

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

February

2021

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Happy
Valentine's
Day

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First Presbyterian Church
of Highland
8727 Delaware Street
Highland, IN 46322



Dear All,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Not long ago at all we were observing the season of Advent. As I went through my annual process of intentional reflection during that season, I kept being struck by something. No matter how focused I was on the liturgical readings and our themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, my heart and mind kept going to Lent. I was certainly right there with that hopeful expectation of the coming of our Lord, but I was also there with the anticipatory grief that our Lord would go through his Passion and face death. I am sure that this both/and phenomenon was tied to the pandemic and its massive impact on the world at large and on our own individual bodies and spirits. Perhaps I should have named that season AdLent!

This month we will be starting our actual liturgical observance of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17. The more I think about this upcoming season, the more I am convinced that just as I embraced anticipatory grief in our holy season of hope, I should embrace hopeful expectation in this holy season of grief. For, the end of Lent is the Resurrection, the most glorious event of all. It has now been a full year since the start of this pandemic, a grim milestone indeed. All of us



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

have been impacted in unimaginable ways, both directly and indirectly. And yet, in the resilience of our shared human spirit we have so many reasons to have hope! I invite you to join me on this journey through AdLent, moving with Jesus as he approaches his death AND moving with Jesus as he approaches his resurrection!

As you read through this edition of the Larger View, you will come across several ways to observe Lent with intentional reflection and spiritual practice. I pray that all of us will participate in whatever ways feel right for us. As the Church, it is a constant truth that we are best able to recognize God and best able to serve God when we do so together in community. Let us be reminded that although we may be physically apart we are still spiritually together, and that spiritual togetherness cannot be torn asunder. By marking the liturgical calendar together, by studying and reflecting together, by praying together, by engaging in spiritual practices together, and by worshiping together, we are in this together!

I hope and pray that we will be able to gather together in person once more as the weather begins to warm up (and I hope and pray that the weather begins to warm up!). As has been the case through it all, the Session is keeping up with scientific and governmental recommendations as well as with advice coming from the denomination and the presbytery. As always, I thank you for your unending grace as we continue to navigate these waters. If you have any questions about our planning process, any joys or concerns to uplift in prayer, or any need to talk in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I love you all and miss you all!

I leave you with these words from *Psalms* 51, our Ash Wednesday psalm:

“Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.”



In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem



In January 2021 the *Matthew 25* spotlight shone upon our Ministry of Mission and those of you who graciously contributed to the Mitten Tree. “Then the righteous will answer him... ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you naked and gave you clothing?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” In providing warm winter wear for those in need of it, you have served the most vulnerable members of God’s family, and you have served the Lord. Well done, good and faithful servants!

SESSION SHORTS

- The new slate of elders were welcomed on to Session: Kris Agbor, Bonnie Perryman, Cheryl Steen, Jean Smith.
- Vince Catania was appointed Treasurer for 2021.
- Jean Smith was appointed Clerk for 2021.
- The budget was finalized for 2021.
- Organization of the ministries and assignment of elders to the ministries was reviewed.
- An Administrative commission for 2021 was empowered to make decisions concerning the church in case a full Session cannot meet in this time of the pandemic. Elder Tracy Oprea, Elder Cheryl Steen and Rev. Tyler Orem were appointed to be on this commission.
- Elder Lois Fozkos was appointed to be the commissioner to Presbytery meetings in 2021. The next Presbytery assembly will be on February 27th.
- We reviewed guidelines and protocols that must be in place in order to go back to in-person worship. We will be continuing with virtual services. Those guidelines will be reviewed again next month in February.
- There will be a virtual worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.
- The elders brainstormed goals, ideas and dreams for the future of our church.



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
December 31, 2020

	Month of December	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$9,972.20	\$10,553.00	\$133,094.88
Operating Expenses	13,385.28	13,424.00	144,950.59
Excess (Deficit)	(\$3,413.08)		(\$11,855.71)



A Donation was given to the Food Pantry by:
Christine Small



CHURCH LIBRARY RESOURCES

Did you know our church has a library? Charlotte Abernethy has been working hard to organize our library materials so they are easier to find and use. Our church library is located in the room across the hall from the Church Office. There is a sign out sheet on the table in the Library at the church 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.

The church library is open during regular church office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 - 11 am. You can also contact Heather Casiano for a porch drop-off of materials if you can't make it into the church building.

Each month, we're highlighting one type of resource. This month the focus is non-religious fiction. We have a good sized collection of fiction novels of various types, mostly in paperback. Some authors include John Grisham, Janet Evanovich, Nora Roberts, and Dean Koontz, among many others. If you're in need of a good book this winter, stop in and check out our collection.

