

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

JULY
2021

Volume 14 Issue 7

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Session Shorts	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Stewardship & Finance	5
Faith Development	6-8
Worship & Music	9
Ministry of Mission	10-11
News From the Pews	12-14

Dear All,

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

Over the past several weeks we have been moving through the book of *I Samuel*, learning about the earliest iteration of the Israelites' kingdom. We have met Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, and, of course, David. We have seen how a little mustard seed of a shepherd boy went on to defeat a giant and then to lead thousands with the help of those who shared a *nepesh* bond with him. Alongside of the story of David, we have been walking with his descendant of many generations, a little mustard seed of a boy born to Mary who went on to calm a storm and to lead thousands with the help of those who shared a *nepesh* bond with him. And, of course, we have been exploring how we ourselves can grow in our faith and service so that we can face down our fears with boldness and provide shelter and shade for those most harmed by the toxicity of today's environment. As we enter a new month, we will be continuing this threefold journey with relish. Buckle up, because we are certainly in for an exhilarating ride!

As you read through this month's edition of *The Larger View*, you will see that so far this summer has been full of the Holy Spirit's movements in our congregation and in the Body of Christ. After all, the season of Pentecost is never ending! I invite you to use this newsletter as an opportunity to stay connected to the life of the Church and as an inspiration to keep up the



Mathew 25 In the Spotlight

Liturgists & LiveStreaming

Summer Read-A-Long

Interactive Prayer Station

"Got Sneakers?" Fundraiser

Fourth of July Festival

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**

amazing workship (Work + Worship) that we do! Please know that no matter if you have been joining us in person, from home, or from afar, we are all persisting in the vital mission of Love together.

Hopefully you have read in my weekly communiques that we are continuing to adjust our protocols for gathering safely as the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic change around us and as we receive updated recommendations from local and national public health officials. I invite you to take note of our most up to date protocols in the Session Shorts section. If you have any questions about our deliberations, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. As always, I appreciate your grace on this journey!

I would like to draw your attention to several things on the calendar for July. Our Ministry of Mission's annual July 4th parking lot fundraiser is of course at the end of this week, marking the holiday. Our Ministry of Mission will also be cooking for the shelter on Saturday, July 10. Arletta Schaefer's celebration of life will be on Sunday, July 11, immediately following worship. On Sunday, July 18, we will once again be worshipping outside in the garden if weather permits. Our Sackurday meal distribution will be Saturday, July 31. As you look at our calendar, you will also see our ongoing studies and meetings. If you are interested in participating in specific events or our ongoing ministries, we would love to have you! Your gifts are a blessing to be shared!

I wish all of you blessings as you go through the heat of summer. Please do feel free to reach out to me on my cell phone or email at any time for prayer, spiritual counsel, or conversation. Please also reach out to each other! We are a family in this together, and we could all use the love and hope that we have to offer each other through our *nephesh* bonds!

I leave you with these words from *2 Samuel*:

“David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.”

May we also dance with joy as we continue to journey with God!

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the Presbytery of Wabash Valley and our Ministry of Faith Development as we participate in a virtual summer book club that seeks to be an entry point into understanding our own internalized biases and addressing them in order to be good-ish people! This book club is an initiative to engage in conversation and inspire action for the *Matthew 25* call to dismantle structural racism. Find out more about the book club and how you can join as you read on!

SESSION SHORTS

- The Session discussed at length the guidelines and protocols for in-person worship and made the following decisions:
 - ~ The use of masks will still be welcomed but not required, given the widespread access to vaccines, low rates of transmission in Lake County and updated CDC guidelines.
 - ~ Those who are unvaccinated or feel uncomfortable without a mask, are encouraged to keep masking up. Masks will continue to be provided.
 - ~ Physical distancing measures will be continued, and the sanctuary will be as ventilated as possible with fans, open doors and windows.
 - ~ After worship, fellowship will begin to meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall, observing more physical distancing and as ventilated as possible.
 - ~ Hymns are to continue being sung gently, but all verses (rather than just one) may now be sung.
 - ~ Meetings and groups are asked to observe the same guidelines when meeting in the building.
- Trustees and Faith Development reported that the two pews on the north side have been removed (Zandstra's were able to use the pews), and the area will be for families with young children as well as accommodating people with walkers or wheelchairs.
- Session approved a grant from the Endowment Fund to purchase a laptop for use by the Faith Development Ministry and Heather Casiano, the Family and Children Program Coordinator.
- Session approved a church fundraiser to support our programs and projects. It is entitled GotSneakers. More information will follow soon....but start collecting your family's used gym shoes.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
May 31, 2021

