FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

Volume 15 Issue 10

Dear All,



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Salvation Army Bell Ringing

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Calling All Crafters

First Presbyterian Church of Highland **8727 Delaware Street** Highland, IN 46322



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

Fall is fully upon us. I am sure there are some mixed feelings about this season out there! Some of us may love the chill in the air after the heat of summer, that longed-for sweater weather that looms large in the hearts of many. Some of us may dread the chill in the air, fearing the looming winter and seasonal depression. Some of us may be somewhere in between, loving the colors and the coolness and dreading what comes next. Whatever we may feel, Fall is a rich time for deep theological reflection. For me, it is all in the trees.

Their changing colors never fail to make me stand in awe of the beauty of God's creation. Their falling leaves serve as nature's best metaphor for life's transitions. Their impending dormancy and then regrowth give powerful images for death and resurrection. So, if you love this sweater weather, go outside, gaze upon the trees, and reflect on God's creation and God's promise of resurrection. If you dread the chill, look out your window, gaze upon the trees, and reflect on God's creation and God's promise of resurrection. If you are somewhere in between, build a nice campfire, gaze upon the trees, and reflect on God's creation and God's promise of resurrection!

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland is to be the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ

October is also a month of rich liturgical observance. We will kick off the month with our celebration of World Communion Sunday, one of my favorite Sundays of the year. We will embrace the truth that the Body of Christ spans the world, reflecting the fullness the diversity of God's image. We will do so while partaking of the sacrament of the Body of Christ, joining in communion and community built upon the grace of God. Then, October will close with our celebration of All Saints' Day. We will observe the truth that the Body of Christ consists of those who are alive on Earth and those who are alive in the great Resurrection. As we prepare our hearts and minds for these celebrations and for the Sundays in between, let us keep our sense open to God's presence all around—in the thick of our joy and grief.

Speaking of liturgy, please know that you are always welcome to take part in leadership for our worship services! If you are ever interested in singing in the choir, reading the prayers and scriptures, greeting people as they enter, lighting candles, running the livestream and sound, helping out with young disciples in the prayground, or doing special music, please let me know. We Presbyterians believe in the priesthood of all believers, and we would love to have your leadership!

As we enter October let us keep in mind the words of *Isaiah* 55:12, which drive the theme of our Peace and Global Witness speical offering:

"For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Remember, loved ones, God is with us always and everywhere!

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler



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For our Matthew 25 spotlight, we are continuing to highlight our presbytery's Committee on Representation Toolbox of Resources. Use this link to explore this rich collection of readings, videos, and websites that can supplement our Matthew 25 work:

https://ourpresbytery.org/leadership/committees/committee-on-representation/cor-toolbox/

Here are some theological resources that supplement our *Matthew* 25 work. I can personally recommend them all and would be happy to discuss with you if you pick any of them up!

A Theology of Liberation, by Gustavo Gutierrez

Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk, by Delores S. Williams

The Cross and the Lynching Tree, by James H. Cone

A Black Theology of Liberation, by James H. Cone

Jesus and the Disinherited, by Howard Thurman

American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty, by George E. Tinker

Palestinian Liberation Theology: Creative Resistance to Occupation, by Naim Ateek

Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God, by Kelly Brown Douglas

Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community, by Katie Cannon

Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the Twenty-first Century, by Ada María Isasi-Díaz

Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective, by Justo L. González

Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza by Gloria Anzaldúa

Invisible: Theology and the Experience of Asian American Women, by Grace Ji-Sun Kim

Postcolonial Imagination & Feminist Theology, by Kwok Pui-Lan

Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology, by Patrick S. Cheng



- Session decided to discontinue outdoor services for this season, due to the changing weather. The consensus is that they should be continued next summer.
- Session approved an Endowment Fund grant from the Trustees for replacement of the cement in front of Door B and purchase and installation of metal awnings to replace the current ones above Door B by the fellowship hall and Door I, which is by the kitchen.
- Soup sales are returning in October! On the second Sunday of October, November and December you can help out by making or buying soup after worship.
- An opportunity to buy delicious Butter Braid Coffee Cakes is coming in October!
- Session approved a totally virtual service on Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day.
- A \$5000 technology grant was approved by the Presbytery Foundation for new technology in our sanctuary, which includes tv screens to project parts of the service instead of using bulletins and a computer, software and wiring needed to complete the project.
- The Nominating Committee will begin meeting soon to choose a slate of officers for 2023. Please prayerfully consider serving on a board, Ministry, or committee if you are asked.
- October 2nd will be World Communion Sunday. A Special Peacemaking Offering will be taken.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of August 31, 2021

| | Month of | Monthly | Year to |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | August | Budget | Date |
| | | | |
| Operating Revenue | \$6,185.64 | \$9,226.93 | \$89,271.85 |
| Operating Expenses | 12,283.32 | 13,873.77 | 98,501.31 |
| Excess (Deficit) | (\$6,097.68) | | (\$9,229.46) |



