

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 16 Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Matthew 25 In the Spotlight	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Stewardship/Finance	5
Faith Development	6-9
Worship & Music	10
Ministry of Mission	11-13
News From the Pews	14



Youth Connections

Exploring the Scriptures

Lent 2023 Offerings

Easter Flower Order Form

Mission Update

Bake Sale

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Dear All,

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

We have begun our Lenten journey in profound and meaningful ways. We have had ashes imposed upon our foreheads in the shape of the cross and been reminded where we come from, who we are called to be here and now, and where we are headed at the end of this life. And so we have journeyed through the dirt. We have joined Jesus in the desert, witnessing his remarkable trust in God even while at his weakest due to fasting. And so we have journeyed through the wilderness, reminded that we should trust in God no matter what we are going through, for God is always reaching out to us, carrying us, and caring for us. And we still have a lot more journeying to do! Over the next several weeks, we will be journeying through difference, through the streets, through grief, and through Jerusalem.

As we do all of this journeying, it is important that we have sustenance to get us through. Spiritual practices will be our bread for the journey during these forty days of fasting. As you read through this edition of the Larger View, you will find several opportunities for learning and implementing spiritual practices. Throughout Lent, we will have access to a spirituality center filled with prayer stations, a weekly devotional to read and pray through, a pilgrimage to the stations of the cross, and several options for communal study and practice, both online and in-person. We will also have Spirit-filled worship services and spiritually enriching opportunities to embody generosity as a spiritual practice.

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*

One of the highlights of our Lenten journey will be our choral cantata during worship on Sunday, March 19. Our choir has been hard at work for many weeks preparing for this proclamation of the Word through song. Please consider bringing your family members and friends along with you to encounter Jesus through the power of music!

Speaking of the power of music, I close with these verses from one of our most moving Lenten hymns:

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptation sharp he knew,
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us to evil power betrayed,
Scourged, mocked, in purple arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death,
For us gave up his dying breath

All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad:
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore!

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





Let's continue with some important definitions as we build the foundations for our *Matthew 25* mission! Last month we learned about structural racism. This month we are learning about systemic poverty. From the PC(USA)'s website:

What is “systemic” poverty?

Systemic poverty refers to the economic exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status. We live in a world where not all have equal access to education, transportation, fresh food, financial resources, clean air, water or healthy environments, employment with a living wage, health care, benefits, citizenship and affordable housing. This lack of access creates generational cycles of poverty and a racial wealth gap that are systemic in nature. An individual cannot change their economic and social location easily by just “working harder.” Meanwhile the many, interlocking disadvantages often are compounded by choices to stay near family or a particular location or employment opportunity, or by gender and racial injustice, trauma, violence, immigration status, impacts from climate change and environmental degradation and other complicating issues.

Why are people poor?

Individuals are economically poor for diverse, complicated and unique reasons that stem from living in a world in which economic policies and practices trap some people in persistent poverty while enabling others to accumulate wealth. Wealth or profit often accrues on one side of the equation, often precisely because on the other side of the equation laborers are not paid fair wages, given health or safety protections, employed full-time or long-term, offered benefits, or given voice, power or influence.

Why can't people work themselves out of poverty?

In the United States, social safety nets and government programs to provide food, housing assistance, health care and employment often fail to meet basic needs and do not provide adequate or equitable access to these resources. Poverty is also often compounded by where a person is born and lives — certain geographic regions, communities and neighborhoods cannot easily access resources that could improve their situations. Around the world, international trade deals, government corruption, armed conflict and climate change exacerbate conditions of poverty. While there is no simple or easy solution, we do know that communities can become safer, happier and have an increased sense of well-being when they have vision, leadership and find allies in their quest self-empowered sustainable development.

SUGGESTION: Watch “Pain and Poverty in America,” a five-minute video created by the Poor People's Campaign that takes a close look at what it means to live with a low income or in poverty in the United States. [youtu.be/ zj5aVF54p-0](https://youtu.be/zj5aVF54p-0).



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
January 31, 2023

	Month of January	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$21,150.02	\$10,038.59	\$21,150.02
Operating Expenses	14,531.95	14,862.86	14,531.95
Excess (Deficit)	\$6,618.07		\$6,618.07



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

In Memory of: Eason Engle

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Nancy Janett & Barbara Jurjevic



“Spirit”

By Lois Fozkos and John Toren

We tend to limit our focus on Stewardship to “Time, Talent and Treasure,” but full exercise of those things goes well beyond the basics. We are guided to expand our thinking by the poetic words of Hymn 319, “Spirit”, by James K. Manley:

*Spirit. Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the seas.*

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep, then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep.

And over the eons You called to each thing, “Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

*Spirit. Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the seas.*

You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;

our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions Your people arise!

When thinking of stewardship, include Generosity of Spirit. Create your own new ways of uplifting others, extending kindness, spreading joy, and being bold in goodness
“rise on your wings”!



