

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

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June
2021

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Session Shorts	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Stewardship & Finance	5
Faith Development	6-7
Worship & Music	7
Ministry of Mission	8
News From the Pews	11-12

Dear All,

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

We recently celebrated the Day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God was poured out in a mighty rushing wind upon a group of people representing different continents, different races, and different languages. We wore red, we waved streamers, we prayed, we sang (gently!), and we ate cupcakes to celebrate this brilliant birth of the Church, the body of Christ. As we enter Summer this year—I can't believe we are there already!—I encourage us to keep this remarkable origin story close to our hearts and minds. This great body of the resurrected Lord has always been multiracial, multilingual, and multi-contextual. It has always been Spirit-filled and therefore dynamic. AND we still have work to do! The Spirit of God is always blowing through Creation, inspiring growth and transformation. The Spirit of God is always gusting through the Church, urging us to embody that original vision by struggling for racial justice, welcoming all in the fullness of their identities, and embracing the beautiful spectrum of languages, cultures, and colors that God created. This summer, let's collectively commit to this Spirit-work as a congregation, as a community, and as an integral part of the body of Christ!

The liturgical season we are entering in June is known as the "Season after Pentecost." I am going to encourage us to think



Session Shorts

Adult/Youth Connections

Dance Challenge

June Liturgists

Flower Vouchers

Sackurday

**New Phone Dialing
Procedures**

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*

of it instead as the “Season OF Pentecost.” In this season, we are going to keep Holy Spirit front and center in our hearts and minds as we explore the Hebrew Bible scriptures about the early Kingdom, primarily in the story of David’s life. We will continue hybrid worship, and, weather-permitting, we will also try to have one outdoor worship service in the garden each month of the summer. That way we can feel the wind of the Spirit on our skin again, as we so joyfully did last summer in the throes of this pandemic! You will see in our calendar that we are planning for the third Sunday of each month. If you wish to come in person that Sunday, you can bring your own lawn chair or use one of the folding chairs we have at the church.

I recognize that some of you might take advantage of the summer months for travel, especially as more and more people get vaccinated and as some restrictions are lifted across the country. One of the advantages of our new way of operating is that you can still be fully present in worship with us no matter where you might be in the world! So, if you are elsewhere or even staycationing at home on Sunday mornings, please do still join us on Facebook or YouTube! If you are somebody who is worshipping from home but are unable to access our virtual services and are not currently receiving weekly mailings with our bulletin and sermon, please let Kristen know in the office so that she can add you to that mailing list. Remember, you are fully part of this community and worship is worship no matter where and how you are joining in!

Please do feel free to reach out to me on my cell phone or email at any time for prayer, spiritual counsel, or conversation.

I leave you with these words from *Acts*:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?’”

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon Arletta Schaefer, our dear departed friend, mother, and parish visitor. Arletta dedicated her life to spreading God's love, caring for those in need, and seeking safety and thriving for those experiencing poverty and homelessness. According to *Matthew 25:34-36*, "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'" I envision the King speaking to Arletta right now and saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

SESSION SHORTS

- After reviewing the guidelines for safety protocols, we are leaving our protocols in place for now. These include mask wearing, social distancing, and windows open for air circulation. Each month we will continue to review our procedures.
- This summer we will be having several outdoor services in the garden area, weather permitting. They will be on the 3rd Sunday of each month: June 20, July 18, and August 15. We all enjoyed those outdoor services last year!
- The Sackurday lunch schedule is moving to the last Saturday of the month beginning in June. It will still be a drive-up sack lunch for now.
- Rodney Fozkos from the Trustees reported on the following projects:
 - ~ A new lawn care service has been hired to do the lawn mowing.
 - ~ The sign for parking lot has been repaired and will be mounted soon.
 - ~ New smoke detectors are being installed.
 - ~ The Trustees are looking for a new home for the two pews on the north side of the sanctuary before removing them. That area is being repurposed for wheelchairs and families with young children during worship.
- Elder Cheryl Steen of Ministry of Mission reported on the serving at the shelter, the need for goods for the pantry, and the disbursement of money to mission partners.
- Elder Jamie Ham reported from Hospitality that each week wrapped snacks and drinks are available for fellowship outside after worship, weather permitting. If the weather is bad, Session decided that fellowship after church could move down to the Fellowship Hall with masks remaining on until people are seated at a table and eating.
- We discussed improving communication and collaboration between ministries, boards, and the congregation. Then we discussed ways to accomplish this.
- Session members have been exploring various fundraisers for our general fund. Stay tuned for more information.
- Rev. Tyler and those on Session expressed thanks to all those who work to keep our church and its mission vibrant. It has been a difficult year for all of us.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
April 30, 2021

