



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND

THE LARGER VIEW

December
2022

Volume 15 Issue 12

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Dear All,

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

We are now in the midst of Advent! Hallelujah! What a glorious season it is for the Church! We have the joy of *actively* waiting with expectant hope for the coming of Christ! Liturgically we commemorate and celebrate the coming Incarnation, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth to Mary in Bethlehem. In the here and now, we anticipate his return in clouds descending, coming to bring the new Heaven and the new Earth. It is only fitting that for such a significant season we have some of the best hymns of the entire year. On the first Sunday of Advent we closed worship by singing *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*. The second and third verse keep playing in my head. Here is the second:



ADVENTure Activities

Advent Devotions

Choir Schedule

Poinsettia Order Form

Bake Sale

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Christmas Joy

2023 Offering Envelopes

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

I absolutely love this idea that our hearts are made into sacred spaces when we open up the doors and let God in. For, that is exactly our task during the season of Advent—to open up our hearts and thus to prepare the way for the Incarnation, Immanuel,

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*

the indwelling of God! I invite you to do this vital Adventen work within the beloved community of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland. Throughout this season we have wonderful opportunities to connect with each other and with God in this heart work! Within the context of our weekly Sunday worship services, we have the opportunity to focus on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love—bringing them to life in Word and Song and Action. Leading up to Christmas we will be widening the Wisdom of our hearts through our Adult Connections and ADVENTure experiences. Throughout the season we will have the possibility of opening up our hearts to those lifted up in Jesus' *Matthew 25* call by ringing the Salvation Army bell, buying gifts and food for families in need, cooking for our food ministries, and baking cookies and singing Christmas carols for those who could use some extra joy.

Speaking of singing, please note that our Christmas Cantata will be during worship on Sunday, December 18! Our choir has been hard at work preparing a beautiful, meaningful musical experience to help lead us all in opening our hearts for the arrival of Christ. Please be sure to invite your loved ones to connect with us on that day! Please also note the rest of our Advent and Christmas worship schedule. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 24. This will be in person and livestreamed. Then, **our Christmas Day service will be online only** on Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 AM. This will allow all of us to connect in worship while also being present with our loved ones Christmas morning.

My heart is wide open and overflowing with joy as I anticipate joining with all of you as we prepare the way of the Lord!

And now the third verse:

*Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon our Bring Your Own Bible crew! Over the past couple of months this faithful group of Wednesday evening Word explorers has taken an extensive and deep look at the actual passage of *Matthew 25*, including the context for when and why it was written, the context for who wrote it and who it was written for, and the context of us readers today. They have also read through the dense text of *Galatians* through the lens of the PC(USA)'s *Matthew 25* initiative, which focuses on dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality. As is the case with all Bible study, by exploring the Word with our minds, we are bringing it into our hearts and inspiring action. Well done, Bring Your Own Bible crew! All are welcome to join us on Zoom on any given Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. Each week there is a fresh passage and fresh topic, so it is always a good time to start!

If you witness the Matthew 25 call being embodied by any person or group of people, please let Pastor Tyler know so that they can be lifted up in this section!

SESSION SHORTS

- Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees, reported that the concrete project by Door B has been completed, and the awnings above Doors B and I have been ordered.
- The Butter Braid and craft sale fundraisers have been very successful. Thanks to all who supported these projects! Soup sales will return on the 2nd Sunday of January.
- A meeting was held on November 15th to discuss the upcoming sanctuary screen project. Those attending included: Vicky Brann (IT consultant), Jesse, Robbie and Tristan Casiano, Tracy Oprea, Bonnie Perryman, Jean Smith and Rev. Tyler. We discussed placement of the screens, software and equipment needed, and training/operation of the text and images that will be displayed. The screens will not entirely replace the bulletins but offer a different way to experience worship. Some bulletins will still be available once the screens are operational. If you have questions about this project, please talk to a Session member.
- There will be a called congregational meeting on December 11th after worship for the purpose of electing officers to begin serving in 2023. We will also be considering a motion from Session to make a term-limit exception to our bylaws in order to ensure that our Trustee spots are filled.
- A memorial for Jane Vance will be held at the church on December 10th.
- The Presbytery Assembly meeting will be on December 8th at 2 pm. At this meeting, Pastor Tyler will be installed as the new moderator of Presbytery for 2023. Congratulations, Rev. Tyler!



