

2021 Annual Report



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

PastorThe Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez
Choir Director/Organist.....Dianne Sprunger
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries.....Marietta Macy
Preschool Director.....April Hemmerlein
Church Administrative AssistantBrook Brown
Financial Administrative Assistant.....Christy Jerman
Sunday Custodian.....Wayne Huff

First Presbyterian Church
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Columbus, Indiana 47201-6293
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Website: www.fpccolumbus.org

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 2021*

Active Members as of 12/31/21	433
New Members	9
Deceased Members	5
<i>(Al Betz, Dede Abts, Sherm Franz, Eleanor Haltom, Gretchen Laemmer)</i>	
Weddings	1
<i>(Jon Reinhart and Ann Hendricks)</i>	
Baptisms	
Children	1
Adults	0

OUR STAFF

Pastor's Annual Report, 2021 Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martínez

When they said, "Let's go to the house of God," my heart leaped for joy.
Psalm 122:1 The Message

2020 was painful. 2021 felt longer and tougher in so many ways.

As this world-wide COVID-19 pandemic wore on, First Presbyterian Church dealt with challenges as best we could, and we are grateful to God for seeing us through this year.

We began 2021 without in-person worship opportunities, streaming our Sunday morning service from the sanctuary on Facebook and Zoom (using my personal computer tablet). Financed by a series of grants and church support, we installed in the sanctuary for the first time an audio-visual system with cameras, computer and streaming equipment all connected to the existing audio system (which was also upgraded as part of this project). We also had an AV booth built into the alcove (eliminating places for about 6-8 people in the back two pews there, which were cut to make room for the AV booth). We are so grateful for Dianne Sprunger's talent and creativity as she continued to play for worship (initially by prerecording music, but eventually playing live); she integrated recordings of the Choir (when they could record while singing masked in the parking lot) and the Bell Choir (recorded masked and distanced indoors). See Dianne's report for more details. Our thanks to Doug Sprunger for all his expertise and support in making those recordings! We thank the newly formed AV team (Luther Pierson, Chris George and Jason Tracy), as they have done great work to help our church have a very professional streaming of Sunday services and even some memorial services and a wedding. We thank Leah Jackman-Wheitner for hosting every Sunday a dedicated group of folks who worshiped and participated in virtual coffee hour with us via Zoom. Thanks to Hanna Salas, Sandy Thomas and Joy King for their amazing support. I am deeply grateful to my wife Tracy Heaton de Martinez who has been supporting me through this incredibly challenging time, offering digital hospitality on Facebook and conveying to me in real time the prayer concerns of people live streaming worship (and generally being my TV director/producer!).

Thank you so much to the Parking Lot Choir, the Bell Choir, the Worship Committee, the Adult Fellowship and Education Committee and the Property Committee for all the work they did while we could only stream our services. I am so grateful to Marietta Macy, the Children's Nurture Committee, Youth Nurture Committee and Worship Arts for the creative ways in which they reached out to the children, youth and young families of the church to support them with special fun and spiritual activities, including several events outdoors and home-delivered care / activity packages. We are so blessed by a board of Deacons who reached out to our members to support them, by the careful and knowledgeable recommendations from our COVID Metrics Task Force, and by a Session who prayerfully and thoughtfully made decisions to help the church navigate these uncharted waters. I really appreciate the work of Brook Brown, Christy Jerman, our treasurer Vern Jorck and the Stewardship and Finance Committee who all kept the church running in spite of limited office hours and succeeded in receiving a PPP loan (which became a grant) from the federal government to support the payroll challenges for our preschool staff while the preschool wasn't able to be in

Pastor's Annual Report, 2021

Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martínez

session (this was in 2020, but had lingering effect into 2021). We are so grateful to Barb Newton and April Hemmerlein as they transitioned the preschool leadership (summer of 2021), and the preschool was able to open with significant precautions for the 2021-2022 school year. The church and I also are grateful to the Social Justice Committee, the Mission Support Committee, and the FPC Foundation for continuing to support mission in our community and beyond. We thank the Safe Church Committee and the Open and Affirming Committee for their contribution to living out our welcoming spirit as a congregation under such challenging circumstances. And we thank the Nominating and Personnel Committees for their flexibility and faithfulness in supporting the leadership of our church.

The challenges of the pandemic forced us to ask: How are we church? Since at times we could not be with each other safely indoors, we tried to stay connected and feel as community through streaming worship, Zoom Sunday School and small groups. Eventually as vaccination rates went up (and as the age restrictions encompassed more though not all of the population), we sought ways to be in person outdoors, like having service opportunities at Donner Park (Easter Sunrise, our annual Summer service), and starting in the Spring we had streaming of the sanctuary service for members gathering in the church parking lot, sitting on their lawn chairs, to worship using the live feed on a big screen TV (thanks to Wayne Huff!). A few times we led worship in the parking lot (and once on Franklin Street, which we had permission to close to traffic) and streamed those services to folks at home.

The session allowed for the return to in-person worship in the sanctuary in late May, with certain precautions: required physical distancing and masking, as well as a shortened service with less congregational singing. We shared communion using individual, prepackaged communion elements. Unfortunately, there was a COVID surge in late summer, so we decided once again to pause in-person worship from late August through late October. But the good news was that we were able to then return to the sanctuary for worship, even being able to have Christmas Eve services in person, though still with COVID precautions: the first service was an outdoor pilgrimage with the children portraying the Christmas story and singing Silent Night by candlelight in the sanctuary, and the second service started in the sanctuary but concluded out on Franklin Street (closed to traffic) for communion and singing Silent Night by the light of our cell phones (on a very windy night!).

For as much as the pandemic was on everyone's minds, what was in our hearts was our continuing commitment to God. When some outdoor parts of our church were vandalized with white supremacy symbols on the day before Easter, we were publicly able to proclaim: Our faith tells us that death and violence and sin do not have the last word: We are an Easter people!

