

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 14 Issue 9

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Dear All,

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

During our most recent worship service we heard Jesus speaking from the mountaintop. He proclaimed some of the most profound words ever spoken:

"I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these."

Wow, do we ever need the truth of those words right now! In this season for the world, in this season for the Church, in this season for the community, in this season for our families, in this season for ourselves, we need that truth! God created, and what God created was beautiful. We humans, entrusted with the stewardship of Creation, have done a grand job of messing things up. BUT God continues to bless the essential beauty of it all, feeding the birds of the air and clothing the lilies of the field in royal splendor. If God continues to care for these most intricate of details, then how much more so does God care about us—we who are created in God's own image and likeness?

In times like these, it can be very difficult to hold onto this truth. Tragedy after tragedy breaks our hearts and threatens to break our spirits. Near and far, it seems like things are falling part. And so, something within our very selves seems to fall apart. Perhaps some of us have the urge to go to the mountaintop ourselves and raise our fists and shout, "WHY?!"



Matthew 25 In the Spotlight

Session Shorts

Stewardship & Finance

Kids Connection

Youth Mission Trip

S'More Night

Got Sneakers

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**

And that's ok. God can take it. God welcomes us in our brokenness. As we come back down the mountainside, though, I pray that we will open our ears to the sound of the birds and our skin to the breath of the breeze that carries them. I pray that we will open our eyes to the color and shape of the flowers and our noses to their fragrance upon the wind. I pray that we will remember that the God who cares for them so exquisitely is the same God who cares for us. The suffering of the world is real, but so, too, is our God. And we Christians know that death does not have the final say! The tomb could not contain the one who spoke from mountaintops! Life persisted, and life persists still!

If God gives the birds of the air and the flowers of the field all that they need, then that means God also gives *us* all that we need. God gives us the beauty and bounty of Creation. God gives us each other. God gives us LOVE. It is upon us, with these gifts, to make sure that the children of God no longer have any reason to worry. It is upon us to continue building the Kingdom that came with Jesus—to save as many as we can from harm, to create systems that promote life, to care for the planet that sustains us all, to give hope to a world in pain.

In this edition of *The Larger View*, you will encounter some of the ways that this congregational family seeks to use the gifts that God provides. As you read, please prayerfully consider the ways in which can participate in this Kingdom work!

I want to highlight one particular opportunity. For our worship service on Sunday, September 5, we will be joining several other local congregations at 10 AM in Main Square Park. This is a great chance for us to live into the unity of the Church, the Body of Christ with its many parts, by joining our hearts and voices with siblings in the Lord as we give God glory and bless this community. I hope to see you there!

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon our Youth Connections crew. On their August mission trip to Decatur, MI, they worked towards the goal of eradicating systemic poverty by beautifying the grounds and building a much-needed shed for the Decatur Family Shelter. This shelter serves women and families throughout the county who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you, youth, for doing this important work! And thank you for doing so with such fun and joy!

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 reviewed the protocols and mitigation measures during this resurgence of the virus. After discussion, we decided to reinstitute the mask requirement for indoor gatherings due to the guidelines set by the CDC and the positivity rate in our county.
- Session also voted to continue with outdoor services on the third Sunday of each month as long as the weather allows. So, September 16th will be the next outdoor service.
- Trustee Jeffery Savage reported on bids that have been received for replacing the analog soundboard with a digital soundboard which will greatly improve the audio on our streaming of the worship services.
- September 5th will be an outdoor ecumenical service in Main Square beginning at 10am instead of 10:30am.
- September 12th will begin an adult class on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Please consider joining us!
- Rev. Tyler thanked all the ministries for their dedication and work!



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
July 31, 2021

	Month of July	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$7,165.39	\$9,965.00	\$81,178.39
Operating Expenses	10,827.68	13,409.00	79,380.57
Excess (Deficit)	(\$3,662.29)		\$1,797.82



Endowment Fund
Committee

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

In Memory of: Jimina Chappell, Arletta Schaefer

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Brandon Chong & Tray Oprea, JeffreyChappell