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections will meet after worship twice in March:

- March 12 – lunch together, “Joys, Junk and Jesus”, games
- March 26 – lunch at church then visiting The Shrine of Christ’s Passion in St. John (see details in the Lent offerings in this issue). Friends and family are welcome to join us. This will be a longer afternoon. Transportation to and from the Shrine can be provided for those who need a ride. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Youth Connections would like to thank everyone who generously donated food items or money to the annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” collection in February. A total of 104 food items and \$117.68 was collected. The youth voted to donate the food items to our church’s Blessing Box and food pantry, and to donate the money to the food ministry at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Griffith. Thank you all for helping feed the hungry in our local communities!



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. Youth Connections is open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades, and young adults post-high school through mid-20s. If you would like to be involved with Youth Connections, please contact Heather Casiano or Pastor Tyler.



ADULT CONNECTIONS

“The Bible in Today’s World” class meets each Sunday morning at 9 am in the upstairs meeting room. This month they are beginning a new study, “The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings.” In this six-session study, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine will guide you through the most difficult teachings of Jesus - how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. Come explore and learn with us! Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions.



EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURES IN 2023

This month’s suggested tool to help you with your Bible reading and study is an online resource: BibleProject. BibleProject is a nonprofit, crowdfunded organization that produces 100% free Bible videos, podcasts, blogs, classes, and educational Bible resources to help make the biblical story accessible to everyone everywhere. They believe that the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. Their resources help people experience the Bible in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transformative. BibleProject does this by showcasing the literary art of the Scriptures and tracing biblical themes from beginning to end. Rather than taking the stance of a specific tradition or denomination, they create materials to elevate the Bible for all people.

BibleProject is available online at <https://bibleproject.com/>, through the BibleProject app for mobile devices, and their podcast is available anywhere you listen to podcasts. Examples of content include “How to Read the Bible”; themes such as Spiritual Beings, Covenants, and Son of Man; books of the Bible; Hebrew word studies; and much more. The animated videos are short (most less than 10 minutes), while the podcasts are longer. Most things are appropriate for all ages, though you may want to preview audio/video before showing to young children just to make sure. Check out all the wonderful resources that BibleProject offers!

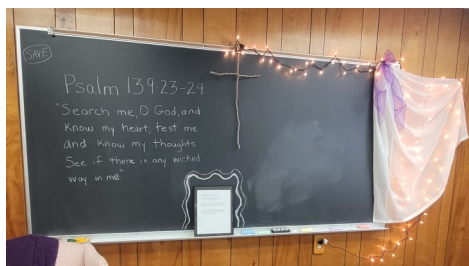


LENT 2023 OFFERINGS FROM FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To support you in your reflections and journey this Lenten season, the ministry of Faith Development is offering several opportunities. You are invited to participate in all the ways that may be meaningful to you!

► **Weekly Devotional** – This year’s Lenten Devotional comes from the *Presbyterian Outlook*, entitled, “Examen: Inward Work for Outward Living.” It explores the connection between internal contemplation and outward action through the ancient spiritual practice of *examen* that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. Weekly themes include examining our fear to live with faith, our pain to live with healing, our dishonesty to live with truth, our joy to live with gratitude, our love to live with heart and our burdens to live with blessing. Daily reflections combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. The devotions will be sent weekly via email with the worship packet, mailed to those who receive the bulletin via US mail, and a small number of printed copies will be available in the narthex for those who do not have email or access to a printer.

► **Lent Spirituality Center** – New this year! The Spirituality Center is located in the classroom across from the church office, with 7 different stations set up to guide you through prayer, meditation and reflection. Please take time on Sundays before and after worship, or weekday mornings Tuesdays through Thursdays, to stop in and enrich your spiritual journey. You are also invited to explore the stations any other time you may be in the church building, such as before or after a meeting. If you would like to arrange a time during an afternoon or evening to visit the Spirituality Center, please contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or leave a message for her at the church office. If you are not able to physically come to the church to participate, there are a few stations that we can email or deliver materials for you to participate at home.





- **Lenten Study and Practice** – Beginning March 1st, Pastor Tyler will lead this annual time of discussion, reflection, and spiritual practice online on Zoom on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm (during our usual BYOB time). This year's journey will take us through the stages of grief as we witness them being embodied by Jesus and his disciples in their anticipation of what was to come on the cross. By engaging grief openly and honestly, our journey will be one of healing! During each session we will also be exploring spiritual practices that will give us sustenance and strength for our journey. Plan on joining us for this meaningful time together!
- **Shrine of Christ's Passion Visit** – On Sunday, March 26, we're encouraging everyone to meet at the Shrine of Christ's Passion at 1 pm to walk the stations of the cross together as a visual way to reflect on Jesus' passion. The walking path is about a half-mile long, outdoors on a paved surface. They have a limited number of carts and wheelchairs available; to reserve one ahead of time, call the Shrine at 855-277-SHRINE(7474), or contact them at reservations@shrineofchristspassion.org. The Shrine is located at 10630 Wicker Ave. (US Hwy 41), St. John, IN 46373. There is no fee for The Shrine, and friends and family are welcome to attend with you. Our rain date will be April 2. Visit <https://shrineofchristspassion.org/> for more information.
- **Lenten Book Study in Schererville** – Immanuel Presbyterian Church has invited us to participate in their Lenten book study. They will be reading and discussing "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield, on Wednesdays from Noon to about 1:30 pm on March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5. Having the book is not necessary. Immanuel Presbyterian Church is located at 140 US 30 in Schererville. If you have questions, you can call them at 219-865-2686. There is a copy of this book for viewing only in our church's Spirituality Center if you would like to preview it before attending (please do not take or check out this book).



