

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 19 Issue 5

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Dear All,

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

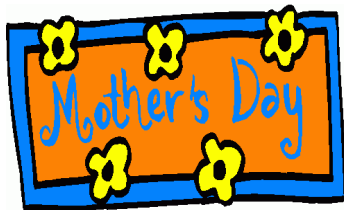
Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!** Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!**

We get to keep exclaiming this with joy throughout this blessed Eastertide! Indeed, we get to keep exclaiming it throughout the entirety of our blessed lives! Jesus is alive, and so we always have the promise of new life. In May we will also get to celebrate other truths of Jesus life and God's love—the Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Our risen Lord ascended into heaven, and so we have the assurance that our Good Shepherd is looking out for us always. Or risen Lord poured his Spirit out upon us, and so we have the assurance that God is with us always, that Love is with us always.

The Spirit of the Living God is always at work in us, is always at work with us. The Spirit of the Living God blesses us in the work that we do to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ in the world today. May 1 is International Workers' Day, a day to honor the laborers who make the world go round, laborers whose labor is so often forgotten. In that spirit, it is important that I honor all of you who do so much labor to make this church thrive, to make the Body of Christ alive in our community and in the world. There are so many of you to honor, but I will limit myself to two: our Trustees and our Rummage Sale Crew.

There have been multiple challenges with our building and grounds that have arisen lately, and the Trustees have responded with nimbleness, grace, and a lot of hard work! From trees to boilers to water systems to roofs, we have a lot to thank our Trustees for. Thank you, Trustees! We honor you!



Board Shorts

Take a Walk of Faith

2026 Graduates

Flower Vouchers

Rummage Sale

Prayer List

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

Now, for our Rummage Sale Crew—you all are amazing! I have been blown away by how you have worked together to create and facilitate such a great event to support our church. You have planned, advertised, carried things, sorted things, priced things, sold things, and dealt with a lot of people. Thank you, Rummage Sale Crew! We honor you!

And, of course, let us not forget our Church mothers in May! To all the women who work to make this church work, thank you! We honor you! To celebrate church mothers this month, I encourage you to spend some time researching and reading women theologians. I humbly suggest Julian of Norwich, one of our great ancestresses, and the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, one of our great fellow Presbyterians.

Jesus Christ is risen and watching over us! We are filled with the Holy Spirit! Hallelujah!

I leave you with these words from *Luke*:

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

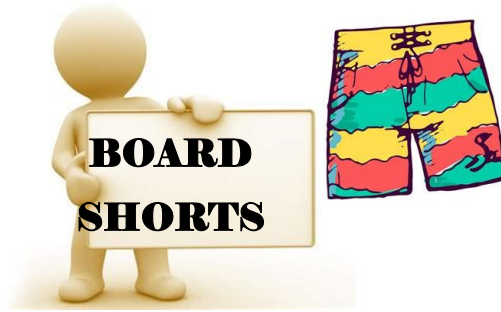
- Prior to the meeting, we voted by email to approve a \$3000 Endowment grant from the Trustees for the removal of a tree on the south side of the old sanctuary.
- The Session welcomed Hunter Balczo from Ministry and Finance to talk about ideas for fundraisers. Later this year, you will be hearing about a new calendar fundraiser.
- We discussed other financial concerns, including trustee needs for unbudgeted projects.
- The Watch the Gap Campaign has been successful, and donations continue to come in as we get closer to our goal.
- Salad sales will resume for the summer months. The sales will take place on the fourth Sundays. The first one will be on June 28th.
- Kristen Wilson was celebrated this month for her work as our Administrative Assistant. Thank you, Kristen, for all you do! We appreciate you!!
- Session voted to have outside worship during the summer on the 3rd Sunday of the summer months of June, July and August, weather permitting.
- The Ministry of Hospitality has numerous responsibilities and Session discussed the need to divide up the different tasks to willing volunteers. The making of the coffee and setting up and cleaning up each week will be the responsibility of the individual ministry who is assigned that Sunday. The other main duties include taking care of the narthex area, ordering supplies for the fellowship time and special events, and decorating the fellowship hall seasonally. Rev. Orem will be asking individuals we thought might be able to help with these tasks. If you are interested in helping, please let him know.

