

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 18 Issue 10

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Dear All,

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

We have so much to look forward to in October! I will lift up a few events of special import and invite you to read through this edition of the Larger View to learn about everything going on. On October 5<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. This is one of the most important events in the life of the Church, as it calls us to embrace the truth that the Body of Christ spans across the globe, that the resurrected Lord is alive and at work in all contexts, cultures, and languages. What wondrous love is this!? What powerful possibilities we have as a united force for love and healing in the midst of the harsh realities of the world today! October 5<sup>th</sup> is also the date for our annual hayride and bonfire at Oak Ridge Prairie. This is always a delightful time in our life as a community. Be sure to sign up! October 26<sup>th</sup> will be our Women's Fall Retreat! This is a fantastic opportunity for all women to recharge, refresh, restore, renew, and restart! Sign up and invite your family members, friends, and neighbors! We will also start our stewardship campaign this month with the theme: "Taking care of each other, taking care of our church, taking care of the world." Keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open for ways that you can be involved in ensuring the future of our church so that we can keep taking care of each other and the world! Oh yes, there is much to look forward to indeed!



**Fall Hayride & Bonfire**

**Star Words**

**Board of Trustees**

**Got Sneakers**

**Quilting Workshop**

**Delivering Love**

**Women's Fall Retreat**

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**

October is also when Protestants celebrate the historical event of the Reformation. We do so because Martin Luther sparked the movement with his posting of the *95 Theses* on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. Marking the historical event of the Protestant Reformation gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we as Presbyterians identify both as *Reformed* and *Always Reforming*. This means that we are rooted in historical tradition AND that we are being made new day by day. We honor what has come before, and we try out new things with creativity in order to faithfully be the Body of Christ in the world as it is today. As the Holy Spirit continues to blow upon our sails and guide us through the book of *Acts*, we see exactly this dynamic at play in the early Church. We see the apostles, deacons, and other faithful trying to figure out how to be true to their roots while also creating something new in a way that would navigate all of the different complexities and embrace all of the different communities joining the movement. As we continue learning from their experience, I pray that we will experience inspiration, imagination, and excitement about what we can do as the Church! We are rooted in great tradition, and we are being made new! Hallelujah for the Holy Spirit!

I leave you with these words from *Ephesians*:

*I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





## SESSION

- Various fundraisers were discussed including the upcoming craft fair on November 8<sup>th</sup> and salad and soup sales. New ideas are always welcome!
- Session approved a grant for the Women's Retreat which will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 12-3:30pm in the fellowship hall.
- Session approved the special World Communion Offering ( Peace and Global Witness) to begin on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Session approved the Stewardship Campaign schedule for this fall. Commitment Sunday and luncheon will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Session members made plans for Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating Pastor Tyler and giving thanks for his spiritual leadership.

## TRUSTEES

Jeffery Savage, President of the Trustees, reported on the following:

- The debris from the fallen tree in the south parking lot has been removed.
- The garbage disposal has been fixed.
- A new AA group will be starting up soon and will meet in the meeting room on Saturday nights.
- Trustee Carolyn Ham put together a schedule of groups using the building.
- Please label and date items that are left in the refrigerator and freezer. If it is for a group, please identify the group.

## DEACONS

Prayer List: The current prayer list was reviewed and updated.

Sunshine Bags and Prayer Shawls: These were prepared to be handed out.

Blessing Box: The deacons continue to check box daily. Supplies will be purchased to replenish stock.

Gladys' Table: Krissy LaFlech and her high school students will start preparing Gladys' meals again beginning September 20, 2025. Eleven meals were delivered by the Deacons on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sackurday: Kiwanis prepared and gave out 50 bag lunches August 30<sup>th</sup>. Kelly LaFlech will prepare and serve on September 27th. Kiwanis will serve again in November.

Smock Grant: Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter will continue to disburse funds to parishioners in need.

College Gift boxes: Gift boxes will be prepared for our College Students. Deacons will collect items and bring them to the October meeting.



**FELLOWSHIP HOSTING FOR OCTOBER**

- Oct 5            Memorial Endowment/Shine the Light
- Oct 12          Worship and Music
- Oct 19          Mission
- Oct 26          Women’s Retreat



**Treasurer’s Report**

For the Month of  
August 31, 2025

	Month of August	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$7,944.19	\$9,677.50	\$94,450.87
Operating Expenses	13,234.77	15,141.42	112,166.99
Excess (Deficit)	<b>(\$5,290.58)</b>		<b>(\$17,716.12)</b>



## The Final Analysis

*Attributed to Mother Theresa (disputed)*

Submitted by John Toren

*People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self centered;*

*Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;*

*Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;*

*Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;*

*Be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight;*

*Build it anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;*

*Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;*

*Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;*

*Give the world the best you've got anyway.*

*You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God;*

*It was never between you and them anyway.*



### FALL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are two options this fall to join a Bible study or sermon/Scripture discussion group. These opportunities are open to all who are interested, from middle school students to the most mature of adults. You don't have to be a church member to participate, so invite your friends and family to join in the discussions with you.

