

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

June
2023

Volume 16 Issue 6

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Dear All,

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

We are now in the season of Pentecost, one of the most important and exciting liturgical observations of the year! This past Sunday we celebrated the birth of the Church with tongues of fire, soaring doves, and a collective inbreathing of the Holy Spirit. It is abundantly clear that the Holy Spirit is moving through the First Presbyterian Church of Highland and through the Church across the world!

That movement of the Holy Spirit was on brilliant display on May 21st for our visioning luncheon! During that luncheon around thirty of us broke bread together and discussed the following questions: Who are we? What are our gifts and challenges? What do we do? What can we do differently and more effectively?

Book Club

Flower Vouchers

**Mission Parking Lot
Fundraiser**

Got Sneakers?

Calling All Crafters

*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*

Here is a delineation of our shared responses:

Who are we?

Service
Disciples
Family
Not Afraid to Work
Community
Safe Haven
Not Afraid to Reach Out
Children of God
Accepting
Welcoming
Living
Place of Learning
Heart, Hands, and Feet of Jesus Christ
Faithful
Devoted
Searching
Aging
Worshiping
Diminishing in Numbers
Adventurous
Loving
Hopeful

What are our gifts?

The Holy Spirit
Talents
Selflessness
Food and Food Ministries
Inclusiveness
Adaptability
Musicians
Resilience
Courage
Outreach
Diversity
Endowment Fund
Creativity
A Strong and Amazing Congregation

What are our challenges?

Doing Better with a Message of Inclusiveness
Finances
Infrequent New Folks
Programming for Kids/Youth
Society's Trends for Church Participation
Maintenance of the Building
Committee Numbers, Sizes, and Structures
Multigenerational Programming
Partnerships with Other Congregations and Community Groups
Ho-Hum Hymns
Burnout
"That's the Way It's Always Been" Attitudes

What are both gifts and challenges?

Gifted and Passionate People but Declining Numbers
Our Building's Size and Accessibility
Worship Opportunities in Person and Online
Operation and Maintenance of Technological Equipment
Our Sense of Comfort
Volunteers
All Part-Time Staff
Communication Internally and Externally
Our Ability to Act on New Ideas
Our Way of Doing Things
Style of Music in Worship

What can we do differently and more effectively?

Both/And Contemporary and Traditional Worship
Reach Out to Kids/Youth/Young Adults
Develop Clearer Guidelines for How Boards, Ministries, and Committees Operate
Merge Ministries and Committees
Look at Where We Have Overlap of Tasks and Gifts
Put the Screens up in the Sanctuary
Examine Wants Versus Needs
Flexibility in Ways of Operating
More Creativity in How We Present Our Congregation through Outreach and Social Media
Better Ways of Evangelizing and Promoting Our Congregation
Summaries from Our Different Board Meetings in the Larger View
Develop Other Reasons to Join Our Community: e.g. Non-Religious Events, Mission Opportunities
Involve Newer Members and Visitors More in the Life of the Church
Include Youth in Leadership
Use Worship as a Context for Accomplishing Tasks
Do More of Our Programming on Sundays
Explore Non-Sunday Worship Opportunities: e.g. During the Week for a Shorter Time
Explore Community Needs
Do Things with Other Congregations
Reach Out to Other Congregations to See What Is Working for Them

Based on the rich conversation that we had, the major themes that emerged for deeper engagement are our need to communicate better with each other and the community, our need to address evangelism (spreading the good news of God's love and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregation), our need to grow numerically, and our need to address the current structure of boards, ministries, and committees.

Over the summer we will be taking a deeper look at all that was discussed and start to put some concrete plans together so that our ideas do not disappear into the ether. In the late summer or early fall, we plan to gather together again to see which concrete plans we would actually like to put into action! In the meantime, if you think of anything to add to our brainstorming, please reach out to me or to any of the members of the Session. Thank you, all, for your faithfulness!

