

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION STATEMENT

As an inclusive community empowered by God's transforming love, we welcome all people through worship, compassionate service, care, and advocacy.

STAFF

PastorThe Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez
Director of Children and Youth Ministries.....Jen Riddle
Organist.....Jordan Lewis
Choir Director.....Jenny Heichelbech
Preschool Director.....April Hemmerlein
Church Administrative AssistantBrook Brown
Financial Administrative Assistant.....Leigh Ann Figg
Sunday Custodian.....Wayne Huff
Choir Collaborative Pianist.....Ellie Hartline

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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; More Light Presbyterians.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Membership

Information provided in this Annual Report covers
January – December 2025

Active Members as of 12/31/24 435

New Members 12

Rhonda Reed (3/19/25); Tim Dunaway (3/19/25); Jayme Zobrist (3/19/25);
Alison Virostko (3/30/25); Basil Miller (4/27/25); Vince Cochran (6/11/25); Jordan
Lewis (8/20/25); Andrew McKinney (8/20/25); Diana Holloway (9/17/25);
John Bushouse (9/17/25); Bob and Kay Williams (12/17/25).

Deceased Members 9

Ben Bush (1/6/25); Jim Farrar (3/14/25); Paul Spurgeon (3/25/25);
Bob Orben (4/13/25); Katie Booth (5/20/25); Edith Ziegler (6/7/25); John Sawin
(6/29/25); Tom Carmichael (9/17/25); Eva May McMillan (11/12/25)

Baptisms

Children 2

Alison Virostko (3/30/25); Annie DeJarnette (4/27/25)

Adults 1

Basil Miller (4/27/25)

Active members as of 12/31/25 435

More Information :

+123-456-7890

Our Staff

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025 REV. DR. FELIPE N. MARTINEZ

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:9*

Thanks be to God as we have entered our third century of ministry as a congregation! God is indeed faithful, and we seek to serve God and one another with “energy, intelligence, imagination and love” (PCUSA Book of Order, W-4.0404h)

The biggest impact of our work together this year has been the completion and beginning of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. A core team, with the guidance of Holy Cow! Consulting, took about nine months to listen to the congregation, to each other, and unveiled in mid 2025 these key new statements for our church:

Our Mission: As an inclusive community empowered by God's transforming love, we welcome all people through worship, compassionate service, care, and advocacy.

Our Vision Statement: We aspire to be known as a congregation who authentically celebrates diverse voices and co-creates engaging, accessible worship, which empowers us to connect and serve as a reflection of Jesus' love.

Our implementation (with leadership from the Strategic Plan team, the session and the deacons) will revolve around three specific targets:

Strategic Target #1 Worship Planning and Meaningful Content: We will create worship that is spiritually meaningful, personally inspirational, and provides a pathway bringing us closer to God and each other.

Strategic Target #2 Listening, Connecting, and Relationship Building: We will build intentional connection time into every gathering, seeking new opportunities to develop deeper relationships with one another.

Strategic Target #3 Love in Action: We will show God's love in genuine ways through service with our neighbors and church family.

In the area of worship, one our most public and impactful activities as a congregation, we have leaned into collaboration to shape worship, thanks to the Worship Co-Creators team from the Worship Committee, and planning teams (identifying liturgy and preaching themes, and selecting music to connect with the themes).

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

REV. DR. FELIPE N. MARTINEZ

We decided to return to the Revised Common Lectionary beginning with Advent 2025 after using two creative new lectionaries in the past few years (2022 – 2025 The Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, 2018 - 2022: The Narrative Lectionary).

The year has felt emotionally heavy, as we grieved the death of 9 members in 2025, all of whom contributed to the life of the church in significant ways.

One of the other major public parts of our identity as a congregation is our work for social justice in our community and beyond. As part of our church's Matthew 25 efforts towards eradicating systemic poverty, we have focused on the area of affordable housing for all. Specifically, we have helped catalyze an effort to build Permanent Supportive Housing in Columbus aimed at housing chronically homeless individuals. We have partnered with Volunteers of America, who would be the owner/developer of the effort, with key team support from United Way and the City. The team completed the Housing Institute training, and it is in the process of lining up the necessary steps during 2026 to bring this closer to reality.

The church also has been a key supporter and host for the development of the independent Columbus Community United, "a grassroots organization with the mission to protect and support our vulnerable neighbors by peaceful means and to empower our community with the skills and resources necessary to maintain a healthy democracy. We will work with any organizations that have similar concerns and encourage our members to support actions that benefit these goals." (Article II, CCU Bylaws). CCU and partner Columbus Area Arts Council, with funding from FPC, African American Fund, Heritage Fund and individuals, created and freely distributed 1,000 yard signs in the community with the message "We Stand With Our Immigrant Neighbors." CCU leadership and key teams meet at FPC, and several FPC members and I are very involved with them. We have helped lead peaceful protests, written public letters to elected officials, and met with City Council members.

My work with the national Presbyterian church ramped up significantly. I am co-moderator of the Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This year we sunset the governing bodies for each of the two agencies and stepped in as the interim board, and in partnership with staff, we oversaw the unification of the two agencies. The process of unification will be a multi-year effort, which will go beyond the term of the commission itself, which comes to an end at the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee June-July 2026.

I began my second four-year term as a Trustee at Hanover College (which is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church), and I had the honor of delivering the Baccalaureate address the day before graduation. I continue my work on the Board of Directors of Su Casa Indiana (along with two FPC members!).

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!
Pastor Felipe

Our Staff

JEN RIDDLE

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Throughout 2025, our congregation continued to invest in children, youth, and young adults within our church and in the community!

We started the year off strong, with 7 volunteer leaders from children and youth ministries attending the Association of Professional Christian Educators (APCE) Conference in Memphis. The travel, workshops, and informal conversations among the leaders who attended served as renewal and bonding for us all. Personally, I was able to visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel and it was a profound reminder of the work that has been done, and all the work there remains to do. It was a timely, re-orienting reminder, as it was just a few weeks following the inauguration. Our team was encouraged that the work they do as volunteers matters!

In March, we collaborated with UUCCI to put on a weekend-long Family Retreat. We had great attendance for the family Friday night dinner and social time, with fewer folks taking part for the Saturday separate parent and kids retreat time. The event sparked conversation with Children's Nurture, and we launched First Friday Family Fun Nights in September. Attendance has been great and it's been a fantastic opportunity for the kids and parents alike: to more fully utilize our recreational space at FPC and deepen relationships with one another. Caregivers and kids also learn a simple spiritual practice that they can use at home together.

Interfaith Peace Camp gathered in June with about 50 children in attendance for a week of spiritual and recreational activities. Peace Camp takes a significant number of staff and volunteer hours to pull off, as we support children from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday that week. This year, the afternoon sessions were "Interfaith Afternoons," where folks from FPC, UUCCI, Sri Ganesh Mandir (Hindu congregation), Tree of Knowledge Coven, and Sha'arei Shalom (Jewish congregation) shared about their faith tradition through various activities. It was an enriching stretch for us to engage deeply with one another's faiths! We had a significant number of adults and teens from our congregation who volunteered to make it happen last year, but we could always use more help! If you are interested in helping us with Interfaith Peace Camp this year (June 8-12), volunteer sign-ups are open now: <https://uucci.breezechms.com/form/VolunteerPeaceCamp2026>

2025 was a year of strategic planning and evolving ideas of what it means to fellowship and worship at FPC. I was a part of the Strategic Planning Team as well as the new Worship Co-Creators group. We spent a lot of time dreaming, planning, and working to discover what God has next for FPC in fellowship and worship! One of the ways in which we've grown is through the intergenerationally-focused Easter and Christmas Eve services. We created paper bag pageants for ALL AGES to help everyone engage in these vital stories of Jesus together. The services were both full of joy and wonder for everyone! We hope these are just an example of the ways we can expand our idea of worship to include all who gather at FPC.

Our Staff

JEN RIDDLE

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

2025 was also a year of grants! As the Lilly Endowment has granted significant funds to initiatives that target children and families, we were able to participate in several of the varied offerings for the two major grants. Around the Table (PC USA) was a cohort-based group that I met with monthly to learn about spiritual practices families can use at home. Wonder of Worship (Columbia Theological Seminary) has helped us train three Godly Play storytellers, as well as provide \$1000 and \$5000 grants for various activities and materials relating to children in worship. Child of Blessing (Presbyterian Association of Musicians) has provided us with liturgy engaging all ages that began in Advent. Locally, our Heads Up mental health initiative provided \$1000 to children, youth, and young adults to purchase items that will support mindfulness and mental health of those age groups.

-Jen

Our Staff

JENNY HEICHELBECH, CHOIR DIRECTOR

The rich musical heritage of First Presbyterian Church continued to thrive through 2025, with the offerings of the Sanctuary and Bell Choirs enhancing our worship services.

I have planned, rehearsed and conducted anthems for the Sanctuary Choir to sing for services twice a month, as well as for special services. The preparation of the Christmas cantata is always a major undertaking, and again this year we welcomed folks from our own congregation who do not usually sing with the choir as well as community friends, who joined us for weekly rehearsals and Cantata Sunday.

I was the primary contact person and conductor for the inter-faith choir that sang for the Columbus Pride Festival in the fall. I also planned, rehearsed and conducted the Bell Choir to play for service once per month, arranged for the Easter brass ensemble, helped to schedule summer musicians, and managed two choral section leaders.

