

2021 Report to the Congregation



**First Presbyterian Church
221 E. Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408**



VISION

As a congregation, we strive to listen for God's guidance. Shaped by scripture and prayer, our vision for our church is as follows:

"Celebrating Christ and serving community at 6th and Lincoln and throughout the world."

We celebrate Christ through joyful worship, faithful teaching and learning, accepting and loving fellowship. We serve community by opening our hearts with acts of hospitality and compassion, offering God's reconciling peace, freedom, and justice.

We strive to seek God's will and live by Christ's example.



We...

- invite and welcome all God's children;
- build and nurture relationships through our love, prayer, support, and acceptance of one another;
- engage our hearts and minds in meaningful worship and lifelong spiritual learning;
- assist and advocate for those in need;
- strive to be good stewards of God's creation.

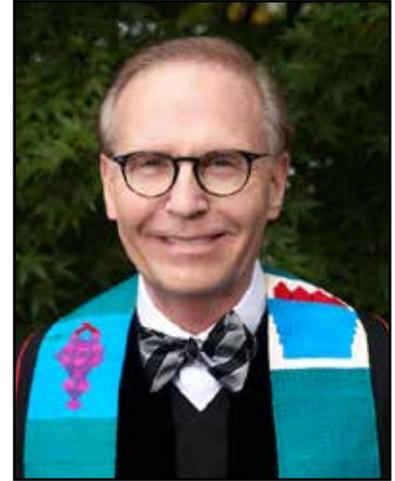


Transitional Pastor's Report

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic of the past two years has impacted every area of ministry and mission at First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Indiana.

However, I have been impressed by the resiliency of the congregation in face of adversity and I am grateful for the sacrificial, innovative leadership of the church staff of FPC to keep the work of the church moving forward during this difficult time.

Both church staff and members of the congregation have stepped up to meet the challenges of the times we are living through, and the following are some examples of these efforts:



Mission Study: A significant amount of my time has been focused on completing a Mission Study that reviewed the recent history of the church, evaluated all of the worship, mission, and programming efforts of the congregation, as well as the church's finances and staffing model, and began to flesh out some goals for the future ministry of the congregation. Special thanks are extended to the chairs and committee members of all of the Session Committees that assisted in this work and many members of the congregation who participated by responding to congregational questionnaires and attending congregational forums.

Senior Pastor Nominating Committee: with the Mission Study near completion, the PNC was elected by the congregation in July and began their work in earnest in September. The Ministry Information Form (MIF) was completed toward the end of the year.

Stewardship: Congregations across the country have struggled with diminished resources during the pandemic, but FPC has been proactive in securing the resources it needs to carry out its ministry. A PPP loan (that turned into a grant) was secured in the Spring and the Capital Campaign Committee initiated an effort to pay down two outstanding loans (Organ/Parking lot) and were able to fully retire the loan with the higher interest rate, dramatically decreasing the indebtedness of the congregation. This group also worked closely with the Property Committee to do the initial spade work for the future sale of the Larry Crowe property; future proceeds have been earmarked for needed repairs and improvements to the church's aging buildings and to decrease its carbon footprint.

Property: In addition to the regular maintenance required of aging church buildings, the second half of 2021 focused on the repair of damage to church buildings due to a flood in mid-June. Significant damage was done to portions of the lower levels of the church buildings and offices (flooring tile, drywall, carpeting, etc.). It took many weeks to dry these areas out and several months for scheduled repairs by contractors to be completed. Thanks, are also extended to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley who provided a significant grant to the congregation to assist with the cost of repairs. Thanks are extended as well to members of the Property Committee who assisted with parking lot disruptions due to the late summer/early fall construction of a new bike lane on 7th street.

Membership: a major focus has been on improving signage around the building and elevating the “curb appeal” of the exterior of the church buildings. Specifically, five vinyl coated aluminum “banners” have been designed and ordered for installation in the windows of the “turret” on the corner of Lincoln and 6th street. Moreover, after the return to in-person worship this past May, significant efforts have been made to insure that visitors to the church feel welcome and safe.

Worship: the congregation has invested in very high-quality video and audio equipment in the sanctuary and that has enabled FPC to broadcast (online) and record worship services that look professional. The addition of an IU student-technician has also greatly enhanced the ability to control sound levels, lighting, and camera angles, as well as to scroll text where appropriate. This online capability promises to improve outreach to the community (and beyond) for many years to come. In addition, a great deal of effort has been devoted to making sure clear, understandable covid-safety protocols are in place for those attending in-person worship. Finally, worship was enhanced by three sermon series over the course of the year (Lent, Summer, and Advent), using resources from Sanctified Art.

Re-Opening Task Force: as vaccination rates in the community (and nationwide) increased dramatically in early 2021, and as Covid infection rates dipped in the Spring, the decision was made to move from videotaped, online worship to in-person worship with one service at 11 am. Initially, a “spacing” plan was put in place in the sanctuary to keep people a safe distance apart. Masking inside church buildings was also required as well as an encouragement for only vaccinated people to attend in-person worship. Eventually congregational singing was re-introduced, as well as bringing back the choir last Fall. These efforts were welcomed by most people in the congregation. However, there are still a significant number of people who are not comfortable worshipping in-person as the pandemic continues and infection rates have increased due to the Omicron variant.

Personnel: a comprehensive review of the church’s staffing model was conducted in early 2021 as a part of the Mission Study and no recommendations were forwarded to Session to change the current two-pastor model. Efforts were also made to develop a new way of doing annual Staff reviews (these will be conducted in early 2022).

New Church Website: the two transitional pastors and several other volunteers and church staff began working with a local website designer (Regina Helton; Socially Up) in September to update the current website and to make it more visually appealing, easier to navigate and update, and more outwardly (community) focused. That work was largely completed at the end of 2021 and the new website is scheduled to go “live” in early 2022.

Building Congregational Vitality: FPC, as a Matthew 25 congregation of the PCUSA, spent most of 2021 focusing on the Racial Justice component of the program, but toward the end of 2021 a meeting was held to explore adding the Congregational Vitality component of the Matthew 25 program to the work of the congregation. This exploration will continue into 2022 and will be used to help flesh out the “future goals” section of the Mission Study.

As we look forward to 2022, there is much good work in this past year to build on. 2022 promises to be a year when a new Senior Pastor is called and a new chapter, in the more than 200-year history of FPC, will begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake Transitional Senior Pastor

Transitional Associate Pastor's Report

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

It has been another wonderful (and strange!) year of doing ministry together. Since 2021 was my first full year at FPC, it was nice to learn the rhythm of the church, even as we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. We have many things to celebrate from this past year together and I wanted to share some of the highlights from my assigned areas of Racial Justice, Christian Education, Outreach, and the Deacons.



After seven months of intentional work by the Racial Justice Task Force, our Session approved for FPC to become a Matthew 25 congregation at our April Session meeting. Matthew 25 is an initiative through the PCSUA which offers an invitation to become a more active presence in the world. We have chosen to accept the challenge to work on dismantling structural racism. In September we celebrated with a special worship service to help educate and uplift the important and faithful work ahead of us. We also took an exciting step forward in partnering with three churches in Columbus, IN who are also undertaking Matthew 25 work: First Presbyterian, Fairlawn Presbyterian, and North Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This new partnership, the Myrtle Cohort, secured a grant of \$75,000 to live into our calling to be Matthew 25 congregations. While the work is difficult, we know it is faithful and I am excited to see where this next year takes us.

In May, we confirmed seven youth confirmands to be members! What a joy that one of first in-person services included a celebration of these dedicated young people. We held bi-weekly youth group gatherings on the church lawn, took a trip to Pyoca, enjoyed a family worship service out at Larry Crowe, and had plenty of laughter and fun with our summer VBS series. It was such a gift that we were able to start in-person Sunday School back up this fall and I'm grateful for the dedication of our kids, parents, teachers, and leaders of faith formation.

