

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

November

2025

Volume 18 Issue 11

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Dear All,

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

November is a month packed with special occasions in the liturgical calendar and in the calendar of our lives together. We start out with our celebration of All Saints' Sunday on November 2nd. We then spend much of the month living into our stewardship campaign: "Taking Care of Each Other, Taking Care of the Church, Taking Care of the World." In the midst of that, our national celebration of Thanksgiving will remind us of the power of gratitude, especially when it comes to recognizing all that God does for Creation. Throughout all of this, we will be finishing up our beautiful journey through the season of Pentecost and the book of *Acts*. The last Sunday of November, then, will be the start of Advent! Wow! God is so good!



Adopt-A-Family

Christmas Joy

All Saints Day

Hanging of the Greens

Poinsettia Order Form

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Commitment Sunday

Women's Retreat

I will start with the powerful practice of gratitude in this letter. As we celebrate All Saints' Sunday, I am grateful for the lives of Jeanne Nestor and Ruth Dekker. We will light a candle in honor of each of them, and as we do so the memories will flow. These two women were both one of a kind in their own special, God-given ways! I am grateful to have known them and to have called them family at FPCH. They are but the newest ancestresses to have joined the Resurrection from our congregation. As I thank God for them, I cannot help but think back to other beloved ancestors and ancestresses from FPCH who have joined the Resurrection since I started here.

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

And so many of you have so many more to remember from the years gone by. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing cloud of witnesses watching over us! I feel their presence in particular every time I stand at the Lord's Table and am reminded of the great banquet that God has prepared for all of us. Next time you partake of Communion, I invite you to think about it as a sacrament that connects us across the earthly and heavenly realms. Let us keep the feast!

Continuing in the spirit of gratitude, mere words on a page are not enough to express how thankful I am to all of you for all that you do to share God's love in a world so desperately in need of it. Nonetheless, I hope that the sentiment will come through. YOU ALL ARE FANTASTIC! I am regularly amazed by your energy, commitment, creativity, passion, perseverance, and the greatest of these, which is LOVE! Thank you!

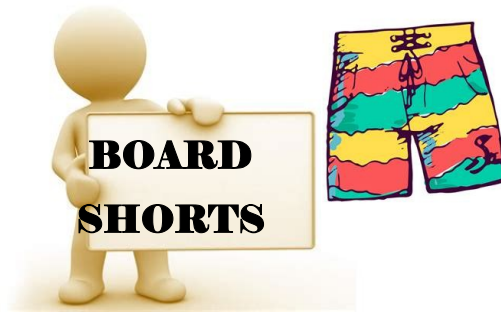
I leave you with these words that Paul wrote to Timothy. Pay attention to how the ancestresses are honored!

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





SESSION

1. Session discussed upcoming fundraisers.
Craft show: November 8 at St. James the Lesser Catholic Church from 9am-3pm. Sales after worship will be on Nov. 16 & 30 and Dec. 7 & 14.
Soup sales: The next sale will be November 16. Volunteers are needed.
Rummage sale: The crafters discussed having a spring rummage sale. Tentative dates of May 1 and 2 were set. Donna Nelson and Lexa Miller will co-chair.
2. Stewardship and Finance handed out a budget timeline and a tentative budget is due on Nov. 23. Ministries are asked to trim their budgets.
3. Trustee Jeff Savage, Elder Renee Williams and Heather Casiano attended the Covenant workshop in Indianapolis on September 27. They mentioned that it was very interesting to hear different perspectives. They attended discussions on welcoming others and gained insight into wording for a banner that Session has decided to place on the north side of the church. It will read "YOU BELONG HERE" and have our logo as well as the PCUSA symbol.
4. Elder Charlotte Abernethy agreed to be on the nominating committee as the Session representative.
5. Rev. Tyler reported on the September Presbytery meeting he attended. The next meeting will be held in Rochester, IN on November 18.
6. Session approved a Congregational meeting for December 21, 2025 for the purpose of electing officers and the Pastor's Terms of Call. It will be held directly after worship.
7. Session approved the date of Sunday January 25, 2026 for the annual Congregational meeting.
8. Session approved Heather Casiano's application to be a commissioner for the General Assembly in 2026.
9. FELLOWSHIP HOSTING FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Nov 2	Trustees	Dec. 7	Endowment/Shine the Light
Nov 9	Deacons	Dec. 14	Cantata - open
Nov 16	Open	Dec. 21	Mission
Nov 23	Faith Development	Dec. 28	None
Nov 30	Stewardship luncheon		