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

In Memory of: Catherine Black & Eason Engle

These gifts were given by the following donor:

Linda Skaggs

Donations to Gladys' Table:

Leroy Fasset & Caroline Studer

Donation to Sackurday:

Caroline Studer

Donation to the Blessing Box:

Bonnie Perryman



By Rodney Fozkos

Being good stewards in the church community is not only what we can bring to the community, but also what the community can bring to us. Our church community is made up of several smaller community groups of men, women and, youth. Some examples among many are the Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Youth Connections, Mission and Congregation Volunteers for our missions.

Through the dedication of volunteers from the church and community, the church is able to support several local outreach programs:

Karing Kitchen, Blessing Box, Sackurday, Gladys' Table, Cooking for the Homeless Shelter, Food and Clothing Donations

The community can support the church by providing a platform to spread God's word through multi-denominational church services, participation in programs that assist individuals in need, and working with the church to develop and support educational and job training opportunities for all.

A successful church must be complemented by a successful community!

[&]quot;Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."—Galatians 6:2S



Funny Money Game

As we approach the season of giving and stewardship, the Ministry of Stewardship & Finance would like to get you into practice. So, get a container or a notebook, then either place the money in the container, or write down the amount in the notebook throughout the month of October. Then, sometime in November, either send this donation to the church or bring it in on Sunday Morning. This was a game that our Women's Association had years ago.

- 1. Count the letters in your name. Put a nickel in for each letter.
- 2. Good morning Uncle Sam. 5 cents for each piece of mail you received or sent.
- 3. Count your lamps. 5 cents for each one.
- 4. Do you have pets? 10 cents for dogs or cats and 5 cents for birds or fish... That's for each one.
- 5. If you subscribe to magazines? 5 cents for each one, include online subscriptions as well.
- 6. Read a good book in the last month? If not, 25 cents.
- 7. If it rained today, it's free, if not 25 cents please.
- 8. How many cups of coffee or tea did you drink this morning? 10 cents for each, however if you drank soda or a carbonated beverage, 25 cents.
- 9. Did you do the dishes last night? If not, 25 cents.
- 10. Was spinach on your plate last night or any dark green leafy vegetable? If not, 10 cents.
- 11.Do you feel artistic? Count the pictures on the walls. 10 cents for each one.
- 12. Numbers of phone calls you made/received...include any text messages. 10 cents for each.
- 13.Did you treat your family to homemade meal last night? If not, 25 cents.
- 14.Brotherly/Sisterly love? 10 cents for each one.
- 15.Did you wear anything new last Sunday? 5 cents for each item.
- 16.Did you eat breakfast before you got dressed? 10 cents. Running out the door? 25 cents.
- 17.Did you watch a late night TV show last night? 25 cents for each show.



- 18. Count the pennies in your pocket or purse. Donate them.
- 19. What time is it? Count the clocks in your house. 10 cents for each one.
- 20. Count your scarves or ties. 10 cents for each.
- 21. Good neighbors? Did you say hi to one of them? If not, 25 cents.
- 22. Caught up on your laundry? No? 25 cents.
- 23. How about each birthday you have celebrated? 1 cent for each year.
- 24. Read the newspaper whether a paper copy or online? 10 cents.
- 25.On cleaning day, did you dust the tops of your windows and doors? If not, 25 cents.
- 26.Did you go to the gas station today? That was enough!!!
- 27. Did you call a friend or relative? If not, 25 cents.
- 28. Did you go to the grocery store and forget to buy something? 10 cents.
- 29. How many candles do you have in your house? 5 cents for each one.
- 30. Bought something you didn't need? 25 cents.
- 31. Today is a free day, say a prayer for the healing of our world.

Bring your donations to church or mail them in.

Return the donations to the Church in the month of November 2022.

Thank you,

The Ministry of Stewardship & Finance





YOUTH CONNECTIONS

On Aug. 28th, 14 Presbyterian youth gathered together for a fun afternoon of games and a mission project at a park in Valparaiso. The youth who participated were from our congregation, The Presbyterian Church of La Porte, and the First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso. For their service project, the youth created journals and S'mores kits for clients at The Caring Place, a shelter in Porter County for victims of domestic and/or sexual abuse. The youth donated 20 journals and about 45 S'mores kits. New friendships and connections were made, and there was a lot of interest from the youth to gather again in the future for more fun!