It never ceases to amaze me how dedicated our congregation is to the many outreach mission partners we serve. Like all areas, we had to shift a few things this past year: a local mission project instead of a trip to West Virginia, bagged lunches versus in-person meals at Wheeler, and focusing some of our energy and resources to the newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan. While pivoting and changing plans is never easy, the commitment of our congregation to helping our neighbors never wavered.

With the return of in-person activities, our Deacons were eager to resume some of the ministry areas that had previously been put on hold: flower delivery, visitations, communion prep, and meal trains. We were even able to host a handful of outdoor coffee hours this fall! It felt good to get back to some of the hands-on activities of the church.

I look forward to exploring where God might be leading us in 2022. I pray we can lean on our shared resilience these last two years, knowing that God is faithful still.

In Christ,

Rev. Kelley Jepsen

Christian Education Committee



- Met regularly from January through November of 2021
- Opened meetings with conversations with discussions from APCE's Pandemic Pondering Guide
- Offered recorded Faith Formation stories for young families through May while in-person opportunities were not an option
- Identified areas of our ministry that could work as hybrid options
- Supported the Matthew 25 Initiative through educational opportunities
- Offered a hybrid VBS opportunity not only to our congregation but also to other downtown congregations



While 2021 presented many challenges, the Christian Education committee of First Presbyterian met them head on.

The year began with mostly on-line opportunities as we worked to envision programming once in-person opportunities became possible again. In January, the leadership of the three subcommittees met to vision together where we had been, what was working, what needed more support, and where we were heading as a ministry.

Based on those conversations the following items are the accomplishments of the committee from this year:



- Polled our young families to help design programming that would best meet their needs in the safest way
- Found alternative locations for faith formation opportunities (outdoors, when possible, larger rooms, etc)
- Continued to design youth programming that responded to the participation and interest of the families
- Worked with downtown congregations to re-start an interfaith collaboration for families resulting in a Lantern walk opportunity in November



Adult Education Subcommittee

Gary Crow
Andrew Swank
Alan Edmonds
Karen Watts
Lou Moir
Jim Earnest

Youth Subcommittee

Nancy Goss
Mary Burch Ratliff
Megan Becker
Meagan Williams
Nathan Earnest
Mary Beth Novy

I would like to thank the members of our Christian Education Committee for their commitment to providing faith formation opportunities to the families of First Presbyterian Church. The members are as follows:

Children's Education Subcommittee

Karen Hahn
Kathy Hollinger
Carol McGregor
Joanie Blackwell
Sarah Harriss



Also, our ministry would be ever so much more difficult without the partnership in ministry of Rev. Kelley Jepsen. I would like to thank her for her guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the last year and a half as we have journeyed together in new ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hahn
Chair of Christian Education

Membership Committee

In the first half of 2021, the Membership Committee planned for its responsibilities as the church opened to in-person worship as well as taking steps to keep our church community informed and connected.

As we did reopen, the committee reestablished the greeters who welcomed people to the church and helped keep social distancing. Greeters were supplied not only for worship services but also for funerals and other church functions. The members also maintained and manned the Welcome Center, name tags, and bulletin boards behind the Welcome Center to help inform and direct those coming to our church. We made church directories available at the Welcome Center.

Much of our efforts in 2021 was investigation and designing signage for the exterior of the church. We updated the limestone cabinet as well as advertising in the HT to reflect the current worship information. The committee continued with our yard signs but also investigated several forms of more permanent signage. We decided on panels to attach to the building on the southeast corner of the church.

The committee members contributed thoughts and ideas for the new website. We added demographic information for the Mission Study, and we reinstated contact policies for contacting guests through e-mails.

We hosted a Fall Celebration outside after church in October.

We will continue to tell our community who we are as well as making sure our members are informed and connected.

Many thanks to the members of our committee: Carol Avenson (co-chair), Tim Baldwin, Coburn Colwell, Sue Connell, Gail Dunning, Julie Stryker, and Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake.

Jo Ann Main, co-chair

Nominating Committee

Committee members: Elder Sarah Harriss (chair), Elder Sandra Tracey, Carol Avenson, Derek Voskuil, Mary Burch Ratcliff, Ruth Holman.

The committee was charged with choosing nominees for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) and nominees for the Deacon and Elder classes of 2024.

The following tasks were undertaken and completed:

The Committee met in April 2021 to discuss potential nominees for the PNC. Those individuals were contacted and asked to serve. Six nominees accepted the invitation to serve and were elected by the Congregation. Those individuals include Karen Hahn, Nancy Voskuil, Dan Conkle, Jeff Main, Gary Crow, and Addie Schmucker (youth)

The Committee began the Elder & Deacon search in June 2021 by discussing current officers who would be vacating their seats in 2022. The committee began identifying individuals with strengths in a particular area of church life and governance who might serve.

The committee emailed and met in-person to review the names of FPC members to serve in each of these roles. Each committee member participated fully in contacting prospective officers, explaining the duties and responsibilities of the position, and asking the individuals to prayerfully consider serving. This information was continuously communicated to other members of the committee via email. Elders and Deacons for the class of 2024 were nominated and elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 24, 2021. The roster of officers for the class of 2024 does not include a youth as the committee was not able to find one who was interested/able to serve at this time. Elder and Deacon officers for the class of 2024 include:

Elders: Megan Becker, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, Paul Rothrock, Mike Riggle, Don Hanna

Deacons: Julie Stryker, Andy Chickendantz, Lynn Barrett, Meagan Williams, Mikaela Coppedge (replacing Sylvia Garrison '24)

Nominating Committee: the current committee for CY 2022 includes: Sandra Tracey (2022). All other committee members have rolled off. Session has been informed of this and will work to secure new Nominating Committee Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Harriss (outgoing Chair, 2021)

Outreach

Committee members: Elder Debbi Conkle (chair), Dan Conkle, David Giedroc, Ann Gilbert, Associate Pastor Kelley Jepsen (ex-officio), Elder Sarah Nickel, Ann Schechter, and Elder Dan Watts

Our work is to provide opportunities for service, encouraging participation in programs that reach out to the community locally, nationally, and internationally, and, in doing so, sharing God's love and compassion with those in need. Our budget provides crucial support to agencies and partners who do the very hard work of serving those in need on a daily basis.

Our committee worked diligently from February to early April to develop our mission statement as part of the whole church's Mission Statement. We looked at our current work, with plans to evaluate our efforts in light of changes in our membership, our community, and our world, and in light of our church's plans to become a Matthew 25 congregation. We considered how our volunteer opportunities fit the lifestyles of our members and potential new members. And we acknowledged the importance of keeping the congregation and the community at large informed of our work.

Accomplishments Our many volunteers and donors are the fuel for our accomplishments. The committee thanks each and every one of them.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) – Through weekly donations placed in the MCUM box in the narthex, and through scheduled food drives, FPC members contributed 763 pounds of food! Thanks to Ann and Steve Schechter for regularly delivering those items to MCUM's food pantry, and to 2 of our members who serve as board officers. MCUM focuses on childcare, basic needs, and self-sufficiency services for low-income families in Monroe County.

Area 10 Agency on Aging -

Over 27 FPC members helped bag and distribute groceries to seniors who have difficulty getting out. Thanks to Gail Dunning and Allan Edmonds, the coordinators who have kept this valuable mission going throughout the pandemic. In December, Ginny and Jim Coppedge coordinated the collection of Christmas gifts for 40 seniors in need through the Angel Tree Project.



Gary & Judy preparing to deliver groceries

Shalom/Beacon Inc. – A team of 10 FPC volunteers continued serving breakfast to those experiencing homelessness every single Saturday morning throughout 2021. Thanks to Ann Gilbert and Ann Schechter for the hard work of scheduling those hardy volunteers. Julie Farris volunteered regularly at the Shalom Center and kept us informed of needed items.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington - Most volunteer positions were limited due to the continuing pandemic, but several FPC members helped at a Camp Rock clean-up and with a bicycle event. Three members were able to safely return to being reading buddies. There are 3 FPC members who serve on the board.

