

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



Volume 17 Issue 6

**Inside this issue:**

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



**Session Shorts**

**Spring Read-A-Long and  
Book Discussion**

**Mission Parking Lot  
Fundraiser**

**Summer Pledges**

**Bins of Hugs**

**Got Sneakers**

Dear All,

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

Church calendars often call this time of the year the Season *after* Pentecost. It is also known as Ordinary Time. Both these descriptions are accurate liturgically, but I prefer to think of it as the Season *of* Pentecost, which is an *Extraordinary* Time. It is important for us to remember that the Holy Spirit did not just come that one time. The Holy Spirit is continually blowing through the atmosphere of Creation and the atmosphere of our hearts! Throughout the next several months, I invite us to keep practicing our spiritual breathing with intention, remembering that we always have access to the breath of God. And the breath of God is the most powerful force in the universe! Let us be filled with it, and let us know that we are empowered to do the work of transformative love to which God calls us!

Speaking of transformative love, Happy Pride Month, everyone! On Pentecost Sunday, we were reminded that the call to transformative love is a call to embrace and embody diversity of identity and unity of purpose. The diversity with which we are created is exquisitely beautiful, and that includes our diversity of gender, sexuality, and ways of expressing love. Throughout June we are invited to love ourselves in the fullness of how God created us. We are also invited to reach out with love to those who have been made to feel unloved by the Church because of their God-given identities. May we always remember that we encounter God when we open our hearts and eyes to God's image in our human siblings!

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***

As we move through this extraordinary time of Pentecost together, we have much to look forward to! Our first outdoor worship service of the year is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>. As weather permits, we will be worshipping in the garden on the third Sundays of the summer months. June 16<sup>th</sup> is also Fathers' Day, when we get to celebrate the blessed father figures in our lives and pay particular attention to the ways that God is a good, good, father to us. Before that, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have an in-person book discussion on *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics*. In addition to these special events, we have the usual extraordinary events of our life together, including mission projects, fellowship time, Communion, ministry and committee meetings, prayer shawl making, and worship services. These seemingly ordinary things are extraordinary because they are done for the purpose of love, and love is always extraordinary!

By the way, I want to again lift up the extraordinary accomplishment of the completion of our temperature control project! Thanks to the generosity of so many of you and to the persistent labors of our Board of Trustees, we now have fully functioning air conditioning and heat in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Our time together in worship and fellowship will be even better than before because we will not have to worry about extreme temperatures inside the building. This mustard seed of a congregation keeps amazing me! Our faith is indeed extraordinary!

I leave you with these words from *Genesis*:

*God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





### Trustees:

- The air-conditioning sanctuary project is completed. Great job, Trustees!
- If items are brought in for the Karing Kitchen, please let someone know about them.
- The Trustees are looking into repairing/repainting our signage as well as that of the Blessing Box.

### Deacons:

- **Prayers and Concerns:** Prayers and concerns were lifted up for members of our congregation who are in need.
- **Blessing Box:** Deacons continue to check and stock the box daily, removing perishable and outdated items.
- **Gladys' Table:** Gladys' Table meals were prepared and delivered on 5/18/24. Krissy LaFlech and volunteers prepared the meal, and it was delivered by the deacons.
- **Sackurday:** On 4/27/24 , 40 lunches were prepared and distributed.
- **Prayer Shawls:** Two prayer shawls were designated for two members recovering from recent hospital stays.
- **Gift Cards for Graduates:** Gift cards were purchased for our high school graduates.

### Session:

- With the sanctuary air-conditioning project complete, we celebrated that \$55,429.37 of the \$57,500 was raised with grants, a gift from the Hammond church and our own capital campaign. To fund the remaining, Session authorized \$2,070.63 to be sent from the Endowment Fund General Fund monies available.
- Session also authorized \$500 to be sent from the Endowment Fund General Fund monies to replenish the \$500 already spent for AED training.
- The gardeners need additional volunteers. Also, dirt is needed. Thanks to Elder Cheryl Steen, we can get some student volunteers to help. Session discussed the need for a budget item for gardening.



- A garden workday was discussed and will be announced during worship on Sundays.
- There was also discussion about having an attic clean-up day in the fall.
- Fundraisers:
  - We will continue salad sales on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Our last salad sale made \$165.
  - There were many interested in a craft fair again in the fall. They will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month beginning in July.
  - Other ideas for fundraising were discussed.
- Rev. Tyler gave a report from the Presbytery meeting which occurred on May 21<sup>st</sup>. At that meeting, Heather Casiano was recommissioned to be able to do communion for churches in the Presbytery in the pastor's absence.
- Our outdoor worship services will occur on the third Sunday of each month, beginning in June.



## Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
April 30, 2024

	Month of April	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,751.53	\$10,673.57	\$65,444.62
Operating Expenses	12,894.15	15,505.61	56,632.09
Excess (Deficit)	(\$6,142.62)		\$8,812.53



## **Stewardship: Not Just Giving, It's A Way of Living!**

**“Be Kind. Show Grace. Share Empathy.”**

*Submitted by John Toren, paraphrased from  
Jerry Davich – The Times of Northwest Indiana 5/14/24*

“For some people....(life’s) seasons change too fast. Or they drag on for too long. They’re hurting emotionally. They’re in pain psychologically. They’re coping with life by any means possible.....I have listened.....they simply want someone to listen. The trouble is, our society doesn’t listen very well. It rants. It hates. And, it’s infected with fear, lies and anxiety. But listening, we struggle to do this..... We don’t know what other people are going through behind their smiles, politeness and images of normalcy. They may be struggling. They may be hoping for something meaningful in their life. Show some empathy. Share a little compassion. Reveal a hint of grace. Sometimes it’s all we can do.”

And sometimes it may be enough! Stewarding our God given talents to listen, to be compassionate and to care, may well put us, and the neighbors we are asked to love, on the path to a better “Way of Living”.

*You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.—James 1:19*



## ADULT CONNECTIONS

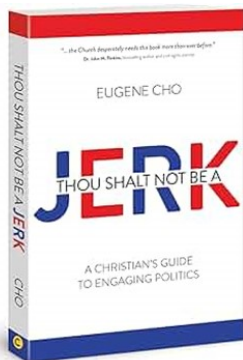
### SUMMER HIATUS

Both of our Bible study and discussion groups are on summer hiatus. The Bible in Today's World and BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) are taking a break for a few months, and will resume meeting in September. Thank you to all who have participated and those who have facilitated these groups!

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### SPRING READ-A-LONG AND BOOK DISCUSSION

On **Wednesday, June 12, at 6:30 pm**, there will be an in-person book discussion at the church. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall, and talk about the second half of the book (chapter 6-10). We encourage everyone to join us, regardless of how much you've read or not read in the book. Our first book discussion generated some great conversation about faith, politics and our relationships with one another. The book we're reading is "Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics" by Eugene Cho. This book, published in 2020, and our discussions, will not endorse any candidates or political parties, so no matter where you may find yourself on the vast spectrum of thought, there is room for all voices.



Here is a summary from the publisher, David C Cook: *According to Eugene Cho, Christians should never profess blind loyalty to a party. Any party. But they should engage with politics, because politics inform policies which impact people. Cho encourages readers to remember that hope arrived—not in a politician, system, or great nation—but in the person of Jesus Christ. With determination and heart, Cho urges readers to stop vilifying those they disagree with—especially the vulnerable—and asks Christians to follow Jesus and reflect His teachings.*

We have copies of this book at the church that can be checked out to read in the library room across from the church office. Please sign the check-out sheet when you take a book, and sign it back in when you are finished so more people may enjoy the book. "Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk" is also available in paperback and as an e-book (Kindle) through many retailers and bookstores. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.

## Worship Leaders

### June Liturgists:

- 6/2: Heather Casiano
- 6/9: Carol Callaway
- 6/16: Robbie Casiano (outdoor)
- 6/23: Lois Fozkos
- 6/30: Tracy Oprea



### June LiveStreaming

- 6/2: Robbie Casiano
- 6/9: Jamie Ham
- 6/16: Tristan Casiano (outdoor)
- 6/23: Peter Churitch
- 6/30: Jean Smith



The Ministry of Mission will be having its annual Parking Lot Fundraiser during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival at Main Square. The event starts on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and continues through Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.

This is one of Mission's major fundraisers for the year, and we would greatly appreciate your support. If you can work an hour or two during the festival, please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181.

With much appreciation,

Ministry of Mission



Thank You! Thank You! Thanks You!

A special “Thank You!” to Kaz Smailis for his assistance in cutting a large, dead bush from the garden as well as taking the necessary branches off the weeping cherry tree donated by Rev. Linda Skaggs. His muscle and chainsaw saved us many dollars!! Kaz is a good friend of the church.

I also would like to thank the hardworking weed pickers, Lexa Miller, Pam Porter, Jean Smith, and Jeff Savage for their hard work getting the garden ready for summer and our lovely outdoor services. There is more to do before we can plant our geraniums, but we are well on the way!  
~ Cheryl Steen



Bulletins

Will you be traveling this summer and attending Worship from afar? If so, please bring back a bulletin with you so it can be displayed on the bulletin board and published in the Larger View. We’d love to see where you have visited!!



