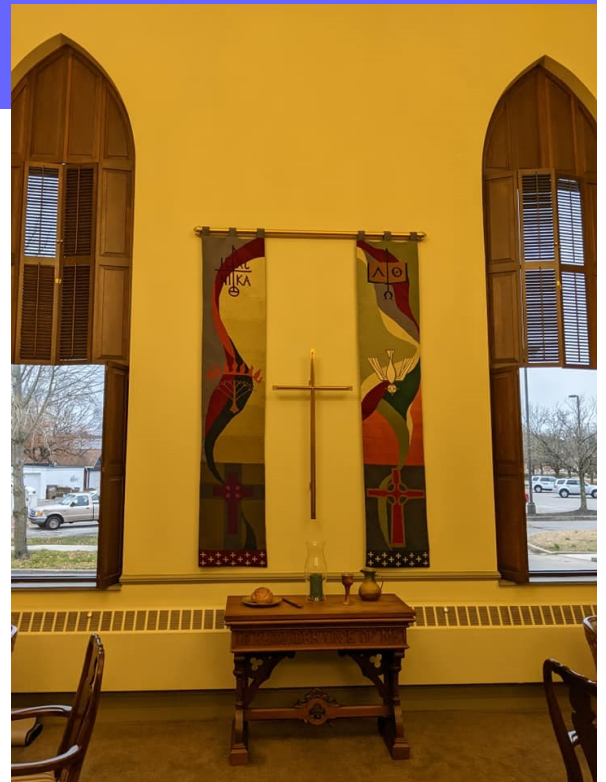


# 2020 Annual Report



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
512 Seventh Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201  
Telephone (812) 372-3783; FAX (812) 372-9533  
[www.fpccolumbus.org](http://www.fpccolumbus.org)



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To be an active, growing, inclusive and caring church family that witnesses to God's love and shares the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission leads us to invite all people to participate fully in our community and worship life as safe, loved, and accepted children of God, including:

- Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics
- Children and adults of all ages
- People of all sexual orientations, gender identities
- People of all races & cultures
- People of all socioeconomic situations
- People of all mental and physical abilities
- Those who bring hope to the world and those who seek hope

## **STAFF**

Pastor .....The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez  
Choir Director/Organist.....Dianne Sprunger  
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries.....Marietta Macy  
Preschool Director.....Barb Newton  
Church Secretary.....Brook Brown  
Financial Secretary.....Christy Jerman  
Sunday Custodian.....Wayne Huff  
Childcare Providers.....  
.....Brook Brown, Hanna Hodnett, Montez Martinez, Erin Booth

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*A Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation; member of the Synod of Lincoln Trails; the Presbytery of the Ohio Valley; the Ecumenical Assembly of Columbus, IN; MoreLight Presbyterians.*

## GENERAL STATISTICS

### **Membership**

*Information provided in this Annual Report covers  
January – December 2020*

Active Members as of 12/31/20	430
New Members	0
Deceased Members	10
<i>(Jerry Blair, John Kinnaman, Mary Clark, Janet Wolfe, Alice Slane, Rick Merkel, Kay Ellen Connor, Elaine Marston, Lowell Renshaw, Shirley King)</i>	
Weddings	0
Baptisms	
Children	0
Adults	0

## OUR STAFF

### Pastor's Annual Report, 2020 Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martínez

## OUR STAFF

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'  
For God will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.  
Psalm 91:1-3*

At the beginning of 2020\* I remember reading of early American cases of COVID-19 appearing in the Seattle area. After one or two Presbyterian church members there passed away because of the virus, I then read how the Presbytery of Seattle had encouraged its churches not to meet in person for the time being to avoid further spread. We prayed in church for our siblings in Seattle Presbytery. It was only a few weeks later, with this worldwide pandemic taking root throughout the United States, that our session announced its decision on March 13 (which was a Friday, by the way) to cancel until further notice all in person worship and committee meetings, pivoting to streaming our services on Facebook and all committee meetings going to Zoom. The only two previous times we had livestreamed worship had been because of bad snowstorms. And so just like that, we started a new journey as a congregation, initially fumbling with technology, desperately missing being with one another, feeling anxious about the disease, but all of us displaying remarkable flexibility and faithfulness in the face of this unknown threat.

As I write this report on the first week of 2021, the past year seems like a blur. It feels like it was a decade jammed into nine and a half months. Through it all, I am proud of the ministry and witness of our church under these challenging conditions.

Worship is the focus of activity in our church, and so not having in-person worship has been hard on us. We missed being together for Easter and Christmas. As we got better at managing the technology and we got more creative about including music and the arts in worship, we went from streaming in the Laws Room (the background showing the wonderful tapestry created by our church members and designed by Thelma Triplet) to streaming from the sanctuary. We did have three in-person worship services in the summer, including our outdoor service at Donner park (minus the picnic), but the public health metrics started to rise again and so we discontinued large in-person gatherings. Streaming worship, as any other worship experience, is a team effort. I am so grateful for the amazing talent, sense of worship and vision of Dianne Sprunger, the bass voice and the video/audio technical know-how of Doug Sprunger, the gracious Zoom hospitality of Leah Jackman-Wheitner, the pastoral care and support of Tracy Heaton de Martinez, the resilience and musical talent of the FPC Parking Lot Choir, the two FPC Bell Choirs, the FPC Quartet and the various soloists who've contributed their musical offerings to worship, the preaching and leadership to include children in worship of Marietta Macy, Lisa Porter's creativity to lead the children to retell the birth story of Jesus in Advent, all the children, youth and adults who helped lead us in worship, all the members of the Worship Committee for their flexibility and dedication to prepare us for worship: Chair Clare Moore, Eric Erickson, Terri Glackin, Amy McCormick, Anthony Mérida, Angi Meyer, Luther Pierson, Dianne Sprunger (staff) and Judy Summerville.

Our ministry efforts during the pandemic have stepped up thanks to you all. I am grateful for the leadership of the Deacons (chaired by Alan Kilbarger) for their outreach to our church members, for the passion and tireless work of Sarah Sanders and Gretchen Laemmer and all Hot Meal volunteers and hosts who helped feed

**Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez cont.**

food-insecure folks while protecting everyone's health, for the impactful work of Janet Sharpe and all the Sweet Dreams ministry volunteers and donors who offer beds to children in foster care or other traumatic transitions, and for the new outreach started by Doug Sprunger, WoodWeShare, which provides firewood to lower income families who depend on firewood for their heat in the winter.

With a number of grants, including one from the FPC Foundation, we're in the process of upgrading our AV capabilities in the sanctuary so that we can better stream worship. We will continue to livestream even after we eventually return to regular in-person worship services. Special thanks to Zack Ellison, Luther Pierson, Chris George and Danny Sanders.

I am grateful to Lynne Hyatt and Sarah Sanders and other elders who encouraged the session to offer outdoor fellowship gatherings at Donner Park. With good weather, we were able to hold these informal gatherings for several weeks at the end of Summer and beginning of Fall.

We completed our Engaging Young Adult project, enabled through a grant from the Center for Congregations and a matching grant from the FPC Foundation. We were led in workshops and worship by Rev. Shawna Bowman and Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell in January and February. We had to postpone having Rev. Denise Anderson speak to us, and we look forward to welcoming her. Special thanks to Leah Jackman-Wheitner and Katie Booth for leading this project, and to all those who volunteered to make these events successful!

Our second grant-funded project, the Myrtle Collaboration, made strides even in the pandemic (it is a project funded from a Lilly Endowment grant channeled through Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary to help churches and church members explore their sense of call from God to serve). We had a Saturday coaching session in January with the leaders of our various Myrtle projects. In early March we sent a group of people to the NEXT Church National Gathering in Cincinnati. Then the pandemic forced us to regroup. Still, we had a hybrid learning journey to Indianapolis (with some members of the church and leaders of the community traveling and some joining on Zoom), we offered a Zoom pilot book study, and we launched a prayer partner project. We did have to postpone a back-to-school block party and plans for two spiritual retreats.

Ohio Valley Presbytery elected me as one of its commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in June which was to be hosted in Baltimore (though the pandemic forced it to become an online-only assembly). At the prompting of some colleagues, and with the support of my family and the session, I seriously contemplated standing for Co-Moderator of the General Assembly and took exploratory steps in that direction. That part-time, unpaid, two-year position focuses on moderating the General Assembly June 2020 meeting, serving in a large number of committees and representing the denomination officially in meetings around the world (fifty years ago, Dr. Bill Laws served as General Assembly Moderator). This prayerful discernment was fruitful and eye-opening. And yet, with a mixture of disappointment and relief, I came to feel that God was not calling me to this role at this time. I am grateful for the support and encouragement the session offered me in that journey.

