

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



THE

February  
2022

Volume 15 Issue 2

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Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

**A Note from Rev. Tyler**

**Matthew 25 In the Spotlight**

**Session Shorts**

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Year**

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Dear All,

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

When we were growing up, my brother and I always loved “the funnies”—what my family called the newspaper comics. I was especially fond of Garfield the cat. He had a way of speaking to me that most other characters could only begin to tap into. Perhaps it’s just that cat personalities speak to me in their love of lounging, sleep, and food! Garfield was famous for his struggles with Mondays—a struggle that I never shared as a school-enamored student but that I have grown to appreciate deeply as an adult in the workforce. As a pastor, Mondays have become even more of a challenge for me, as they are a bit of a hangover after the intensity of joy I experience on Sundays. But that’s a discussion for another day! The reason I bring up Garfield and Mondays is because those comic strips often come to my mind in January. Just as Mondays are a weekly struggle, Januaries are a yearly struggle for me. It is a long month. It is a cold month. It is the month that comes after the intense joy of one of our high holy seasons. I can just picture Garfield crawling out of his bed in his striped pajamas, dragging his beloved blanket along, and wishing he could just go right on back to that bed for the duration of the month of January.

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*

It's still cold. It's still a bit dreary outside. Did I mention that it's still cold? But it's February! Perhaps January was better for some than for others, and perhaps for others, like me, January was a challenge. Either way, that's ok! The calendar marches on regardless of how we feel about things. So, if you are a January lover or a January Garfield, welcome to February! Some of us may still need our pajamas and blankets, but we can certainly face the month ahead. We can even thrive in the month ahead!

Throughout February we will be learning about the beginnings of Jesus's public ministry in a land called Galilee. As we have been learning recently, Jesus had a sweet way of bringing beloved community together around him, resulting in a great crowd of followers who would become his disciples and chosen family. As we have also been learning recently, Jesus had a way of speaking truth to power that ruffled a lot of feathers and activated the rage of many. These were the twin realities that ultimately led to the intervention of the Roman Empire and the persecution of Jesus and his followers—but I get ahead of myself! We will get there in a few short weeks at the beginning of March, when Lent begins. For now, we will focus on the period of Jesus's life most abundant with his teachings, miracles, and prophecies about the Kingdom. In honor of this period of Jesus's life—a period defined by all the excitement and promise of new Creation—let us embrace hope. Let us get excited about the promise of new Creation that our God always offers us! I invite you to read through the pages of this edition of the Larger View for inspiration from this beloved community. Christ is alive in this community! And that means that new Creation is here!

I leave you with these words from *Luke*, spoken by Jesus during his sermon on the plain:

*“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.  
Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven.”*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon our Sackurday crew! Month after month this group of cooks and servers pours love and labor into the community by preparing delicious meals for neighbors in need. In addition to bringing sustenance to the hungry, you have provided the spiritual food of the assurance that we humans are all in this together and thus can be there for each other. Thank you for so brilliantly shining the light of God's love into this struggling world!

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

- After thoughtfully considering mitigation procedures and protocols during this pandemic, it was decided to continue with our present measures of mask wearing, social distancing and ventilation in the sanctuary. Coffee Fellowship will be discontinued for the time being. We will also be postponing our annual soup sales due to Covid.
- The ordination and installation of the 2022 officers will take place during worship on January 30.
- Elder Bonnie Perryman was appointed as our commissioner to Presbytery Assemblies.
- Several Session members will meet with 4 prospective new members on Sunday, January 23.
- Session received and approved the transfer of new member Nancy Veltman from the First Presbyterian Church of Hammond. Welcome, Nancy!
- Participation in a craft fair in November is being considered as a possible fundraiser. If you have ideas for items we might make to sell, please let one of the Session members know.
- Our new digital soundboard has been installed! Hopefully, you will notice the improved sound quality during worship. If you know anyone who might be interested in helping with streaming and audio, please let Jean Smith know.
- These ministries and committees are reorganizing and will publish meeting times soon. They can always use volunteers. It is a good way to share your gift of time and talent with others. If interested, contact the following people.
  - Ministry of Mission – contact Cheryl Steen or Carolyn Ham
  - Ministry of Worship and Music – contact Carol Callaway
  - Ministry of Stewardship/Finance – contact Jamie Ham
  - Ministry of Hospitality – contact Jamie Ham or Gale Churitch
  - Ministry of Faith Development – contact Bonnie Perryman
  - Shine the Light Committee – contact Jean Smith
  - Personnel/Administrative Committee – contact Tracy Oprea



## Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
December 31, 2021

	Month of December	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$8,259.91	\$9,965.00	\$113,728.92
Operating Expenses	15,113.58	13,409.00	144,510.63
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,853.67)		(\$30,781.71)



