

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

APRIL
2020

Volume 13 Issue 4

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Dear All,

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

The past several weeks have been challenging ones in the life of our various communities, in the life of the Church Universal, and in the life of our beloved congregation. Unfortunately, the end of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet in sight. Given the ongoing need to shelter in place and avoid gatherings of people, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Highland voted on March 30, 2020, to extend our suspension of in-person worship and other activities until May 2 with the hope of resuming in-person worship on May 3. This will of course be subject to change as we learn more throughout April. We pray that the change will be for the better! No matter what may come, though, God will be steadfast in holding our grief, connecting us in Spirit, and giving us hope.

I pray that during this season of suffering across the world we are able to approach Holy Week with hearts and eyes open to understanding the gravity of Jesus' suffering in Jerusalem. I pray that we go intentionally into our times of prayer and reflection and truly explore just how deep, how broad, and how high is the love of a God who would become one of us and suffer as one of us to the point of excruciating death. But may we always remember that weeping was never going to be the end of the story!



Special points of interest:

[Letter from Tyler](#)

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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 *Psalm 30* tells us, “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning!” Although we will be celebrating Resurrection Sunday at home, we will all be connected in the Spirit of new life! I urge us all to keep watch for new life throughout this hard time. Watch for new life in the ways that we are creatively worshiping with our spiritual togetherness. Watch for new life in how loved ones support each other and neighbors serve each other through this. Watch for new life in the reviving of friendships gone fallow. Watch for new life in Creation as the planet breathes a bit more freely. Watch for new life in your own hearts as you regain the perspective that we are all in this together as one human family across the world and as you look upon all of God’s children with love.

I long for the day when we will meet again. Until that time, remember these sayings of Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life,” and, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler Orem



SESSION SHORTS

- Our Session meeting was bittersweet. We held our first meeting with the use of Zoom. This allowed us to attend the meeting while being at home but still being present. We made a decision to suspend in house worship for 2 Sundays (March 22nd, and March 29th of 2020). We prayed for everyone in our Church Family. Session also had a called meeting on March 30th and determined to extend this suspension at least until May 2nd.
- We accepted a new Check request voucher.
- We voted to start a Capital Campaign for the Choir Chairs, each one will cost \$285 to reupholster.
- Our request for a Smock Grant did not go through at this time. Trustees are investigating other options for making our facility more accessible.

May you all stay healthy!



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
February 29, 2020

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$8,444.40	\$10,553.00	\$32,307.80
Operating Expenses	12,803.16	13,424.00	23,922.76
Excess (Deficit)	(\$4,358.76)		\$8,385.04



BUY A BRICK

Good people,

We plan to level the garden brick path during 2020. To accomplish our goal, we are selling bricks to fund the project. The plan is to hire a professional to prepare and level the path. We may call upon members to help remove bricks and clean for the renovated path to offset some cost.

It's our hope the project can be fully funded through brick sales or voluntary donations. We encourage every member to purchase at least one brick to support the project. Bricks make a lasting remembrance for a special person or date or tribute for a notable event.

See Sharon LaFlech for details. Two sizes of bricks are available. We look forward to your contribution. *Eason*



New Kitchen Liaison

Tracy Oprea has volunteered to assist the Trustees with concerns pertaining to the Kitchen. Tracy is now acting as a liaison between the congregation and the Trustees pertaining to issues or concerns with the kitchen. If you are using the kitchen and an issue arises, Tracy would greatly appreciate you indicating the same on the “**Kitchen Log**” that can be found on the counter under the light switch. Please identify the date, time, your name and the issue or concern. Tracy will review the “Kitchen Log” weekly and relay the information to the Trustees and identify on the “Kitchen Log” that the Trustees have knowledge of the issue or concern. Of course, if there is an urgent matter please feel free to contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181.



“Faithful Families” Conference

At the end of February, four members of the Faith Formation team attended a “Faithful Families” conference at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Elmhurst, IL. The main speaker was Traci Smith, who is an ordained PCUSA pastor, speaker, and author. She is passionate about helping families find ways to spiritually nourish each other amidst the daily busyness of our lives.

After a time of opening worship, Traci led about 60 participants through a variety of workshops that covered what ministry to families looks like in a changing context; intergenerational worship; and ways to help families grow faith at home. There were many opportunities to hear from each other and share ideas or ask questions. The conference ended by all the participants anointing each other’s hands with oil and commissioning each other to go out and do ministry to families in our communities.

Charlotte Abernethy, Jay and Jean Smith, and Heather Casiano came away from this conference with some great resources and ideas as we discern how we do faith development for the community and families of First Presbyterian Church in Highland.

