

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 14 Issue 5

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Dear All,

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

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

As I write this, it seems that April showers have become snow showers. Even with this unexpected turn of weather, though, I trust and believe that we will have May flowers. It is such a blessing to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel the new life of Spring—even when that experience entails extra sneezes and an itchy throat! It is for good reason that our season of Resurrection aligns with the onset of Spring. That which has lain dormant has sprung back to life. I get to enjoy it every evening I am at the church office, seeing the colors of the flowers so lovingly tended by our garden people. You should stop by and spend some peaceful moments there yourselves! Let us be reminded that in the midst of all the suffering and sorrow of the past year, there is always new life. For, our God who became flesh and who came back to life in the flesh is always with us!

This month we will be celebrating several important days in the life of the Church and of the world—Mothers' Day, the Ascension, Pentecost....and for all you Star Wars fans out there, May the 4th (be with you)! As we approach the first three of those mentioned, I invite you to contemplate the image of God as



Special points of interest:

Matthew 25 Spotlight

Stewardship & Finance

Spring Clean Up

**Congratulations to our
Graduates**

Pentecost Sunday

Flower Vouchers

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**

mother. Close your eyes and open yourself up to Her holding you closely, perhaps singing to you, perhaps dancing with you. I invite you to reflect theologically on the significance of Jesus' ascension to heaven following his resurrection. Ask yourself, "What does it mean that Jesus is in heaven in the fullness of his resurrected body? What does that mean for the convergence of heaven and earth? What does that mean for our loved ones who have joined the Resurrection? What does that mean for us?" I invite you to consider Spirit-filled action in remembrance of the day of Pentecost, the breathing of the Holy Spirit upon the world and the birthday of the Church. Embody the Spirit's presence in your life by giving of your resources to those in need of money or food, by marching in solidarity with those in need of justice, by reaching out and talking with those in need of a friend. And of course, if you celebrate May the 4th, think long and hard about the wise words of Yoda: "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

I look forward to the ways in which we will share in the life of the Church and community this month, both virtually and in person. I look forward to the ways in which our spirits and bodies will dance with the rhythm of the liturgical calendar, the beat of sacred remembrance. I look forward to embracing the new life which surrounds us and fills us every moment of every day!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

I leave you with these words from *Acts*:

"Jesus said, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, 'Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.'"

In Christ and With Love,

Rev. Tyler Orem





This month the *Matthew 25* spotlight is shining upon the Trustees, the Ministry of Worship and Music, and the Ministry of Hospitality. They have all been hard at work making sure everything is in place for our hybrid activities, ensuring that all are welcome and all have access. Ensuring that the building is clean and safe, getting the infrastructure in place for quality streaming, and welcoming in all who show up at our doors or in our newsfeeds contributes to all three *Matthew 25* initiatives. Making our various platforms of physical and virtual space available allows us to make sure nobody is excluded from the resurrected body!

SESSION SHORTS

- Each month Session reviews and adjusts mitigation measures due to the pandemic. At this meeting, Session voted to allow gentle singing of 1 verse of each hymn during worship while wearing masks beginning on April 25th. And each Sunday you can enjoy fellowship time, packaged snacks and water outside by the garden, weather permitting.
- Outside worship services are being planned for several Sundays this summer. Watch for more information as the dates get confirmed.
- Session again emphasized that mask-wearing is mandatory while in the building with others. Masks are available at all entrance doors if you forget to bring one! By doing so, you are helping ensure the safety and health of yourself and others.
- Live streaming in the sanctuary is up and running. This was an involved project running the internet wiring from the educational wing through the tunnel and up into the sound booth. Session approved the Endowment grant from Worship and Music for \$1400 to fund this project.
- We are in need of people to set up and run the live streaming during worship. If you are interested, please contact Jean Smith. You will be trained...no experience needed!
- President of the Trustees, Jeff Savage, reported that the Blessing Box has been repaired by a Good Samaritan. Please donate non-perishable food and items as there is always a great need.
- Coming soon...an area on the north side of the sanctuary is being prepared to allow for wheelchair seating and an area for families with young children. Two pews will be removed, and it will match the south side of the sanctuary that has the sound booth. If you know anyone who could use two 14-foot wooden pews...please let Jeff know.
- The restricted fund for a lawnmower is no longer needed as a lawnmower was donated to the church. These funds will be absorbed into our available cash for other projects.
- We are looking into fundraisers to help our general fund. If you have any ideas, please let one of the Session members know.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
March 31, 2021

