

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 15 Issue 3

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Dear All,

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

Back near the beginning of it all, when the earth creatures we now call humans were still new to the world, they messed up. They had been living in a garden in full communion with God, with each other, and with all Creation. God gave them a rule to follow, though, and, just like what happens when other young humans are given rules, they broke it. In breaking the rule, they gained the knowledge of good and evil. And with that they grew up much faster than the timeline that God had in mind. They would not be able to stay in the garden. They would have to go out into the world, spread their wings, and figure out how to take care of themselves. God would always be with them, of course, but they would no longer have the garden in which everything was provided. God said:

“By the sweat of your face you will eat bread—
until you return to the fertile land,
since from it you were taken;
you are soil,
to the soil you will return.”—*Genesis 3:19*

From then on, life would not stop being beautiful, but life would involve labor and hardship. And, of course, now armed with more knowledge, humans would be aware of their origins and their mortality. They would know that they had been formed out of the very earth that they now worked, and they would know that eventually the substance of their bodies would return to that earth.



**AED Certification and
Training Class**

Lenten Devotional

Confirmation Class

**Read Through the Bible in a
Year**

Easter Flower Order Form

Ash Wednesday Service

Daylight Saving Time

*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*

Every year we commemorate and embody that truth at the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. We pay special attention to the ways that we have messed up, and we make our apologies and commitments to change. We recognize that death is part of life and that life is part of death. We remember that God, the Son, also experienced death, joining us in this awareness of mortality. It is a somber time, a reflective time, a penitent time.

AND it is a time of hope. For, always on the horizon of the nighttime of this season is the blazing light of hope. The Son's body was returned to the earth after death, but that was not the end of the story! From the fertile soil, new life would emerge!

Loved ones, as we observe Ash Wednesday this week and Lent throughout this month, may we embrace the full complexity of the emotions evoked in this season. May we reflect somberly. May we confess contritely. May we mourn meaningfully. May we change honestly. May we hope wholeheartedly!

Within the pages of this edition of the Larger View, you will find ways to participate in the communal spiritual practices of our congregation during this season. I invite you to join in as you are able and to consider what other ways might work well for you in making meaning of this sacred time. And remember, we all will return to the fertile land. But that is not the end of the story!

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the facilitators of our Adult Connections studies. Thanks to great leadership, the Sunday morning *Bible in Today's World* and Wednesday evening *Bring Your Own Bible* studies have been thriving even with the many challenges brought on by the pandemic. These opportunities for the congregation to grow in faith through the nourishment of Scripture have been a tremendous source of congregational vitality, helping to bring the Word to life in our daily lives. Well done, facilitators!

As a reminder, this section of the Larger View is here to highlight our embodiment of the *Matthew 25* initiative to which we have committed. This initiative is focused on the following:

Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

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 once again thoughtfully reviewed our pandemic response and protocols. Our current protocols of mask wearing, social distancing and sanctuary ventilation will remain in place for this month as well as no coffee fellowship at this time. We will revisit this again at our March Session meeting.
- The ministry and committee reports were received.
- We celebrated that at the Presbytery Assembly on February 26th, Heather Casiano, our Family and Children Program Coordinator, will be commissioned to work also as a part-time Commissioned Ruling Elder in First Presbyterian Church of Hammond. Congratulations, Heather!
- The Lenten schedule was reviewed:
 - March 2nd Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm (live and streamed)
 - Wednesdays beginning March 9th at 7:00 pm Lenten Study and Practice (Zoom)
 - Rev. Orem will lead this using the theme "The Spiritual Practices of Jesus."
 - March 24th Lenten Cantata "Come Touch the Robe" during Worship
 - April 14th Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm (live and streamed)
 - April 10th Palm Sunday Worship (live and streamed at 10:30 am)
 - April 17th Easter Sunday (live and streamed)

SESSION SHORTS

- We celebrate new members who have joined or will join our congregation soon. Nancy Veltman has joined our church by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Hammond. Renee Williams, Melissa Melendez and Abdul Savage were received by reaffirmation of faith and welcomed into our faith community on February 27th.
 - We continue to explore various fundraisers for our church. One thing we are considering is participating in a local craft show that the Chamber of Commerce hosts in November. If you are willing to work on some crafts to sell or would be willing to coordinate this project, please let one of the Session members know.
-



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
January 31, 2021

	Month of January	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$31,681.41	\$9,226.93	\$31,681.41
Operating Expenses	11,650.19	13,873.77	11,650.19
Excess (Deficit)	\$20,031.22		\$20,031.22



Gifts were given in the month of February to the Endowment Fund:

In Memory of: Elwyn Studer, James Wilson

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, Jay & Jean Smith, Diane Yeazell

Donations were given to the Blessing Box by:

Nancy Veltman



What My Church Means to Me

By Carolyn Ham

My husband and I talked for years about slowing our hectic lives down and figuring out what meant something to us. One of those things was finding a church that we felt comfortable attending. We tried several, and one Sunday we came to First Presbyterian Church of Highland. The people were friendly and allowed us to fit in at our own pace. It wasn't long before we felt comfortable joining as members.

