

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 17 Issue 3

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**Board Shorts**

**Save the Date**

**One Great Hour**

**Easter Flower Order Form**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Daylight Saving time begins**

**Soup Sale**

**Per Captia**

Dear All,

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

It is such a joy to greet you as a newlywed! Vima and I could not have asked for a more beautiful celebration in Vieques, Puerto Rico, on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We were able to celebrate fully because of the ability of the priesthood of all believers at FPCH to continue the worshipful work of the people so faithfully in my absence. Thank you! We are very excited to celebrate with all of you at our reception on April 14<sup>th</sup>! My gratitude to all of you extends beyond our wedding this Lenten season, though. Our focus this Lent is the question, "Who is my neighbor?" and over the past two months you have been answering that question by placing yourself on the pathway of some of the most vulnerable people in the region and thus becoming their neighbors.

I cannot thank you enough for all the donations you have given for newly arrived migrants in Chicago. I will try, though, by expressing gratitude on behalf of those who received them. There is always a need for warmth and sustenance during Chicago's winters, and that is especially true for those who are living outside. This year, though, that need has grown exponentially as thousands of migrants have been bussed to the city. Most have made long journeys from Venezuela to seek safety and opportunity, not expecting to end up in this cold city without housing. For several months they had to camp at police stations, many in tents outside. Now they have been placed in makeshift shelters inside old warehouse buildings without access to many resources. One of these makeshift shelters is near to my apartment, and I have encountered many families with children outside looking for ways to survive. The first time that Vima and I drove over to the migrant shelter, we parked near one family, and as soon as we opened the trunk there were too many people surrounding

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***

us to count. Vima was able to speak with everyone in Spanish and to hear how folks were doing while I handed items out. We handed out everything in the car. Vima and I have made several more trips because of your generosity, and at times Abdul and Josh have also joined. Each time, we have departed in a completely empty car. Sometimes what we have to offer can seem like a small drop in an ocean of need. There are major changes that need to happen in our society to address that ocean, but the small things that we do are still deeply meaningful. When people receive love and care, they know that their humanity is seen and embraced. Our coat drive has now shifted to a stuffed animal and toy drive, as there are so many children in the shelter who are in need of some joy. Thank you for sharing with these neighbors and thus showing the love of God!

The month of March will see us through the rest of Lent, our observance of Holy Week, and our celebration of Resurrection Sunday. I pray that our opportunities for worship, spiritual practice, study, and service will continue to inspire us to be good neighbors. This edition of the Larger View has details on ways that you can participate. Please do take part in as much as possible. We all will be the better for it!

I leave you with these words from *Luke*:

*An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

*... "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- AED training and certification will take place on Saturday, March 2 at 1:00 pm.
- The Trustees have changed their meeting time to the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm.
- President Jeffery Savage asked that we need to keep the entranceways to the church and hallways clear of boxes and clutter. The entranceways need to be accessible for emergencies and safety of individuals.
- Other projects that have been completed include the following: fixing a toilet in the downstairs men's washroom, purchasing furnace filters for the new furnace, installing a dishwasher in the kitchen that had been donated by a member, removing the water fountain in the Fellowship Hall, and repairing a broken section of window in the old sanctuary.

### DEACONS

- Elder and Deacon Lois Fozkos said that the Deacons had met and were in the process of reorganizing. Pam Porter is now the moderator of the Deacons.
- Sackurdays and Gladys' Table were discussed with the possibility of them being done on the same day, instead of 2 separate Saturdays.
- The prayer list was updated.

### SESSION

Elder Lois Fozkos thanked all that had donated coats for warmth this winter. Since it is getting warmer, she announced that we will change our focus to collecting clean stuffed animals for the migrant children. We will have "A Bin for Hugs" available for donations.

- The Capital Campaign for the sanctuary air conditioning project is ongoing and making great progress. We decided to extend the campaign until April 15<sup>th</sup>. As of this week, we have raised \$9070 of the \$13,500 goal. We are 2/3 of the way to our goal! Any amount you can donate is appreciated!

Thanks to all who have either made soup or supported this soup sale fundraiser. We are planning to have another soup sale on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Tyler highlighted our many Lenten activities. Congregation members can spend time in the spirituality center, walk the labyrinth in the sanctuary, read the Lenten devotionals sent by email or participate in the Lenten series that Pastor Tyler is leading on Wednesday nights on Zoom. Special thanks to Faith Development and Heather Casiano for organizing activities and setting up the spirituality center and the labyrinth.