I close with these words from *Joel*:

Then afterward

*I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old shall dream dreams,
and your young shall see visions.*

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler



Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'—Matthew 25:37-40

This month's *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the entire congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland! We had a great turnout for our visioning luncheon on Sunday, May 21. The conversation that we had about who we are, what our strengths and challenges are, all that we do, and possibilities for what we can do differently and more effectively is a great testament to our shared commitment to congregational vitality. I am excited about how the Holy Spirit will continue to move through this church and the Church universal as the body of Christ!

If you witness anyone or any group embodying the *Matthew 25* call upon our lives, please let Pastor Tyler know so that he can highlight them in this section!



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
April 30, 2023

	Month of April	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$8,698.56	\$10,038.59	\$66,524.10
Operating Expenses	14,000.38	14,862.86	57,853.98
Excess (Deficit)	(\$5,301.82)		\$8,670.12



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

In Memory of Eason Engle, Don Fitting and Jay Smith

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, Fred & Carol Callaway, Peter & Gale Churitch, Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, Jan Oprea, John & Judy Toren, and George Griner

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

In Honor of George Griner's 100th Birthday

Fred & Carol Callaway and Leroy Fassett



June Liturgists:

6/4: Heather Casiano
6/11: Robbie Casiano
6/18:: Lois Fozkos
6/25: Carol Callaway



June LiveStreaming

6/4: Tristan Casiano
6/11: Tracy Oprea
6/18: Robbie Casiano
6/25: Jamie Ham



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections is taking a break from its regular schedule during the summer months, but watch for announcements in the bulletin, online and in text messages to the youth about special summer opportunities to gather, serve and have fun.

Youth Connections is open to anyone entering 6th grade through young adults aged 25. You do not need to be a member of the church to participate. Contact Heather Casiano or Pastor Tyler with any questions.



ADULT CONNECTIONS

Both of our adult classes are on hiatus for the summer months, and both will resume meeting in September.

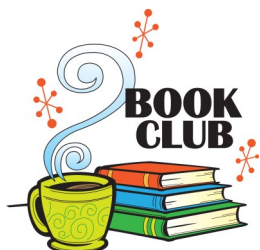
NEW If you would be interested in participating in a short-term (6-8 weeks), mid-week Bible study group during the summer, daytime or evening, please contact Heather Casiano by June 15th at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or call the church office and leave your name, what time of day/evening works the best for you, and which day of the week you prefer. If there is enough interest (friends are always welcome!) we can get a small group started.



CELEBRATING ANOTHER GRADUATE!

Congratulations to Kris Agbor, who graduated from Ivy Tech Community College with an Associate of Science in Nursing degree. Kris next plans on working on a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, toward his goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

BOOK CLUB THIS FALL



Calling all book lovers! Would you like to get together to discuss your latest read, hear book recommendations from others, or read along and discuss a book's connections to our faith? We're looking to see who would be interested in getting our church's book club restarted for this fall. All ages are welcome to participate. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Fozkos or Heather Casiano.



WoW WALL OF WORDS

To help make connections between our worship and the lifelong process of faith development, the ministry of Faith Development has built a wall – a Wall of Words, or WoW! Every couple of weeks a new word from our worship will be posted on the wall. The current word will be highlighted in worship, printed in the bulletins, and posted on the physical WoW (in the narthex) and on the online WoW (posted on Facebook and Instagram each Sunday). All are invited to consider the word during the week between worship services, and then post a small reflection of how you see, experience or witness that word out in the world when you next come to worship. This can be a short written reflection or a picture or drawing, and you can contribute to the wall as often as you'd like. Take the messages of our worship into your week and be amazed at how God is present!



What You Won't Hear On Cable News

By Carrie Newcomer (c – 2021)

Submitted by Heather Casiano

I want to tell you,
What you won't hear on cable news
About a young woman in the airport
Who was exhausted and harried,
By hours of delay
And wrangling an overtired toddler
That when her little boy
Finally. and completely
Melted down
And painted himself on the floor,
She sat down beside him,
And wanted to cry.