Immigration Justice Task Force - In August, Owen Johnson replaced Velma Davis as our church’s representative. Owen keeps the committee informed of new developments.



Dan Watts at Wheeler Mission

Wheeler Mission –We continued our hands-on project of providing 120 sack lunches one day each month. A group of 12 FPC members participated by preparing 10 lunches each for delivery to the church parking lot and then on to Wheeler. Wheeler provides year-round shelter, meals, and life skill classes to homeless men in Bloomington. Thanks to Dan Watts for coordinating and keeping us informed.

Posoltega, Nicaragua –

FPC continued its mission work in Posoltega by providing ongoing support through our budget for the parish and for the children’s music program.

Off-budget donations from members and non-members supported 24 university scholarships in 2021.

Although we could not travel to Posoltega this year, we sent some of our Equal Exchange coffee cart proceeds to help paint the church, a project we would have supported had we gone.

And in December, Koinonia volunteers hosted their Christmas Store. raising \$1,000 to help provide a joyful Christmas for children in the parish’s rural areas



Students in the Children’s Music Program

West Virginia Mission (alternative) – Youth and adults could not travel to West Virginia, but instead were able to help someone in need closer to home. Nasrin Hepfer, the widow of former member, Greg Hepfer, experienced great difficulties over the past year. In August, over 20 FPC volunteers donated funds for building materials and snacks, or showed up to work – to help build a railing, replace broken doors, paint, and clear brush. Nasrin was so thankful. Thanks to Michael Williams and Kelley Jepsen for their coordination and work on this project.



Nasrin Hepfer with her safe new railing

Exodus Refugee Immigration – For several years, we have collected cleaning supplies and kitchen items for asylum seekers and refugees, with delivery to Exodus in Indianapolis. This fall, thousands of Afghan refugees arrived at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. Immediately members of First Presbyterian Church asked how they could help. Associate Pastor Kelley Jepsen communicated with Team Rubicon to ascertain their biggest needs – diapers! Our first collection of diapers and wipes were delivered by Chris Holmes. October 17, a community drive at our church collected 4000+ diapers, 300 sanitary pads, and 20 cans of formula, which Kelley delivered. With Bloomington being approved as Exodus’s second federally authorized resettlement site, we realized that there might be a possibility of our church co-sponsoring an Afghan refugee family right here in Bloomington. We are excited about this possible new venture.



Pat Riggins Red Cross Blood Drives – We provided a safe, convenient location for not only FPC members but also community members to donate blood. On June 3, the Red Cross collected 29 units, and on October 14, they collected the highest amount ever at our church - 35 units of blood, enough to save 105 lives. Thanks to Don Hollinger for coordinating this very important event, to the 6 volunteers who greet donors, and to all who give blood.

Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers continued to be limited at Habitat builds, but one FPC member serves as CEO, one on the board, and one or more as skilled carpenters.



Heifer Market – Our 33rd annual market, the first one held outside, raised \$11,014 for Heifer International. Mary Beth Novy coordinated the event, and Michael Williams arranged for a tent for the front lawn of the church. A new family brought their animals to share – a pig, rabbit, and chickens. And folks off the street stopped in to see what was happening.

PCUSA Special Offerings - Outreach provided newsletter announcements, a children's sermon, and Minutes for Mission for three special offerings:

One Great Hour of Sharing – \$2,843; Peace & Global Witness - \$2,525 (\$631 staying local to help an Afghan refugee family); and Christmas Joy - \$1,911.

Other projects The members of our church responded to some new local needs. A one-time fundraising request was made to help Robin & Trisha's House, a new transitional house for homeless men. The project was started by Katie Norris who grew up in our church.

Our church joined with Trinity Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church, and the Bloomington Fire Department to help those in our community who needed warm clothing this winter. Ann Schechter reported that FPC members' coats, hats, and gloves totaled almost half of all donations.

Budget Due to the church's ongoing budget difficulties, Outreach again received less than half of the amount the church historically had provided for our efforts. Without eliminating the historical amount as an aspirational goal, our firm budget for 2021 was reduced in order to provide the congregation with a transparent budget – a budget that was closer to the amount that had actually been disbursed the past 4 years. With this pared-down budget, the church was able to make disbursements on a monthly or quarterly basis. It was very helpful for our partner agencies to receive the church's support on a regular basis - a wonderful improvement over receiving funds at the end of each year. Moving forward, we continue to hope and pray that the church can provide additional Outreach funding in the future, to better care for the "least of these" in our midst. But we are very grateful for the support we have received.

Thank you to Rev. Kelley Jepsen for her valuable guidance and support. Thanks to David Giedroc for serving as our representative on the Racial Justice Task Force, bringing updates and suggestions as the church began its Matthew 25 initiative. Thanks to Sarah Nickel for agreeing to represent our committee on the Website Advisory Committee.

Confirmed Outreach committee members for 2022 include: Elder Don Hanna (chair), Dan Conkle, Debbi Conkle, Ginny Coppedge, Jim Coppedge, David Giedroc, Associate Pastor Kelley Jepsen (ex-officio), Elder Sarah Nickel, Ann Schechter, and Dan Watts

Respectfully submitted,
Debbi Conkle, chair

Personnel Committee

Members: Deb Prenkert (Session member and chair), Gary Crow (session member), Kevin Tevault, Nancy Nelson, Rev. Scott Kenefake

- Discussed the response team (Sexual Misconduct section of personnel) and how one male and one female typically make up the response team. We recommend that Chris Holmes serve another three-year term on the sexual misconduct team. She has previously served in this role.
- Discussed existing staffing model versus other staffing models; and asked session to concur with the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to search for a Senior Minister/Head of Staff first prior to a search for an Associate or Assistant Pastor.
- Asked the Nominating Committee to recruit a Senior Pastor Nominating Committee that is broadly representative of the congregation at large and to be approved by Session when constituted.
- Invited additional people from other committees to one of our meetings to hear their perspectives on staffing and resource allocation as we completed our Mission Study Question #8 regarding staffing models at First Presbyterian Church
- Received approval from session for the contract of our current Transitional Associate Pastor. We talked about the cost-of-living increase and SECA (Social Security offset) and we discussed compensation and enhancements to acknowledge the multiple roles our Transitional Associate Pastor took on during the absence of a senior pastor and was able to offer a one-time bonus of \$3,000 as part of the contract renewal.
- Renewed contract of our Transitional Pastor Agreement
- Discussed personnel handbook section on child protection may need a revision
- Responded to Pastor Nominating Committee requesting consultation on salary range for Ministry Information Form
- Solicited funds and distributed Christmas gifts to staff, and held the annual staff luncheon in Lyman Hall
- Determined evaluation tool to be used for staff evaluations which consists of reflection questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Prenkert, Chair

Personnel Committee

Property Management Committee

Committee Members: Steve Creech, Chair, Tom Dillon, Past-Chair, Judy Dillon, Recording Secretary, Don Hollinger, Michael Williams, Randall Burcham, Garth Goodlett, Christopher Goss, Richard Darling, Ron Jensen, Bill Jones, Allan Edmonds, John Connell, Sue Connell, Jack Peterman, Steve Berry, Custodian, Rev. Sang-Tae Lee, KPC Representative, Rev. Scott Kenefake, Transitional Senior Pastor

2021 In Review: I think we were all looking forward to 2021, but in reality, it didn't turn out much better than 2020 and in some ways was even worse. The good news was that there was now a vaccine to help in the fight against COVID. The bad news was that there was a great deal of resistance from the general public to getting the vaccine. Still, FPC was able to return to in-person service; was able to return choir and congregant singing to our services; we were now able to live-stream our services, special events and memorials; some of our regular "small groups" were allowed to start once again meeting in-person; and the Monroe County infection and positivity rate continued to fall and remain below the standards set for in-person service for most of the year.