Through it all, we didn't sit still. We welcomed several new members. We enacted several successful projects as part of our grant-funded Myrtle Collaboration with Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary to explore the church's and community's sense of call. The session voted for us to become a PCUSA Matthew 25 congregation, focused on church vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. We started a new joint effort with fellow Matthew 25 congregations Fairlawn, North Christian and First Presbyterian Bloomington with support from a second

Pastor's Annual Report, 2021

Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martínez

(shared) grant from the Myrtle Collaboration.

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, and the thousands of Afghan people who were then brought to military bases in the States, in the fall the session began the process to co-sponsor an Afghan family to be settled in Columbus. FPC then partnered with First Baptist, First Christian, St. Bartholomew and the Islamic Society of Columbus so that we can work jointly to bring a total of four families to our city (calling ourselves "Faith Partners in Compassion").

On a personal note, 2021 was also the year when our 18-year-old son survived critical health challenges, and when we lost my mom at age 95 in Mexico.

I remain hopeful that our church goes into 2022 with vitality, faithfulness and vision. We're all exhausted, that is true, but we also know that we're doing God's work, and it is God who will guide and strengthen us.

Shalom and Salaam,
Pastor Felipe

OUR STAFF

Dianne Sprunger, Choir Director/Organist

As I reflect on 2021, flexibility was so important all year. My first reaction was to reiterate all the compensations we made for COVID protocols: starting with soloists and small ensembles, then planning for how we have always done worship, then morphing into choir in the parking lot, small ensembles, soloists, smaller bell groups, rehearsals spread out in the sanctuary, recording, *Livin' by Faith*, instrumentalists that recorded themselves, Doug Sprunger's keyboard cart so we could have a keyboard outside for rehearsals and worship services, and processing lots of recordings for broadcast. This list left me tired.

Then I thought of our diverse and helpful community of believers and questioners. I did not do this alone. Many of you joined in the music making – singers and instrumentalists of all ages. You offered your gifts throughout the year to remind us each Sunday that all of us have God-given talents that we can use for the good of the group. Visual artists shared their gifts in bulletin covers, PowerPoint slides, the FPC Rocks *Fruits of the Spirit*, and the Creation Sunday collage. Worship Arts created a wonderful cave for Christmas Eve, with help from Marietta Macy. Lisa Porter continues to inspire all of us to see and hear and be creative, as we are children of the Creator! I am honored to be in this community.

I attended virtual conferences again: Montreat Worship and Arts (Presbyterian Association of Musicians), The Hymn Society National Conference, and Augsburg Publishing.

I report all the music shared in worship to CCLI, OneLicense to keep us in legal compliance with copyright law. I have also obtained permission from individual composers/lyricists when necessary. We have purchased computer software for arranging music. We also have Audacity, an open-source audio editing program.

Thank you to all of us who make this community. Thank you to the musicians of the Sanctuary Choir; Bell Choir; Worship Arts; *Livin' by Faith* band; and instrumentalists, especially Cindy McMillin and Ray Hass.

Peace,
Dianne

OUR STAFF

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

In many ways this year I feel as if I'm writing a "2020: Part 2" report instead of a completely new one. In 2021 we were hopeful that the changes we'd had to make due the pandemic would start to fade and we could bring back more of the things we knew we'd really missed. We thought that the creative pandemic ministry ideas we'd come up with but not used would just be old notes to throw out. Instead we persevered through another year of unexpected, unforeseeable events we had no blueprint for; wandering in our own Biblical desert of sorts not sure when it would end. With all this in mind I feel confident in quoting last year's report again since it's as accurate as ever:

"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 [2021] had to offer in the midst of chaos. We used the mediums we had at our disposal creatively and unexpectedly in some cases. 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."

I continue to be deeply grateful for our church family's support and flexibility as we live out our calling of ministry together in such unstable times. Our Nurture and Education committees have again had to discern what the needs of all our generations are as each new pandemic development occurs, from a new variant to a new age group being cleared for vaccination. Each of those shifts we experienced would cause a chain reaction of new questions to be answered whose answers then left us asking more questions. Long term planning for things like retreats and mission trips had to sadly be put on hold for another year, while we focused on the shorter term planning we were able to do week to week and month to month as conditions changed.

Thanks to creative and dedicated volunteers (Julie Daiker, Erik Anderson, Sunny Currier, Lisa Porter, Stephanie Cunningham, Michael Martinez, Izzie Nowlin, Dianne Sprunger, and Brook Brown) the children and youth were still able to meet periodically for local mission projects, education, and fellowship opportunities. When the weather was warm enough we adapted our Sunday School and Worship Arts routine to happen outdoors in the parking lot. And when it wasn't or covid numbers prevented it, we continued to keep in touch with our young families through porch drops offs and at home activities. For the youth, it turned out it worked best to not offer regular Sunday school, but instead plan gatherings around projects and fun activities that could be quickly adapted or moved based on covid precautions. While I still mourn all that we missed out on which we had hoped would be a part of this year, I also celebrate the victory we've had of making it through another year of unprecedented times together as successfully as we have. Thank you again to all in the church who make our values a reality, especially in difficult times!

Peace and blessings,

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

OUR STAFF

April Hemmerlein, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool

With the announcement in March of plans for Barb Newton to retire, we began the transition of the Director position last spring. We were able to recognize, celebrate and thank Barb for her many years of service to our Preschool and Church. As a part of that celebration, individuals were able to donate to a scholarship fund in Barb's name through the Heritage Fund.

Covid was still very present and therefore impacted many operations at preschool throughout the year. One positive accomplishment was Preschool was able to move the registration process online instead of in person. All families were able to register through a link on the website instead of waiting hours in line. We found the online process to be much more efficient for families and for our office staff.

In June, we were able to offer a three-week summer program to all students enrolled in our program. We shifted the focus of the program from a camp-like atmosphere to an "extension of the school year". The three age groups reviewed concepts and skills to minimize learning loss due to Covid during the previous school year. We had over 50 students participate in the three-week program.