“The God Who Sees” Book Event

On March 8, we had 17 people gather together for a discussion of the book “The God Who Sees” by Karen Gonzalez. A great discussion and conversation took place. Several people said that they now have a new understanding of some biblical characters in the framework of immigration, which was a different perspective they didn’t have prior to reading this book.

In addition to the book discussion, we had a guest speaker to share with us about local work being done with immigration. Mr. Tony Burrell, the Executive Director and founder of The Welcome Network, shared what his organization does and how anyone that is interested can get involved. The Welcome Network, with an office in Hammond, serves immigrants and internationally born people in the Northwest Indiana communities through legal services; limited resettlement of some refugees/asylum seekers; and by forming Good Neighbor Teams of churches and community members who are willing to volunteer to help families new to the area. This may mean providing short-term housing for recent immigrants, picking up families or individuals at airports, donating food and supplies, driving immigrants to appointments, teaching ESL classes, and a variety of other needs as they arise. The Welcome Network also helps support refugees in Lebanon, and yearly sends a group of volunteers with supplies and materials for the children in these communities. The volunteers provide spiritual guidance through a VBS-type of program while they are over there as well. Tony did a great job of sharing that the immigration conversations are ones that are happening right here in our backyards. It’s not just an issue for people living along our country’s borders.

If you would like more information about The Welcome Network or to volunteer with their organization (as current health conditions allow), you can visit their website at <http://www.thewelcomenet.org/> or check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheWelcomeNetwork/>.

Thank you to everyone who read the book and/or came out for the great discussion. The church has 6 copies of “The God Who Sees” book available for checkout after stay-at-home orders are lifted, for anyone who hasn’t had the chance to read it.



February Shelter Report

It was a cold blustery Saturday when we delivered the meal to the shelter.

We only served 26 people because it was so cold and the shelter doesn't open until 6:00 PM for those that aren't residents. The library had closed at 5 so they had to seek shelter in other areas of town.

We had a wonderful meal of Pork Roast and gravy, donated by the Episcopal Church in Griffith. Macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, bread and butter, milk, and apple crisp with whipped topping for dessert. Also hard boiled eggs are always served.

This time we had a student from Grimmer School come and join us for the cooking and serving. Her name was Mia and she seemed to enjoy the experience. She was in charge of dessert. Her mother Michelle joined us along with her grandmother who wants to come back for another Saturday. I certainly will be taking her up on that offer!

We had the usual cooks, Judy Toren, Jamie Ham and I. We added the Engle's to help serve with Jamie, Mia and myself.

I truly thank those who give up one Saturday a month to help with this Mission of our church. We always need help so give me a call and schedule yourself, you won't regret it!!!!

March Shelter Report

Highland Kiwanis cooked the meal for the rescue mission on March 14th, and one of our members delivered the food. Dinner consisted of chili mac, rolls, salad, fruit, and dessert.



Karing Kitchen

The Karing Kitchen is now part of The First Presbyterian Church of Highland. Love INC. has been a mission of the Mission Committee for at least 5 years and through Love Inc. we have taken on a gap mission. Clients are vetted and if they need small kitchen appliances, dishes, silverware, pots and pans, skillets etc., we try and fill these needs with donated items from the Karing Kitchen.

We received our first three families this week and Cheryl will be delivering needed items to their homes this weekend.

If you have any items that you don't need, please feel free to donate to the kitchen. You can contact Cheryl Steen and she will make arrangements to meet you at the church or pick up items from your home. We are in need of toasters right now and plastic garbage cans with plastic bag liners.

If you have any questions about this project please feel free to call or talk to Cheryl.

Thank you from Your Mission Committee



At its March meeting, Session approved a request by the Ministry of Worship and Music to hold a capital campaign drive to reupholster the choir chairs that are in greatest need of being repaired. The orange foam behind the blue cloth has been disintegrating and pushing through the fabric, causing the chairs to become unsightly. The local business, Quality Upholstering, has been hired to do the work; one chair has already been reupholstered and paid for by a church member. The chair was stripped down to the frame, new foam was added, and a layer of Dacron was installed between the foam and the commercial grade blue fabric that matches the color on our chairs. All of the wood was polished at no additional cost. Free pickup and delivery is included in the cost of \$285 for each chair.

An account has been created for the purpose of receiving funds to have at least 14 chairs reupholstered. As with any of our past capital campaign drives, any and all donations are welcomed and appreciated. Gifts are encouraged in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. When making a donation, it is important to specify that it is for "Choir Chairs" so that your gift is deposited into the correct account. The chairs will be reupholstered when funds are available. The gentleman doing the work will take the chairs a few at a time until they are done.



