

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

February

2020

Volume 13 Issue 2

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FEBRUARY 2

Adult Study - 9:00 AM
 K-8th Grade Church School - 9:00 AM
 Worship (Comm)- 10:30 AM SOUPer Bowl Sunday
 Coffee Fellowship - 11:30 AM
 Faith Development - 11:45 AM
 Youth Group 12-2 PM

FEBRUARY 9

Adult Study - 9:00 AM
 K-8th Grade Church School - 9:00 AM
 Worship - 10:30 AM
 Coffee Fellowship & SOUP SALE- 11:30 AM
 W & M - 11:45 AM

FEBRUARY 16

Adult Study - 9:00 AM
 K-8th Grade Church School - 9:00 AM
 Worship - 10:30
 Coffee Fellowship - 11:30 AM
 Youth Group 12-2 PM

FEBRUARY 23

Adult Study - 9:00 AM
 K-8th Grade Church School - 9:00 AM
 Worship - 10:30
 Shine the Light Committee - 11:45 AM
 Coffee Fellowship & SOUP SALE- 11:30 AM



Special points of interest:

SHINE.FM "Church of the Week"

Trustee Happenings

Buy-A-Brick

SOUPer Bowl Sunday

Lenten Study

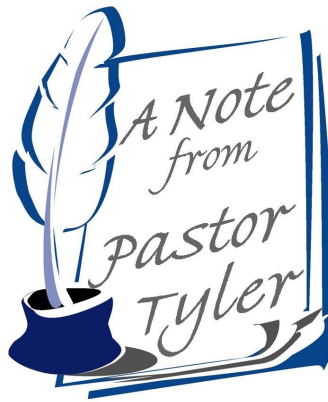
Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Per Captia

*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*



Dear All,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! 2020 is already well underway. We have had our first Session meeting with our new class. We have had our annual meeting. We have had an intergenerational meal and a youth campout. We have had Sunday school classes and worship services. We have served meals and supported mission partners. We have had Sunday school classes and youth group gatherings. We have worshipped well. It has been a great start! God has clearly been present with us, as is always the case.

One of the things I have been most excited about so far is the increased participation and leadership of our young disciples in worship. As God's timing would have it, our young disciples' increased involvement parallels our current cycle of Gospel readings about the early movements and ministry of Jesus and the first disciples. If you yourself or somebody in your family would likewise like to become more involved in worship leadership by being a liturgist, reading scripture, leading the children's sermon, serving communion, or ushering, please do let me or one of our Worship and Music Ministry members know!

We will continue to journey through the life and public ministry of Jesus as we move through February, culminating in the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 26. We Christians are often tempted to focus most on the bookends of Jesus' life—his birth, death, and resurrection. While these events are indeed worthy of our intense attention and devotion, I encourage us to apply the same attention and devotion to Jesus' life and public ministry. I encourage us to dig into the things he did and said as he moved throughout Galilee and made his way ultimately to Jerusalem. I encourage us to pay attention to the people he spent time with and spoke with. I encourage us to gaze upon his miracles with awe and to explore the deep significance behind them. I encourage us to get to know the context of the land, the people, the cultural norms, and the time period that formed his context. For, all of this forms the basis of our ethics as Christians, the example of how we are to live and move and breathe as faithful disciples.

Starting the first Sunday in February we will be diving into Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, largely thought of as the magnum opus of his teaching and preaching. Join me in taking the time to take his words to heart and thus to make them the center of how we go about our lives. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler Orem

SESSION SHORTS

- Trustee President, Eason Engle reported on the repair of a pump, and completion of the painting of the Meeting room. He thanked everyone who worked on the painting. He also requested that someone take responsibility for the kitchens.
- Treasurer, Vince Catania updated the session on the finances of the church
- We welcomed all the newly installed elders : Carol Callaway, Jamie Ham, Hilary Kikkert, and Tracy Oprea.
- We appointed a new Clerk, Lois Fozkos, and also reappointed Vince Catania as Treasurer.
- John Toren from PAC encouraged all the ministry reps to look over their purpose and responsibility statements.
- We are looking forward to working together for the well being of our church home.