As I begin my sixth year of service with you, I give God thanks for each and every one of you, and for the opportunity to serve together in ministry, learning from each other, and growing in the faith together.

Shalom and Salaam,  
Pastor Felipe

## OUR STAFF

### *Dianne Sprunger, Choir Director/Organist*

What a year that was! We started out in “normal” time - Sanctuary choir, bell choir, Worship Arts, Living By Faith, planning for Easter. We had an artistic and dramatic montage for Transfiguration Sunday. We hosted Ash Wednesday with North Christian Church. We hosted a Lenten Organ Concert. And then starting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, everything changed.

Since March, we’ve had solos, piano and organ duets, parking lot choir, small choir ensembles, singing quartets, and small bell ensembles. I’ve learned to edit audio recordings. I’ve learned to use Zoom. Our music in worship has been enhanced by videos produced by Felipe Martinez, Doug Sprunger and Marietta Macy.

I have appreciated the on-line conferences sponsored by the Indiana Choral Directors Association, American Guild of Organists, Augsburg Publishing House, and NextChurch’s Anti-racism.

I am grateful to all who have participated in making music through 2020. May we continue to sing the songs of our faith.

Peace,  
Dianne Sprunger



## OUR STAFF

### **Marietta Macy, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries**

Writing this report every year never fails to overwhelm me as I reflect on a whole year of ministry we've just experienced together and attempt to sum it up. Reflecting on 2020 however, has been an experience unlike any other. Uniquely this year there is a profound sense of grief that accompanies my reflection, as I cannot help but remember how many cancelled things I was meant to be writing about right now. I grieved this year a bit at a time as month after month of a whole year's worth of our collective work, advanced planning, traditions, and new opportunities faded away as the necessity for physical distancing dragged on; and I am grieving it all over again now as I reflect on the year. But grief is not the only intense feeling reflecting on 2020 evokes; there is also immense gratitude. Our church was tested by the realities of the year and found to be solidly true to its principles even in a time of crisis and upheaval. None of the decisions we had to make this year were easy, but in my experience, all of our committees and church family took things appropriately seriously but never forgot to laugh. Throughout the year I saw true grace and empathy extended to each other in ways we don't normally share. I also experienced a sense of solidarity and dedication- even in times of disagreement- that provided a solid foundation for all the rebuilding work we were called to do this year unexpectedly.

I am deeply thankful for the work of our committees and volunteers who continued to be dedicated to our ministries even though many of our meetings, whether on Zoom or outside around a fire, felt like theatrical exercises in improvisation. The committees on which I serve as staff person- Children's Nurture, Youth Nurture, Adult Fellowship and Education, and Safe Church- were creative and resourceful in ways neither we nor the church has ever had to be before and I am proud to be able to reflect on the unique ways we were able to embrace the good 2020 had to offer in the midst of chaos. We used the mediums we had at our disposal creatively and unexpectedly in some cases. Many adults for example who had not previously used video chatting technology readily joined Zoom for everything from "coffee time" on Sunday mornings to Sunday school to midweek discussion and fellowship groups. Corona or not, two of my favorite experiences of my professional ministry experience were the group discussions we did together during the summer on the book of Job to go along with our sermon series and the discussions on the filmed version of the musical, "Hamilton" where we got to talk theatre but also how the theology of the Reformed faith and our Presbyterian ancestors shaped the founding of our nation.

Conversely, many of our younger folks who have grown up with technology seemed to reach their limit and embraced instead ministry through mail and care packages. A highlight of my year were the "thank you" and reaction photos parents sent of our young ones receiving mail and goodies delivered to their doors and sharing just how much it meant to know they had been remembered individually, by name by their church family when everything else normal had gone away. Traditions like lighting the Advent wreath became a central focus of the season for many as church moved into the homes of our families and was able to become sacred in new ways with the absence of many of our normal seasonal distractions and activities. I believe that through the work of these committees we all came to realize in fresh and deeper ways just how essential our relationships are with each other and our sense of community as a family of faith.

## OUR STAFF

### **Marietta Macy, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries** **cont.**

In addition to the normal areas of my work, from July through December I completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education using our congregation as my clinical worksite. I met with folks of all ages in Covid safe ways by mail, outdoors around fires, on porches, for coffee or hot chocolate, as well as through technology by Zoom, FaceTime, social media, texting and phone calls. Even though this setting with these circumstances is never how I imagined CPE going, the unique situation created a learning experience all its own. The extra hours I had every week to meet with folks in our congregation, to sit with each other in the midst of chaos, was an unexpected gift in a year that felt like it was going to be all about loss. This unit of CPE was the last formal requirement needed in order for me to be considered to be certified ready to seek an ordained call. I appreciate your continued prayers as we all see what 2021 has in store for our collective ministry.

Peace and blessings,  
Marietta Macy  
Director of Children's, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries

## OUR STAFF

### **Barb Newton, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool**

**Mission:** The mission of First Presbyterian Preschool is to provide a safe and nurturing, innovative and inclusive education to all.

**Preschool Director:** Barbara Newton

**Board Members:**, Anna Denoyer, Chairperson; Grant Hale, Assistant Chairperson; Maggie Kamman, Secretary Chair; Stacey Maignan, Scholarship Chairperson; Kevin Lane, Finance; Betsie Reed, Volunteer Coordinator; Lesli Gordon, Fundraising; Phuong Fay, Marketing; Jennifer Christie, Events Co-Chair

This year we started with 160 children enrolled in 11 classes. We had 11 scholarship students receiving \$18,900 in funds. Our staff of 30 worked hard to nurture children and adults in our program. We also received grant money to help children in Fresh Start recovery program attend school while their mothers received treatment.

In March, COVID hit and our preschool community came to a standstill. We closed for Spring Break and did not return for the end of the school year. We continued to charge parents tuition. We continued to pay our staff and in April, we started "at home" learning. The summer was spent watching Covid numbers increase. Webinars and Zoom meetings were in abundance as we looked at what was happening to families. I served on an emergency childcare task force to look at what the needs of Bartholomew County were. More than half of the childcares were closed in Columbus. With lots of trepidation, we decided to return to school in August. We made significant changes to preschool entrance, distancing, and screening of children. Temperatures were taken of every staff member and child upon entrance to the building. To keep groups of children from mixing, staggered schedules for drop off were instated and parents did not enter the building. Different entrances were used for children to enter the building from different doors. All children were required to wear masks as were teachers. Due to parent concerns, we decided to offer a "temporary at home learning" for families that were not comfortable sending their children to school. About 30 children opted for this at home learning. Children all had hands sanitized upon entering the building. To keep groups from mixing, music and library came to the classroom as to not mix germs. We separated our Wee Care into two groups so that upstairs and downstairs children did not mix. There were so very many changes that it was very stressful for staff.

We did have some real positives from the many changes though! We found that children arrived at school on time and we had more teaching time with students. Another positive was that children can separate easier from their parents than parents separating from children. Overall, children stayed healthier than usual. Unfortunately, with so very many parents working from home we found our enrollment went from 160 to 119 by December.

## **OUR STAFF**

### **Barb Newton, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool continued**

This decrease had a huge effect on our budget. We had no real income from our childcare as well. By applying for PPP grants and a Transition Grant from the state, we were able to cover staffing. A Come Back Stronger grant allowed us to have monies to pay for all the personal protective equipment. We went to school for 11 weeks without any positive cases at preschool. We had two staff members get COVID but both only had minor symptoms and no other cases emerged. In November, we saw a big increase in the community in numbers of cases and we had more absentees due to COVID exposures. When the BCSC schools closed, we closed also due to more absentees. The last 3 weeks of November and all of December we had at home learning. Parents picked up packets on Mondays and each child got a packet with a library book and all materials needed to complete their lessons for the week. Teachers recorded their circle times, music, gym, and library classes for home viewing. The teachers held Zoom meeting with their classes so children could enjoy and see their classmates. The staff worked tirelessly throughout the year. This certainly was a year that we think we will not forget. We look forward to 2021!

