a Soup Sale
Sunday, January 19th following
Worship in the Fellowship Hall.



We will be having our Annual
Congregational Meeting on January 26,
2025 after worship in the Fellowship
Hall. Session will be providing the meat
and drinks and congregation members
are asked to bring a potluck dish to
share.

Please sign up in the Narthex the next
two Sundays to indicate your attendance
and dish you will be bringing.



The 2025 Pledge Envelopes will be available
for pick up in the Narthex. Please help us keep
costs down in the office by picking up and
delivering envelopes for members that are
unable to do so.

Thank You!



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 and published in the Larger
View. We'd love to see where you have
visited!!



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!



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 October 24th at 1:00 PM.



- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 3 | Josh Nelson |
| 9 | Gale Churitch |
| | Eric Johnston |
| 10 | Norma Bauer |
| 12 | David Hamblin |
| 14 | Jamie Ham |
| 15 | Anettia Holmes |
| 16 | Sandy Buono |
| 22 | Wanda Weston |
| 24 | Bailey Parker |
| 27 | Dan Miller |
| 31 | Peggy Fozkos |



BIN OF WARMTH

Bring in gently used and clean scarves, hats, gloves, and stuffed animals for Pastor Tyler and Abdul to distribute to migrant families in Chicago!



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
Josephine Kim
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

Barbara Morton
Caroline Studer
Holly Letnich
Jaden Mendez
Doug and Sue Matthews
Robert Urich
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tammy
Tom
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Virginia Marshall
Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
Charity Lynn
David Hamblin
Judy
Brecanne
Mom Bechtler
Gloria
Victor
Crystal and David Cervantes
Marian Clayton
Lou Ann Sulowski
Edie Delgano
Katie
Rita Stromczek
Suzanne Barnes
Bill & Suzanne
Ashley
The Loved Ones of Ken Callaway
The Loved Ones of John Miramontes
Lois & Tom
Bob
OGB
The Loved Ones of Frank Falzone

- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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.

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).