

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW

Volume 14 Issue 12

December  
2021

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Dear All,

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

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.* So begins perhaps the best known of all Advent hymns. The haunting tune and weighty words capture the longing of our hearts in this season of expectant hope. We call out for God to be with us, we name the struggles of our current situation, and we rejoice at the coming of the one who is to save us from those struggles. This is such a sacred season for us precisely because it gives us the space to hold all of these things in holy tension—longing, vulnerability, and hope. During this time we intentionally allow the rhythms of our lives to wrap around reflective practices. We reflect backwards upon the Hebrew prophets longing for the coming of the messiah. We reflect backwards upon the vulnerability of a young couple making their way to Bethlehem. We reflect backwards upon a community of people held captive by the Roman empire, full of hope for liberation. AND we reflect forwards with expectation. We reflect upon our own longing for God's embodied intervention in a broken world. We reflect upon the particular vulnerabilities of that broken world. We reflect upon our hope for healing and wholeness that can only come from Christ our King who lives within us and who promised to come back for us.

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*

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.* Yes, hope is the heart of this holy time! Hope is a joyous thing! Hope stirs us from our stupors of despair and inaction and urges us to cheer up, to look up, and to get up! And so this is not just a season of reflection. It is also a season of action.

It is a time get out into our communities and to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ by protesting injustice, serving the poor, including the outcast, comforting the brokenhearted, lifting up the downtrodden, feeding the hungry, providing hospitality to the homeless, welcoming the stranger, bringing joy to the dispirited, and loving on everyone!

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.* This is a season for us as a congregation to seek wholeness in our family. Whether we are connecting with each other from home or in person, it is vital that we continue to do so with intention and love. As we read the pages of this Larger View, we will see many ways to connect with each other, to connect with the broader community, and to connect with God. May we be inspired by the good works of our family, and so may we keep up the good work!

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.”—*Isaiah 9:2*

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!”—*Isaiah 9:6-7*

LET US REJOICE!

In Christ and With Love,

*Rev. Tyler Orem*





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the prolific pray-ers and artisans in our prayer shawl ministry! The work that you do brings warmth of body and warmth of spirit to those amongst us most in need of the love of our congregation. Thank you for contributing to the vitality of this congregation by ensuring that all of us are held in the embrace of our family!

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!

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## SESSION SHORTS

- A congregational meeting has been called for December 5<sup>th</sup> directly after worship to vote on proposed by-law changes to elect nominees to boards and committees for 2022. (See the proposed by-law changes below.)
- Session reviewed the Covid protocols and mitigation measures and decided to maintain our present protocols – mask wearing, social distancing and window ventilation.
- Session appointed Pam Porter as treasurer for 2022.

### **BY-LAW PROPOSALS**

#### **FIRST BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSAL**

##### **4.101 Composition and General Powers**

##### **Current wording:**

The Pastor and Elders elected by the congregation shall constitute the Session of the Church. A class of three Elders shall be elected annually to serve a term of three years. The powers and duties.....

##### **Proposed wording:**

The Pastor and Ruling Elders elected by the congregation shall constitute the Session of the Church. A class of two Ruling Elders shall be elected annually to serve a term of three years. The powers and duties.....

# SESSION SHORTS

## SECOND BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSAL

### 6.0400 Elections

#### Current wording:

Elections of offices of Elder, Deacon, Trustee, First Presbyterian Church of Highland Endowment Fund, the Nominating Committee and the Financial Review Committee will take place in November immediately following worship.

#### Proposed wording:

### 6.0400 Elections

Elections of offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, Trustee, First Presbyterian Church of Highland Endowment Fund, the Nominating Committee and the Financial Review Committee will take place in November or December at a called congregational meeting.



## Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
October 31, 2021

	Month of October	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,935.66	\$9,965.00	\$99,753.79
Operating Expenses	12,420.43	13,409.00	115,754.02
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,484.77)		(\$16,000.23)



**A gift was given in the month of November to the Endowment Fund:**

In Memory of: Jimina Chappell, Georgia Fitzwater, Barbara Nelson

**This gift was given by the following donor:**

Linda Skaggs

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

Gerald & Nancy Veltman

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**“What the Church Means to Me” ~ John and Judy Toren**

These complicated times have caused many of us to think about, and possibly yearn for, the less complicated ones. The times when kindness, caring, community and feeling safe and at peace seemed the norm rather than the exception. We, like many, feel a sense of loss.

That being said, there is still a place where these things are alive and well. They *thrive* at the First Presbyterian Church of Highland! A place where the difficulties of the world can be left at the door and our focus can shift to life as it was meant to be. When we think about what FPCH means to us, we focus on the constant outreach to those in need. We think about belonging to a larger family, a church family, that doesn't hesitate to be kind, to care and to help. We think about the opportunities to learn more about our faith and our God. We think about the opportunity to be inspired by beautiful music and insightful sermons in a peaceful and calming space. We think about the friendly conversation and interaction with the people of our congregation. We think about the opportunities to take part in the good works of our ministries. All of these are invaluable and not easy to replace, so our reflections at Stewardship time focus on the various ways that we might be able to support them..... and help them continue to *thrive*!



