FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

– Volume 15 Issue 9



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Dear All,

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

I know it sounds strange given that it is the ninth month, but September always feels like the start of a new year to me! September contains the Autumnal Equinox and thus the start of my favorite season—with temperatures that begin to cool without yet being cold and with leaves that begin to change color without yet falling. And, of course, September marks the beginning of our programming year at FPCH! It's time for classes to begin meeting, for choral voices to begin singing, for bells to begin ringing! Hey, if we can have Christmas in July, then we can have New Year's in September! Happy New Year!

As part of this new year, I hope that you will consider commiting anew to the Church. If we have not seen you in awhile, I hope that you will join us again for worship or class or choir or fellowship. We miss you! If we have not been blessed by your leadership in awhile, I hope that you will consider getting involved in one of our committees or ministires. We need you! If we have not heard about your joys or struggles or needs in awhile, I hope that you will consider giving us a call or sending us an email. We love you!

Of course, it is not just a time for beginning. There will also be wondeful things continuing at FPCH, as they always do! We will continue connecting with each other across geographic and generational gaps. We will continue connecting in ministry and committee meetings. We will continue connecting with our community through food programs, mission projects, and meetings hosted in our building. We will continue connecting with God through worship and prayer and sacraments. In short, we will continue being the Church! We will continue being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ!

First Presbyterian Church of Highland <u>8727 Delaware Street</u> Highland, IN 46322



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

As we enter our new program year, and as we continue the ancient work of the Kingdom, we will be moving forward on our voyage through the prophets. We are still in extraordinary Ordinary Time, so we get to keep exploring realms that we often overlook in the treasure chest of our scriptures! As we continue connecting with, learning from, and being inspired by the great prophets of our faith, I pray that we will see this month, this *new year* as an opportunity to begin using our prophetic imaginations and voices! It is always a good time to speak up and speak out about injustice, to live love out loud, and to offer healing hope to the world!

I leave you with these wonderful words of life from *Jeremiah*, a worthy prophet, a weeping prophet, a wise prophet whose impact on our faith is incalculable.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Happy September New Year, everyone! God has great plans in store for you! God has great plans in store for us!

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 resources included in the Building Congregational Vitality section:

Biblical Resources Representing More of the Body of Christ

Women's Bible Commentary, Third Edition, by Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley

The Queer Bible Commentary, edited by Deryn Guest, Robert Goss, Mona West, and Thomas Bonache A Postcolonial Commentary on the New Testament Writings, edited by Fernando F. Segovia and R.S. Sugirtharajah Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible, by Musa W. Dube a

We will continue to provide resources in the next several editions of the Larger View!

This section of the Larger View is here to highlight our embodiment of the *Matthew* 25 initiative to which we have committed. This initiative is focused on the following:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

If you notice somebody or somebodies living into the *Matthew* 25 call, please let Pastor Tyler know so that they can be highlighted in this section!



- Joys, concerns and prayers are a part of every Session meeting. This month we lifted up prayers for the family of Eason Engle, who passed away on Monday August 15th. He will be missed by so many.
- Trustee President Jeff Savage reported that the gutters and downspouts have been cleaned on all the buildings and reported on several ongoing projects which include:
 - °Investigating the replacement of the entrance overhangs to Door B (to fellowship hall) and Door I (by kitchen)
 - •Fixing and replacing the concrete by Door B
 - •Investigating plumbing issues in bathrooms
 - •Working with Toddco regarding the boilers



Fundraiser Report

- •Session voted to obtain a point of purchase (POS) way of accepting payments with credit cards, debit cards and PayPal called Zettle. It would help on our craft sale with purchases and could also be used to accept payments other than cash or checks on other occasions.
- °Elder Jamie Ham is investigating 2 restaurant fundraising days in September and November. More information will be coming soon.

Outside service

°Session agreed to continue having an outside service the 3rd Sunday in September, September 18th, weather permitting.

Technology

- •We are waiting to see if the grant for updating technology in the sanctuary has been approved.
- °The mounting of the TV and the updating of the microphone system in the fellowship hall will occur before the end of August.
- •The nursery now has a TV and Roku that will stream the service for those who are watching their children in the nursery. Thanks to Bonnie Perryman for donating the TV!