Youth Connections has started their 2022-2023 year. We met on Sept. 25th for our kick off, complete with a pizza lunch. Our group has been evolving, and college students and young adults are also welcome to participate in Youth Connections, in addition to youth in 6th grade and older. <u>Friends are always welcome!</u>

In October, Youth Connections will meet after worship on Oct. 9th, including lunch and a small service project for our food pantry. We are planning on doing a fun fall activity on October 22 or 23 – stay tuned for details once we get it all planned out.

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 is in full swing! There are 2 class options, and all are invited to join in at any time:

- "The Bible in Today's World" class takes place on Sunday mornings at 9 am, in the upstairs meeting room. They're continuing with the "Animate: Faith" curriculum, combining short videos and lively group conversation. If you're new to the study, you won't fall behind as there is a new speaker and topic each time. 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. This fall we're taking a deeper look at the Matthew 25 scripture, using resources from the PCUSA. The link to log in to Zoom is emailed out weekly. 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!



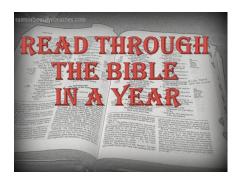


INTERACT WITH THE PRAYER WALL

The prayer wall is an on-going visual prayer art station for all to participate in. It is located inside door D, near the church office. Several ribbons, representing prayer needs, have been tied on or woven in, and there is room for many more.

If you aren't familiar with the prayer wall or what to do, there is a guide posted on the wall next to the prayer ribbons. Basically, you choose one or more colorful ribbons to represent the types of prayers you wish to uplift at the time. You can speak your prayer(s) out loud or to yourself as you tie the ribbon(s) on the wire or weave them into the wire. 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.



We're starting in on the 10th month of our "Read The Bible In A Year" challenge. Congratulations to those of you who have been keeping up and reading faithfully every day! Congratulations to those of you who started out reading daily and have had to adjust your reading schedule! Congratulations to those of you who have done any Bible reading this year! Reading God's Word at any pace is a worthwhile activity that helps you learn more about our amazing God.

The October 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

| | | Ŏ | October 2022 | 2 | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | ☐ 1 Chronicles 16-17 ☐ John 17 |
| 2 | 33 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 18-19 ☐ Psalm 20 ☐ John 18 | □ 1 Chronicles 20-21 □ John 19 | ☐ 1 Chronicles 22-23 ☐ Psalm 134 ☐ John 20 | ☐ 1 Chronicles 24-25 ☐ John 21 | ☐ Psalm 127 ☐ 1 Chronicles 26-27 | ☐ Psalm 122 ☐ 1 Chronicles 28-29 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 1-4 ☐ Psalm 30 |
| 6 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| ☐ 2 Chronicles 5-6 ☐ Psalm 132 | ☐ Psalm 100 ☐ 2 Chronicles 7-8 ☐ Psalm 72 | ☐ Psalm 21 ☐ 2 Chronicles 9-10 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 11-13 ☐ Psalm 28 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 14-16 ☐ Zechariah 1-2 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 17-18 ☐ Zechariah 3 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 19-20 ☐ Psalm 48 ☐ Zechariah 4-5 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| ☐ 2 Chronicles 21-23 ☐ Zechariah 6-7 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 24-25 ☐ Zechariah 8 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 26-28 ☐ Zechariah 9 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 29-30 ☐ Zechariah 10 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 31-32 ☐ Zechariah 11 | ☐ 2 Chronicles 33-34 ☐ Zechariah 12 | ☐ Zechariah 13-14 ☐ 2 Chronicles 35-36 ☐ Ezra 1 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| ☐ Ezra 2-3 ☐ Psalm 150 | ☐ Ezra 4-6 ☐ Haggai 1-2 | □ Ezra 7-8 □ Titus 1 | □ Ezra 9-10 □ Titus 2 | ☐ Nehemiah 1-3 ☐ Titus 3 | ☐ Nehemiah 4-6 ☐ Psalm 13 ☐ 1 Timothy 1 | ☐ Nehemiah 7 ☐ 1 Timothy 2 |
| 00 | 31 | | | | | |
| ☐ Nehemiah 8-9 ☐ 1 Timothy 3 | ☐ Nehemiah 10-11 ☐ 1 Timothy 4 | | | | | |

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October Liturgists:

10/2: Carol Callaway10/9: Heather Casiano10/16: John Toren10/23: Tracy Oprea

10/30: Bonnie Perryman



October LiveStreaming

10/2: Tristan Casiano
10/9: Jean Smith
10/16: Tracy Oprea
10/23: Jamie Ham
10/30: Robbie Casiano



All are welcome at all singing abilities! We are a low-stress, high-fun group dedicated to bringing glory to God! Let Suzanne Gruoner know if you are interested in joining. You can also let Pastor Tyler know. Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7:30 PM.





