

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

August
2021

Volume 14 Issue 8

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Matthew 25 In the Spotlight

Shine the Light

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Liturgists & LiveStreaming

Summer Read-A-Long

Got Sneakers

Dear All,

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

I pray that everyone has been staying cool and enjoying the rhythms of summer. I certainly have been enjoying the rhythms of summer at First Presbyterian Church of Highland! Over the past several months we have worshiped inside and outside and at home, we have celebrated the life of a member who has joined the Resurrection, we have served the community, we have been in community with siblings across the world, we have spent time together in a hot parking lot, we have broken bread together, we have prayed together, we have studied the Bible together. What a blessing it has been! One of the highlights has been our continued exploration of the lives of David and those who featured prominently in his orbit. We have learned that David was both great and greatly flawed, a shining beacon of leadership and faith as well as a man with power prone to royally mess up. In short, we have learned that he was human—in need of guidance, Wisdom, accountability, and, ultimately, grace. As for those within his orbit, we have seen remarkable resilience, longsuffering love, and gut-wrenching grief. Again, in them we have seen humanity in its many complexities. In all of this, I hope that we have explored our own complex humanity and what it means for us beautiful, broken children of God to be in relationship with each other and with God!

*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*

Moving into August, we will have a couple week break from the drama of the Israelite kings before getting acquainted with Solomon the wise. On August 1 Dr. Cornel Venema will be preaching on *1 Corinthians* while I spend some time with my family. On August 8 our youth connections group will be participating in worship at First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, MI, to finish up their summer mission trip. So, we will be worshiping with them at 9 AM Central! If you don't have capabilities to join virtually from home, you can come to fellowship hall to connect on the big screen. Have your coffee ready for an early wake up and then enjoy an early release from church that day!

As summer 2021 progresses, it feels like so much has changed and like so much has stayed the same. We have been able to spend more time together and to get back into activities that were not safe last year. At the same time, the pandemic keeps on raging with new concerning news coming out each day. I am sure that many of us are experiencing dissonance, whiplash, and stress. As we all continue to navigate these extraordinary times together, please know that we are a beloved community and that we are all here for each other. Please also know that I am here and always happy to listen. Feel free to reach out to me. My cell phone is the best way to do so: 317-642-9577.

I leave you with these words from *Ephesians* which we recently heard as one of our epistle lessons:

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon those of you who wrote words of encouragement or made artwork for our siblings in Kitwe, Zambia. We strive to work towards the eradication of systemic poverty by sharing our resources, but it is equally important that we be in spiritual relationship with our mission partners. Through this type of connecting, we not only build congregational vitality but also build vitality in the Body of Christ!

N.B. If you notice somebody or somebodies living into the *Matthew 25* call, please let Pastor Tyler know so that they can be highlighted in this section!

SESSION SHORTS

- Session again discussed pandemic protocols and mitigation measures. We made the following decisions:
 - We will continue to use social distancing and ventilating the sanctuary and fellowship hall.
 - Session gave approval for choir to meet sometime in the fall and begin practices which should occur in the sanctuary where there is more space. The final decision will be up to Suzanne Gruoner who will see what the interest and comfort level may be for choir members.
 - Fellowship time after worship can continue in the fellowship hall with light (wrapped) snacks and beverages. The fellowship ministry is encouraged to seek help with the serving and clean-up from other members of the congregation.
- We celebrated the success of the parking lot fundraiser where over \$1800 was raised. Thanks to all who helped!
- The ministry of mission reported on a donation that was given to Chimwemwe Presbyterian Church in Zambia which is experiencing COVID. Members were also encouraged to write letters of support and encouragement to the people there.
- NOTE THE DATE AND TIME: Session approved a virtual service for August 8th at 9:00 AM. Rev. Orem, Heather Casiano and the youth will be doing mission work from August 5-8th in Decatur, Michigan and will be staying to participate in the worship service on Sunday which will be streamed. Watch your email for more information.
- Communion was moved from September 5th to September 12th, as we will be participating in an outdoor ecumenical service in the park on the 5th.
- Session directed the Trustees to seek bids on the purchase of a digital soundboard that would be more compatible with our new streaming equipment. This should improve the sound for our live streaming.
- Our fundraiser of GotSneakers is underway. Bring your used, gently used and new sneakers (Athletic shoes only please. No dress shoes, sandals, etc) and put in the blue bins provided. These shoes will help us raise funds at the same time as saving the landfills. Be sure to ask your other family members, friends and neighbors also.
- We will be having a new fundraiser at Culver's on a Sunday in the near future. A portion of every meal sold between 3 – 8 pm will go to the church, provided our church is mentioned by name. THE DATE WILL BE DETERMINED SOON. Watch for the announcement.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
June 30, 2021

	Month of June	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,628.09	\$9,965.00	\$74,013.00
Operating Expenses	11,106.44	13,409.00	68,552.89
Excess (Deficit)	(\$5,478.35)		\$5,460.11



