
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF HIGHLAND

THE LARGER VIEW



Volume 5 Issue 1

JANUARY 2012

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 6th

Taizé - 7:00 PM

JANUARY 1st

Adult Study - 9:00 AM

Heritage Worship/"Wee Believe" - 10:30 AM

Coffee Fellowship - 11:30 AM

Youth Group & Confirmation on break

JANUARY 8th

Adult Study- 9:00 AM

Ordain/Install/Commission/ Communion - 10:30 AM

Coffee Fellowship -11:30 AM

Worship & Music - 11:45 AM

Youth Group & Confirmation - 5:00 PM

JANUARY 15th

Adult Study - 9:00 AM

Youth Group returns from Nerf Night at Valpo church - 9:00 AM

Heritage Worship/"Wee Believe"- 10:30 AM

Coffee Fellowship- 11:30 AM

Schlesinger-Devlin Installation at Dayton Memorial—3:00 EST

Confirmation Class on break

JANUARY 22nd

Adult Study - 9:00 AM

Heritage Worship/"Wee Believe"- 10:30 AM

Confirmation Class goes to worship

Coffee Fellowship- 11:30 AM

Youth Group & Confirmation - 5:00 PM

JANUARY 29th

Adult Study - 9:00 AM

Heritage Worship/"Wee Believe" - 10:30 AM

ANNUAL MEETING

Coffee Fellowship - 11:30 AM

Youth Group & Confirmation - 5:00 PM

Inside this issue:

Laura's Letter	2
Christian Nurture	3-4
Worship & Music	5
Ministry of Fellowship	6
Ministry of Mission	6
News from the Pews	7-8
Worship Assistants	10

Special points of interest:

Poinsettia List

"Share the Love" Care Packages

Annual Meeting

Prayer List

Worship Assistants

*First Presbyterian Church
of Highland
P.O. Box 9219
Highland, IN 46322*

First Presbyterian Church of Highland is a congregation committed to "Being Disciples, Making Disciples." We know that the past cannot be changed, the present is given to us as a gift, and we work in positive and constructive ways to promote a trust in God to guide us into the future.

A Letter From

Laura



*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

As the piercing melancholy tune to Rossetti's carol wafted through our sanctuary on December 18th and again on December 24th, the beauty of it stilled the space. While our winter this year has not yet been as bleak as it can be, still the gray skies, the short days and long nights we're having remind us that there is plenty of winter yet to come before we see robins bobbing through the church garden and tulips pushing through the ground.

In some sense, the mystery of Jesus' choice to become a human being amazes me more and more as the years pass by. When we look around at a world where greed sometimes appears to be the driving factor, the selflessness of choosing to become part of this, on purpose, is mind boggling. And yet it is consistent with the nature of God – who is so completely interested in us and all that goes on with us.

Rossetti sums it up - that even at the bleakest of moments, Jesus comes to be with us. Thinking of those for whom this is a bleak season—perhaps it was a first Christmas alone or perhaps we are lonely or bitter or frustrated or underemployed or afraid.....this is the unique word we Christians have to share, especially in the midst of bleakness. This is the unique word we have to share, especially in community. God is with us.

The word we have to share is this: while things may seem bleak, we are not alone.

We live in God's world.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone.

Believe and share this good news. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Rev. Laura



Christian Nurture

YOUTH REPORT

By Dave Gibbs

HANGING OF THE GREENS - The youth came and helped with the annual hanging of the greens. The good news is that the young helpers didn't come to blows with the elder veterans who have definite ideas of how things should be done. I'm being funny but I love to see the older folks sharing tradition with the youth.

FOOD SCAVENGER HUNT FOR THE HUNGRY - We gathered some 400 items this year for the food pantry! It was great competition with Kelley LaFlech's team winning again this year. Great job! The highlight was all the peanut butter that was donated.

SCARVES FOR THE WOMEN'S SHELTER - Arletta Schaefer headed up this project with the help of Sharon and Kelly LaFlech. We made almost 30 scarves out of that fuzzy material that you just cut out and tie knots in the frilly ends. The City Shelter sent us a note desperate for Christmas presents for the ladies. With all our time and finances already committed to many other worthy causes, there didn't seem to be anything we could do. But Arletta jumped into action and the youth were excited to help out. This is an AWESOME church!!

SMALL GROUP - Our newly started small group met several times and is up and running well. The depth and power of being in a small spiritual group is tremendously supportive and helps us grow in our faith. We have devotions and share how God has been in our lives.

SWIM MEETS - I have been to two meets this year. Adam Johnston continues his domination in freestyle finishing lengths ahead of his competitors. Bailey Parker is STUNNING the diving team! She has never been a diver until this year and joined the team when they needed help. She is as good as any of the long time divers and rapidly getting better. Is there anything she *can't* do?