I completed weekly reports to OneLicense and CCLI for the required streaming permissions for bell and choir selections as well as for congregational hymns. I submitted weekly copyright information for the bulletins and slides and attended monthly hymn selection meetings and Worship Co-Creator meetings. I also continued to organize the choir room, helping to sort through four large boxes of old music.

I had the benefit of attending both the Montreat Music and Worship conference and the Augsburg Fortress Publishing Workshop this summer, where I learned and grew musically and spiritually.

Many thanks to all the groups who give so freely of their time and talents to enrich our worship experience: Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir, Worship Arts, Livin' by Faith, special music instrumentalists and vocalists.

Gratefully,
Jenny

Our Staff

JORDAN LEWIS, ORGANIST

The ORGAN is in truth the grandest, the most daring, the most magnificent of all instruments invented by human genius. It is a whole orchestra in itself. It can express anything in response to a skilled touch. Surely it is, in some sort, a pedestal on which the soul poises for a flight forth into space, essaying on her course to draw picture after picture in an endless series, to paint human life, to cross the Infinite that separates Heaven from Earth!

-Honore de Balzac

2025 was another full year and my first full year with First Presbyterian Church (FPC). I have continued to learn and find the pulse, pace, and voice of FPC. Learning how this congregation finds its voice and expresses their faith as a body of believers has been a unique and good challenge. Through congregational song, choir anthems, soloist, to brass band we have raised our hearts and souls to God.

I concluded my lessons with Jacobs school at the end of the spring semester. I collaborated with Jenny for the spring and fall choir semesters and worked with Jenny in outlining special music and soloists for the summer. Together with Felipe and Jenny we worked to sculpt service through hymn selection and brought many hymns that were a new introduction to the congregation. Worship collaborators have also worked to sculpt service and a tangible and engaging way through not only song and word but visuals and participatory liturgy. We through these efforts seek to be very intentional about how song and word join. I pray you have sensed this intentionality, and it has help guide you in your faith journey.

The instruments of FPC remain in fine working order. The organ had its spring and winter tunings. This winter being warmer and wetter than normal we have not had the usual cypher in the swell that has occurred in the past. The pins in the sanctuary Kawaii were tapped. This has helped to create a more stable piano that will hold tune more effectively. FPC's choir piano did not have the noticeable buzz that often returns in the winter. I would attribute this again to the warmer and wetter winter.

Thank you for allowing me to be part in shaping and leading worship in 2025 and I have no doubt that 2026 will be just as full of faith building and love showing for FPC.

Love in Christ,

Jordan G Lewis
Organist

Our Staff

APRIL HEMMERLEIN, DIRECTOR OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

The 2025 calendar year began with receiving another award for “The Best Preschool in Town” Runner Up through the Republic Newspaper. We are very proud to be in our 71st year as a preschool and to continue to have this distinction with the best staff around as well as being one of the oldest Early Childhood programs in Columbus.

In April, preschool had its first ever school-wide Art Show and Ice Cream Social. The building was turned into an art gallery with every child having multiple pieces of art on display for families and friends to see. The children were beaming with pride to show off their art. The event provided families with a wonderful opportunity to engage with one another. This event was made possible in part by a grant from Psi Iota Xi.

Over the summer, the education wing bathroom upgrade project was completed. The cost of the project came it at \$76,172.24. The church foundation contributed \$35,000 and Preschool paid the remaining \$41,172.24. Some of the upgrades include ceiling repairs, new tile for the walls and floor, new vanities, sinks and faucets and well as new toilets and partitions.

In July, the state announced cuts in funding to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF vouchers) as well as the On My Way PreK funding program having great impact on families across the state. Many of our families saw a reduction in what the state contracted to pay for the school year leaving over a \$16,000 shortage for our families which they are unable to afford. In response to the cuts, preschool launched a scholarship campaign to increase scholarship dollars for the 2026-2027 school year and applied for and received a grant from the Heritage Fund to keep these children in our preschool. Any remaining losses for these families this year will be consumed by the preschool budget instead of being passed on to families.

In August, all 27 staff members received training in the “Conscious Discipline” model, a nationally recognized program to help children with emotional regulation in and out of the classroom.

As the year closes, we are fortunate to be in a place where preschool and our families and staff are thriving!

Respectfully,
April Hemmerlein

Session Reports

ADULT FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION (AFE)

Committee Members: Dale Nowlin (Chair), Sandy Thomas, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Jake Brooks, Izzie Nowlin, Joy Bassa King, Andi Orben, Felipe Martinez (staff), Jen Riddle (staff)

Fellowship: (sometimes including education as well) During 2025 AFE offered fellowship opportunities through several church-wide, pitch-in meals, first Sunday donuts, and summer patio parties. From June through September there were nine patio parties with a wide range of settings and activities, including 4th of July Fireworks, an ice cream social, a salsa class, a trivia contest, a bike and brunch, behind the scenes at the fieldhouse, and a “field trip” to the “oldest house in Indiana”.

Education: (always including fellowship as well) To help us grow in our faith and understanding of scripture while growing closer together, AFE regularly hosts a discussion time to dig deeper into the sermon and scriptures from Sunday morning worship, from 11:00 to 11:45 on Sunday morning. On some Sundays AFE hosts special speakers at 11:00. For many of those we partnered with the Deacons and the Heads Up project to offer a variety of speakers related to mental health. Other special sessions included sessions on Vietnam 50 Years Later, Palestine, Stories from Hospice, Faith in PPlace, and more. We also partnered with Fairlawn Presbyterian Church to offer an inductive Bible study for Lent. This series included a meal and a discussion. Every Sunday AFE also provides the online connection to First Presbyterian Church, including Sunday morning worship, fellowship, and special 11 o'clock sessions.

Looking forward: The Adult Fellowship and Education Committee continues to look for ways to connect us together as a congregation on our individual and collective journey of faith. We are always open and interested in people's ideas for making connections, forming new groups, and engaging with scripture together. If you have any ideas, please share them with a committee member, or better still, contact a committee member about joining us for a planning meeting. If you'd like to help out with a pitch-in meal, providing donuts, hosting a patio party in 2026, or in any other way without attending another meeting, contact a committee member.

Session Reports

CHILDREN'S NURTURE (CN) COMMITTEE

Committee members: Vernett Safford (chair), Lisa Porter, Breann Vogelpohl, Terri Glackin, Izzie Nowlin, Leanne Loutner and Sunny Carrier.

The Children's Nurture Committee continued to focus on strengthening communication, supporting faith formation, and providing meaningful opportunities for children, youth, parents, and volunteers to grow in community and discipleship throughout 2025.

Communication

- **Remind** was instituted in April 2025 to improve timely communication with families.
- Jen continues to update the church **Facebook page daily**, providing consistent visibility for Nurture activities.
- **Parent/Kid Nights** are planned monthly. Children are cared for by volunteers at the church while parents gather for fellowship and conversation at Porter's home.

Continuing Education for Nurture Committee Members

Jen successfully wrote grants to attend:

- **APCE Conference** in Memphis
- A **Godly Play Workshop** in Atlanta
- Plans were also made to attend **Montreat** in April, continuing the committee's commitment to professional and spiritual development.

In-Service Opportunities

- A "**Safe Church**" **in-service** was held at First Presbyterian Church, led by Sunny Carrier.
- A **Godly Play workshop** was offered in February to train additional Godly Play teachers and expand program capacity.

Special Events (Ongoing and New)

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Peace Camp in partnership with the **Unitarian Universalist Church**
- Camp Pyoca Day
- Backpack Blessing
- College Student Care Packages and Advent Stations
- Children's Easter Service and Christmas Eve Service

Session Reports

CHILDREN'S NURTURE (CN) COMMITTEE

Ongoing Educational Activities

- **Godly Play** sessions for children (K-??)
- **Monthly Tween Time** led by Sunny Currier
- **Monthly Kid Parties**, held concurrently with parent gatherings

Looking Ahead

The Nurture Committee continues to work intentionally toward:

- Increasing intergenerational activities
- Using more kid-friendly language during children's times in worship
- Adding additional Godly Play leader volunteers

We are grateful for the continued support of Session and the many volunteers who make Children's Nurture ministries possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Vernett Safford

Session Reports

YOUTH NURTURE (YN) COMMITTEE

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Committee Members: Sunny Currier, Julie Daiker, Amanda Magee, Stephanie Cunningham-Moderator, Jen Riddle-Staff.

Christian Education/Faith Formation: Several of the Youth Leaders attended the APCE (Association of Partners in Christian Education) Conference in Memphis, TN. This provided the opportunity to learn new ideas and to be in fellowship with youth leaders from other congregations. Confirmation Class began during the fall of the 2025-26 school year. Classes were held for four youth and their adult mentors. We are continuing to use the PC (USA) Matthew 25 Confirmation Curriculum and plan to conclude with Confirmation Sunday in April 2026. The Youth Group spent months preparing for Youth Sunday, the day they lead the worship service. Youth Sunday allows our youth to express their faith through worship, while conveying how faith is integrated into their daily lives. Their theme this year was mental health. Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive, inclusive sexuality education classes for grades 7-9 concluded in May 2025. We attended the Fall Youth Retreat at Camp PYOCA in November. This was a great experience for our youth and youth leaders to enhance our relationships with each other, explore our faith, and be in fellowship with youth and youth leaders from other congregations.

