

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

September
2026

Volume 19 Issue 9

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Dear All,

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

It was such a blessing to be able to gather together for worship in the FPCH sanctuary this past Sunday! August was a challenging month, to say the least. I know that many of you are still recovering from the catastrophic storm that struck on August 11—physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. My prayers for you continue! Please reach out if there is any way that the church can support you during this season of recovery. Thankfully, our church building weathered the storm well. We were without electricity for close to two weeks, but things seem to be running well now that electricity has been restored. Praise God! Thank you to so many of you who stopped by the church building to check on things, cleaned up inside and outside, and kept me updated day to day!

This past Sunday we shared with each other the many ways that we have seen the goodness of God and God's children in response to the storm. Looking for the goodness of God in the midst of the struggle is not meant to disregard the very real grief and trauma. Rather, it is meant to remind us that even in the worst of times God is here with us. As we learned on Sunday, the living God is in the boat with us! So, as you mourn lost trees and nervously await numbers for how much it will cost to clean up and rebuild, please do take moments to be still and know that God is there. Reflect on how God has shown up in volunteer

Note from Rev. Tyler

Fall Kick-Off & Brunch

Fall Hayride & Bonfire

Fall Bible Study & Discussion Opportunities

Worship Leaders

Prayer List

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



*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland
is to be*

neighborhood work crews, in loved ones giving you a place to stay, in neighbors sharing electricity, and in friends reaching out to check on you. When we show up for each other and love each other in these ways, God is certainly there!

The living God, Jesus of Nazareth, is in the boat with us! What a powerful truth that is! He is certainly here with us in the First Presbyterian Church of Highland boat! Will you join us for the voyage as we start the new programming year this September? There are so many opportunities to enrich your life and to enrich communal life together! Do you like to give God glory with your voice? Consider the choir! Consider being a liturgist! Do you like to love the Lord your God with all your mind? Consider participating in our Bible studies and discussions! Do you like to gather with the faithful for fellowship and fun? Consider coming to our Kickoff Brunch and our annual hayride and bonfire! Do you like to live into the *Matthew 25* call to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger? Consider helping out with shelter cooking! Consider being an usher! Consider hosting fellowship! Do you believe in making our worship accessible to people who are homebound and to siblings across the world? Consider being a livestreamer! This voyage of faith is meant to be a communal one. Let us bring our gifts and energies and passions together to raise the sails and catch the Holy Spirit wind! Trust me, it is worth it!

I leave you with these words from *Mark* and *Psalms* 46:

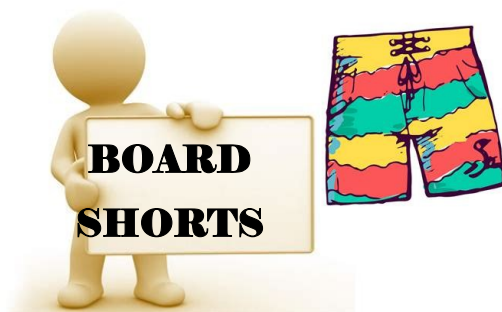
Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

Be still and know that I am God.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

- Session did not officially meet in August, as we had no power. Instead, we used our meeting day of August 18th to pick up debris outside and clean out the refrigerator and freezer from spoiled food due to the lack of power.
- By email, we approved a distribution of \$25,000 from the Endowment Fund to help our General Fund balance.
- We approved having worship on August 16th and 23rd at Immanuel Presbyterian in Schererville due to the fact we had no power at our church.
- We are extending the school supply drive to September 6th and decided not to have salad sales this month.
- Beginning in September, we want to give our ministries a break from hosting fellowship, so we are asking congregation members to sign up for a Sunday to bring refreshments and host and clean up. The coffee will be prepared for you. Please help if you can! The snacks can be simple. When we don't have sign-ups, we will still have coffee.
- Sunday, September 20th, Session is hosting a brunch after worship as part of our Fall Kick-off Day. Faith Development is planning special activities along with our brunch.
- SAVE THE DATE: October 4th is our annual Hayride at Oak Ridge Prairie in Griffith from 3-5 pm.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees did not meet in August.