Donations were given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman



The Act of Giving—Pastor Tyler

The community in which I lived and served in Kerala, South India—the Mundakapadam Mandiram Society—consists of destitute elderly residents and girl children who have been orphaned. So, in an American context, picture a nursing home and a children’s home combined into a single community. What a vision of the Kingdom! Part of the life of this beautiful community is daily worship. Throughout the week that worship occurs as the sun starts to set, with light and heat streaming in for evening vespers. Evening vespers usually consist of a few prayers and a few songs—simple services to center the heart and renew the spirit. When Sunday morning rolls around, though, it is time for full liturgy. When I lived there in 2009 and 2010, the Sunday morning service was usually around 7:00 AM, which was, of course, a big struggle for this *sayip* (white westerner). I’ve always loved **evening** vespers! Knowing the significance of this weekly service for the community, however, I always managed to get myself up and walk the short distance to the chapel. Early on in my time there, as I was walking up to the front to put my offering into the offering plate, I noticed something curious. There were several plastic poker chips in it alongside the cash! After the service I asked one of the staff members how those apparently world-spanning red, blue, and green plastic chips had made their way into the offering plate. He explained that on Sunday mornings the staff discretely hand them to the children and to some of the poorer elderly residents as they enter the chapel so that they have something to give. For, he explained, it is the act of giving itself that matters to God. In this simple way, the community gave access to the poorest of the poor to participate fully in the liturgy, including giving unto the Lord. It is the act of giving itself that matters! Wow! I wonder how our understanding of generosity would be transformed if we understood the very act of giving as an essential form of worship. I wonder how our relationship with our resources would change. I wonder how our practices of generosity in other aspects of our lives would be affected. Well, if you ever want an idea of how this focus on the act of giving as an essential form of worship can impact a beloved community of the Kingdom, let me know. I am always happy to share about the blessed time I spent being formed in faith by my *ammachees* (grandmothers), *appachens* (grandfathers), and *sahoudrimar* (sisters) in that beautiful place!

“He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had”—Mark 12:41-44



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!

Within each kit, you will find 3 lessons with Bible stories, an opening activity, some discussion questions, a craft or game with instructions, a song, and an ending prayer. Most of the needed materials and supplies are included in the kit. These are great hands-on activities that families can do together. While the crafts and games are designed for elementary-age children, all activities are appropriate for all ages and can be adapted as needed.

Kids’ Kits can be used in two different ways:

1. Families can check out a kit from the church to use at home when it best fits into your schedule. When families are finished, the instructions, samples and unused supplies from the kit should be returned to the church. Kits can be checked out during church office hours, Monday-Thursday 8 am to Noon. Kits can also be checked out on Sunday mornings.
2. If there is interest, we can have a class for kids on Sunday mornings at 9 am, using the Kids’ Kits materials. We have Sunday School teachers who will share the Bible stories and lead the activities with the children, and parents are encouraged to attend with their children for a fun family activity. Contact Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org) if you’re interested in having your children be part of a Sunday morning class.

Throughout the year, we’ll be adding new kits with new topics. As part of this fun curriculum, there is an optional patch that can be ordered for each child who completes all 3 lessons in a particular kit. Each kit has its own patch. The patches cost \$4 each, and ordering information will be included in each kit.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

The Youth Connections fall gatherings schedule is being finalized currently. As soon as we have it ready, we'll e-mail all youth and families with the dates and times. 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.

Youth Mission Trip 2021

From August 5-8, six of our youth traveled to Decatur, Michigan, for their summer mission trip. In partnership with youth and Rev. Katie Hartwell from First Presbyterian Church in Decatur, the group built a storage shed and provided some much needed yardwork for the Decatur Family Shelter. There were also several opportunities for worship and fun together, centering on the theme of "Wading in the Waters." Hide and Seek and Monkey in the Middle proved to be some of the most popular activities for these middle and high school youth! On the final night of the trip, one of the Decatur church members treated the youth and adults to a cookout and swimming off the beach of her lakehouse. There was a lot of laughter as new friends celebrated a great job well done, and there was even a reenactment of Jesus walking on the water and helping Peter up!

On Sunday morning, August 8th, the youth from both churches participated in the worship service at First Presbyterian Church in Decatur along with both Rev. Katie and Rev. Tyler. This service was shared online with our church, and the recording can still be found on our Facebook page if you'd like to watch it.

Youth and friends from our church who participated are: Savannah Ham, Cecelia Mendoza, Sabrina James, Robbie Casiano, Tristan Casiano, and Abdul Savage. Rev. Tyler and Heather Casiano were the chaperones and drivers. Thank you for all of your support and prayers during this mission trip!