In October 2021, Preschool applied for and was awarded the Build, Learn, Grow Stabilization Grant. The funding from this grant is aimed at helping to strengthen and support Early Childhood programming in the state of Indiana. Allowable expenses include personnel costs, facility maintenance and improvements, covid-19 safety-related needs, goods and services to strengthen operations, mental health supports for children and employees, and health and safety training. So far, this has already allowed us to provide bonuses for staff, fund a raise in our hourly pay rates to attract new personnel and substitutes, share in the cost for new LED lights in the gym, replace outdated heating, air and windows in the preschool business office, as well as purchase the needed Covid-19 supplies to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

In December, applications for our scholarship program were made available to all students and community members. We anticipate being able to fund over \$18,000 in scholarships with help from the Policy Board, church and its members, and community donors. These scholarships for next school year will be awarded in February.

While this year has had its challenges, we look forward to another great year at Preschool. We are blessed with a phenomenal staff and wonderful families. We have been able to remain open all year while other programs have closed and the funding from the Build, Learn, Grow Grant not only helps us to be financially stable it will allow for some great opportunities in the coming year that we have never had before! It's an exciting time to be a part of our preschool program!

April Hemmerlein

SESSION REPORTS

Adult Fellowship and Education (AFE)

Members: Dale Nowlin (Co-Chair), Sandy Thomas, Bill Jones, Roger Brinkman, Jeff Johnson, Johanna Anderson, Katie Booth, Craig Dismore, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Bill Watts, Joy Basa-King (Chair)

The goal of the Adult Fellowship and Education (AFE) is to encourage everyday spirituality, reach out to young adults, and address social justice issues through formal and informal sessions, and fellowship. This was accomplished by the following:

Throughout the year, AFE hosted a virtual Coffee Hour following most Sunday worship sessions by Zoom with intermittent in-person fellowship. The virtual coffee hour lasted about 45 minutes. The coffee hours were structured with unstructured conversation followed by a 30-minute discussion on the worships' scripture and sermon to facilitate deepened education and connection. It provided an opportunity to connect with other people, get to know new folks, or get to know people better. Discussion and interaction were part of the sessions, and to join in, it was not necessary to be a Bible expert and it was acceptable simply to join to listen. Most often the questions people bring spur the most robust conversation. Because of high interest and attendance, AFE plans to continue with Coffee Hour and discussion time. Open to all to join, the zoom link can be found in the newsletter or Friday e-blast. <https://zoom.us/j/214025301>

Additionally, AFE sponsored a six-week Lenten Journey small group study in collaboration with the Myrtle Project on The Stories We Live by Kathleen A. Cahalan. Seven groups made up of about five participants each met over six weeks to discuss the topic of calling and the relationship of personal calling to church purpose. A deeper interpersonal connection amongst participants was generally reported. With the introduction of summer, Patio Parties provided opportunities to meet in person over a shared meal strengthening congregational fellowship amongst people who are close or who have just met. With the help of Donut Central's donut truck, a congregation-wide Donut Sunday event brought everyone together for a shared snack after worship - a much-needed opportunity to greet, meet and reconnect safely outside in the parking lot. A summer Fairlawn co-sponsored movie event supported interchurch relationship building. AFE wrapped up the year with an Advent Study led by Marietta Macy on the topics of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Finally, if you would like to be a part of AFE, we welcome your input and participation. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 pm. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712169407>

Special appreciation to Leah Jackman-Wheitner and Sandy Thomas for their faithful dedication and engaging facilitation of Coffee Hour and Sunday School. Also, special thanks to Dale Nowlin for the coordination of many successful fellowship projects and Bill Watts for routinely filling in the gaps. In the midst of the continued pandemic, AFE adapted by creating new ways to achieve its strategic purpose in providing fellowship and learning activities for our congregation. 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 relationship with each other and with God.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Basa-King

SESSION REPORTS

Children's Nurture (CN) Committee

Chair: Erik Anderson (session representative)

Staff: Marietta Macy

Members: Sunny Currier, Lisa Porter, Stephanie Cunningham, Izzie Nowlin

Youth Elder: Elaine Sanders

The Children's Nurture Committee continued its quest to stay connected with young families through another unusual year. It ended up being a year full of activities with the goal to stay connected. The group hosted a free donut event in celebration of Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. The event was held in the parking lot where the Donut Central food truck parked for any families interested to safely connect and enjoy fellowship. In March, we coordinated a homemade pizza event where all young families received a bag of pizza ingredients, salad, and cookies to assemble and make with the family. The next month we held an Easter egg hunt filled with candy for the kids. The outside events continued in May when Marietta hosted a pollinator flower planting party. In August, we created a back to school (pirate themed once again) celebration to kick off being back in person for Sunday school that included cotton candy, pirate ducks, and a sand treasure hunt. At the end of that same month, families met out at Camp PYOCA for a day of fun by the lake. Lunch was provided along with water games and many other fun activities. At the end of October, the group celebrated Halloween with a "Trunk or Treat" event where candy was passed out in the parking lot and families were able to mingle. There was even a "make your own" rocket launching activity. This was a very popular event where many families from Columbus (outside of just members) attended and were welcomed. At the end of November, we passed out advent wreaths kits and advent devotionals (annual tradition) to these families or dropped them off for those that didn't attend. We were happy to be involved in the Christmas story telling service again this year.

Sunday school looked a bit different this year due to COVID-19. August through November allowed outside crafts and events for those interested after the 9:30 service. Attendance varied as parents/families got comfortable navigating health risks throughout the year.

Outside of these major events, there were some small improvements and changes like supplies/crafts purchased when there was water damage in January, 2021. Children participated in a backpack project for Social Justice committee (writing notes) in the middle of the year. We also coordinated a baby blanket and a new baby welcome letter for Oliver Staley's birth. Just before Christmas, the children received gifts which included a book and an ornament.

As we look at 2022 the committee felt proud of the events created and realized in these uncertain times there is always an opportunity to connect.

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

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture (YN) Committee

Youth Nurture Committee Members: Brook Brown, Stephanie Cunningham, Sunny Currier, Julie Daiker (Chair), Michael Martinez, 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. We were still able to accomplish quite a bit of community service, and also enjoy some fun social events.