Since that first Sunday, and for the past 14 years, through some of the hardest times of my life, I have been blessed to be supported and cared for by this congregation. My faith is constantly growing and being replenished through the projects we take on and the people we help. This church has been a haven of strength, comfort and dependable friendship for me. The members have truly been the heart, hands and feet of Christ.



AED CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING CLASSES

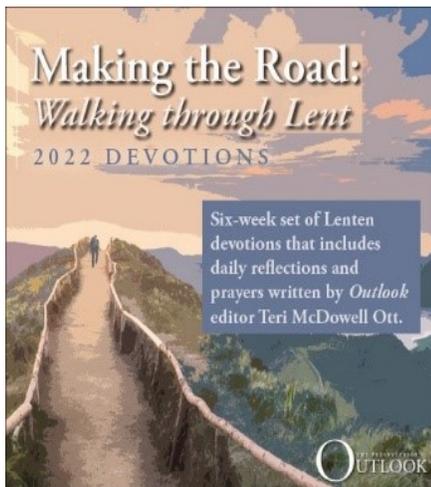
Some in our congregation were certified previously to operate the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in case of medical emergency in our building. Those certifications have expired, so we have scheduled classes with a trainer from Franciscan Crown Point EMS service for March 12 at 1 p.m. We need a minimum of 6 people for the class. The class will include CPR and choking hazard instruction as well as use of the AED. These are all procedures that could allow you to save someone's life!

If you are interested in participating, please let Carolyn Ham or the office know as soon as possible.



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

This year's Lenten Devotional booklet is from *The Presbyterian Outlook*. They have created a collection of devotions called "Making the Road: Walking Through Lent," based on the Spanish poet Antonio Machado's poem, "Walker." Machado writes: "Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking."



This six-week set of Lenten devotions includes daily reflections and prayers written by *Outlook* Editor Teri McDowell Ott. Each week we will make the road to Jerusalem through the following themes: *Walking through Lent, Walking in the wilderness, Walking in prayer, Walking with others, Walking in hope, Walking through Holy Week.*

These devotionals will be sent to everyone in the church through either email or regular mail. May they enrich your Lenten experience!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's confirmation class has begun meeting with Pastor Tyler. We have two students going through the process of learning more about the church and what becoming a member means. As they learn and grow and make decisions about their faith, we ask that you would all pray continually for our confirmation students and their sponsors: Ella Severson and sponsor Tracy Oprea, and Tristan Casiano and sponsor Peter Churitch. The support of the congregation is an important part of the faith journey and sense of community.





ADULT CONNECTIONS

BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) is now LENTEN STUDY AND PRACTICE

For the Lenten season, BYOB is switching its focus. Our annual Lenten Study and Practice will begin on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00 PM, and will take place each Wednesday through Holy Week (March 9, 16, 23, and 30; April 6 and 13). This series will take place online on Zoom during our usual Bring Your Own Bible study time.

This year's theme is "The Spiritual Practices of Jesus." We will be taking a close look at the spiritual practices enacted by Jesus on his journeys to and through Jerusalem, with a particular focus on Jesus's last days before his crucifixion. As we do so, we will also study some seminal practitioners of those spiritual practices after Jesus's time for the sake of incorporating them into our own journeys of faith. Hopefully we'll get around to practicing some together as well! All are welcome! The link to join will be sent out each week. We will try to make slides and recordings available for those who are unable to join.

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.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections and Confirmation Class will meet on March 13th and 27th, 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. For Lent, the youth will be looking at Jesus's life and ministry as told through a Broadway musical, as well as continuing to plan for a youth-led worship service later this year. Snacks are provided, or you may bring your own.

SOUPEL BOWL FINAL REPORT

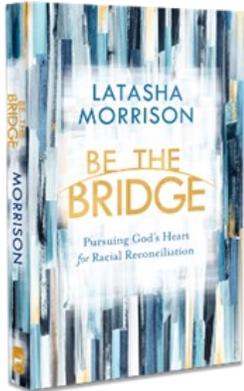
Thank you to everyone for your generosity in helping the hungry in our communities! Because of your giving of both food items and financial donations, the youth were able to give 83 non-perishable food items to the Veteran's Life Changing Services and the Love, Inc food pantry at Faith Church in Munster. The youth also voted to donate the \$174.50 that was collected to our church's Ministry of Mission to help defray the costs of cooking for the Hammond shelter each month. Thank you again for your caring hearts and spirits as we continue to tackle hunger in northwest Indiana!





FAITH DEVELOPMENT

SAVE THE DATE: Book Discussion Event



Faith Development is sponsoring a read-a-long this winter and spring. The book is “Be The Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation” by Latasha Morrison.

We have tentatively set the date to get together and talk about the book for Sunday, May 1st, in the afternoon. We’re hoping that covid conditions continue to improve so we can have a great time of discussion and fellowship. More details, including exact times, will come out as it gets closer.

