

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW

# February 2026

Volume 19 Issue 2

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*Happy Valentine's Day*

**Session Shorts**

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**Prayer List**

First Presbyterian Church  
of Highland  
8727 Delaware Street  
Highland, IN 46322



Dear All,

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

Throughout February we will be meeting Jesus in the mountains, those majestic landforms that he loved so much and that so many of us love so much. He communed with God in the mountains. He taught his greatest lesson from the mountainside. He was transfigured upon a mountain. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem started on the Mount of Olives. We humans tend to lift our eyes up when we wish to encounter the Holy. As we finish the season of Epiphany and begin the season of Lent, may we lift our eyes up to the mountains from where our help comes. May we turn our eyes upon Jesus. May we turn our hearts to Jesus.

On Ash Wednesday we will be reminded of our own brokenness and the brokenness of the world as we face the reality of mortality. In truth, though, reminders of brokenness and mortality are all around us right now. As we struggle with the brokenness of the world, may we know that Jesus knows that brokenness better than anyone. May we understand that he is the mender of brokenness. May we understand that he makes us whole!

So let us meet him in the mountains! Let us commune with him! Let us listen to his lessons! Let us witness the brilliance of his light! Let us become a city on the mountain, shining his

***The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland  
is to be  
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ***

light before others today! With the warmth and light of Christ, ice will melt and life will burst forth! Let us be filled with the truth that brokenness can indeed be mended, that healing and wholeness are indeed possible! God knows we need it more than ever!

If you are having a particularly hard time right now or simply need to talk, please feel free to reach out to me. We can climb the mountain together!

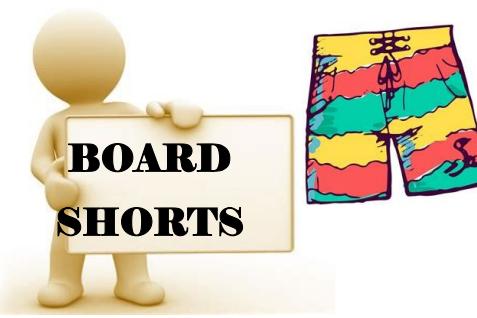
I leave you with these words from *Psalm 121*:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.*

In Christ and with Love,

*Rev. Tyler*





## SESSION

- Rev. Tyler welcomed the new elders Jesse Casiano and Jeffery Savage to the Session and thanked them for answering the call to service.
- Elder Jean Smith was appointed as Clerk of Session for 2026.
- Pam Porter was appointed as Treasurer for 2026.
- Jesse Casiano was elected as a commissioner to the Presbytery Assembly meeting which will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The communion schedule for the year was approved.
- The budget for 2026 was approved. It will be distributed to the congregation for informational purposes at the annual Congregational meeting.
- The Elders selected ministries and committees for which they will act as liaisons to Session.
- Fundraisers were discussed. Soup sales will continue on February 15 and March 15 and a rummage sale is being planned for May. Other possible fundraisers are being considered.
- The Session application for Vima Couvertier-Cruz to come under care of Session as she pursues ordination has been submitted to the Presbytery.
- The Endowment Fund report was reviewed and funds that are available for this year's distribution were discussed.
- Plans were made for the luncheon following the Annual Congregational meeting.

## TRUSTEES

- Rodney Fozkos was elected as President of the Board of Trustees for 2026.
- Carolyn Ham was elected as secretary/treasurer.
- Insurance policies were reviewed and building permits were approved.
- Ongoing projects include investigating a missing shingle on northside sanctuary roof and an air conditioning unit that needs to be inspected along with closing off attic fan and louvres on each side of sanctuary.
- The kitchen sinks were backed up so plumbing companies were called in to unclog the drains.
- Projects suggested for this year include the following: sand and refinish front door and try to alleviate sticking; paint all wood trim around windows and doors; fix or replace breaker box so dishwasher will work; straighten or replace blades on kitchen vent fan; possibly purchase security cameras.

## DEACONS

- Joys and concerns of the congregation were shared.
- Sunshine Bags were given to several in our congregation.
- Prayer Shawl committee continues to work diligently to make beautiful, comforting shawls for those in need. Seventeen shawls were gifted in 2025.
- Deacons continue to check the Blessing Box daily.
- Gladys Table: Krissy LaFlech and her Munster High school students prepared the meal on Jan 17, which the Deacons delivered.
- Sackurdays: Kelly LaFlech prepared 40 bagged meals on December 27<sup>th</sup>, and Kelly will again be preparing January 31st meals for disbursement.
- Through application, additional funds through the Smock Foundation were received. The funds will be dispersed at Pastor Tyler Orem's and Pam Porter's discretion.

## CELEBRATING PASTOR TYLER

Last summer our church presented Pastor Tyler with a gift of a Family Nutrition pack from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. This January, the Giving Catalog posted this on Facebook about the donation from our congregation. It was shared by many. Congratulations to Pastor Tyler!



**Giving Catalog**

8 hours ago ·



Happy **#ThankfulThursday**! Today we're celebrating Rev. Tyler Orem's 10th anniversary of ordination and a gift given through the Giving Catalog in his honor by his congregation.