The Fellowship Host Schedule for May and June - Ministries are encouraged to provide lighter refreshments.

May 3	Blanche/Vima & Tyler/Session	June 7	Endowment/Shine the Light
May 10	Men of Session (Mother's Day)	June 14	Stewardship & Finance
May 17	Faith Development	June 21	Hospitality (outdoor service)
May 24	Deacons	June 28	Trustees
May 31	Mission		

TRUSTEES

- Completed projects completed include: removal of a tree on the south side of the old sanctuary building, spring cleanup of the grounds, activation of the irrigation system, and servicing of the elevator.
- Upcoming projects: heating system repairs by Siemer, roof repairs on sanctuary by Rogers Roofing, sanctuary doors to be sanded and refinished, AED training scheduled and defibrillator pads ordered and the North and South parking lots seal coated and sealed.



DEACONS

- The prayer list was updated.
- Sunshine Bags were prepared and delivered.
- The Prayer Shawl committee continues to work diligently to make beautiful comforting shawls. Five shawls are available for gifting.
- Deacons continue to check box daily. Replacement or repair of the Blessing Box has been tabled for 6 months.
- Krissy LaFlech and her Munster High School students prepared the April 18th meal. Deacons delivered the meals.
- Kelly LaFlech, daughter Kamri and son-in-law prepared and distributed 40 meals on March 28th. Kelly and family will again prepare and serve on April 25th.
- The Smock Foundation funds continues to assist members of our congregation in need. Application can be made and funds disbursed through Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter’s discretion.
- Deacon members received a printout of “Phone Directory, 2025.” The Deacons are to contact clusters for any corrections that need to be made for upcoming new print of the 2026 Directory.



Treasurer’s Report

For the Month of
March 31, 2026

	Month of March	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$7,596.09	\$10,427.08	\$73,930.78
Operating Expenses	16,267.92	15,630.44	49,053.30
Excess (Deficit)	\$8,671.83		\$24,877.48



Stewards of Our Elders' Wisdom

Submitted by Jamie Ham

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” –**Exodus 20:12**

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, God’s people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect and value as “elders” their oldest members. It’s something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



SPRING BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are currently two options 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 continues to meet on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler’s office), from 9-10 am. We are going through a new study called “Do Not Fear.” Our last class will be May 17th, before we take a break over the summer. If you would like to join in and need a book, or have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) is our weekly online discussion group that reads and talks together about Scripture passages for the upcoming worship services. We meet on Zoom on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm. Our last session will be on May 20th, and then we will be on hiatus until September. We’ll be reading passages exploring this season of Eastertide – what happened through the witness of the disciples after the Resurrection – and preparing us for Pentecost. The Zoom link is emailed out weekly on Wednesday mornings. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, contact Heather Casiano or Kristen in the church office.



TAKE A “WALK OF FAITH”

The ministry of Faith Development is sponsoring a “Walk of Faith” on Sunday, May 17th, following worship. Join us for fellowship time where you can grab some “hiking food,” and then we’ll head outside for a leisurely, reflective walk together. We’ll start at our church building, walk around and through Main Square Park, and return to the church. Along the way there will be opportunities to reflect and meditate on the messages and meanings of the Resurrection for each of us, while engaging in a healthy activity for our bodies in God’s creation.

Bring comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. If there is inclement weather, we will have a resource sheet for you to do your own Walk of Faith at a time and location that works for you. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026!

Congratulations to all who are graduating from high school or higher education! Your church family wishes you all the best in your future endeavors.