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
November 31, 2021

	Month of November	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$26,771.86	\$9,226.93	\$122,614.80
Operating Expenses	15,116.26	13,873.77	126,866.53
Excess (Deficit)	\$11,655.60		(\$4,251.73)



Endowment Fund
Committee

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

In Memory of: Eason Engle

These gifts were given by the following donor:

Everett & Diane Bland, Fred & Carol Callaway, Colleen DeVries, Richard & Denise Lynch,
Henry & Beverly Neely, Barbara Parlor, Tom & Pam Porter

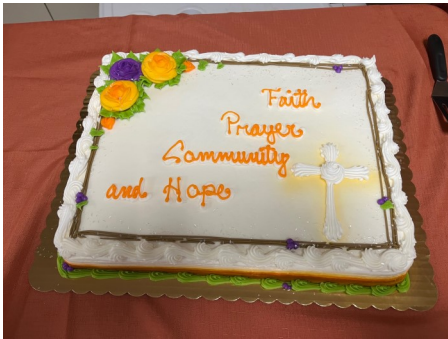
**A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in Honor of
Shirley McKnight's 90th Birthday by: Rodney & Peggy Fozkos**

Donations were given to the Blessing Box and Food Pantry by:

Don & Kay Johnson and Jon & Sharon Orem



Thank you to all who attended the Stewardship luncheon on Commitment Sunday. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship with our church family!





YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections members have been busy this fall! At our bi-weekly gatherings, we've talked about our thoughts and emotions through the discussion of a psalm, decorated paper bags for the food pantry, started exploring connections between science and faith through some hands-on "experiments," successfully made our way through a corn maze, picked apples at an apple orchard, and helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas during the annual Hanging of the Greens. Whew that's a lot – but our youth and young adults are awesome!

The annual **Christmas Cookie Baking and Caroling is scheduled for December 11th** after worship. We'll have lunch together, bake and decorate Christmas cookies in the church kitchen, and then go caroling to some church members homes. Bring a friend or two and plan now to join us for this fun tradition!

EVERYONE in the congregation is invited to join the Youth Connections group for Christmas caroling on Dec. 11th. If you'd like to spread some holiday cheer, meet us at the church at 3 pm. Dress for the weather. We'll have song sheets and a route map/directions to follow along. If you would like to join us but would rather not drive, contact Heather or Pastor Tyler, and we'll get you on our carpool list.

Youth Connections generally meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month after worship, with an occasional service project or local field trip at other times. If there are any adults who would like to be involved with Youth Connections, either helping leading a session or providing a lunch for the youth on a particular date, let Heather or Pastor Tyler know.





ADULT CONNECTIONS

Adult Connections currently offers 2 options for faith development. Choose the one that's best for you, or participate in both!

- "The Bible in Today's World" class takes place on Sunday mornings at 9 am, in the upstairs meeting room. They are using the "Animate: Faith" curriculum, combining short videos and lively group conversation. This class will resume in January. Contact John Toren or Bonnie Perryman with any questions.
- Wednesday evening "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion takes place each Wednesday evening, 7-8 pm, online on Zoom. We look deeper into Scripture from current topics in the church and from Sunday services. The link to log in to Zoom is emailed out weekly. There will be no BYOB on Dec. 21 or 28, and will resume on Jan. 4. Contact Heather Casiano with any questions.

If you have an idea for a new small group or class, please let us know. We would love to help get a new group formed as there is interest. Groups can meet any day of the week, at the church or elsewhere. Share your ideas and we'll help make them happen!

ADVENTure Activities

The season of Advent is upon us. The Faith Development team invites everyone to join us in the Fellowship Room after worship each Sunday of Advent for another series of "ADVENTures"! This year's ADVENTure will include a short video each week and an interactive art project for all ages, that will be displayed during the Christmas season in the church – different from last year's paper chain project. Our project is appropriate for all ages and all skill levels, so come join us. Stay as long or as short a time as you are able and bring your friends and family!

VISUAL PRAYER



The prayer wall, inside Door D by the church office, is looking beautiful! So many colorful ribbons representing prayers and praises for so many people and situations around the world – Praise be to our God that we can so freely bring all our concerns, worries and excitements to them in prayer!!

If you aren't familiar with the prayer wall, there is a guide posted on the wall next to the prayer ribbons. You can choose one or more colorful ribbons to represent the types of prayers you wish to uplift. You can speak your prayer(s) out loud or to yourself as you tie the ribbon(s) on the wire or weave them in. There is nothing to write down, and all prayers remain anonymous except to our God, who knows our needs even before we do!

Everyone is invited to say a prayer for all the ribbons already added and the needs they represent, regardless of whether you add your own ribbons or not. Over time, the ribbons will fill in the wire and become a beautiful piece of art representing our prayers.



