

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE



Volume 14 Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Note from Rev. Tyler	1-2
Session Shorts	3
Treasurers Report	4
Faith Development	5-6
Worship & Music	6-7
Ministry of Mission	7-8
News From the Pews	9

Dear All,

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



Special points of interest:

A Note from Rev. Tyler

Matthew 25 Spotlight

Session Shorts

**Lent Offerings from Faith
Development**

Youth Connections

February Shelter Report

One Great Hour

As we continue our Lenten journey, we have two major areas of focus. For our Sunday worship services we have been and will continue to be learning about those who surrounded and supported Jesus throughout his public ministry, most especially in those hardest of times—those times when he had to come face to face with the truth that there was great suffering ahead of him. For our Lenten Study and Practice we have been and will continue to be exploring different types of healing in our scriptures and enacting particular prayers for healing as a spiritual practice. We are pursuing these areas of focus simultaneously because healing and relational support are both so deeply necessary in this current moment and because they intertwine so naturally with each other. We all need healing right now in the midst of a major health crisis, and healing is necessary for the thriving of interpersonal relationships. We all need relational support right now in the midst of persistent isolation, and relational support is necessary for healing and the thriving of health. Such was also true for Jesus as he made his way to the cross over three years of public ministry!



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***

Lent is one of the best times of year to re-center and refocus on what is most important in life, specifically our relationships with God, our relationships with each other, and our relationships with ourselves. It is vital that we pay attention to the health of all of these relationships with intention and action. That intention and action started on Ash Wednesday with our communal call to repentance. It is my prayer that all of us have been able to reflect upon the ways that we have fallen short in our three major areas of relationship and the ways that we can do better, for that is the heart of repentance. It is also my prayer that we are all now ready to move towards the actions of repairing and reconciling, of making things right with God, with each other, and within ourselves. In addition to the worship services and Lenten Study and Practice mentioned above, our church family is seeking to enrich each of our journeys through repentance, reparation, and reconciliation with a daily devotional booklet full of Wisdom from church members and friends of the church and with weekly virtual prayer stations. Please make use of these wonderful opportunities! If you have any difficulty accessing these items, please do let me know.

As we approach Spring, please note that the Session is exploring possibilities for in-person worship and other activities. Given our success in gathering over the Summer and Fall, we have high hopes for being able to do so once the weather warms up again. We have not set a specific timeline, as so much is dependent upon our ability to either gather outside or to gather inside with everything open for increased airflow. We are in constant discernment together, and we are very hopeful given broader vaccine distribution and signs that numbers of infections are perhaps decreasing. Be on the lookout for further information as we continue on this journey together. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to me. Please also continue to reach out to me if you have any prayer requests, any needs for spiritual counsel, or if you would simply like to talk!

I leave you with these words from *John*:

“Jesus said to Martha, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’”

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





For the month of February, our *Matthew 25* spotlight was shining upon the Ministry of Hospitality. They have done a great job of taking on virtual fellowship on Sundays after our worship services, ensuring congregational vitality by facilitating opportunities to check in with each other, pray with each other, and have fun! They have also been providing a warm welcome to worshipers who have found us during the pandemic. Bravo, Ministry of Hospitality! Thank you for all that you do to help this congregation to thrive and to make sure that all are welcome here!

SESSION SHORTS

- Session continues to monitor conditions and discuss protocols and timelines for returning to in-person worship. At this time, we continue to have virtual worship services until the weather becomes warmer.
- The ministries continue to meet virtually and make plans during this pandemic.
 - The Mission Ministry cooks and delivers meals to the Warming Shelter once a month and delivers kitchen items in the Caring Kitchen items to those in need.
 - Faith Development has been busy compiling a Lenten devotional booklet. Elder Charlotte Abernethy thanked Heather Casiano for all her hard work on this project and those who submitted devotions. Heather will also be taping weekly prayer station videos during Lent that can be viewed on Facebook or the website.
 - Rev. Tyler will be doing a Lenten study and practice on Wednesdays beginning February 24th and continuing until the week before Holy Week.
 - The Hospitality Ministry is now hosting the virtual fellowship each Sunday at 11:45 am after worship. Consider joining and catching up with our church family!
 - The Finance Ministry is being reorganized as the Treasurer responsibilities are being separated from this ministry. It has been renamed to Stewardship/Finance Ministry to better define its responsibilities.
 - Shine the Light committee is looking for volunteers to help in our mission to spread the Light of Jesus in our church and the community using technology. If you are interested or know some one who loves social media, contact Jean Smith.
- Jeff Savage, President of the Trustees, reported that they are looking into the necessary wiring and connections in the sanctuary to be able to stream live services once we begin in-person worship.
- The Deacons are reorganizing the clusters and once that is complete, your Deacon will be delivering you updated directories and church offering envelopes if you don't have yours. Sharon LaFlech is the new moderator for the Deacons.
- Remember to pay your PER CAPITA which is \$42.00 this year. You can send it along with your offering to the church office or pay through the website with our online DONATE button, located at the top of our website's home page.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
January 31, 2020