TRUSTEES

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

1. The front sanctuary door has been repaired with weather-stripping, and the extension ladders have been removed.
2. Routine Fall maintenance is being done including winterizing the sprinkler system, cleaning the gutters and lifts being inspected.
3. The heat pumps on the air conditioners in the sanctuary are being used to save on using heat from the boilers.
4. A new group of AA has begun meeting on Saturday nights in the meeting room.
5. The Trustees also began working on a 2026 budget.



DEACONS

1. Goodie bags were put together and mailed or delivered to our 5 college students. A sunshine bag and prayer shawl were given to one in our congregation.
2. Peggy Fozkos reported that the Prayer Shawl Ministry has completed 10 shawls for gifting. If anyone has someone in mind, please let the Deacons know.
3. Deacons continue to check the Blessing Box daily.
4. Krissy LaFlech and her High School students prepared 12 meals for Gladys' Table, and they were delivered by the Deacons on Sept. 20th to homebound members of our congregation. October 18th was the next date.
5. Kelly LaFlech prepared and served 45 bag lunches for Sackurday on Sept. 27th. Kelly will again prepare and serve lunches on Oct 27th.
6. Pastor Tyler Orem and Pam Porter will continue to disburse funds from the Smock Grant to parishioners in need.
7. Pam Porter volunteered to be the Deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
September 30, 2025

	Month of September	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$5,675.08	\$9,677.50	\$100,125.95
Operating Expenses	14,884.74	15,141.42	127,051.73
Excess (Deficit)	(\$9,209.66)		(\$26,925.78)



Taking Care of Each Other, Taking Care of the Church, Taking care of the World

By Tyler Orem

When the hardworking, faithful folks of the Ministry of Stewardship and Finance invited me to write something for this section of the Larger View this month, I jumped at the opportunity! I am delighted by the theme that they chose for this year's stewardship campaign: "Taking Care of Each Other, Taking Care of the Church, Taking Care of the World." Taking care of others is the tenderest manifestation of love. It is the action of servanthood, that which was best exemplified by the life of Christ. There is a simple, catchy song that captures it best:

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;

we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

The reason I like this year's theme so much is that care is indeed mutually constitutive across the realms of life, from the micro to the macro. When we take care each other, we are also taking care of the Church and taking care of the world. For, the Church is made up of us human beings! If we do not receive the care that we need from others, then we are not able to contribute healthily to the life of the Church. The world, then, needs our collective actions of care as the Church. We can think of it like this. If we take care of each other in the body, then we take care of the body of Christ, and the body of Christ is tasked with taking care of the world, of God's Creation. And that care flows across all those directions! The Church takes care of us individually and collectively, tending to our spiritual, social, and physical needs. The world, God's Creation, nourishes us all with the bounties of nature and the blessing of a shared planetary home. Our individual and collective decisions for Creation care, then, have the power to contribute to the thriving of the world.

Providing care across all these realms is a great way to think about stewardship! The resources of time, talent, and treasure that we give are manifestations of that care. When we give, we put care into action. When we combine our gifts, we make that care all the more effective. It is clear that the world is struggling right now and thus is in need of care. It is clear that the Church is struggling right now and thus is in need of care. It is clear that many of us are struggling right now and thus are in need of care. So let us commit to taking care of each other! Let us commit to taking care of the Church! Let us commit to taking care of the world! Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too!



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 Heather Casiano with any 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!

THANKSGIVING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

“O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (1 Chronicles 16:34)
The month of November is upon us, a time when many take time to reflect on gratitude in the days leading up to our country’s celebration of Thanksgiving. While we should be offering our thanks and praise to God throughout the year, if you’d like to be more intentional about reflecting on thanks-giving to our Loving Creator this month, you could try keeping a daily record of what you are grateful for.