We got to recognize our high school grads in a virtual worship service, honoring them with a moving video tribute created by Marietta. We added to the celebration with a fun car parade to the homes of all the grads, dropping off gifts and prayer shawls. Throughout the year, our older college & career aged youth were sent birthday cards, and care packages during finals. Thanks to Brook Brown, Samantha Harpring, Linda Pierson, Debbie George and Nancy Edwards for a great job.

In February, the youth led the congregation in their Super Bowl collection, raising \$1,021.00 for Love Chapel. Thanks to the Spurgeon family for making the video for this fundraiser.

Youth were able to help once a month with preparing and boxing Hot Meals through October. Youth also served as lay leaders, ushers, and have participated in videos used as part of worship streaming.

In honor of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, we made creative button pins that Turning Point incorporated into a piece of community art shaped like a butterfly.

Our youth, with the assistance of Doug Sprunger, Tim Frazier, and Nathan Eaton, built three dog houses which we donated to the Columbus Animal Care Services Department, to give to families with animals needing shelter.

With Trick or Treat feeling less safe for families in this time of Covid-19, the youth group helped to provide a Trunk or Treat event for the church children. Several youths decorated their family car trunks, prepared treat bags, and handed out treats in costume.

The youth group took their responsibility seriously in choosing the local recipient of the 2021 Pentecost Offering which supports children and youth at risk. This year the money went to the Foundation for Youth. Michael Martinez had been working with their programs as a volunteer, saw a need, and shared it with the youth group. He created a presentation to the congregation detailing the need to support FFY scholarships and raised \$180.00. The youth had chosen our local Pride Festival to receive the local portion of the 2020 offering, but since the event had to be held virtually in 2020, the donation was used for the 2021 festival. Our donation was honored by designating the church a Silver Level sponsor. Riley Shinn made a wonderfully informative and touching video for the virtual 2020 event. Sebastian Sych created an awesome piece of art, which was displayed at our church booth at the festival this year.

Fun and fellowship happened despite the covid challenges. The Youth Group had a few winter bonfires so we could gather outside, masked. Some of the youth enjoyed attending the all-church family day at Camp Pyoca. We had a fun fall outdoor outing at Apple Works. Ziplining in Brown County was an adventure for all. We were able to

gather for a Halloween party and our annual decorating of Shirley King's yard. Our Thankfest gathering this year got us thinking about the burdens this pandemic has put on local health care workers. We started a project of making special poster-cards for the health care workers in our congregation, which we hope to complete in early 2022. We had a fun Christmas party, and managed to stuff 100 stockings for area children in foster care and wrap gifts for a family in need. We're looking forward to what 2022 will bring.

We also want to thank Michael Martinez for serving as youth elder this past year. He provided us with new insight and options. We are grateful for his commitment, leadership, time, and energy that he has provided to the committee.

SESSION REPORTS

Mission Support Grants for 2021

Mission Support was allocated \$36,078.42 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.

- \$5,455 Power of Love Foundation to support a micro-loan program in Zambia equipping women with the tools they need to run a successful business, create conditions for women to be socially empowered, and enable women to collect enough capital and savings so they continue to operate a profitable business even after graduating from the program.
- \$500 Bethany Christian Services of Indianapolis to provide backpacks for unaccompanied immigrant minors (children who cross the US/Mexico border without a legal guardian). Bethany Christian Services has been involved in serving refugees and asylum seekers for over 20 years. Children in this program are referred to Bethany through the Office of Refugee Resettlement. This grant was for backpacks to give to kids upon their arrival, filled with needed items.
- \$500 Fresh Start Recovery Landscape Tools to purchase for the Fresh Start Recovery building. New landscaping was added to the building including native plants and pollinators and was led by Eric Riddle. This grant purchased tools such as hand trowel, hand pruner, edging shovel, weed eater/edger, city green waste toter, and garden hoe and rake to be used by residents in the upkeep of the landscaping.
- \$5,000 Fresh Start Recovery Preschool Scholarship to enable children of the women staying at this inpatient residential drug recovery program to attend preschool at First Presbyterian Church Preschool.
- \$500 Beloved Backpacks providing funding for purchase of items to fill backpacks for unaccompanied immigrant minors through program at Bethany Christian Services of Indianapolis.
- \$250 Arbor Day Tree Planting/Columbus Park Foundation to provide funds for trees to be planted as part of an Arbor Day celebration through the Columbus Park Foundation. Local churches were all asked to donate.
- \$1,000 Sewing Inspirations Committee to provide supplies for Christmas stockings the group sews for all hospice patients at Our Hospice of South-Central Indiana and for 20 shut-ins who attend our church. Sewing Inspirations makes the stockings and Hospice fills them.
- \$7,500 Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County to purchase furnace and AC for the transitional housing unit which houses homeless families in Bartholomew County.
- \$1,000 Hot Meals to pay for higher meal preparation expenses during the pandemic and increased cost of serving meals.
- \$1,000 Thrive Alliance Adult Guardianship Holiday Assistance to support the non-profit in purchasing Christmas gifts for the people in the program.

SESSION REPORTS

Mission Support Grants for 2021

\$1,000 Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) to support their work coordinating the rebuilding and renovating of low-income homes in NOLA by working with college age people, youth groups, and adult volunteer groups, and youth summer camps. Our youth group was hosted by this organization for the summer mission trip in 2018.

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

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

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Committee: Lynne Hyatt (moderator), Pastor Felipe Martinez (staff), and Janet Sharpe, Leigh Ann Figg, and Karlene Kurtz

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.

Staff reviews were done in January of 2021 (for year ended 2020), and Cola increases retroactive to 1-1-21. Staff reviews for year 2021 were completed in November 2021, with the exception of Pastor Felipe's, which will be early 2022. Bonuses were given at the end of 2021 to the professional and support staff to show appreciation for their good work and dedication. Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees was supported at 6% to be effective January 1, 2022. The congregation will vote to approve the same adjustment for Felipe Martinez at the annual meeting which affects both housing and salary. A small increase was given for the Church Administrative Assistant which when combined with the COLA increase, meets her request for a competitive wage rate.

