

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 14 Issue 10

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Session Shorts	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Stewardship & Finance	5
Faith Development	6-7
Worship & Music	7-8
Ministry of Mission	8-11
News From the Pews	12-13



Matthew 25 In the Spotlight

Kids' Connections

Youth Connections

Adult Connections

S'More Night

Worship & Music

Ministry of Mission

Got Sneakers

Dear All,

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

Summer heat is still piercing through on some days, but cooler temperatures are starting to settle in. Bright greens and vibrant floral colors are transforming into the subtle grace of earth tones. We have passed the autumn equinox of 2021. So, nights are longer than days. I absolutely love it. We have this tendency to associate night and darkness with death and evil. That association has never worked for me, though. I've always been a night owl. I've always felt most at peace with darkness blanketing the sky. I've always felt connected to the moon and stars. This past weekend I had the blessing of spending time with my family in Shelbyville. I spent one of the nights camping in the backyard of my childhood home. The tent had netting that allowed me to look up into the sky as if it were a wide open sky roof. And WOW!

Living in Chicago, I get breathtaking views of the illuminated skyline and stunning glimpses of the moon over the lake. But I very rarely get to see the stars. I don't really dwell on that loss much until I do see them in all their glory in other places. And there are few places in the world where the stars explode with such brilliance as they do in the backyard of the Orem farm! Constellations web across the sky. Shooting stars regularly make themselves known. Galaxy patterns are even sometimes discernible. Add the sounds of owls, frogs, and crickets, and you have my idea of heaven!

*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*

Alright, I've given my reason for loving the Fall—the lengthening of the night and the saving of the night from its association with death and evil. What is your reason for loving the current season? I'm encouraging this and even belaboring it because now more than ever it is an important spiritual practice for us to seek beauty and joy and deliciousness. So many of the realities of the world threaten to pull us into the morass of misery, but those are not the only realities of the world! The realest reality of them all is God's presence! So let us actively open ourselves to awareness of God's presence. Let us recognize reasons for joy—not in blissful ignorance of all of the suffering out there but in blissful understanding of God's presence trying to reach us even as that suffering happens.

We recently sat in our garden and heard of Elijah encountering God's presence as the moment of peace after violence, the sound of stillness and silence after chaos, the sense of safety that could draw the prophet from his hiding place in the cave. I remind you of a bit of that passage here:

“A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the LORD. But the LORD wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the LORD wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the LORD wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance.”—1 Kings 19:11b-13a

Friends, it is absolutely vital that we seek the presence of God! It is vital for our own ability to keep going on, and it is vital for all of Creation. For, when we encounter and become aware of the presence of God, we can't help but experience love and peace and joy and rightness. And when we experience those phenomena, those things of God, we can't help but share them. We can't help but be bearers of God's presence to the rest of the world. Remember, as Elijah stood at the entrance of the cave, God asked, “Why are you here, Elijah?” And then God said, “Go.”

As we read through this edition and learn about the events in the life of FPCH, may we be inspired to seek God's presence in the community that we comprise and to share that good news with the world!

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon those who participated in the presbytery's book study on Dolly Chugh's *The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias*. The Facebook group wall and the live virtual discussion were a great entry into understanding structural racism and discerning fruitful actions we can take individually, congregationally, and presbytery-wide to actually do the work of dismantling structural racism. If you would like to read the book or access some of the discussion that was had, reach out to Pastor Tyler!

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

- We reviewed our protocols for mitigation and continue with the CDC recommendations for the current conditions in our state and county. We are continuing with a mask requirement when indoors, keeping windows open during the service for ventilation, and maintaining social distancing.
- Session approved the purchase of a digital soundboard to replace our current analog soundboard to improve the audio quality for live-streaming. It is being ordered and the funding is being provided by a grant from the Presbytery. We are grateful to the Presbytery for their support!
- Thanks to all who participated in the Culver's fundraiser! We raised over \$300!
- Our GotSneakers! fundraiser is continuing. Please remember to ask your relatives, friends, or neighbors for any athletic shoes that they no longer wear or need and put them in the blue bins by Door D or in the narthex.
- We thanked Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees, for his work recently around the church and particularly in repairing the Blessing Box.
- The garden group (Jeffery Savage, Cheryl Steen and Jean Smith) was thanked for their work in weeding and cleaning up the garden and parking lot area. A fall clean-up day will be scheduled later in the month.
- The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance is organizing the 2022 Stewardship Campaign – "Growing our Faith Through Generosity." More information will be coming shortly.
- Since we are now live-streaming music, it was necessary to purchase copyright/streaming licenses for that purpose. We now have those licenses from CCLI and OneLicense to cover the music that is used and printed. You will see those listed in the bulletin each Sunday.
- Elder Lois Fozkos is our commissioner to Presbytery and along with Rev. Orem represented us at Presbytery on September 25th.
- The Nominating Committee will begin meeting in October to nominate congregational members for the 2022 Session, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees, along with representatives for the Endowment Fund, Nominating, and Financial Review Committees. If you are asked for one of these positions, please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve our congregation and live out your faith!