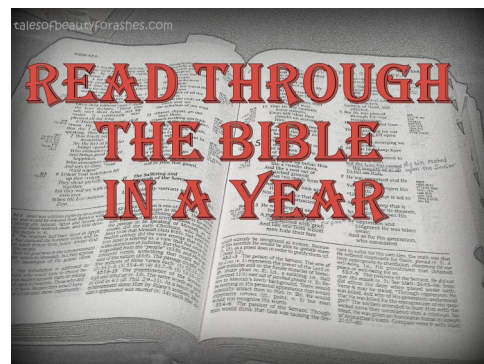
In place of providing a paper devotional booklet this year for Advent, the Faith Development team is offering a variety of devotions to choose from. Pick one or try out several – whatever makes your Advent experience meaningful.

- Use the “Read the Bible in a Year” reading plan as your daily Advent devotional. As you read the suggested passages each day, think about how it fits into the larger story of God’s redeeming work through Jesus.
- There are 24 chapters in the gospel according to Luke. Start on Dec. 1st and read one chapter a day to get you through Christmas Eve. The author of Luke’s gospel gives us a pretty thorough view of Jesus’ life and ministry from birth to death-resurrection-ascension.
- Read a different Psalm each day of Advent leading up to Christmas. Reflect on the emotions the writer expresses, the questions asked, and the hope the writer finds. In what ways can you identify with the psalmist? What questions do you have for God in this season of waiting? Where do you find hope?
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offers a free Advent devotional each year, which can be found online at https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1 . You can download the entire devotional at once, or visit the webpage each day to read and/or listen to that day’s entry.
- Kate Bowler, a Christian author, speaker, and professor at Duke Divinity School, shares her free 4-week Advent devotional here: <https://katebowler.com/advent2022/> Enter your name and email address on the page, and the devotional will be emailed to you.
- Luther Seminary has a free Advent devotional on their website to download in regular or large print: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/>
- Visit the website <https://d365.org/> or download the d365 app on your mobile device for free devotionals every day of the year, and specially themed devotions during Advent. Each short daily devotion features a “Pause-Listen-Think-Pray-Go” format, with optional music in background.

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

We’re almost there! There are 31 days in December, giving us 31 more days to either complete our year of reading the Bible, or to start a new reading challenge for yourself. It’s never too late to start reading God’s Word. In the coming year 2023, we will highlight resources each month that can help you in better understanding or studying the scripture that you’ve read.

The December Bible reading plan is included in this newsletter, and it will be posted on our church’s website (www.fpchighland.org). If you would like to discuss anything you read in the Bible or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Tyler or Heather – we’d love to chat with you. May this year in the Bible be a blessing to you!



2022 Bible Reading Plan

December 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 2-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Micah 4	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Micah 5	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 8-10 <input type="checkbox"/> Micah 6-7
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 14-16 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 17-19 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 4	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 20-22 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 23-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 112	10 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 25-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7
11 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 27-28 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 8	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 124 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 31-32 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11	15 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 33 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 12	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 34-36 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13	17 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 37 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 76 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14
18 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 38-40 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15	19 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 41-42 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 16	20 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 43-44 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17	21 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 45 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 85 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18	22 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 46-47 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19	23 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 48-49 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 20	24 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 50-51 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 66 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21
25 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 52 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22	26 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 53 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 22	27 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 54-55 <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24	28 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 56-57 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 1	29 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 58-60 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 2	30 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 3	31 <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 65-66 <input type="checkbox"/> Jude 1



December Liturgists:

- 12/4: Bonnie Perryman
 12/11: Robbie Casiano
 12/18: Tracy Oprea
 12/24: CHRISTMAS EVE
 Carol Callaway
 12/25: John Toren



December LiveStreaming

- 12/4: Tracy Oprea
 12/11: Tristan Casiano
 12/18: CANTATA
 Jamie Ham
 12/24: CHRISTMAS EVE
 Robbie Casiano



Choir schedule for the month of December:

- Thursday Dec. 1 @ 7:00 pm.
 Tuesday Dec. 6 @ 7:00 pm.
 Tuesday Dec. 13 @ 7:00 pm.
 Saturday Dec. 17 @ 10:00am
 Thursday Dec. 22 @ 7:00 pm.



December Candle Lighters:

- 12/4: Mary & Oliver Keilman
 12/11: Carol Callaway &
 Georgette Sknerski
 12/18: Carolyn & Jamie Ham
 12/24: CHRISTMAS EVE
 Casiano Family



Christmas Eve Service will be on
 Saturday, December 24th at
 7:00 PM



Worship on Sunday, December 25th will
 be an online service.



It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias! We will be offering red poinsettias for \$10.00.