Personnel requested, and Session approved job title/description changes. Church Secretary is changed to Church Administrative Assistant, and Finance Secretary changed to Financial Administrative Assistant.

Given the impact of Covid in 2020 and 2021, Personnel recommended to Session that Roll over of Continuing Ed - Time and Money be approved.

Committee also approved adding Sick days to pastor compensation. This will be presented to the congregational meeting Jan 2022, and will realign FPC Pastor compensation package with Presbytery of Ohio Valley 2022 minimum Compensation Standards.

A proposal regarding music ministry was reviewed late in the year, and approved by Session in January 2022. This redefines the Music Director to two positions: Choir Director and Organist. Given Diane's long-term plans, an opportunity presented itself, and Session has approved. Dianne will remain as the Organist.

The Personnel Committee is happy to report that our Church Staff is a strong team. Flexibility and adjusting for new challenges have become a way of life.

Again, in 2021, despite the challenges of limited 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, 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. 2021 was a busy but good year with the Property Committee overseeing the projects listed below.

Projects for 2021:

1. We installed a new church-wide water softener. The old one had completely failed.
2. Case Construction sealed and restriped our north parking lot. This will extend the life of the asphalt and it looks much better.
3. Last summer we had 4K HD surveillance cameras, and a completely meshed Wi-Fi system, installed to provide coverage for the entire building, parking lot, alleys, and entrances. This will help us with any questions that might arise on vandalism or child safety. The videos will be kept for 30+ days before being overwritten.
4. There have been a number of HAVAC system failures and repairs. As Felipe has asked "has FPC bought Marshall Mech. a new recreational yacht"... no but this work is not inexpensive, it is a complex and large system providing boiler heating, and multiple air conditioning units.
5. The new audio/video booth, in the sanctuary, was completed and it matches the existing woodwork. Luther Pearson, Chris George and Jason Tracy have been the chief operators of this new AV system, thanks.
6. Automatic ADA door openers from the north Franklin Street entrance to the church have been installed. This project was enabled by a generous gift from one of our members, thank you!!
7. The Property Committee had all of our FPC locks rekeyed so that master keys will work on all locks. Brook Brown manages a log book of who has these new keys, as they required being signed for.
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.

Projects in-process, or already completed, for 2022:

- 1) FPC had a significant boiler failure, on our 1950 era gas fired boiler. This failure has required replacement and that work is in process. The replacement boilers will be 95% efficient gas fired boilers. We are replacing the old cast iron (large) boiler with two smaller boilers (240M BTU each). That will give us 3 modern boilers that are 95% efficient. The gas boilers provide heating for the entire church, except for the sanctuary, which has an independent gas furnace.
- 2) The 30 overhead lights in our gym have needed replacement. They have now been replaced during our Christmas break, with all new flat panel high intensity LED lights. This work required scaffolding and 3 electricians working for 3 days. It was a large job, and you will notice a big difference. A grant received by the Preschool helped pay for this project.

Respectfully submitted,
Zack Ellison
Property Committee Chair

SESSION REPORTS

Safe Church Committee

"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

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

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 in May (Deacons) and June (Elders) as there was no earlier opportunity or Officer Retreat due to Covid constraints.

Two of our facility safety goals were completed this year. Due to special fund availability, one of our goals, an ADA compliant accessible entrance, was completed. Another goal was to add security camera coverage, but due to the age of our camera system, it was not possible to add to it. After a vandalism incident to our property, the Foundation offered to make funds available to replace the security camera system with a new, technically updated system. This was completed, and our whole security system and WiFi are now updated, more complete, and easier to monitor. Big thanks to the Property Committee for making it all happen.

As we navigated livestreaming our worship service, we discussed safety and privacy concerns with the public sharing of medical prayer requests, and with congregants appearing in the video feed. We discussed these concerns with Staff, and communicated to the congregation in the September Newsletter, Friday reminder, and on Facebook, the guidelines by which we can protect personal privacy in sharing prayer requests. The back 6 pews were designated to be a video-free zone.

We completed work on the Emergency Procedures document for use in case of fire, tornado, or active shooter. It will be submitted to Session in 2022, and we hope to implement communication and training with the congregation in the spring. We made recommendations for the Facility Use Agreement, which is being updated in consideration of recommendations from our insurers.

Sunny Currier, Moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Committee membership: Ann Jones, Sarah Sanders, Cara Bywater, Tess Weathers, Heather Reeves, Amy Hale, Vern Jorck, Richard Safford with staff support from Felipe Martinez

Matthew 25: 35-36 "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

In 2021, the Social Justice Committee made the proposal to the Session that First Presbyterian Church begin the journey to become a Matthew 25 church. Matthew 25 churches are PC(USA) congregations that align their social justice objectives to the goals of Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. This year, the Social Justice Committee will support this work. Thank you to Cara Bywater for leading this initiative in 2022.

This has been a tough year for the committee after we lost both Sherm Franz and Gretchen Laemmer. Their contributions to the social justice committee spanned decades and made a real difference in the church and the community. We miss them, and we hope that our work honors their memory. In 2021 the Social Justice Committee continued to work on ways First Presbyterian Church can help those facing hunger and poverty; we also focus our efforts on homelessness, racism, healthcare, climate change, and fair immigration reform. The work of this committee is often geared toward allocating funding to support people and organizations already working toward these goals. However, we try to intentionally design opportunities for engagement and education, not just on financial giving.

Here is some of the work we contributed to in 2021:

- We submitted a second multi-year Foundation grant for \$40,000 to be used over 4 years to support undocumented Latino students. If the grant is approved, our funds will be matched by private donations. Matt Souza spoke about this work during church and adult fellowship on 1/16/22.
- We approved a grant for \$7500 to pay for the installation of a new HVAC system at the Lafayette Street shelter operated by Love Chapel for homeless families with children.
- We donated our 25% share of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to Team Rubicon to support Afghan resettlement to align with the work of other groups within the church to sponsor an Afghan family locally.
- We decided to make our financial support of Bright Stars in Bethlehem (2021) and Power of Love (2022) recurring line items in the church budget so that our annual giving can help provide higher education opportunities to Muslims and Christians in Palestine and help eradicate pediatric AIDS & HIV and provide micro-loans to individuals working toward self-sufficiency in Zambia.
- We led an effort to provide bags with PJs and other necessities to Bethany Christian Services for immigrant children arriving through the US southern border who will be reunited with family members in the US

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice cont.