- “The Bible in Today’s World” bible study group meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am at the church. This group is reading through the book, “A is for Alabaster” by Anna Carter Florence. Each week is independent of the other weeks, so come as you are able. If you need a book, see Heather Casiano. Contact John Toren or Heather with any other questions.
- “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the scriptures from our Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and hopefully encountering the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. You can connect to Zoom with a smart phone, tablet or computer. If you’re not familiar with how to use Zoom, or to get on our mailing list, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano.

If you have an idea for a group or class that isn't currently offered, please let us know. We would love to help get a new group formed as there is interest. Groups can meet any day of the week, at the church or elsewhere. Share your ideas and we'll help make them happen!



### FALL HAYRIDE & BONFIRE

Our annual fall Hayride and Bonfire will be on **Sunday, Oct. 5, from 3-5 pm** at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park (301 S. Colfax St., Griffith, IN). Everyone is invited and friends and family are welcome. The hayride starts promptly at 3 pm, so plan to arrive a few minutes early. After the hayride, we'll enjoy a bonfire including roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over the campfire, and you never know what campfire songs our pastor might lead us in! Plenty of food, fellowship and fun for all! Dress for the weather. You can bring a lawn chair if you'd like, or you can sit at the picnic tables there. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can RSVP to Heather Casiano at [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org) by October 3.





### STAR WORDS CHECK-IN

This past January when we celebrated Epiphany, each person was encouraged to select a Star Word from those in the sanctuary or the online word wheel. This word is to help you with your prayers and meditations throughout the year, and to focus on a particular way God might be working in your life. Over the past several months, have you noticed any ways God has been working in you or through you in connection to your Star Word? Are there any new epiphanies God is revealing to you? If you're not sure, or don't see any direct connections yet, that's ok. Star Words are a journey, not a race, and God will reveal things in God's perfect timing. Keep on praying, stay in God's Word, and observe the world around you. You never know where or how you might see a Star!

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#### October Liturgists:

10/5: Heather Casiano  
10/12: Jean Smith  
10/19: Carol Callaway  
10/26: Bonnie Perryman



#### October LiveStreaming

10/5: Nolan Severson  
10/12: Jamie Ham  
10/19: Tracy Oprea  
10/26: Tristan Casiano



The month of October will bring exciting news from the choir!  
Be watching!



**A gift was given to the Endowment Fund In Honor of Rev. Tyler Orem's 10th Anniversary of his Ordination by:**

Carol Callaway

**A gift was given to the Endowment Fund In Honor of Bob Abernethy's 80th Birthday by:**

Jean Smith

**A Gift was given to the Endowment Fund In Memory of Ruth Dekker by:**

Linda Skaggs



As we're all aware, the price of just about everything continues to rise. In an effort to keep the congregation informed, it was decided by the Board of Trustees to publish the amounts of our NIPSCO, water and phone bills in the Larger View monthly. In explanation of the bills, keep in mind that the NIPSCO bill includes gas and electric; the water bill includes two meters for the old sanctuary and the rest of the building; and the phone bill also includes internet service. Hopefully, this explains in part why our budget numbers are what they are. Below are the amounts for August.

	<u>August</u>
NIPSCO	1,091.94
Water	244.74
Phone	417.22



Did you know that your gently worn sneakers/athletic shoes could help us at First Presbyterian of Highland?

Our church is still participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; all we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers! Here's how you can help.

As you clean out your closet, gather as many pairs of sneakers (only athletic shoes, please) that you no longer want; maybe you've out-grown them, they're out of style, or worn out. You can ask your neighbors, kids, grandkids, friends or co-workers to help out. Every pair counts!

The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our programs and projects here at FPCH **AND** will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills.

Blue bins are located inside DOOR D by the office, outside door D and also in the narthex.



*You are Invited!!!*  
*Not Your Grandmother's Quilting*  
**Workshop**  
Hosted by the **Bound With Love Quilters** from Griffith Lutheran Church

*(Workshop was formerly in the spring, now moving to the fall)*

**Who is invited?**

**Everyone!! Sewers, non-sewers, quilters, non-quilters, youth going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older**

**Saturday October 4, 2025                      8:30 am to 3:00 pm**

**Doors open at 8:30 am. Please use the back entrance to the church hall**

**Registration and lite refreshments start at 8:30 am, Workshop starts at 9 am.**

**Lunch will be provided at 12:30 pm**

**Griffith Lutheran Church**

**1000 N Broad St, Griffith Indiana**

**219-838-1626 or [glc1000@griffithlutheran.org](mailto:glc1000@griffithlutheran.org)**

**Please RSVP by September 30 to save your seat and so we know how much lunch to prepare.**

**What will we be doing at this workshop?**

Our goal for this workshop is to get to know people from our neighboring communities, start and finish some charity quilts, learn a little, make new friends, and have a lot of fun.