Just when it looked like the sun started to come back out regarding COVID, it ducked back under a cloud and started to rain. On the evening and early morning hours of June 18th and 19th Bloomington received in excess of 5 – 7.5 inches of rain in just a few hours. This created an overload to the City of Bloomington's storm-drain system resulting in significant flooding to businesses and residents in the downtown area. FPC also took a direct hit from the flooding. Our main offices and lower-level hallways were standing in several inches of water.

Just when we began to see a light at the end of the COVID tunnel, we figured out that it was in fact a variant train coming. Daily infections and positivity rates started to climb with the introduction of the Omicron variant of COVID. FPC has weathered another stormy year and in spite of all the setbacks we have managed to not only keep our head above water (no pun intended), but actually move in a positive direction.

COVID-19: The COVID Task Force appointed by Session proved to be a valuable tool. This group not only tracked local infections and positivity rates but offered remediation suggestions to Session. Through their work, FPC was able to return to in-person service; host the Pat Riggin's Blood Drive; and resume limited small-group meetings for both FPC and outside groups. Initially we had to error on the side of caution, but the COVID TF was able to constantly monitor the situation and make recommendations that allowed us to expand these services.

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC): If there is an Achilles Heel to a 100+ year-old church building, it would have to be the heating, air conditioning and utility dilemma. The old limestone and wood structure is certainly not air or watertight. It is a constant struggle to maintain the comfort level of our congregation and those that utilize our facility for meetings, recitals and rehearsals. We want to provide a comfortable space, but at the same time we are always trying to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing our energy consumption. Through the tireless effort of Tom Dillon, we now have the controls in place to "Zone" our facilities.

Through the tireless effort of Tom Dillon, we now have the controls in place to “Zone” our facilities. The goal is to have the ability to control each zone regarding HVAC usage. A second goal is to install programmable thermostats to facilitate heating and cooling during periods with little or no occupancy. I do not have year-end budget figures for energy usage, but my guess is that we have gotten back to the near-peak usage we had pre-pandemic. Our natural gas usage has shown a significant increase in 2021 and Tom and Commercial Service have worked diligently to determine the cause of this increase. The bottom line is that Property continues to monitor our energy usage and has plans in place for the future to reduce our carbon footprint dramatically. The biggest hurdle is that reducing the carbon footprint comes with a hefty price initially.

The Great Flood: The flooding from the June rain event took quite a toll on FPC. All the lower hallways, the library, the main offices, the elevator shaft and several classrooms were flooded. With the help of Tom Dillon, Steve Berry, John & Sue Connell and Peggy and Steve Creech we were able to start extracting water early on the morning of the 19th. Carpeting in the main offices and the library were saturated. We had to try and get books and valuables off the floor and to a drier location. The biggest “save of the day” goes to Tom Dillon. Tom almost single handedly saved FPC from a potential \$100K loss by getting the water pumped out of our elevator shaft. One of neighboring churches was not so lucky. Within 24-hours of the event we had a contract in place for remediation and within 36-hours we had personnel and equipment in place from ServiceMaster. After the initial clean-up we knew we were going to have issues with mold and mildew so Don Hollinger immediately started working with Bounds Flooring to remove impacted carpet, flooring tiles and laminate flooring that was adversely impacted. When all was said and done the damage cost FPC nearly \$30K, but it could have been far worse if it had not been from the quick action taken by Property. Our thanks to the Presbytery for providing \$10K in disaster relief to help offset the cost of the flooding. As a result of this event we (FPC) now have “flood insurance”.

Larry Crowe Property: Session approved a motion from Stewardship to proceed with the sale of this property. In order to go forth with this recommendation it was necessary to obtain a legal land survey. FPC entered into a contract with Deckard Land Surveying to undertake the survey. The survey provided clear, marked boundaries, but also found a potential encroachment along our south boundary. Property also contracted with Spalding Forest Management LLC to conduct a forest inventory for the 16+ wooded acres at Larry Crowe. The cost of the forestry work was donated by Steve & Peggy Creech. Property will continue to work with Stewardship to initiate the sale of this property and updates will be provided to Session as this work progresses in 2022.

High-Speed Internet: The high-speed internet from Comcast was installed in 2020, but we lacked the hardware to “live-stream” our services. This forced Rev. Kenefake and Rev. Jepsen to record services in advance. Curtis Gahimer worked to purchase necessary hardware and with the assistance of Chuck Mulry they were able to get everything set up to live-stream. Hardware acquisition included digital cameras, microphones, wiring and a new fully digital soundboard. The first stream took place on April 25th. I think everyone would agree that the quality of our streaming services have increased with each passing week. Thanks to Curtis and Chuck for all the hard work to make this happen.

7-Line Project: For good or bad the “7-Line Project” initiated by the City of Bloomington to install bicycle lanes on 7th Street is complete. This project had a significant impact on FPC as well as 7th Street. In the initial proposal from the City of Bloomington, we were scheduled to lose all but one entrance to our parking lots. That one entrance would have been the existing alley connecting 6th and 7th streets. Don Hollinger took the lead on this project and offered a revised proposal. This new proposal would have kept the original entrance to our auxiliary parking lot; provided a 2-way entrance from our main to auxiliary lot; widened the alley from 7th Street to both parking lots; provided a circular drive in our main lot with curbing; and would remove the small peninsula along the west side of the main lot. The City took the proposed revised plan under advisement and later approved the plan as presented. Long story short, FPC was able to retain 3X entry points to our lots, get the circular drive with curbs installed and have the island removed at no cost to FPC. That is what is known as a “win/win”. Well done, Don, et al.

Completed Projects: These are just a few of the projects that were able to be completed in 2021.

- 1- Property painted the ceilings in Walker Hall rooms W-208 and W-209. To put things in perspective, it took nearly 10-gallons of paint to cover both of these ceilings.
- 2- We completed the Property portion of the “2021 Mission Study”.
- 3- We repaired plaster, painted, and installed laminate flooring in W-207. This is one of two rooms occupied by our Korean Presbyterian Church (KPC) partners.
- 4- Our KPC partners donated 250 KF94 masks to help in our fight against COVID.
- 5- Thanks to the generosity of Karen and Dan Watts FPC received two (2) new couches for the Parlor to replace the old faux-leather couches which were in bad shape.
- 6- Chuck Mulry was able to start a project to put ventilation fans in the restrooms outside Lyman Hall and outside Rooms 5 and 7 on the lower level. The wiring and ducting is complete, but supply chain issues have the fan itself backordered.
- 7- Property personnel took the lead and participated in a “local mission” project to help former Property member Greg Hepfer’s wife Nasrin with some home repair/remodel projects.
- 8- Property was requested to have new Plexiglas installed in the limestone sign at the corner of 6th and Lincoln.
- 9- Steve Berry and John Connell worked to clear debris from all of our gutters and downspouts. This should help alleviate future water intrusion from heavy rains.
- 10- Property was requested to assist Membership in providing oversight in the installation of new informational signage that will fit into the area vacated by the 6X long stained-glass windows that were removed at the SE corner of the church.
- 11- Peggy and Steve Creech donated a used refrigerator purchased from the Habitat Restore for the downstairs kitchenette.
- 12- Tom Dillon personally purchased a “combustion analyzer” in an attempt to find the cause of our increased natural gas usage at FPC and to check combustion efficiency on all gas-fired appliances.
- 13- KPC and FPC members helped out on December 4th to conduct a “Fall Clean-up Day”. Leaves were raked and piled for City pick-up, windows were cleaned in Lyman Hall and at all entry points and the pews and Narthex chairs were dusted and polished.

Honorable Mention: It is hard to single out individuals from the committee for recognition, but I would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work that comes from a couple of our committee members. Tom Dillon and Don Hollinger went above and beyond in 2021 to help keep FPC functioning efficiently particularly during and immediately following the flood event. Through their actions they saved time and countless dollars with their actions. To Tom, Don and all the PMC members “Thank You”!

