

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HIGHLAND



# THE LARGER VIEW

December  
2024

Volume 17 Issue 12

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Dear All,

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

Advent is here! Hallelujah! It is time to press rewind and look back at the stories that form the heart of our faith. It is time to press fast forward and look forward to the coming of Christ in the clouds. It is time to press pause and dive into our devotionals. It is time to press play and engage in some of our most meaningful missions. It is time to light our candles, sing our carols, and perform our cantata. It is time to bake cookies. It is time to come together in some of the most impactful worship services of the year. It is time to get excited about Christmas.



**Advent Devotional Booklet**

**Creating a Scene for Advent**

**Online Advent Devotions**

**Cookies & Caroling**

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

**Adopt-A-Family**

**Christmas Joy**

**2025 Offering Envelopes**

Most importantly, it is time to get into God's Word! This Advent, *God's Word* will be our guiding theme. We will think of God's Word in multiple ways. 1) The scriptures that form the foundation for our faith are God's Word, and so God's Word includes the stories that give us life. 2) God promises to give us life, love us through life, and give us new life. This promise is God's Word in the sense of God keeping God's Word. 3) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus *is* God's Word. And so we have the stories that form our faith, the promise that gives us hope, and the incarnation that saves us. God's Word is good indeed! May God's Word guide us and enliven us through this season of reflection and action, especially as the world continues to spiral in ways that make us cry out, "Come, thou long expected Jesus!"

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*

As always, I invite you to read through the pages of this edition of the Larger View and to be heartened by all that is going on here at the First Presbyterian Church of Highland. We are certainly living into our call to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus, the one upon whom we wait with expectant hope this season! I want to draw your attention in particular to the calendar to make you aware of some important dates. We will have a called congregational meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> after worship to receive the report from the Nominating Committee, elect officers for 2025, and approve the pastor's terms of call. Our annual Christmas Cantata is during worship on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and that service will be followed by our cookie baking and caroling. We will of course be having our candle-light service on Christmas Eve. Then, our December 29<sup>th</sup> worship service will be **online only**. Throughout all of this we will have our December missions, craft sales, and classes. I look forward to living into God's Word alongside you! Happy Advent, everyone!

I leave you with these lyrics from *Thy Word*:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

*When I feel afraid  
Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

In Christ and with Love,

***Rev. Tyler***





## Treasurer's Report

For the Month of  
October 31, 2024

	Month of October	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,683.70	\$10,673.57	\$101,993.69
Operating Expenses	14,904.52	15,505.61	138,259.51
Excess (Deficit)	(\$9,220.82)		(\$36,265.82)



### Gifts were given to the Endowment Fund In Memory of:

Chris Buono, Doris Harrison, Ric Jaeggi, George Nelson, Bev Tonagel, and Janet Vargo

### Gifts were given by:

Beth, Sandy Buono, and Melanie Fiddler





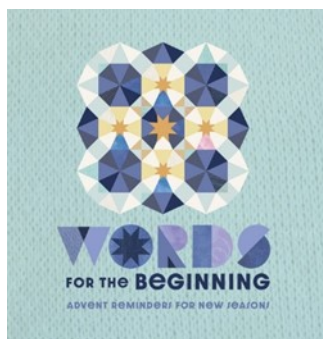
Thank you to everyone who attended this his year's Stewardship luncheon. It was wonderful to share a meal and celebrate the season with you all!



### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

This year's advent devotional booklet, from the ministry collective "A Sanctified Art," is titled *Words for the Beginning*. This printed booklet contains poetry, scripture, reflections, songs, prayers, and full color artwork for each week of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Epiphany. The entire devotional is arranged around the themes of:

- You Are A Blessing
- We Can't Go Alone
- Do The Good That Is Yours To Do
- Hope Is Worth The Risk
- Love Knows Your Name
- Don't Forget To Laugh
- The Road Isn't Straight



We have printed one copy for each household, and you can pick up your copy in the narthex of the church when you come for worship starting on Dec. 1 (the first Sunday of Advent). For those who receive the worship bulletin by mail, we will mail your devotional booklet to you. If you would like a copy of the booklet, but aren't able to come to the church or are not on the mailing list, please call the church office or email Heather Casiano ([hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org)) to have one sent to you.

## Creating A SCENE

### CREATING A SCENE FOR ADVENT

This Advent, during the "Embodied Word for Disciples" time of our worship services, we are going to make a scene – a nativity scene that is! Each week, we will hear from one of the characters who was part of that first Christmas, and then add a figurine for that character to our stable. Week by week through Epiphany a new character will be added to complete our scene. We'll be reading excerpts from the book, "Season's Greetings: Christmas Letters From Those Who Were There" by Ruth L. Boling.