**Gifts were given in the month of January to the Endowment Fund:**

In Memory of: Carol Atkins, Arletta Schaefer, Elwyn Studer, Barbara Wagner,  
James Wilson

**These gifts were given by the following donors:**

Bonnie Perryman, Linda Skaggs, Jay & Jean Smith

**Donations were given to the Blessing Box by:**

Gerald & Nancy Veltman



## "What the Church Means to Me" - Bonnie Perryman

I arrived in Indiana 41 years ago as a relatively new Presbyterian. I sought out the closest Presbyterian church to Griffith which is where we lived. First Presbyterian Church in Highland was the closest, so I attended a worship service. There was a substitute pastor preaching that day, but the way he described the church made me want to return to learn more. I did just that and I was warmly welcomed and invited to participate in the programs and activities of the church. I joined the choir, attended a Young Mother's group and joined an adult church school class. In all of these pursuits, I met wonderful people who became friends and fellow Christians who were faithfully serving the church and nurturing and supporting each other.

As the years passed, I also became more involved by serving on Session and several ministries, teaching church school and looking forward to Sunday morning worship. The years also brought changes to the church in pastors, congregational members and church ministries. Through all the changes, there were always church members who remained faithful in worship, leadership and the sharing of their time, talents and money. We care for each other and for others in the community and the world. We worship and study together and share our resources to aid those in need. To this day I am very glad I walked through the door of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland.



## ADULT CONNECTIONS

**“The Bible in Today’s World”** class is meeting at 9 am Sunday mornings in the Session meeting room. The curriculum, *“Animate: Faith”* from Sparkhouse, is helping participants imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity through short videos and group discussion. The 7 topics they will look at include:

- God: Faith Is a Quest
- Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough
- Jesus: The Revolution of Love
- Salvation: Abundant Life Now
- Cross: Where God Is
- Bible: A Book Like No Other
- Church: An Imperfect Family

There are no books required, so just show up and enjoy the short videos and participate in the discussions. If you have any questions about this study, contact Bonnie Perryman or John Toren.

**BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible):** This weekly online-only Bible study meets on Zoom Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM. Each week we discuss a different Scripture passage that is not connected to previous weeks, so there is no way to fall behind! All are welcome! If you would like to join and have not been receiving the emails with the log-in information, contact the church office to be added.



\*\* 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 third Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano. Hope to see you! \*\*





## YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections and Confirmation Class will meet on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, after worship until 1 pm. Confirmation students and sponsors will meet in the Session meeting room, and all other youth will meet in the Youth Room. We'll be doing a couple of shorter themed lessons this year, as well as some service projects and fun events.

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to hang out with us, and friends are always welcome.

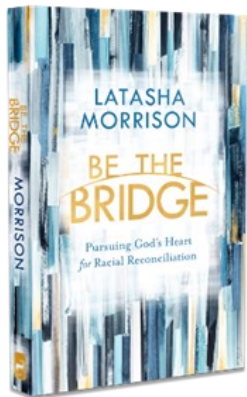
### SOUPER BOWL

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, Feb. 13, the same day as the NFL's Super Bowl football game. The SOUPER BOWL, however, doesn't involve throwing or catching a ball. Instead we're tackling hunger. Everyone can participate in the SOUPER BOWL by donating cans of soup or other non-perishable food items, or by giving a monetary donation. Youth from our church will collect food items and monetary donations before and after the worship service on Feb. 13 in the narthex. If you'd like to contribute but are unable to come to the church, you can call the church office and arrange to have someone pick up your donation from you. The Youth will vote on where locally to donate the food and money received; some past recipients have included our church's Blessing Box, Food Pantry, and Veterans' Life Changing Services.





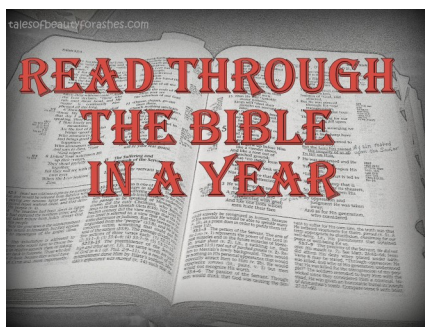
### **Read-A-Long and Book Discussion**



Faith Development is sponsoring a read-a-long during the first few months of this year. The book is “Be The Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation” by Latasha Morrison.

Here is a summary from the back cover of this New York Times Bestseller: *In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening. But change begins with an honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions... In this perspective-shifting book, Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She expertly applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration.*”

You’re encouraged to start reading the book during the next few months. A group discussion event about this book is being planned for later this spring, pending Covid conditions. “Be The Bridge” is available through the Lake County Library system, through many retailers and bookstores, and at the church. Our church has 5 copies of this book for people to borrow. 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.