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen W. Creech, Chair

Small Groups

Small Group Committee (SGC) members include Paul Rothrock (Chair), Carol Barrett, David Burkhart, Sue Connell, Lou Moir, and Sandra Tracy (Session).

FPC small groups strive to enhance a deeper relationship with Christ and a deeper relationship with people, both knowing them and being known by them. Personal commitments to a small group with mutual intentionality is important in that this gives a fullness of life to ourselves and to the Church.

The variety and number of opportunities for small groups began a recovery in 2021 after the major COVID19 shutdown in 2020. Early in 2021, before the availability of vaccinations, activities continued remotely, often via Zoom. A number of live, in-person activities have now resumed. Here are highlights from 2021.

C.S. Lewis study: Laura Gardner led a 6-week series on “Letters to Malcolm: Mostly on Prayer.” This was via Zoom and attracted a dedicated group. Starting in January 2022 we anticipate a sequel that will discuss Lewis’s classic, “Mere Christianity.”

Theology on Tap continued as a twice-monthly Zoom gathering until summer. At that point with members fully vaccinated, it returned to monthly in-person gatherings. The topics ranged widely in “practical theology,” including articles on Eastern Orthodoxy, Mary Magdalene, and deepening spirituality. Given the thrust of the Anti-racism Task Force, additional topics included Critical Race Theory, culture war, and how the black community tries to speak to skeptical black men.



Presbyterians Outdoors further built on the Anti-racism theme by holding a black history walk to historical sites in the downtown area and a second neighborhood tour to better understand the history that surrounds FPC. Several more traditional, nature-oriented outings greeted the first signs of spring (at Griffy Lake) and the changing colors of autumn (Morgan-Monroe State Forest).

During the summer, SGC co-sponsored several films nights with the Antiracism Taskforce. The regular "Faith and Film" group, however, continues to be on hiatus due to COVID concerns. The F&F leadership includes individuals with health concerns or that work with unvaccinated youth.

A twice monthly time of prayer for the local church, community, and nation continues via Zoom and under the leadership of Sherry Knighton-Schwandt.

Presbyterian Women's groups such as Mary Circle resumed in-person meetings as has the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The Men's Breakfast is in the process of reorganizing. This involves new leadership (Don Hollinger) and a survey of men regarding the venue and timing for this fellowship opportunity. We anticipate the breakfast will resume in January.

In December a new group, "Senior50+ Singles" was started under the leadership of Roberta Taylor and Maggie Knust. It will organize monthly luncheons for older singles after the Sunday worship service. Currently they will meet the second Sunday of each month at Lennie's on Kirkwood.

Several other small groups remain on hiatus – Dinning Out group, Suppers of Eight, and Fiber Arts.

SGC seeks to nurture all these fellowship groups through prayer and continued communication with group leadership. As in the past SGC continues to insure that information about small groups is readily available via church bulletins, newsletters, and social media.

In 2022 SGC will see changes in membership with Carol Barrett and likely Sandra Tracy leaving the group. We are privileged to have Maggie Knust as a new member. Early in 2022 the Committee will need to consider the year as a whole, our continued interaction with the Anti-racism Taskforce, and updating the FPC website in light of the many changes occurring in recent months. SGC stands ready to serve in new ways as FPC goes through a period of transition and is thankful that our Lord has brought strong spirit-led Transitional Pastors to serve among us.

Paul Rothrock, Chair

Stewardship

2021 was a year in which FPC continued to face many challenges due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. We have seen limitations in our face-to-face worships and ability to have physical fellowships. Many members were concerned if we would be able to continue to serve our community as well as we have in the past. 2021 was also a year in which FPC continued to rise to the challenges with the generosity of our members with their finances, time, and ingenuity. Our congregation has continued to show what we can do. THANK YOU!! We have ended 2021 in a strong position on many fronts to start building back our general reserves and begin to contribute more to our community. Please refer to the treasurer's reports for details.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the work that was done by our committee. These individuals have shared their time, expertise, and devotion to move FPC forward. When you see the following people, please do say thank you to them. Without their help we would not be in nearly as good of a position as we are now. Tim Baldwin, Jean Brown, Boyd Hahn, Bill McGregor, Tom Schwandt, Cathy Walker and Dan Watts. Please also say a huge thank you to our tireless treasurer and pastor, Mary McClellan, and Scott Kenefake. We are truly blessed with their leadership!

Here are some of the key highlights of the year.

1. Our 2021 \$602k budget was met with some difficult decisions and blessings.
 - a. We had our mission and outreach continue to hold the line at where they were for this year.
 - b. We did not have to reduce any salaries or lay any one off as we did receive a Payroll Protection Loan (PPP) of \$62,786, in April, to help with our staffing. In June, we received the forgiveness of this loan as we fulfilled the requirements.
 - c. In June, we also faced flood damage. The Presbytery provided \$10k to help offset the repair costs.
2. We have substantially reduced our total indebtedness. A major goal of our committee was to have a downtown physical presence to have a place to worship and serve God and our community for generations to come. We have made major strides to secure this ideal.
 - a. At the beginning of the year, we started with over \$422k total debt. That debt was from our mortgage of \$215,014 with an interest rate of 4.97% and our parking lot balance of \$207,466 with an interest rate of 2.75%.
 - b. A special committee, Celebrate Our Future (COF), was reorganized in September. The idea was to be upfront and honest with our people. Let them know how much debt we had as many did not know and simply ask for help. Help you did! By the end of December (technically it was January 2022 when it was officially retired but we had the funds) we had paid off the mortgage and a bit more on the parking lot.
 - c. The total amount of debt erased, mostly from October through December, was over \$232k! We have only \$189,929 left on the parking lot with reserves in place and donations still coming in. Absolutely amazing when called on, FPC delivered.
3. Special offerings provided help. We continued to provide funding to help those in need from the One Great Hour in April that brought in \$2601. We had the Heifer Market in November with over \$10,114 to help with sustainable farming. Our Christmas Joy offering of \$1911 and Peace Offering of \$1080 will bring joy to those that need it. Your faithfulness and compassion help make our world better. Thank you

In October, we presented an aspirational budget of \$618k. Once more, we will need help from those that can. We understand that for some that a financial donation can be limited to none, then the challenge is can you donate your time. For those that cannot provide their time, can you provide more finances? Below are some ideas that can make a big difference to our church and ability to serve.

1. Pledge cards were mailed out in December. If you can give, please do make sure you send those cards back as it helps us plan.
2. Please pay your per capita so the church does not have to. For the 2022 year, it will be \$46 per member. We have 331 active members. If all the per capita is paid that is a savings of \$15,226 to the church and our budget. That is more money we can help our community with.
3. Individuals that are over the age of 70.5 years old (if born on or before 6/30/49) or 72 years old (if born on or after 7/1/49) and have an individual retirement account (IRA) must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) every year and pay taxes on it. If you do not need this money, but are being “forced” to take it, please consider taking a qualified charitable donation (QCD) and provide it directly to the church. The money cannot come to you, it must go to the church directly. Why do this? It accomplishes a couple of things.
 - a. QCDs satisfy part or all your RMD.
 - b. QCDs have NO TAXES on them. Who would you rather have your money, the government or FPC?
 - c. You can take up to \$100k in a QCD per year.
 - d. If you can, please consult your financial professional, Mary McClellan or members of the stewardship committee as we can help get this setup.
4. On your will or trust, would you be willing to leave the church a legacy either in hard dollars or a percentage of your total estate? Please talk to an estate attorney for the benefits and structured needed to make this happen.

We expect 2022 to have continuing challenges, but we also look to our faith and hope that very soon better days will be here, which they will. On behalf of the stewardship committee, we thank you all for your continued help and support. May God bless us all and peace to our world!

In Christ,
Joel Schneider
Stewardship Chair

Worship Committee

Members: Linda Giedroc (Chair), Karen Hahn, Mary Jensen, Kathy Norris, Becky Rusie, Nancy Swank, Cathy Walker, Karen Watts; Music Director Alex Koppel, Revs. Scott Kenefake and Kelley Jepsen. Prior to the end of 2021 Becky Rusie moved out of town; the Committee wished her well and thanked her for her many contributions to FPC over the years.

