

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 13 Issue 5

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Dear All,

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

A new month is upon us, and still we find ourselves huddled behind closed doors as pandemic plagues the world. I am reminded once more of the disciples huddled behind closed doors in the upper room following the crucifixion of their Lord. The parallels are striking and instructive. Just as Jesus appeared in their midst, Jesus is also in our midst no matter where we may be. He is speaking words of peace upon us and breathing Holy Spirit into us. He is giving us hope to hold onto when as the waves of despair wash over us and threaten to overtake us with their temptations. May we be ever vigilant for his presence, especially in these times!



Special points of interest:

Letter from Tyler

Youth Group

Trustees Happenings

Flower Vouchers

Blessing Box

Per Capita

Prayer List

On April 20, 2020, our Session voted once again to extend our suspension of in-person activities at the church building, including communal worship. Our hope and prayer is to resume in-person activities beginning with worship on Sunday, May 17. We acknowledge that we may have to delay the date again as things progress, as front-line workers and scientific researchers advise, and as policies and orders dictate. No matter what may come, though, Jesus will be present in our midst granting us peace and filling us with the Spirit of new life.

First Presbyterian Church
of Highland
8727 Delaware Street
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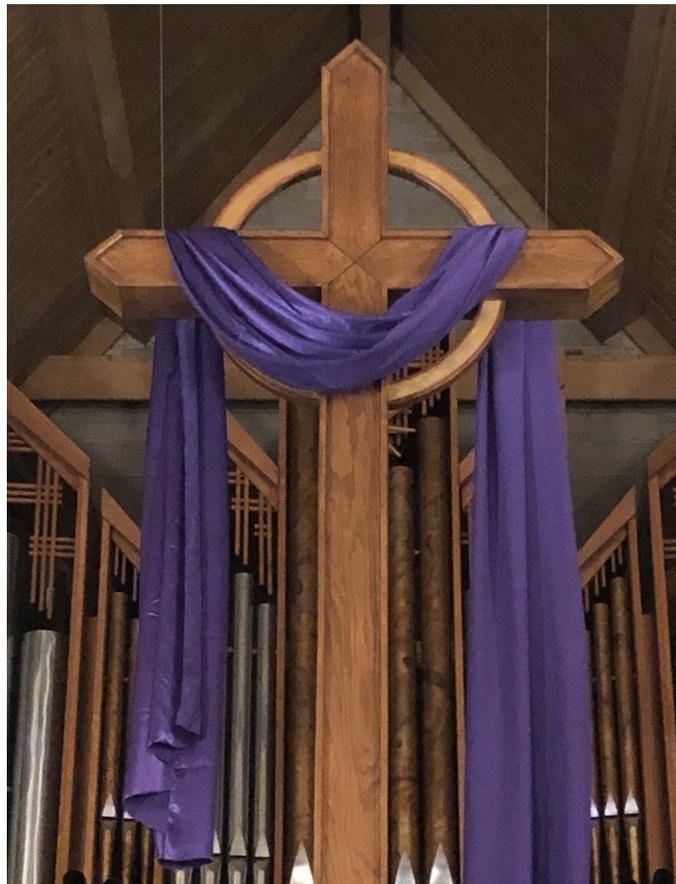
*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland
is to be
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ*

In the meantime, we will continue the meaningful practices of spiritual togetherness that we have been developing together. We will keep calling each other and speaking peace upon each other. We will keep serving curbside meals to people who are facing hunger—some for the first time and some for the hundredth time. We will keep supporting our mission partners. We will keep praying for each other. And of course we will keep worshiping! Of special note, we will be celebrating Communion on Sunday, May 3. As we will be doing so remotely, I encourage you to gather the elements together at home. Find some bread or tortillas or crackers. Make some if you can! Pour some juice or wine. Remember that Communion is the ultimate act of spiritual togetherness.

On a Sunday very soon we will be honoring Jesus as our Good Shepherd. In light of that loving image, I invite you to remember these words from *Psalms* 23: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler Orem



SESSION SHORTS

Session met on April 20th. All members were present by ZOOM.