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

In Memory of: Arletta Schaefer

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Lynn Barlog, Ruth Dekker, Barbara Morton, Cynthia Oakley, Rick Parker, Marjean Reed,
John Schoon, Sharon Smith, Elwyn & Caroline Studer, John & Judy Toren, Jane Vance

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

Gerald & Nancy Veltman



Quiet Generosity—John Toren

On a recent shopping trip our car's onboard computer stopped the engine at a light, and we couldn't restart it. We were blocking the middle of three lanes at a busy tee intersection. By the honks and hand gestures, it became apparent that those behind us were not very sympathetic except for one. A man in a white van came to the window and offered to help. I told him that we had called the dealership for service but couldn't get through. He was unsuccessful in restarting the car but suggested that we call our salesperson. I thanked him, followed his advice and ultimately was connected to roadside assistance. The wait for assistance was estimated to be long—not good in a potentially hazardous situation! A few minutes later another car pulled up behind us; I assumed the driver had not seen our blinkers, so I got out to direct him around. To my surprise, it was a salesman (not ours) from the dealership. Roadside assistance must have called the dealership. He tried multiple tactics and ultimately got the car running again. We were beyond grateful. The next day, I made a trip to the dealership to thank him again for demonstrating the ultimate in kindness and customer service. We discussed possible reasons for the engine stoppage. As I was leaving, I told him I sure was glad roadside assistance had called him. He said, "They didn't..... a guy in a white van came in and said one of our customers was in trouble and gave me your location. I had no customer at the time, so I checked out a loaner to see if I could help." Two instances of quiet generosity. Two instances of opportunities taken that could have easily been ignored or overlooked. We never know the full impact of our actions, so be generous, stretch yourself, make that extra effort, share your time, talent and treasure. It may be more important than you can ever know. Like the starfish in the first of this series of articles, "It certainly was to us"!

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God!"—Hebrews 13:16



The Shine the Light Committee has been busy with technology this year. Here are some of the things we have been doing to help shine the light of our church and Jesus.

- **Training volunteers to do our live-streaming (Thanks to Robbie Casiano, Peter Churitch, Jamie Ham, Tracy Oprea, Jeffery Savage, and Jean Smith for taking on this challenge.)**
- **Establishing a new free network in the Fellowship Hall called FPCH Fellowship in addition to FPCH Guest, both of which do not require a password.**
- **Reworking the video and sound projection in the Fellowship Hall. We can now connect a computer, a DVD player, or go directly to YouTube and the internet using a ROKU.**
- **Advertising events through the Chamber of Commerce as well as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.**
- **Helping connect others with our ministries and programs through the purchase of a Zoom subscription.**

We welcome others to join us and bring new ideas and enthusiasm!



KIDS' CONNECTIONS

The Faith Development team has been busy this summer creating some new curriculum for elementary-aged children. Starting September 12, we will have “Kids’ Kits” available for families and children to use in two different ways:

1. Families can check out a kit to use at home on their own schedule. Most needed materials and supplies are included in the kit. When families are finished, the instructions and remaining parts of the kit not used should be returned to the church.
2. If there is enough interest, we can have a kids’ class on Sunday mornings at 9 am, using the Kids’ Kits materials. Contact Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org) if you’re interested in having your children be part of a Sunday morning class.

Each kit focuses on Bible stories about one topic, such as Trees, Birds or Water. There will be 3 Bible stories for the topic, an opening activity, some discussion questions, a craft or game, a song, and an ending prayer. New kits with new topics will be added throughout the year. More details about the checkout process will be available in September.

OUR NEW PRAYGROUND

If you’ve been in the sanctuary in the last month or so, you may have noticed a change as you enter for worship. A new space that we’re calling “The Prayground” has been created that is more welcoming and inclusive of our youngest disciples and of worshipers who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. When we preach that everyone should have a place at the table, we want to mean it! We invite families with young children to use this area in the back of the sanctuary (opposite the sound booth), as well as those needing a little more space because of a wheelchair, walker, or other needs.

We also ask that everyone please respect and honor this space for those whom it was designed. If you don’t have small children with you or don’t need a bigger space for mobility needs, please leave the Prayground open for those who do. We want everyone to feel they have a space when then enter the sanctuary to worship.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

From August 5-8, our youth will be participating in a Mission Trip. Along with Pastor Tyler and Heather Casiano, the youth will travel to Decatur, Michigan, to partner with the youth group of First Presbyterian Church there for 3 days of service, fun and worship. The main project will be helping build a shed for the Decatur Family Shelter.

As part of this trip, our youth will be participating in the worship service on August 8 at First Presbyterian Church in Decatur. There will be a **fully online service for our church on August 8th at 9:00 AM.** We will be worshipping fully online so that we can join our youth. Have your communion elements ready at home that day as well. This will be a great Spirit-filled and connectional way to make use of the worship resources we have gained over the past year and a half.

Please keep our youth and adult chaperones in prayer during the mission trip. Pictures and stories will be shared after we've returned!



ADULT CONNECTIONS

The Adult Connections class taught by John Toren and Bonnie Perryman, "The Bible in Today's World", will begin meeting on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 9 am. The exact topic of study will be determined by those who participate in the class, so come on Sept. 12 to help choose the book or study you'd like to see.