	Month of May	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,708.70	\$9,965.00	\$68,384.91
Operating Expenses	11,109.35	13,409.00	57,446.45
Excess (Deficit)	(\$4,400.65)		\$10,938.46



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

In Memory of: Marge Ashton, Barb Dye, Lois Guerin, George Lesnick, and Arletta Schaefer

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Sandra Buono, Lois Fozkos, Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, George Griner, Linda Skaggs, Jay & Jean Smith

Donations were given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman

Donation was given to "Gladys' Table" by:

Munster - Highland Tri Kappa

Donations were given in Memory of Arletta Schaefer to Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Youth Group, and Feed the Hungry by:

Doran & Karen Lounsbury



Stewardship is Like a Recipe

By Lois Fozkos

Stewardship is like a recipe - sometimes it's a small amount of something that delivers the most. Think Tabasco!

Sometimes it is an amount of something that makes things stick together like flour, shortening, salt and water. Think pie crust or bread.

Sometimes we need to boost the energy of the ingredients - think yeast, baking powder or baking soda.

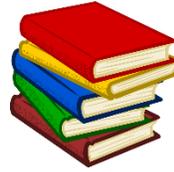
And sometimes we just need some steady ingredients to help. Think chicken soup.

Or - maybe we just need a little encouragement in our giving. Does stone soup come to mind?

Whatever it is, we just want to keep our giving happening!

Sorry if I made you hungry, but it may encourage us to have a potluck dinner when we resume unmasked services!

When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you've just caught." Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn't torn, even with so many fish. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." ~John 21:9-12a

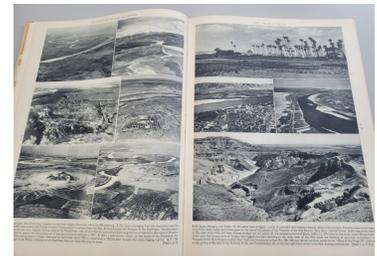


IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY THIS MONTH

As we read through the Bible, there are many geographic places named. Do you ever wonder about those places, where they are or were? What did these places look like, and what kinds of features did they have? You can learn about Biblical places – many of which are still current villages, towns and cities – in our library’s collection of Biblical atlases:

Atlas of the Bible Lands
 Atlas of World History
 The Golden Bible Atlas
 Atlas of the Bible

These atlases have a mix of black & white and color maps, images and diagrams of many places named in the Bible, from Egypt to Babylon/Persia and from Israel/Palestine to the ancient Greek and Roman world. These books are appropriate for all ages, so kids may be interested to see the lands where Moses lived or where Jesus walked, too.



The church library is located in the room across the hall from the church office. Library materials can be accessed during regular church office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 am to noon. There is a sign-out sheet in the library to fill out each time you borrow an item. Returned items can be put back on the shelf or left on the table in the center of the room. You can also contact Heather Casiano for a porch drop-off of materials if you can’t make it into the church building. Happy Reading!

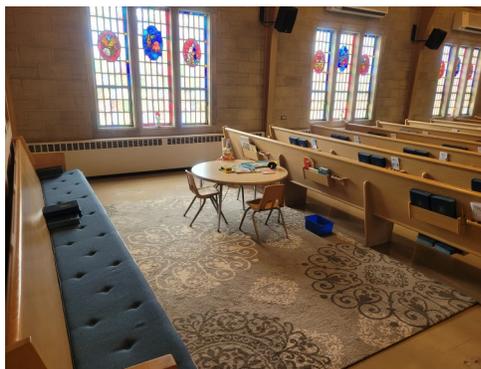
NEW IN THE PEWS!

In our worship lately, we’ve been speaking of planting seeds and honoring the potential of those who are often overlooked. You may notice a change in the sanctuary as you enter for worship. The Session recently decided to remove two pews near the back of the sanctuary in order to create a space that is more welcoming and inclusive of our youngest disciples and more welcoming and inclusive of worshippers who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. When we preach that everyone should have a place at the table, we want to mean it! Hopefully as time progresses and we hear more noises



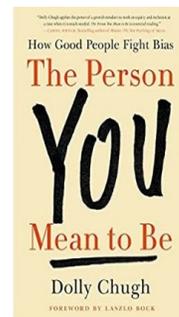
of life in the sanctuary, we will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in our midst! Thank you to the Trustees for their great work in finding a home for the pews and helping with their removal. Thank you to the Faith Development team who has furnished the area with child-friendly activities.