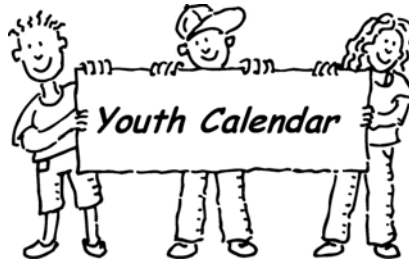
NW Indiana has been home for many years to a Great Banquet community (sometimes also known as the Road to Emmaus or Cursillo). This community creates and hosts annual spiritual retreats for men, for women and for teens. It is commonly experienced as a life changing event, and one of the follow ups to a retreat is the formation of a small group Bible study to continue the insights and learnings from the weekend. For the first time, a group from our congregation participated in a Great Banquet weekend - five of our teens went to the Awakening in November. As a result, this core group of youth meet separately each week with Dave Gibbs. They have developed a passion for being in mission with those who actively serve in the US military and have set a goal of showing their love and support by collecting small items to ship as "Share the Love" care packages to active duty service men and women for Valentine's Day.

We are asking you to please consider donating items for this cause. If you would rather not shop, a monetary donation would also be appreciated. Donation items: baby wipes; travel sized shaving cream & razors; bug spray; travel sized Ibuprofen/Motrin/Tylenol; Q-tips; candy (that doesn't melt); sunflower seeds; dried fruit; books; pencils (mechanical); eye drops; sun screen; travel sized hygiene products; playing cards; magazines of any kind; beef jerky; AA & AAA batteries; pens; small notebooks.

Labeled containers for these items will be in the Narthex and by Door D. Thanks for your support.



Christian Nurture



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

- 1 ** NO MEETING – HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- 8 “Saturday Nyte Live” Preparations begin
- *14-15 “Nerf Night” at Valpo Church: 7pm Saturday until 9am Sunday. \$5 for pizza.
- *16 Tubing in South Bend 10 am to 5 pm
- 22 SNL Prep
- 29 SNL Prep

- *5 10:30 am YOUTH & Dave lead worship
SOUPer Bowl Sunday Collection & SNL Prep
- 12 SNL Prep
- 19 SNL Prep
- 26 SNL Dress Rehearsal

MARCH

- *3 “SATURDAY NYTE LIVE”
1:00 PM - Set-up
5:00 PM - Supper
6:00 PM - Show

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
FOR THE
YOUTH TALENT SHOW
ON MARCH 3rd!

*Regular Youth Group meetings are Sundays 5-7 PM. Exceptions to this are noted on the schedule

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT – June 23 – 30th: the great return to WEST VIRGINIA!! Put it on your calendars now! Please note that this year we will be leaving on a Saturday.



Wackie Wednesday
Wednesdays -
from 3:30 to 5:00 PM



Thanks for the beauty of poinsettias given to decorate the sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season which were given to the glory of God by these persons:

Jared & Rachel Brunswick, in honor of their family

Fred & Carol Callaway

Jim & Ede Corten, in memory of loved ones

Lois Fozkos

Rodney & Peggy Fozkos, in memory of loved ones

Kevin & Denise Hedrick, in memory of Delvin Clauson, Sr. and Budd Hedrick

Richard Holck, in memory of Maxine

Larry & Laura Jones, in memory of family and friends

Shirley McKnight, in memory of her husband, Barry

Lee & Linda Mann, in memory of loved ones

Jeanne Nestor, in memory of loved ones

Sam & Laura Reason, in memory of Norris & Ruth Brookens and Floyd & Jo Reason

Marjean M. Reed & Family, in memory of Dr. Ronald R. Reed; Reed, Maxweel & Pratt Families

Dennis & Treva Sheets, in honor of their parents

Cal Sleeman, in memory of Mary Sleeman

Bette Smith, in memory of her husband, Bob Smith and sister, Nyeita

Dr. & Mrs. Lowell H. Steen, in memory of their parents





The Moms' Group Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 PM.

The Ministry of Mission would like to thank everyone who baked and bought goodies at our Holiday Bake Sale on December 18th. We were able to raise \$363.00, which was put in the Mission General Fund.



Come join us for DINNER, DESSERT, and a DVD on Friday, January 20th at 6:00 PM. Potluck dinner will be held prior to the showing of a popular movie.

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 29th immediately following the Heritage service.

In order to prepare the Annual Reports, we are requesting that Ministries have their reports turned in as soon as possible to the church office.

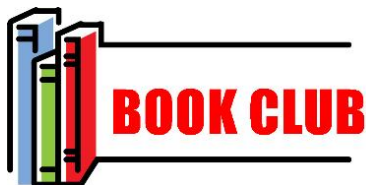
Thank you!