- Elder Lois Fozkos was appointed to be our commissioner to Presbytery Assembly on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The following dates were assigned for the ministries to host fellowship after worship:

March 3 – Hospitality

March 10 - Worship & Music

March 17 – Shine the Light and Endowment

March 24 – Mission

March 31 – Stewardship and Finance

April 7 – Trustees

April 14 – Reception for Pastor Tyler and Vima's marriage

April 21 – Faith Development

April 28 – Session

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
WEDDING RECEPTION FOR PASTOR TYLER AND VIMA  
APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> after worship**



**Join our congregation in celebrating Pastor Tyler and Vima’s marriage! We wish them much love and blessings! On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a reception for them after worship in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited, but we need an RSVP by March 31<sup>st</sup> to know how to plan. Please call the church to indicate if you will be there or sign up on the sheet in the narthex on Sundays. We can also use volunteers to help, and if you are interested, please let Jean Smith know (219-730-7749).**



**Treasurer’s Report**

For the Month of  
January 31, 2024

	Month of January	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$33,647.02	\$10,673.57	\$33,647.02
Operating Expenses	12,741.27	15,505.61	12,741.27
Excess (Deficit)	\$20,905.75		\$20,905.75



## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Submitted by Jamie Ham

God of mercy, You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives, embrace the Good News and draw closer to You.

During this season of Lent, help us use this time to fast and pray, be more generous and show others how to live in Christ.

Let us see each day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and gain a deeper appreciation of Your active presence in our hearts and our community of faith.

Give us the grace to see Your face in others, especially the poor and those who suffer.

And through your Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of Your love so that we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout the world.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen.

**Prayer retrieved from:**

**<https://catholicstewardship.com/icsc-march-stewardship-prayer-2/>**

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## The Power of God's Love

Submitted by Lois Fozkos

Love spoke the world into being. Scripture tells us that God is love, and by His word, the world sprang into existence. Behind every granite peak and every blade of grass, behind life itself, is the unstoppable and incredible force that is the love of God. This love creates, and it supplies for the needs of all it has created. With wisdom and power, our heavenly Father provides food, water, air, and shelter. He watches over the changing of the seasons and the many processes that ensure continuance of life on Earth.

In the world's fallen state, the groans of creation are often felt in destructive natural forces, but life is still upheld. Human history goes on, often in the midst of great beauty. Our God delights to restore, bringing spring on the heels of winter and blossoms in the wake of decay. Though we witness the toll of sin in lack and suffering, God's love is still present, carrying us forward.

Since time began, He has sustained the world, unchanging in his glorious strength even as oceans rise and fall, and year turns into year. We can see God's love at work all around us, in towering mountains, colorful sunsets, and flowers bursting into bloom. From the story of life recorded in the knots of an ancient tree, to the dance of surf over rock as it heads toward shore, all creation speaks of the mighty power of God's wonderful and caring heart.

**Article retrieved from: an old book at home**



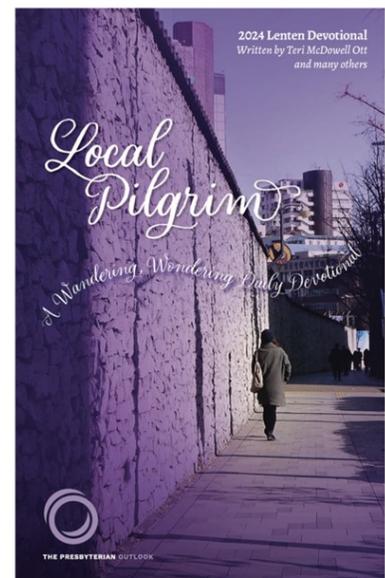
## ADULT CONNECTIONS

“The Bible in Today’s World” class meets in person on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in the upstairs meeting room. We are making our way through the book, “The Difficult Words of Jesus,” by Amy-Jill Levine. In class we discuss the Scriptures and essential issues each chapter is based on and watch a short video by the author to better understand some of Jesus’ most confusing teachings. Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions.

This class is open to all youth and adults. Friends are always encouraged to participate as well – you do not have to be a member of this congregation.

### “LOCAL PILGRIM” LENT DEVOTIONAL

This year’s Lent devotional, “Local Pilgrim,” invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. A variety of writers explore what God might reveal to us if we intentionally explore our communities. Who do we see? What do we hear? God reveals God’s self when we look. As you make your way through this devotional, you might find yourself inspired to go somewhere new; or somewhere familiar with a notebook in hand; pause, ponder and pray. Each daily reflection, beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday, will combine personal reflection, Scripture and prayer. This Lent devotional is emailed out each week with the worship materials, and mailed to those who don’t have email. A limited number of printed copies will also be available in the narthex.