Upcoming fall schedule

- °September 1st choir rehearsals begin on Thursdays at 7:30pm
- °September 11th Adult Connections Bible Study returns on Sunday mornings from 9-10am
- °September 11th First Sunday for Choir during worship
- °September 14th BYOB virtual Bible study returns on Wednesday from 7-8 via ZOOM.
- °October 2nd World Communion Sunday and Peace & Global Mission Offering



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of July 31, 2021

	Month of	Monthly	Year to
	July	Budget	Date
Operating Revenue	\$7,130.06	\$9,226.93	\$83,086.21
Operating Expenses	11,420.19	13,873.77	86,218.57
Excess (Deficit)	(\$4,290.13)		(\$3,132.36)



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

In Memory of: Eason Engle and Dr. Lowell Steen

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Kaz Smailis and John & Judy Toren

Donations to the Blessing Box:

Bonnie Perryman



Faith Prayer Community Hope

By Jamie Ham

The concept of being a good steward involves understanding that everything we have belongs to God. As good stewards, the Lord calls on us to be the caretakers of his abundance. It is through **Prayer** that we ask for guidance in using his gifts wisely and sharing them generously. At FPCH—whether it be the Session, the Trustees, or any of our other ministries—it is through prayerful consideration that all of our decisions are made regarding the use of your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. As Christians, we also turn to **Prayer** in our daily lives to lift up the needs of the sick and the suffering, and also to give thanks for the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us. **Prayer** at FPCH includes the prayer list in the weekly bulletins, prayer shawls that are sewn with love and prayed over before being given out to those in need of healing, and the recently constructed prayer wall near the main office, which gives parishioners the opportunity to tie different colored ribbons representing different types of prayers, which will gradually become a beautiful work of art! **Prayer** and the sacraments dispose our souls to receive God's abundant graces, which are necessary to grow in holiness. It is through prayer that we nurture our personal relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As it is written in *Characteristics of a Christian Steward* "**Prayer** is as necessary to our souls as food is to our bodies."

"Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers."—Ephesians 6:18





YOUTH CONNECTIONS

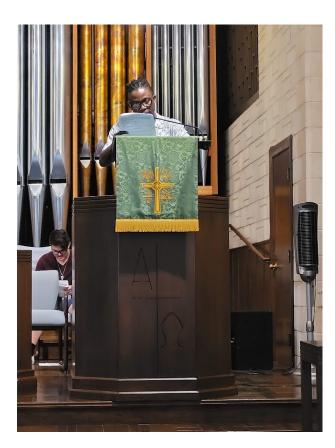
Youth Connections is back! We're kicking off this <u>new season on Sunday, Sept. 11 after worship</u> in the Youth Room upstairs. There will be **pizza**, paint, and planning (and FUN of course!). <u>Feel free to bring a friend or two to join us</u>. Our group has been evolving, and college students and young adults are also welcome to participate in Youth Connections, in addition to youth in grades 6th grade and older.

Youth Connections will generally meet 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. We welcome all!

Despite not meeting on a regular basis, the youth had a busy summer! They designed and led the worship service on July 10th; helped weed the yard of Caroline Studer; enjoyed a pool party and lunch thanks to Jay and Jean Smith; and met up with other Presbyterian youth from Northwest Indiana in Valparaiso for an afternoon of service and fun.





















ADULT CONNECTIONS

Adult Connections is starting back up this month! There are 2 class options for adults, and middle/high school youth are invited as well:

- Sunday morning "Bible in Today's World" class will begin Sunday, Sept. 11, at 9 am, in the up stairs meeting room. They will continue with the "Animate: Faith" curriculum from this past spring. If you're new to the study, you won't fall behind as there is a new speaker and aspect of faith discussed each time. Contact John Toren or Bonnie Perryman with any questions.
- Wednesday evening "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 7 pm online on Zoom. This Scripture-based study will start off using a Matthew 25 curriculum from PCUSA. The link to log in to Zoom will be emailed out shortly before Sept. 14th. Contact Heather Casiano with any questions.

If you have an idea for an adult 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!

