

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

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APRIL
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Calling All Graduates

Dear All,

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

We are only days away from Resurrection Sunday! Alleluia! The Resurrection is the beating heart of our faith. The promise of new life gives us hope for a future beyond death. The true wonder of it, though, is that it also gives us hope every moment of every day in the here and now. We have so many systems and situations of death in this world, and they have become more and more apparent over the course of the past year. Yet, for every system and situation that cuts people down and treats people as somehow less than human or unworthy of a fulfilling life, there is the promise of new life! We see it all the time. People stand up for their dignity and rights. People take to the streets to demand justice. People step in and help each other out. People welcome those who have been outcast. People heal those who have been harmed. People survive that which seems unsurvivable. People embody incredible resilience. People form community. People experience awe. People love. People live in the face of all that is broken and wrong. That is the power of the Resurrection!

My prayer is that each and every one of us can embrace the Resurrection this year by paying attention to those miracles of life in the face of death that occur every moment of every day. May we all open our hearts and senses to the constant

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*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland
is to be
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ*

possibility of new life! As we do so, may we recognize how our congregation is experiencing new life in the midst of all the hardship that we have endured over the past year! For, if we recognize this, we will know that even though we will continue to face challenges that will be hard, we have nothing to fear. We are a Resurrection people! That means that we also have the power to show others the promise and hope of new life. What a blessed, exciting opportunity! Alleluia!

As we look forward to Resurrection Sunday, we do still have a few days of Lent remaining—the crucial days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. When we embarked on this Lenten journey, I presented the concept of *AdLent*, encouraging us to think of this season as a time of grief AND a time of hope. In that vein, please do take the time to experience and reflect upon your grief in these last few days of Lent. Consider how your suffering and the suffering of the world is connected to the suffering Jesus experienced on his journey to the cross and on the cross itself. Reflect on the truth that Jesus truly came to know the full depths of human suffering and therefore understands what we experience in the midst of our own depths, however they may manifest. And of course there is hope in that truth! For, in overcoming death, Jesus overcame EVERYTHING that leads to death with full knowledge of what those things are. No matter what we may be going through, Jesus gets it and knows how to get through it! Alleluia!

I look forward to worshiping alongside of you and being in community with you throughout Eastertide, both in person and virtually! Let us remember that the Resurrection is not relegated to just a single day. Liturgically, it is a full season. Spiritually, it is ALWAYS!

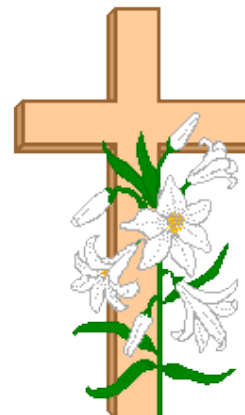
I leave you with these words from *Mark*:

"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised!"

Alleluia!

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the Ministry of Faith Development. In their most recent meeting, they talked about the possibility of having some type of antiracist educational opportunity or book study for the congregation this year. Antiracism work is challenging and necessary work for the Church to do, and it is exciting that our congregation is open to it! In committing to becoming a *Matthew 25* congregation, we committed to do our part to dismantle structural racism. If you have ideas on how we can move forward in this commitment, please reach out to Pastor Tyler or any of Session members!

SESSION SHORTS

The Session spent much of the meeting discussing the re-opening of in-person church and other in-person meetings. The following was decided:

- In-person worship will begin on Palm Sunday, March 28, with a virtual service being live-streamed.
- All mitigation will be followed: Masks and social distancing will be required. Sanitizer and masks will be available in the narthex. Bulletins and the offering plate will be on a table in the narthex to pick up as you enter.
- Windows and the main door will be open for air circulation.
- For the time-being, we will not be singing hymns or responses indoors. (But you can hum)
- There will be a time of outdoor fellowship after worship, weather permitting.
- Ministry, committee and outside group meetings can begin meeting in April, with masks and social distancing in place.
- Adult Connections Bible studies: Watch for more information on the day and time the adult Bible study on Sunday mornings will resume. BYOB (Bring your own Bible) Wednesday night study will continue to be virtual.

The Session determined that the Maundy Thursday service will be a virtual service.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
February 28, 2021

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$11,764.95	\$9,965.00	\$34,885.18
Operating Expenses	10,743.31	13,409.00	22,280.04
Excess (Deficit)	\$1,021.64		\$12,605.14



Gifts given in the month of March to the Endowment Fund include:

In Memory of: Mary Catania & Barbara Dye

These gifts were given by the following donors:

George Griner, Richard Obrecht, Linda Skaggs

A Donation was given to the "Food Pantry" by:

Christine Small

A Donation was given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman

A Donation was given to "Gladys' Table" in memory of Barbara Dye by:

LeaAnn Kerber & Linda Shaffer

A Donation was given in Lieu of Easter Flowers by:

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of Loved Ones

Endowment Fund Donations



Would you like to honor a loved one? Are you celebrating a special anniversary, birthday or maybe the birth of a grandchild? Would you like to make a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers in the sanctuary? The endowment fund is a way to make these contributions and a more lasting gift to the church.