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Newton, Director of Preschool

# SESSION REPORTS

## **Adult Fellowship and Education (AFE)**

Members: Dale Nowlin (2020 Chair), Katie Booth, Craig Dismore, Sara Dismore, Leah Jackman Wheatner, Bill Watts, Joy King (incoming Chair)

The goal of the Adult Fellowship and Education (AFE) is to encourage everyday spirituality, reaching out to young adults, and addressing social justice issues through formal and informal sessions and fellowship. Prior to the pandemic, AFE sponsored 10 sessions for adults following Sunday morning worship. These included sessions connected to Be events and the Myrtle Project grant on calling and five guest speakers. We had many other sessions and activities planned including monthly pitch-ins and a new round of dinners for seven with 84 participants. All of that was put on hold in March with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. With the onset of the pandemic AFE adapted by creating new ways to achieve our purpose in providing fellowship and learning activities for our congregation. This was accomplished by the following:

Since spring, AFE hosted virtual coffee hour following our Sunday worship service on Zoom. The virtual coffee hour was about 45 minutes to allow time for children's programming. In the summer and fall, the coffee hours were structured with 30 minutes of unstructured conversation followed by a 30 minute discussion on a focus topic or question to deepen education and fellowship. It provides an opportunity to connect with others people, get to know new folks, or get to know people better. Discussion and interaction is always a part of the sessions, and you do not have to be a Bible expert to join in the discussion. In fact, we have learned that often the questions people bring are the most engaging part. Because of high interest and attendance, we plan to continue with the coffee hour and discussion time. Everyone is always welcome to join and you can always find the link in the newsletter or the Friday e-blast. Here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/214025301>

During the evening mid-week, AFE hosted a series on Job, a two-part discussion on the movie *Hamilton*, and a four-week series during Lent, along with several movie discussions hosted jointly by FPC and Fairlawn Presbyterian. These were deeply meaningful sessions for our members and were titled "Decaf Coffee Hour." We will continue to offer similar programming on a periodic basis.

In the fall, AFE hosted several informal gatherings at Donner Park. Participants sat in a large circle sitting in fellowship in lawn chairs, face masks and a drink. We had physically-distanced conversations with safety as our number one concern to continue connection and fellowship during a difficult and lengthy pandemic period.

Finally, if you would like to be a part of AFE, we welcome your input and participation. We meet at a new day and time on the first Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30pm. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84715391277?pwd=dE1Fdnh6YmJlalBucHZCaGlodWtiQT09>

As we wait for the opportunity to safely gather again at 7th and Franklin streets, AFE will continue to look for ways to help us grow in our relationships with each other and in our relationships with God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joy King

## **SESSION REPORTS**

### **Engaging Young Adults**

Submitted to the Indiana Center for Congregations (ICC)  
Katie Booth and Leah Jackman-Wheitner

#### **Project description: Please give a brief description of the main parts of your EYA project.**

The goal of the EYA project by First Presbyterian Church Columbus was to increase our connection with young adults, thereby strengthening our entire congregation. We sought to have some relatable events to invite young adults to that spoke to needs and interests of the young adults who are already drawn to our church.

We hosted 5 speakers (Covid has delayed our 6th speaker) and funded attendance at Wild Goose Festival, and a mission trip to Palestine. We also funded participation by 26 adults in Next Church's anti-racism zoom workshop series.

We purchased equipment which facilitated additional gathering spaces for our gym, including cocktail tables and bar stools, and improved our technological abilities with purchases of a laptop and projector.

#### **Evaluate your project overall. How was the project a success? What were some of the measurable results? What qualitative (not measurable) changes do you notice?**

We feel great about the success of this work. We were able to build stronger relationships, increase participation by young adults, help young adults feel their voices and presence are valued within the congregation, developed more open communication styles, and became more vulnerable and authentic in our congregational culture. Though outside the scope of the grant, there was a significant multi-generational positive response to these events which were intentionally geared towards young adults.

Measurable results include

- Increased participation during coffee hour that seems to have been linked to adding cocktail tables and casual seating
- Repeat attendance of young adults to the interactive workshops and young adults inviting friends to participate.
- Participation by members and non-member young adults in Wild Goose Festival
- Integration into the life of the congregation of specific young adults who have been integral to putting on the events we did as well as people who attended the festival and mission trip.
- More interaction among church members on topics touched on by the workshops we presented.
- Increased connections with young adults in our congregation and community.
- More people stay and more people interact during coffee hour (until the rona came)
- Shifts in dynamics of conversations
- Improved seating in gym
- Increase connections - in and out of building
- Address topics that are important to young adults

#### **In what ways has this project made a difference in the life and mission of your congregation?**

- Connected more young adults to the church
- Connected the church more with each other

## **What are the remaining steps of the project at this time**

We are completing purchase and implementation of additional technology (using left over funds redirected from the Palestinian Pilgrimage line item). This will allow our congregation to continue to enhance access for young adults and others even after the pandemic.

Due to Covid, we did not have our final speaker, Rev. Denise Anderson (former co-moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA). We are considering becoming a Matthew 25 church (a PCUSA initiative in which churches commit to congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eliminating systemic poverty), and Denise's leadership would be of great help in learning how we can work to dismantle racism and system poverty.

We have some unused funds from the grant we received from our church foundation. Assuming the church foundation allows us to use those funds, we would like to have one of our speakers, Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell do additional work with our congregation on systemic and structural racism.

## **What might be next steps for your congregation? What future projects might follow this one?**

We are continuing a second grant project at this time - the Myrtle Initiative , which is a project funded by the Lilly Endowment and channeled through Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The Myrtle Initiative asks congregation and members individually to ponder how God is calling them. That work on vocation segues into the EYA work. Our goals with the Matthew 25 project will build on the work we did with EYA in the context of how we feel God is calling us to serve.

## **From this project, what did you learn about your congregation? Provide 1-2 examples**

We are beginning to develop a more community development informed approach to leadership, rather than our previous models which were more hierarchical where goals were set by a small group of people. Power is more evenly distributed. We are not a centralized hierarchy anymore and this project helped solidify the many ways people can take part in the life of the church and community.

## **How will your congregation continue engaging young adults at the conclusion of your project?**

With this project and the pandemic, we have become and are in the process of becoming even more creative in our approaches to connection, leadership, and service. I believe a focus on connecting with young adults is becoming integrated into our work in a more effective way. It's not an initiative but a part of who we are. Because of that integration, I believe we will organically continue with the work we began with this grant. Young adults are stepping up to informal positions of leadership, and they are also accepting the invitation to official roles (becoming elders or deacons).

## **How might other congregations benefit from what you have learned?**

We approached our EYA project by seeking to lean into our strengths, which in our case involves our commitment to social justice. Churches can grow and deepen their existing commitments when given the opportunity, and the result will be close to its identity (rather than something so foreign that it may not have a chance to be lasting change).

## **How might the ICC improve the grant process?**

ICC was very supportive and attentive to our questions and discoveries. ICC was very flexible in letting retool when things didn't go as planned. Please keep up the good work!

# SESSION REPORTS

## *Children's Nurture (CN) Committee*

Chair: Erik Anderson (session representative)

Staff: Marietta Macy

Members: Sunny Currier, Lisa Porter, Stephanie Cunningham

As with so many areas in the church, 2020 posed an unusual challenge for Children's Nurture Committee. Nevertheless, we found ways to stay connected with young families through some innovative ways.

In March, the committee decided to cancel all in person church Sunday school. To stay connected, we attempted a weekly 11:00 am Zoom "Sunday school" hosted by Marietta using the elementary curriculum. Also, at this time Marietta starting recording weekly "Time with the children" session online. We started having small projects each week centered around gratitude. The children wrote thank you notes to people in the community dealing with the Covid-19 crisis on the front line. This included grocery store employees, mail carriers, doctors, nurses, teachers, and volunteers. During this time, we also made the decision to compensate our hired employees through the end of the school year, even though we were no longer providing childcare in person.

As the school year ended, the committee made the decision to not host vacation bible school, but instead mail a new curriculum for the children during the summer. The new curriculum was called "Compassion Camp: Be Kind. Be Loved. Be You".

The summer came to a close and we decided it was important to stay connected with the families, even though we weren't meeting in person. In August, we created a back to school (pirate themed) celebration where we delivered treats to people's homes. In October, the committee decided to create a Halloween themed "Trunk or Treat" event in the parking lot for safe trick-or-treating. In November, the annual advent workshop was held in the parking lot where families picked up wreath supplies and other fun goodies.

Some other notable events (in 2020) were a playdate in February with the Islamic Society families to get to know our Muslim neighbors. Marietta also helped coordinate a nativity movie to reenact the story of Jesus' birth with the church children. Just before Christmas, the children received gifts which included a book and an ornament from Bethlehem. Finally, we added a new changing table and some fresh paint (thanks to the Ellisons) in the nursery.

