

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

November



2021

Volume 14 Issue 11

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Dear All,

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

November is a month of many observances in the life and liturgy of First Presbyterian Church of Highland. We will be embarking upon our stewardship campaign, celebrating Thanksgiving, and beginning Advent, our holy season of expectant hope. Generosity, gratitude, and hope are all profoundly powerful spiritual practices at an individual level, and their power is amplified in community. So, let us strive together in our labors of generosity, gratitude, and hope this month! I recognize that these three spiritual practices in particular might be hard for many given the ongoing state of affairs in our pandemic-plagued and violence-riven world. It is those very realities, though, which make it so vital for us to embody these practices. We should be giving joyfully in the midst of a society stuck on scarcity! We should be thanking God and each other effusively in a world where people have so much difficulty recognizing reasons to be grateful! We should be overflowing with hope in the midst of so much despair! For, no matter the season, we are the people of the way of Christ, the people of the Resurrection, the people of Love.

Speaking of spiritual practices, this is also a good time of year for us to recommit to embracing the practice of Sabbath. As cold weather sets in and the earth begins to drift into its Sabbath rest, we should follow suit and take time to snuggle up and rest.



"ADVENTure" Advent Workshops

Poinsettia Order Form

Hanging of the Greens

Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Tree of Warmth

Christmas Joy

Commitment Sunday

*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*

I recently participated in a virtual retreat offered by our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), for pastors still in the early years of our ordained ministry. The goal of this retreat, called *CREDO*, is to provide support and inspiration so that we can continue in our vocation healthily rather than succumb to the very real danger of burnout. Over and over again throughout the retreat, the importance of Sabbath kept coming up. After all, even God rested on the seventh day of Creation and commanded that we keep the Sabbath holy. I must admit that I am usually not the best at keeping Sabbath. Very recently, though, I negotiated with TCA Health—the clinic where I provide therapy services—to reduce my days to four days a week, giving me Fridays off. For the first time in a long time, I will have an actual weekend in which to observe Sabbath rest! I invite you to consider how you, also, can find rest and restoration in this season.

So, generosity, gratitude, hope, and Sabbath. What wonderful practices to give structure and meaning to November and to the rest of the year as a whole! Individually and collectively, these practices will help us to thrive at a time when most think thriving is not possible. We can support each other. We can inspire others. We can give God glory with the intentional actions (and inaction for Sabbath!) of our lives. I invite you to read the pages of this edition of the Larger View with an eye towards how the activities of our church family can be part of these spiritual practices. We would love for you to join in however that might be possible for you.

I close with the following words of gratitude from Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonika. I feel these words in my heart as I think of all of you. Please know that you can always reach out to me if you need to. We are in this together!

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."—1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon our Garden People! Your many efforts to beautify and maintain the health of our garden created a deeply meaningful space for us to worship for our once-monthly outdoor services over the past several months. These opportunities have contributed immensely to our congregational vitality over the course of the pandemic thus far. Thank you for such great work!

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

SESSION SHORTS

- Session continued to review the protocols and mitigations during this pandemic. After discussion, it was decided to continue with our current protocols, which include wearing masks indoors, more ventilation and maintaining social distancing.
- A Fall Clean-up Day has been scheduled for November 6th beginning at 9:30 am. Come and help us clean up the garden for the winter.
- On November 7th, the ministries will be displaying the wonderful programs that your generosity helps to fund and showing you exciting opportunities to serve in the coming year! Be sure to check out their displays!
- The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance is hosting a lunch on Sunday, November 14, immediately following our service, to kick off our 2022 stewardship campaign. The theme this year is “Growing Our Faith Through Generosity.” There is no charge for this event and nothing you need to bring. Just fill out the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex or in fellowship hall. You can also email fpch@fpchighland.org.
- For Sunday December 26th, Session voted to have a totally virtual worship service. Christmas eve service will be hybrid both in-person and virtual.
- The Nominating Committee will begin meeting to fill needs for 2022 on Session, Trustees and Deacons as well as several committees. If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider volunteering. It is an opportunity to be the heart, hands and feet of Christ!
- Opportunities to support the Presbyterian mission were discussed.
 - The Giving Catalog is a great way to send a tangible gift to a family in need in honor of a loved one. To view the catalog and get more information, use this link: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>
 - The Presbytery is sponsoring a campaign to help erase Medical Debt for Individuals who are in need. It is called RIP Medical Debt. For more information on how you can help: <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/indiana-and-appalachia/>



