

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

Volume 13 Issue 9

September
2020

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Dear All,

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

Somehow September is already upon us. Traditionally, this is a very busy time for our congregation. September marks our kickoff of a flurry of activities following Summer break. Although things may take very different forms, this year is no exception! We may not hear our choir singing, but we will hear the ringing music of a reinstated bell choir. We may not have in-person fellowship activities, but we will have new opportunities for group discussion online. We may not have many worship services in our building-based sanctuary, but we will continue to worship God in the sanctuary of our garden and the sanctuaries of our homes. Our boards, ministries, and committees have been hard at work making sure that we continue as a faithful congregation full of faithful people in creative ways!

Special points of interest:

A Letter from Rev. Tyler

Ministry of Finance "Behind the Scenes"

Youth Group

**"Bring Your Own Bible"
Weekly Zoom discussion**

Bell Choir

We recently made the journey from *Genesis* into *Exodus* in our explorations of Scripture on Sunday mornings. As we move through *Exodus*, we will encounter people who are experiencing the worst of what the world has to offer and the best of what God has to offer. We will hear of their struggles to break free from slavery, their struggles to find their way in disorienting landscapes and mindscapes, their struggles to trust each other in community, and their struggles to decolonize their hearts and minds. We will also hear of God's actions to liberate, God's actions to guide, God's actions to build community, and God's actions to enlighten.



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**

We certainly are not in the same situation as the Hebrews in the story of *Exodus*, but we are indeed in a season of great struggle. Pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice plague us like the plagues of Egypt. Human-made disasters and human-influenced natural disasters reflect the terrors of violence, flood, and fire that persist throughout the stories of the Old Testament. Bitter divisions based on national and party loyalty evoke the bitter factions that formed as the Israelites wandered through the wilderness. As we continue to make our way through these struggles, I urge us as a congregation to pay attention to the particular ways in which God is acting for our welfare and for the good of all Creation. I urge us to grasp onto those actions when we identify them and to share them with each other and with all whom we encounter.

As an example, I invite everyone to consider God's actions in guiding us to worship safely over the past couple of months. As we have felt the breeze blowing across our skin, as we have heard the birds' chirps ringing through our ears, as we have smelled the aromas of flowers filling our noses, and as we have seen eyes smiling above masks, it has become undeniably clear that God is holding us in a loving embrace along with all of Creation in this season!

In Christ,

Rev. Tyler Orem



SESSION SHORTS

The session met on Monday August 17th

- We learned that we are awaiting guidelines for the PPP money pay back or forgiveness and the pay roll tax forgiveness.
- Trustees are working to get the boiler replaced and having one of the Women's bathrooms updated.
- The Tech grant is in place, and some of our new equipment is in use.
- There is also a possible change in our cable service in the works.
- We are looking into becoming a Mathew 25 Church. Reverend Tyler is researching requirements.

If you are curious about what a Mathew 25 Church may be, check out The Presbytery of Wabash Valley's website.



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Month of
July 31, 2020

	Month of July	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$7,634.20	\$10,553.00	\$78,438.27
Operating Expenses	7,029.64	13,424.00	73,436.78
Excess (Deficit)	\$604.56		\$5,001.49



Behind the Scenes

You probably know and expect that the ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Highland have been very active in responding to managing our financial resources during the last 6 months of this Covid pandemic. Costs have been managed by the ministries to the most effective level by either reducing or eliminating non-essential costs, recognizing the need to be good stewards of the church's finances.

What you probably are not aware of is that during the pandemic we identified a few programs that we had to proactively enlist into by understanding the possibilities of the benefits and conditions of the programs. The three programs that we investigated, applied for and were approved to access the benefits were:

Dues Relief offered by the Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) element of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) offered by the U. S. Government, administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Connect Through Tech Grant offered by the Center for Congregations

Summary of these programs:

Dues Relief- Saved cost of approximately \$3,300-Our Presbytery waived the need for FPCH to disburse approximately \$1,100 per month for 3 months for our required payments to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions.

Under the Paycheck Protection Program, our bank loaned FPCH \$11,500 to cover payroll and utility cost during the crisis. At some point, we are accountable to document to the bank that this amount properly was expended according to the program. Satisfaction by the bank will result in the forgiveness of the loan which results in our cash reserves being increased by the \$11,500 forgiveness of the loan.

Connect Through Tech Grant-Received \$5,000 based on the use of these funds to purchase new technology resources to provide on-line worship services. FPCH purchased a new computer, camera and miscellaneous equipment for playback of church services, moving us toward live streaming. We were required to come up with 10% of the project cost.

We will continue to monitor future possibilities that might be offered due to the continuing pandemic and look for other ways to reduce or eliminate cost or availability of unexpected funds that may be made available to us.

Your church still counts on its members to stay current in their giving. May God continue to hear our prayers and provide us the financial sustenance to continue our ministry.