It was bittersweet to say goodbye to Gwen Kresovsky this Fall. She had a big impact on the development of our children in this church. We gladly welcomed Stephanie Cunningham as a new member to the team, and she has already been a fresh new voice for the committee.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Anderson, Chair of Children's Nurture Committee



# SESSION REPORTS

## Youth Nurture (YN) Committee

**Members:** Amy Anderson, Brook Brown, Stephanie Cunningham, Sunny Currier, Julie Daiker (Chair), Joy King, Lisa Porter and Staff-Marietta Macy

The pandemic has created some real challenges, but our youth have accomplished much to be proud of despite Covid-19 restrictions. They've continued to help once a month with preparing and boxing Hot Meals. Youth also serve as lay leaders and have participated in videos used as part of worship streaming. The youth group started the year off with the sky being the limit (we went to Sky Zone and had a blast). We began a Matthew 25 learning project, until we could no longer meet in person. Then we met on zoom calls in the spring and outdoors in the fall, enjoying several bonfires. Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education middle school class continued to meet until mid-March, when group gatherings were no longer possible. The class will complete their curriculum when groups can safely gather again.

In February, the youth led the congregation in the Super Bowl collection, raising \$443.00 for Love Chapel.

Several members were able to attend the Next Church conference thanks to grants.

Thanks to Brook Brown, Samantha Harpring and Linda Pierson, the college students received care packages and birthday cards. We honored our grads in the worship service virtually by video (thanks to Bonnie Boatwright) this spring, and we added to the celebration with a fun car parade to homes of all the high school grads, dropping off gifts and prayer shawls.

The youth group took their responsibility seriously in choosing the local recipient of the Pentecost Offering which supports children and youth at risk. Having seen and in some cases experienced the lack of supportive resources in the community for LGBTQ-IA+ young people, they felt that the Columbus Pride Festival was the main source of support, acceptance, and community. They designated the Pride Festival as the local recipient of the 2020 Pentecost offering. The teens wrote about their reasons and experiences to share with the congregation, from which Marietta Macy created a video featured on our Facebook page. The generosity of the congregation resulted in a donation of \$746.00, honoring our church as a Silver Level sponsor. The Pride Festival was virtual this year, but the contribution will be used and acknowledged in 2021. Additionally, we are so proud of two of our youth, who each created content for the online festival. Riley Shinn made a video which was eye-opening and educating to all who viewed it, including some of the festival organizers, who were unaware of the lack of support for Columbus teens. Jude Sych created a work of art which will be featured in the program next year.

With Trick or Treat feeling less safe for families in this time of Covid-19, the

## **SESSION REPORTS**

### **Youth Nurture Committee cont.**

youth group helped to provide a Trunk or Treat event for the church children. Several youth decorated their family car trunks, prepared treat bags, and handed out treats in costume. The next night, by invitation, the youth group decorated Shirley King's yard for Halloween (Covid-19 Style – no toilet paper was wasted).

In November, the youth presented Brighter Days shelter with bags of cold weather supplies such as warm gloves, hand warmers, blankets, and snacks, to be handed out to residents. They were able to tour the facility and learn more about the needs of the homeless in our community.

Although we were unable to do our usual collecting, wrapping, and delivering of Heart Tree gifts, the youth instead chose and purchased gifts for other teens who were spending the Christmas season at the Turning Point shelter.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Daiker, Youth Nurture Moderator

# SESSION REPORTS

## Mission Support Grants for 2020

2020 was an exceptional year. Mission Support was allocated \$35,129.35 in January from the church Foundation to distribute funding among nonprofit organizations in our world and community. Mission Support grants are intended specifically for mission or outreach purposes not included in FPC's operating budget, usually as supported by members or friends of FPC who want to do Christ's work in the world.

With our second allocation of \$35,000 given in October, we focused entirely on local agencies hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here is an overview of the grants Mission Support has funded in 2020.

- \$7,500 Power of Love Foundation to support a micro-loan program and business training that enables women caregivers to better care of their families, pay for school expenses, and learn to be self-reliant. About 170 families are enrolled in both the pediatric HIV care and micro loans program in Zambia.
- \$3,000 Abby's House & Hillside Clinic in Punta Gorda, Belize to procure and transport a generator to benefit the medical students that stay at the facility and work in the clinic, as the loss of electricity occurs fairly frequently at this rural clinic.
- \$3,500 Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center (LCNFC) given in April, funding went to support six YES Cinema employees with bills and essentials as these employees rely on cinema income to support their families (while the cinema was closed).
- \$7,500 Bright Stars of Bethlehem to provide emergency aid to the Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem and its associated programs during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$5,000 Su Casa to support the agency with operational costs due to loss of fundraiser income because of the pandemic.
- \$7,500 Pyoca to help sustain the camp ministry during the pandemic so they can be a place where all are welcome in God's loves to explore, grow, rest, and play for many years to come.
- \$1,500 Black Lives Matter Columbus for educational and promotional materials and video equipment to facilitate organizing and online communications.
- \$7,500 Turning Point to support the critical client financial assistance needed to continue shelter clients progress toward a safe, stable future. Funding would be utilized for rent, rent and utility deposits, gas cards, childcare, work clothes, unexpected medical expenses, and car repairs.
- \$7,500 Horizon House to offset the increased costs of operating during the pandemic as well as to use the funds to provide necessities for clients' basic needs such as food, diapers, fuel, steel toes boots, work attire, non-slip shoes, medical supplies, warm weather clothing, hygienic products.
- \$5,000 Foundation for Youth to help the nonprofit maintain overall employment and cover other operational costs.
- \$5,000 Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center (LCNFC) to support members of the Bartholomew County Works program with finances as they continue to dig themselves out of a financial hole caused by the first few months of the pandemic when they were not working.
- \$5,000 Children, Inc. to assist the organization in purchasing technology needed for e-learning and communicating with children and families virtually specifically for teachers in the infant and toddler rooms.

# SESSION REPORTS

## Mission Support Grants for 2019 continued

\$5,000      Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress (ASAP) to help fill the financial deficit caused by operating the ASAP Sober Living house, comprised of individuals who are newly in recovery from substance use disorders, at greatly reduced capacity.

We thank the First Presbyterian Church Foundation for providing funding to support these worthwhile organizations and programs.

Kelly Geckler, Moderator  
Vern Jorck  
Gretchen Laemmer  
Dale Nowlin  
Felipe Martinez  
Lisa Porter  
Janet Putney  
Pam Robertson  
Sarah Sanders

# **SESSION REPORTS**

## **Personnel Committee**

Committee: Lynne Hyatt (moderator), Pastor Felipe Martinez (staff), and Janet Sharpe.

Mission: To oversee and administer personnel-related activities of the church in accordance with the Book of Order and the First Presbyterian Personnel Policies Manual in a manner that supports and furthers the mission of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus Indiana.

Our church (members and staff) has had a demanding year with many positive interactions and growth opportunities. We appreciate the commitment Felipe, Dianne and Marietta have made in their worship planning sessions so that we have maintained our fellowship and spirituality during the COVID-19 period. Implementing and supporting FPC outreach mission has at times been controversial which is healthy.

Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees was supported at 2% to be effective January 1, 2021. The congregation will vote to approve the same adjustment for Felipe Martinez at the annual meeting which affects both housing and salary.

Bonuses were given at the end of the year to the professional and support staff to show appreciation for their good work and dedication.

Job reviews will be done in January 2021. Personnel had recommended that support groups for the professional staff meet at least twice a year to connect and lend support. This has not been a feasible objective in 2020.

Despite the challenges of no in person services, Felipe Martinez has continued to guide and encourage us with new ideas and challenges us to stretch ourselves to look at new and different ways to practice our Christianity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Hyatt, Moderator

## **SESSION REPORTS**

### **Property Committee**

**Committee:** Ben Bush, Jeff Crump, Zack Ellison (moderator), Jim Farrar, Terry Molewyk, Danny Sanders, Trey Sanders, Bob Smitherman, Doug Sprunger, and David Tiede.

**Mission:** The purpose of the Property Committee is to ensure the church building and grounds are maintained and updated as needed. 2020 was a busy but good year with the Property Committee overseeing the projects listed below.