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 you would honor this space for those whom it was designed, and if you don't have small children with you or don't need a bigger space for mobility needs, to leave it open for those who do. Let us all worship the Lord together!!



SUMMER READ-A-LONG WITH PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY

Have you been searching for an opportunity to more fully engage our Matthew 25 call? Have you been longing for a brave space to learn about and discuss internalized racial oppression and internalized white supremacy? Have you been feeling a desire to connect with the broader beloved community of our Presbytery? We have good news for you!



Our presbytery's Committee on Representation will be facilitating a summer reading group on Dolly Chugh's *The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias*. There will be a rolling discussion on Facebook throughout the summer and then a final conversation 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. If there is enough interest, we may look at having our own congregational book discussion, in addition to the presbytery discussion opportunities. Be sure to order a copy of the book as soon as possible.

Here is the link to join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/301921588142803>. We will start facilitating discussion in a couple of weeks, but 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.

INTERACTIVE PRAYER STATION



During the month of July, Faith Development will be hosting an interactive prayer station for both the congregation and the public. We would love to have you participate and to invite friends and neighbors to participate as well!

Starting July 1st, on the metal stair railing leading up to the main sanctuary entrance, there will be a plastic container with items inside. You will find various colored strips of plastic fabric, and a few markers. The idea is to take out a ribbon or two, write a word or phrase on the ribbon that reflects a prayer you want lifted up, and then tie the ribbon somewhere on the metal railings and put the marker back in the container for others. These ribbons will remain outside for the month as a visual representation of our prayers, so please do not write anything too personal that you wouldn't want anyone to see. We also encourage you to lift up a prayer for all the other ribbons you see tied on the railings (but please don't remove them).

This can be done as many times as you wish, by any age, any time of day throughout July. The container will be refilled with new ribbons as the supply dwindles down. If you have any questions about this project, contact Heather Casiano.

Let's see what a beautiful thing God can do through prayer and how the Holy Spirit can move through something as simple as a ribbon!



July Liturgists:

- 7/4 - John Toren
- 7/11- Bonnie Perryman
- 7/18- Charlotte Abernethy
- 7/25- Lois Fozkos



LiveStreaming

- July 4 Jeffery Savage
- July 11 Jeffery Savage and Robbie Casiano
- July 18 Outdoor service- Abdul Savage
 (Jamie Ham if indoors)
- July 25 Peter Churitch
- Aug 1 Tracy Oprea



June Shelter Report

We continue to follow the CDC guidelines and do not serve at the shelter. I have been told that the shelter is now open and that we are permitted inside, but we as a group have decided to continue menu planning, shopping, cooking, and just dropping off the food. I was told the residents have been taught to serve the food and are very capable. We have dropped our outside meals from 20 to 10 because the shelter is open for non-residents but not all are aware of that. We continue to cook for the 50 on the inside, and if there is food left over, they will put it to good use the following day.

They now have a new scheduling person who is in charge, and I have had lengthy conversations with him regarding how we should handle things going forward. Knowing our limited personnel, he was very grateful that we would just continue to supply the meal on the second Saturday of every month!

I am very blessed to have such a committed group that comes every second Saturday. I truly thank them from the bottom of my heart. Our regulars are:

- Judy Toren -- My sounding board and faithful shopping helper!
- Jamie Ham-- without him the chickens wouldn't get cut up or the venison stripped from its casing!
- Sandy Higgins—my nurse friend of a number of years who isn't even Presbyterian but has adopted this as a mission. She and her sister have donated not only time but wrapped silverware for many meals.
- Sherry Arroyo -- Sandy's sister who we steal from St Maria Goretti in Dyer.
- Marie Kynricki -- another nurse friend who comes when she can.
- Lauren Wilson, who is Kristen's daughter, she has learned many new skills and tastes. She still doesn't like to deal with the chickens!!!
- Our faithful stand-bys who will show up when needed, Jean Smith and her daughter Mindy. It is so much appreciated to know we can count on you!!!!

Cheryl Steen



A very special thumbs up and thank you to the following people who helped make the garden VERY presentable for our Father's Day outside service!

Gale Churitch--thanks to Peter for babysitting so she could be there to help!

Cathy Toren-- thanks to Ron for letting her go paint a bit later.

Winnie Owen--my constant helper

Ron Fozkos--a faithful Trustee

Jean Smith - a person I can always count on when I need her help.

Jeff Savage--Mr. President of Trustees and a great garden worker.

We managed to have the garden looking beautiful in about an hour and a half. We may have to have a quick clean up for July 4th festivities so consider coming to join us!!!!!!





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!

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 all collect will help raise money to support our programs and projects here at FPCH AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills.