Interfaith Education & Experiences: Interfaith education and experiences are a valuable part of our youth program. Our youth express interest in these experiences. In February, we were invited to the Islamic Society of Columbus Indiana to learn about Ramadan. In June, several of our youth served as junior counselors at Peace Camp held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus. In addition, we continued to be part of a Mega Youth and hosted several local youth groups for our Road Rally in August.

Service Projects: Our youth continue to help in serving Hot Meals. They led our congregation in the Souper Bowl of Caring and raised \$592 for Love Chapel. They also led the Pentecost Offering, which is collected to help at-risk children and youth, and shared between Presbyterian Mission and a local beneficiary. They chose the Columbus Firemen's Cheer Fund, an organization which provides holiday assistance to children ages 0-18, as the local recipient. A total of \$1224.00 was raised, \$816.04 of this was donated to the Cheer Fund and the remaining funds to Presbyterian Mission. In place of a service-learning trip, our youth participated in service days in July. We focused on caring for our neighbors in the local neighborhood around church. In addition, several of our youth participated with the congregation during our annual Faith in Action Day. Our youth continued their tradition of organizing the Heart Tree. Due to many of them assisting with Hot Meals, they chose our Hot Meals guests as their recipients. They collected and sorted hygiene items for our Hot Meals guests. We are grateful for the generosity of those who have supported our youths' service efforts. Our youth want to make a difference, and these experiences are meaningful to them.

Leadership Opportunities: Teens continue to serve as Lay Leaders in Worship. Some have sung with the adult choir for special occasions. They also help with the children's Easter egg hunt. Interfaith Peace Camp in June was a chance for our teens to be leaders. We appreciate our youth who volunteered their time to help provide a great experience for the young campers. We continued to reconnect with our college-aged young adults over the summer,¹⁵ and they assisted with planning for a table in the Teen Tent at Columbus Pride.

Session Reports

YOUTH NURTURE (YN) COMMITTEE

Our youth and young adults express gratitude for the support our church provides for the social justice issues they are passionate about. We also express gratitude to IYG Columbus for inviting us.

Support, Encouragement, and Connection: Fun, faith, and fellowship happen at youth group each week. We engage in learning to deepen our faith, engage in fellowship through sharing a meal and playing games, and express our prayer concerns. Mega Youth Group, with other local congregations, continues to be a fun way to connect with other teens who have shared values. We celebrated our high school grads in a worship service with a video for each grad, a handmade prayer shawl, and gifts. Our annual Christmas Caroling/Dessert Party at the Armory Apartments continues our connection with the residents. We continue to support and encourage our college/career-aged young adults during their transitional years. We send them care packages before finals each semester, host pizza parties twice a year while they are in town for the holidays and for Summer Break, and remember their birthdays with gift cards. This year, we also provided extra support to our first-year college students through a collaboration with the Heads Up Committee. We appreciate the support of the congregation in our work to create a caring community where all youth are welcomed, celebrated, and loved.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Cunningham

Session Reports

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Committee: Leigh Ann Figg (Chair), Lynne Hyatt, Janet Sharpe, Carol Pennington and Pastor Felipe Martinez (staff)

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

Summary of 2025 Accomplishments:

1. Replacement of Financial Administrative Assistant: In early May, Missy Burton gave her notice that she would be leaving her position by the end of May. We advertised for a replacement and interviewed a couple of candidates. We hired a replacement; however, after a couple of days of training, she resigned. Leigh Ann Figg agreed to take over the position on an interim basis and will continue to do this work into 2026. With the help of a consultant, changes are being made to the way the accounting system is set up and Leigh Ann will work to pull together a training manual.

2. Annual Staff Reviews and Review of Felipe Martinez: In January 2025, Zack Ellison and Leigh Ann Figg held Felipe's 2024 review. In December of 2025, the Committee supported Felipe's staff performance reviews and Leigh Ann is scheduled to conduct Felipe's annual review in early February 2025. Annual COLA increases for the staff and Felipe were recommended by the Committee at 3% which was approved by the Session effective January 1, 2026.

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

A look ahead to 2026:

Jenny Heichelbech, Jordan Lewis and Felipe have had discussions about the hiring of a new choir accompanist. This will be firmed up in January.

Timely reviews of Felipe and the staff will be coordinated and supported by the Committee.

The Committee will continue to support Felipe with staff issues, as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Ann Figg
Chair of the Personnel Committee

Session Reports

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee: Terry Molewyk, Danny Sanders, Bob Smitherman, Doug Sprunger, Glinda Ellison, and Zack Ellison (moderator). Thanks to these members for their help, many on an as-needed basis.

Mission: The purpose of the Property Committee is to ensure the church building and grounds are maintained and updated as needed. 2025 was a good year with the Property Committee overseeing the projects listed below, plus many others.

Projects for 2025:

1. An ongoing project for 2025 was to keep the heating and cooling systems working. There were several air conditioning compressor failures and boiler system failures that had to be repaired. The good news is that we continue to have heat in the winter, and cooling in the summer.
 - a. Obsolete A/C systems were replaced with ductless split heat pump systems. (Choir Room and our small Chapel).
 - b. New A/C system for the south gymnasium system.
2. The chapel was renovated/repared, including the new split ductless heat pump system.
3. Preschool bathrooms were renovated. (Thanks to our FPC Foundation)
4. Two kitchen windows were replaced with windows we can open to vent the heat during hot meals preparation.
5. The overgrown oak trees on 8th Street were removed.
6. FPC changed to Giga-Bit-Now fiber optics IT system for reduced cost and higher internet speeds.
7. Lots of paperwork and planning was completed to be permitted to install 96 solar panels on the gym roof. (installation work begins 1/19/2026)
8. Multiple smaller jobs were completed: many fluorescent light fixtures were upgraded to LED lights
9. Multiple electrical wiring jobs completed by our resident electrician, Danny Sanders.

Session Reports

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Projects planned for 2026:

1. Replace our main boiler that has failed. (Thanks to the Millie Reeves Fund)
2. Replace the furniture in the Reeves room. (Thanks to our FPC Foundation, Heads Up and generous donors)
3. Installation of our gymnasium rooftop solar array including 20KW battery backup which will reduce our electric expenses. Permitting was completed in Dec. 2025. Work will begin Jan 19, 2026, and should be completed by late spring 2026. (Thanks to our FPC Foundation)
4. Other work as needed.

On a sad note, we lost Jim Farrar who was a long time Property Committee member. His dedicated work on many projects will serve our church for many years. A few were, Sanctuary renovation, including our new organ. FPC Steeple renovation, and our stained-glass rebuilding project, just to name a few. Jim will be missed.

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: Mary Ann McCray, Brook Brown, Vernet Safford. Co-Moderators: Sunny Currier & Alexa Staley; Staff: Jen Riddle

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

Alexa Staley agreed to serve as co-chair of the committee. We welcome her expertise and leadership experience in safety management!

The required annual training of officers was completed at the Officer Retreat in February. Safe Church training of child care workers and leaders of children and youth took place at the start of the school year. All volunteer background checks were brought up to date, and new Emergency Forms for the kids were obtained for the 2025-26 school year.

We conducted a tornado drill on March 30, and were pleased with the smooth movement to the basement. During the month of September, we published announcements in the bulletin & eblast that there would be a fall fire drill, with procedural instructions for the congregation.

We conducted a surprise drill on September 21. The alarm was pulled during the last hymn, to determine if the new siren could be heard over the organ and singing- it was heard. Overall, the drill went well. The siren did go off in the Rainbow Room, but the strobe inexplicably had been installed at floor level behind a door. We followed up by having the strobe moved to a more visible location. We noted that in future, we will need to remind folks not to congregate on the Franklin Street sidewalk, which is dangerously close to a potentially burning building, and which also impedes firefighter access to the building. We purchased a fire smothering blanket for the kitchen.

We have spent much of this year continuing to identify our policy gaps and needed updates. We are editing the Safe Church Policy and the Emergency Procedures in order to document what we are already doing, updating to reflect needed changes, and simplifying forms and procedures. For example, we are documenting the safety checks that already happen, such as checking AED pads for expiration dates, fire inspections, etc. so that these important checks won't fall through the cracks in the event of any future staff turnover. Revision of these policies is still a work in progress, but we hope to complete them by June 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Sunny Currier & Alexa Staley

Session Reports

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC)

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 2025 the Social Justice Committee continued to work on ways that First Presbyterian Church in Columbus can advocate for people locally, nationally, and internationally who are facing hunger, poverty, discrimination, oppression, homelessness, and addiction while supporting organizations that provide affordable healthcare, recovery support, and emergency food and shelter. In 2025 this committee was chaired by Richard Safford; other members include: Ann Jones, Carol Price, Amy Hale, Sarah Sanders (secretary), Paul Hoffman, Mandy Dornfeld, Vern Jorck, Tess Weathers, Cara Bywater, James Copeland, Jennifer Copeland, Mandy Dornfeld, and staff support from Felipe Martinez. We will miss Heather Reeves and Payton Emberton who are no longer available to serve with this committee.