Ladies' Lunch Bunch will be meeting Tuesday, January 31st at 11:30 PM. Further information to follow in the bulletin.



THANK YOU FOR THE BULLETIN



Nancy Janett worshipped at Trinity Lutheran Church in Iowa on December 11th.

Arletta Schaefer worshipped at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL on November 26th.

The Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at 7:00 PM to discuss the book "Blindspot" by Jane Kamensky and Jill Lepore.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Wisdom from Loren Mead

In 1991, *The Once and Future Church* by Alban Institute founder and president emeritus Loren B. Mead created an instant sensation in congregational circles with its prophetic insights into the mission of the church in a post-Christendom era.

Two subsequent titles extended Mead's original vision with similar success. *Transforming Congregations for the Future* (1994) examines closely research on American religion and discusses its serious implications for the apostolic and discipleship tasks of the church. In *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church* (1996), Mead explores the opportunities and challenges presented by issues of clericalism, community, institutional frameworks, spirituality, and mission.

In celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *The Once and Future Church*, Alban is proud to release all three of these books as epubs.

Twenty years later, Loren Mead's classic works still speak to the present time and now to a new generation of congregational and denominational leaders. Consider the excerpts below taken from throughout the series.

From *The Once and Future Church*:

God is always calling us to be more than we have been.

In this book, I will try to spell out some of the implications of that statement for the world I know best—the churches. My reasons are very simple: It is my conviction that religious congregations are the most important carriers of meaning that we have, with one exception. They are the most important ground of purpose and direction that we have, with one exception. They are the most important source of an essential element of life—human community—with one exception. The one exception is the human family.

We face a significant problem: Our need for a clear consensus on mission from which we can construct the forms of a new church is no guarantee that we can find it. There is no certainty that we shall be led to a sense of mission as compelling as the one that drove previous generations. That time of clarity may be over. The denominational families with which most of us have had a love-hate relationship for years may have already become antiquarian relics. God may have a more challenging future in store for us, calling us out of these structures altogether.

We must also be aware of our temptation to expend all our resources and energy in shoring up collapsing structures, holding onto the familiar long after it has lost its possibility for new life. One inelegant rule of thumb I use in this area is what I call the "M-T-M ratio." By that I try to state how long I think a particular organization deserves to have mouth-to-mouth resuscitation practiced on it. Everybody needs help from time to time, but I see all too many religious organizations that drew their last unassisted breath a decade ago.

Within all of this, the local congregation is critical. The congregation is where people touch the church and are touched by it. It is there that literally millions of people are struggling to understand their own personal sense of mission and to get the strength to pursue it. The congregation is where new people are brought into a faith-heritage that connects them to the biblical story and to the life of the people of God.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Rev. Laura:

We are in really good health at this time. Mary and Jason are doing fine. It is cold here, actually about 20 degrees colder than normal. I feel like I'm back in the Midwest. It snowed in the mountains last night, nice to look at from the valley floor where we're at. If I want to play in the snow I'll drive 45 minutes to the mountain summit, make a snowball and drive back down to warmer temps. My kind of winter!

Send our love and holiday greetings to our church family, and a big hug for you.

Tony and Sharon



Jesse & Hilary Kikkert
219-310-5132

Eric Parker
parker4776@att.net

Mary Jo & Tom McGee
2407 Seberger Drive
Highland, Indiana 46322



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Don Chappell
Tim Towasnicki |
| 2 | Grace Kerber |
| 3 | Alex Farkas |
| 4 | Don Davison |
| 6 | Nancy Janett |
| 7 | Bill Lowry |
| 9 | Gale Churitch
Eric Johnston |
| 10 | Norma Bauer
Bonnie Nolen |
| 12 | David Hamblin |
| 15 | Anettia Holmes
Katie Kerber |
| 16 | Sandy Buono
Sharon LaFlech |
| 17 | Jennifer Vuckovich |
| 22 | Wanda Weston |
| 24 | Justin Scott
Bailey Parker |
| 25 | Inez Putman |
| 26 | Cal Sleeman |
| 27 | Dan Miller
Clare Stinar |
| 28 | Eric Carter
Hannah Weinstein |
| 30 | Sam Porter |
| 31 | Peggy Fozkos |



*In Our Thoughts
and Prayers....*

The Prayer Circle meets every Monday at 8:30 AM in the Study. We pray for the people on this list, and for all other concerns named at that time. Please join us whenever possible, and include the persons listed here in your daily devotional time. Thank you.