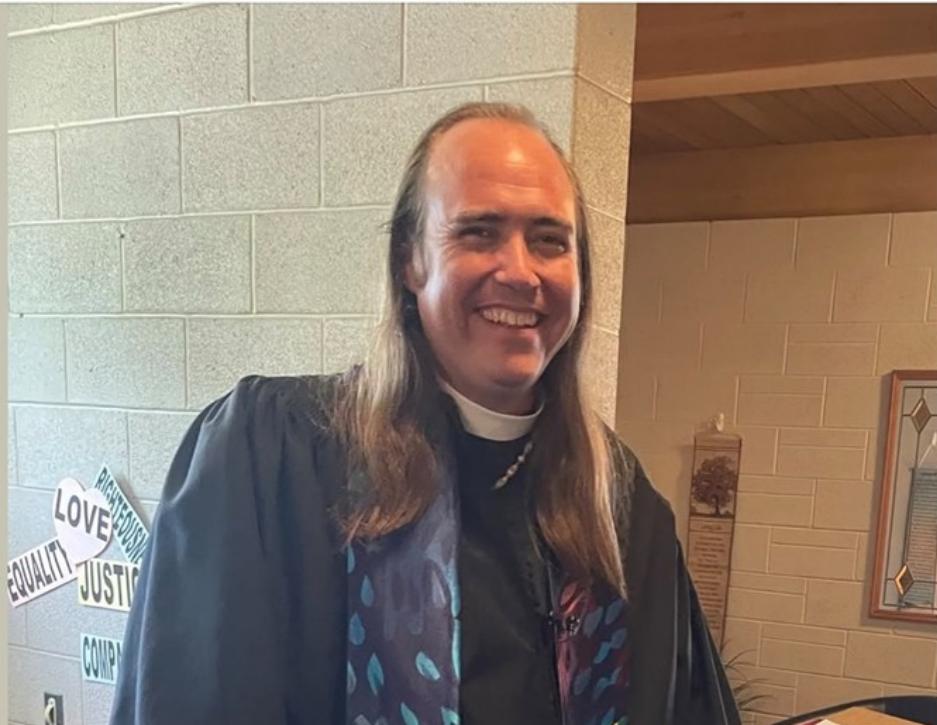
During his seven years at [First Presbyterian Church of Highland, IN](#), Rev. Orem has instilled a passion for making sure all people have what they need to thrive. The church honored his ministry with them by donating a Family Nutrition Starter Pack in his name. This item provides sustainable food and income by providing seeds to women-headed households who are identified by our partners around the world.

Rev. Orem often reminds his congregation of "how we are all connected across the globe as the body of Christ." Help us and First Presbyterian thank Rev. Orem for his transformative leadership in the comments below

[Synod of Lincoln Trails, PC\(USA\)](#)

[Presbytery of Wabash Valley](#)

[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)





## “PC” *By Lois Fozkos*

PC

What does this mean to you?

Personal Care

Personal Computer

Peaceful Country

Those are all good answers.

However, Per Capita is the one we (FPCH) need to pay per member to Presbytery!

This year the amount is \$45.06 per member

That could be the amount you spend on coffee or fast foods during a month.

You may have noticed a leaflet in your pew,

The Larger View or on your box of envelopes.

Remember the new tax laws regarding donations to charitable organizations.

See Hunter's article below!

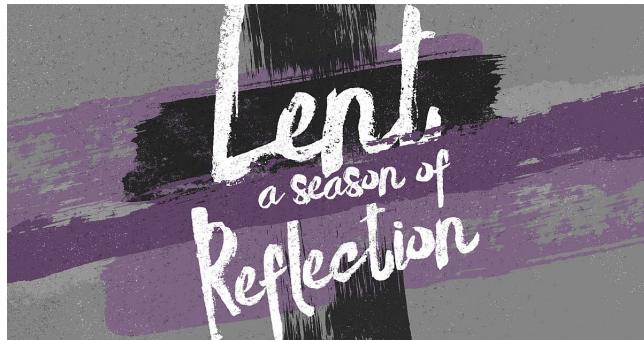
Through your per capita giving, the Presbytery of Wabash Valley:

Helps congregations with pastoral transitions  
Trains and supports interim ministers  
Supports congregations in times of conflict  
Cares for Pastoral leaders and their families  
Helps prepare people for service as ministers of the word & sacrament  
Provides funds for special projects or needs of individual churches

## “Tax Reminder” *By Hunter Balczo*

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's (*Matthew 22:21*)

As we gather our tax documents and make appointments with our accountants and tax professionals this month to prepare tax returns for 2025, be sure to inquire about how changes in the tax law can help you maximize what you render to God, such as offerings and per capita donations, while minimizing what you render unto Caesar for 2026!