I want to tell you about five random women,
 Who immediately flowed forth from all directions,
 One pulled out a little toy from her purse,
 One offered a snack or to go get something to drink,
 One who called the third child “honey”,
 Wiped his nose with a tissue,
 And offered another one to the grateful mother.
 And the one who asked if it was alright,
 To walk hand in hand with the child,
 Right here at the gate,
 Close by and always, always in sight.

I want to tell you about a man,
 Who makes soup and bread,
 And then gives it away.
 And the nurse who held his hand,
 When he was breathless and afraid.

I want to tell you about my neighbor,
 Who drives around all winter,
 With snow chains in his car,
 Just in case someone needs help.

I want to tell you about all the people I meet,
 Who keep extending themselves,
 And braving the risk
 Of Being told
 It’s none of their business,
 Who offer a hand,
 Or a bit of encouragement,
 Or a couple of bucks.
 Who will walk a fussy child around the gate,
 Because it is the kind thing to do.

I want to tell you the world still turns,
 Every single day,
 On an axis of goodness,
 And unexpected grace.



**MINISTRY OF MISSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND
ANNUAL FLOWER VOUCHER SALE**

Hello, Friends! The Ministry of Mission at FPCH is having its annual flower voucher fundraiser with Zandstras Greenhouse located at 10202 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, IN 46322. The flower vouchers are \$17.00/each; they are worth \$17.00, and you use them just like cash. The Ministry of Mission receives \$3.00 for each voucher sold. It is a win-win situation for everyone. You get gorgeous flowers or wonderful vegetable plants from our local greenhouse, and you also support our Ministry, which in turns helps our community.

If you are interested in purchasing a voucher, or two, or three, please contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181. She will make arrangements to deliver the vouchers to you.

Thank you for your support. Blessings to all!



The Ministry of Mission is having its annual Parking Lot Fundraiser during the Town of Highland's 4th of July Festival. The event begins on Friday, June 30, 2023 and continues through Tuesday, July 4th.

Sign ups for the parking lot fundraiser will begin on Sunday, June 11th. If you are able to spare an hour or two or three during this 5-day event, Mission would greatly appreciate your help. Tracy Oprea will have a sign-up sheet with her at all times, so please feel free to see her or even call her at (219) 616-7181.



'CUE FOR A CAUSE

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR

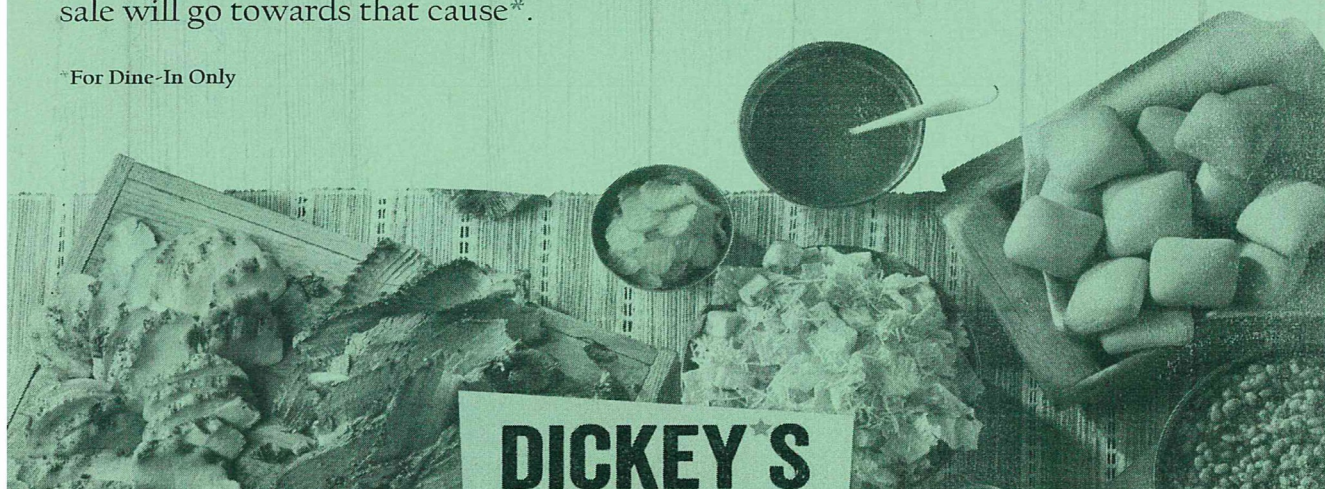
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Come dine with us at our Schererville, Indiana location to support this organization. Show this flyer at the time of purchase and 20% of the total sale will go towards that cause*.