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. “Be The Bridge” is also available through the Lake County Library system, and through many retailers and bookstores.

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.”



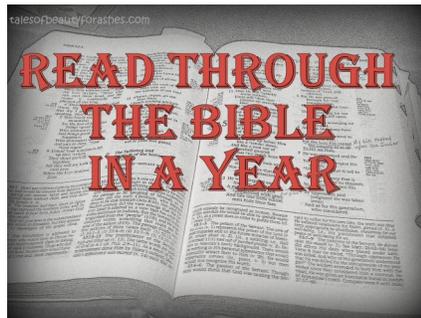
**** The Faith Development team is always open to new members! If you are interested in helping plan opportunities for all ages to grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ, join us! We generally meet after worship on the third Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, contact Heather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



“The Bible in Today’s World” class is meeting at 9 am Sunday mornings in the Session meeting room. The curriculum, *“Animate: Faith,”* helps participants explore 7 topics through short videos and group discussion:

- 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 learning from each other. If you have any questions about this study, contact Bonnie Perryman or John Toren.



READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR!

We are still reading through the Bible. How is your experience going? If you haven’t joined in the challenge yet, you are more than welcome to start this month. 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 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), we publish the current month’s reading plan. Look in this issue for the March 2022 Reading Plan. If you would like the reading plan emailed to you as a separate document, or if you’d like past month’s plans, contact Heather at hcasiano@fpchighland.org. May this year in the Bible be a blessing to you!

2022 Bible Reading Plan

March 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20-21 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 15-16 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 107	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20-21 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 49	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 131 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 109	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 69	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 87 <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 2-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 135 <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 121
27	28	29	30	31		
<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 99	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 8-10 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 13-14 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 15-16 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 17-19 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 95 <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 20-21 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 22-23 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 24-25 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 106 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 27-28 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 81 <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11		



It's that time again! Time to order your Easter flowers. Daffodils, lilies, and tulips are \$25.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Friday, April 1, 2022**. You may also make a donation in lieu of flowers. Donations will be deposited into the Endowment Fund.

All gifts will be listed in the bulletin and Larger View. Please fill the order form below and include money or check and either drop off or mail to the church office at:

8727 Delaware Street, Highland, Indiana 46322.

EASTER FLOWERS - ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAFFODIL	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
LILY	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
TULIP	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
DONATION IN LIEU OF FLOWERS			\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DEADLINE: 04/01/2022

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322



ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday,
March 2nd, at 7:00 PM.



March Liturgists:

- 3/6- Carol Callaway
- 3/13- TBD
- 3/20- Bonnie Perryman
- 3/27- Tracy Oprea



March LiveStreaming

- 3/2: Jean Smith
- 3/6: Jean Smith
- 3/13: Tracy Oprea
- 3/20: Robbie Casiano
- 3/27: Jamie Ham



February Shelter Report

The cold, cold temperature seemed like perfect hot soup and sandwich weather. The usual crew of Jamie, Sandy, Judy, and this month Mindy and Marie joined in to make it all come together.

We had several gallons of Chicken noodle soup filled with chicken and 14lbs of sloppy Joes and baked beans.

The dessert was a designer cake created by Mindy. It was a white cake filled with blueberries and topped with creamed cheese icing and fresh sliced strawberries in honor of Valentine’s Day. A bag of candy went along with it to top off the special day.

Thanks to John and Jeff, we got all the goodies loaded and delivered without any spills!!

A special thanks to the entire crew for their help. It wouldn’t happen every month without your assistance.

Cheryl

News from the Pews



GOT SNEAKERS? OUR USED SNEAKER DRIVE CONTINUES!!! Thanks to all who have contributed. The sneakers that we collect help raise money to support our church’s mission AND help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. So far we have sent 9 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 relatives, 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 church narthex. (Athletic shoes only) You can also 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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS on Sunday, March 13th. Make sure you turn your clock **AHEAD** one hour.



Notes

Thank you to everyone who sent sympathy cards to me. I really appreciate it.

Caroline Studer



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on March 22nd this month and will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM through May.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Collin Parker
- 6 Nancy Johnston
- 9 Barbara Morton
- 12 Patty Nelson
- 18 Ashley Churitch
- 19 Bill Zuke
- 20 Calvin Scott
- 21 Brandon Chong
- 22 Bill Holmes
- 30 Karen Lounsbury



Prayers
& CONCERNS



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

Caroline Studer and Family on the death of Elwyn Studer on January 16.

Janet Terpstra and family on the death of her husband, Richard, on February 22.



Pray For...

Anthony
Avery
George Nelson
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
U. Chong
Danielle
George Griner
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
Shirley McKnight
Kaz Smailis
Jack Sum
The Family of Marilyn Metzker
Fred Callaway
Glenda Munger

Shannon & Heather
Gary Studer
The Family of 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
Frank Falzone
Harrison Gil
Wendy
Karen

- We pray for peace!
- 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).