BACK TO SCHOOL THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated school supplies as part of our Blessing of the Backpacks and school supply collection on Aug. 7th! Our congregation has helped students and teachers in the School Town of Highland have the supplies they need for a successful year. Special thanks to the Ministry of Mission who helped provide many supplies and deliver everything to the schools.



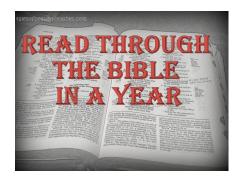




INTERACT WITH THE PRAYER WALL

The new Prayer Wall is up inside door D – near the church office. This is an interactive prayer station where all are invited to participate whenever you are in the church building.

A piece of chicken wire is hanging on the wall, and there are multiple colors of ribbons each representing a type of prayer. You're invited to choose one or more ribbons that represent the type of prayer you want to lift up at that time, and then tie the ribbons onto the chicken 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 tied on 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.



There is so much in the Bible – stories over a large period of time, the history of the Israelite people, wisdom literature, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and letters from early church leaders. Have you found a favorite book of the Bible, or a preferred literature style in your reading this year? Seems there is something for everyone in God's Word.

If you haven't joined in the "Read The Bible In A Year" challenge yet, you are more than welcome to start this month. The September 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

Г				1				1			
September 2022		Saturday	3 U Jeremiah 28-30 C Corinthians 7	10	☐ Jeremiah 45-47 ☐ Joel 1-2	17	☐ Lamentations 4 ☐ John 3 ☐ Psalm 45	24	□ 1 Chronicles 6 □ John 10		
		Friday	2 □ Jeremiah 25-27 □ 2 Corinthians 6	6	☐ Jeremiah 42-44 ☐ 2 Corinthians 13	16	☐ Lamentations 3 ☐ Psalm 35 ☐ John 2	23	☐ 1 Chronicles 5 ☐ John 9	30	☐ 1 Chronicles 15 ☐ Psalm 68 ☐ John 16
)22	Thursday	1 □ Jeremiah 23-24 □ 2 Corinthians 5	8	☐ Jeremiah 39-41 ☐ 2 Corinthians 12	15	☐ Lamentations 2 ☐ John 1	22	☐ 1 Chronicles 4 ☐ John 8	29	☐ 1 Chronicles 12-14 ☐ John 15
	stember 20	Wednesday		7	☐ Jeremiah 37-38 ☐ Psalm 142 ☐ 2 Corinthians 11	14	☐ Jeremiah 52 ☐ Lamentations 1 ☐ Psalm 6	21	☐ 1 Chronicles 3 ☐ John 7	28	□ 1 Chronicles 11 □ John 14
	Sel	Tuesday		9	☐ Jeremiah 34-36 ☐ 2 Corinthians 10	13	☐ Jeremiah 51 ☐ Psalm 137	20	☐ 1 Chronicles 2 ☐ John 6	27	☐ 1 Chronicles 9-10 ☐ John 13
		Monday		5	☐ Jeremiah 32-33 ☐ 2 Corinthians 9	12	☐ Psalm 120 ☐ Jeremiah 49-50	19	□ 1 Chronicles 1 □ John 5	97	□ 1 Chronicles 8 □ John 12
		Sunday		4	☐ Jeremiah 31 ☐ Psalm 126 ☐ 2 Corinthians 8	П	□ Joel 3 □ Jeremiah 48 □ Psalm 108	8	☐ Lamentations 5 ☐ John 4	C7	☐ 1 Chronicles 7 ☐ John 11

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September Liturgists:

9/4: John Toern

9/11: Carol Callaway

9/18: TBD

9/25: TBD

September LiveStreaming

9/4: Jamie Ham

9/11: Tristan Casiano

9/18: Robbie Casiano (back up)

9/25: Tracy Oprea



Choir practice will begin on Thursday, September 1st at 7:30 PM





August Shelter Report

The usual crew was on hand to cook for the August Shelter meal. We had Italian Sausage with sautéed onions and green peppers served on buns, baked beans, and macaroni salad. Dessert was a yellow cake with cherries. There were also the usual hard boiled eggs and milk.