Each year a portion of the fund provides money to help fund mission, the general fund and grants for unbudgeted and non-ongoing projects. In the past the fund has helped with new windows in the classroom wing, fellowship hall carpeting, kitchen and narthex remodeling, youth ministry, support for hurricane victims, parking lot repair and resurfacing, a new boiler to heat our buildings, funding for the Family and Children Coordinator, and technology needs.



“The Joy of Giving”

There is a story of a young boy walking on the seashore who noticed the beach littered with starfish after a storm. Feeling the need to help in some way, he carefully picked up the one closest to him and returned it to the sea. An old man saw this, approached him and commented that there were far too many so his effort certainly wouldn't make any difference. The boy thought for minute, smiled, and replied “maybe, but it sure made a difference to that one!” He was being a good steward. (By the way, you have probably caught on to the fact that this story is not just about helping starfish). We are the stewards of God's creation. When we think of Stewardship it is good to take a broader view. In following Christ's teachings, our gifts of time, talent and treasure can and absolutely do make a difference. We may sometimes look at giving as a burden, but if we think beyond the perceived cost to ourselves to the positive impact that our generosity may have on others, it becomes a joy! “Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)



IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY THIS MONTH

Do you ever find yourself wondering what to say during your prayer times? Are you interested in reading a variety of prayers from other sources? In our library collection, we have several books on prayer for you to check out! Here are just a few examples:

Let Prayer Change Your Life by Becky Tirabassi

All the Prayers of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer

Prayers from the Reformed Tradition compiled and edited by Diane Karay Tripp

Praying the Psalms by J. Barrie Shepherd

The church library is located in the room across the hall from the church office. Library materials can be accessed during regular church office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 am to noon. There is a sign out sheet on the table in the library to fill out each time you borrow an item. Returned items can be put back on the shelf or left on the table in the center of the room. You can also contact Heather Casiano for a porch drop-off of materials if you can't make it into the church building. Happy Reading!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Beginning on Palm Sunday, the church nursery will be available to parents who need to take their young children out of the sanctuary during worship, or who need a place for a quick diaper change or a rock in the rocking chair. However, due to ongoing concerns with the Covid pandemic, we will not be staffing the nursery at this time. Parents cannot leave their children in the nursery unsupervised, and must stay with their children at all times. We will make sure the nursery is cleaned and supplied each week.

Children of all ages are always welcome in the sanctuary during worship as part of our faith family. We provide a weekly packet of children's coloring sheets and activities and crayons, and parents can bring along any toys or books for their children to use during worship as well.

As Covid conditions improve, we are hoping to have more options available for children to be active in the worship service each week, as well as different choices of activities for them. Stay tuned as we move forward faithfully and healthfully!

Is there a topic, curriculum, or book of the Bible you would like to see as an Adult Connections study group? A new group or Bible study can be started any time. Please send your ideas to Heather Casiano - we want to know what you're interested in!



ADULT CONNECTIONS

- ◆ BYOB – This weekly, online Bible study group will continue its “regular” schedule beginning April 7. We discuss the Scriptures from the previous Sunday’s worship service, oftentimes hearing them from new perspectives. The BYOB group meets each Wednesday at 7 pm online on Zoom. If you are not already on the email list for the Zoom invitation/log-in info and would like to be, contact the church office to be added.
- ◆ In-Person Adult Class - Our leaders are currently working on plans for an in-person class. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletins and emails for more details. There are no in-person classes meeting at this time.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections will meet twice in April. Bring your friends!!

- APRIL 10 (Saturday) to help with the Church-wide Clean Up Day, 8:30 am to Noon. Rain date will be April 17.
- APRIL 25 (Sunday) for our usual time of lessons and games. We’ll plan to meet outside in the church garden at 11:45 am (after the worship service) until 1 pm.

Youth Connections is open to all middle school and high school students and friends are always welcome! Watch your emails for the latest details.



April Liturgists:

- 4/4 - John Toren
- 4/11- Peter Churitch
- 4/18 - Tracy Oprea
- 4/25- Bonnie Perryman



We are thankful for the beauty of the Easter Flowers given to the Glory of God by:

Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of Charles & Florence Baudouine and Paul & Mary Callaway

Carol Callaway, Vince & Debbie Catania, Peter Churitch, Sharon LaFlech & Linda Skaggs, in memory of their dear friend Barb Dye

Lois Fozkos, in memory of loves ones who returned to God's care

Carolyn Ham, in memory of Jim Ham

Rev. Tyler Orem, in memory of Teresa Marshall and Obie Mwamba

Marjean Reed, in memory of Dr. Ronald R. Reed and Families

Jay & Jean Smith, in memory of Robert & Arlene Diekman

A donation has been made in lieu of flowers by:

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of Loved Ones

NOT GETTING THE WEEKLY EMAIL OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

If you are NOT getting the weekly mailchimp email from Rev. Tyler or if you did not receive the Lenten booklet in email from Heather Casiano, try the following:

- Check your SPAM OR JUNK FOLDER OR PROMOTIONS FOLDER. It may have gone there.
- Put these two emails in your contacts: pastorem@fpchighland.org and hcasiano@fpchighland.org

If you are still having trouble receiving the weekly email, call Jean Smith at 322-4896 or email her at jsmith@fpchighland.org.