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
August 31, 2021

	Month of August	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,931.40	\$9,965.00	\$88,109.79
Operating Expenses	10,944.91	13,409.00	90,325.48
Excess (Deficit)	(\$4,013.51)		(\$2,215.69)



Endowment Fund
Committee

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

In Memory of: Jimina Chappell

This gift was given by the following donor:

Lois Fozkos

Donations were given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman



FPCH 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Growing our Faith Through Generosity

As we approach the season of stewardship, we should take a moment to reflect on the unbelievably difficult year we have all just endured. Although it was a year like no other, we held strong in our faith, never wavered in our generosity, and acted as a source of relief for many of the people hit hardest by the pandemic. Throughout these trying times, FPCH has managed to continue God's work without interruption. Whether in-person or virtually, our worship services have continued, faith development for our adults and children has continued, maintenance of our buildings and grounds has continued and our garden has continued to flourish! We have been able to accomplish these things because of the generous gifts contributed by EVERYONE in this congregation. As we look forward to the next chapter in our story, there is still much work to be done. Now, more than ever FPCH needs...yes...your increased support! During this season of stewardship, we invite you to reflect on what this church has meant to you and to those it serves. Be generous with your gifts of time, talent, and finances, and be comfortable in the knowledge that God's work through our church is more than worthy of those gifts!

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”—Matthew 13:31-32



NEW! We have four “Kids’ Kits” available for families and children to use this school year. Each kit centers around a particular theme: “The Good Book,” “Out of the Water,” “Birds of the Air,” and “Trees.” It’s a type of “Sunday School” in a kit!



Not sure which kit to check out? Since it’s now fall and our attention goes to the changes in nature, maybe try our “Trees” Kids’ Kit! In this kit, kids and their family will experience the Bible stories about a tree in the garden of Eden, a fig tree, and a short man in a Sycamore tree. The crafts (with supplies) include making a serpent and your own “Faith Tree.” Families can have fun playing several different games about trees and taking a walk to check out trees near you.

Kids’ Kits can be checked out at the church during church office hours or on Sundays before or after the worship service.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections fall gatherings are starting up in October! **Our first gathering will be Sunday, October 10th right after worship at the church.** Come for the food and the fun and help us plan the year!

We’ll be getting together the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, right after the worship service until 1:00 pm. There may be some exceptions for special events or service projects, but generally the 2nd and 4th Sundays will be our schedule.

Since the Covid-19 numbers in our communities have risen recently, we plan on meeting outside in the garden area as long as the weather allows (dress for the weather), or inside in the large Fellowship Room or Youth Room so we can be spread out. Currently our requires masks for indoor gatherings, so we will be following that. We can make any Youth Connections gathering a hybrid experience both online and in person. If you would like to participate but don’t feel comfortable gathering in person for any reason, contact Heather Casiano about participating on Zoom.

Youth Connections is open to all youth in grades 6-12 (middle school and high school). Friends are always welcome! 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 will help 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.

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 the previous weeks, so there is no way to fall behind! All are welcome! If you would like to sign up for this study to receive the Zoom log-in information, email fpch@fpchhighland.org to request being added to the BYOB list.

S'MORE NIGHT



Saturday, October 16, 4:30-6 pm
Outside in the church's parking lot



Make a S'more over the campfire, join in fun sing-a-longs, participate in a community prayer project, make a cute craft project, and learn more about all the Faith Development opportunities that First Presbyterian Church of Highland has to offer for all ages!

This event is open to the public – invite your friends!
 Everyone can use “s’more” Jesus!



October Liturgists:

- 10/3 - Tracy Oprea
- 10/10- John Toren
- 10/17- Bonnie Perryman
- 10/24- Heather Casiano
- 10/31- Lois Fozkos



LiveStreaming



Oct. 3	Jean Smith
Oct. 10	Tracy Oprea
Oct. 17	Outdoor Service— Jeff Savage backup
Oct. 24	Jamie Ham
Oct. 31	Peter Churitch



September Shelter Report

We were caught a bit short this month with workers. However, Jamie did magic with 30 pounds of chicken pieces, Judy whipped up a cake and hard boiled eggs, and Sherry jumped in and chopped up a nutritious salad and finished up the Mac and Cheese that I had started. Sooo...even though we were low in numbers, we managed to be efficient. A thank you to St. Tim's again for the chicken pieces and for the 5 pounds of cheese. They have certainly helped with keeping our budget lower.