## **FAITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT**

- **LENTEN STUDY AND PRACTICE WITH PASTOR TYLER**

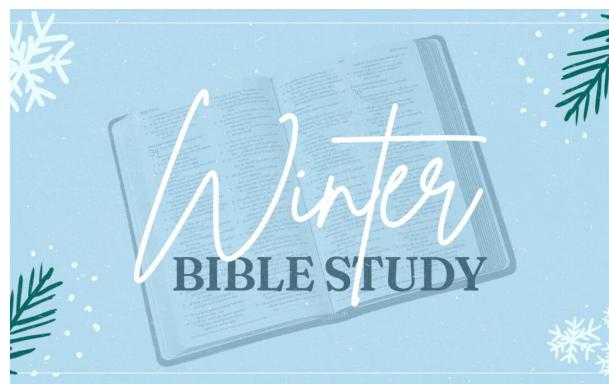
Once again, Pastor Tyler will be leading us in a special Lenten Study and Practice during the season of Lent. Join in **each Wednesday of Lent, Feb. 25 - April 1, from 7-8 pm online on Zoom**. Watch the weekly worship bulletins for the unveiling of this year's theme as it gets closer to Lent. All are welcome! The sessions will be recorded for those who would like to participate but cannot make the live sessions on Wednesdays. The Zoom link is sent out via email weekly; if you are not currently receiving this email and would like to, please contact Kristen in the church office.

- **PRAYER ACTIVITY STATIONS**

Beginning on Sunday, Feb. 22, there will be Lenten Prayer Stations set up around the church for everyone to use. In the church library room (across from the church office) there will be an indoor walkable labyrinth, as well as a few other prayer stations. There will be a couple of prayer stations in other locations in the church as well – stay tuned as we announce the locations and activities as Lent begins. The prayer stations are appropriate for all ages, so you are encouraged to share this space with the children, youth and adults in your life. The prayer stations will be available on Sundays before and after worship, and during regular church office hours (Mon. – Thurs., 8 am to noon). If you cannot come to the church and would like an at-home version of the stations, please contact Heather Casiano at [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org), or call the church office.

- **LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**

The Ministry of Faith Development will once again be providing a Lenten devotional booklet. These devotional booklets provide daily scripture, prayers and reflections to guide you through Lent. This Lenten devotional will be available in time for Ash Wednesday. They will be emailed to those on our email list, and mailed to those who don't have email. We may have a few extra printed copies in the narthex once Lent begins. Watch the worship bulletins for more details to come!



### **WINTER 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 meets on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler's office), from 9-10 am. 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 or have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **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 for the Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and 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.



## Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
December 31, 2025

Month of December	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$6,205.36	\$119,688.34
Operating Expenses	20,384.95	177,128.61
Excess (Deficit)	<b>(\$14,179.59)</b>	<b>(\$57,440.27)</b>



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 January.

	<u>January</u>
NIPSCO	2,237.63
Water	101.89
Phone	421.41
Maintenance	1,580.00



What does the Lord require of you?

*...to do justice*

and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8



**ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees —serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Thank you for promoting and supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the call to do justice in Micah 6:8.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

## WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

- Through your congregation
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)

- Or you can share this QR code with your members. *Be sure to encourage them to include the identity of your church.*
- In addition, members can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making a gift at any time throughout the year.



**There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18th, at 7:00 PM**



Be watching for an order form for Easter Flowers in the March Larger View. Lilies, tulips, and hyacinths will be available again this year!



**February Liturgists:**

- 2/1: Carol Callaway
- 2/8: Bonnie Perryman
- 2/15: Karen Lounsbury
- 2/22: Hunter Balczo



**February LiveStreaming**

- 2/1: Tristan Casiano
- 2/8: Jamie Ham
- 2/15: Jean Smith
- 2/22: Nolan Severson

# News from the Pews



There will be a Soup Sale Sunday, February 15th, following Worship in the Fellowship Hall.



There are still a few 2026 Pledge Envelopes Boxes left for pick up in the Narthex. Please help us keep costs down in the office by picking up and delivering envelopes for members that are unable to do so.

*Thank You!*



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.



8	Don Zuke
11	Brian Scott
16	Tracy Oprea
17	Kelsey Helmer
20	Philip Parker
29	Janet Terpstra

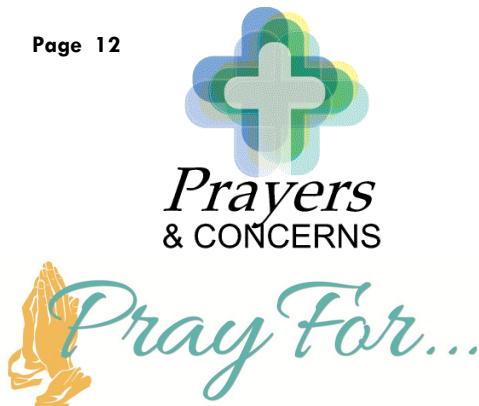


The Per Capita for 2026 is \$45.08 per member.



[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](#)



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  
 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  
 Sue Heth  
 Tony  
 Mildred  
 Neal  
 Rita

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  
 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  
 Eunice  
 Lupe  
 Breanne Polan  
 Tammy  
 Alex  
 Ben  
 Ron Toren  
 The Family of Pat Kingen  
 Carolyn

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