Committee responsibilities include those functions that support worship services, i.e. offerings of music, communion, provision of ushers, liturgists & advent candle lighters, arranging sanctuary flowers, sanctuary prep and decoration, and seasonal vestments.

Additionally, the Committee is responsible for policies addressing weddings and funerals and supporting both. Although there were no weddings at FPC during 2021 there were funerals. Decorating the church and sanctuary for Advent (and removal of decorations), although promoted and organized by the Worship Committee, depended upon a number of churchwide volunteers to provide the manpower and creativity for these activities and the Committee thanks them for their contributions.



As the Covid-19 pandemic continued into 2021, live streaming of worship services continued as well. Thankfully, FPC was able to resume in-person worship services Sunday, April 25th, providing one Sunday service while live streaming each, offering not only access to those who were not coming into the church building for services but also to a greater community outside of Bloomington. FPC hired a person for primary responsibility for the live streaming of services however opportunity remains for an additional person to provide backup availability.

Attendance for in-person services June through December averaged 88 people/service and live streaming of Sunday services averaged 52 views on Sunday morning, with indications that additional online views outside of Sunday service times expanded to an average of 128 views/service, either from a repeat connection of a previous visitor or access by other interested parties.

The Worship Committee relied on the guidance of the Reopening Task Force to assist in providing a safe worship experience for those attending in person. For example, communion moved to an individual pre-packaged juice and wafer combination while offering plates were placed in stationary locations in the sanctuary and encouragement to give online through the FPC website was provided.

The Worship Committee collaborated with Christian Education and Membership to explore adding services and other activities outside of the walls of the church in an effort to visit and experience faith formation prior to being able to utilize the church building and later to enhance in-person worship in the outdoors if people and families felt more secure in the open air. Settings included the FPC parking lot and the shelter at Olcott Park. These were considered a success by those attending and will be continued into 2022 as the weather warms.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Giedroc, Chair

Board of Deacons

2021 officers: Ruth Holman – moderator

Becky Rusie – vice moderator

Jim Ernest – secretary

(Nate Nickel – back up secretary)

The Deacons have met most of the year via zoom but did conduct a couple of hybrid (in-person and zoom) meetings during 2021. As a group who provide congregational care, we continue to have Covid limitations with what had been our normal. We have slowly been able to resume some ministries with modifications as needed.

We have added three new ministries (Technology, Congregational Call Team and Prayer Shawls) and removed one (Bulletin Board – because the Membership Committee wished to assume responsibility for the bulletin board behind the Welcome Desk).

Several Deacons also assisted Rev Kelley with FPC first Longest Night service on December 12th.

Ministry coordinator(s)

50-year Member Recognition

Nate Nickel & Jim Ernest

Three new 50-year members were celebrated in 2021. This was done by both an article written by Nate for the First Press and recognition during a service, which happened to be one of the first held in person this year. Jim has continued very extensive research to identify all eligible past 50-year members. Once the names have been finalized as best as possible, a plaque will be added to the church that will display the names of all the 50 year members.

Bread for the Journey**David Burkhart**

Four loaves of bread were presented to members moving from our congregation.

Cards/Care Notes/Birthday Cards**(Virginia Baude)**

Virginia has wished to continue correspondence for this ministry on behalf of the Deacons. She reports the number sent to the Moderator monthly. A total of 218 cards were sent in 2021.

Coffee Hour**Glen Darling, Chris Goss, David Grossman**

The first Deacon hosted Coffee Hour was held Oct 24th outside. Several outdoor coffee hours were offered with varying attendance. The weather was a factor if a coffee hour was held or not.

Coffee Hour Purchases**Chris Goss, David Grossman**

Coffee Hour supplies were replenished as needed.

College Care Packages**Nate Nickel**

No College Care packages were provided in 2021.

Communion Preparation**Ruth Holman**

This ministry is in coordination with the Worship Committee. With in-person church service, Communion has been done with pre-packaged wafer/juice cups. The Worship Committee wants Deacons on standby. In the meantime, the Deacons will do an on-hand count after Communion and provide the number to Pastor Kelley for reorder of cups, as needed.

Congregational Call Team**Karin Coopersmith**

Newly added in 2021 as a result of a call team consisting of Elders, Deacons, and other members who were staying in touch with church members while we were not meeting in-person. Zoom meetings have pulled the call team together to discuss how the call team has evolved and how to best continue to serve our members. Discussion included the focus when originally started (no in-person services), the needs to change the focus and what the new purpose would be.

Flower Delivery**Barbara Hanna**

Ministry resumed in May. If the donating person doesn't want to take the sanctuary flowers, they are shared with shut-ins or other members in celebration or with our thoughts and prayers. There are several church members who assist with flower delivery.

Funeral Receptions**Barbara Hanna & Kim Gray**

There is a team of volunteer church members who the coordinators can call on for help with set-up, prep, serving and clean-up. Funeral receptions were provided for three families after in-person meetings resumed with Covid precautions maintained.

Lending Closet**Karin Coopersmith**

Several members have been able to benefit from the equipment available. Periodic communication was made to keep everyone aware of what equipment is available to borrow.

Meals**Becky Rusie/Ruth**

Meals for seven members or friends of the church were coordinated by Becky Rusie. With she and Jim moving in Oct 2021, Ruth Holman has assumed the coordinator role. There is an awesome team of cooks who answer the call when meals are needed.

Prayer Shawl**Ruth Holman & (Saundra Tracy)**

New ministry for Deacons in 2021. FPC has had a prayer shawl ministry for many years but had not had much of a presence in the past years. As a ministry with Deacons, it will be kept active. There are two sides of this ministry, crafting the shawls and the presenting of them to members needing comfort, healing or in celebration. Saundra Tracy shares this ministry as the coordinator for the shawl crafters (knitting and crocheting). This is also a multi-denominational as one crafter has joined the group from the Korean church who shares worship space in our church. Prayer shawls have been presented to fourteen members/friends of our church in 2021.

Rosebuds**Karin Coopersmith**

One birth was celebrated with a rosebud.

Sr Exercise proposal**Jim Ernest**

This was a new ministry for 2020 but with Covid, it has not been able to be fully launched.

Technology**Chris Goss & Jim Ernest**

Discussion is on-going with what this needs to look like to start with and proposed expense involved. There is grant money to assist with this.

Transportation**Becky Rusie & David Grossman**

This is to provide transportation only to church services. One or two members routinely utilize transportation.

Visitation**Becky Rusie & David Burkhart**

There has been minimal in-person visitation with Covid precautions.

Moderator role: As moderator of the Deacons, I also represented Deacons on both the Nominating Committee and on standby for Smock Grant awards.

Submitted by Ruth Holman

Music Program

The First Presbyterian Church Music program has continued to be a vibrant and guiding part of worship services, despite the ongoing pandemic. The interest and engagement of membership remain strong, and there has been a consistent effort among all participating members to uphold true musical integrity.

A few notable musical capstones have occurred in the past year. Directly coming out of our first lockdown, the Chancel Choir produced a concert-length program which was shared in September. Following that, the music program mounted Joseph Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* ("Little Organ Mass") during Advent. This was a major, multi-movement undertaking for the choir, along with professional string players.

The Chancel Choir started the year on Zoom, then met in person for a number of months, and ended the year back on Zoom. During our distanced time, the choir has remained connected, supportive, and upbeat about our future gatherings. There have also been a number of members of the music ministry that upheld a strong sense of continuity to our congregation while so much was in flux (a special thank you to Dr. Chris Young, the Choral Scholars, Brian McNulty, Nick Sienkiewicz, John Barnes, Melinda Johnson, and Dave Schwant).