	Month of January	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$23,120.23	\$9,965.00	\$23,120.23
Operating Expenses	11,536.73	13,409.00	11,536.73
Excess (Deficit)	\$11,583.50		\$11,583.50



Gifts given in the month of January to the Endowment Fund include:

In Memory of: Mary Catania, Don Dekker

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Lois Fozkos

A Donation was given to the Food Pantry by:

Christine Small

A Donation was given to "Sackurday" by:

Mary Quinn



MONTHLY CHURCH LIBRARY FOCUS

This month our highlight is on seasonal reads. We have a variety of Lent and Easter themed books for both children and adults. These wonderful resources have been placed on the table in the church library so they are easy to find. For children, there are several picture books about Easter and Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection. There are also Lent and Easter themed coloring pages available to pick up for any kids in your life. For teens and adults, there are books with the themes of Lent and Resurrection, as well as a couple books that are an actual Bible study on Lenten themes.

The church library is located in the room across the hall from the church office. Library materials can be accessed during regular church office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 - 11 am. There is a sign out sheet on the table in the library to fill out each time you borrow an item. Returned items can be put back on the shelf or left on the table in the center of the room. You can also contact Heather Casiano for a porch drop-off of materials if you can't make it into the church building.



LENT OFFERINGS FROM FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Lent Devotions booklet: By now, you should have received a copy of our 2021 Lent Devotions booklet, either by email or mail. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, or would like an additional paper copy, please contact the church office. Feel free to forward electronic copies to friends and families.
- Lent Prayer Station videos: A weekly series of Prayer Station videos are being posted each week of Lent on our church's website, Facebook and Youtube pages. These 5-minute or less videos are designed for you to participate as you watch, or to replicate them in your own space using simple everyday items. The last video will be posted on Palm Sunday, March 28, to help us all prepare for Holy Week and the Resurrection of Christ.
- Lenten Study & Practice: For the Wednesdays of Lent leading up to Holy Week we are observing this holy season with intentional scriptural study and spiritual practice. In 2021 we are seeking healing together. As we continue to grapple with the worst health crisis most of us have ever known, we are exploring the different types of healing that occur in the Scriptures, enacted by Jesus and his forebears in the Spirit. We're pondering what health and healing mean to us today, and we're practicing prayers of healing. We are meeting via Zoom online during our usual BYOB time slot – Wednesdays from 7-8 pm. We would love for you to join us live! If you're unable to join us on Wednesday evenings, we're also working on recording the Zoom sessions and making the videos available afterward. Our Lenten Study & Practice dates are 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/31. If you would like the ZOOM log-in information to join the live classes on Wednesdays, contact Heather Casiano or Pastor Tyler Orem.



SOUPER BOWL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to the Youth Connection’s “SOUPeR Bowl of Caring” collection in February. Because of your generosity, we were able to collect 46 canned food items and \$90 in monetary donations. These will help our mission of feeding the community. Go Team FPCH!



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

The next gathering is tentatively scheduled for Palm Sunday, March 28, at 1 pm on Zoom. Youth Connections is open for all middle school and high school students and friends are always welcome! Currently we are meeting once a month on ZOOM for a time of lessons and games. We are also trying to meet in person once a month for a mission project – if we can do so safely. Watch your emails for the latest information.