	Month of April	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$13,521.91	\$9,965.00	\$61,676.21
Operating Expenses	10,926.23	13,409.00	46,337.10
Excess (Deficit)	\$2,595.68		\$15,339.11



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

In Memory of: Arletta Schaefer

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Fred & Carol Callaway, George Griner, Mary Jo McGee, Jan Oprea, Treva & Laura Sheets

Donations were given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman

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.



No Time Like the Present! - by Jamie Ham

There is an old saying that reads, “You cannot find happiness at the end of your journey if you didn’t bring it with you all along.” I think the same concept also applies to stewardship. We too often find ourselves thinking, “There just isn’t any room for giving in my budget right now; I will be able to give when I’m more successful,” or we convince ourselves that we have no spare time to volunteer, “I can help out later when life is not so hectic.” I believe that if we want to experience those warm feelings we all get from being generous with our time, treasure, and talents, there’s no time like the present! Remember, you should not compare your level of generosity to that of others, as they are on a different path. What God cares about is that you are as generous with your gifts as you can be, at every stage of your journey. If you want to be considered a kind and generous Christian at the end of your journey, you will need to be one all along the way.

“Then they said to the Levite, ‘Please inquire of God to learn whether our journey will be successful.’ The priest answered them, ‘Go in peace. Your journey has the LORD’s approval.’”—Judges 18:5-6



ADULT CONNECTIONS

- ◆ **BYOB** – "Bring Your Own Bible" discussion group is continuing through the summer. Join us weekly on Wednesdays at 7 pm online on Zoom. We talk about the Scriptures from the previous Sunday's worship service, oftentimes hearing them from new perspectives. If you are not already receiving the weekly emails for the Zoom log-in info and would like to be, contact the church office to be added.
- ◆ Is there a topic, curriculum, or book of the Bible you would like to see as an Adult Connections study group? Have you ever thought about leading a small group or adult class? A new group or Bible study can be started any time – and we can help! Please send your ideas to Heather Casiano – we want to know what you're interested in!



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections met on May 23 for their last regular meeting of the school year. We celebrated by having a cookout, a short lesson, and by playing Tape Tag! Plans are being made for a summer mission project and some other fun activities. Watch your email and the Larger View as details are confirmed.

Thank you to all our adult leaders who helped teach a lesson and helped out with Youth Connections throughout the crazy year. You're all awesome!!!!




 Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT
DANCE CHALLENGE

Do you like to dance, or just get up and move to a fun beat? Our Youth Connections decided to take on the “Jerusalem Challenge” and would love to have members of our church family join in!

“Jerusalem” is a song that came out of South Africa in summer/fall 2020 and has since become a worldwide hit. The lyrics speak to the beauty of Jerusalem being our home and the longing to go there. A simple dance was choreographed to go along with the upbeat song, and thousands of people around the world have been recording and posting themselves dancing – everyone from young children to elderly nuns and monks and all those in between. It’s a simple dance that anyone can learn to do, and there are high and low impact versions to accommodate all abilities.

If you are interested in participating in our “Jerusalem Challenge”, or just want to see what it’s all about, email Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org. Our goal is to work on this over the summer, record ourselves doing the dance challenge, and then post it online in a challenge to other youth groups and churches in our presbytery. Dust off your dancing shoes and be part of the fun!