The Faith Development team is also looking at the possibility of holding a second adult class on Sunday mornings if there is enough interest. If you'd like to lead or attend a second class, please contact Heather Casiano. We have topics and books we can suggest, but we are especially interested in hearing what you want to learn and talk about. A new class can start at any time – we just need people interested in participating.

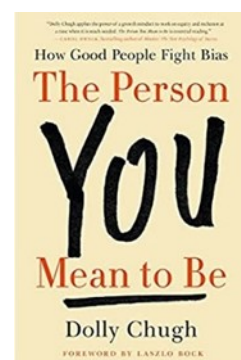


SUMMER READ-A-LONG WITH PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY

It's not too late to join! Our presbytery's Committee on Representation is facilitating a summer reading group on Dolly Chugh's *The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias*. There is a rolling discussion on Facebook throughout the summer, and a final conversation will be held via Zoom at the end of the summer. Join us as we prepare ourselves for the Matthew 25 work of dismantling structural racism. A single book is by no means comprehensive, but it is a great way to get this vital conversation started!

The Faith Development team invites everyone to participate in this worthwhile reading group.

Here is the link to join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/301921588142803>. You can go at whatever pace works best for you! You can always return to previous threads and read or contribute. If you have any questions about the book or the online discussions, contact Pastor Tyler.



August Liturgists:

- 8/1 - Jean Smith
- 8/15- Heather Casiano
- 8/22- John Toren
- 8/29- TBD



LiveStreaming

August 1	Tracy Oprea
August 8	All Vitual Service - Jean Smith
August 15	Outside Worship - Jeff Savage
August 22	Peter Churitch
August 29	Jamie Ham
Sept 5	Outdoor Ecumenical Service in Park

NOT GETTING THE WEEKLY EMAIL OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

If you are NOT getting the weekly 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.



July Shelter Report

We continued to follow the new guidelines we have adopted when cooking for the shelter. We make a menu, shop and cook only. We deliver the full meal to the shelter by 5:30 pm, and the shelter takes it from there.

We were fortunate to get chicken quarters for this month from St. Tim's church in Griffith, so they had one of their favorite meals. Baked chicken (and lots of it), mac and cheese, Greek green beans, biscuits and jam, and peach cobbler for dessert. We also include the hard boiled eggs, milk and a whipped topping for the dessert.

They are always happy to see us come and look forward to the menu written out for them, so they have an idea of what the evening holds!!

The wonderful usual crew was there again, and I can't thank them enough for their dedication and support.

Jamie Ham, Judy Toren, Sandy Higgins and her sister Sherry and our happy adopted student Lauren.

Hats off to you all, including our faithful muscle men and support team, John Toren and Jeff Savage.

Cheryl Steen





GOT SNEAKERS?

Did you know that your gently worn sneakers/gym shoes could help us at First Presbyterian of Highland?

Well, they can and here's how...Our church is participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; All we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers!

(PLEASE BRING ONLY GYM SHOES/SNEAKERS....NO DRESS SHOES)

Here's how you can help:

Start in your closet and gather as many pairs of sneakers that you no longer want; maybe you've out-grown them, they're out of style, or out of season. You can ask your neighbors, kids, grandkids, friends or co-workers to help out. Every pair counts!

The sneakers that we collect will help raise money to support our programs and projects here at FPCH AND help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. The sneakers are resold at affordable prices to those in need or made into playgrounds and school tracks.

Bins will be located inside DOOR D by the office and also in the narthex. If you need someone to come pick up your shoes, call the church office at 838-6850 or Jean Smith 322-4896.

Can we count on you?



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.



Thank you very much for the congratulations and well wishes for my graduation. I appreciate the years of love and support.

Brian Scott

+++++

A great big "Thank You" to our Deacon, Shirley McKnight. She made a beautiful fresh fruit bowl and sweets for us. It was delicious and very much appreciated.

Elwyn & Caroline Studer



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vince Catania
Carolyn Ham
Yvonne Suroviak
- 7 Judy Toren
Marie Smith
- 13 Suzanne Goldsmith
- 19 Bonnie Perryman
Cara Scott
- 22 Jeff Savage
- 25 Delaney Rae Toren
- 27 Jesse Kikkert
- 30 Lewis Owen
- 31 Marjean Reed



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



Ongoing Prayers

Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
Amanda (H. Casiano)

Avery
Mike Bennett
Curtis Black
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
Cale
Carmelo (Melissa's Dad)
Ina Chappell
Brandon Chong
U. Chong (Oprea)
Cookie C.
Danielle
Dave
Davene
Ruth Dekker
Bob Dignam
Laura Buono Domsic
Ellen (Heather's Aunt)
Carol Finley
Lois Fozkos
Frank (K. Scott)
Chester Goins
George Griner
Gus & Georgia
Guy (B. Perryman)
Susan Hanley (Studer)
Gracie Helmer
Bill Holmes
Huilin
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
Lester Schmock
Calvin Scott
Linda Skaggs
Garry Sknerski
Gale Holck Snyder
Stephanie
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).