The Choral Scholars (Andy Hendricks, Elizabeth Queen, Shannon Lally, and Jason Edelstein) have taken on the large task of continuing to provide each service with high quality music, both in hymns, as well as special music offerings. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for their hard work and dedication to our services.



The Children's Choir, under the direction of Nick Sienkiewicz, has been continuing to meet both virtually and in person. They held a beautiful Christmas Pageant and have continued to work on small projects within their rehearsals.



The bell choir, under the direction of Brian McNulty, has also followed the lead of the Chancel Choir - and has been in-and-out of virtual and in-person rehearsals. They continue to offer meaningful anthems and preludes to our services and played a large role in our Lessons and Carols service.



Overall, despite our Covid circumstances seeming to not improve, the church music program is continuing to thrive and produce high-quality, meaningful music for worship services. We look forward to continuing this strong trend in 2022, with the hope of rejoining in-person soon.

Alex Koppel, Music Director



Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Karen Watts

Past Moderator: Ruth Holman

Recording Secretary: Judy Dillion

Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Holman

Treasurer: Gail Dunning

Church Women United representative:
Carol Peterman

Circle leaders:

Circle Mary: Kathy Hollinger

Luncheon / Fellowship Circle: Carole Allen

Koinonia Circle: Gail Dunning

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an organization that includes all women in the FPC community. PW Coordinating Team and Circle meetings were all held on Zoom through the winter and spring, due to Covid restrictions. However, with the increased number of vaccinated participants and the low incidence of infections in Monroe County during the summer, a few in-person events were resumed.



Coordinating Team meetings were held quarterly. Koinonia and Circle Mary meetings were held monthly with a combination of in-person and hybrid meetings, excluding the months of June-August. We were pleased to welcome new members to both Circles this fall. Circle Mary continued their Horizon Bible studies. Koinonia hosted several discussions on racial justice, a book review, and conducted preparations for the annual Christmas Store/Auction that was held in-person in December. The goal of at least \$1000 to be sent to Poseltega for children's Christmas presents was met, with additional funds available to be sent to selected children-oriented local charitable organizations. Unfortunately, the Luncheon/Fellowship Circle has not been able to meet in-person this year, but Carole has been calling the usual attendees on a regular basis to be sure they are doing well.

A "Welcome Back" Sunday was held on September 12 with a PW Minute for Mission, informing the congregation about the PW organization and each Circle's programs. A bulletin insert included additional contact information about PW. After the service, members of the coordinating committee passed out small bags of cookies to women and children of the congregation.

Koinonia, acting for PW, has been maintaining the display case outside Lyman Hall. Thanks to Debbie Conkle, Ginny Coppedge, Gail Dunning, Ruth Holman, and Karen Watts for their contributions to the displays throughout the year.

PW programs for 2021 included an April Zoom presentation by Natalie Kravchuk on the art of Pysanky egg decorating, a July luncheon gathering (appropriately distanced) at the Hive restaurant, and a November in-person tour of the Teachers' Warehouse, followed by lunch at Juannita's. In the spirit of community, Gail Dunning and Carol Peterman represented FPC at a fall gathering of Church Women United (CWU) of Bloomington on Zoom; in the spring they were joined by Carole Allen at a CWU spring luncheon. A virtual Christmas carol sing led by Karen Watts, was held in December, and highlighted a solo from Martin Burkhead.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Watts, Moderator

PW FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | | Youth Scholar ship |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| | December 22, 2020 | General | \$675.32 |
| | | \$528.79 | |
| | <u>YTD Receipts</u> | | |
| Contributions: | 11 | \$1,175.00 | |
| Birthday Offering | 2 | \$40.00 | |
| Least Coin | 4 | \$69.23 | |
| Youth Fund | 0 | 0 | \$50.00 |
| Thanksgiving Offering | 0 | 0 | |
| | Total YTD Receipts | | \$50.00 |
| | \$1,284.23 | | |
| | <u>YTD Disbursements</u> | | |
| PW in the POV | Mission | (\$150.00) | |
| PW in the POV | Conf. Fund | (\$25.00) | |
| PW in the POV | Life Membership | | |
| Church World Services via POV | | (\$25.00) | |
| Pyoca via POV | | (\$50.00) | |
| Church Women United of Monroe Cty. | | (\$50.00) | |
| MCUM | | (\$150.00) | |
| PW in the POV | Least Coin | (\$69.23) | |
| PW in the POV | Birthday | (\$40.00) | |
| PW in the POV | Thanksgiving | | |
| Horizons Magazine | 1 | (\$25.00) | |
| The Awards Center | | | |
| | Total YTD Disbursements | | (\$584.23) |
| | Dec. 31, 202 PW Funds on H: | | \$1,228.79 |
| | Dec. 31, 2021 Youth Scholarship Fund Ba | | \$725.32 |

Gail Dunning, Treasurer

Earth Stewards

Earth Stewards is a small group ministry that seeks to encourage caring for God's creation, under a Session Statement on Creation Care, adopted in 2009. The statement can be accessed at <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/2009-care-statement> . See also the group's web page at <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/earth-stewards> .

Earth Stewards continues to be a virtual group, foregoing regular meetings. The group also has an email list with light traffic. Interested people may ask to be added to the list by contacting Allan Edmonds at allan.edmonds@gmail.com.

Earth Stewards organizes recycling services for our church. We currently have a team of people who handle this work on a rotating monthly basis. The 2020 team included Allan Edmonds, Tom Gardner, Christopher Goss, Steve and Ann Schechter, and Dan Watts. New members of the team are welcome.

We maintain a flyer summarizing local re-use and recycling options, presently being updated, with the leadership of Julie Farris. The current version is available at <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/earth-stewards>

We also focus on education in the congregation. Allan Edmonds and Norm Holy prepare regular environmentally-themed articles for First Press. A collection of those articles is available at <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/earth-stewards>

Allan Edmonds serves as an informal liaison with the Property Management Committee, helping to monitor and document our church's energy conservation efforts.

Members of our Earth Stewards group engage in several ways with the community on environmental issues. Norm Holy serves as a writer for the weekly EcoReport on local volunteer radio station WFHB FM 91.3 and is a regular writer of letters to the editor of the Herald-Times on environmental matters, while Allan Edmonds represents First Presbyterian in the interfaith group Earth Care Bloomington and represents our church with the new Southern Indiana chapter of the Presbyterian advocacy group Presbyterians for Climate Dividend.

Contact: Allan Edmonds at allan.edmonds@gmail.com
or Norm Holy at nrmho@aol.com

Task Forces

Reopening Taskforce

Members: Randall Burcham, Steve Creech, Kelley Jepsen, Scott Kenefake, Wes Ratliff, and Karen Watts.