- We were apprised of the flooding that occurred in the Sunday School rooms in the lower level of the old sanctuary. Thank you to Cheryl, Debbie, Tracy, Jeff and Eason for their efforts in getting this cleaned up. We will be getting an update on how we can solve this problem, and the cost.
- Vince reported that the new check request form is on hold until we get back to a more normal state.
- The Administrative team has been hard at work, getting us some loans to defray some of our expenses. This doesn't mean we need to stop sending in our pledges. Just like you, the church still has expenses that must be paid.
- Once we are able to return to worship in our sanctuary, we will need some basic cleaning and changes that will go into place. Those will be discussed further as the restrictions are lifted by the Governor of Indiana.
- We also want to thank the members of Gladys Table for providing lunches every Saturday since March 28th and the Mission team that prepares and delivers the meals to the warming shelter .
- We have postponed worship until May 17, 2020. There will be a remote Communion service for the May 3rd worship service. The Deacons will notify their clusters.
- The next Session meeting will be on May 11th, 2020, via ZOOM.

REMEMBER ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT CHURCH WHO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN LATELY. GIVE THEM A CALL, SEND A NOTE, LET THEM KNOW YOU CARE.



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
March 31, 2020

	Month of March	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$13,384.60	\$10,553.00	\$45,692.40
Operating Expenses	15,249.49	13,424.00	39,172.25
Excess (Deficit)	(\$1,864.89)		\$6,520.15



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

In Memory of: Mary Ann Benard, Barbara Dye, Debbie Fritzsche, Jody Gordon, Marilyn Kanich, Rev. Margaret Morris, Dr. Lowell Steen

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Phillis Clidence, Gerald & Patricia Kerber, Vickie Marcus, Paul & Sandy Nicholls, Jan Oprea, Linda Skaggs, Kaz Smailis, Cheryl Steen, John & Judy Toren, Jane Vance

A Gift was given:

To the Ministry of Mission by Arletta Schaefer in memory of Barbara Dye

To the Endowment Fund by Linda Skaggs in honor of George Griner's birthday

To the Endowment Fund by Cheryl Steen in honor of Lois Fozkos for making masks



The Youth Group has started meeting online on Zoom. We are meeting every other Sunday at 3 pm - for May we are meeting on May 3 and 17. Youth Group is open to all youth in grades 5-12. Friends, cousins, grandchildren, nieces/nephews - all are welcome! If you or a youth would like an invitation to these Zoom meetings to join in, please email Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org) with the youth's name and email address.



TRUSTEE HAPPENINGS APRIL 2020

While we stay at home and social distance, the Garden People were able to work safely cleaning up the grounds. We cleaned the north parking lot and cleared leaves from the garden areas. There is always more to do.

Since the FPCH is closed except for limited purposes, we cancelled lawn cutting services and fertilizing services. We also reduced hours for cleaning services.

If you need to access the Church, please only use the restroom facilities directly across from Kristen's office. We are only cleaning the offices and restrooms across from the offices until we resume full service.

Thanks to a member, we plan to cut our lawn this year instead of hiring a lawn service. We are currently shopping for a lawnmower and welcome contributions to pay for the mower. Please mail your contribution for the mower to the Church or use PayPal.

Thank all the people who keep us safe and make available the products we need and thank everyone who self isolates to protect others.

Spring is almost here! As I write this article, the forecast calls for 2-4 inches of snow. Yuck! The Garden will green soon. *The Trustees*



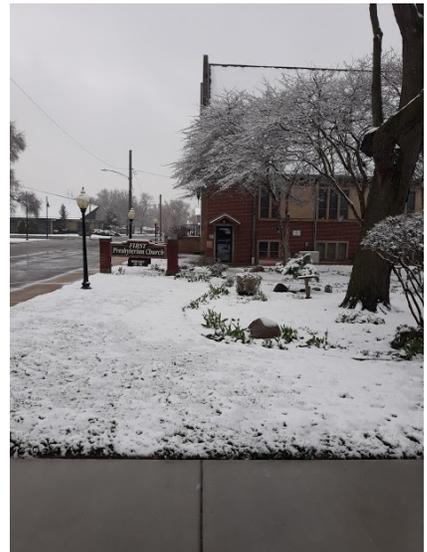
The south sanctuary lower level flooded mid-April. Thanks to quick work from Jeff Savage, Debbie Catania, Carolyn Ham and Cheryl Steen damage was limited to a few boxes and rolls of paper.

Global Maintenance cleaned the carpets and the tile floors. The problem appeared to be caused by recent rains and snow melt.