*For Dine-In Only

SUNDAY
June 4, 2023
2:00-6:00 PM

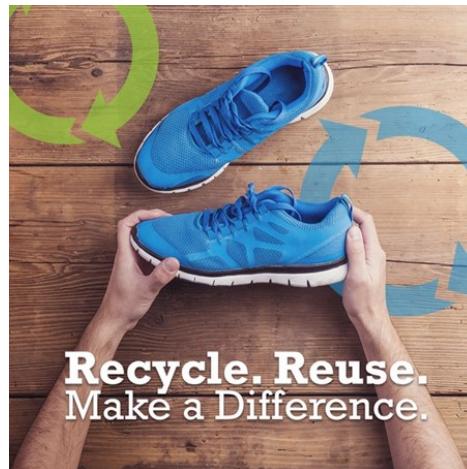
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Suites A6-A7
Schererville, IN
(219) 440-7650



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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 still 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 worn out. 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.

Blue bins are located inside DOOR D by the office, outside door D and also in the Narthex.

News from the Pews



calling all crafters

We are considering participating in a Craft Show again this year. The plan would be to raise money for our church general fund and to have fun crafting with others. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lee Ann Cheesebrough or Peggy Fozkos.

We will see what interest there is and make plans for any future meetings.



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 Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on June 27th.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Thor Severson |
| 2 | Oliver Keilman |
| 4 | Pastor Tyler Orem |
| 10 | Lexa Miller |
| | Nancy Engle |
| | Lucy Kikkert |
| 19 | Cathy Toren |
| 24 | Sam Helmer |
| 28 | Sonny Buono |



Thank you for all the cards, gifts and being able to enjoy my 100th Birthday with me. After 50 + years at FPCH, meeting new people was a plus. The last few years not easy - but hopefully possible! God Bless you all and FPCH.

With Love to All,

George Griner



Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

Bonnie Fitting and Family on the Death of her husband, Don on
April 23rd

Anthony
George Nelson
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
Daniel Litwicki
David Markley
David Kingen
Carmelo
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Jeanne Nestor
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Andrew Bobalik
Gale Snyder
Yvonne Suroviak
U. Chong
Wendy
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Steve & Melinda
Gary Studer
Jan Oprea
Janet Vargo
Robbie
Peter Churitch
Piper
Laura Wisner
Ric Jaeggi
Florance Cody
Josephine Kim
Ron Meinhardt

Laura Buono Domsic
Annie & Mike Windstrup
Kevin Windstrup
Ruth Dekker
Rick Parker
Barbara Morton
Caroline Studer
Cary and Jennifer Pearson
Carol Finley
Holly Letnich
Lily Renfro
Marla and Jerry Renfro
Jaden Mendez
Frank Falzone
Doug and Sue Matthews
Robert Urich
Richard Simmons
Glen Nahler
Tammy
Tom
Jana Tolley
Kathy Elroy
Loved ones of Jay Smith
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Virginia Marshall
Delta Rose
Lena
Mark
Paulina Martinez
Sharon LaFlech
Winnie Owen
Charity Lynn
Loved Ones of Bob and Fran Morton
Caroline Studer

- 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.

+++++

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).