## SALAD SALE

The Salad Sale will be on the third Sunday, June 16th. Come prepared that day to get a delicious salad and contribute to our general fund. It’s a win-win situation!



## REMINDER TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Vacation season is here, and many of us will be travelling and visiting. Please be mindful that even in your absence, your place here will be cooled, lit, and the water will still be flowing. Our church relies solely on the pledges and generosity of our members and friends to operate.

Please give prayerful consideration to keeping your pledges and contributions current because your church’s expenses continue, even when your schedule does not permit your attendance in worship.



## BIN OF HUGS

Bring in gently used and clean stuffed animals for Pastor Tyler and Abdul to distribute to migrant families in Chicago!





## DOING SOME SPRING CLEANING?

Did you know that your gently worn sneakers/athletic shoes could help us at First Presbyterian of Highland?

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.

As you clean out your closet, gather as many pairs of sneakers (only athletic shoes, please) 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.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on June 25th at 1:00 PM.



## 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.



### HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!

Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex to help the church's food pantry. We'd love to have you take a bag home, place some non-perishable food items in the bag, and bring it back to the church to help keep our pantry stocked!



- 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



The Per Capita for 2024 is \$43.62 per member.



### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

If you don't already follow First Presbyterian Church of Highland on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so and sharing our posts with your friends! @firstpchighland



## Clearinghouse Coordinator Job Description

**Reports to:**  
Executive Director

**Purpose:**  
Coordinate Love INC Clearinghouse activities.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Recruit, train, and supervise intake volunteers to:
  - Answer incoming calls and listen compassionately to callers.
  - Gather and record vital information regarding clients expressed needs and root causes
  - Verify all information relevant to meeting the client need.
  - Conduct follow-up calls to clients.
  - Maintain client confidentiality.
  - Keep volunteer time records.
2. Review information gathered by volunteers during the intake and analyze.
3. Determine how to resource client needs and ensure needs to be referred are manageable and specific.
4. Maintain accurate client records.
5. Maintain accurate records of agency services and maintain referral relationships.
6. Maintain accurate records of church ministries and volunteer individual resource inventories.
7. Maintain referral relationships with Love INC partner churches, church ministries, and support Church Ministry Coordinators / Love INC Ministry Coordinators.
8. Produce Clearinghouse activity reports.
9. Conduct Intakes as needed.

**Qualifications:**

1. Personal relationship with Jesus Christ and agreement with the Apostles' Creed.
2. Discernment, non-judgmental attitude and the ability to listen, empathize, and accept others.
3. Healthy, professional boundaries.
4. Good telephone and communication skills.
5. Ability to work independently and cooperatively.
6. Reliability and dependability.



# Prayers & CONCERNS



## Pray For...

Anthony  
 George Nelson  
 Brady Vanes  
 George Griner  
 Guy Hendricks  
 Bill and Anettia Holmes  
 Daniel Litwicki  
 David Markley  
 Pat & David Kingen  
 Diana and Ray Mendoza  
 Janet Orem  
 Jeanne Nestor  
 Cindy Waltz and Sister  
 Yvonne Suroviak  
 Wendy  
 Georgette Sknerski  
 Jakob Holden  
 Denise Matthys  
 Steve & Melinda  
 Jan Oprea  
 Janet Vargo  
 Ric Jaeggi  
 Florance Cody  
 Josephine Kim  
 Carol Figley  
 Kathy & Chuck Pumnea  
 Nick  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 Annie & Mike Windstrup  
 Kevin Windstrup  
 Ruth Dekker  
 Rick Parker  
 Gary Everhart  
 Gale Osterby  
 Bonnie Kern  
 Collin & Kathy Stein  
 Peter  
 Tim

Barbara Morton  
 Caroline Studer  
 Cary and Jennifer Pearson  
 Holly Letnich  
 Jaden Mendez  
 Frank Falzone  
 Doug and Sue Matthews  
 Robert Urich  
 Richard Simmons  
 Janet Terpstra  
 Glen Nahler  
 Tammy  
 Tom  
 Jana Tolley  
 Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
 Virginia Marshall  
 Delta Rose  
 Winnie Owen  
 Charity Lynn  
 Chestine  
 Shannon  
 David Hamblin  
 Judy  
 Breeanne  
 Joe Petersen  
 Susan Agbor  
 Mom Bechtler  
 A Close friend  
 Gloria  
 John Miramontes  
 Colton Bobonick  
 Cletus  
 Mary  
 Victor  
 Mary Ellen Edeus  
 Betsy  
 Crystal and David Cerventies

- We pray for the people of Haiti, Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- 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
- 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).