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
September 30, 2021

	Month of October	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,708.34	\$9,965.00	\$93,818.13
Operating Expenses	13,008.11	13,409.00	103,333.59
Excess (Deficit)	(\$7,299.77)		(\$9,515.46)



A gift was given in the month of September to the Endowment Fund include:

In Memory of: Barbara Nelson & James Wilson

This gift was given by the following donor:

George Griner & Karen Wilson Yeazell

Donations were given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman



“What the Church Means to Me” ~ Jamie Ham

I view this church as an opportunity to be a part of something greater than myself. Our congregation is a family of believers supporting each other and working together to serve the community as a whole. It is an always understanding, always forgiving, always welcoming source of peace in an often chaotic world. No matter how stressful the previous week has been, I can always find a sense of calm when in our sanctuary. During our meditation times, I like to reflect on previous decisions made, both the good and the bad, and contemplate how I might do better in the future. I can always count on leaving our services refreshed and ready to face the week ahead. Lastly, the church is an opportunity to instill in our children a positive value system and teach them to have concern and compassion for others. Whether my daughter decides to live her life as a person of faith or not is ultimately up to her, but I do feel it is my job to teach her what that means. For this reason, I am very grateful for all of the programs and opportunities to serve here at FPCH that embody what it means to be a Christian.



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**. Grab some refreshments in the Fellowship Hall and explore what Advent means and the themes of the candles on the Advent wreath. In only 20-30 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!



Did you know? Kids' Kits can be a fun activity to do with not only your own children, but with nieces/nephews, grandchildren and other kids as you gather during the many upcoming holidays. All ages can participate, and there are plenty of great activities (crafts, games and songs) to keep everyone engaged. Check one out today!

If you're looking for a topic, try the "Birds of the Air" kit. It's the time of year that we hear and see many birds migrating through our area, and this kit will help make connections between the birds we see and stories about birds in the Bible. Make a couple bird-themed crafts and learn some songs about birds. This kit can be checked out from the church in the middle classroom, across the hall from the pastor's office. Kids' Kits can be checked out during church office hours or on Sundays before or after the worship service.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections is up and running. We had a great time at our gatherings in October – playing games, talking about finding God’s messages in music, and of course, eating good food. The youth also brainstormed a great list of things they would like to do as a group this year.

Here are the upcoming dates for Youth Connections:

- Nov. 14 – regular gathering, God’s Resources theme
- Nov. 21 – Hanging of the Greens: help decorate the church right after worship
- Nov. 28 – regular gathering, Advent theme
- Dec. 5 – Baking Cookies and Christmas Caroling

Youth Connections is open to all youth in grades 6-12 (middle school and high school). Friends are always welcome! We meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, right after the worship service until 1:00 pm.

If you’d like to be added to the Youth Connections email list, contact Heather Casiano, hcasiano@fpchighland.org.



ADULT CONNECTIONS

“The Bible in Today’s World” class meets on Sunday mornings at 9 am. They are using the *“Testimony: Vocabulary of Faith”* study from the Presbyterian Outlook. This study helps us Remember, Reclaim, and Rearticulate what we believe about who God is and who we are so the patterns of our lives embody the liberating love and grace of Jesus Christ. There are no books required, so just show up and enjoy the short videos and participate in the discussions. Even if you didn’t start this study right in the beginning, it’s not too late to join in. There are some great discussions and sharing taking place!

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! If you would like to sign up to receive the Zoom log-in information, email fpch@fpchighland.org to request being added to the BYOB list.



