

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

November

2020

Volume 13 Issue 11

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Dear All,

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

It is hard to believe that we are already in November! In so many ways this year has felt like the longest year on record, but in so many ways it has also flown by. In biblical Greek, there are two concepts of time: 1) *kronos*—chronological time as we mark it, and 2) *kairos*—God's time. Thankfully God is working through *kairos* time, because it is hard to keep track of the *kronos* with all of our schedules so radically changed! Looking at *kronos* time, though, I recently realized that I have now completed two years as your pastor. What a blessing these two years have been! In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let me say thank you to all of you for being such a blessed community of faith and support during my time here thus far! Because of your passion for the Gospel, your love for God and neighbors, and your generosity of spirit we have persisted through a very difficult time and will continue to do so! I fully trust that in God's *Kairos* time, all shall be well!



Special points of interest:

Mitten Tree

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

All Saints' Day

Hanging of the Greens

Poinsettia Order Form

Stewardship Sunday

Commitment Sunday

I mentioned above, your generosity of spirit. By that, I mean your willingness to share God's grace and love so freely with all. This month, we are embarking on our yearly stewardship campaign with the theme of *Shining Our Light in These Times*. We decided upon this theme because we see that we, as a congregation, are indeed bearing God's light in times that have been particularly difficult and because we need to keep doing so! I encourage you to consider how your generosity of spirit can translate to a spirit of generosity. In order to keep our light bright with each other as well as to reach more and more people in these difficult *kronos* times, we need to join our resources together in a strong stewardship season!



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

Last month, I mentioned that we have chosen to become a *Matthew 25* congregation, focused on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. I encourage you all to consider how focusing on this call can help us to shine God's light even more brightly in these times. As part of this initiative, you will periodically see *Matthew 25* spotlights in which various ministries of our congregation or actions taken by our members are recognized and uplifted for the ways in which they are living into the *Matthew 25* call. If you have witnessed actions or taken actions yourselves that fit into this call, please send me an email or give me a call to let me know about it!

November is a cornucopia of activities in the life of the Church. As we continue in the reality of the pandemic, we will seek to maintain important touchstones as best as possible but will also have to be flexible in how we go about things. In this full month, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day, Reformation Sunday, Thanksgiving, and the beginning of Advent. The first Sunday in November is a particularly packed day with our All Saints' candle lighting memorial, Holy Communion, and a fellowship event after church celebrating the start of the Protestant Reformation just over 500 years ago. If you plan on joining us for the fellowship event, please bring a sack lunch to enjoy! If you are unable to join in person but would like to participate, you can do so! For our candle lighting, please send names of loved ones who have passed away over the past year so that we can memorialize them in the service. For Holy Communion, have elements ready at home to take along with us. For our Reformation celebration, we will send out some of the materials we develop.

Throughout the next several months, we will be keeping an eye on everything happening around us and following any new guidelines or orders that come from local, state, and national authorities. Stay healthy, stay connected, and stay faithful! You all are in my prayers.

I close with these words of thanksgiving from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (*1 Corinthians* 1:4-7).

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler Orem





At the most recent Wabash Valley Presbytery meeting, First Presbyterian Church of Highland was recognized for our amazing work in seeking to address poverty through our food ministries! These include shelter meals, Sackurday lunches, Gladys' Table, our pantry, our blessing box, and contributions to our partners in Kitwe, Zambia, that are used for food supplies. Thank you to all of you for your contributions to and enactment of these vital ministries as we focus on the eradication of systemic poverty! These ministries are becoming more and more vital as the pandemic and resulting economic crisis continue to escalate. Check out this link to see a short video highlighting our congregation's food ministries that was shown for the whole presbytery! Copy and paste it or type it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDxe8xzVfV8&feature=youtu.be>

SESSION SHORTS

Session met on October 19th, via ZOOM and in person

- We have a new boiler thanks to our hard working Trustees. They also replaced a few new bricks in the garden.
- We are working with the Ministry of Finance to get the 2021 budget worked out.
- This is the time of year when we start hearing bells as we enter stores. We again will be helping the Salvation Army with this worthwhile project.
- When the bells come out, so does the need for warm hats, gloves, mittens, and dry socks. Please consider donating to Ministry of Mission's "Mitten Tree."
- We will begin to worship inside following mitigation measures that have been in place. Our windows will be open, so dress warm!
- Regretfully, we approved the transfer of Paul and Sandy Nichols. They have been living in Indianapolis for about 2 years now.
- We also will be doing some reorganizing of the Ministry of Finance and the Treasurer's responsibilities.
- Remember this is the time of year to think about how you could serve your church family. So, when the nominating committee member call, please prayerfully consider how you can use your God-given gifts to help this church thrive.