#### **Projects for 2020:**

1. We had a boiler pipe corrode through in the preschool Donner building causing water damage to the ceiling tiles and some furniture. Marshall Mechanical came in very quickly and drained down the boiler and replaced a section of galvanized pipe. Looking at the failed section of pipe, it appears to be corrosion damage. Since there is no way to tell where else the pipes might be corroded, we will be taking some action to add corrosion protection to the boiler water.
2. The new Laws Room storage closet construction has been completed and looks great. There will be enough storage to store all chairs and round tables inside. There now is a large screen TV behind some cabinet doors that we can use for presentations, and or live streaming church services into the Laws Room. We have received numerous compliments on how well integrated the new storage room looks. (Thanks to Bob Smitherman for his project management and his design inputs). The "Triplet Tapestry" was relocated from the west wall to the south wall and now "frames" the brass cross over the antique walnut communion table.
3. There has been good progress on the creation of an audio/visual console in the rear alcove of the sanctuary. Luther Pierson and Chris George have purchased the AV equipment and have installed cameras in the sanctuary that will be used to continue the live streaming of our worship services. There will be short walls constructed around the equipment completing an AV booth. These walls will match the walnut walls around the choir loft. The enclosure walls will be constructed and installed by early February 2021. (Thanks to Danny Sanders for his electrical work getting power to the back of the sanctuary).
4. ADA accessible doors that lead from the north Franklin St. door over to the church elevator. This work project will allow wheelchair restricted people to be buzzed through the Franklin St. door, up the ramp, through the gym door, and exit the gym through the southeast door, to access the elevator, and then over to the church office for meetings/business. The installation of the door opening equipment will be completed by mid-January 2021. This work was funded by a generous donation from one of our members. (Thanks to Danny Sanders for his electrical work getting power to the openers).

## SESSION REPORTS

### **Property Committee cont.**

5. We installed a new high capacity "on-demand" hot water heater for the kitchen dish sanitizer/washer. The old small water heater would not get the water above 106 deg F, due to a lack of hot water capacity. The sanitizer requires 120 deg F water to meet the health dept. requirements. We can now reach that temperature and we only use electricity when there is a need for hot water. (Thanks to Danny Sanders for his electrical work getting power to the new water heater, and for doing all the plumbing for the new heater).
6. One of the air conditioner units behind our church dumpster failed a Freon compressor. Marshall Mechanical changed the compressor and associated components. The compressor was under warranty but FPC paid for the labor to install it.
7. Our thanks to Bob Orben for his work with Tom Hinshaw (HRC Roofing) on treating the north slate roof for black mold. It was a difficult job but after several treatments, the roof looks much improved.
8. There have been many other smaller projects to improve our facility, and much of the work was done by Doug Sprunger, so I wanted to recognize his many contributions, besides a beautiful singing voice, thanks.

**Future work:** We will need to install a new water softener in the boiler room. The old unit failed and leaked water due to a failed control unit that would not shut off the water flow. A new softener will be installed before Easter 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zack Ellison  
Property Committee Chair

## SESSION REPORTS

### Safe Church Committee

Committee Members: Amber Porter, Brook Brown, Mary Ann McCray, Sunny Currier-Chairperson, Marietta Macy, Staff.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10: 14*

**Mission: The mission of the Safe Church Committee is to support and enable First Presbyterian Church in providing a safe environment for children and teens to learn, grow, and experience God's love. Effective ministry for children and teens requires relationships with caring, loving, and mature adults, who can demonstrate God's love to them. By setting and supporting appropriate guidelines and boundaries, we can create an environment that is safe for children, teens, and the adults that interact with them.**

The required annual training of church officers in the Safe Church Policy was done February 1 at the Officer Retreat.

After the Stop the Bleed Training in 2019, we received a free kit, which was placed in the same emergency box as the AED (defibrillator) equipment outside the sanctuary near Door 2. In 2020, we purchased an additional kit, and placed it in the AED box in the gym, near the Men's Restroom.

Additional admin tools were added onto our public facebook page.

Funds became available to Property / Safe Church. We communicated our list of projects on hold for lack of funds to Felipe, and recommended that Staff determine what projects are most needed and appropriate to the funds available. Once decided, we'd appreciate the opportunity to give input into the project planning. Our project to-do list:

- a. Additional cameras in the Office hallway, Door 9 entrance, and Dungeon hallway.
- b. Re-key the building with electronic locks. Additional concern: newly installed preschool area door locks (and Marietta's office door) were supposed to be keyed to the current Master key, but it does not work on them, requiring 3 different 'Master' keys, and creating a safety issue.
- c. Accessible door for Door 5 or 6, although we have a concern that this may need further thought in planning for true accessibility once someone is through the door. At this time, a weekday visitor would need to negotiate the ramp, pass through the gym, find the elevator off the gym level, and use it to descend to the office level.
- d. Replacing the doors to the rooms on the balcony of the Laws Room with doors that have a glass insert.

With the coming of Covid 19, the committee made recommended safety procedures to the Session.

From July to the present, we have been working on developing emergency procedures for use in case of fire, tornado, and active shooter. When complete, we plan to share these with the congregation, to improve safety for all.

Sunny Currier, Moderator



## SESSION REPORTS

### **Social Justice Committee (SJC)**

Committee membership: Sarah Sanders (Secretary), Ann Jones, Gretchen Laemmer, Tess Weathers, Heather Reeves, Amy Hale, Vern Jorck (part), Rick Booth (part) Joy King (part), Sherm Franz (part) Lori Davies (part), with staff support Felipe Martinez

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly”.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (*Letter from Birmingham Jail*, April 16, 1963)

Like many of our congregation, I was drawn to the church because of its legacy of social justice and the many ways in which our church family stands with, and for, those marginalized locally and globally. While the Social Justice Committee takes responsibility for continuing that legacy, I want to recognize all members of the congregation who give their time, talents and money to live out their faith in action and follow the example of Jesus. Everyone positively contributes to the life of our community, builds relationships with people from many different organizations at home and abroad, and brings their witness back to our church to make us all better informed in the ways in which our love and compassion can change the world. Our methods of engaging in social justice may have varied in 2020 but our commitment remained strong.

The Social Justice Committee continued to work towards the bi-annual objectives defined in 2019. Here are some of the actions and advocacy work that we participated in:

#### Contesting Anti-Immigration Practices

- Dalia Abu Namous , a participant in the Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program, led an AFE Session sharing her experiences growing up in Gaza and her transition to studying in Columbus.

#### Standing Up to Racism

- Multi-year Foundation grant continued (\$40,000 over 4 years) for the Undocumented Latino Students Fund which is matched by private donations
- Co-sponsored the Polidor 5K which raises funds for literacy programs in Haiti
- A significant representation from our congregation attended protests and marches protesting police brutality and advocating for an end to systemic racism, following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery early in the year.
- A list of Anti-Racism resources were shared with the congregation to demonstrate our strong belief that it is not enough to not be racist, we are

## SESSION REPORTS

### Social Justice cont.

called to be anti-racist.

- In partnership with Columbus Peace Fellowship, we donated \$1,020 to The Keep Hope Alive olive tree planting program in Palestine. Trees will be planted during February 2021.
- We donated our 25% share of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to MECA (Middle East Children's Alliance) in Gaza
- Co-sponsored African American Fund film screenings of *Good Trouble* (documentary about the life and work of John Lewis), and *The Fight* (documentary about the work of The ACLU).

### Alleviating Homelessness / Promoting Affordable Housing

- The Hot Meals service switched to take-out service as COVID cases increased. The program continues to feed over 100 people every Friday. Sarah Sanders and her teams noticed a distinct increase in people needing hot meals and families attending, as the impact of COVID was felt on livelihoods. Although, we switched to take-out, we maintained the social aspect of hot meals with people staying to eat together on seats outside the church and the AT&T building opposite. During this year more people felt the effects of isolation, so I think we can have a greater empathy for those living on the margins of our community and appreciate more deeply the need for human interaction and to demonstrate our love and care for others.
- Housing Partnerships Inc. (Thrive Alliance) celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Roger Brinkman and Jim Farrar lead our involvement in renovating 3 homes to be made available as affordable housing in Columbus.
- Held monthly birthday parties with our neighbors at The Armory until COVID stopped them. We will resume as soon as it is considered safe to do so.
- Supported Bread for the World and holding a letter writing campaign
- Kelly Daugherty, Executive Director of The Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches, shared an update on the work and our partnership with Love Chapel and Brighter Days. We continued to provide food, volunteers and financial support to the Ecumenical Assembly through COVID.
- The Sweet Dreams team (Janet Sharpe, Luther Pierson, Kerry Norris and Alan Kilbarger) continued to provide beds for children in need this year working primarily with DCS.

We also have objectives to promote accessible and affordable healthcare, and to work to reduce climate change, but unfortunately the pandemic curtailed our activities in these areas.