### The End of Summer

Seven hardy volunteers - Rodney Fozkos, Jeff Savage, Gale Churitch, Heather Casiano, Winnie Owen, Jean Smith and Cheryl Steen - showed up for the annual garden clean up on Saturday, November 6th. Thanks to one and all! Our garden is now officially put to bed. We were also able to plant some tulip bulbs donated by Marjean Reed for more added color in our garden. Thanks, Marjean!

Many hands make light work, so consider joining our merry band of gardeners when it's time for clean up in the spring!! We also accept any perennials in the spring that you would care to share to give our garden a different look.





# ADVENTure

## Advent Workshops

### Join our ADVENTure!

Join us for a 4-week series of short, hands-on Advent workshops after the worship service on **Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 & 19**. (It will be after the congregational meeting on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>). Grab some coffee in the Fellowship Hall and explore what Advent means and the themes of the candles on the Advent wreath. In about 20 minutes each time, we'll have some great discussion and work on an easy art project together. We will also send you home with supplies to continue the project in your home.

All ages are invited to join us on our ADVENTure!



## ADULT CONNECTIONS

**“The Bible in Today’s World”** class meets on Sunday mornings at 9 am. They are finishing up the “*Testimony*” study this month. In January, the group will begin a new study from the “*Animate*” series by Sparkhouse. If you’re interested in the new study, contact John Toren or Bonnie Perryman. All are welcome!

**BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible):** This weekly online-only Bible study is on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom. Each week we look at a different Scripture passage that is not connected to previous weeks, so there is no way to fall behind! All are welcome!

In December, BYOB will only meet on Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Then we’ll take a break over the Christmas holidays, and resume (re-ZOOM!) starting on Jan. 5, 2022. If you would like to sign up to receive the Zoom log-in information, email [fpch@fpchighland.org](mailto:fpch@fpchighland.org) to request being added to the BYOB list.



## YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections is only meeting once in December, but it's going to be a jam-packed fun time full of holiday joy!

**December 12** (not Dec. 5 as previously advertised), **after worship until about 5 pm:**

- Short ADVENTure lesson and craft
- Pizza lunch
- Bake and decorate Christmas cookies
- Christmas Caroling to church members' homes

Friends are most welcome – the more the merrier!! Youth are also invited to make their own favorite holiday music playlist for baking and decorating – we'll take turns while we're busy in the kitchen sharing our tunes!

**SAVE the DATE:** Our first meeting of the new year is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022!



### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES STARTING**

Starting in January, 2022, we will be holding confirmation classes for all youth in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades who have not been confirmed previously. If you are a youth or you know a youth who would like to participate in the confirmation process, please let Pastor Tyler Orem or Heather Casiano know. A final class schedule will be sent out later in December to all students and sponsors.



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Everyone in the congregation is invited to join the Youth Connections group for Christmas caroling on Sunday, Dec. 12. Meet at the church at 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll share the route and can arrange carpooling for those who don't want to drive. We're going to sing familiar Christmas songs (song sheets will be available) at the homes of some of our church members and deliver the cookies the youth will bake and decorate.

If you'd like to join us in singing, RSVP to the church office or Heather Casiano by Saturday, Dec. 11, so we know how many to expect.



The Faith Development team is always open to new members! If you are interested in helping plan opportunities for all ages to grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, join us! We generally meet after worship on the first Sunday of the month in the Session room. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano. Hope to see you!



### **December LiveStreaming**

12/5: Jamie Ham  
12/12: Peter Churitch  
12/19: Tracy Oprea  
12/24: Jean Smith  
12/26: Virtual Service On-line



### **December Liturgists:**

12/5 - Bonnie Perryman  
12/12- Carol Callaway  
12/19- John Toren  
12/24- Charlotte Abernethy  
12/26 - Karen Lounsbury  
(Virtual Service On-line)



12/5 - Carol Callaway & Georgette Sknerski  
12/12 - Rodney & Peggy Fozkos  
12/19 - Karen Lounsbury & Bonnie Perryman  
12/24 - Casiano Family



## November Shelter Report

This month we had a guest chef, Tom Porter, who made several gallons of pea soup for our Saturday night dinner. A huge thank you to him for all his time and effort devoted to our leftover ham bones from the hams that were donated by St. Tim's.

Along with the soup, we had sliders made up of several meats and cheeses. To top off this meal and the usual hard boiled eggs and milk, was a designer cake created by Lauren Wilson.

Part of the usual gang was there to add support: Judy, Cheryl and Jamie. We also had a visitor, Sharon Laflech, who joined Cheryl for a much needed freezer clean out!!  
Thanks to one and all for all your contributions to this worthy project.

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The Ministry of Mission has adopted two families, a total of 12 people, for the 2021 Christmas Adopt-A-Family Event, in connection with Love INC. Each family has one adult and five children. As done in previous years, Mission provides the families with a complete Christmas meal with all the trimmings, as well as gifts for the children in each family. A Pull Tab Board will be in Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> with the items needed for the families, which range from clothing, diapers, board games, craft supplies, toys, etc. All items must be back at church by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to allow sufficient time for Mission to deliver the items to each family. If you would like to support this cause but do not want to go shopping, monetary donations are welcome and Mission will do the shopping for you. If you have any questions with regard to the Christmas Adopt-A-Family Event, please feel free to contact Tracy Oprea, Cheryl Steen, or Carolyn Ham.