In 2025 the Social Justice Committee worked with the Mission Support team to approve Foundation grant requests for BCSC Racers, St. Bartholomew’s Immigration Clinics, Turning Point, Recovery Cafe, JVP Indiana, Mill Race Center, and CRH Healthy Community’s bilingual Doula program. We also approved grants for First Presbyterian Preschool scholarships for children living at the Fresh Start shelter and for Calvary Community Church’s community garden. We supported high school students who formed a group called Lunaria to provide period supplies for girls in need of this help, and we sent money to support a Presbyterian church impacted by the catastrophic Texas floods. We created and funded an FPC Emergency Assistance Fund to provide gas cards, tents, blankets, and easy-to-open, ready-to-eat food for people who come to the church looking for emergency help. We also supported Indiana AID’s effort to provide resources, direct aid, and support to immigrants and their families impacted by ICE detention in Indiana.

In addition to the Foundation’s Mission Support grants, church funding from the operating budget is available to fund local service work because 25% of the church budget goes to mission. In 2025, SJC allocated the Community Mission funds to local non-profit agencies like Love Chapel, VIM Care, Horizon House, NAACP (Columbus Chapter), Su Casa Indiana, Just Friends, Pride Alliance, BCSC Book Buddies, and Family Service. These funds also supported church programs like Hot Meals, Faith in Action Day, and FPC Preschool scholarships. In 2025 we also applied for and received a Presbytery grant of \$2500 for food purchases. We designated \$500 for hot meals, \$500 for the new FPC Emergency Assistance Fund, and \$1500 for Our Common Goods, a new local ministry to keep blessing boxes in Columbus and Bartholomew County full and easy to find.

Session Reports

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC)

SJC has 3 subcommittees (O&A, Housing Committee, and Green Team). In 2026 we look forward to partnering with Mission Columbus to provide volunteer support for important community projects (like Calvary's kitchen remodel to create a new hot meal site) and to complete projects with low-income homeowners who need help maintaining their homes. We will also continue to host Armory Birthday Parties with our neighbors across Franklin Street—please consider joining us for these cheerful monthly visits. If you are interested in any of the work of the FPC Social Justice Committee, we encourage you to reach out to any member of the committee and to join one of our monthly meetings. In 2026, we will have hybrid meetings (in-person and on Zoom) on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. This year's SJC committee chair will be Vern Jorck, and Sarah Sanders will continue as the committee secretary. Thank you to Richard Safford for his leadership in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Sanders

Session Reports

OPEN AND 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 2025, First Presbyterian Church and the Open and Affirming Committee once again joined our community at the annual Columbus Pride Festival at Mill Race Park. This year's celebration on September 6th was titled: Protect Pride unfolded on a warm, sunny September afternoon and welcomed thousands of attendees—individuals, families, and supporters from across the region.

With more than 100 vendors and exhibitors, the festival became the largest Pride event Columbus has hosted to date. This year it included a Kids Zone and a Teen's Zone where members of FPC participated as both a sponsor and an exhibitor, and our dedicated volunteers filled the expanded six-hour event with joy—sharing smiles, offering flags and pins, and providing information about our church's mission and ministries.

This year's Pride Festival stood out as a truly welcoming and affirming gathering, celebrating the full inclusion of all people in the life of our community.

FPC was also present at the Fill my Bowls Fundraiser on November 16th at the Upland Columbus Pumphouse. Fill My Bowls was a fundraiser sponsored by Y'ALL and Columbus IN Pride Inc. supporting Trans and Gender Diverse Individuals, seeking to fill the gap for those pushed to the margins. Y'ALL mission is to help make affirming care accessible to all, and to support and encourage authentic living. (Visit www.yallforall.org for more information)

I want to invite anyone who wishes to participate in the Open and Affirming Committee to contact Jose Lopez.

Wishing God's peace for each and every one of us, from your Open and Affirming Subcommittee.

Jose G. Lopez, on behalf of the Committee

Session Reports

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support was originally created in 2005 by the Stewardship and Finance committee as a short-term taskforce to allocate Foundation funds for mission. Now, Mission Support functions as a permanent committee of the Session. Mission Support considers mission grants that have already been approved by another church committee (usually, but not always, the Social Justice Committee). Mission Support members represent specific church groups + 1 at-large position. Current members of Mission Support are Sarah Sanders from Deacons (2025 chair), Pastor Felipe Martinez, Richard Safford from Social Justice, Vern Jorck from Social Justice, Mary Ann McCray from Finance, Dale Nowlin from AFE and Session, Pam Robertson at-large, Julie Daiker from Youth Nurture, and Bill Jones from the Foundation.

In 2025, Mission Support approved grant requests to help provide shoes for elementary cross country runners from low-income families, to support 2 immigration clinics with St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, and to support local organizations like Turning Point, Recovery Cafe, JVP Indiana, Mill Race Center, and CRH Healthy Community's bilingual Doula program. We also approved grants for First Presbyterian Preschool scholarships for children living at the Fresh Start shelter and for Calvary Community Church's community garden. We supported high school students who formed a group called Lunaria to provide period supplies for girls in need of this help, and we sent money to support a Presbyterian church impacted by the catastrophic Texas floods. We created and funded an FPC Emergency Assistance Fund to provide gas cards, tents, blankets, and easy-to-open, ready-to-eat food for people who come to the church looking for emergency help. We also supported Indiana AID's effort to provide resources, direct aid, and support to immigrants and their families impacted by ICE detention in Indiana.

Mission Support has allocated more than \$750,000 to local, state, national, and international programs since it started in 2005. If you have an idea about how First Presbyterian Foundation funds could be used to support local, national, or international mission work, please contact the 2026 chair, Richard Safford or the 2026 secretary Sarah Sanders (sanderss1621@gmail.com) or any member of Social Justice or Mission Support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Sanders

Session Reports

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Leading up to calendar year 2025, a small group of six elders (2 from each of the respective classes) met regularly to look at future plans for our church, given the 200th Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church. We finally presented a plan to work with a church consulting firm, Holy Cow Consulting, which was approved by the Session.

Over this past year and a half, we worked very closely with a gifted consultant, Emily Swanson, who worked with us and the church through a variety of venues. We began with a retreat and the distribution of a Congregational Assessment Tool (C.A.T.), which was completed by over 130 participants of our church. Our small group of six elders needed to grow to 12 people to share viewpoints and share some of the workload. The interpretation of the CAT results was shared with the Strategic Planning Group. From there, we held five "Listening Sessions" open to all who were interested in sharing people's views on a variety of topics about our church.

Subsequently our Strategic Planning Group participated in 5 retreats focusing on identifying our Core Values and creating a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement. We also were able to outline five Critical Success Factors (CSF) for our group to further develop. We identified our top three (of five) CSFs which became our Strategic Targets. These are clearly noted in the "Pastor's Annual Report".

Our Strategic Plan was published in July of 2025 and rolled out to the congregation in a series of messages over the late summer. As the Plan is a living document, the Strategic Planning Team has continued its work to make sure that the church stays on task toward our Goals.

Since the publishing of the Plan, we have been following a structure from our consultant, and working in smaller work groups focusing on our three Strategic Targets (ST). The 12 members are divided into 3 groups of 4 members and have continued to meet at least monthly through the present time on each of their Targeted areas. We strive to involve others in our process to make these Strategic Targets "come alive" in our church life. Our Sunday worship bulletins include our new Mission Statement for reflection and a guide to who we are and what we hope to be. Recently, we polled those present at a service about their views on "Creating worship that is spiritually meaningful, inspirational, that brings us closer to God." We hope to have more opportunities for faith sharing. Another small group is working on "listening, connecting, and relationship building" and is looking at issues from "how do we make people feel welcome?"... all the way to updating our church website. A third group is working on our Targeted focus on "Love in Action" and how we show God's love in and outside the walls of our church.

Session Reports

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Each of the Strategic Targets has Goals, Milestones, "Who does what", and "By When"...and we plan to work on these and other Strategic Targets over the coming years. We will continue to meet as a team to see how what we are working on "overlaps" with other groups... and look for opportunities to collaborate. We want to be inclusive and invite others to participate in the implementation of these Targets and Goals.

I would personally like to thank all the members of our Strategic Planning Team for all their time, hard work, enthusiasm, caring, openness and creativity:

Lisa Porter, Chip Orben, Carol Pennington, Jen Riddle, Dale Nowlin, Alexa Staley, Andi Orben, Felipe Martinez, Luther Pierson, Marsha Sunkel, and Leigh Ann Figg (co-moderator)

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Brinkman (co-moderator)

Session Reports

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our Team

Members who served on the Stewardship and Finance Committee for some or all of 2025 included: Jayne Farber, Vern Jorck, Lynne Hyatt, Mary Ann McCray, Chip Orben (chair), Luther Pierson, and Rich Stenner (Treasurer). Reverend Felipe Martínez provided staff support to the Committee.

Our Purpose

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is a committee of Session and exists to:

- Monitor church finances and accounts throughout the year in coordination with the Treasurer
- Provide monthly and annual financial reports, including year-end audits, reviews, or compilations using staff and volunteers
- Lead the annual stewardship campaign to secure pledges for the coming year
- Coordinate the Christmas Joy Offering

Our Work in 2025

The Committee is deeply grateful for the resilience and generosity of our congregation. Despite continued challenges—including inflation, economic uncertainty in our community, and fewer in-person worshipers than pre-COVID—we finished 2025 in a strong financial position, effectively achieving a break-even year-end budget.

We are truly blessed to be part of a faithful congregation that continues to give generously and from the heart.