FPCH was selected as “Church of the Week” by the radio station SHINE.FM. They joined us at our worship service Sunday, January 19th to present us with the honor. Cheryl Steen was named "Outstanding Volunteer" and received a plaque and gift card from the SHINE.





TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
December 31, 2019

	Month of December	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$12,038.16	\$10,087.00	\$120,461.42
Operating Expenses	12,985.67	12,679.00	145,404.24
Excess (Deficit)	(\$947.51)		(\$24,942.82)



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*



Doren Lounsbury, Karen's husband, conducted Defibrillator training during January. We refresh training every two years. The following people along with Karen Lounsbury, Gale Churchich and Cathy Toren are certified to use the Defibrillator.

Saturday January 11, 2020: Vince Catania, Debbie Catania , Kelly LaFlech, Cheryl Steen, Tyler Orem, John Toren

Wednesday January 22, 2020 : Dennis O'Donnell, Jean Smith, Ron Toren, Bob Abernethy, Jamie Ham, Jeff Savage

John Toren, Jesse Casiano, Tyler Orem and Eason Engle met with Tom Kuhn, President, CSK Architects, P.C. We asked Tom to provide a proposal to conduct a feasibility study for inclusion with the request for a Smock Foundation Grant. We plan to apply for a grant to initially develop a feasibility study and secondly to improve handicap access to the north and center buildings along with improving access to the washrooms. The plan is to submit the request to Presbytery for the Foundation's late February 2020 meeting. Tom is placing most building prints on a CD for convenient reference.

The Session meeting room was painted by a group of talented individuals on January 17, 2020. The carpet and chairs were also steam cleaned. Thanks go to Cathy and Ron Toren, John Toren, Dennis O'Donnell, Winnie Owen, Jeff Savage, Jesse Casiano and Jesse Kikkert. A special thank you goes to Hilary Kikkert who volunteered Jesse. We are now seeking appropriate art work for the room.

Springtime is just around the corner and it'll be time to work the garden and refurbish the brick pathway. We ask all members to purchase brick(s) to help fund the rebuilding of the pathway-see Sharon LaFlech to purchase a brick. We also need volunteers able to do gardening work on Monday mornings-see Cheryl Steen for details.

A local contractor repaired a boiler pump on January 19, 2020. A coupling broke shutting down heat to the south building but all is good now.

Jeff Savage is changing electrical switches in the kitchen area and installing new door hardware on several doors in the center building.

After several complaints about cold air in the sanctuary, we inspected the lower and upper area lead glass windows. The unsealed windows do leak but it's most pronounced during windy conditions. The windows are in need of replacing the glazing and the frames need to be painted. This issue is under review.

Tracy Oprea is serving as coordinator for kitchen issues and kitchen oversight. Tracy will contact the Trustees when repairs are necessary and assure the kitchen facilities in the Fellowship Hall and the Session Room are cleaned and organized.



Youth Group Schedule

Youth Group, for tweens and teens in 7th-12th grades, will be meeting twice in February:

Feb. 2, 2020 – Souper Bowl Sunday: Youth are needed to help collect non-perishable food items and donations before and after worship. Lunch and a meeting in the Youth Room from noon to 2 pm.

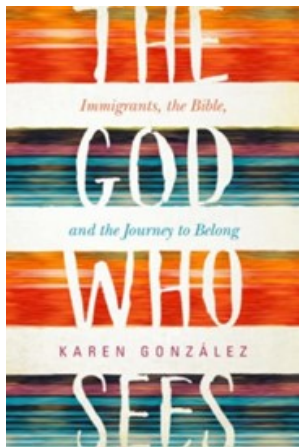
Feb. 16, 2020 – Lunch and a meeting in the Youth Room from noon to 2 pm.

March Youth group dates are March 1 and 15, noon to 2 pm.

We want your opinions on future meetings and activities, so bring your ideas for winter to the next meeting. What do you want your youth group to do?

If you have questions about Youth Group, contact Pastor Tyler Orem or Heather Casiano.