	Month of March	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$13,269.12	\$9,965.00	\$48,154.30
Operating Expenses	13,130.83	13,409.00	35,410.87
Excess (Deficit)	\$138.29		\$12,743.43



Endowment Fund
Committee

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

In Memory of: Marge Ashton, Art Calvin, Barbara Dye

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos

A Donation was given to the "Food Pantry" by:

Christine Small

A Donation was given to the "Blessing Box" by:

Gerald & Nancy Veltman

Endowment Fund Donations



Would you like to honor a loved one? Are you celebrating a special anniversary, birthday or maybe the birth of a grandchild? Would you like to make a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers in the sanctuary? The endowment fund is a way to make these contributions and a more lasting gift to the church.

Each year a portion of the fund provides money to help fund mission, the general fund and grants for unbudgeted and non-ongoing projects. In the past the fund has helped with new windows in the classroom wing, fellowship hall carpeting, kitchen and narthex remodeling, youth ministry, support for hurricane victims, parking lot repair and resurfacing, a new boiler to heat our buildings, funding for the Family and Children Coordinator, and technology needs.



Be Bold in Giving!

There is a thought provoking quote: "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." We may wonder how that could apply to us and in what parts of our lives it could be meaningful? An answer may lie in the stewardship and sharing of God's gifts to us. As you consider those gifts, include your time, talents and treasure. If you have ever stepped out of *your* comfort zone and gone beyond *your* norm to use *your* gifts to make a positive difference for someone in need, you have most likely enjoyed a personal reward beyond your expectations. The impact of your gift may have also gone, without your knowledge, far beyond your expectations. Great happenings, good things and exciting growth seldom arise from maintaining the status quo — so be bold in your faith and in your giving! "One day Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat. He said to them, 'let's cross to the other side of the lake'. So they set sail." (Luke 8:22) Maybe it is time to consider venturing out of *your* safe harbor?

Ministry of Stewardship and Finance



APRIL CLEAN UP DAY AT THE CHURCH

A dedicated group of volunteers met at the church on Saturday April 17th to help clean up the garden and church grounds. Thanks to all of our volunteers: Heather Casiano, Peggy Fozkos, Rodney Fozkos, Jamie Ham, Savannah Ham, Winnie Owen, Jean Smith, Cheryl Steen, and Avery.

Doesn't the garden look beautiful? Please consider helping out in our gardens as we plant and pull weeds this summer. See Cheryl to volunteer.





IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY THIS MONTH

There is a new collection of music CDs in the church library that can be checked out for your listening pleasure. Currently, most of the CDs are contemporary Christian music from a variety of artists. We're looking for more contributions to expand the music selections, so if you have any music CDs you're willing to donate, please bring them to the church office and mark them for "Church Library". Any music genre is welcome, but no explicit lyrics or cover art, please.

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 am to noon, or on Sunday morning before and after worship. 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. Happy Reading!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!



We would like to offer a big CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2021 high school graduates in our church family! You've worked hard and we are proud of you!! We'll be honoring the graduates during worship on Sunday, May 23. Here are the FPCH Class of 2021 graduates:

Brian Scott is graduating from Lake Central High School.

Thor Severson is graduating from Highland High School.

If there are any other graduates of high school or higher education that we inadvertently left out, please email Heather at hcasiano@fpchighland.org. We want to make sure we recognize all of our graduates.

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. Please send your ideas to Heather Casiano - we want to know what you're interested in!