2025 Financial Summary

- Total Income: \$685,438 (Budgeted: \$700,240)
- Total Expenses: \$687,526 (Budgeted: \$700,239)
- Net Year-End Variance: -\$2,088 (-0.30%) variance

This outcome reflects thoughtful stewardship and careful investment of resources by our staff and committees throughout the year.

Session Reports

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Additional highlights from 2025 include:

- Regular budget updates shared through weekly e-blasts and newsletters to keep the congregation informed of our financial outlook
- Development of the 2026 operating budget totaling \$731,010, representing an overall increase of 4.4%, based on input from all ministry areas and approved by Session in December 2025
- Sincere appreciation to Rich Stenner for his leadership as Treasurer and to Leigh Ann Figg for serving as Interim Financial Administrative Assistant. Their commitment and attention to detail have strengthened our financial operations
- Introduction of a new agenda item during committee meetings that allows time for personal sharing, fostering deeper connection among members and supporting overall well-being

2025 Stewardship Campaign Recap

The Fall 2025 stewardship campaign for year was themed “Let Us Reflect Jesus’ Love.”

The campaign included:

- Traditional mailings to the congregation
- Three Moments for Stewardship shared by a diverse group of members
- A Consecration Breakfast hosted by the Deacons
- Frequent reminders through newsletters and weekly updates
- Banners with mirrors for reflection, done by Debbie George

Members were encouraged to prayerfully consider a 3% increase in their pledge to help offset ongoing inflationary pressures at FPC.

Campaign Results

- Pledge Goal: \$678,500 (5% increase)
- Pledges Received: \$560,770 (82% of goal)
- Number of Pledging Units: 92 (goal: 90), representing a 12% increase over 2025

We also recognize that some members give faithfully throughout the year without submitting a pledge card. Historically, these contributions are considered when projecting total annual income.

Session Reports

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Summary of Special Offerings for PCUSA

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$6,199

Pentecost Offering: \$2,060

Peace and Global Witness: \$2,427

Christmas Joy: \$4,150

Closing Reflection

The Stewardship and Finance Committee remains deeply thankful for the trust placed in us and for the generosity of this congregation. Together, we continue to steward God's resources wisely, ensuring that the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Columbus remain strong today and well-positioned for the future.

Respectfully submitted

Chip Orben - Chair of Stewardship and Finance

FPC Finances, Incomes and Expenses				
	acct	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
INCOME	4000			
PLEDGE AND GIFT INCOME	4280			
Pledge & Gift Income	4300	\$546,610	\$520,822	\$589,500
Prepaid Pledge Income	4310	\$101,120	\$101,120	\$89,000
Postpaid Pledge Income	4330	\$0	\$7,340	\$0
Subtotal Pledge And Gift Income	4280	\$647,730	\$629,282	\$678,500
OTHER INCOME	4340			
PLATE OFFERING	4360	\$4,500	\$7,099	\$4,500
TRUST INCOME	4650	\$32,010	\$30,496	\$32,010
INVESTMENT INCOME	4640	\$15,000	\$17,811	\$15,000
OTHER INCOME	4650	\$1,000	\$751	\$1,000
Subtotal Other Income	4340	\$52,510	\$56,156	\$52,510
TOTAL INCOME		\$700,240	\$685,438	\$731,010
EXPENSES	5000			
CHURCH PROGRAM	5010			
NURTURE	5020			
CHILDREN'S NURTURE	5030	\$10,677	\$5,689	\$10,677
YOUTH NURTURE	5121	\$8,600	\$6,033	\$8,600
ADULT FELLOWSHIP/ED	5140	\$2,100	\$1,089	\$2,100
GENERAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	5220	\$400	\$59	\$400
MUSIC	5320	\$9,431	\$8,081	\$9,663
SOCIAL JUSTICE (WITNESS)	5330	\$1,450	\$1,103	\$1,450
WORSHIP	5350	\$6,100	\$6,599	\$6,100
STEWARDSHIP	5362	\$650	\$68	\$650
CONSECRATION SUNDAY	5365	\$300	\$334	\$300
PASTOR SABBATICAL	5367	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
DEACON EXPENSE	5370	\$1,300	\$931	\$1,300
CELEBRATION OF LIFE COMM.	5371	\$500	\$1,073	\$500
Subtotal Church Program	5010	\$44,507	\$34,068	\$44,940
MISSION GIVING	5380			
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION	5390	\$32,818	\$33,318	\$32,818
MISSION COWORKERS	5391	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$6,000
BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM	5392	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
COMMUNITY MISSION	5400	\$37,820	\$34,320	\$41,310
POWER OF LOVE	5402	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200
Next Church	5409	\$750	\$750	\$750
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FUND	5410	\$250	\$250	\$250
Subtotal Mission Giving	5380	\$89,838	\$86,338	\$93,328

	acct	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
PROF. STAFF EXPENSE	5700			
PASTOR	5800	\$140,376	\$141,575	\$145,826
OTHER PROF STAFF	5811			
DCYYAM	5815	\$67,229	\$65,916	\$71,352
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST	5910	\$62,908	\$59,247	\$68,606
Subtotal Other Prof Staff	5811	\$130,137	\$125,163	\$139,958
Subtotal Prof. Staff Expense	5700	\$270,513	\$266,738	\$285,784
OFFICE EXPENDITURES	6040			
OFFICE SALARY EXPENSES	6045	\$70,525	\$61,592	\$73,513
OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	6075	\$34,525	\$39,274	\$34,525
Subtotal Office Expenditures	6040	\$105,050	\$100,865	\$108,038
FACILITY EXPENSE	6130			
FACILITY SALARIES	6135	\$8,561	\$8,292	\$8,672
OTHER FACILITY EXPENSES	6165	\$157,900	\$164,607	\$163,700
Subtotal Facility Expense	6130	\$166,461	\$172,899	\$172,372
OTHER EXPENSE	6230			
Per Capita Assessment	6240	\$23,870	\$23,870	\$26,535
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$700,240	\$684,768	\$730,996
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME/EXPENSE	-	\$0	\$670	\$14

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, December 2025

		Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
** Unposted transactions have been included on this report **						
INCOME	4000					
PLEDGE AND GIFT INCOME	4280					
Pledge & Gift Income	4300	\$76,670.94	\$520,821.52	\$546,610.00	(\$25,788.48)	\$546,610.00
Prepaid Pledge Income	4310	8,426.67	101,120.04	101,120.00	0.04	101,120.00
Postpaid Pledge Income	4330	0.00	7,340.00	0.00	7,340.00	0.00
Subtotal Pledge And Gift Income	4280	85,097.61	629,281.56	647,730.00	(18,448.44)	647,730.00
Budgeted		85,097.61	629,281.56	647,730.00	(18,448.44)	647,730.00
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER INCOME	4340					
PLATE OFFERING	4360	850.91	7,098.52	4,500.00	2,598.52	4,500.00
TRUST INCOME	4550					
Keller & Ogborn Income	4560	1,922.74	23,072.88	24,450.00	(1,377.12)	24,450.00
Sutter Income	4580	0.00	2,655.06	2,520.00	135.06	2,520.00
Rowell Income	4600	397.34	4,768.08	5,040.00	(271.92)	5,040.00
Subtotal Trust Income	4550	2,320.08	30,496.02	32,010.00	(1,513.98)	32,010.00
Budgeted		2,320.08	30,496.02	32,010.00	(1,513.98)	32,010.00
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	4640	1,032.00	17,811.10	15,000.00	2,811.10	15,000.00
OTHER INCOME	4650					
Building Use Donations	4660	0.00	300.00	1,000.00	(700.00)	1,000.00
Bank Fee Reimbursement	4665	20.80	73.90	0.00	73.90	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	4700	9.34	376.95	0.00	376.95	0.00
Subtotal Other Income	4650	30.14	750.85	1,000.00	(249.15)	1,000.00
Budgeted		9.34	676.95	1,000.00	(323.05)	1,000.00
Non-Budgeted		20.80	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Other Income	4340	4,233.13	58,156.49	52,510.00	3,646.49	52,510.00
Budgeted		4,212.33	56,082.59	52,510.00	3,572.59	52,510.00
Non-Budgeted		20.80	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME		89,330.74	685,438.05	700,240.00	(14,801.95)	700,240.00
Budgeted		89,309.94	685,364.15	700,240.00	(14,875.85)	700,240.00
Non-Budgeted		20.80	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES	5000					
CHURCH PROGRAM	5010					
NURTURE	5020					
CHILDREN'S NURTURE	5030					
Bibles	5040	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Materials	5050	0.00	1,252.73	1,000.00	(252.73)	1,000.00
Curriculum	5060	25.69	330.60	400.00	69.40	400.00
VBS	5070	0.00	989.34	1,000.00	30.66	1,000.00
Refreshments	5080	0.00	165.73	200.00	34.27	200.00
Special Events	5090	168.51	1,709.26	2,000.00	290.74	2,000.00
Children's Worship	5095	0.00	352.11	350.00	(2.11)	350.00
Leadership Training Suppo	5100	1,526.75	2,257.15	4,500.00	2,242.85	4,500.00
Child Care	5110-001	0.00	60.00	1,000.00	940.00	1,000.00
Nurture FICA	5120	0.00	4.59	76.50	71.91	76.50