# News from the Pews



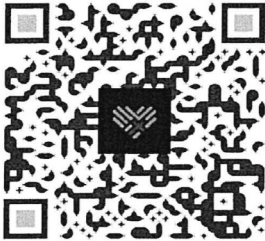
## DELIVERING LOVE

A BANQUET FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

*-Featuring a Silent Auction-*



[www.loveincgtrham.org](http://www.loveincgtrham.org)



## Why a Banquet?

At Love INC of Greater Hammond, we believe every family deserves a place to rest, eat, and gather together in the safety of their own home. That's why our furniture ministry is so close to our hearts. Each week, our volunteers make 3-5 delivery stops to provide families in need with beds, tables, chairs, and other essential items that turn a house into a home.



But here's where we need your help. Watch this short video for an update by scanning the QR code.

**One of the goals of our upcoming Love INC Banquet on Friday October 24th is to raise the funds necessary to purchase this much-needed truck. Your generosity can help ensure that families in Hammond, Munster, Highland, and Griffith receive the furniture and household essentials they need to build a stable, welcoming home.**

**If you're able, we'd love for you to join us at the banquet and be part of this exciting vision. But even if you can't attend, you can still make a difference by giving today by using this QR code:**

**Together, we can impact the community by delivering not just furniture, but hope, dignity, and love  
—In the Name of Christ.**



Call 219-923-2775 or visit [www.loveincgtrham.org](http://www.loveincgtrham.org) for more details



*Recharge! Refresh! Restore! Renew! Restart!*

# *Women's Fall Retreat*

*October 26, 2025 / Noon - 3:30 pm*

*First Presbyterian Church of Highland*

*8727 Delaware St., Highland, IN*



**ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**

**\$10 Registration Per Person!**

**Buffet Style Lunch Included!**

**Registration Now Open!**

**[@fpchhighland.org](http://fpchhighland.org)**

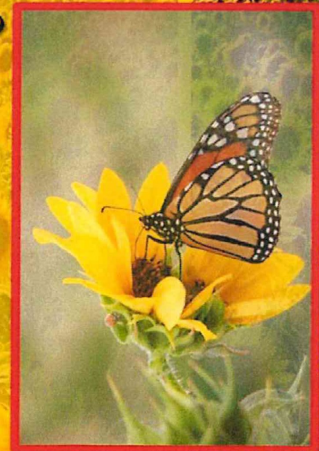
**Need more information?**

**(219)838-6850**

**[fpch@fpchhighland.org](mailto:fpch@fpchhighland.org)**

**(773)896-3814**

**[vcouvy@gmail.com](mailto:vcouvy@gmail.com)**



**Workshops by Min. Vima Couvertier-Cruz**

# News from the Pews



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, October 28th, at 1:00 PM.



The Per Capita for 2025 is \$44.66 per member.



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.



- 4 Cheryl Steen
- 10 Kris Agbor
- 12 Melissa Mendez
- 13 Nolan Severson
- 14 Khloe Agbor
- 15 Bob Abernethy
- 17 Lois Fozkos
- Pam Porter
- Eric Severson
- 19 Carol Callaway
- Diana Mendoza



### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

If you don't already follow First Presbyterian Church of Highland on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so and sharing our posts with your friends! @firstpchighland



# Prayers & CONCERNS



Anthony  
 Brady Vanes  
 George Griner  
 Guy Hendricks  
 Bill and Anettia Holmes  
 David Markley  
 Pat & David Kingen  
 Diana and Ray Mendoza  
 Janet Orem  
 Cindy Waltz and Sister  
 Yvonne Suroviak  
 Georgette Sknerski  
 Jakob Holden  
 Denise Matthys  
 Jan Oprea  
 Florance Cody  
 Laura Buono Domsic  
 Annie & Mike Windstrup  
 Kevin Windstrup  
 Loved Ones of Ruth Dekker  
 Rick Parker  
 Gary Everhart  
 Ella P.  
 Melissa J  
 Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon  
 Darlene O'Brien  
 Charles  
 Robin  
 Dustin  
 Noreen  
 Tyler Gall  
 Phil  
 David  
 Trina & Scott  
 Joe & Kathy  
 Family of Dustin Shurlow

Barbara Morton  
 Caroline Studer  
 Doug and Sue Matthews  
 Janet Terpstra  
 Glen Nahler  
 Tom  
 Jana Tolley  
 Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
 Delta Rose  
 Winnie Owen  
 David Hamblin  
 Breeanne  
 Mom Bechtler  
 Victor  
 Marian Clayton  
 Luana Sulkowski  
 Edie Delgano  
 Katie  
 Rita Stromczek  
 OGB  
 Edna Cruz  
 Jerry & Rena Martinez  
 Betsy  
 Jean  
 Kim  
 George  
 Mary Ellen Edeus  
 Pastor Jane  
 Jessica  
 Nicole  
 Greg  
 Jane & David  
 Flora R  
 Mike Kelly  
 Mary Hurtt  
 Betsy  
 Eunice  
 Kim  
 Lupe

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Lebanon, Haiti, Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- We pray for people experiencing chronic physical and mental illness
- We pray for first responders and front-line medical workers
- 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 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 each new day.
- We pray for our home-bound loved ones.

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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 (219-838-6850).