In return, Jeff and I work with them on Mondays and Thursdays for pick-up and delivery of food to St. Tim's, and on every third Saturday, we help distribute food to those who show up for the food give away at their church. On those Saturdays, we often have Lauren Wilson, Jean Smith, and Mindy Sanchez helping to do the hand-outs.

Our Mission group also donated \$250.00 to their recent walk to help them pay for some of the food they receive from the food bank. It's so rewarding to be able to help one another help others, no matter what house of worship we represent.

Cheryl Steen



The Ministry of Mission continues to work diligently to fulfill its Mission Statement: "...to be an emissary for Christ's love and compassion for those in need throughout the community, the nation and the world....." Below are a few highlights of the work Mission has been doing:



The Ministry of Mission recently found out that the Pediatric Nurses at Comer Children's Hospital were hosting a Play Doh drive for their unit. Mission was advised that they were in desperate need of Play Doh, as it is the most popular item the children request and, furthermore, it is an activity that keeps their minds occupied and not focused on what they are going through. Of course, as soon as Mission heard about this event, we jumped into gear researching avenues to purchase large amounts of Play Doh. Mission was able to purchase \$200.00 worth of Play Doh for Comer Children's Hospital, which was just delivered with the assistance of Tracy Oprea's Niece, Cara Oprea. The Play Doh was much appreciated by the nurses at the hospital and will bring smiles to so many children.



During the Ministry of Mission's August meeting, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog was reviewed in detail, and Mission was able to purchase the following items: one Latrine, one Mzu Zu Drill (for water), four flocks of chicken, one pig, four kitchen kits and three fishing nets. These items totaled \$750.00.

The Ministry of Mission continues to support the Highland Police Department and recently made a monetary donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the new canine program. This donation was made to assist in defraying some of the costs associated with training the new K-9 Officer, as well as his everyday needs.





Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Thank you for
your participation in the
Peace & Global Witness Offering.

IF WE ALL
DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP
TO A LOT!



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



Through your
congregation



Donate by
credit card online at
pcusa.org/peace-global



Text PCUSAPEACE
to 41444
to give to Peace &
Global Witness
or visit
pcusa.org/peace-global
for more information.



13142-21-282



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



PEACE
at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

COVER: "THE POWER OF HOPE" BY KELLY SIMPSON HAGEN, KELLY'S ART FROM THE SOUL

✧ PEACE AT ALL TIMES, IN ALL WAYS

The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps people process violence and crisis-related trauma through creative expression in places like Lebanon, Southwestern Asia and North Africa.



The Pacific Presbytery Immigration and Refugee Task Force and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program sponsored a travel study seminar to Los Angeles and Tijuana to witness the impact of migration and immigration law north and south of the border — one of many such trips they sponsor to share more about efforts for peace, justice and reconciliation in places of conflict, injustice and oppression.

First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, N.J., uses its portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support mental health and suicide prevention programs in their community.



Visit pcusa.org/peace-global/resources for more information.

PHOTOS FROM TOP: JAM SESSION IN BERUIT, THE BORDER CHURCH; KRIST VAN NOSTRAN, OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOONTON, NJ

THE LIGHT OF PEACE

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering will go to joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



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



Thank you to everyone that sent us a "Get Well" message. We really appreciate it.

Blessings,

Elwyn & Caroline Studer



Mila says thank you for the rose that you gave my great Grammy Lois



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 4 | Cheryl Steen |
| 13 | Nolan Severson |
| 15 | Bob Abernethy |
| 17 | Lois Fozkos |
| | Pam Porter |
| | Eric Severson |
| 19 | Carol Callaway |



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 Debbie Marinaro on the death of her father.
- Prayers of Christian Sympathy to George Nelson and family on the death of Barbara on 9/21.



Anthony
Avery
Mike Bennett
Family of Barbara Nelson
George Nelson
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
Family of Ina Chappell
Danielle
Dave
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
Daniel Litwicki
Frank
David Markley
David Kingen
Garry Sknerski
Carmelo
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Jamie Orem and Janet Orem
Glenda Munger
Linda
Claudia Szymaszczak
Jessica
Jill and 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
Carol Osgerby
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

- 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).