Read-A-Long and Book Discussion



Our church is having a read-a-long this winter. The book is **“The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong”** by Karen Gonzalez. Here is a summary from the Presbyterian Outlook:

In “The God Who Sees,” Karen Gonzalez reminds us that “immigrant stories always matter, because immigrants are image-bearers of God.” In this book the reader will encounter stories, not policy — but those stories will challenge the way we think about immigrants and immigration. Throughout the book Gonzalez takes on the challenges of biblical exposition, autobiography and advocacy. Gonzalez invites the reader to step into the stories of several biblical immigrants: Naomi and Ruth, Abraham, Hagar, Joseph, the Syrophenician Woman and the Holy Family. Examining the challenges faced by these immigrants, she uses their stories to encourage the reader to think about the unique circumstances immigrants face.

The church has 6 copies of the book to lend out. They are available to check out in the classroom across the hall from the church office. Please sign the check-out sheet when you take a book and sign it back in when you are finished, so more people may enjoy the book.

On Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm, there will be a book discussion at the church for all who would like to attend. We will discuss our impressions of the book, talk about questions we have about the stories, and have a thoughtful time of engagement about immigration in today’s world. Children of all ages are welcome, and we will have kid-friendly books and activities for them. This event is open to the public, so please share this opportunity with your friends and neighbors.



Isn't This the Fast I Choose?

2020 Lenten Study and Practice

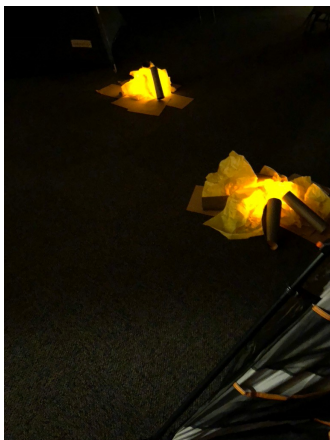
On five Wednesday mornings throughout Lent, Pastor Tyler will again be leading a series of devotional study and spiritual practice. This year we will be focusing on the spiritual practice of fasting, which many Christian traditions regard as the heart of the Lenten liturgical season. The framework of this season comes from Jesus' fast in the desert for forty days and forty nights prior to being encountered by the Satan. We will be exploring various understandings of this spiritual practice by looking through the lens of major moments of fasting in our scriptures, including readings from *Matthew*, *Esther*, *Daniel*, *Jonah*, and *Isaiah*. We will also be exploring how we ourselves can view and implement fasting as a spiritual practice. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall at 9:30 AM on Wednesdays March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, and April 1. ALL ARE WELCOME!

WINTER CAMP OUT

The Winter Campout on Jan. 18-19 turned out to be cozy and warm, despite the frigid temperatures outside. We had a total of 17 people come for the meal, which included foil pack dinners, fruit salad and campfire cupcakes. The group also sang several camp songs. After the dinner guests left, 6 youth and a couple adults stayed for the Winter Campout Lock-In. The youth had a great time making indoor campfires and flashlight attachments with stars and other shapes. They spent a lot of time playing variations of "Hide and Seek" around the building, and participated in a Bible Scavenger hunt. They had to look up a series of Bible verses which directed them to a specific place in the church building. Since it was a campout, the youth made s'mores in the oven. After a quiet, candlelight prayer service in the sanctuary with Pastor Tyler, the youth watched a movie and enjoyed popcorn to round out the night. Eventually, everyone got some sleep in their tents set up in Fellowship Hall, and were awoken the next morning by a wonderful breakfast provided by the Faith Development team.

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold weather to join us for the Saturday meal, and to everyone on the Faith Development team who helped put together a fun event for all ages!

Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT
WINTER CAMP OUT





January 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 Engles to help serve with Jamie, Mia and myself.