### *Spirituality Center*

### **SPIRITUALITY CENTER**

Our Lenten Spirituality Center is located in the library room across from the church office. There are several stations set up for prayer and reflection that you are invited to engage with. In addition, this year there is also a Labyrinth in the front of the sanctuary to walk and pray. The prayer stations are appropriate for all ages, so you are encouraged to share this space with children and adults in your life. The Spirituality Center is available on Sundays before and after worship and during regular church office hours (Mon. –Thurs., 8 am to noon). If you cannot come to the church physically and would like an at-home version of the stations, please contact Heather Casiano at [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org) or call the church office.



Ministry  
of



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

# LENTEN



*Study and Practice*

As the suffering of our world continues to mount at such an alarming speed, it is vitally important that we learn how to study God's Word and put it into practice in ways that liberate and transform. Liberation theologies start with the premise that God pays special attention to those who are suffering most in the world and calls us to act in ways that physically and spiritually relieve that suffering. Each week we will engage in the action of reading God's word and learning from people who come from those communities that are suffering most. Each week we will engage in communal reflection by discussing together and by considering actions we can take in our own community. This **Lenten Study takes place each Wednesday of Lent, March 6-27, from 7-8 pm online on Zoom.** The link is sent out via email weekly; if you are not currently receiving this email and would like to, please contact Kristen in the church office. Feel free to invite friends to participate with you.



### **SOUPE BOWL OF CARING RESULTS**

The youth wish to thank everyone who contributed food items and/or monetary donations for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. A total of \$67.00 and 47 non-perishable food items were collected on Feb. 11. The youth voted to split the food items between our church's Blessing Box and food pantry. They also voted to send the money collected to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Griffith – one of our mission partners – for their food ministries. Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to help feed our hungry neighbors!





# SPECIAL OFFERINGS

75  
YEARS



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all 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.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 – March 31), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**



### THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



*Through your congregation*



*Text OGHS to 91999 to give*



*[pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)*



MATTHEW 25



### 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 10, 2024**. 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: 03/10/24**

8727 DELAWARE STREET, HIGHLAND, IN 46322



The Easter Cantata will be on  
Sunday, March 17th, at 10:30 AM



Palm Sunday Worship will be on  
Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Service will be  
Thursday, March 28th, at 7:00 PM



Easter Sunday Worship will be on  
Sunday, March 31st, at 10:30 AM



**March Liturgists:**

- 3/3: Heather Casiano
- 3/10: Robbie Casiano
- 3/17: Renee Williams
- 3/24: Lois Fozkos
- 3/28: Karen Lounsbury (Maundy Thurs.)
- 3/31: Carol Callaway



**March LiveStreaming**

- 3/3: Jean Smith
- 3/10: Tristan Casiano
- 3/17: Jamie Ham
- 3/24: Tracy Oprea
- 3/28: Jean Smith (Maundy Thurs.)
- 3/31: Robbie Casiano



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**  
on Sunday, March 10th. Make sure you  
turn your clock **AHEAD** one hour.



**SOUP SALE**

There will be a soup sale on the third Sunday  
of the month after Worship. This month it  
will be on March 17th.



Thank you for all the support and donations  
everyone made for the coat drive.

We will begin the stuffed animal drive during  
the month of March.



The 2024 Pledge Envelopes are available for  
pick up in the Narthex. Please help us keep  
costs down in the office by picking up and  
delivering envelopes for members that are  
unable to do so.

*Thank You!*



**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!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on March 26th.



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 for 2024 is \$43.62 per member.

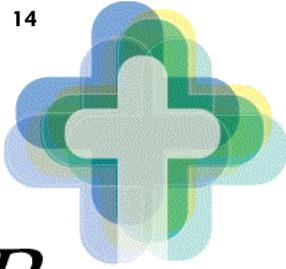


### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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!



- 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



# 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  
 Andrew Bobalik  
 Yvonne Suroviak  
 Wendy  
 Georgette Sknerski  
 Jakob Holden  
 Denise Matthys  
 Steve & Melinda  
 Gary Studer  
 Jan Oprea  
 Janet Vargo  
 Ric Jaeggi  
 Florance Cody  
 Josephine Kim  
 Carol Figley  
 Kathy & Chuck Pumnea  
 Robin C.  
 Nick  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 Annie & Mike Windstrup  
 Kevin Windstrup  
 Ruth Dekker  
 Rick Parker

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  
 Lena  
 Paulina Martinez  
 Winnie Owen  
 Charity Lynn  
 Chestine  
 Shannon  
 David Hamblin  
 Judy  
 Breeanne  
 Charlotte Abernethy  
 Joe Petersen  
 Susan Agbor  
 Mom Bechtler  
 A Close friend  
 Gloria  
 John Shields  
 John Miramontes  
 The Family of Sharon LaFlech

- 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).