These fiction books are available as a "take one, leave one" system – if you want to keep one of these books or pass it along to a friend, please do so. If you have a book at home you no longer want/need, you can trade it in or leave it on the shelf for someone else to enjoy. Please do not donate boxes of books, as we do not have the space for a lot, but a few here and there is fine.



LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Many of you have contributed to our 2021 Lent Devotional Booklet. Thank you for your help in creating this meaningful way to observe Lent this year! We may not be able to physically gather for worship and study, but through this booklet we have each other's thoughts and hearts as we take time to meditate on the journey of Lent.

The booklets will be distributed in time for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. Watch your email or mail (if you don't have email) for your copy. Please feel free to forward electronic copies to friends and families. If you'd like an additional paper copy for someone without computer access, contact Heather Casiano.



LENT PRAYER STATIONS

Starting on Sunday, Feb. 21, a weekly series of Prayer Station videos will be posted on our church's website and Facebook page. Prayer is one of many spiritual practices that is encouraged during Lent. These 5-minute or less videos are designed for you to participate as you watch, or to replicate them in your own space using simple everyday items. The last video will be posted on Palm Sunday, March 28, to help us all prepare for Holy Week and the Resurrection of Christ.

Lenten Study and Practice 2021

It is almost time for our annual Lenten Study and Practice! Ash Wednesday will be here before we know it (February 17, to be exact), and for the Wednesdays afterward leading up to Holy Week we will observe this holy season with intentional scriptural study and spiritual practice. In 2019 we went on a pilgrimage together. In 2020 we fasted together. In 2021 we will be seeking healing together. As we continue to grapple with the worst health crisis most of us have ever known, we will explore the different types of healing that occur in our scriptures, enacted by Jesus and his forebears in the Spirit. We will ponder what health and healing mean to us today. And we will practice prayers of healing. We will be meeting via Zoom during our usual Bring Your Own Bible time slot—Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We would love for you to join us live! If you are unable to join us at that time, though, we are also exploring ways to make recordings and/or study materials available afterward. Our Lenten Study and Practice dates will be Wednesdays 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/31. Keep an eye out for Zoom information as we get closer to starting!



ADULT CONNECTIONS

BYOB: This mid-week study on ZOOM will continue its regular format on Feb. 3rd and 10th. We'll take a break on Feb. 17th for the Ash Wednesday service. Beginning on Feb. 24th, Rev. Tyler will lead us in a Lent-themed BYOB each Wednesday evening through March 31st. We will still meet on ZOOM from 7-8 pm each of those Wednesdays. If you are not on the email list for the ZOOM log-in information and would like to be, contact Heather Casiano.

Sunday Morning Study Group: This group is on hiatus while the church building is closed for in-person activities. Watch for an announcement for restarting once it is safer to do so. If there is someone who would like to lead this group online on ZOOM during this interim period, contact Heather Casiano to get things set up.

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 online on ZOOM or in person as conditions allow. If you aren't comfortable with technology but are interested in meeting online with a small group, we have people who get all the "tech" stuff set up for you. Please send your ideas to Heather Casiano – we want to know what you're interested in!



The Super Bowl is fast approaching! On February 7 the Buccaneers and the Chiefs will be duking it out on the gridiron. That means it is also time for our annual “SOUPer Bowl of Caring” collection.

FPCH’s Youth Connections group invites all of you to participate by donating nonperishable food items or funds to help address the growing problem of hunger in our community. The donated items and funds will go to our food ministries here at the church.

There are a couple of options for how you can get food and funds to us. Between now and Thursday, February 4, during the church's office hours (8-11am Monday-Thursday) you can bring your donation(s) by the church office. Alternatively, on Saturday, February 6, some of our youth are willing to stop by and collect food items from your front porches. If you would like us to pick something up during the afternoon of Saturday, February 6, please email Pastor Tyler at pastorem@fpchighland.org or call his cell phone at 317-642-9577. Go Team FPCH!



Youth Connections

The next gathering will be on Sunday, February 28, 2021, at 1 pm on ZOOM. Youth Connections is open for all middle school and high school students. Currently we are meeting once a month on ZOOM for a time of lessons and games. We are also trying to meet in person once a month for a mission project – if we can do so safely. Watch your emails for the latest information.

We’re hoping to have a Winter Fun Day soon, depending on the weather. If you have ideas of fun places to go for sledding, tubing, winter hiking, or other winter outdoor activities, let Heather know.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything happening in Faith Development, or ideas for future programs, please contact Heather Casiano at 575-932-9716 (cell phone) or hcasiano@fpchighland.org (email).