DEACONS

- Joys and concerns of the congregation were shared.
- Several thank you notes were received for a sunshine bag and for a prayer shawl that was given to someone who was recovering from surgery.
- Deacons continue to fill and maintain the Blessing Box daily.
- Sharon's Table August meal was prepared and delivered by the Deacons on Wednesday, August 12th. Krissy LaFlech and her Munster High School students will begin preparation of meals in September.
- Kelly LaFlech, Kamri and Eric distributed 40 meals on July 25th for Sackurday. Kiwanis prepared and served bagged lunches on August 29th.
- Smock Foundation funds continue to assist members of our congression in need. Application can be made and funds disbursed at Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter's discretion.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
July 31, 2026

	Month of July	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,645.00	\$10,427.08	\$106,612.05
Operating Expenses	14,200.57	15,630.44	104,936.46
Excess (Deficit)	(\$8,555.57)		\$1,675.59



Thank you to everyone who participated in the August Calendar Fundraiser! We had a wonderful response! If you selected a date and still need to contribute that amount, please find Hunter Balczo or Pastor Tyler. We look forward to doing this again for a future month!

As we start up our Fall programming, please remember that the virtue of stewardship includes time, talents, and treasure. Treasure is certainly valued, and let us not forget time and talents!



FALL KICK-OFF & BRUNCH

Mark your calendars now to join in the **Fall Kick-off & Brunch on Sunday, Sept. 20.** Come for worship at 10:30 am, and stay for brunch provided by our Session members in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex beginning on Sept. 6 to let us know how many are planning to attend – we don't want anyone to go hungry! You can also call or email the church office if you plan on attending. Along with the delicious food, there will also be a preview of the many classes and activities from our various ministries this fall.

Everyone is invited and welcome -- bring your family and friends! If you have questions, contact Heather Casiano.



SAVE THE DATE – FALL HAYRIDE & BONFIRE

Our annual fall Hayride and Bonfire will be on **Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3-5 pm** at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park in Griffith. All are invited and friends and family are welcome. The hayride starts promptly at 3 pm and lasts almost an hour. Then we'll enjoy a bonfire including roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over the campfire, along with some fun activities and songs! Plenty of food, fellowship and fun for all! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex mid-September, or you can RSVP to Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org by October 1.





FALL BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are two options to join a Bible study or 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 class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am at the church. This class will begin on **Sunday, Sept. 27**. The new book or study guide will be revealed at the Fall Kick-off on Sept. 20. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- “BYOB” (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. BYOB will start on **Wednesday, Sept. 23**. 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 e-mail 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!



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	962.32
Water	187.25
Phone	425.33
Maintenance	308.00

Worship & Music

Worship Leaders

September Liturgists:

9/6: Karen Lounsbury
9/13: Tracy Oprea
9/20: Carol Callaway
9/27: Heather Casiano



September LiveStreaming

9/6: Nolan Severson
9/13: Jamie Ham
9/20: Tristan Casiano
9/27: Tracy Oprea

Ministry of Mission



A HUGE “Thank you!” to our stand in chef, Tom Porter, and his assistant, Pam, for coming to our rescue several times during the summer when Jamie Ham was unavailable. It so great to have talented people like Tom and Pam step in when the need arises, and we could also use extra hands in the kitchen cooking for the folks at the shelter.

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.



Janet Terpstra would like to thank those at FPCH who blessed her with comfort with beautiful cards and tender expressions of sympathy in the recent death of a dear son and brother, Rich Terpstra, Jr. God knows and his people know.



1	Peter Churitch
9	Robbie Casiano
12	Charlotte Abernethy
13	Jan Oprea
23	Fred Callaway
30	Jean Smith



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



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to:
Janet Terpstra and Family on the death of her son, Rich Terpstra, Jr.
Anettia Holmes and Family on the death of her husband, Bill Holmes,
August 30th.



Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
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
Dustin
Noreen
Tyler Gall
Trina & Scott
Sue Heth
Jean & Clara
Wendy
Jessica S.

Barbara Morton
Doug and Sue Matthews
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tom
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
David Hamblin
Mom Bechtler
Marian Clayton
Luana Sulkowski
Katie
Rita Stromczek
Edna Cruz
Jerry & Rena Martinez
Jean
Kim
George
Jessica
Mike Kelly
Lupe
Tammy
Barb
Dave Shelborne
Kali Rosalia
Rick
Shirley McKnight
Renee Williams
Kay Johnson
The Family of Rich Terpstra, Jr.
The Family of Bill Holmes

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