- We supported the African American Fund's Community Anti-Racism Films Screenings, including Good Trouble: The John Lewis Story.
- We participated in the annual Bread for the World letter writing campaign which was successful in lobbying the government for continued funds to address food insecurity at home and abroad.
- We approved a Mission Support Grant for landscaping tools for the new Fresh Start Recovery building and scholarships for children from there to attend our pre-school.
- We continued to show our support for the LGBTQ+ with our flags in the loggia, and in September our Pride 'Doors are always open' display outside and presence at the Columbus Pride Festival.
- Janet Sharpe and her team continued the Sweet Dreams Mission and made Christmas stockings for Hospice and children in need in our community.
- We increased the Hot Meals budget substantially to help pay for additional food and containers for the increased need during the pandemic.
- We decided to begin sponsoring a quarterly Adult Education Hour on topics related to social justice locally, nationally, and internationally. Our first session will be in response to drone warfare.

Through the Community Mission budget, FPC also provided financial support totaling \$31,588 to a variety of local organizations – The Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County (Love Chapel & Brighter Days), BCSC Book Buddies, Family Self-Sufficiency, Horizon House, Hot Meals, The Mill Race Center, Turning Point, Just Friends, FPC Pre-School Scholarships, and Su Casa.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.
Sarah Sanders and Ann Jones
Moderators of the 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. FPC desires to be an open church, and an affirming Church, in an open and affirming community.

In 2021, the big event for the Open and Affirming Committee ("Committee") was in conjunction with the community's Columbus Pride Festival, held on September 18, 2021, at Mill Race Park. The Pride Festival was held safely on a sunny, warm Saturday afternoon with some 3,000 people attending – individuals and entire families. FPC was an exhibitor and a "Silver Level" donor, and volunteers from our church shared flags and pins and information about our church during the five-hour event. The festival was a welcoming and affirming event, celebrating inclusion of all into the life of our community.

"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.

Rich Stenner

SESSION REPORTS

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Our Team

- The members who served on the Stewardship and Finance Committee for some or all of 2021 included: Treasurer Vern Jorck, Cindy Frey, Lynne Hyatt, Mary Ann McCray, Chip Orben, Charlie Farber, Luther Pierson, and Rich Stenner. Rev. Felipe Martinez 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

- The committee continues to be inspired by the generosity we witness at First Presbyterian. In spite of limited in-person worship and programming, we recognized the Holy Spirit at work in our church. The work of the church continues.
- We balanced the 2021 budget thanks to the use of \$16,000 of Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds. The Church, together with the Preschool, received a \$136,900 allocation in 2020 to help with pandemic support. The Preschool used \$108,000 of PPP in 2020, and the Church used part of the remaining proceeds this year. The remaining funds are available for 2022, if needed.
- The Fall 2021 annual stewardship campaign theme was "Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve." There were two direct mailings to the congregation, video-taped minutes for stewardship, and numerous reminders in the newsletters. Additionally, Sunny Currier executed a series of Facebook posts featuring members contributing their time and talents to the church through acts of service. Thank you, Sunny!

2022 Stewardship Campaign Results

- Our campaign for 2022 is nearly complete. We have 20 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 mid-January 2022, there were 87 pledges, including 12 new pledges, totaling \$493,000. Pledge amounts increased by 8% on average.
- We anticipate that with additional pledges this year, continued membership growth and continued giving from our members who are faithful givers but choose not to pledge, we will be able to successfully fund our 2022 programs.
- The Treasurer drafted the Church's budget for 2022, based on input from all the working groups within the Church, which the Session approved in December, considering the preliminary good news from the fall campaign.

SESSION REPORTS

SPECIAL OFFERING RESULTS 2021

We conducted the Love Chapel Food Pantry Offering in January. In addition to this offering, we conduct four other special Presbyterian denominational offerings each year. Last year these five offerings raised \$11,761. The results of all these special offerings over the last five years are as follows:

	<i>Special Offerings</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Love Chapel Food Pantry (Jan)	\$4,014	\$3,746	\$2,055	\$3,836	\$3,766
2	One Great Hour of Sharing (Mar)	\$4,070	\$3,174	\$3,526	\$5,125	\$2,250
3	Pentecost (May)	\$1,289	\$3,032	\$1,955	\$1,860	\$500
4	Peace and Global Witness (Oct)	\$1,447	\$2,504	\$1,973	\$315	\$2,460
5	Christmas Joy (Dec)	\$1,580	\$2,881	\$3,142	\$2,370	\$2,785
	Total	\$12,400	\$15,337	\$12,651	\$13,506	\$11,761

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

FPC FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

FUND 01 -- OPERATIONS -- 100% of Year Complete

PRELIMINARY

	2021	2021	2022	Percent
	<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Change</u>
INCOME				
Pledge and Gift Income	\$550,272 <u>1/</u>	\$558,066	\$588,507 <u>3/</u>	
Other Income	\$47,182 <u>2/</u>	\$45,091	\$40,091	
Total Income	\$597,454	\$603,157	\$628,598	4.22%
EXPENSES				
Church Program				
Nurture				
- Children's Nurture	\$9,905	\$9,789	\$10,714	
- Youth Nurture	\$5,362	\$5,650	\$5,650	
- Adult Fellowship & Ed	\$1,560	\$1,950	\$1,950	
Total Nurture	\$16,827	\$17,389	\$18,314	
General Program Exp.	\$0	\$750	\$750	
Music	\$2,653	\$6,921	\$7,333	
Social Justice	\$2,357	\$2,400	\$2,200	
Worship	\$2,780	\$3,300	\$4,236	
Stewardship	\$2,850	\$3,450	\$3,450	
Deacon Expense	\$443	\$1,240	\$1,240	
Celebration of Life	\$401	\$500	\$500	
Subtotal Church Program	\$28,311	\$35,950	\$38,023	5.77%
Mission Giving	\$72,980	\$73,010	\$77,810	6.57%
Professional Staff				
Pastor	\$117,638	\$117,775	\$124,452	5.67%
Director of CYAM	\$67,296	\$67,475	\$70,458	4.42%
Choir Dir/Organist	\$53,777	\$53,239	\$56,313	5.77%
Subtotal Professional Staff	\$238,711	\$238,489	\$251,223	5.34%
Office Expenses	\$78,584	\$85,467	\$89,003	4.14%
Facility Expenses	\$159,332	\$150,748	\$152,759	1.33%
Other Expenses	\$19,536	\$19,492	\$19,780	1.48%
Total Expenses	\$597,454	\$603,157	\$628,598	4.22%
Net Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Cash Balances