Is there a topic, curriculum, or book of the Bible you would like to see as an Adult Connections study group? A new group or Bible study can be started any time online on ZOOM or in person as conditions allow. If you aren’t comfortable with technology but are interested in meeting online with a small group, we have people who can get all the “tech” stuff set up for you. Please send your ideas to Heather Casiano – we want to know what you’re interested in!



March Liturgists:

- 3/7 - Bonnie Perryman
- 3/14- Jean Smith
- 3/21 - Robbie Casiano
- 3/28- Lois Fozkos





NOT GETTING THE WEEKLY EMAIL OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

If you are NOT getting the weekly mailchimp email from Rev. Tyler or if you did not receive the Lenten booklet in email from Heather Casiano, try the following:

- Check your SPAM OR JUNK FOLDER OR PROMOTIONS FOLDER. It may have gone there.
- Put these two emails in your contacts: pastorem@fpchighland.org and hcasiano@fpchighland.org

If you are still having trouble receiving the weekly email, call Jean Smith at 322-4896 or email her at jsmith@fpchighland.org.



February Shelter Report

The usual crew did the cooking for the shelter. We have added Lauren Wilson to our little band of chefs and she is certainly a welcome addition.

We still have to comply with the CDC rules for the virus. We shop, cook, deliver and they do the serving. The non-residents are getting box lunches on the outside. A lot of our budget is being used for aluminum cooking pans. We used to get to bring them back to the church to clean and reuse, but now that is not permitted. We are very grateful to St. Tim's Church for helping us supplement our food since our monies are going toward pans, etc.

Thank you to Judy T., Jamie H., Sandy H., Sherry M., Marie K. and Lauren W. for always pitching in and being there!!!

Cheryl Steen



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 — 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 17 – April 4), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (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.**

 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing from home!
Individuals may indicate their church name in the comments of the donation form to ensure their congregation is informed of any giving.

By Mail:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mobile Giving:
Text SHARING to 56512
to use our mobile give site

Over the Phone:
800-728-7228

Online:
pcusa.org/give-oghs

We're here to help!
Call the Special Offerings team
800-728-7228, Ext. 5047.





DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
 on Sunday, March 14th. Make sure you
 turn your clock **AHEAD** one hour.



Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box has gained even more importance in this season of pandemic. Economic impacts are on the rise, and the most vulnerable in our midst are the most harmed. 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.



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 Per Capita PER member is
 \$42.00 for 2021**



Prayers for:

Vince & Debbie Catania and their family on the death of Vince's mother, Mary Catania



Ongoing Prayers

The Prayer Circle prays for the people on this list, and for all other concerns named at that time. Please include the persons listed here in your daily devotional time. Thank you.

Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
Alaina (Callaway)
Amanda (H. Casiano)
Marge Ashton
Avery
Bapst Family (Callaway)
Mike Bennett
Curtis Black
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
Ina Chappell
Brandon Chong
U. Chong (Oprea)
Danielle
Dave
Don Dekker
Ruth Dekker
Laura Buono Domsic
Carol Finley
Frank (K. Scott)
Chester Goins
George Griner
Gus & Georgia
Guy (B. Perryman)
Susan Hanley (Studer)
Gracie Helmer
Bill Holmes
Jessica (Abernethy)
Joe (Smith)
Krissy LaFlech
Steve Lekan (P. Fozkos)
Holly Letnich
Daniel Litwicki (Catania)

David Markley
Rena Martinez
Tony Martinez
Ray Mendoza
Mildred (B. Perryman)
Jill Muller (Steen)
George & Barbara Nelson
Jeanne Nestor
Jan Oprea
Janet Orem
Sharon Orem
Lily Renfro
Mara & Jeremy Renfro
Rena's cousin
Rick Parker
Rhonda Penman
Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
Rodney (J. Toren)
Calvin Scott
Gary Sknerski
Jay Smith
Gale Holck Snyder
Steve (S. Gruoner)
Steve & Melinda
Family of Jeannine Strom
Gary Studer
Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
Tarsha (Perryman)
Erin Taylor (Casiano)
Teachers & Students
Rev. Tyler's friend
Richard Terpstra
Family of Chierno Vah
Brady Vanes
Cindy Waltz Family
Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

- 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 our country.
- 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 those who are traveling.
- We pray for those we hold silently in our hearts.
- 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 in each new day.
- We pray for our home-bound.

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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 (838-6850).