S'MORE NIGHT

Several congregation members and friends gathered in the church parking lot on October 16 for a “S’more Night.” It was a little blustery, but with warm cider and a campfire to roast marshmallows over, everyone had a good time.

In addition to the yummy treats, there was a pumpkin ornament craft and prayer ribbons to tie on the front stair rails. We also had a bean bag toss game and “Bozo” buckets – a real challenge in the wind! Some of the youth who came dressed up in great Anime-themed costumes and inspired our own Pastor Tyler (Pastor Frankenstein?) to dress up as well!

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the Faith Development team for putting on this fun event.



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 meet after worship on the first Sunday of the month, usually in the Session room. If you have any questions, contact Charlotte Abernethy or Heather Casiano. Hope to see you!



It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias! Lansing Florist is offering red and white poinsettias for \$25.00.

This is a good way to honor or remember loved ones. Donations may also be made in LIEU of flowers. Your order and money are due in the church office by Friday, December 3rd.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
(Please Print CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

	Number	Price	Total
Red	_____	\$25.00	\$_____
White	_____	\$25.00	\$_____

Donation in LIEU of flowers \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Highland
8727 Delaware Street
Highland, Indiana 46322



Sunday, November 22nd

The Ministry of Worship & Music invites every willing and able-bodied person to stay after worship on November 21st to help prepare the church building for Advent. Help will be needed putting up and decorating the sanctuary tree, putting candles/hurricane lamps and greenery in the windows, setting up the Advent wreath/stand, and candles, hanging the swag/wreath from the balcony, and anything else that we think of before or on November 21st.



November LiveStreaming

11/7: Jean Smith
 11/14: Jamie & Savannah Ham
 11/21: Tracy Oprea
 11/28: Robbie Casiano



November Liturgists:

11/7 - Robbie Casiano
 11/14- Tracy Oprea
 11/21- Heather Casiano
 11/28- Carol Callaway



November 28

Carolyn, Jamie & Savannah Ham



Pantry Delivery

The pantry was ready to be packed up and delivered to The Veterans Life Changing Services on Ridge Road. We had 22 cases of a variety of foods to share with them. We have been fortunate enough to acquire some extra food from St. Tim's Church in Griffith.

Jeff Savage, Jean Smith, Mindy Sanchez, Lauren Wilson, and I work their food give-away every third Saturday and they, in turn, have been very generous in sharing food with us when they have an over abundance. Jeff and I also go to help them pick up food on Mondays and Thursdays and help put away food when the food truck delivers.

This is a wonderful way to meet and help our church neighbors while also helping our church.

Now, our pantry is bare and Mission will be putting together food baskets for families from Love, Inc. for Thanksgiving. Please think of those less fortunate and drop off any non perishable food items you can spare and keep Thanksgiving in mind!!





October Shelter Report

This month, we were blessed to have a newcomer join our ranks. Nancy Veltman, who is new to most of our members, comes from South Holland, and she is very Mission orientated.

I have also invited her to join in on our monthly Mission meetings, and we will look forward to having her see all the various organizations we are involved in!!

We were finished early with the cooking because of the extra set of hands along with our tried and true.

We had an abundance of food this Saturday, with 2 hams donated by St. Tim's in Griffith and another 2 hams donated by our very generous Lois Fozkos. The hams, along with our delicious sides, made quite the presentation!!

Thank you to these two sources for helping with our budget!!!!

Cheryl Steen



The Ministry of Mission, in connection with Love INC, is adopting 2 families for Thanksgiving, and each respective family includes 6 individuals. Mission will be providing each family with a complete Thanksgiving meal, along with other essential grocery items they may need for the holiday.