	<u>12/31/20</u>	<u>12/31/21</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Fund	\$133,504 <u>1/</u>	\$177,468 <u>2/</u>	\$43,964
All Other Funds	\$274,915 <u>4/</u>	\$253,797 <u>5/</u>	-\$21,119
Cumulative	\$408,419	\$431,265	\$22,845

1/ Includes \$67,166 in prepaid pledges from 2020. 2/ includes \$15,941 in Federal Paycheck Protection Program Funds.

3/ Includes \$105,353 in prepaid pledges from 2021.

4/ Includes \$46,606 in Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Funds. 5/ Includes \$12,365 in PPP Funds.

**The Reverend Felipe Martinez, Full-time Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
2022 Compensation**

<u>CASH COMPENSATION</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	
Cash Salary	\$50,414	\$53,439	6% increase
Housing Allowance	<u>\$30,809</u>	<u>\$32,657</u>	6% increase
Effective Salary	\$81,223	\$86,096	Cash Salary plus Housing Allowance
Pension/Health	\$30,052	\$31,856	2021 -- 37% of Effective Salary 2022 -- 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	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	reimbursed at current IRS rate
Total Cash Compensation	<u>\$117,775</u>	<u>\$124,452</u>	
 <u>OTHER COMPENSATION</u>			
Vacation	5 weeks	5 weeks	
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	
Sick Days	N/A	10 days	cumulative up to 120 days; lost at end of employment -- effective January 1, 2022

Sweet Dreams Ministry Annual Report 2021

Sweet Dreams Ministry helped several children in 2021 by providing new beds. This is our fourth year providing beds for children who live in Bartholomew County. Most of our referrals came from the Department of Child Services but we had a few others from Advocates for Children (CASA), a school counselor, a request from a caseworker from George Junior Republic who is working with a DCS caseworker, and even one from the Probation Department.

DCS requests beds for their unlicensed relative placement who do not get any form of reimbursement for caring for children whereas foster parents are reimbursed for these expenses. The caseworker who is requesting a bed will let us know the child's favorite colors and what they enjoy. This year the favorite for the younger boys was Spiderman and the younger girls requested pink and lavender fairies and unicorns so those are the comforters they got for their beds. We also provided stuffed toys and books.

While we deliver mostly twin beds, we did set up two bunkbeds, two cribs, one toddler bed and 13 twin beds. Most of the children were in placement with a grandmother and one was with a "chosen" grandmother. One child who had no relatives was welcomed into the home of a classmate.

When we took a bed to a 7-year boy, he stood behind us and kept saying "I want to get in my bed." When the last pillow was put on, he leapt onto the bed and clutched his new Spiderman doll. The doll will keep him safe at night. When we were leaving, the little boy wanted to say a prayer - "Dear God, thank you for my new bed." That just says it all.

We are so grateful to you, our church, for this opportunity to help provide some stability and love to these children who so desperately need it. Each bed that we provide costs approximately \$250. Thank you for your support and please hold these children in your hearts and prayers.

People who helped with deliveries this past year include Kerry, Alan, Linda and Luther, Terri, Roger, Emily, and Janet and Ted.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Sharpe

WoodWeShare Ministries 2021 Annual Report

WoodWeShare is serving five families for the 2021-2022 heating season. Two families were added from referrals by Human Services who administrates Indiana's Energy Assistance Program in Bartholomew County. Another two didn't need help last season but remembered WoodWeShare and contacted us for assistance this season. Ten deliveries were made during the summer months to make room for 2022-2023 production. Another six deliveries have been made so far for the 2021-2022 heating season. A total of twelve deliveries were made for 2020-2021.

Three new volunteers have joined this including Richard Safford who led a similar (but much larger) ministry in New Mexico. New volunteers are always welcome. Breathe the crisp air, exercise some forgotten muscles and get in touch with a simpler time when life was local. Most of our wood travels less than 10 miles from stump to stack to stove.

Submitted by Doug Sprunger

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee

Committee Members: Anna Denoyer, Eric Erickson, Terri Glackin, Amy McCormick, Anthony Merida, Clare Moore (Moderator), Hanna Salas, 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, purchase of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter and delivery of them to members unable to join us for worship, supporting last minute prayer requests during the service, and preparing the PowerPoint service bulletin. 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 2021:

- In January, Worship Services remained paused for 'in-person' attendance, and continued on streaming only through late May. During the time in which we were not worshipping inside in-person and as an alternative to being inside, we were able to have a few outdoor services including our Easter Sunrise service, our Donner Park summer service (June 13), and a special creation Sunday service on Sept. 12 in the middle of Franklin Street. A parking lot venue was also made available as a safe option for members and families to view the streamed service weekly during the months that weather was warmer.
- The AV production of services for streaming was fully implemented with the construction of a new booth, camera and other improved equipment.
- In the early Spring, we contacted most of the smaller Presbyterian churches in our presbytery to invite them to join us online for Worship, assuming some of them may be too small to be able to manage the switch to streamed services.
- The Worship Committee had two outdoor signs made to hang from the fencing around the church inviting all members, friends and neighbors to join us on streaming on Sunday morning.
- Members of the committee continued to support our streamed services with modifications required for safety including recorded lay liturgists and PowerPoint bulletins.
- For Lent, Dianne Sprunger, Lisa Porter, Marietta Macy and Terri Glackin came up with a very creative multi-generational "Fruits of the Spirits" activity. Rocks were painted with the names of the different 'fruits' and hidden in various public places and in members' yards, and congregants were invited to go search for the rocks in small groups. The project was a wonderful way to combine art, safe community connection, and fun with a scriptural theme.