June Liturgists:

6/6 - Bonnie Perryman
 6/13- Hilary Kikkert
 6/20- Robbie Casiano
 6/27- Peter Churitch



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 219-322-4896 or email her at jsmith@fpchighland.org.



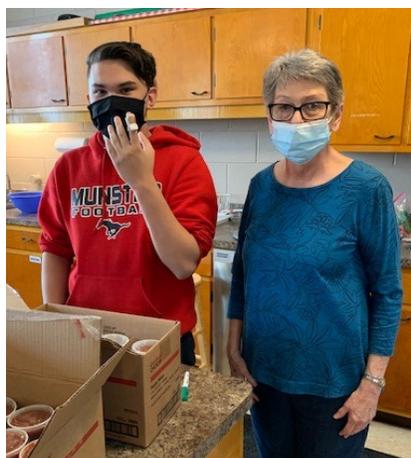
May Shelter Report

Our usual crew had three people absent for the food preparation on Saturday, May 7th. However, we had two of our youth, Robbie and Tristan, Heather Casiano, Pastor Tyler, and Lauren Wilson, who is becoming a regular. Even though we had a slight accident early on, everything went well and we delivered a nutritious meal to the residents. They also informed me that they were now open and we could start serving again. That will be up for discussion next month when we meet to cook. They still want us to continue to make the 20 meals for the non-residents as we have been, so I'm not sure if they are open to the public, but will find out before our next serving date.

Jamie, Judy, and Cheryl were there to round out the list of usual helpers.

Many thanks to all who participate in this worthy Mission.

Cheryl Steen



Ministry of Mission 2021 Zandstras Flower Voucher Sale

The Ministry of Mission is having its annual flower voucher fundraiser. Flower vouchers are now available for Zandstras Greenhouse and are \$15.00/each. The voucher is worth \$15.00 and can be spent just like cash at the greenhouse. The Ministry of Mission receives \$3.00 from every voucher sold. This is one of the Ministry of Mission's most important fundraisers and we greatly appreciate your support.

Opening Day at Zandstras Greenhouse is Friday, April 16, 2021. In person shopping will be on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Zandstras has reserved Tuesday mornings for higher risk individuals and no appointment is necessary.

If you are interested in purchasing vouchers, please contact Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181. Tracy is willing to make no contact deliveries if requested. The Ministry of Mission thanks you for your continued support, which allows us to fulfill our Mission Statement.

"The Ministry of Mission is to be an emissary for Christ's love and compassion for those in need throughout the community, the nation and the world. This goal is to be accomplished individually through the daily lives of Ministry members and as a group through the prudent identification and creation of opportunities for the congregation of FPCH to share their time, talents and treasure in Christian service to others."



Starting May 22nd, 2021, we are changing our free weekly sack lunch program to a free monthly sack lunch program. This means beginning June 26th, 2021, we will still provide free lunches to the community. We will continue to supply bag lunches as a curbside service on the last Saturday of the month, on a first come basis starting at noon until 12:30 pm or until lunches are gone.

Over 5,000 (a miracle number) lunches have been served.

We are so grateful that during this Covid-19 crisis that started over a year ago, community members and friends rallied with First Presbyterian Church of Highland (FPCH) and made it possible to offer lunch pick-up every week for fourteen (14) months to members of our local and surrounding communities. We have seen many people struggle with job loss or reduced wages due to the pandemic. We are now experiencing a decline in the number of lunches requested, and we believe this to be evidence of an improving job market. We will return to our original mission of providing a free monthly community lunch program.

It takes a village(s).

First Presbyterian Church of Highland started serving a monthly community lunch program, known as Gladys' Table (named for beloved member Gladys Ratke) over ten years ago. This was a homemade buffet style meal served in our fellowship hall on the last Saturday of the month. When we were unable to open our church to in-house serving on March 29th, 2020, we had no way to inform our regular lunch companions because of short notice. We decided to serve lunch in a sack with curb-side pickup. The feedback received from this fly by the seat of our pants endeavor was so inspiring. It allowed us to be the Hands, Heart, and Feet of Jesus and to invite others to join that mission. We will one day return to our in-house dining when it is completely safe to do so.