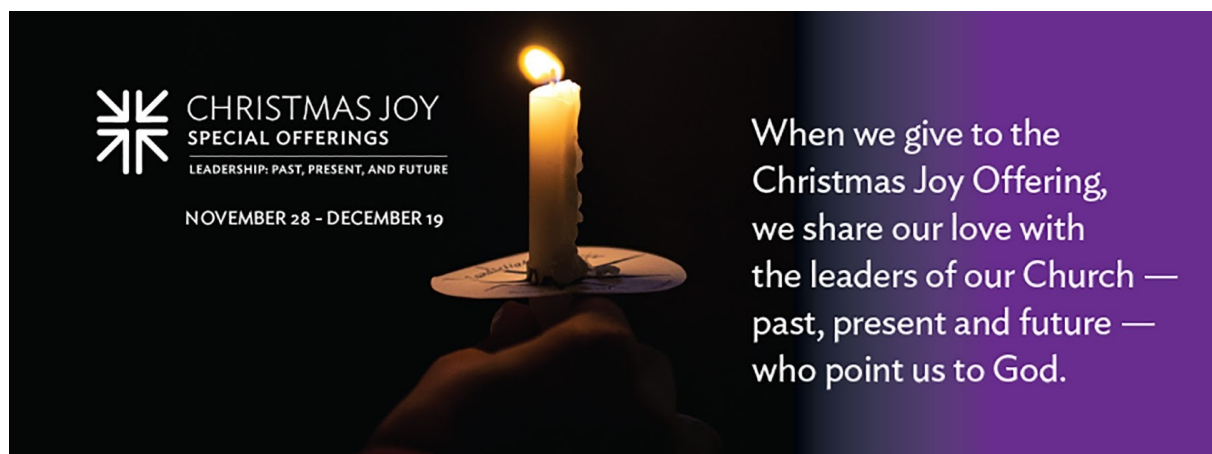


TREE OF WARMTH

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 28th 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 Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181, as she would be more than happy to pick up your donations. There will also be a bin marked "Tree of Warmth" by the Church Office for donations. The Members of Mission greatly appreciate the congregation's 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 has adopted two families, a total of 12 people, for the 2021 Christmas Adopt-A-Family Event, in connection with Love, INC. 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. Typically, Mission creates a pull tab board which outlines what toys, clothing, or other items are needed for each child, and this WILL be done again this year. We hope to have the pull tab board available by Sunday, December 5th down in Fellowship Hall. Additionally, depending on the items the children are requesting, Mission may be creating a Wish List on Amazon and will share that information with the congregation as well. If you have any questions with regard to the Christmas Adopt-A-Family Event or would like to make a donation to the same, please feel free to contact Cheryl Steen, Carolyn Ham or Tracy Oprea.



THE PERFECT GIFT

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ — a gift who opens a door. Jesus is the *perfect* gift, not only opening a door but coming through it. In Jesus, God joined with humanity, and in his life, death and resurrection, so our story of God goes, Jesus is the door, now standing open. The giving continues because God is with us, still — and always.

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

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



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



Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 7th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 14th with a meal following Worship



Be sure to connect with us for worship on Sunday, November 21st as we dedicate our 2022 Pledge to God through Jesus Christ for the Mission & Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. If you are worshipping from home, please mail in your pledges.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Shirley McKnight
6	Jeanne Nestor
12	Jill Elman
	Liz Zuke
14	Jesse Casiano
16	Eason Engle
17	Catherine Black



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:

- The Family of James Wilson on his death September 30th
 - The Family of Georgia Fitzwater
 - The Family of Tom Million



Anthony
 Avery
 Mike Bennett
 Family of Barbara Nelson
 George Nelson
 Brady Vanes
 Sonny Buono
 Family of Ina Chappell
 Danielle
 Dave
 Mary Ellen Edeus
 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
 Lester Schmock
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Andrew Bobalik

Brandon Chong
 U. Chong
 Rodney
 Calvin Scott
 Steve & Melinda
 Gary Studer
 Richard Terpstra
 Laura Buono Domsic
 Kevin Windstrup
 Ruth Dekker
 Rick Parker
 Barbara Morton
 Cookie C
 Jim and Katie Lively
 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
 Paige Szulewski
 Gale Snyder

- 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).