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Income and Expense Statement
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		Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
** Unposted transactions have been included on this report **						
Subtotal Children's Nurture	5030	1,720.95	7,101.51	10,676.50	3,574.99	10,676.50
Budgeted		1,720.95	7,101.51	10,676.50	3,574.99	10,676.50
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
YOUTH NURTURE	5121					
College Connection	5122	177.36	497.20	1,000.00	502.80	1,000.00
Curriculum	5124	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Materials	5125	0.00	695.52	300.00	(395.52)	300.00
Grad Gifts	5126	0.00	150.78	150.00	(0.78)	150.00
Jr. Hi Youth	5128	358.00	713.71	1,000.00	286.29	1,000.00
Sr. Hi Youth	5130	1,409.78	987.70	1,000.00	12.30	1,000.00
Special Events	5131	0.00	373.26	500.00	126.74	500.00
Local Service Projects	5132	35.34	117.03	400.00	282.97	400.00
Leader Training/Support	5134	688.26	696.11	1,400.00	703.89	1,400.00
Sunday School	5136	1,214.00	1,499.03	1,500.00	0.97	1,500.00
Teen Worship	5138	0.00	991.27	1,000.00	8.73	1,000.00
Subtotal Youth Nurture	5121	3,882.74	6,721.61	8,600.00	1,878.39	8,600.00
Budgeted		3,882.74	6,721.61	8,600.00	1,878.39	8,600.00
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADULT FELLOWSHIP/ED	5140					
Leadership Training/Conf.	5145	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Speaker/SP Program	5150	0.00	100.00	400.00	300.00	400.00
Curriculum Study Books	5160	0.00	192.00	300.00	108.00	300.00
Fellowship	5175	0.00	796.82	1,000.00	203.18	1,000.00
Subtotal Adult Fellowship/ed	5140	0.00	1,088.82	2,100.00	1,011.18	2,100.00
Budgeted		0.00	1,088.82	2,100.00	1,011.18	2,100.00
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	5220					
OFFICERS RETREAT	5230	0.00	59.00	400.00	341.00	400.00
MUSIC	5320					
Music Purchase	5321	0.00	1,729.38	1,800.00	70.62	1,800.00
Piano Maint. & Tuning	5322	0.00	990.00	1,200.00	210.00	1,200.00
Choir Section Leaders	5323	0.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	500.00	4,000.00
Choir Sect. Leaders Fica	5323-001	0.00	267.80	380.59	112.79	380.59
Substitute Organist/Choir	5324	0.00	800.00	1,200.00	400.00	1,200.00
Choir Apprec./Recognition	5325	0.00	40.11	0.00	(40.11)	0.00
Music Library Supplies	5326	0.00	32.54	100.00	67.46	100.00
Misc/Subscription/Dues	5327	0.00	721.00	650.00	(71.00)	650.00
Livin' By Faith Band	5328	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Subtotal Music	5320	0.00	8,080.83	9,430.59	1,349.76	9,430.59
Budgeted		0.00	8,080.83	9,430.59	1,349.76	9,430.59
Non-Budgeted		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SOCIAL JUSTICE (WITNESS)	5330					
Dues/Memberships	5331	550.00	550.00	550.00	0.00	550.00
Programs	5332	27.02	552.58	900.00	347.42	900.00
Subtotal Social Justice (witness)	5330	577.02	1,102.58	1,450.00	347.42	1,450.00
Budgeted		577.02	1,102.58	1,450.00	347.42	1,450.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, December 2025

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		Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	Annual Budget
** Unposted transactions have been included on this report **						
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WORSHIP	5350					
Supplies	5352	0.00	1,032.49	800.00	(232.49)	800.00
Streaming Music License	5355	455.00	624.99	700.00	75.01	700.00
Communion	5356	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Training/Conferences	5357	0.00	2,366.04	2,000.00	(366.04)	2,000.00
Special Projects/Plants	5358	46.82	200.62	550.00	349.38	550.00
Pulpit Supply	5359	200.00	1,764.40	1,800.00	35.60	1,800.00
Faith In Action	5360	0.00	609.99	0.00	(609.99)	0.00
Subtotal Worship	5350	701.82	6,598.53	6,100.00	(498.53)	6,100.00
<i>Budgeted</i>		701.82	6,598.53	6,100.00	(498.53)	6,100.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
STEWARDSHIP	5362	19.77	67.54	650.00	582.46	650.00
CONSECRATION SUNDAY	5365	207.68	334.17	300.00	(34.17)	300.00
PASTOR SABBATICAL	5367	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
DEACON EXPENSE	5370	0.00	931.40	1,300.00	368.60	1,300.00
CELEBRATION OF LIFE COMM.	5371	0.00	1,073.10	500.00	(573.10)	500.00
Subtotal Church Program	5010	7,109.98	36,159.09	44,507.09	8,348.00	44,507.09
<i>Budgeted</i>		7,109.98	36,159.09	44,507.09	8,348.00	44,507.09
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISSION GIVING	5380					
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION	5390	2,734.83	33,317.96	32,818.00	(499.96)	32,818.00
MISSION COWORKERS	5391	500.00	5,500.00	6,000.00	500.00	6,000.00
BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM	5392	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Community Mission	5400	1,133.33	34,319.96	37,820.00	3,500.04	37,820.00
POWER OF LOVE	5402	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	0.00	7,200.00
Next Church	5409	0.00	750.00	750.00	0.00	750.00
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FUND	5410	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Subtotal Mission Giving	5380	4,368.16	86,337.92	89,838.00	3,500.08	89,838.00
<i>Budgeted</i>		4,368.16	86,337.92	89,838.00	3,500.08	89,838.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROF. STAFF EXPENSE	5700					
PASTOR	5800					
Pastor Salary	5801	4,912.52	58,950.24	58,951.00	0.76	58,951.00
Pastor Housing	5802	3,002.08	36,024.96	36,025.00	0.04	36,025.00
Pastor Pension/Health	5803	3,403.31	43,218.72	38,900.00	(4,318.72)	38,900.00
Pastor Prof. Expense	5804	225.47	1,933.37	2,500.00	566.63	2,500.00
Pastor Cont. Ed.	5805	0.00	893.53	3,000.00	2,106.47	3,000.00
Pastor Cont. Ed. Carry Ov	5806	0.00	172.08	0.00	(172.08)	0.00
Pastor Mileage	5807	0.00	382.20	1,000.00	617.80	1,000.00
Subtotal Pastor	5800	11,543.38	141,575.10	140,376.00	(1,199.10)	140,376.00
<i>Budgeted</i>		11,543.38	141,403.02	140,376.00	(1,027.02)	140,376.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	172.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER PROF STAFF	5811					
DCYYAM	5815					
DCYYAM Salary	5820-001	4,114.84	49,378.08	49,378.20	0.12	49,378.20