March Liturgists:

3/5: Carol Callaway
 3/12: Robbie Casiano
 3/19: Lois Fozkos
 3/26: Heather Casiano



March LiveStreaming

3/5: Robbie Casiano
 3/12: Tracy Oprea
 3/19: Jamie Ham
 3/26: Tristan Casiano



Easter Flowers

It's that time again! Time to order your Easter flowers. Daffodils, hyacinths, lilies, and tulips are \$10.00 each, and the deadline for ordering is **Monday, March 27, 2023**. You may also make a donation in lieu of flowers. Please fill the order form below and include money or check and either drop off or mail to the church office at: 8727 Delaware Street, Highland, IN 46322.

EASTER FLOWERS - ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAFFODIL	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
HYACINTHS	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
LILY	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
TULIP	_____	\$10.00	\$_____

DONATION IN LIEU OF FLOWERS \$_____

TOTAL \$_____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DEADLINE: 03/27/2023

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322



Ministry of Mission Update by Tracy Oprea

Presbyterian Giving Catalog 2023

The Ministry of Mission recently purchased two (2) families of chickens, two (2) piglets and a pair of goats through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. A copy of the catalog can be found on Mission's bulletin board if you are interested in learning ways you can support this great cause.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



The Ministry of Mission, through the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program), made a monetary donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 specifically to the Turkey / Syria Earthquake Fund. The Ministry of Mission's Mission Statement includes "being an emissary for Christ's love and compassion for those in need throughout the community, the nation, and the world." Mission is able to help those in need across the world with the assistance of the PDA.



February 22 - April 9, 2023

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING began on Sunday, February 22, 2023, and continues through Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. There are three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. All three of these programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Donations made during One Great Hour of Sharing will make an impact by restoring hope, feeding the hungry and empowering the oppressed. Please consider supporting One Great Hour of Sharing!



The Ministry of Mission will be having a Bake Sale on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023! Mission is in need of Bakers to make the Bake Sale feasible, and if you are interested in supporting Mission, please contact either Tracy Oprea or Cheryl Steen. Thank you!



Caring Heart Foundation in Zambia

At their February meeting, the Ministry of Mission decided to send funds to Caring Heart Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia. Caring Heart Foundation is a community-based orphanage that takes in children who are found in the streets. They also provide meals and school supplies to children who are otherwise housed but experiencing extreme poverty. Caring Heart Foundation is community-based in the purest sense. Caroline Shabenzu started taking children into her home when she noticed the needs of her neighborhood. She has continued to do so for years and continues to seek ways to expand. Pastor Tyler has spent a lot of time with Caroline and her many kids! Caroline often joins us for worship online. February's donation from FPCH helped with the purchase of new mattresses. In addition to providing healthier and more comfortable sleeping conditions, these mattresses met a requirement for Caring Heart Foundation's application for certification.



News from the Pews



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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

on Sunday, March 12th. Make sure you turn your clock **AHEAD** one hour.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3	Collin Parker
6	Nancy Johnston
9	Barbara Morton
12	Patty Nelson
18	Ashley Churitch
19	Bill Zuke
20	Calvin Scott
21	Brandon Chong
22	Bill Holmes
30	Karen Lounsbury



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on March 28th.



Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...

Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:
Gayle Tharp on the death of her husband, Marty on February 12th



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
John Mullen
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
Kate Abernethy
Betty Strauser
Peter Churitch
Piper
Laura Wisner

Laura Buono Domsic
The Windstrups
Ruth Dekker
Rick Parker
Barbara Morton
Caroline Studer
Cary and Jennifer Pearson
Carol Finley
Huilin
Holly Letnich
Lily Renfro
Marla and Jerry Renfro
Jaden Mendez
Frank Falzone
Doug and Sue Matthews
Kiki Ho
Janet Terpstra and Family
Robert Urich
Richard Simmons
Glen Nahler
Claudia Szymaszek
Tammy
Tom
Renee Williams
Jana Tolley
John Tolbert
Kathy Elroy
Shirley McKnight
Jay & Jean Smith
The Family of John Lestina
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
The Family of Marty Tharp

- 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).