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 is gearing up for the Love INC Adopt-a-Family Event for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mission has committed, once again, to adopting 12 individuals, whether it's a family of 12, or two families of 6, or three families of 4, etc. Mission will be asking the congregation for help this year with the Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Family event and will have a pull board available with the specific nonperishable food items needed to make the families' Thanksgiving Dinner(s) complete.

The Christmas Adopt-A-Family Events remains the same, and Mission will have the pull tab board available before the big sales on Black Friday and Cyber Monday.



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, 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 will be volunteering once again with the Salvation Armyfor 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. Sign-ups for Bell Ringing will start at the beginning of November.

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



September Shelter Report

As I mentioned last month in my report, I submitted a questionnaire to the clients at the shelter regarding our cooking. Since we no longer serve, it is difficult to get the pulse of how we are doing and what needs to be changed to better serve them. I am delighted to say that we had a very good report, stating that we were supplying enough food, good variety, and it was hot when it was supposed to be. It was also mentioned that the people delivering were friendly and listened when they had something to say to us. I truly want to thank the kitchen crew, who without their hard work, it would not be possible from month to month.

It's a bit more time consuming than just cooking the food and delivering it. There are menus to be planned, shopping to be done, hauling groceries into the church, and making sure we have an adequate staff to put it all together.

My hats off to our regulars: Jamie, Judy, Marie, and myself. We are lucky enough to get Mindy, Jean and Nancy when they are available. Thanks to one and all!!



LaBraid Fundraiser for the General Fund





FPCH will be having a LaBraid Fundraiser for the <u>General Fund</u>. We will be selling Butter Braid Pastries and Joyful Traditions beginning Sunday, October 16, 2022 and ending Sunday, October 30, 2022 (with all money collected at this time). The products are delicious, premium foods that supporters will truly enjoy. The delivery date for the items is Saturday, November 19, 2022, so just in time for the holidays. You can keep the items frozen until you are ready to enjoy them.

Tracy Oprea will have order forms available on Sunday, October 16, 2022, and Session really needs your help with this fundraiser for the General Fund. Please take an order form to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, as FPCH receives a \$6.00 profit for each item sold. If you are interested in viewing the products before the brochures arrive, the website is: https://www.labraidfundraising.com/

If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser, please contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181.



GOT SNEAKERS? OUR USED SNEAKER DRIVE CONTINUES!!! Thanks to all who have contributed. The sneakers that we collect help raise money to support our church's mission AND help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. So far we have sent 9 bags with 10-15 pairs of gently worn, used, and new sneakers in each bag. We are doing great, but we still need your help! Please take a moment to look through your closets and to ask your relatives, neighbors and friends to do the same. We are counting on you! Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes) to the church and put in one of the blue bins...either by Door D (inside and outside) or in the church narthex. (Athletic shoes only) You can also call the office (219-838-6850) or Jean Smith (219-322-4896), and we will come and pick them up from you!





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!



<u>CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!</u> Crafters will be meeting to work on crafts to sell at the Chamber of Commerce fall craft show on November 6th in Griffith. Come join us and enjoy fellowship and fun creating together. Please contact Jean Smith for details.



- 4 Cheryl Steen
- 13 Nolan Severson
- 15 Bob Abernethy
- 17 Lois Fozkos

Pam Porter

Eric Severson

19 Carol Callaway



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.

Prayers & CONCERNS

Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

• The family of Catherine Black on her death, 9/9/22



Anthony
Andrew Bobalik
Laura Buono Domsic
Carmelo
U. Chong
Rev. Paula Cooper

Rev. Paula Cooper Ruth Dekker Frank Falzone

Carol Finley George Griner

Myrna Grove Harrison Gill

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 Family of Melba McGinnis

Jaden Mendez

Diane & Ray Mendoza

Virginia Marshall Kate Abernethy

Janet Vargo

The Family of Catherine Black

Tony B. Tammy Tom Barbara Morton George Nelson Jeanne Nestor Jan Oprea Janet Orem

Cary & Jennifer Pearson

Marla & Jerry Renfro

Lily Renfro

Rick Parker

Sharon

Jennifer Skippergosh Georgette Sknerski

Richard Simmons

Jay & Jean Smith

Gale Snyder

Steve & Melinda

Caroline Studer

Gary Studer

Yvonne Suroviak

Janet Terpstra & Family

Robert Urich

Jane Vance

Brady Vanes

Cindy Waltz & Sister

Kevin Windstrup

Annie & Mike Windstrup

Laura Wisner

Glen Nahler

Claudia Szymaszek

Samantha Toren

Kirby Edeus

Robbie

- 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).