ADULT CONNECTIONS

- ◆ BYOB – This weekly, online Bible discussion group is going strong. We talk about the Scriptures from the previous Sunday’s worship service, oftentimes hearing them from new perspectives. The BYOB group meets each Wednesday at 7 pm online on Zoom. If you are not already on the email list for the Zoom invitation/log-in info and would like to be, contact the church office to be added.
- ◆ Sunday Morning Study Group – This group is meeting in person at the church at 9 am each Sunday through May 23. Please wear a mask. The spring edition of The Present Word is the current curriculum.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections will meet twice in May. Bring your friends!!

- ◆ May 8th – help Cheryl and crew cooking for the homeless shelter. Meet in the church kitchen at 1 pm.
- ◆ May 23rd – Our last “regular” meeting before summer! We’ll meet at about 11:45 am or right after the worship service. There will be a short lesson and then we’ll celebrate this crazy year with a COOKOUT and some fun games. Help us brainstorm for this summer, too!

Youth Connections is open to all middle school and high school students and friends are always welcome! Watch your emails for the latest details.



May Liturgists:

- 5/2 - Tracy Oprea
- 5/9- Charlotte Abernethy
- 5/16- Karen Lounsbury
- 5/23- Heather Casiano
- 5/30- Bonnie Perryman



Wear red on May 23rd when we celebrate Pentecost, the commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after His Ascension.



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.



April Shelter Report

We still are continuing the CDC guidelines when cooking for the shelter. We prepare the food for the 40 residents. We also prepare 20 meals for the non-residents that usually join us for a meal, but now just stop by and pick one up on the outside of the shelter.

The usual group was back together on Saturday: Jamie, Lauren, Cheryl, Marie, Sandy and Sherry. Joining us for the second month were Jean and Mandy. We were so happy to see them return. Hopefully they will continue coming when their schedule permits. The more helping hands the easier the job!!

We are still fortunate to get some of our meat, vegetables and some fresh fruit from St. Tim's in Griffith when they have their food giveaway. It is truly a blessing that they are willing to share and certainly helps Mission's budget!

Thank you Bob from St. Tim's!! He is the director of their food giveaway.

Cheryl Steen



Ministry of Mission 2021 Zandstras Flower Voucher Sale

The Ministry of Mission is having its annual flower voucher fundraiser. Flower vouchers are now available for Zandstras Greenhouse and are \$15.00/each. The voucher is worth \$15.00 and can be spent just like cash at the greenhouse. The Ministry of Mission receives \$3.00 from every voucher sold. This is one of the Ministry of Mission's most important fundraisers and we greatly appreciate your support.

Opening Day at Zandstras Greenhouse is Friday, April 16, 2021. In person shopping will be on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Zandstras has reserved Tuesday mornings for higher risk individuals and no appointment is necessary.

If you are interested in purchasing vouchers, please contact Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181. Tracy is willing to make no contact deliveries if requested. The Ministry of Mission thanks you for your continued support, which allows us to fulfill our Mission Statement.

"The Ministry of Mission is to be an emissary for Christ's love and compassion for those in need throughout the community, the nation and the world. This goal is to be accomplished individually through the daily lives of Ministry members and as a group through the prudent identification and creation of opportunities for the congregation of FPCH to share their time, talents and treasure in Christian service to others."



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



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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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)
 Avery
 Bapst Family (Callaway)
 Mike Bennett
 Curtis Black
 Brady Vanes
 Sonny Buono
 Carmelo (Melissa's Dad)
 Ina Chappell
 Brandon Chong
 U. Chong (Oprea)
 Danielle
 Dave
 Don Dekker
 Ruth Dekker
 Bob Dignam
 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

Jimmy Leyva (J. Martinez)
 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
 Lily Renfro
 Mara & Jeremy Renfro
 Rena's cousin
 Rick Parker
 Family & Friends of Rhonda Penman
 Chuck & Kathy Pumnea
 Rodney (J. Toren)
 Calvin Scott
 Linda Skaggs
 Gary Sknerski
 Jay Smith
 Gale Holck Snyder
 Steve & Melinda
 Family of Jeannine Strom
 Gary Studer
 Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
 Tarsha (Perryman)
 Erin Taylor (Casiano)
 Teachers & Students
 Rev. Tyler's friend
 Richard Terpstra
 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).