Through the Community Mission budget, FPC also provided financial support totaling \$31,588 to a variety of local organizations – The Ecumenical Assembly

# SESSION REPORTS

## *Social Justice cont.*

of Bartholomew County (Love Chapel & Brighter Days), BCSC Book Buddies, Children Inc, Family Self-Sufficiency, Horizon House, Hot Meals, The Mill Race Center, Turning Point, Just Friends, FPC Pre-School Scholarships, and Su Casa.

Through Mission Support Grants we provided additional support for:

- Power of Love - working to eradicate pediatric AIDS & HIV in Zambia and their micro-loans program.
- The Hillside Clinic (Abby's House) in Belize – partial funding for a generator to ensure continuity of healthcare currently disrupted by intermittent electricity supply and tropical storms.
- New Black Lives Matter of Columbus – providing seed money for the purchase of educational materials, enabling virtual meetings and promotional materials
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem – providing COVID relief funds to students at Dar Al-Kalima University which many of us have visited on trips to Palestine. In addition, SJC voted to designate \$5,000 of the funds we send to The Presbyterian Mission Agency to be directed to Bright Stars of Bethlehem in 2021.

We have also continued in our support of two mission co-workers – Luta (and Jeremy) Garbat-Welch in Malawi and Doug Dicks in Israel / Palestine. In 2020 we increased our contribution and now provide \$3,000 in financial assistance to each mission co-worker.

As we move into 2021, Social Justice Committee has begun discussions on a proposal for First Presbyterian Church to become a Matthew 25 Church within PC(USA). Matthew 25 Churches align their social justice objectives to the goals of Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. When the SJ Committee completes its discernment, we will make a proposal to Session for their consideration. To find out more about Matthew 25 Churches go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cara Bywater  
Moderator, Social Justice Committee

## SESSION REPORTS

### *Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice*

Mission: The mission of the Open and Affirming Committee is to nurture a welcoming ministry for all of God's children, both in our congregation and in our community, including persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and their families.

In 2020, the Open and Affirming Committee ("Committee") was less active than in previous years, but the work was no less important. We chose March 8, the first day of Daylight Savings Time, as More Light Sunday to highlight our being a More Light Presbyterian congregation. We invited Laura Beth Buchleiter to be the guest preacher, and to lead our Adult Education hour. Laura Beth is a trans Christian author, speaker, and seminarian at Christian Theological Seminary. We'd like to celebrate and commend the work of our Youth Group at FPC in the past year. The Youth Group is charged each year with selecting the local recipient of the annual Pentecost Offering, designed to benefit children and youth at risk. Having seen -- and in some cases experienced -- the lack of supportive resources in our community for LGBTQ-IA+ young people, youth group members saw the Columbus Pride Festival as the main source of support, acceptance, and community, and designated them as our local recipient. The teens wrote about their reasons and experiences to share with the congregation, from which Marietta Macy created a video featured on our Facebook page. Our congregation responded with much generosity, and \$740.00 was donated to the Pride Festival. Due to COVID restrictions, the festival was virtual this year, but First Presbyterian Church will be honored as a Silver Level donor in the 2021 event. One of our youth, Riley Shinn, created a wonderful teen-perspective video that was featured in the virtual event. The video was eye-opening and educating to all who viewed it, including some of the festival organizers, who were unaware of the lack of support for Columbus teens. Jude Sych created a piece of art that will be used to feature the church sponsorship in 2021.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9. Wishing God's peace for each and every one of us, from your Open and Affirming Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Stenner

## **SESSION REPORTS**

### **Stewardship & Finance Committee**

#### **Our Team**

- The members who served on the Stewardship and Finance Committee for some or all of 2020 included: Treasurer Vern Jorck, Cindy Frey, Lynne Hyatt, Mary Ann McCray, Chip Orben, Luther Pierson, Marilyn Richardson, and Rich Stenner. Felipe provided staff support to the Committee.

#### **Our Purpose**

- Our Stewardship and Finance Committee is a committee of the Session, and exists to:
  - \* monitor church finances and accounts throughout the year (with the Treasurer),
  - \* provide for monthly and annual financial reports of the church's finances, with year-end audits/reviews/compilations (using staff and volunteers), and
  - \* conduct the annual stewardship campaign securing pledges of support for the next calendar year.

#### **Our Work**

- In this unusual year, we sent a letter to church members mid-year, thanking them for their continued financial support of the church. We were awestruck by the generosity we witnessed. We recognized the Holy Spirit at work in our church as we were able to keep our full staff employed and share much-needed financial support with agencies that were serving the most-at risk populations during throughout the pandemic.
- We applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from our financial institution in May in order to support First Presbyterian Preschool, which saw a significant decline in revenues during the shutdown and at the start of the fall semester. We received \$136,900. We were able to use all of the funds according to the federal guidelines, therefore the full amount should be forgiven.
- The annual stewardship campaign looked very different. Our campaign theme this year focused on the many ways we were continuing our ministry together even though we were not together physically in weekly worship. There were two direct mailings to the congregation, a minute for mission, and numerous reminders in the newsletters.

#### **2020 Stewardship Campaign Results**

- Our campaign for 2021 is nearly complete. We have 24 fewer pledges than we were anticipating, based on last year's results. We are prayerful that we will receive additional pledges from these traditional givers or new families or individuals.
- As of January 14, there are 91 pledges totaling \$474,667. There are two new pledges and an average pledge increase of 5.25%.
- We anticipate that with additional pledges this year, continued membership growth and continued giving from our members that are faithful givers but

## SESSION REPORTS

### Stewardship & Finance Committee cont.

- choose not to pledge, we will be able to successfully fund our 2021 programs.
- The Treasurer drafted the Church's budget for 2021, based on input from all the working groups within the Church, which the Session approved December – based upon the preliminary good news from the fall campaign.

### SPECIAL OFFERING RESULTS 2020

We conduct the Love Chapel Food Pantry Offering in January of each year. In addition to this offering, we conduct four other special Presbyterian denominational offerings each year. Last year these 5 offerings raised \$13,506. The results of all these special offerings over the last 5 years are as follows:

	<b>Special Offerings</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>1</b>	Love Chapel Food Pantry (Jan)	\$4,221	\$4,014	\$3,746	\$2,055	\$3,836
<b>2</b>	One Great Hour of Sharing (Mar)	\$2,422	\$4,070	\$3,147	\$3,526	\$5,125
<b>3</b>	Pentecost (May)	\$1,725	\$1,289	\$3,032	\$1,955	\$1,860
<b>4</b>	Peace and Global Witness (Oct)	\$2,217	\$1,447	\$2,504	\$1,973	\$315
<b>5</b>	Christmas Joy (Dec)	\$2,130	\$1,580	\$2,881	\$3,142	\$2,370
	Total	\$12,715	\$12,400	\$15,337	\$12,651	\$13,506

Thank you for your past support. We look forward to your continued generosity.

**FPC FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
**FUND 01 -- OPERATIONS -- 100% of Year Complete**  
**PRELIMINARY**

	2020		2020		2021		Percent
INCOME	<u>Preliminary</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Change</u>
Pledge and Gift Income	\$535,235	1/	\$547,844	2/	\$558,066	2/	
Other Income	<u>\$34,641</u>		<u>\$44,791</u>		<u>\$45,091</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$569,876</b>		<b>\$592,635</b>		<b>\$603,157</b>		<b>1.78%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Church Program							
Nurture							
- Children's Nurture	\$6,037		\$9,789		\$9,789		
- Youth Nurture	\$4,668		\$5,650		\$5,650		
- Adult Fellowship & Ed	<u>\$1,644</u>		<u>\$1,950</u>		<u>\$1,950</u>		
Total Nurture	\$12,349		\$17,389		\$17,389		
General Program Exp.	\$727		\$750		\$750		
Music	\$2,741		\$6,972		\$6,921		
Social Justice	\$2,045		\$2,400		\$2,400		
Worship	\$2,226		\$3,300		\$3,300		
Stewardship	\$2,500		\$3,450		\$3,450		
Deacon Expense	\$314		\$1,240		\$1,240		
Celebration of Life	<u>\$0</u>		<u>\$500</u>		<u>\$500</u>		
Subtotal Church Program	\$22,902		\$36,001		\$35,950		<b>-0.14%</b>
Mission Giving	\$71,320		\$71,333		\$73,010		<b>2.35%</b>
Professional Staff							
Pastor	\$115,526		\$115,594		\$117,775		1.89%
Director of CY-YAM	\$67,363		\$66,831		\$67,475		0.96%
Choir Dir/Organist	<u>\$51,309</u>		<u>\$52,234</u>		<u>\$53,239</u>		<u>1.92%</u>
Subtotal Professional Staff	\$234,198		\$234,659		\$238,489		<b>1.63%</b>
Office Expenses	\$79,515		\$82,227		\$85,467		3.94%
Facility Expenses	\$143,187		\$151,055		\$150,748		-0.20%
Other Expenses	<u>\$17,400</u>		<u>\$17,360</u>		<u>\$19,492</u>		<u>12.28%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$568,521</u></b>		<b><u>\$592,635</u></b>		<b><u>\$603,157</u></b>		<b>1.78%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$1,355</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		

	<b>Cash Balances</b>				
	<u>12/31/19</u>		<u>12/31/20</u>		<u>Change</u>
Operating Fund	\$151,142	1/	\$135,772	2/	-\$15,370
All Other Funds	<u>\$171,031</u>		<u>\$271,707</u>	3/	<u>\$100,676</u>
Cumulative	<b>\$322,173</b>		<b>\$407,479</b>		<b>\$85,306</b>

1/ Includes \$83,899 in prepaid pledges from 2019. 2/ Includes \$67,166 in prepaid pledges from 2020.