One of the three boilers developed an oil leak and is out of service. Another boiler had an inoperable baffle motor but the problem was remedied. Todco, the servicing contractor, is working on a recommendation about the defective boiler. We can safely operate with two functioning boilers especially since the church is closed and the weather is warming.

In coordination with Ministry of Finance, the Trustees applied for a forgivable loan from the Payroll Protection Program. The loan was approved and funds from the plan are expected to be available soon, The loan is to pay employees for two months and to pay for a portion of our utility expenses.

The 2020 Snow virus came to the FPCH during April. Spring is in action! Be safe!





Salvation Army Food Contribution

During this most difficult time, it's always good to know that we can be of some assistance. Today I packed up 25 boxes of canned and boxed items that you so graciously donated to the church pantry and delivered it with Jeff Savages' help to the Salvation Army food distribution center in Munster. There were lines of people waiting to go in and receive food items so these things were greatly appreciated. But now our pantry is once again empty and needs to have you help fill it. A can or box or two would certainly go a long way to help put food on the table of some hungry families. So please when you shop, grab a couple cans for those in need. Meat, chicken or fish is always greatly appreciated. Mission supports two other food pantry's. Veterans Life Changing Services and Love, INC. We rotate so everyone gets a donation from us. Thank you again for helping those in need. *Cheryl*

April Shelter Report

Since we were unable to actually serve at the shelter, the 3 musketeers, Judy, Jamie and Cheryl decided we would shop and cook for the 40 residents of the shelter. We were not permitted in the shelter, so the meal of pork chops, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, milk, eggs and cake were delivered at our usual time on Saturday April 11th and left outside on a table. They were going to be serving themselves.

But that left the guests that came in from the street every Saturday without food!! It was impossible to prepare them a hot meal since they had nowhere to eat, so we made 18 carry out containers so they could just pick up a box and have a meal of ham, cheese and turkey sandwiches. We also added a hard boiled egg, a homemade cookie, cheese sticks, a bag of chips, a piece of candy and bottle of water.

Since we were encouraged to leave right away and not mingle with the folks, I have no idea how the box lunches went over but hopefully they at least enjoyed some food for the evening.

A special thank you to Jamie Ham and Judy Toren for being there and suffering with me while wearing the masks made for us by Lois Fozkos. BUT we were following the rules!!!

John Toren and Jeff Savage went with us to deliver the food. They always step up when we need extra help.





CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Ministry of Mission will once again be selling flower vouchers to be used at Zandstra's Greenhouse. The cost will be \$15.00 per voucher.

In order to make this program work in light of Covid 19 restrictions there are new rules to follow.

1. Call Tracy, Cheryl or me and we will arrange a non-contact switch: you put your check or money in an envelope and leave outside your door, one of us will pick up at a prearranged time and leave the vouchers in your envelope.
2. Call Zandstra's at 924-1095 and make an appointment for a 45 minute shopping time. This limits the number of people inside the greenhouse and will allow everyone to maintain the 6 foot distancing while shopping. You can also schedule a shopping time on their website.
3. Or alternately, you can go to their website to view which plants and flowers they have and call in your order to be picked up at a designated time at curbside.
4. Turn in your voucher at the end of your shopping trip or pickup and our church will receive credit for your purchase.

This program has been a very useful tool to start spring off right in past years and with the stay-at-home order this year, will give everyone a chance to beautify your environment to make that stay more pleasant.

(Tracy Oprea, (219) 616-7181; Cheryl Steen, (219)743-3440; Carolyn Ham, 845-4330)

Thanks for supporting Missions and enjoy spring!

Carolyn Ham



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, hats, mittens, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers.



The Per Capita PER member is \$42.00 for 2020



MA Y BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Marge Ashton
- 6 Bob Cooke
- 8 Kamri Nixon
- 12 Stan Weston
- 14 Ron Toren
- Ella Severson
- 24 Cindy Vuckovich
- 29 Donna Helmer



A BIG “Thank You!” for the beautiful Prayer Shawl given to and dedicated for Rich. We appreciate your care and your prayers.