For this spiritual practice, you simply reflect on your day and identify at least one reason why you are thankful or grateful to God that day. You can take a picture of why you’re thankful (for example a person or something in nature), keep a list in a notebook or journal, or write down why you’re thankful on your calendar each day. After you identify your daily reason to be thankful, say a prayer and let God know how grateful you are for the blessings you’ve received. God loves hearing from God’s beloved children! As the old hymn says, “Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

FABULOUS FALL HAYRIDE AND BONFIRE

On the first Sunday in October, several folks from our congregation gathered at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park for the annual Hayride and Bonfire. We were blessed with beautifully warm weather, an adventurous ride in the hay wagon, and delicious food and fellowship around the bonfire. Thank you to everyone who was able to come out for this event, and to the Faith Development team who made all the arrangements and provided the food!





A gift was given to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Honor of Fred Callaway's 80th Birthday by:

Peter & Gale Churitch

A gift was given to the Memorial Endowment Fund In Honor of Rodney Fozkos' 80th Birthday by:

Peter & Gale Churitch

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

Peter & Gale Churitch

A gift was given to the Ministry of Mission In Honor of Bob Abernethy's 80th Birthday by:

Nancy & Jerry Veltman

A Gift was given to the Memorial Endowment Fund In Memory of Irene Holmes by:

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos

A Gift was given to the Memorial Endowment Fund In Memory of Jeanne Nestor by:

Peter & Gale Churitch



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 September and October.

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
NIPSCO	1,091.94	679.24
Water	254.74	295.82
Phone	416.95	416.95



The Ministry of Mission is gearing up for its annual Thanksgiving & Christmas Adopt-a-Family Events with Love, INC.

Mission has pledged to adopt up to 8 individuals this year.

For Thanksgiving, Mission will provide the family or families with a complete breakfast for Thanksgiving morning and, of course, all the fixings for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Then for Christmas, Mission will also provide the family or families with a complete breakfast for Christmas morning, all the fixings for Christmas dinner, and presents for the children; we cannot forget about Mom either. Mission will have the pull tab board available for the Christmas gifts on Sunday, November 30th.

Mission is looking forward to these joyous events and the support of the congregation.

Blessings,
Ministry of Mission



THE PERFECT GIFT.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering,
we come together to support past, present and future leaders,
embodying God's perfect gift to us,
Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 21

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



**WAYS YOUR
MEMBERS
CAN GIVE**



Through your congregation



Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy

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



We will be celebrating All Saints during Worship on Sunday, November 2nd.



Sunday, November 23rd

The Ministry of Worship & Music invites every willing and able-bodied person to stay after worship on November 23rd to help prepare the church building for Advent. Help will be needed putting up and decorating the sanctuary tree, putting candles/hurricane lamps and greenery in the windows, setting up the Advent wreath/stand, and candles and hanging the swag/wreath from the balcony.



November Liturgists:

11/2: Vimary Couvertier Cruz
 11/9: Jean Smith
 11/16: Renee Williams
 11/23: Karen Lounsbury
 11/30: Hunter Balczo



November LiveStreaming

11/2: Tracy Oprea
 11/9: Tristan Casiano
 11/16: Jamie Ham
 11/23: Nolan Severson
 11/30: Jean Smith



Advent Candle Lighters

11/30: Casiano Family



It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias! We will be offering red and white poinsettias for \$10.00.

This is a good way to honor or remember loved ones. Donations may also be made in LIEU of flowers. Your order and money are due in the church office by

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Please Print CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

	Number	Price	Total
Red	_____	\$10.00	\$_____
White	_____	\$10.00	\$_____

Donation in LIEU of flowers \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Deadline: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

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



This month will bring exciting news from the choir!
Be watching!

News from the Pews



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 2nd. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



Be sure to connect with us for worship on Sunday, November 30th, as we dedicate our 2026 pledges to God through Jesus Christ for the Mission & Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your pledges.



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.

GRATEFUL!

We give God thanks for a Divine presence this past Sunday as we gathered with women from FPCH and other churches to celebrate the 5R's Women's Fall Retreat! We definitely enjoyed the time to recharge, refresh, restore, renew, and restart! Thanks to the working team for doing an extraordinary job!

We hope these pictures will give you a taste of the experience!





News from the Pews



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, November 25th 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.



- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 2 | Shirley McKnight |
| 12 | Jill Elman |
| | Liz Zuke |
| 14 | Jesse Casiano |
| 19 | Vimary Couvertier Cruz |



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
 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

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
 Mary Hurtt
 Eunice
 Kim
 Lupe
 Breanne Polan
 Tammy
 Alex
 Ben

- 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).