Happy Thanksgiving!



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
September 30, 2020

	Month of September	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$8,520.90	\$10,553.00	\$95,623.37
Operating Expenses	21,129.71	13,424.00	105,003.85
Excess (Deficit)	(\$12,608.81)		(\$9,380.48)



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

In Memory of: Dennis Sheets

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Arletta Schaefer

Gifts were given:

To the Food Pantry by Kaz Smailis

To the Food Pantry by Christine Small



Youth Connections

Youth Connections is for all youth in grades 6-12. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month after worship until 1 pm in the Youth Room. This great group of middle and high school youth share a faith lesson, a time of fun and games, and do service and mission projects throughout the year.

November's **Youth Connections** are on Nov. 8th & 22nd. A face mask or other facial covering is required, and social distancing will be maintained. Bring a snack if you'd like and a friend – everyone is welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, Dec. 12, from 1-3 pm. Youth Connections will be helping cook the monthly meal that our church delivers to the Hammond homeless shelter.



Adult Connections – Two options to participate!

Sunday Morning Group: This group meets each Sunday from 9-10 am in the church's Fellowship Hall for some Bible study and discussion following a quarterly theme. Books are provided, but you may want to bring your own Bible if you have one. A face mask is required, and social distancing will be used as much as possible. For more information on this group, contact Carol Callaway.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible): This group meets online via ZOOM each week on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm. Each week's discussion is based on the Scripture passage(s) from the previous Sunday's worship service and sermon. If you don't have access to a computer, you can also join this study by phone. Each discussion is independent of the others, so you can jump in anytime and not miss anything.

If you have questions about any of the new **Connections** opportunities or would like the log-in/phone-in information to participate in the Wednesday BYOB group, contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or 575-932-9716 (cell phone).

Ministry
of

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

TRUNK or Treat

Highland Trunk or Treat Event

For the second year in a row, members of the Faith Development committee and six of our youth participated in the Town of Highland's annual Trunk or Treat event in Main Square Park on Oct. 24. The Casiano's minivan was decorated with our church banner and Halloween items by a couple of our creative youth, which served as a festive backdrop for the youth to hand out lollipops and stickers to the kids coming through. The town estimates that nearly 2,000 kids attended the event on the chilly and damp October weekend.

THANK YOU very much to everyone who donated lollipops for this fun event – we ended up with just over 1,000 lollipops to hand out to the kids of Highland and surrounding communities! Thank you also to all the youth and adults who passed out candy and represented FPC Highland well in our community!





October Shelter Report

We are still observing the Covid-19 rules set by the government so we don't get to see the residents. They are doing their own serving and clearing. That means we don't get any of our containers returned for using again. This in turn increases our costs. We also are doing 20 extra box meals for the transient people that are unable to go into the shelter and eat as they were used to doing. I have been fortunate enough to get cases of fruit, etc. from St. Timothy's Church in Griffith to help supplement their diets. A special thank you for their sharing.

We have received two donors that aren't members of our church who have been very generous. Christine Small and Kaz Smailis have donated money just for the purchase of food and supplies for the shelter. A huge thank you to them. It certainly helps our budget from Mission.

The usual 5 were on hand to put the meal together. Jamie Ham, Judy Toren, Sandy Higgins, Sherry Higgins and myself. It is such a blessing to have such a dedicated band of workers show up every second Saturday. We are also thankful for John Toren and Jeff Savage. They are the muscle that does the loading and are our escorts to the shelter every month. Hats off to both of them!!!

If you ever feel the desire to join us, we would certainly welcome new faces to our merry band. Just give me a call.

Cheryl



COLD WEATHER IS COMING!

Ministry of Mission is once again sponsoring our annual Mitten Tree from November 29th through December 20th. We need donations of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. All donations will be divided among Highland Public Schools by their counselor as needs dictate.

Our decorated tree will be up in the seating area of the Narthex with a donation bin beside it. You can drop your items in the bin and we will make sure they are included.

Thanks for your ongoing support.