Most Sincerely,

Rich & Janet Terpstra





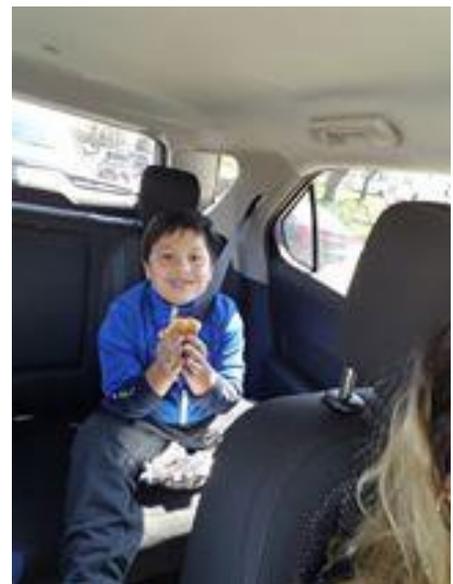
WE CONTINUE TO SERVE

On March 28th Gladys' Table community meal altered our serving practice from inside table dining to drive up service, due to state guidelines to practice safe distancing. We served curbside sack lunches that day from a table setup outside on Delaware Street. Tracy Oprea and Krissy LaFlech helped prepare oven baked ham and cheese sandwiches and then stepped up to act as car hops. Along with the foil wrapped sandwiches we packed 40 lunch bags with applesauce cups, chips and cuties. Because we only had the internet to advise those who normally attend this community meal, we only had a few of the regular diners show up. We delivered some to the Highland Police Dept. and placed 15 lunches in the Blessing Box and posted it on Facebook. Within an hour of that posting, all sack lunches had been picked up. Because this was just the beginning of an increasing need of our community, people starting volunteering to sponsor Sack Lunch Saturdays. With the sponsorship and help of Kelly LaFlech, Dana Bell (Lowell High School teacher) and her daughter Ashley we were able to continue for another 2 weeks of lunches. We then had three FPCH families and a former pastor of FPCH ask to be partners in our meal sharing. Our planning was for a week at a time, then because of word of mouth and internet postings and group sharing, we are now able to continue this much needed service thru June (this projection has been based on approx. 40-45 lunches). God always

provides a plan for feeding the hungry, we need to recognize our responsibility to deliver on that plan. We have had contributions from Barton's Pizza (Highland) and White Castle (Hammond) and now we are promised tacos from Boss Man Taco (Highland) and hot dogs from Arnies Hot Dogs (Munster) in May. Gladys' Table will continue to provide the sack lunch for the last Saturday of the month. The remaining SACKURDAY'S thru June will be covered by the hearts and hands of FPCH family members, community members and businesses. It is our prayer that this continue as the need increases week to week (we are anticipating the need of 50 lunches this last Sackurday of April). Beginning with this last week in April we will have homemade masks available for those who have indicated the need.

I also want to share the following gratitude post on Facebook from April 18th showing why we do this!

Thank you very much for lunch. We loved it. God Bless you.





Prayers of Christian Sympathy to: Suzanne Gruoner and family on the death of her step-son Anthony Skyler.

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Special Prayers for:

All who are keeping FPCH up and running
George Griner, who just celebrated his 97th birthday
The children at the school where Hilary Kikkert teaches



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.

Beth (Casiano)
Bob Abernethy
Anthony - Suzanne Gruoner's son
Alaina (Callaway)
Marge Ashton
Avery
Bapst Family (Callaway)
Betsy (Rev. Tyler)
Brady (Rev. Tyler)
Sonny Buono
Ina Chappell
I Sun Chong (Oprea)
Danielle
Dave
Don Dekker
Ruth Dekker
George Griner
Guy (B. Perryman)
Gracie Helmer
Bill Holmes
Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
Murray Faris
Frank (K. Scott)
Marlys Furnas
Jennifer (Reed-Daughter of friend)
Jessica (Abernethy)
Josh (Rev. Tyler)
Mildred (B. Perryman)
Jill Muller (Steen)
Jeanne Nestor
Karen (Casiano)

Rena's cousin
Rodney (J. Toren)
Calvin Scott
Sebastian (Casiano)
Richard Simmons (B. Morton)
Jay Smith
Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
Steve & Melinda
Gary Studer
Tarsha (Perryman)
Richard Terpstra
Dennis VanKooten
Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)

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Due to federal regulations about privacy, ***we are no longer called by hospitals*** about patient admissions. Even if they ask you for your church affiliation when checking in, they do not call. If you or your loved one would like a visit while hospitalized, or would like a home visit, please call the church office at 219-838-6850.
Thank you!

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• We pray for those undergoing treatment for cancer, the mentally ill and their families, those recuperating, those un-

- 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).