3/ Includes \$46,606.03 in Federal Paycheck Protection Program Funds.

**The Reverend Felipe Martinez, Full-time Senior Pastor/Head of Staff**

**2021 Compensation**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	
<b><u>CASH COMPENSATION</u></b>			
Cash Salary	\$49,426	\$50,414	2% increase
Housing Allowance	\$30,205	\$30,809	2% increase
<b>Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$79,631</b>	<b>\$81,223</b>	Cash Salary plus Housing Allowance
Pension/Health	\$29,463	\$30,052	2020 -- 37% of Effective Salary 2021 -- 37% of Effective Salary
Vouchered Professional Expense	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Vouchered Continuing Education	\$3,000	\$3,000	may be accumulated up to 3 years
Vouchered mileage estimate	\$1,000	\$1,000	reimbursed at current IRS rate
<b>Total Cash Compensation</b>	<b><u>\$115,594</u></b>	<b><u>\$117,775</u></b>	
<b><u>OTHER COMPENSATION</u></b>			
Vacation	5 weeks	5 weeks	
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	



## **Sweet Dreams Ministry Annual Report 2020**

For the year 2020, Sweet Dreams Ministry delivered 2 sets of bunkbeds, 6 cribs, 2 toddler/youth beds and 32 twin beds, helping a total of 44 children. Most of our bed referrals came from the Department of Child Services but also a few came from other sources like CASA and school counselors/principals. All beds were delivered to children in Bartholomew County.

Referrals stopped midway through March because of COVID-19 but picked up slightly in May. We took precautions when placing the beds and asked that all people wear a mask.

Most of the bed referrals were because of opioid issues, neglect or abuse requiring the children to be removed and placed in a safe home, usually with a relative. We also had two bed referrals because of house fires.

This is our third year for this ministry and it continues to be very satisfying and needed. Seeing the children get excited over having a bed of their own is heartwarming and to have a special pillow, book, or stuffed toy makes it even more fun.

The Sweet Dreams Ministry would not be possible without help from members of the congregation and mission support grants. Each bed that we supply costs approximately \$250.

People who have helped this year with the deliveries include Luther and Linda Pierson, Alan Kilbarger, Kerry Norris, Doug Sprunger, Terri Glackin, Chris George, Jayne and Charlie Farber, Emily Sharpe, and Ted and Janet Sharpe.

Submitted by Janet Sharpe

## **WoodWeShare Ministries 2020 Annual Report**

WoodWeShare started in late 2020 with a focus on Human Services Inc's administration of Indiana's Energy Assistance Program (IHCDA LIHEAP). While Human Services has assisted over seventy firewood clients in the past three years for their five-county area of operation, they have reported none referred through Dec 11, 2020 from Bartholomew County. Nevertheless local pastors have connected us with two families to whom we deliver firewood on a regular basis. Another six families were contacted who burn firewood but didn't feel like they needed assistance.

We have had four people donating firewood, two more who donated used, treated lumber for firewood racks and one person who donated a wood handling cart. Seven volunteers have been visible to the families during the five deliveries in 2020 while several more have worked in support. WoodWeShare will continue to serve these families in 2021 and is looking for additional families for the remainder of the winter. While we were hoping to help more than two families in 2020, we still celebrate helping to keep those six family members warm.

Submitted by Doug Sprunger

# SESSION REPORTS

## Worship Committee

**Committee Members:** Anna Denoyer, Eric Erickson, Terri Glackin, Amy McCormick, Anthony Merida, Angi Meyer, Clare Moore (Moderator), Luther Pierson, Judy Summerville, Felipe Martinez (staff), Dianne Sprunger (staff).

**Mission Statement:** To create and nurture a climate that will enable members, friends and visitors of our congregation, both individually and cooperatively, during worship to respond to God's love for us. We strive to do this in a manner that everyone, regardless of age, social, economic or family situation will be personally affirmed in that love.

**Committee Responsibilities:** In consultation with the pastor or others leading worship, utilize creative approaches to enhance the worship experience of attendees through integration of visual, auditory, and other sensory stimuli, including banners, lights, foliage, movements, spoken word, activities, decorations, and sacraments for Sundays and special liturgical holidays and seasons. Specific duties include preparation and set-up for communion once a month and for special services, recruitment of adult and youth lay liturgists for worship services, as well as for Grammer Presbyterian Church four times a year, and purchase of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter and delivery of them to members unable to join us for worship. Additionally, we respond to requests from the Celebration of Life committee with preparation of the sanctuary for funeral and memorial services, and otherwise assist and support pastors with special events and services as requested.

### **Of special note in 2020:**

- For Transfiguration Sunday on Feb. 23, the youth, led by Lisa Porter and Marietta Macy, put on an incredible play acted all by women, using a beautiful painted backdrop resembling an Armenian painting of the Transfiguration. A slide show displaying additional visual depictions of the Transfiguration was shared to demonstrate that there are many ways to imagine that event.
- On February 29, Shannon Craigo-Snell, a guest speaker for the BE Series, preached and provided an Adult Nurture class about social justice. Just before COVID shut down in-person services, Laura Beth Buchleiter, a trans seminarian from Indianapolis preached on March 8 for More Light Sunday. Later in the year, both Marietta Macy and Clare Moore also provided leadership from the pulpit when Felipe was away.
- Luther Pierson worked with sculptor Ben Harpring who made a new set of six stoneware cups to be used for Intinction Communion.
- With COVID-19 quickly becoming a worldwide pandemic in early 2020, the Worship Committee was suddenly thrust into unfamiliar territory. With strategic thoughtfulness, the team created guidelines for safe in-person worship, ideas for various alternative places worship might be held in lieu of the sanctuary, a mask policy in the event we did return to in-person services, and provided input to the development of the new AV plan – much of which was then reviewed by Session for ultimate decision making.

## SESSION REPORTS

### **Worship Committee cont.**

- The virus, which made it unsafe to hold Sunday services in person starting in March, caused us to shift almost overnight to streaming services. This required us to re-invent our usual roles of worship space décor and recruitment of Lay Liturgists to accommodate streaming services with some recorded content. Anna Denoyer graciously volunteered to create the Powerpoint 'bulletin' for worshipers to follow on an on-going basis, and in doing so has helped Pastor Felipe use his time more wisely.
- We created new ways to honor our traditions while including opportunities for fellowship and community, since isolation and disconnect were unfortunate side effects of staying safe. Examples of these efforts were the drive-by palm pick up for Palm Sunday, the socially-distanced summer service at Donner Park, a special All Saints Day that honored with pictures of those who had passed away in the previous year, and a candlelight gathering and simple hymn sing on the steps of the church during Advent. We also provided opportunities for children, youth and adults to record themselves doing readings for streamed services for the series on the Beatitudes, Advent candle lighting, and the regular Sunday scriptures.
- Dianne Sprunger offered creative and dedicated leadership to worship music by adapting to the restrictions on music required by COVID. She personally continued to provide her own music (solo and accompaniment) on organ and piano, as well as creating safe versions of the Vocal Choir and the Bell Choir. The Parking Lot choir which was able to get together and record music for services during the summer months was a big hit. In addition, Dianne's husband, Doug, provided support to her through video editing, as well as offering his own beautiful baritone solo voice multiple times.
- Danny Clark graciously shared his musical talent on special Sundays, along with his wife Carola. Danny also provided technical production and mixing support to his contributions that enriched the musical experience.