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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DCYYAM FICA	5840-003	314.78	3,792.66	3,777.43	(15.23)	3,777.43
DCYYAM Pens/Health	5850-004	800.31	9,603.72	9,604.00	0.28	9,604.00
DCYYAM Retirement	5880	205.74	2,478.88	2,469.00	(9.88)	2,469.00
DCYYAM Study Leave	5890	815.73	1,319.73	2,000.00	680.27	2,000.00
Subtotal Dcyyam	5815	6,251.40	66,573.07	67,228.63	655.56	67,228.63
<i>Budgeted</i>		6,251.40	66,573.07	67,228.63	655.56	67,228.63
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST	5910					
Organist Salary	5920	1,517.54	18,286.47	20,031.44	1,744.97	20,031.44
Choir Director Salary	5925	2,659.28	33,486.39	34,037.12	550.73	34,037.12
Organist FICA	5930	116.08	1,456.82	1,532.42	75.60	1,532.42
Choir Director FICA	5935	203.44	2,561.76	2,603.84	42.08	2,603.84
Organist Retirement	5940	0.00	0.00	1,001.57	1,001.57	1,001.57
Choir Director Retirement	5945	132.96	1,674.28	1,701.86	27.58	1,701.86
Organist Cont. Ed.	5960	0.00	624.00	1,000.00	376.00	1,000.00
Choir Director Cont. Ed.	5965	0.00	1,157.41	1,000.00	(157.41)	1,000.00
Subtotal Choir Director/organist	5910	4,629.30	59,247.13	62,908.25	3,661.12	62,908.25
<i>Budgeted</i>		4,629.30	59,247.13	62,908.25	3,661.12	62,908.25
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Other Prof Staff	5811	10,880.70	125,820.20	130,136.88	4,316.68	130,136.88
<i>Budgeted</i>		10,880.70	125,820.20	130,136.88	4,316.68	130,136.88
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Prof. Staff Expense	5700	22,424.08	267,395.30	270,512.88	3,117.58	270,512.88
<i>Budgeted</i>		22,424.08	267,223.22	270,512.88	3,289.68	270,512.88
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	,172.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
OFFICE EXPENDITURES	6040					
OFFICE SALARY EXPENSES	6045					
Admin Assistant Salary	6050	3,466.80	41,698.43	41,600.00	(98.43)	41,600.00
Financial Asst. Salary	6055	0.00	4,460.00	12,480.00	8,020.00	12,480.00
Admin Assist Retirement	6060-003	173.34	2,083.08	2,080.00	(3.08)	2,080.00
Admn Asst Health Benefit	6060-004	800.31	9,603.72	9,604.00	0.28	9,604.00
Financial Asst Retirement	6065-001	0.00	223.00	624.00	401.00	624.00
Admin Asst FICA	6070	265.20	3,265.40	3,182.40	(83.00)	3,182.40
Finanacial Asst FICA	6070-001	0.00	258.21	954.72	696.51	954.72
Subtotal Office Salary Expenses	6045	4,705.65	61,591.84	70,525.12	8,933.28	70,525.12
<i>Budgeted</i>		4,705.65	61,591.84	70,525.12	8,933.28	70,525.12
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	6075					
Postage	6080	620.99	2,402.96	2,800.00	397.04	2,800.00
Bank Charges	6085	126.88	1,131.55	1,500.00	368.45	1,500.00
Study Leave	6090	0.00	25.00	400.00	375.00	400.00
Office Expense	6100	1,002.20	12,852.13	12,000.00	(852.13)	12,000.00
Payroll Service Charges	6105	175.53	2,274.06	2,500.00	225.94	2,500.00
Computers/Tech	6110	454.00	11,418.91	8,225.00	(3,193.91)	8,225.00
Audio/Visual	6115	34.55	,173.65	0.00	(173.65)	0.00
Telephone	6120	615.03	6,369.96	4,800.00	(1,569.96)	4,800.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Advertising	6125	50.00	1,019.00	1,000.00	(19.00)	1,000.00
Informal Time Expense	6126	515.00	1,606.28	1,300.00	(306.28)	1,300.00
Subtotal Other Office Expenses	6075	3,594.18	39,273.50	34,525.00	(4,748.50)	34,525.00
<i>Budgeted</i>		3,594.18	39,273.50	34,525.00	(4,748.50)	34,525.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Office Expenditures	6040	8,299.83	100,865.34	105,050.12	4,184.78	105,050.12
<i>Budgeted</i>		8,299.83	100,865.34	105,050.12	4,184.78	105,050.12
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FACILITY EXPENSE	6130					
FACILITY SALARIES	6135					
Custodians Salaries	6140-001	550.32	6,420.40	7,152.32	731.92	7,152.32
Custodian Lawncare	6140-002	0.00	1,380.00	800.00	(580.00)	800.00
Custodians FICA	6160	42.10	491.13	547.15	56.02	547.15
Custodian Lawncare FICA	6160-001	0.00	0.00	62.00	62.00	62.00
Subtotal Facility Salaries	6135	592.42	8,291.53	8,561.47	269.94	8,561.47
<i>Budgeted</i>		592.42	8,291.53	8,561.47	269.94	8,561.47
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER FACILITY EXPENSES	6165					
Utilities	6170	3,047.91	34,651.68	31,200.00	(3,451.68)	31,200.00
Maintenance Supplies	6180	239.35	5,442.53	4,800.00	(642.53)	4,800.00
Insurance	6190	2,352.65	26,930.04	26,900.00	(30.04)	26,900.00
Facility Maint. Contracts	6200	4,658.34	58,384.93	60,000.00	1,615.07	60,000.00
Gen Maint. Labor & Materi	6210	465.86	25,346.30	25,200.00	(146.30)	25,200.00
Reserve Fund Major Maint.	6212	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
Landscaping	6220	0.00	105.58	500.00	394.42	500.00
Snow Removal	6225	2,051.25	6,746.25	2,300.00	(4,446.25)	2,300.00
Subtotal Other Facility Expenses	6165	12,815.36	164,607.31	157,900.00	(6,707.31)	157,900.00
<i>Budgeted</i>		12,815.36	164,607.31	157,900.00	(6,707.31)	157,900.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Facility Expense	6130	13,407.78	172,898.84	166,461.47	(6,437.37)	166,461.47
<i>Budgeted</i>		13,407.78	172,898.84	166,461.47	(6,437.37)	166,461.47
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER EXPENSE	6230					
Per Capita Assessment	6240	0.00	23,870.00	23,870.00	0.00	23,870.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		55,609.83	687,526.49	700,239.56	12,713.07	700,239.56
<i>Budgeted</i>		55,609.83	687,354.41	700,239.56	12,885.15	700,239.56
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		0.00	172.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES		\$33,720.91	(\$2,088.44)	\$0.44	(\$2,088.68)	\$0.44
<i>Budgeted</i>		33,700.11	(1,990.26)	0.44	(1,990.70)	0.44
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>		20.80	(98.18)	0.00	0.00	0.00

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Felipe Martinez, Full-Time Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

2026 Compensation Package

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	
Base Salary	58,950	60,719	(includes 3% COLA increase)
Cash Salary	54,440	56,074	(Represents Base Salary – SECA)
Housing Allowance	36,025	37,106	(Includes 3% COLA increase)
EFFECTIVE SALARY	90,465	93,180	(Cash Salary + Housing)
Pension/Health	38,900	43,795	**Pastor Transitional Plan (47%)
SECA	4,510	4,645	(7.65% of Base Salary)
Professional Exp	2,500	2,500	
Continuing Ed	3,000	3,000	
Mileage	1,000	1,000	
TOTAL PACKAGE	\$140,375	\$148,131	5.5% increase
Vacation	5 weeks	5 weeks	
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	
Sick Leave	10 days	10 days	

** Pastor Transitional Pension and Health Plan: New rates phased in over 3 years.

1. Health Insurance is 37% of Effective Salary
2. Pension is 8.5% of Effective Salary
3. Death & Disability is 1.5% of Effective Salary

WoodWeShare

2025 Annual Report



A generous land-clearing neighbor donated roughly twenty tons of trees in February/March 2025. After many weeks of cutting and hauling, the oak trees from the north side of the church parking lot were added to the collection. Over the Easter and Memorial Day weekends, volunteers came in ninetyminute shifts to split and stack firewood. Amazingly, people reported having fun with some staying or returning for extra shifts. Thanks to the friends and families who helped prepare a two-year supply in just three days! (Apologies for any errors or omissions.)



Kent Anderson
Pam Bolton
Jake Brooks
Jaime Copeland
Leigh Ann Figg
Chris George
Grant Hale
Tracy Heaton de Martinez
Robert Jeffrey
Jordan Lewis
Hunter McCullough
Doug Mitchell
Bill Porter
Eric Riddle
Richard Safford
Doug Sunkel
Doug Wray

Rick, Katie and Nathan Booth
Jeff and Julie Daiker
Rick and Jackson Davis with Jon Huguenard,
Cameron Logston and Aryan Tatnis
Craig and Natty Dismore
Zack and Glinda Ellison
Victor and Zack Friend
Lisa and Dave Porter
Alexa, Oliver and Finn Staley
Amanda, Alison, Audrey and Jacob Virostko
Breanne, Evie, Rhett and Jason Vogelpohl
David Sprunger, traveling from Terre Haute
Jay C. Sprunger, who travelled over 500 miles
and worked all 11 shifts with the splitter
he designed and built in the '80s
Dianne Sprunger, who also took photographs
and prepared breakfasts and lunches



In addition to several listed above, the following also helped with deliveries in 2025: Luther Pierson and Jess Garlick; Jacob, Karen and Lucia Rodick. Finally, Victor Friend helped cut and load his storm-felled hackberry tree in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Sprunger
WoodWeShare
@gmail.com
January 16, 2026

2025 Annual Reports

SWEET DREAMS MINISTRIES

The mission of the Sweet Dreams Ministry is to provide children in need who live in or near Bartholomew County with new beds and complete bedding.

In our eighth year of this wonderful Ministry, we delivered approximately twenty-four (24) beds. Most of our referrals came from the Department of Child Services (DCS) but we had a few others from other vetted sources. DCS requests beds for their unlicensed placements, who are usually relatives of the children being placed. The relatives or friends who care for these children do not get any form of reimbursement for their care. Whereas foster parents who go through the foster system are usually reimbursed for some of their care for these children.

The caseworkers who request these beds will let us know the child's favorite colors and what they enjoy. The younger girls often request princesses or mini-mouse or unicorns for their bedding. The younger boys love monster trucks or Minecraft. Along with the beds and bedding, we also provide stuffed toys and books for the younger children.

Each complete bed and bedding that we provide costs approximately \$350. Early in 2025, we were blessed by a generous donation of two complete sets of bunk beds, including frames and mattresses. We were also extremely blessed with a significant number of donations this year in memory of John Sawin. Thank you, Nancy Sawin for this amazing gift.

Those members involved in this Ministry in 2025 were Janet and Ted Sharpe, Doug Sprunger, Kerry Norris, Doug Wray, Leigh Ann Figg, and Chris and Debbie George.

All involved in this Ministry are so grateful to our church for this opportunity to help provide some desperately needed stability and love to these children. Every child deserves to sleep in his/her own bed. Thank you for your support and please hold these children in your hearts and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Sharpe and Leigh Ann Figg

Session Reports

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Strategic plan that First Pres. developed and began to enact in 2025 includes a vision statement and the following targets regarding Worship Planning and Meaningful Content:

Vision Statement: We aspire to be known as a congregation who authentically celebrates diverse voices and co-creates engaging, accessible worship, which empowers us to connect and serve as a reflection of Jesus' love.

Targets for this year:

1. Determine what is meaningful, spiritual worship for the congregation.
2. During worship time have people share personal stories about their faith journey as “moments of faith”
3. Design a variety of pathways for people to voice or share what it is that brings us closer together and to God.