Purpose: Gladys' Table was initiated to provide fellowship and a meal for all members of our community. We also deliver to home bound congregation members and friends healthy and nutritious meals. Gladys' Table is sustained by committed and compassionate volunteers including outside organizations and by generous contributions of donors.

Our mission is modest: to nurture the hearts, minds, and bodies to all who come through our doors with a free meal and welcoming fellowship. We encourage volunteers from FPCH members, friends, and outside organizations to be THE HEART, HANDS, AND FEET OF JESUS by cooking and serving at this event.

Our story: Gladys' was a longtime and founding member of FPCH. She used coupons when she shopped for groceries. Her time spent planning meals and saving was important to her. After returning from the market, she sat at her table and carefully checked her grocery receipt totaling the amount the coupons saved her. When she could no longer do her own shopping and relied on others to do her errands she still made a list and supplied coupons. You've heard the maxim "a penny saved is a penny earned" which summarizes her careful shopping habits. This habit was a reward she never failed to share. Those found pennies were given as a part of her contribution to provide funds for Betty's Pantry here at FPCH. This community program was named in honor of Gladys for the meals and rewards she planned at her table.

Our community meal was started and is still funded on found money from contributions from church members, outside organizations and free offerings at the meal. At one of the very first meals served we had a woman stop in just to donate \$20 in support of a free lunch.

And now: the purpose of all of this information. Just one simple request. Gladys' Table has become a meal delivery service that serves; the homebound members and friends who for many reasons are unable



Deacon's
Corner



GLADYS' TABLE

to come here for the meal and friends who need to be uplifted following an illness or hospital stay, etc. We want to fulfill the needs of our members or friends and would like your input to fulfill those needs. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who could use a meal delivered and are willing to deliver the meals. There have been times when we could not deliver to the homebound because we only had a few volunteers to cook, serve and clean.

How is this meaningful:

This thankful note appeared in our September 2019 Larger View.

This is a letter of appreciation to the staff and volunteers Of Gladys' Table. I never really gave much thought to wanting or needing a meal delivered to my home. I have always been capable of caring for my husband's and my needs until recently. Being a caregiver is very time consuming and gratifying but tiring at times. One meal just seemed to blend into another. I was recently asked if I wanted to be put on the Gladys' Table list. You will never know how wonderful it was and how we all looked forward to the surprise of what we were getting! Not only is the food great but we had two happy faces at our door delivering it to us. They were cheerful and ask just enough questions to let us know that they were thinking about us and happy to see us. If you need a happy face and a good meal, please let Sharon LaFlech know or better yet, if you are able go to the church and meet some different smiling faces check the schedule of Gladys' Table. It is usually the last Saturday of every month. Blessings to the people at Gladys' Table who make this Mission a success. Cheryl Steen



Congregational Volunteers Needed

Message of Faith: This is an invitation to become partners with the Deacons in a social responsibility to meet a growing need in our faith community.

Why: Volunteers are needed to assist on an as needed basis.

Mission:

A - The mission of this task oriented program is to provide a service for the elderly and disabled who have either limited or no realistic means of transportation to get to the grocery stores, local doctors, dentists, pharmacies, and church within the congregation of FPCH.

B - Gladys' Table has become a meal delivery service that serves; the homebound members and friends who for many reasons are unable to come here for the meal and friends who need to be uplifted following an illness or hospital stay, etc.

This can be accomplished with task oriented volunteers (individuals or ministries).

Please Indicate	Task	Availability: Days/Time
	I am willing to provide transportation when needed	
	I am available to help at Gladys' Table	Last Saturday of Month/ 10 am - 1:30 pm
	I am available to help deliver meals	Last Saturday of Month/ Noon - ?

This can be accomplished with support.

Please Indicate	Support	
	I have request for meal delivery	
	I would like to make a donation to Gladys' Table	

Name _____

Please Print



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a very tangible way to reach out to those around us in prayer: caring for them during a time of great pain or distress; joining them in times of joy and gratitude. It's a visible (not to mention soft and warm) reminder of the power of prayer, God's incredible love for us, and our love for each other. Volunteers are needed to make shawls for this revival ministry. Here you'll find the submission form to request a prayer shawl for someone, as well as information about volunteering/donating to the ministry. Volunteers are asked to pray for whoever may receive the shawl before and during it's making. The completed shawl will also be prayed over a final time before being delivered. Please keep this ministry in your personal prayers, that God would see fit to bless as many people as possible through the congregation of FPCH. Requests for shawls or to volunteer to make shawls can be made by completing the following form or contacting your Deacon