If you aren't able to attend worship online or in person, we have stable backgrounds and stickers with the nativity characters for you to build your own scene at home. These are also a great activity for young children. If you would like a set of stickers and a stable background, call the church office or email Heather Casiano, [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org).





### **ONLINE ADVENT DEVOTIONS**

If you enjoy a daily devotional to help you walk through the days of Advent, look no further! Advent begins on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> this year and continues through Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. The Faith Development team has compiled a list of several free online Advent devotionals. You can bookmark the one(s) you like on your device and read from it daily, or print a copy out. Choose whichever options make your Advent experience meaningful.

- There are 24 chapters in the [gospel according to Luke](#). Start on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and read one chapter a day to get you through Christmas Eve. The author of Luke's gospel gives us a pretty thorough view of Jesus' life and ministry from birth to death-resurrection-ascension.
- D365 offers a short daily advent devotional through their "[Following the Star](#)" series, Dec. 1-24. You can follow along on their app or website, [d365.org](http://d365.org).
- [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#) offers a free Advent devotional each year, which can be found online at [https://www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1). You can download a PDF of the devotion, or visit the webpage each day. There are also audio recordings for each day's Scripture reading and devotion that you can listen to.
- UKirk Collegiate Ministries, part of the PCUSA Office of Christian Formation, offers "[Words for Waiting](#)", their free online Advent devotional beginning Dec. 1 here: <https://ukirkadvent.org/>
- "[Boundless: An Anti-Colonial Advent Devotional](#)" is offered by the Unbound website here: <https://justiceunbound.org/boundlessadvent/>. Unbound is a ministry of the PCUSA, exploring the intersections of faith and justice.
- [Kate Bowler](#), a Christian author, speaker, and professor at Duke Divinity School, shares her free Advent devotional, "[The Weary World Rejoices](#)," here: [https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/). Click on "Individual Guide," then enter your name and email address when prompted on the page, and submit. The devotional will be emailed to you.



### COOKIES AND CAROLING DEC. 15

The annual cookie baking and Christmas caroling event will take place on Sunday, Dec. 15, after worship. **Everyone is invited** to join the youth this year! If you like to bake and/or decorate Christmas cookies, or have kids and grandkids that like to do so, please come! We will start cutting out and baking cookies about 12:30 pm in the church kitchen. If you stay to help with the baking, we will provide lunch for you.

We're also looking for a great chorus of carolers! If you like to sing Christmas carols, you can meet us at the church at 3 pm. We'll hand out maps of our caroling route, make sure everyone has a ride, and head out to sing and deliver cookies with Christmas joy. We should finish up by 5 pm.

For all youth: we will start with lunch at the church after worship, then dive into baking and decorating until 3 pm, when we'll head out to go caroling. Your friends are welcome to come with you! Bring jackets/coats/winter gear appropriate for caroling outside for whatever the weather will be that day.

**RSVP** to Heather Casiano ([hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org)) by **Dec. 12** if you plan on participating in baking, caroling, or both. Thanks for your participation!!



## **MINISTRY OF MISSION OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HEART, HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS CHRIST**



The Ministry of Mission has volunteered again this year to help Ring Bells for the Salvation Army. The Bell Ringing will be at Strack & VanTil on Cline Avenue in our same spot and will take place on 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please consider volunteering an hour (or two) for this worthy cause.

Cheryl Steen is handling the sign-up sheet.



As is Mission's tradition, we have adopted three (3) families this year for Christmas. The pull tab board will be available on Sunday, December 1st, for items for each family member. This year we do have several children.

Mission greatly appreciates the congregation's support of this worthy cause. Without us, these families would not have a meal on Christmas nor presents under the tree.

If you have any questions, please see any Mission Member.





# Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

## THE PERFECT GIFT

The prophet Isaiah gives those listening to him a very particular task to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, the person we know as Jesus. Isaiah proclaims that to prepare the way is to make highways easily navigable, fill in valleys, flatten hills, level the ground, make the earth smooth. Then, and only then, will God's glory be revealed, and this will cause all humanity to see that God has spoken to us.

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate.

*Thank you!*

...for your energy, creativity and support in promoting the Christmas Joy Offering. For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ — a perfect gift from a gracious God.



## WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



[pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy)

*If giving online,  
members should provide the name  
of their congregation so the church  
will receive credit for their gifts.*



### December Liturgists:

12/1: Carol Callaway  
 12/8: Lois Fozkos  
 12/15: Renee Williams (Cantata)  
 12/22: Tristan Casiano  
 12/24: Robbie Casiano (Christmas Eve)  
 12/29: Worship Online



### December LiveStreaming

12/1: Robbie Casiano  
 12/8: Tristan Casiano  
 12/15: Jamie Ham (Cantata)  
 12/22: Tracy Oprea  
 12/24: Jean Smith (Christmas Eve)  
 12/29: Worship Online



### Advent Candle Lighters

12/1: Lois Fozkos  
 12/8: Carolyn Ham  
 12/15: Peggy Fozkos (Cantata)  
 12/22: Tracy Oprea  
 12/24: Abdul Savage & Angelina (Christmas Eve)



Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, December 15th, during Worship.

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 PM





The Hospitality Committee would like to send out a huge thank you to an anonymous contributor for our new microwave. It will greatly assist us as we serve our Church and Community. Your generosity was greatly appreciated!

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I would like to thank Pastor Orem and the Deacons for all calls and the help you have given me. I truly appreciate it and look forward to worshipping with you when I am able to attend.

*Darlene O'Brien*

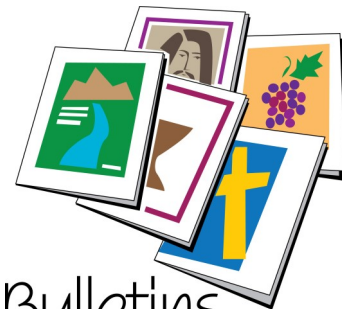


## KARING KITCHEN

The Karing Kitchen is in need of small appliances, as these are in great demand for newly housed people. Please consider donating microwaves, toasters, toaster ovens, panini grills, etc. Gently used items are fine! Check with Cheryl Steen or Carolyn Ham if you would like to donate or have questions.



The 2025 Pledge Envelopes will be available for pick up in the Narthex starting, Sunday, December 8th. Please help us keep costs down in the office by picking up and delivering envelopes for members that are unable to do so.



## Bulletins

Will you be traveling and attending Worship from afar? If so, please bring back a bulletin with you so it can be displayed on the bulletin board and published in the Larger View. We'd love to see where you have visited!!





### **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!**

Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex to help the church's food pantry. We'd love to have you take a bag home, place some non-perishable food items in the bag, and bring it back to the church to help keep our pantry stocked!



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 Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on October 24th at 1:00 PM.



- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 6  | Evvy Kikkert    |
| 8  | Kristen Wilson  |
| 9  | Ben Porter      |
| 11 | John Toren      |
| 12 | Serena Agbor    |
| 18 | Hilary Kikkert  |
| 21 | Renee Williams  |
| 28 | Caroline Studer |
| 29 | Suzanne Gruoner |
| 30 | Rodney Fozkos   |



### **BIN OF HUGS**

Bring in gently used and clean stuffed animals for Pastor Tyler and Abdul to distribute to migrant families in Chicago!



### **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  
Daniel Litwicki  
David Markley  
Pat & David Kingen  
Diana and Ray Mendoza  
Janet Orem  
Jeanne Nestor  
Cindy Waltz and Sister  
Yvonne Suroviak  
Georgette Sknerski  
Jakob Holden  
Denise Matthys  
Steve & Melinda  
Jan Oprea  
Florance Cody  
Josephine Kim  
Nick  
Laura Buono Domsic  
Annie & Mike Windstrup  
Kevin Windstrup  
Ruth Dekker  
Rick Parker  
Gary Everhart  
Bonnie Kern  
Tim  
Ella P.  
Melissa  
Kenny Callaway  
Delores Callaway  
Keren, Zuriel & Gedeon  
The McBride Family  
Darlene O'Brien  
Charles  
Robin  
Sharon  
Janet

Barbara Morton  
Caroline Studer  
Holly Letnich  
Jaden Mendez  
Frank Falzone  
Doug and Sue Matthews  
Robert Urich  
Janet Terpstra  
Glen Nahler  
Tammy  
Tom  
Jana Tolley  
Larry & Bonnie Perryman  
Virginia Marshall  
Delta Rose  
Winnie Owen  
Charity Lynn  
Chestine  
David Hamblin  
Judy  
Breeanne  
Mom Bechtler  
Gloria  
John Miramontes  
Victor  
Betsy  
Crystal and David Cervantes  
Marian Clayton  
Lou Ann Sulowski  
Edie Delgano  
Katie  
Rita Stromczek  
Suzanne Barnes  
Bill & Suzanne  
Ashley  
The Loved Ones of Donald Churilla  
The Loved Ones of Ric Jaeggi  
Lois & Tom  
Bob

- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Haiti, Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- 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 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).