## **Read through the Bible in a Year – Together!**

Have you joined in the challenge to read through the Bible in a year? It’s not too late to start! The Faith Development ministry encourages everyone to make the Bible a regular part of your daily life no matter when or how much reading you do.

Our Bible reading plan for the year is broken up into smaller passages of the Scriptures to be very manageable each day. This reading plan does not go straight through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation; rather it mixes up readings from the Old and New Testaments each day, and some days also include a Psalm.

Each month in the Larger View newsletter and on our church’s website ([www.fpchighland.org](http://www.fpchighland.org)), we will publish the current month’s reading plan. Look in this issue for the February 2022 Reading Plan. If you would like the reading plan emailed to you as a separate document, contact Heather at [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org). May this year in the Bible be a blessing to you!



# 2022 Bible Reading Plan

February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 6-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 67	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 14-15 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 17-18 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 19-20 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 21-22 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 23-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 40	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 27-28 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 56	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 30-31 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 32-33 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 86 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 35 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 91	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 37-38 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 84	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 39-40 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 133 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3
27	28					
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 98	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5					



We are in need of persons who are interested in serving as liturgists and/or ushers on Sunday mornings. Even if you are a little shy about speaking in public, the role of liturgist is about reading from the bulletin. Rev. Tyler provides the readings early in the week, giving the liturgist ample time to become familiar with the readings. Ushers light the chancel candles at the beginning of the worship service and extinguish them at the end of the service. One usher brings the offering plate forward during the singing of the Doxology and returns it to the narthex immediately afterwards. Since the bulletins are on a table in the narthex for worshippers to pick up, the ushers do not hand them out. Those interested in serving the church as liturgist should contact Carol Callaway; to be an usher, contact Bonnie Perryman.

## Worship Leaders

### February Liturgists:

- 2/6- Karen Lounsbury
- 2/13- Tracy Oprea
- 2/20- Bonnie Perryman
- 2/27- Lois Fozkos



### February LiveStreaming

- 2/6: Tracy Oprea
- 2/13: Robbie Casiano
- 2/20: Peter Churitch
- 2/27: Jamie Ham



## January Shelter Report

The usual crew of Judy, Jamie, Sherry and Sandy were the January chefs. Lauren was absent this Saturday due to school events!

The members of the Shelter had a wonderful meal of baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, corn and broccoli, salad, rolls and butter and an impressive dessert of white cake mixed with blueberries. The usual hard boiled eggs and milk were some sides.

We have to thank St. Tim's Church in Griffith for the donation of frozen chicken, which really helps our Mission budget.

I also want to thank Judy for going shopping with me every month. This recurring event could not be accomplished without all the extra hands that I have available to me. That includes our muscle men, John and Jeff.

*Cheryl*



### **GOT SNEAKERS?**



Now that winter 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



## 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.



## Notes

Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and for all those who sent sympathy cards for my sister.

*Shirley McKnight*



Starting February 22nd, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM through May.



### 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 of Christian Sympathy to:**  
Caroline Studer and Family on the death of Elwyn Studer on  
January 16.



Anthony  
 Avery  
 George Nelson  
 Brady Vanes  
 Sonny Buono  
 U. Chong  
 Danielle  
 George Griner  
 Matt Hanft  
 Guy Hendricks  
 Bill and Anettia Holmes  
 Daniel Litwicki  
 Frank  
 David Markley  
 David & Pat Kingen  
 Garry & Georgette Sknerski  
 Carmelo  
 Diana and Ray Mendoza  
 Jamie Orem and Janet Orem  
 Linda  
 Claudia Szymaszczak  
 John Mullen  
 Jeanne Nestor  
 Calvin Scott  
 Steve & Melinda  
 Richard Simmons  
 Dave  
 Jane Vance  
 Andrew McDaniel  
 Myrna Grove  
 Joan Lauder

Shannon & Heather  
 Gary Studer  
 Richard Terpstra  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 Kevin Windstrup  
 Ruth Dekker  
 Rick Parker  
 Barbara Morton  
 Caroline Studer  
 Jackie  
 Linda Kubiak  
 Robert Lestina  
 Laura Wisner  
 Cary Pearson  
 Bob Dignam  
 Carol Finley  
 Huilin  
 Holly Letnich  
 Jan Oprea  
 Lily Renfro  
 Marla and Jerry Renfro  
 Paige Szulewski  
 Mary Ellen Edeus  
 Gale Snyder  
 Andrew Bobalik  
 Jaden Mendez  
 Gale Osgerby  
 Stephanie Munger  
 Juan Carlos Cabral  
 The Somenzi Family  
 The Family of Karen Sorenson  
 Rev. Paula Cooper  
 Pat Meinhardt

- 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).