ADULT CONNECTIONS

An Adult Connections class, “The Bible in Today’s World,” will begin meeting on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 9 am. The exact topic of study will be determined by those who participate in the class, so come on Sept. 12 to help choose the book or study you’d like to see.

The Faith Development team is also looking at the possibility of holding a second adult class on Sunday mornings if there is enough interest. If you’d like to lead or attend a second class, please contact Heather Casiano. We have topics and books we can suggest, but we are especially interested in hearing what you want to learn and talk about. A new class can start at any time – we just need people interested in participating.

SAVE THE DATE!

S'MORE NIGHT

Saturday, October 16



Make a s'more over the campfire, join in fun sing-a-longs, kids can make a craft project, and learn more about all the faith development opportunities that First Presbyterian Church of Highland has to offer all ages!

Open to the public – invite your friends! Everyone can use “s'more” Jesus!



September Liturgists:

- 9/5 - Ecumenical Service in Main Square
- 9/12- Youth-led Service
- 9/19- Karen Lounsbury
- 9/26- Bonnie Perryman



LiveStreaming



Sept. 5	Ecumenical Service outdoors
Sept. 12	Jamie Ham
Sept. 19	Outdoor Service– Jean Smith backup
Sept. 26	Robbie Casiano



August Shelter Report

During this very hot month we shopped, cooked and served the Hammond Men's Shelter a healthy meal of egg, potato, vegetable and donated venison casserole. It was accompanied with a fruit salad, biscuits and jam, hard boiled eggs, milk and peach cobbler with whipped topping.

They seem to always look forward to the second Saturday of the month when we, First Presbyterian Church of Highland appear on their door-step. We still are not serving, but we do continue to do the menu planning, shopping with the help of my side-kick Judy, and the cooking.

The usual faithful cooks are there every second Saturday, but we always have room for more cooks if you are so inclined to donate some time for one of the above mentioned tasks. Jamie, Sandy, Sherry, Judy, Lauren or myself would be happy to share or answer any questions you may have about this very needed project.

Our muscle men and drivers, John and Jeff are sooo appreciated by all of us. A huge thank you to them especially from us aging women!!!!

Cheryl Steen



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?



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.



The Per Capita PER member is \$42.00 for 2021



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Peter Churitch
- 7 Ruth Dekker
- 9 Robbie Casiano
- 12 Charlotte Abernethy
- 13 Jan Oprea
- 23 Fred Callaway
- 25 Janet Vargo
- 30 Jean Smith



- George & Barbara Nelson as they celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary



Ongoing Prayers

Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
 Amanda (H. Casiano)
 Avery
 Mike Bennett
 Curtis Black
 Brady Vanes
 Sonny Buono
 Cale
 Carmelo (Melissa's Dad)
 Ina Chappell
 Brandon Chong
 U. Chong (Oprea)
 Cookie C.
 Danielle
 Dave
 Davene
 Ruth Dekker
 Bob Dignam
 Laura Buono Domsic
 Ellen (Heather's Aunt)
 Carol Finley
 Frank (K. Scott)
 Chester Goins
 George Griner
 Gus & Georgia
 Guy (B. Perryman)
 Susan Hanley (Studer)
 Gracie Helmer
 Bill Holmes
 Huilin
 Emma Hurtt
 Jamie & Janet Orem
 Jessica (Abernethy)

Joe (Smith)
 Steve Lekan (P. Fozkos)
 Holly Letnich
 Jimmy Leyva (J. Martinez)
 Linda (J. Casiano's mom)
 Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
 Jim & Katie Lively
 David Markley
 Tony Martinez
 Ray Mendoza
 Mildred (B. Perryman)
 Barbara Morton
 John & Jill Mullen (Steen)
 Glenda Munger
 George & Barbara Nelson
 Jeanne Nestor
 Jan Oprea
 Lily Renfro
 Marla & Jerry Renfro
 Rena's cousin
 Rick Parker
 Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
 Lester Schmock
 Calvin Scott
 Linda Skaggs
 Garry Sknerski
 Gale Holck Snyder
 Stephanie
 Steve & Melinda
 Gary Studer
 Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
 Tarsha (Perryman)
 Erin Taylor (Casiano)
 Teachers & Students
 Richard Terpstra
 Cindy Waltz Family
 Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)
 Kevin Windstrup

- 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).