Bins will be located inside DOOR D by the office and also in the narthex beginning in July.

Can we count on you?

Fourth of July

FESTIVAL AT MAIN SQUARE

Wednesday, June 30th: 5-10 PM
Thursday, July 1st: 5 - 10 PM
Friday, July 2nd: 5 - 11 PM
Saturday, July 3rd: 12 - 11 PM
Sunday, July 4th: 12 - 9 PM

PARADE

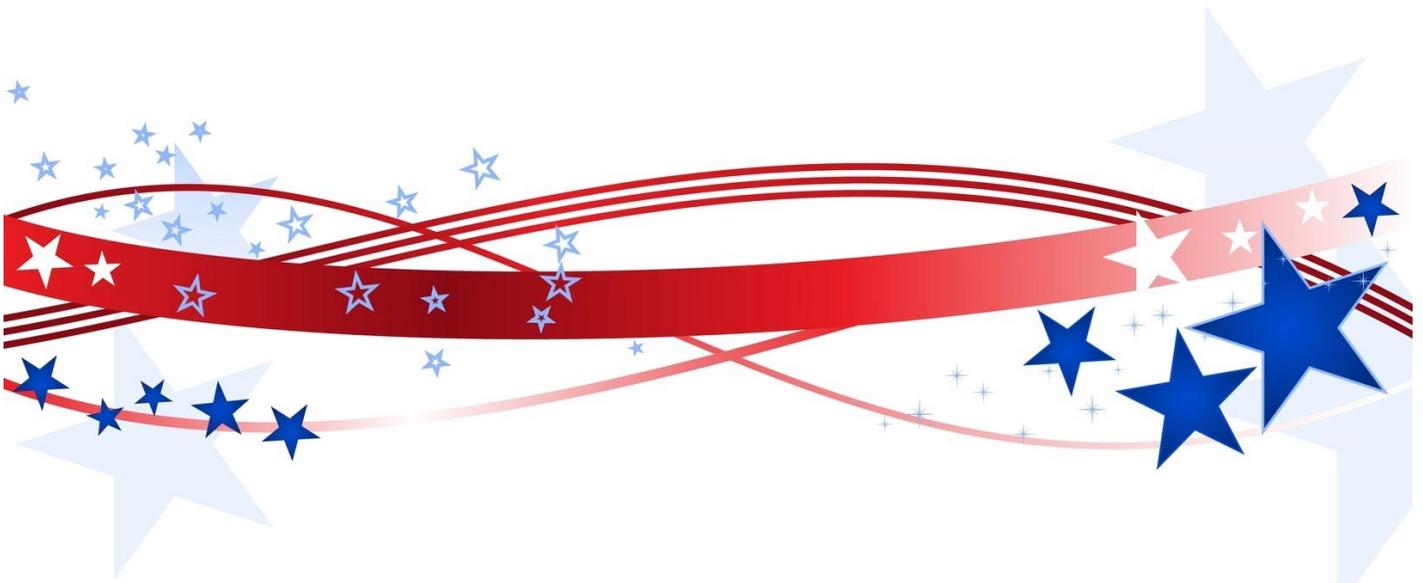
The 4th of July Twilight Parade begins at 6:30 PM, Saturday, July 3rd at 41st and Kennedy, continues north on Kennedy to Highway Avenue and east along Highway to park. The “All-American Mile Run” kicks off the Twilight Parade and will begin at 6:30 PM.

KIDDIE PARADE

Sunday, July 4th at 12:45 PM in the parking lot across from Traditions

FIREWORKS

Sunday, July 4th at 9:00 PM at Sharp Complex





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



Our hearts are full of gratitude for the beautiful prayer shawl given to Layla. We really appreciate that you thought of her to receive a shawl. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ben and Karissa Porter



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Jo McGee
- 8 Grace Helmer
- 10 Kelly LaFlech
Jake Toren
- 11 Marilyn Shuck
Elwyn Studer
- 22 Dakotah Olah
- 24 Lee Ann Cheesebrough
- 26 Paul Nicholls
- 28 Jim Wilson
- 30 Nancy O'Donnell
- 31 Tom Porter



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 Vince & Debbie Catania on the death of Debbie's mother, Lois Guerin on May 28th



**Ongoing
Prayers**

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)
 Steve Frankenberger
 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
 Steve & Melinda
 Gary Studer
 Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
 Tarsha (Perryman)
 Erin Taylor (Casiano)
 Teachers & Students
 Richard Terpstra
 Brady Vanes
 Cindy Waltz Family
 Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

- 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).