2019 Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign

2019 was FPCH's 31st year of assisting the Salvation Army in their annual Red Kettle Campaign. For five weeks, Wednesday through Friday, our hardy ringers staffed the kettle at the south door of Strack's. Again this year we rang from 10:00am to 6:00pm and although we had fewer ringers, our spirit was stronger than ever. Over 2/3rds of our ringers rang for multiple shifts which enabled us to easily fulfil our promise to the Salvation Army and to truly be the "heart, hands and feet of Jesus Christ". The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign director advised that no other corporate or service organizations in the entire county provided more volunteer effort for this Campaign than the Highland Kiwanis Club and the First Presbyterian Church of Highland. Although this year's calendar resulted in our ringing only 112 hours, FPCH's dedicated ringers still collected \$ 4579.13. Records for the past 16 years show that our ringers have collected a remarkable total of \$86,475.78 for the good work of the Salvation Army. Keep in mind, that that does not include the collections for the prior 15 years under George Griner's project leadership. So, to every ringer who volunteered their time this year, and throughout the years to help those in need, the Ministry of Mission, the Salvation Army, George Griner and I offer a sincere "Well Done!" and a heartfelt "Thank You!"



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 Per Capita PER member is
\$42.00 for 2020**



THE BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be on Thursday,
February 20th at 2:00 PM at the home of
Peggy Fozkos. They will be reviewing "The
Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison.

On March 8th, the Book Club will be
participating with the church in reviewing
"The God that Sees."



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Jay Smith
- 8 Don Zuke
- 9 Ted Speroff
- 11 Brian Scott
- 16 Tracy Oprea
- 17 Kelsey Helmer
- Marilyn Metzger
- 20 Philip Parker
- 29 Janet Terpstra



GLADYS' TABLE

**The next meal will be Saturday,
February 29th from 12 to 1 PM**

Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:



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.

- Bob Abernethy
- Debbie Abernethy
- Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
- Alaina (Callaway)
- Marge Ashton
- Avery
- Bapst Family (Callaway)
- Sonny Buono
- Ina Chappell
- I Sun Chong (Oprea)
- Marian Clayton (Morton)
- Danielle
- Dave
- Ruth Dekker
- Barb Dye
- Allyn Fozkos
- Gracie Helmer
- Bill Holmes
- Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
- Murray Faris
- Marlys Furnas
- Jennifer (Reed-Daughter of friend)
- Laura Jones
- Linda Kubiak (L. Fozkos)
- Calvin Scott
- Bonita Sutton (Nolen)

- Steve & Melinda
- Gary Studer
- Dennis VanKooten
- Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

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 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 waiting for transplants.
- We pray for our country.

- We pray for our firemen and police who help keep us safe at home.
- We pray for our service men and women.
- 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).

USHER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos

FEBRUARY 9

Carolyn Ham
Jamie & Savannah Ham

FEBRUARY 16

Lee Ann Cheesebrough
Ed Wallo
Winnie Owen

FEBRUARY 23

Tom & Pam Porter
Ben Porter
Cheryl Steen



LITURGISTS

FEBRUARY 2

Hilary Kikkert

FEBRUARY 9

John Toren

FEBRUARY 16

Eason Engle

FEBRUARY 23

Tracy Oprea

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

FEBRUARY 2

OPEN

FEBRUARY 9

John & Judy Toren

FEBRUARY 16

Deacons

FEBRUARY 23

Oprea & Severson

RIDES TO WORSHIP

Please call your Deacon

HOSPITALITY HOSTS:

- 2/2: Nancy Engle
- 2/9: Nancy O'Donnell
- 2/16: Anettia Holmes
- 2/23: Jamie Ham

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

- 2/2: L. Fozkos/P. Fozkos
- 2/9: H. Casiano/J. Smith
- 2/16: H. Kikkert/D. Catania
- 2/23: J. Smith/G. Churitch

CHILD CARE:

- 2/2: J. Smith
- 2/9: J. Smith
- 2/16: D. Catania
- 2/23: C. Abernethy

COMMUNION: February 2

- Norma Bauer
- Peter Churitch
- Lois Fozkos
- John Toren
- Judy Toren



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND

Worship
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Visit us on:



Mailing address: **8727 Delaware Street**
Highland, Indiana 46322

Phone: (219) 838-6850
E-mail: fpch@fpchighland.org

We're on the Web!
www.fpchighland.org