**Many people beyond the core group of Worship Committee members provided immeasurable support to our Sunday morning services this year. Special thanks to all** the children, youth, and adults who have provided support by being Lay Liturgists – both with the in-person services held early in the year as well as all the pre-recorded readings each week during Sunday worship. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Tracy Heaton for assisting Felipe by collecting last minute prayer requests during on-line services, as well as Leah Jackman-Wheitner who has faithfully hosted the Zoom worship participants each Sunday as well as post-worship Zoom 'coffee hour'.

Respectfully submitted, Clare Moore (Moderator)

## OTHER REPORTS

### Deacons

Deacon Annual Report 2020

Class of 2020: Emily Sharpe, Gretchen Laemmer, Judy Bonnell, Alan Kilbarger (moderator)

Class of 2021: Barb Newton, Elizabeth (Liz) Damm, Janet Putney, Carolyn Friend / Victor Friend

Class of 2022: Sherri Norris, Jodi Roberts, Karen Whitson, Anna Denoyer

Calling & Caring: Our year started with an update to our family lists. This process allows us to get acquainted with people in our congregation. It is a nice way to become and create awareness to start or continue relationships with the many people of our congregation. Each of the Deacons cared for about 16 – 17 families or individuals.

In addition to the Deacon's efforts to meet and support our congregation there are others who provide caring and support. Many thanks to the Deacons and others who show care for each other. We were able to provide support in many ways to our fellow congregants.

Zoom meetings took the place of our usual in-person meeting due to the pandemic. These electronic means allowed us to meet and share our experiences and maintain contact. I also recognize that this new forum for Deacons presented unique challenges. I am thankful for all the Deacons and their ability to adapt to this new forum for most of 2020. We shared our experiences in our new circumstances during the pandemic that helped us provide support to our respective congregants.

Another new aspect of 2020 was the ability to assist FPC members with funds that may help their situations impacted from Covid-19. This allowed FPC to assist families with financial support. Thanks to Sarah Sanders for applying to the Presbytery for First Presbyterian Church.

The Deacons and others were also able to provide meals to those who were impacted by Covid or other health issues.

Thanks to Emily Sharpe for organizing stockings that were passed out during the December holiday season.

**Events:** Our initial annual gathering was the Deacon Brunch in February. There was a light snack of doughnuts and drinks. This allowed folks to get together and meet one another without the work of a larger meal and cleanup. This was a pleasant and enjoyable gathering following our worship. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to us, this would be our only Deacon organized gathering for 2020.

In May we discussed the potential for a return to in-person services. New words entered our lexicon for supporting Sunday services, such as, PPE, social distance, and ventilation to deter any virus infections. We assisted with preparing the sanctuary for 2 different in-person services. This allowed FPC to attempt in-person services and to learn what could be accomplished. Two services took place in late June and early July.

I am grateful to all who were able and willing to assist our congregational community. Our church community is full of caring and sharing people.

Respectfully, Alan Kilbarger, Moderator

# OTHER REPORTS

## Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2020 Annual Report

Mission: To Serve the Religious, Educational and Charitable Needs of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana

<b>2020 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available</b>	\$163,398.64	*
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**2020 Grants awarded from Unrestricted Funds**

Mission Support (1/3 of available funds)	\$35,129.35
EYA Matching Grant (carryover from 2019)	8,937.36
Hispanic Scholarship (Year 3 of 4)	10,000.00
Children’s Library (Year 3 of 5)	1,000.00
Laws Room Storage	15,000.00
Community COVID Grant - Family Services	9,000.00
Community COVID Grant - LCNFC	9,000.00
Community COVID Grant - Su Casa	9,000.00
Community COVID Grant - Just Friends	9,000.00
Community COVID Grant - San Souci	9,000.00
Community COVID Grant - Mill Race Center	5,000.00
Mission Support - Community Pandemic Support	35,000.00
Just Friends - Accessibility Improvements	2,914.08

<b>2020 Total Grant Disbursements from Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>\$157,980.79</u>
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<b>Remaining Balance</b>	\$5,417.85
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*\* includes unused 2019 allocation of \$8,010.59, as well as an additional \$50,000 added to aid community agencies with the impact of Covid 19*

# OTHER REPORTS

## Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2020 Annual Report continued

### 2020 Grants awarded from Restricted Funds

Sanctuary Upgrade for Streaming (from Reeves Fund)	\$6,000.00
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### Foundation Balances

Vanguard Investment Account	\$3,240,019.51
Columbarium - New Covenant Investments	29,363.70
Columbarium - First Financial Checking	7,442.94
Organ Maintenance - New Covenant Investments	138,940.00
Harrison Youth Fund - New Covenant Investments	13,754.84
Foundation - First Financial Checking	19,657.60

### Other

Reeves Fund	\$948,946.97
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*(endowed benefit trust held at the Heritage Fund)*

### Highlights during 2020

- Clean audit for 2020 conducted by Agresta, Storms & O’Leary
- The Vanguard unrestricted portfolio realized a gain of \$411,752.74 (a rate of return of +15.2%) in 2020, reflecting strong market performance in 2020. All unrestricted mutual fund investments performed in the top 40% of their peer group for the last 3 and 5 year periods.
- A generous gift was received from the estate of member, Mary Clark, who sadly passed away from the COVID virus in May.
- The COVID virus impacted our activities in several different ways. Because of the required suspension of many church activities, the number of internal grant requests was significantly lower than most years. In June, since no grant requests had been received and given the dire needs of many community agencies due to the virus, the Board voted to initiate a proactive bequest of totaling \$50,000 to six agencies who were identified as desperately needing help. A direct bequest of \$2,914.08 to Just Friends was also made later. Toward the end of the year when the Foundation still had not been able to distribute its remaining annual allocation, the Board again made a plan to assist the community, providing \$35K to the Mission Support Committee for it to review needs and pass through to community agencies. (This was in addition to its annual allocation of about \$35K to Mission Support which was distributed as usual at the beginning of the year.) With Mission Support paying out a total of \$70K and the Foundation distributing over \$50K into our community, we were able to support community needs with over \$120K during an unprecedented year of

**OTHER REPORTS**  
**Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana**  
**2020 Annual Report continued**

**2020 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers**

David Boatwright	Investment Committee
Doug Bonnell	Secretary
Tim Denoyer	Webmaster/Public Relations
Kelly Geckler	Mission Support
Colleen Herrick	Treasurer
Joy King	Legacy Circle/Planned Giving
Clare Moore	President
Dan Spurgeon	Vice President/Investment Chair

**Memorial & Honorarium Gifts**

During 2020, the Foundation received a total of \$300 in gifts remembering our loved ones and honoring the wonderful contributions others have made:

**Memorials**

John Kinnaman  
Mary Clark  
Betty DeHebreard

**Honoring**

Ted Sharpe

**Grants**

Those interested in applying for a grant are encouraged to contact any Foundation Board members or the Rev. Felipe Martinez for guidance. Please remember that grant requests are to be submitted to the Session for review prior to being considered by the Foundation.

To learn more about submitting a grant, please visit our website at – <http://www.fpccolumbus.org/foundation/>

**2021 FPC Foundation meeting dates:**

February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 7 (annual meeting)

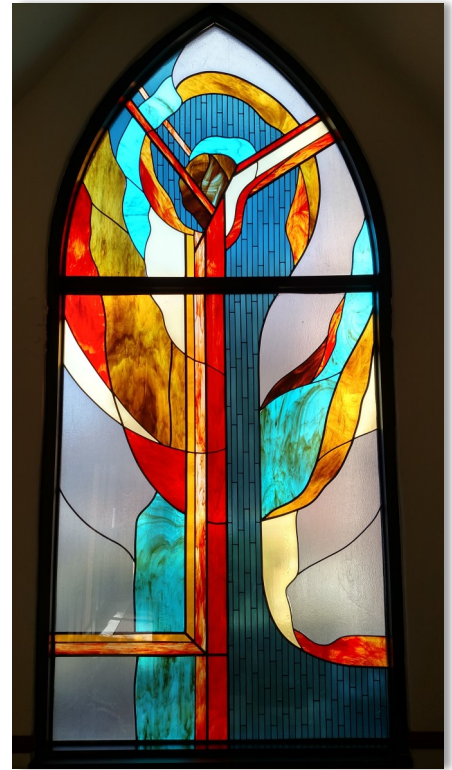


## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **Use of Facility**

**Organizations that regularly used the church building prior to March 13, 2020, when the session decided to close the building to non-church groups during the pandemic:**

- Fogerty Music Therapy Sessions
- Granny Connection
- Historic Downtown Neighborhood Alliance
- PFLAG Columbus
- Peace Fellowship - once a month or more
- Tai Chi
- Violin Lessons/Recitals



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