Prior to the Strategic Plan adoption, the Worship Committee was a small but mighty group meeting monthly, consisting of Marquita Tuck, Marsha Sunkel, Janet Lowery, Terri Glackin and me, with leadership from several staff people, and virtual/remote involvement from Hanna Salas and Anthony Merida as their lives called for them to be out of town most of the time. In looking at our strategic goals and visions for our church, it seemed the Worship Committee was being called to lead this co-creation of worship in ways we hadn't done in the past. For that we needed more input, more voices, more collaboration. But we still felt that art and decor for the sanctuary services and seasons was worthy of our time and talents, too. So we have made the Worship Committee into 2 sub-committees: Sanctuary Guild and Worship Co-Creators. In 2026 Marsha Sunkel will chair the overall Worship Committee as Elder and lead the Sanctuary guild, while I, Lisa Porter, hope to stay on and help Felipe, Jordan, Jen, and Jenny with leadership on the Co-Creators subcommittee. Both groups would love to have more members and are actively recruiting!

Sanctuary Guild has continued the work of preparing communion for all the services, hanging banners and arranging other decor for the sanctuary each week. We have worked closely with Felipe to line up guest speakers at Felipe's request due to vacation and other events that call for his absence from the pulpit. We enjoyed hearing from several “guests” in 2025 and look forward to inviting many of them back in 2026.

Session Reports

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We really appreciate those who joined us for the Hanging of the Greens (and the unhangings) for sharing their artistic talents, and their height and feats of strength with us. We were thrilled to have Jen and the Children's Nurture committee members lead us in designing the interactive Easter and Christmas Eve family services, and providing the volunteers, costumes, scripts, instructions, and signs of welcome.

The Worship Co-creators (WCC) is a larger group that has met 3 times so far. Using our strategic goals and vision statement to guide us, we aimed to start with a few services and themes, and to make them even more inclusive, welcoming, and accessible to people of diverse ages, faith experiences, beliefs and backgrounds, etc. by engaging multiple senses and using many forms of expression. Our focus so far has mostly been the Intergenerational Communion Sunday services, September 7 (Raising of Lazarus and Resurrection), October 5 (World-on fire Communion), November 1 (All Saints Day), and Jan 4 (Star Sunday). We diverted a bit from the first Sunday focus to have some fun with Reformation Sunday with Tracy Heaton Martinez' podcast with Leah Jackman-Wheitner and Janet Lowery as guests. The WCC is already looking ahead and branching out to try an evening Jazz Vespers service/series during Lent, and to planning more meaningful worship with faith sharing opportunities, diverse leadership and participation in the new year. We hope to continue what we have done for the last 2 years, in collaborating with the Deacons and other leaders to put together 1 or more Faith in Action Day again, too. In 2025 we had one on July 13, and we'll need to get that on the calendar for 2026. On Faith in Action Days we worship inside and outside our walls by doing God's work in the community: visiting, building, praying, creating, feeding, clothing, repairing, playing together, whatever our neighbors express as a need, such that God's will gets done.

The Worship committee always welcomes input and feedback. Please find a committee member, fill out a note on an upcoming survey, or send any member or staff person an email, with concerns, questions, ideas, stories, requests, whatever you may want to share. We truly want to make worship a co-creation of all who participate, both virtually and in-person.

Submitted with love on behalf of all the members on both subcommittees,
Lisa Porter

2025 Members of the 2 Subcommittees:

Sanctuary Guild: Marsha Sunkel, Marquita Tuck, Terri Glackin, Janet Lowery, Lisa Porter (virtual Anthony Merida, Hanna Salas)

Worship Co-Creators: (all of the SG above plus the following) Jake Brooks, Linda Pierson, Luther Pierson, Leah Jackman Wheitner, Tracy Heaton de Martinez, Dianne Sprunger

Session Reports

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your Nominating Committee is made up of seven members of the congregation as prescribed in the Church by-laws: Brook Brown, Stephanie Cunningham, Diana Holloway, Chip Orben, Sarah Sanders, Warren Ward and Leah Jackman Wheitner. We are charged with identifying individuals to serve as church officers and members of specially formed groups like the recent 200th anniversary committee. We are glad the congregation includes members who worship remotely but are concerned that they may not be adequately represented as Elders and Deacons. If you are interested in serving the congregation in either capacity – especially if you generally join in online – please contact Warren or another member of the committee.

Other Reports

DEACONS

Deacon Class 2025: Anna Denoyer, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Julie Orben (co-chair), Scott Weathers , and Bella Herbert, 1 year term as Youth Deacon

Class 2026: Doug Wray, Alexa Staley, Linda Pierson, and Sarah Dismore

Class 2027: Leanne Loutner, Jerrica Dowling, Sarah Sanders (secretary), and Sandy Thomas (co-chair)

Deacon Class of 2028: Julie Orben (co-chair), Scott Weathers , Rick Booth, and Brenda Manns

FPC Deacons serve 3-year terms and are responsible for congregational care, fellowship events, and providing greeters each Sunday. Deacons play a vital role in welcoming new members, providing spiritual care, reaching out to those in need, and fostering fellowship within the congregation. In our church, each Deacon has a list of individuals and families they reach out to over the course of the year. Ideally, each member of the church (and many regular visitors) should know who their assigned Deacon is so that they can reach out to that person with concerns or special needs. Deacons also organize fellowship events like Deacons & Donuts in February/March, Easter Brunch, the Church Picnic at Donner Park in June, and the Consecration Brunch in November. Deacons strive to create a welcoming environment and to connect with long-time members and first-time visitors.

In 2025 one of the FPC Deacon initiatives was the Heads Up Mental Health Initiative. Thanks to the vision of Scott Weathers, a group of Deacons applied for and received a grant from the Center for Congregations to fund a series of speakers and workshops related to mental health care and how we can help end the stigma around mental health needs. Deacons also started a new initiative with the creation of Care Boxes for church members facing a difficult time. Thanks to Leanne Loutner's leadership, Deacons provided Care Boxes to several church members struggling with a difficult health diagnosis or loss. Deacons are also able to coordinate free transportation for church members and visitors using grant funds to arrange local paid drivers in addition to church volunteers. For more information about mental health support, Care Boxes, or transportation help, please contact the 2026 Deacon co-chairs Sandy Thomas and Julie Orben.

We are thankful for the service of the Deacons whose term ended this year: Anna Denoyer, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, and our Youth Deacon, Bella Herbert. Thank you to Julie Orben and Scott Weathers for agreeing to serve a second term and to our new Deacons beginning in 2026: Rick Booth and Brenda Manns. If you aren't sure who your 2026 Deacon is, please reach out to Sarah Sanders (Deacon secretary), Brook Brown, or Pastor Felipe.

Other Reports

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA

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

2025 Annual Unrestricted Grant Funds Available	\$144,975.10
2025 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:	
Mission support (1/3 of available funds)	\$47,841.75
Hispanic Scholarship (Year 4 of 4)	10,000.00
Bicentennial Matching Grant	50,000.00
Hot Meal Grant (Year 2 of 5)	5,000.00
Preschool Bathroom	35,000.00
2025 Total Grant Disbursements from Unrestricted Funds	\$147,841.75
Remaining Balance at 12/31/25	\$ 0.00
2025 Grants Awarded from Restricted Funds	
Chapel Renovations (Reeves Fund)	\$12,990.00
Foundation Balances at 12/31/25:	
Vanguard Investment Account	\$4,136,628.00
Columbarium – New Covenant Investments	24,084.00
Columbarium – First Financial Checking	21,063.00
Organ Maintenance – New Covenant Investments	193,274.00
Harrison Youth Fund – New Covenant Investments	15,764.00
Foundation – First Financial Checking	2,271.00
Private Donor Fund	266,106.00
Other	
Reeves Fund (Endowed benefit trust held at the Heritage Fund)	\$1,253,528.00 (as of 12/31/25)

Highlights during 2025

- Clean audit for 2024 conducted by Agresta, Storms & O’Leary.
- Our accounts followed the market uptick and had excellent gains.
- Our solar panel project for the gym roof went through the approval process and should start installation in early 2026.

Other Reports

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA

- We were able to complete our pledge to the community grant project that was created to celebrate our bicentennial.

2025 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

Colleen Herrick	President
Leigh Ann Figg	Vice President/ Legacy Circle / Planned Giving
Eric Riddle	Treasurer
Tim Denoyer	Investment Committee, Chair
Warren Ward	Investment Committee
Bill Jones	Mission Support
Chris George	Secretary
Leah Jackman-Wheitner	Webmaster/Public Relations

We give heartfelt thanks to Colleen who is retiring from the board after serving faithfully and competently for a total of 8 years and to Warren who did a 2 year term to fill an open unexpired seat. Luther Pierson and Jamie Zobrist will be filling these board openings starting in 2026.

Memorial & Honorarium Gifts

During 2025, the Foundation received a total of \$21,255.00 remembering our loved ones:

Memorials:

Rev. Cal and Donna Brand	Ben Bush
Margy McKune	Paul Spurgeon
Jim Farrar	Bob Orben
Tom Carmichael	Pepe Martinez

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.fpcolumbus.org/foundation/>.

2026 FPC Foundation meeting dates:

February 17, April 7, June 2, August 4, October 6, December 1 (annual meeting).

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Herrick (Board President)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA

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