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee cont.

- 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 ashes event for Ash Wednesday, drive-by palm pick up for Palm Sunday, the socially-distanced summer service at Donner Park on June 13, a special All Saints Day that honored with pictures of those who had passed away in the previous year, and two in-person Christmas Eve services with many safety adjustments.
- We supported several guest preachers to provide Felipe with some time away – including Marietta Macy, Rev. Catherine Knott (Chaplain of Hanover College), member and pastor Sharon Williams, Rev. Dr. Sara Dingman (Synod of Lincoln Trails, Indianapolis), Rev. Susan McGee (Ohio Valley Presbytery Executive), and new member and retired pastor Rev. Richard Safford.
- In late May, COVID numbers had fallen and Session voted to resume services indoors and streamed to the parking lot, where worshipers could experience the service in community. We were able to adapt with precautionary measures such as distancing, masking, no singing, and a shortened service, and offered communion with pre-packaged individual elements
- 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. The Parking Lot choir returned for its second summer to record music for streaming services. When COVID cases declined enough to be safe for short, distanced gatherings, Dianne held choir and bells practice with consistently safe protocol.
- 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.
- Beginning on All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 7), we were able to begin meeting in-person in the sanctuary with our previous precautions and while continuing all streaming options for those who were not comfortable being present in-person. The parking lot service did not shut down for cold weather until early November, at which time we transitioned that option to the gym.
- We were able to continue meeting in person through the end of the year, allowing us to have Advent and two Christmas services in-person – a 6:30 p.m. child-friendly outdoor 'telling the story' service, and a more traditional service at 8:00 p.m. including candlelight and communion on Franklin Street. We received many positive comments about how lovely it was to be able to be in our beautiful sanctuary during that special season, with all of our traditional decorations and the beautiful poinsettias.

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 as well as with pre-recorded readings each week during Sunday worship. We also extend sincere gratitude to Leah Jackman-Wheatner who has faithfully hosted the Zoom worship participants each Sunday, the AV team consisting of Luther Person, Chris George, and Jason Tracy for the dedication each Sunday in supporting our streaming process, Danny Clark for continuing to share his

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee cont.

musical talent on special Sundays, and Carla Warren for contributing her negative space artwork which the congregation helped create during the central theme in our September 12 Genesis service held on Franklin Street.

Respectfully submitted, Clare Moore (Moderator)

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons

Deacons report to be given at another date.

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2021 Annual Report

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

2021 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available \$113,653.11
(*)

2021 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:

Mission support (1/3 of available funds)	\$36,078.42
Hispanic Scholarship (Year 4 of 4)	10,000.00
Children’s Library (Year 4 of 5)	1,000.00
Pan American School Technology	10,000.00
Church Camera Surveillance System	19,829.00

2021 Total Grant Disbursements from Unrestricted Funds

\$76,907.42

Remaining Balance at 12/31/21

\$36,745.69

2021 Grants Awarded from Restricted Funds – none this year

Foundation Balances at 12/31/21

Vanguard Investment Account	\$4,094,204.00
Columbarium – New Covenant Investments	33,449.51
Columbarium – First Financial Checking	6,967.69
Organ Maintenance – New Covenant Investments	155,687.43
Harrison Youth Fund – New Covenant Investments	15,668.76
Foundation – First Financial Checking	19,118.85

Other

Reeves Fund <i>(Endowed benefit trust held at the Heritage Fund)</i>	\$1,076,887.21
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Highlights during 2021

- Clean audit for 2020 conducted by Agresta, Storms & O’Leary.
- The Vanguard portfolio of unrestricted mutual fund investments continues to perform well, especially in the bull market of the last couple of years. As of the end of 2021, it had performed in the top half of its peer group for last 5 year period.
- Our annual Legacy Circle appreciation event was cancelled for the second year in a row due to COVID concerns. Although there is no substitute to being able to gather in person, board member Joy King was able to continue to keep our Legacy Circle members informed with periodic newsletters.
- Ms. Laverne Winn, age 93, died in California in the fall of 2020 and directed a generous bequest to the FPC Foundation. While this gift was not expected and we have limited knowledge of her connection to our church, it is clear that Ms. Winn intended her gift to be directed to our Foundation, as she indicated our specific Tax ID on her investment document.
- A second generous gift was received from a member towards the end of 2021 as a part of tax planning on that individual’s part.

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2021b Annual Report continued

2021 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

David Boatwright	Investment Committee
Doug Bonnell	Secretary (Ending final term 12/31/21)
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 (Ending final term 12/31/21)

We give heartfelt thanks to Doug and Dan who are both retiring from the board after serving faithfully and competently for a total of 10 years each.

Memorial & Honorarium Gifts

During 2021, the Foundation received a total of \$4,305.00 remembering our loved ones and honoring the wonderful contributions others have made:

Memorials:

Ren Renshaw
Olga Martinez
Sherm Franz
Eleanor Haltom
Gretchen Laemmer

Honoring:

John Sawin

Grants

Those interested in applying for a grant are encouraged to contact any Foundation Board member 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/> .

2022 FPC Foundation meeting dates:

February, 1, April 6, June 1, August 2, October 4, December 6 (annual meeting).

Respectfully submitted, Clare Moore (Board President)

First Presbyterian Church Foundation
2022 Board Directors and Officers

Board of Directors:

David Boatwright
Tim Denoyer
Kelly Geckler
Colleen Herrick
Bill Jones
Joy King
Clare Moore
Janet Putney

Officers:

Secretary - Bill Jones
Treasurer- Colleen Herrick
Vice President - Kelly Geckler
President - Clare Moore



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