Connie Anderson
Ann (Mann)
Marge Ashton
Pat Bannon
Barbara (Kanich)
Chuck Baudouine (Callaway)
Bob (Bauer)
Bob (Janett)
Bob & Mary Ann (Perryman)
Clara Brendel
Millie Brown (Abernethy)
Laura Burgess (Trona Wilson)
Mary Callaway
Vicky Callaway
Chelly (Sheets)
I Sun Chong (Oprea)
Pete and Gale Churitch
Ede and Jim Corten
Royce and Nitsa Coulson
Don and Mary Davison
Ruth Dekker
Michael DiPasquale (Scott)
Don (Mary Jo McGee)
Barb Dye
Brad & Mitch Farnsley (King)
Jim Federoff (Nolen)
Martha Fish
Dave and Nancy Gauler (Schroeder)
Suzanne Goldsmith
Marian Gregory
George Griner
Gullivers (Nicholls)
Guy (Parker, Perryman)
Jim and Carolyn Ham
Katie Holom (McCullough)
Irene (Parker)

Julie Johnson (Davison)
Kay Johnson
Sharon Johnson (Davison)
Dave Jones (Oprea)
Judy (Bannon)
Marilyn Kanich
Tricia Kerns
Nina Kimm (Janett)
Marian Kukral
Kyle (Ruth Sfura)
Sharon LaFlech
Landorf Family (Scott)
Ollie Lehmker
Linda & Lee Mann
Marilyn (Bannon)
Alice Massa
Barbara McCollough
Sally McDaniel
Norah McFarland
Marilyn Metzger
Oscar Nedberg
George & Barbara Nelson
Tony & Sharon Nevers
Lauren & Melissa Nolen
Jena Novak (Buono)
Jan Oprea
Rick Parker
Robin Parks (Bauer)
Rose Ann (Furnas)
Gloria Ptacek
Inez Putman
Gladys Ratke
Al Ries
Robin (Sheets)
Roseann (Sheets)
Brian Scott
Ruth Sfura
Treva Sheets
David Sikes (Nicholls)
Roger & Jeri Solomon (Scott)
Specyal Family

Mike Street (King)
Virginia Stringham (Peggy Fozkos)
Cliff Sutton (Nolen)
Ted & Marj (Sheets)
Cynthia Thompson (Sheets)
Bev Tonagel (Buono)
Tony (Sheets)
Vessie (Mann)
Vicki (Sheets)
Fred Zwoll (Oprea)
Richard Zyp

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 in each new day.

Due to federal regulations about privacy, we are no longer called by hospitals about patient admissions. Even if they ask you for your church affiliation when checking in, they still do not call! If you or your loved one would like a visit while hospitalized, or would like a home visit, please call the church office or Rev. Laura on her cell phone at 815-822-0557. Thank you!

We offer our prayers of Christian sympathy for:

The friends and family of Annamarie Campanelli on her death on December 4th.

Charles & Joane Goldsmith and Suzanne Goldsmith and Dennis Serafin on the death of Charles' mother, Annie Goldsmith on December 3rd in Birmingham, AL



USHER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 1

Jill Elman
Pam Porter
Cal Sleeman
Calvin Scott

JANUARY 8

Kevin & Denise Hedrick
Larry & Laura Jones

JANUARY 15

Bailey Parker
Collin Parker
Rick Parker

JANUARY 22

Vine & Debbie Catania
Jason & Michelle Schroeder
Katie & Nick Schroeder

JANUARY 29

Jan Oprea
Winnie Owen
John & Judy Toren

FLOWERS

JANUARY 1

Lois Fozkos

JANUARY 8

OPEN

JANUARY 15

Sam & Laura Reason

JANUARY 22

OPEN

JANUARY 29

OPEN

*Worship
Assistants*

WORSHIP LEADERS

JANUARY 1

Laura Reason

JANUARY 8

Carol Callaway

JANUARY 15

Norma Bauer

JANUARY 22

John Toren

JANUARY 29

Vince Catania

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY 1

Cal Sleeman
Tom & Pam Porter

JANUARY 8

OPEN

JANUARY 15

OPEN

JANUARY 22

OPEN

JANUARY 29

Don & Bonnie Fitting
Rodney & Peggy Fozkos

BUILDING LOCK UP

JANUARY 1

Tom Porter

JANUARY 8

Winnie Owen

JANUARY 15

Murray Faris

JANUARY 22

Tim Nolen

JANUARY 29

Murray Faris

HOSPITALITY HOST

Bette Smith

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Bette Smith

RIDES TO HERITAGE

WORSHIP

Call the Church Office
(838-6850)

COMMUNION

JANUARY 8th:

Carol Callaway
Laura Reason

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
HIGHLAND**

8727 Delaware Street
Mailing address: **P.O. Box 9219**
Highland, Indiana 46322

Phone: (219) 838-6850
Fax: (219) 838-0827
E-mail: fpch@fpchhighland.org

Heritage Worship
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We're on the Web!

www.fpchhighland.org