Vince Catania

Treasurer and Session Elder



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

In Memory of: I Sun Chong, Jim & Ede Corten, Barb Dye, Dr. Robert Huelett,
Cal Sleeman, Dr. Lowell Steen

These gifts were given by the following donors:

Anonymous, Arletta Schaefer

Gifts were given:

To the Food Pantry by Kaz Smailis

To the Food Pantry by Christine Small



Faith Development Gatherings This Fall



For Elementary Age Kids: We're currently putting together faith lessons for kids to do with their families at home, with both digital and physical resources. These lessons can be done at any time and are designed to easily fit into your family's schedule. If you have a child/children in kindergarten through 5th grade and would like to get a copy of these lessons, please contact Heather Casiano (contact info below). The first lesson will be available in September.

For Youth: All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate! Our gatherings will be a combination of a faith-based lesson and time for fun and games or a mission service project. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend!

Youth will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month following worship until 1 pm, starting on Sept. 13. Gatherings will be at the church, outside in the garden area as much as possible unless the weather prevents us from doing so (alternate locations or virtual meetings will be determined at that time). Face masks are required, and social distancing will be observed as much as possible. Snacks will be available, or youth may bring their own snacks.



For All Ages: A new, online group will meet on Zoom each Wednesday evening, beginning Sept. 16, from 7-8 pm. This group will be a midweek study of Scripture mainly using the preceding Sunday's materials. No books or curriculum required, although a Bible may be helpful.

This online gathering is open to all who are interested in participating, so feel free to invite friends even if they have no current affiliation with this church. Children and youth are welcome to participate as well but must have a parent/guardian present online with them.

To participate, contact Heather Casiano (contact info below) for the Zoom meeting log-in and password (for security purposes). Zoom is available for use on computers, tablets and phones – video and audio, or audio only for phones. If you need help setting up Zoom on your device to participate, please let Heather know and we will get someone to help you out before the first meeting.

Coming soon for Adults: An in-person faith development class is being designed for all interested adults this fall. It will meet on Sunday mornings prior to the worship service at the church. Stay tuned for more details!

Heather Casiano, Family & Children's Program Coordinator

Email: hcasiano@fpchighland.org phone: 575-932-9716 (cell phone)



Youth Summer Mission Trips – Mission Starts at Home

On August 6 & 7, five of our church’s youth gathered along with several adults to participate in local mission projects. Each morning, the group had a time of devotions and prayer. Matthew 25:34-40 was the inspiration for the youths’ service to the community.

Each of the two days were divided between work and play. Mission projects included helping deliver food to a food pantry affiliated with Faith Church in Munster; making yard signs for homebound church members; weeding and tidying up in the church garden; and packing hygiene kits and bags of essentials at the Veteran’s Life Changing Services facility. After all their hard work in the mornings, the youth enjoyed themselves by playing games in the park on Thursday and being treated to lunch and pool time at the home of Jay and Jean Smith on Friday.

The youth all seemed to have a good time, and we appreciate their hard work being the “Heart, Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ” in our local communities. A big THANK YOU also goes out to all the adults who helped in any way to make these two days of local mission possible!



Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT





August Shelter Report



We are still following the guidelines for the virus at the shelter. We prepare food for 40 residents that live there and then prepare box lunches for 20 of the guests that can't get in to eat. They pick up the box lunches and whatever extras we have on a table outside the shelter.

I have been very lucky to still have my nurse friends helping along with the regular 3 musketeers. It takes more time and a different meal to add the extra 20. The Episcopal Church has continued to be very gracious in giving us extras from their food pantry so it definitely helps supplement our budget.



Bell Choir



Handbells will have rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:30 starting September 3rd



September liturgists:

- 9/6 - Carol Callaway
- 9/13 - Hilary Kikkert
- 9/20 - Eason Engle
- 9/27 - Bonnie Perryman



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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Prayers of Christian Sympathy

- To Tracy Oprea and Brandon Chong on the death of I Sun Chong on 8/12.



Ongoing Prayers

- 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
- Ina Chappell
- Connor (L. Fozkos)
- Dakota (Steen)
- Danielle
- Dave
- Laura Buono Domsic
- Frank (K. Scott)
- George Griner
- Guy (B. Perryman)
- Susan Hanley (Studer)
- Gracie Helmer
- Bill Holmes
- Jessica (Abernethy)
- Daniel Litwicki (Catania)
- Mary (Callaway)
- Mary & Gary (T. Oprea)
- Shirley McKnight and family
- Mildred (B. Perryman)
- Jill Muller (Steen)

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.

- Jeanne Nestor
- Janet Orem
- Josh Orem
- Rena's cousin
- Rick Parker
- Rodney (J. Toren)
- Calvin Scott
- Jay Smith
- Steve & Melinda
- Family of Jeannine Strom
- Gary Studer
- Bonita Sutton (Nolen)
- Tarsha (Perryman)
- Teachers & Students
- Richard Terpstra
- Family of Chierno Vah
- Dennis VanKooten
- 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).