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 Monday, December 12th.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Please Print **CLEARLY**)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

	Number	Price	Total
Red	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

Donation in LIEU of flowers \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022

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



The Ministry of Mission has several upcoming events to assist the congregation in being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus Christ.



The Ministry of Mission will be hosting a Bake Sale on Sunday, December 18th, in fellowship hall after church. This is Mission's first Bake Sale since COVID began, and we are looking forward to having a successful event! If there are any bakers out there who would like to donate their baked goods to the Bake Sale, please contact Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181. Your time and talents are appreciated more than you know!



The Ministry of Mission is volunteering once again with the Salvation Army for their 2022 Bell Ringing Drive. Mission has been in contact with the Salvation Army, and we have committed to one day a week (Wednesdays) for six weeks.

On behalf of the Ministry of Mission, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

Tracy S. Oprea, Secretary
Ministry of Mission



November Shelter Report

How fortunate we were on Saturday to have lots of help with the cooking for the shelter. Nancy and Gerry Veltman joined the group, along with Jean Smith and Mindy Sanchez. Of course, the old stand-bys Judy Toren and Jamie Ham were on deck as usual.

We were able to get things accomplished in record time!! We made a meal of shepherd's pie, salad, rolls, butter and white cake with cherries. A huge thank you to St. Tim's for a donation of meat and my friends Amy and Clay Lambert for their very generous donation of meat!! It always helps Mission's budget when we get those donations.



When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy

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

News from the Pews



The 2023 Pledge Envelopes will be available for pick up in the Narthex starting, Sunday, December 11th. Please help us keep costs down in the office by picking up and delivering envelopes for members that are unable to do so.



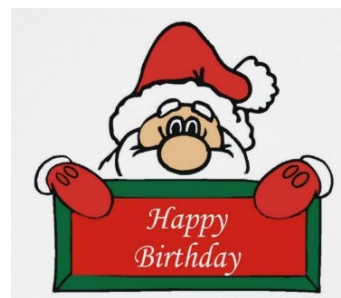
The Ministry of Hospitality is seeking hosts for fellowship! There is a sign up board downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Hosting can be as simple as bringing store-bought snacks or as fun as making something if you have the skills!



Blessing Box

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.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6	Evvy Kikkert
8	Kristen Wilson
9	Ben Porter
11	John Toren
12	Ron Shuck
18	Hilary Kikkert
28	Caroline Studer
29	Suzanne Gruoner
30	Rodney Fozkos

News from the Pews



The FPCH Crazy Crafters worked very hard this year from July to the November 5th Craft Show at St. James Catholic Church in Highland. A craft sale was also held after worship on November 13th. A huge thank you to our crafters: Charlotte Abernethy, LeeAnn Cheesebrough, Lois Fozkos, Peggy Fozkos, Sharon LaFlech, Bonnie Perryman, Pam Porter, Jean Smith, and Nancy Veltman, who generously donated their materials, time and talent!

Our two sales made \$978.82 for the general fund of our church. Thank you to everyone who purchased items!

There will be one more opportunity to purchase items on December 4th after worship. Come and see what the crafters have made and do some Christmas shopping!





Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...



Anthony
Andrew Bobalik
Laura Buono Domsic
Carmelo
U. Chong
Ruth Dekker
Frank Falzone
Carol Finley
George Griner
Myrna Grove
Donna Helmer
Guy Hendricks
Hendricks' family
Kiki Ho
Jakob Holden
Bill & Anettia Holmes
Huilin
David Kingen
Robert Lestina
Holly Letnich
Daniel Litwicki
David Markley
Doug & Sue Matthews
Denise Matthys
Chuck Murphy
Jaden Mendez
Diane & Ray Mendoza
Virginia Marshall
Barbara Morton
George Nelson
Jeanne Nestor
Jan Oprea
Janet Orem
Rick Parker
Cary & Jennifer Pearson
Marla & Jerry Renfro
Lily Renfro
Sharon
Georgette Sknerski

Richard Simmons
Jay & Jean Smith
Gale Snyder
Steve & Melinda
Caroline Studer
Gary Studer
Yvonne Suroviak
Janet Terpstra & Family
Robert Urich
Brady Vanes
Cindy Waltz & Sister
Kevin Windstrup
Annie & Mike Windstrup
Laura Wisner
Glen Nahler
Kate Abernethy
Janet Vargo
Claudia Szymaszek
Samantha Toren
Robbie
Tony B.
Tammy
Tom
Renee Williams
Jana Tolley
Betty Stauser
Peter
Andi Burczyk
Wendy
Jaden Mendez
John Mullen
John Tolbert
Erin Fozkos
Kathy Elroy
Shirley McKnight

- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- 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 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 loved ones.

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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).