And so, it began (Sackurday), with friends (new and old) and members of FPCH offering to provide necessary finances and/or labor on a weekly basis. We grew from serving forty (40) weekly lunches to an all-time week high of 131 lunches. We had a circle of friends provide sandwich ingredients, prepackaged food items, financial aid and hands on help. That circle of help came from: Indiana communities of Morocco, Lowell, St John, Lake of Four Seasons, Crown Point, Schererville, Griffith, Munster, Hammond, Highland and stretching to Illinois communities: Orland Park, Palatine, Bourbonnias, and Chicago and up though WI to Green Isle, MN and over to Durham, NC. We had neighbors stop to help us hand out lunches as the cars became backed up on Ridge Road; teachers, students and residents from the noted communities provided financial and hands on help; students from Johnston Elementary K Club, Lowell HS art students, a very artistic family of Highland, and Highland Girl Scout Troop #15467 provided decorated lunch bags; food was donated by Boss Man Tacos of Highland, Arnie's Hot Dogs of Munster, North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan with contributions from Cabella's of Hammond, Highland/Munster Tri Kappa members, Jimmy Johns of Munster and Highland, The Wurst Butcher Shop of Griffith, an IL food bank and members and friends of FPCH; preparation helpers from Lowell teachers and students, Tri Kappa of Highland/Munster members, Morocco BSA Troop #149 and from the members and member families of FPCH and Highland community residents. Financial support and lunch items were also provided by FPCH Ministry of Mission and even community lunch recipients.

A generous heart is not necessarily born out of abundance.

We received monetary gifts from one who very generously gave weekly, many who gave monthly, those who just gave to pay it forward, some who sacrificed to give, and those who gave every time we asked. Sackurday has and continues to be an endeavor accomplished with neighborly love and the neighborly



generosity of giving their hands, heart and feet in service to those who were suddenly in need and to those who continue in the struggle of disproportion.

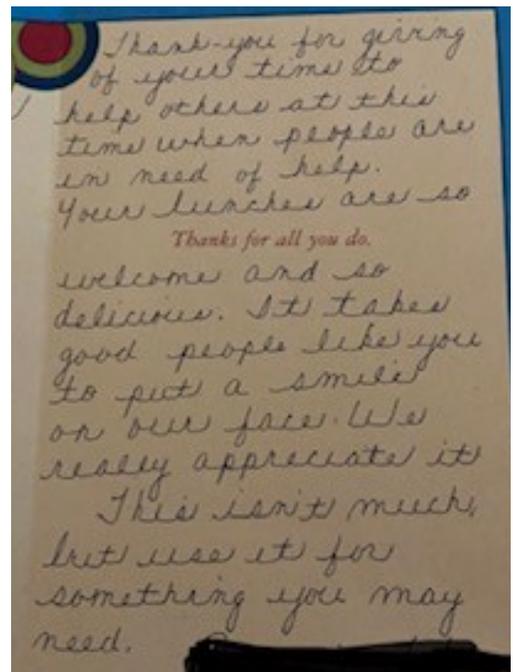
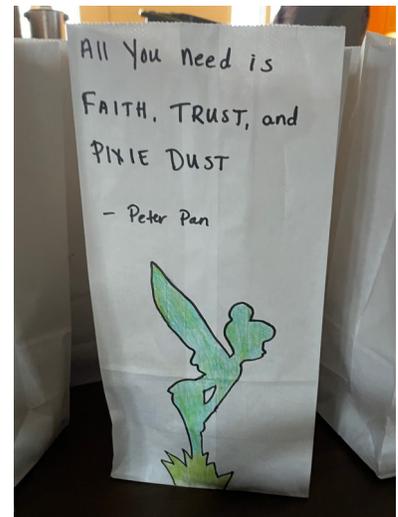
There are reasons why people come into our lives.