It's that time again! Time to order your Easter flowers. Daffodils, lilies, and tulips are \$20.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Monday, February 22nd**. You may also make a donation in lieu of flowers. Donations will be deposited into the Endowment Fund.

All gifts will be listed in the bulletin and Larger View. Please fill the order form below and either drop off or mail to the church office at: 8727 Delaware Street, Highland, Indiana 46322.

EASTER FLOWERS - ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAFFODIL	_____	\$20.00	\$_____
LILY	_____	\$20.00	\$_____
TULIP	_____	\$20.00	\$_____
DONATION IN LIEU OF FLOWERS			\$_____
TOTAL			\$_____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DEADLINE: 02/22/2021

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322





ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 PM. The service will be virtual on our usual YouTube and Facebook channels. If weather permits, Pastor Tyler will be on the front steps outside of the sanctuary to impose ashes.

February Liturgists:



2/7 - Carol Callaway
2/14- TBD
2/21 - Peter Churitch
2/28- Tracy Oprea



January Shelter Report

We had a very well-tuned group of workers on Saturday for the shelter cooking. In record time we finished all the prep work and cooking so the volunteers got to go home early.

The usual dedicated group of Judy, Jamie, Sandy, Sherry, and Marie had a hand from our newest volunteer Lauren. She has been with us for several months now and even goes to St. Tim's to help Jeff and myself with the food distribution on every third Saturday.

We welcome her to our fold and appreciate her faithfulness.

The COVID rules are still enforced, so after we cook, we just drop off the 40 meals for the guys who live in the shelter and leave 20 boxes for those who aren't permitted in the shelter because they don't live there.

I thank our loading and transport fellows, John Toren and Jeff Savage for their willingness to give up part of their day to always be there to assist with their muscle and patience.



Mission's Support of "Girls on the run of Northwest Indiana"



"Girls on the run of Northwest Indiana inspires all girls to build confidence and make intentional decisions, while fostering care and compassion for self and others." The girls in this program learn confidence, character, care, connections and competence. When these life skills are developed and strengthened, girls can thrive and develop the final skill of contribution. There are two programs: Girls on the Run for grades 3-5 and Heart and Sole for grades 6-8. There are also Junior Coaches for girls ages 16-18. The Girls on the Run program encourages girls of all abilities to recognize their individual strengths and celebrate connections with others. The curriculum consists of both physical activity and skill development, which gives the girls the ability to adapt to whatever comes their way. The Heart & Sole program meets the unique needs of middle school girls and considers the whole girl: body, brain, heart, spirit and social connection. It is believed girls this age need an inclusive place where they feel supported and inspired to explore their emotions, cultivate empathy and strengthen their physical and emotional health. Finally, the Junior Coaches find community, become a leader and make an impact on the next generation of girls.

The members of Mission felt extremely passionate about supporting Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana and made a monetary donation of \$500.00 at their January meeting. This type of program is needed now more than ever. Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana believes, "every girl is inherently full of power and potential and by knowing they are the leaders of their lives, these are the girls who will change the world."

Blessings,

Tracy S. Oprea

Secretary, Ministry of Mission



THANK YOU!!

The incredible generosity of this congregation has once again made a great success of our mitten tree project. We collected 32 pair of gloves, 26 pair of mittens, 11 hats, 5 hat & mitten sets, 3 hat & glove sets, 1 scarf and 3 pair of socks. The items were of appropriate sizes to cover all ages and will be distributed to any Highland student that needs them through the counselor's offices.



**The Per Capita PER member is
\$42.00 for 2021**



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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



Prayers for:

• Spiritual Leaders

- Those affected by COVID, whether they have the virus or recovering from the virus
- Those waiting to get the COVID vaccine



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)
Marge Ashton
Avery
Bapst Family (Callaway)
Mike Bennett
Curtis Black
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
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
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
Sharon Orem
Lily Renfro
Rena's cousin
Rick Parker
Rhonda Penman
Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
Rodney (J. Toren)
Calvin Scott
Gary Sknerski
Jay Smith
Gale Holck Snyder
Steve (S. Gruoner)
Steve & Melinda
Family of Jeannine Strom
Gary Studer
Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
Tarsha (Perryman)
Erin Taylor (Casiano)
Teachers & Students
Rev. Tyler's friend
Richard Terpstra
Family of Chierno Vah
Brady Vanes
Cindy Waltz Family
Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)
Kevin Windstup

- 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.

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).