March Shelter Report

We are still following the COVID guidelines for the shelter. We cook for the residents and just drop off the food. There are usually forty people, and we make 20 box meals for the Non-residents that use to come and eat with the residents. They can pass by and collect a box meal and take it with them.

This Saturday we added two new chefs to our roster, Jean Smith and her daughter Mindy Sanchez. It was wonderful to have their help because two of our regulars were on vacation.

Then we had Jamie, Judy, Marie, Cheryl and Lauren to complete our regulars.

The residents are always glad to see us but we had some bad news this week. Two of the long time regulars had passed away from COVID and one of the gentlemen that work there had just gotten over it. They had been doing so well with their monthly checks but the disease reared its ugly head and managed to get into the shelter.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Cheryl Steen

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

On Friday March 19, Jeff Savage and I loaded up 27 boxes and bags of non-perishable food items from our pantry and delivered them to the Salvation Army in Munster.

They are one of the three organizations that our pantry supports when we have enough items to share.

I want to thank Carolyn Ham for assisting me in packing up all the items and getting them ready for transfer.

Now that our cupboard is bare, we will be asking for any non-perishable donations to be dropped off at the office or please bring a can or two to church starting on Palm Sunday.

Thank you for helping with this very needed and worthwhile mission.

Cheryl Steen





Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 17 – April 4), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing from home!

Individuals may indicate their church name in the comments of the donation form to ensure their congregation is informed of any giving.

By Mail:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 PO Box 643700
 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mobile Giving:
 Text SHARING to 56512
to use our mobile give site

Over the Phone:
 800-728-7228

Online:
pcusa.org/give-oghs

We’re here
to help!

Call the
Special Offerings team
800-728-7228, Ext. 5047.





CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

The academic year for 2020-2021 is almost finished, and what a year it's been! We especially would like to recognize all of the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2021, we'd like to know! Please email Heather Casiano, hcasiano@fpchighland.org, or call the church office, with the graduate's name and a brief bio that we can print in our next edition of the Larger View. You can include things like the name of school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. These should be sent to Heather no later than April 21.



The Per Capita PER member is \$42.00 for 2021



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 LeaAnn Kerber
- 6 Sandy Nicholls
- 10 Andrew Bobalik
- 11 Jill Cooke
- 15 Tristan Casiano
- 16 Dennis O'Donnell
- 18 George Griner
- 19 Kris Scott
- 20 Abdul Savage
- 21 Jane Vance
- 26 Holly Severson
- 28 Eric Parker
- 30 Debbie Catania
 Heather Casiano



Our Blessing Box has gained even more importance in this season of pandemic. Economic impacts are on the rise, and the most vulnerable in our midst are the most harmed. 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.



- Prayers of Christian Sympathy to the Family of Marjorie Ashton on her death in December 2020.



**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.

- Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
- Alaina (Callaway)
- Amanda (H. Casiano)
- Avery
- Bapst Family (Callaway)
- Mike Bennett
- Curtis Black
- Brady Vanes
- Sonny Buono
- Carmelo (Melissa's Dad)
- Ina Chappell
- Brandon Chong
- U. Chong (Oprea)
- Danielle
- Dave
- Don Dekker
- Ruth Dekker
- Laura Buono Domsic
- Carol Finley
- Frank (K. Scott)
- Chester Goins
- George Griner
- Gus & Georgia
- Guy (B. Perryman)
- Susan Hanley (Studer)
- Gracie Helmer
- Bill Holmes
- Jessica (Abernethy)
- Joe (Smith)
- Krissy LaFlech
- Steve Lekan (P. Fozkos)
- Holly Letnich

- Jimmy Leyva (J. Martinez)
- Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
- David Markley
- Rena Martinez
- Tony Martinez
- Ray Mendoza
- Mildred (B. Perryman)
- Jill Muller (Steen)
- George & Barbara Nelson
- Jeanne Nestor
- Jan Oprea
- Janet Orem
- Lily Renfro
- Mara & Jeremy Renfro
- Rena's cousin
- Rick Parker
- Rhonda Penman
- Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
- Rodney (J. Toren)
- Calvin Scott
- Linda Skaggs
- Gary Sknerski
- Jay Smith
- Gale Holck Snyder
- Steve & Melinda
- Family of Jeannine Strom
- Gary Studer
- Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
- Tarsha (Perryman)
- Erin Taylor (Casiano)
- Teachers & Students
- Rev. Tyler's friend
- Richard Terpstra
- Brady Vanes
- Cindy Waltz Family
- Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

- 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 our country.
- 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.

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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 (838-6850).