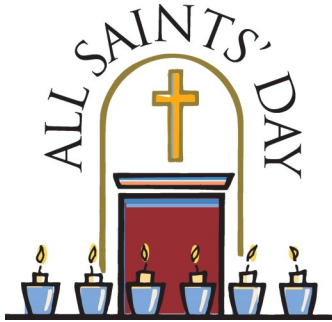
Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

During these challenging times the need for assistance has grown enormously. In a conversation with the Salvation Army Director of Development, he emphasized that the number people requesting assistance with rent, utilities and food is several times the demand of the past. Those who have never had to ask for help before are asking now because of lost income, layoffs and lost jobs. Because of the pandemic, locations for Bell ringers are diminishing and there is concern about volunteerism. This is an opportunity for FPCH to make a difference in the lives of those in need and to truly be the "Heart, Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ". Beginning on November 19th we will once again ring at the south door of Strack's on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 til 6. We will wear masks and social distance. Tracy Oprea will be handling the bell ringing schedule this year and will be calling you for help. The need has never been greater so when the call comes, please be ready to pick a time slot and become an important part of our 32nd year of ringing in support of the good works of the Salvation Army .



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life



On Sunday, November 1st, we will be having our annual All Saints' Day service at 10:30.

As part of that service, we will be naming those persons we have prayed for or about since last November who have passed from death to new life in Christ. A candle will be lit as each person is named.



November liturgists:

11/1 - Carol Callaway
 11/8 - Bonnie Perryman
 11/15 - John Toren
 11/22 - Hilary Kikkert
 11/29 - Tracy Oprea



Sunday, November 22nd

In anticipation of the first Sunday of Advent, we will be decorating our building for the Christmas season by "Hanging the Greens."

Plan on joining us for worship services on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30 AM and help us decorate the building after worship

(W & M members: please note the change; Advent begins on November 29th and the church should be decorated before then)



11/29—Peter & Gale Churitch



It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias! Lansing Florist is offering red and white poinsettias for \$20.00.

This is a good way to honor or remember loved ones. Donations may also be made in LIEU of flowers. Your order and money are due in the church office by Tuesday, December 1st

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Please Print CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

	Number	Price	Total
Red	_____	\$20.00	\$_____
White	_____	\$20.00	\$_____

Donation in LIEU of flowers \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

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Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 4th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day.
FPCH will be a voting site for Highland,
Precinct #8

The Church Office will be closed that day
and Wednesday, November 4th



**STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY**

**Stewardship Sunday will be on
November 15th**



Be sure to connect with us for worship
on Sunday, November 22nd as we
dedicate our 2021 Pledge to God
through Jesus Christ for the Mission &
Ministry of First Presbyterian Church.
If you are worshiping from home,
please mail in your pledges.



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.



Eason & Nancy Engle

4959 Grove Park Drive NE
Cleveland, TN 37323



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Shirley McKnight
6	Jeanne Nestor
12	Jill Elman
	Liz Zuke
14	Jesse Casiano
16	Eason Engle
17	Catherine Black



Thank you to those in the kitchen who prepare the lunches and those who deliver.

Much appreciated,

Yvonne Suroviak



Prayers of Christian Sympathy:

- To the Family of Dennis VanKooten on his death 10/22
- All the people affected by the wild fires in California and Colorado



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)
Marge Ashton
Avery
Family of Thierno Bah
Bapst Family (Callaway)
Mike Bennett
Betsy (Rev. Tyler)
Curtis Black
Brady Vanes
Sonny Buono
Fred Callaway Jr.
Ina Chappell
Brandon Chong
U. Chong (Oprea)
Danielle
Dave
Laura Buono Domsic
Frank (K. Scott)
George Griner
Guy (B. Perryman)
Susan Hanley (Studer)
Gracie Helmer
Bill Holmes
Jessica (Abernethy)
Steve Lekan (P. Fozkos)
Holly Letnich
Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
David Markley
Tony Martinez
Mary (Callaway)

Ray Mendoza
Mildred (B. Perryman)
Jill Muller (Steen)
George & Barbara Nelson
Jeanne Nestor
Janet Orem
Jon Orem
Josh Orem
Sharon Orem
Rena's cousin
Rick Parker
Rhonda Penman
Rodney (J. Toren)
Calvin Scott
Jay Smith
Steve & Melinda
Family of Jeannine Strom
Gary Studer
Darren Suroviak
Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
Tarsha (Perryman)
Erin Taylor (Casiano)
Teachers & Students
Richard Terpstra
Family of Chierno Vah
Mattie Welch (Rena Martinez)
Cindy Waltz Family

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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 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).