Please Complete to Request a Shawl and/or Volunteer

Date ____/____/____

Recipient Name_____

Recipient Address_____

Reason for Request_____

Special Notes: Please let us know if you would like to deliver this gift yourself or have any other information that would be helpful. _____

Your Name_____

Your Phone Number_____

Your Email Address_____

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER/SERVE IN THIS MINISTRY BY:

_____ Crocheting or Learning How to Crochet _____ Donating Yarn _____ Donating Monetarily for yarn



It means that those who leave items are blessed enough to be able to do so, and that those who need to take items, are blessed that the items are there to take. It's not an extremely large box, but is stocked with blessings. It sits on the south side of the old sanctuary where it is accessible from the parking spaces.

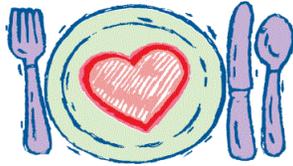
These are some of the items most commonly donated and used to stock the Blessing Boxes:

- Canned food with ring-pulls
- Socks
- Hats
- Mittens
- Hand warmers
- Toilet paper
- Non-perishable foods
- Small snacks
- Toiletries, including hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Baby wipes
- Diapers

Those who want to contribute can leave items in the box or call Sharon LaFlech at 219.838.3346.



The Indiana Dunes Great Banquet spring weekends have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fall weekends are still on the calendar and brochures will be available in early-mid summer.



GLADYS' TABLE

The next meal will be Saturday, April 25th from 12 to 1 PM



The Per Capita PER member is \$42.00 for 2020



Several Munster-Highland Epsilon Omicron Sisters (and their daughters aka future Tri Kappas) prepared and served lunch at Gladys' Table in January 2020.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 LeaAnn Kerber
- 6 Sandy Nicholls
- 8 Laura Jones
- 10 Andrew Bobalik
- 11 Jill Cooke
- 16 Dennis O'Donnell
- 18 George Griner
- 19 Kris Scott
- 21 Jane Vance
- 26 Holly Severson
- 28 Eric Parker
- 30 Debbie Catania



This lovely prayer shawl from our Prayer Shawl Team was received by the women of Chimwemwe Presbyterian Church in Kitwe, Zambia.



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

- The family of Barb Dye on her death, March 8th. (Please note that Barb Dye's celebration of life will no longer be held on April 18th due to our need to avoid gatherings of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will send out notification once a new date is set.)
- Don Dekker and sons Will, Dan and Tom on the death of their wife and mother, Lois on March 15th.
- Bob & Charlotte Abernethy on the death of Bob's sister-in-law, Debbie



Ongoing Prayers



The Prayer Circle prays for the people on this list, and for all other concerns named at that time. Please include the persons listed here in your daily devotional time. Thank you.

- Beth (Casiano)
- Bob Abernethy
- Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
- Alaina (Callaway)
- Marge Ashton
- Avery
- Bapst Family (Callaway)
- Betsy (Rev. Tyler)
- Sonny Buono
- Ina Chappell
- I Sun Chong (Oprea)
- Danielle
- Dave
- Don Dekker
- Ruth Dekker
- George Griner
- Guy (B. Perryman)
- Gracie Helmer
- Bill Holmes
- Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
- Murray Faris
- Frank (K. Scott)
- Marlys Furnas
- Jennifer (Reed-Daughter of friend)
- Jessica (Abernethy)
- Josh (Rev. Tyler)
- Mildred (B. Perryman)
- Jill Muller (Steen)
- Jeanne Nestor
- Karen (Casiano)

- Rena's cousin
- Rodney (J. Toren)
- Calvin Scott
- Sebastian (Casiano)
- Richard Simmons (B. Morton)
- Jay Smith
- Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
- Steve & Melinda
- Gary Studer
- Richard Terpstra
- Dennis VanKooten
- Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

 Due to federal regulations about privacy, ***we are no longer called by hospitals*** about patient admissions. Even if they ask you for your church affiliation when checking in, they do not call. If you or your loved one would like a visit while hospitalized, or would like a home visit, please call the church office at 219-838-6850.
 Thank you!

- We pray for those undergoing treatment for cancer, the mentally ill and their families, those recuperating, those undergoing treatments and those

- We pray for first responders and front-line medical workers who are risking their lives for our health
- 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 those who are traveling.
- We pray for those we hold silently in our hearts.
- 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 in each new day.
- We pray for our home-bound.

 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 (838-6850).