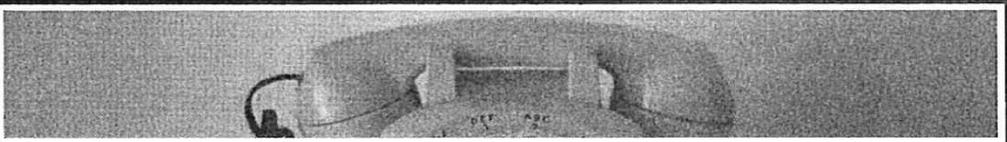
We, at FPCH, are honored to share in the profound giving gratitude with those who found, for whatever reason, themselves in need of a hand up. We, at FPCH, are blessed to witness heartfelt sharing of time, talent and purse. We, at FPCH, are privileged to walk with old and new friends.

Thank you for holding our hands, melting our hearts and walking with us.

We pray we will continue to do so,

Krissy Allyson LaFlech, Sackurday Coordinator
Sackurday Crew





**Important Notice: Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing Coming to Multiple States/Area Codes
Indiana 219, 574**

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete all locals calls, you will need to dial area code + telephone number. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits.

Who will be affected?

Anyone with a telephone number from your area code will need to make this change from 7-digit local dialing to 10-digit local dialing.

When will the change begin?

Beginning **April 24, 2021**, you should begin dialing 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed.

Starting on **October 24, 2021**, you must use 10-digit dialing for all local phone calls, if you do not use 10 digits, your call will not be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

Beginning **July 16, 2022**, dialing “988” will route your call to National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

It's a Girl



Congratulations to Ben & Karissa Porter on the birth of their daughter, as well as Tom & Pam Porter on the birth of their granddaughter, Layla Wendy Porter, born on May 10th.





REMINDER TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Vacation season is here and many of us will be travelling and visiting. Please be mindful that even in your absence, your place here will be cooled, lit and the water will still be flowing. Our church relies solely on the pledges and generosity of our members and friends to operate.

Please give prayerful consideration to keeping your pledges and contributions current because your church's expenses continue, even when your schedule does not permit your attendance in worship.



The Per Capita PER member is \$42.00 for 2021



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Thor Severson
- 4 Pastor Tyler Orem
- 5 Norma Fross
- 10 Lexa Miller
- Nancy Engle
- Lucy Kikkert
- 19 Cathy Toren
- 20 Ina Chappell
- 24 Sam Helmer
- 28 Sonny Buono



Blessing Box

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 Arletta Schaefer on her death, April 28th.
- ◆ The Congregation of FPCH
 - ◆ Palestine & Israel



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.

Bob Abernethy
 Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
 Alaina (Callaway)
 Amanda (H. Casiano)
 Avery
 Bapst Family (Callaway)
 Mike Bennett
 Curtis Black
 Brady Vanes
 Sonny Buono
 Cale
 Carmelo (Melissa's Dad)
 Ina Chappell
 Brandon Chong
 U. Chong (Oprea)
 Danielle
 Dave
 Davene
 Ruth Dekker
 Bob Dignam
 Laura Buono Domsic
 Ellen (Heather's Aunt)
 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)
 Steve Lekan (P. Fozkos)
 Holly Letnich
 Jimmy Leyva (J. Martinez)
 Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
 David Markley
 Tony Martinez
 Ray Mendoza
 Mildred (B. Perryman)
 Barbara Morton
 John & Jill Mullen (Steen)
 George & Barbara Nelson
 Jeanne Nestor
 Jan Oprea
 Janet Orem
 Lily Renfro
 Marla & Jerry Renfro
 Rena's cousin
 Rick Parker
 Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
 Rodney (J. Toren)
 Lester Schmock
 Calvin Scott
 Linda Skaggs
 Garry Sknerski
 Gale Holck Snyder
 Steve & Melinda
 Gary Studer
 Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
 Tarsha (Perryman)
 Erin Taylor (Casiano)
 Teachers & Students
 Richard Terpstra
 Brady Vanes
 Cindy Waltz Family

- 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 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 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 (219-838-6850).