## TREE OF WARMTH

Even though we don't want to think about winter right now, it is just around the corner. Most of us have the luxury of digging out our hats and gloves from last year to prepare for the upcoming bitter cold days; however, there are so many local elementary school children who do not have these essential items to keep them warm. The Ministry of Mission will be hosting its annual Tree of Warmth event beginning on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Sunday, December 19, 2021. The Tree of Warmth will be placed in the Narthex and ready to accept donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. If you would like to make a donation to the Tree of Warmth and are attending church virtually, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Ham or Tracy Oprea and arrangements can be made to pick up the donations. There will also be a bin marked "Tree of Warmth" by the Church Office for donations. The Members of Mission greatly appreciate the congregations support of this worthy cause. In 2020, the Tree of Warmth was blessed with 32 pairs of gloves, 26 pairs of mittens, 11 hats, 5 mitten/hat sets, 3 hat/glove sets, and 1 scarf.



The Ministry of Mission committed to ringing the bell for the Salvation Army every Wednesday in December from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. A sign-up sheet was circulated on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and within one day each and every slot was filled. Mission would like to sincerely thank everyone for volunteering their time to this worthy cause. What a blessing!





**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE  
NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future — who point us to God.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of “being with.” We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being “with us” through the gift of Jesus, for opening doors that may not have been accessible to us, and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

  
**THREE WAYS  
YOUR MEMBERS  
CAN GIVE**

  
Through your congregation

  
Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999

  
[www.pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy](http://www.pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy)

*If giving online,  
members should provide the name  
of their congregation so the church  
will receive credit for their gifts.*

## THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

opens doors of opportunity  
which lead to hopeful futures for young people  
at Presbyterian-related schools  
and colleges equipping communities of color.

 **CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## GOT SNEAKERS?

Now that fall is here...it may be time to clean out your closets of gently worn and used sneakers. Or maybe your kids or grandchildren got new shoes for school and have an old pair that can be reused or recycled.

The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our church's mission AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills.

So far we have sent 4 bags with 10-15 pairs of gently worn, used, and new sneakers in each bag. We are doing great but we still need your help!

Please take a moment to look through your closets and to ask your neighbors and friends to do the same. We are counting on you!

Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes) to the church and put in one of the blue bins...either by Door D (inside and outside) or in the narthex. (Athletic shoes only) Or call the office (219-838-6850) or Jean Smith (219-322-4896) and we will come and pick them up from you.

# News from the Pews



The 2022 Pledge Envelopes will be available for pick up in the Narthex starting, Sunday, December 12th.

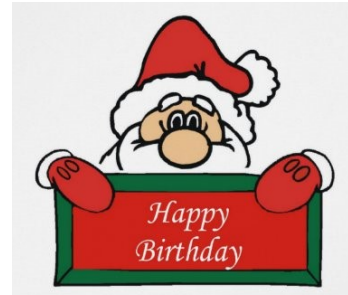
Please help us keep costs down in the office by picking up and delivering envelopes for members that are unable to do so.

*Thank 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.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6	Evvy Kikkert
8	Kristen Wilson
9	Ben Porter
11	John Toren
12	Ron Shuck
18	Hilary Kikkert
28	Caroline Studer
29	Suzanne Gruoner
30	Rodney Fozkos



## Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

The Family of Cary Bosak on his death, November 5th  
The Family of Carol Atkins on her death, November 19th



Anthony  
Avery  
Mike Bennett  
George Nelson  
Brady Vanes  
Sonny Buono  
Brandon Chong  
U. Chong  
Danielle  
Dave  
George Griner  
Guy Hendricks  
Bill and Anettia Holmes  
Daniel Litwicki  
Frank  
David Markley  
David & Pat Kingen  
Garry Sknerski  
Carmelo  
Diana and Ray Mendoza  
Jamie Orem and Janet Orem  
Glenda Munger  
Linda  
Claudia Szymaszczak  
Jessica  
John Mullen  
Jeanne Nestor  
Rodney  
Calvin Scott  
Steve & Melinda

Gary Studer  
Richard Terpstra  
Laura Buono Domsic  
Kevin Windstrup  
Ruth Dekker  
Rick Parker  
Barbara Morton  
Elwyn Studer  
Jackie  
Linda Kubiak  
Robert Lestina  
Laura Wisner  
Cary Pearson  
Bob Dignam  
Carol Finley  
Clester Goins  
Huilin  
Holly Letnich  
Jan Oprea  
Lily Renfro  
Marla and Jerry Renfro  
Lester Schmock  
Cindy Waltz and Sister  
Paige Szulewski  
Mary Ellen Edeus  
Gale Snyder  
Andrew Bobalik  
Loved ones of Katie Lively  
Loved ones of Cary Bosak  
Loved ones of Carol Atkins

- 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.

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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 (219-838-6850).