I had prepared a survey for the guests to fill out, and I went and picked them up on the following Monday. Since we don't serve anymore, I wanted to see if we were fulfilling their needs and if there was enough food, since they are open to the outside guests again. I was delighted to see we received a very high rating, and the only comment that needs to be discussed is they don't want so much pasta of all sorts, but with the price of meat at this point, we try and be as creative as possible!! They also mentioned having carry away items to be eaten the following day. Examples would be juice boxes or fruit cups. We will be talking to the powers that be about that.





From Donuts to Dirt

These are the volunteer garden helpers who are dedicated to making your church garden a place of peace and beauty before our outdoor church services.

Our regulars are: Gale, Lee Ann, Jeff, and Cheryl. We also have had Rodney, Ed, and Pam join us on occasion and we would always welcome YOU to be in our merry little tribe.

We are planning on another service outside in September, if the weather cooperates, and will set a day for clean up as this time approaches. Please give some thought to joining us. We work for only 2 hours, and many hands make fast work. There will also be the last garden clean up sometime in October to put the garden to bed for the winter, so you will have another chance to join this merry band.





We will be having a Butter Braid Fundraising Sale beginning October 16, 2022 and ending October 30, 2022.

Delivery will be on Saturday, November 19th, just in time for Thanksgiving. There will be more information to follow as we get closer to the October 16th date.



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!





First Presbyterian Church of Highland

Our garden walkway and meditation area has room to place additional engraved bricks. Improvements are also needed so our garden can be enjoyed by future generations. Possibilities are in the discussion phase. Now, would be an opportune time to order an engraved brick(s). These bricks can be for any occasion...in memory of a loved one, honoring someone, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, or any other special event! You can order a 4" x 8" brick with up to 4 lines of engraving and up to 21 characters per line for only \$50.00. If you prefer, a larger 8" x 8" brick with up to 6 lines of engraving and up to 21 characters per line for only \$100.00

characters per line for only \$100.00 Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick. Please engrave our brick as follows: ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH) ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED 4 x 8 Brick 8 x 8 Brick **EXAMPLE** R Ю Ю E N D S F R M Y A N D PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: First Presbyterian Church of Highland Name: Phone: (_ Address: State: Zip: City: Email Address: Amount Paid:

If you have any questions, please call Sharon LaFlech at (219) 838-3346.





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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Peter Churitch
- 7 Ruth Dekker
- 9 Robbie Casiano
- 12 Charlotte Abernethy
- 13 Jan Oprea
- Fred Callaway
- 25 Janet Vargo
- 30 Jean Smith

Prayers & CONCERNS

Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:

The Family of Eason Engle on his death August 15th.



Anthony Beverly

Andrew Bobalik

Sandy & Sonny Buono Laura Buono Domsic

Carmelo U. Chong

Rev. Paula Cooper

Danielle Ruth Dekker Frank Falzone Carol Finley

George Griner Myrna Grove

Guy Hendricks Hendricks' family

Kiki Ho Jakob Holden

Bill & Anettia Holmes

Huilin Karen

David & Pat Kingen

Robert Lestina Holly Letnich Daniel Litwicki

Lynn

David Markley

Doug & Sue Matthews

Denise Matthys
Andrew McDaniel
Melba Mc Ginnis
Jaden Mendez
Khloe Agbor

Diane & Ray Mendoza

Patti Davison Lodean Johnson Carol Brechner Barbara Morton

George Nelson

Jeanne Nestor

Jan Oprea

Janet Orem

Paris

Rick Parker

Cary & Jennifer Pearson

Marla & Jerry Renfro

Lily Renfro

Jennifer Skippergosh

Georgette Sknerski

Richard Simmons

Jay & Jean Smith

Gale Snyder

Steve & Melinda

Caroline Studer

Gary Studer

Jack Sum

Yvonne Suroviak

Janet Terpstra & Family

Robert Urich Jane Vance

Brady Vanes

Cindy Waltz & Sister

Kevin Windstrup

Annie & Mike Windstrup

Laura Wisner Michelle

Jason

Glen Nahler

The family of Eason Engle

Claudia Szymaszek

Betty Strauser

 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).