Jacob “Jack” Reed, grandson of Marjean M. and the late Dr. Ronald R. Reed, is graduating from Battle Mountain High School in Vail, Colorado. Jack has been an honor student, skier, and an accomplished baseball player who played varsity baseball all four years and earned his letter. He was recently an honorable mention as Colorado High School Player of the Week. Jack will attend Macalester College in Minnesota, where he will play college baseball while pursuing a degree in one of the sciences.



Ministry
of
FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Brian Scott graduated from Purdue University Northwest in December 2025, and will be participating in the university's commencement ceremony this month. Brian earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. While at PNW, Brian was a leader on the SAE Baja Team which designs and builds an off-road competition vehicle each year. Brian served as Team Captain/President in 2024-2025, leading more than 30 fellow students at competitions in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Maryland. Over his four years on the team he also traveled to California, Arizona, New York state, South Carolina and around the Midwest. Brian is currently seeking a role in the mechanical engineering field.

Ella Severson, is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Highland High School. Ella participated in choir, the Highland Theater Company, Remarkables, National Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. She will be attending Butler University in the fall to study psychology.





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 April.

	<u>April</u>
NIPSCO	1,390.69
Water	101.89
Phone	424.44
Maintenance	225.00



Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Memory of Nancy Engle:

Sandy Buono, Anettia Holmes, and Jean Smith

Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Memory of Rev. Dr. Leroy Fassett by:

Anettia Holmes, James & Gladys Sargent, and Sharon Smith

Gifts were given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Memory of Gordon Wilder:

Sandy Buono



MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE

The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser began on Sunday, April 12, 2026. The vouchers are \$17.00 each and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse.

Vouchers will be available to purchase in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after church and you can also reach out to Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181 to purchase the same. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge.

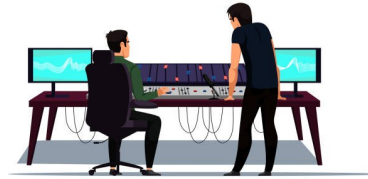
Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to all!

Worship & Music

Worship Leaders

May Liturgists:

- 5/3: Robbie Casiano
- 5/10: Carol Callaway
- 5/17: Karen Lounsbury
- 5/24: Vimary Couvertier Cruz
- 5/31: Hunter Balczo



May LiveStreaming

- 5/3: Tracy Oprea
- 5/10: Tristan Casiano
- 5/17: Nolan Severson
- 5/24: Jean Smith
- 5/31: Robbie Casiano

News from the Pews



Rummage Sale will be on:

Friday, May 1st from 8 AM to 4 PM

And

Saturday, May 2nd from 8 AM to 2 PM

News from the Pews



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.



The Per Capita for 2026 is \$45.08 per member.



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



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



Pray For...



Anthony
 Brady Vanes
 George Griner
 Guy Hendricks
 Bill and Anettia Holmes
 David Markley
 David Kingen
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Yvonne Suroviak
 Georgette Sknerski
 Jakob Holden
 Denise Matthys
 Jan Oprea
 Florance Cody
 Annie & Mike Windstrup
 Kevin Windstrup
 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
 Sue Heth
 Tony
 Mildred
 Neal
 Rita
 Tony & Sharon Nevers
 Caroline
 Jean & Clara
 Suzanne
 Don
 Donna
 Phyllis
 Debbie

Barbara Morton
 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
 Katie
 Rita Stromczek
 Edna Cruz
 Jerry & Rena Martinez
 Jean
 Kim
 George
 Mary Ellen Edeus
 Jessica
 Nicole
 Greg
 Jane & David
 Flora R
 Mike Kelly
 Eunice
 Lupe
 Breanne Polan
 Tammy
 Alex
 Ben
 Ron Toren
 Carolyn
 Barb
 Dave Shelborne
 Kali Rosalia
 Marly
 Jeff
 Linda
 Sandy
 Bill
 Rick
 Diane

- We pray for migrants in this country and across the world.
- We pray for the people of Cuba, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, 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).