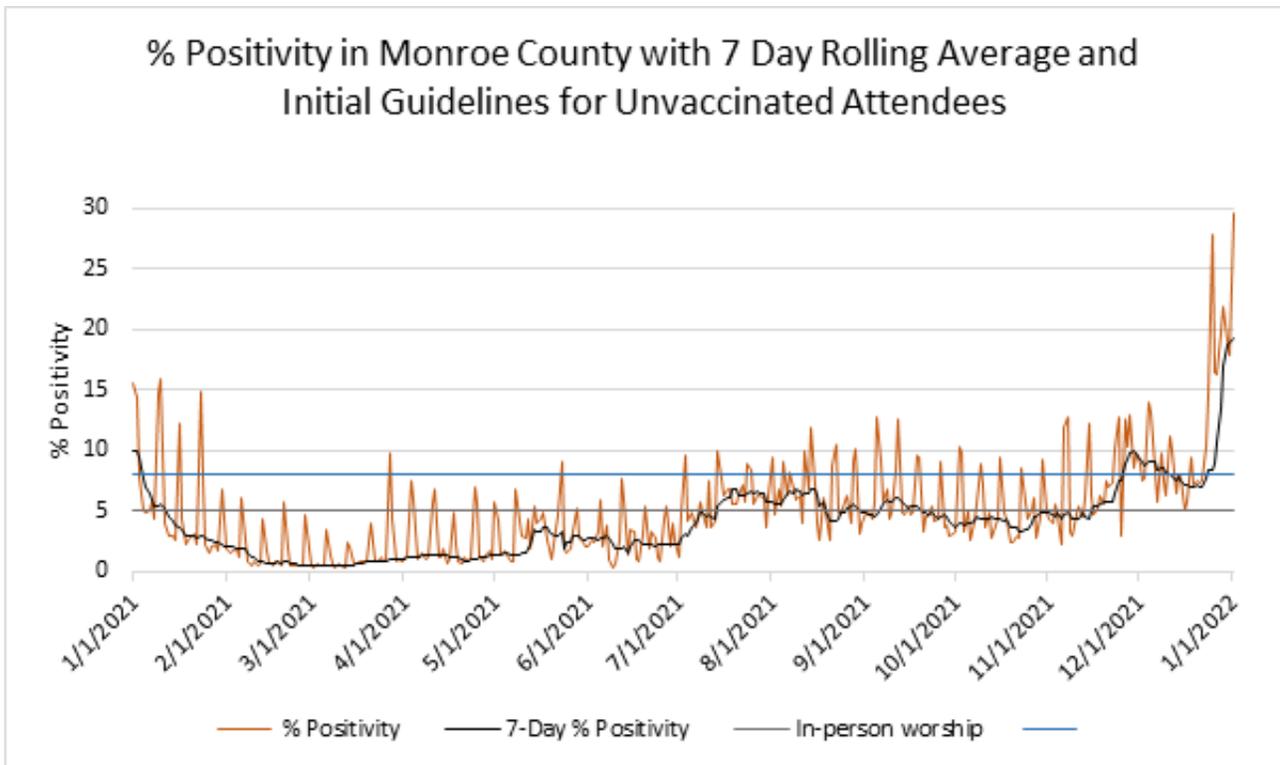
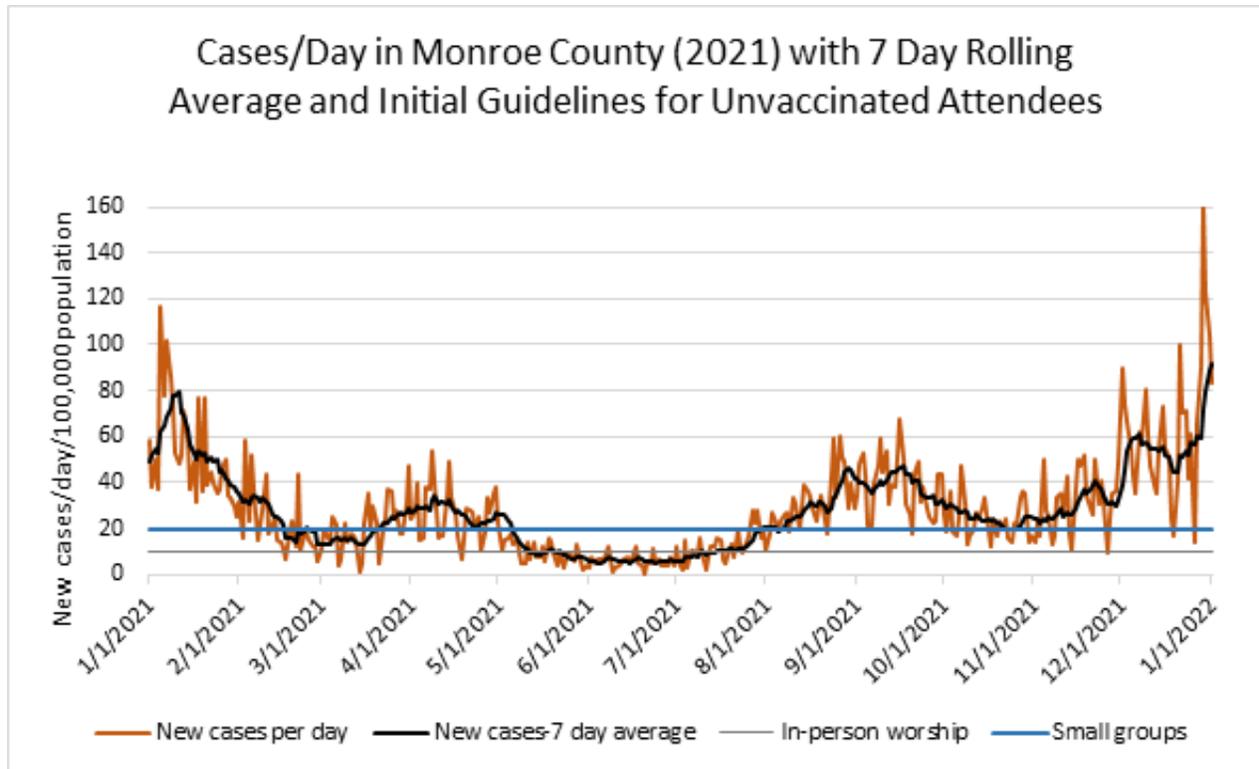
The Reopening Task Force was established by the FPC Session with the purpose of establishing COVID infection parameters that would allow FPC to return to in-person worship and to allow for small groups to meet in the church facilities.

The Task Force monitors COVID-19 statistics daily as posted on the Indiana State Department of Health website <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>, and in particular tracks the number of new cases per day of COVID-19 and the percent positivity in Monroe County. Rolling averages based on the previous 7 days of data will be used for evaluations. In addition, weekly statistics related to IU positivity rates and number of cases on the Bloomington campus have been monitored.

In 2020, the Task Force recommended the following guidelines for unvaccinated attendees, using baseline data from the summer of 2020 and following recommendations from public health officials. Both conditions must be met to proceed.

| | 7 Day Rolling Average | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| | Number of new cases/day | % Positivity |
| For small groups to meet at FPC | 20 | 8% |
| For in-person worship | 10 | 5% |

Graphs of data compiled from January 1, 2021 through Dec. 31,2021 are shown below.



Graphs of data for 2021 indicate that FPC did not meet the guidelines established for in-person worship at the start of 2021. However, as vaccinations became available, and both % positivity and the number of new cases per week decreased, the Task Force recommended that small groups of 10 or less could resume meeting the end of February. In-person worship was resumed April 25 at a time when positivity rates had been 1% or less for the previous two months and the running average of new cases was less than 22 in Monroe County. Informal surveys indicated that most of the congregation planning to attend in-person worship had been vaccinated. Masks were required, social distancing was practiced in the sanctuary, and initially there were no congregational responses or congregational singing. All services were live-streamed to accommodate those who were not comfortable worshipping in person.

As statistics improved over the summer with higher vaccination rates for many in the community, congregational responses and hymn singing were incorporated back into the in-person worship services. FPC was reopened to all small groups in the fall, with masking required and the stated expectation that attendees were vaccinated. Outside groups such as the IU Children's Choir were allowed to resume meeting at the church, following both FPC and IU safety guidelines for masking and distancing. High vaccination rates at IU (more than 94% of faculty, staff, and students) contributed to low positivity numbers through the fall; church school activities were held in person in open spaces. Small receptions following memorial services were allowed in Lyman Hall, with suitable safety precautions (disposable tableware, minimal use of the kitchen, distanced tables), as was the Koinonia Christmas Store, appropriately spaced out in Lyman Hall.

At the end of the year, with the emergence of the omicron COVID-19 variant, both positivity rates and number of new cases were increasing in the community. The Task Force will continue to meet on a periodic basis as they monitor the COVID status in the state, the county and the university.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Watts and Randall Burcham

Racial Justice Taskforce

The Racial Justice Taskforce was created by the Session October 13, 2020. The inaugural members included Sue Connell, Gary Crow, Allan Edmonds, David Giedroc, Sarah Harriss, Rev. Kelley Jepsen, Rev. Scott Kenefake, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, Paul Rothrock, Hank Ruff, and Nicholas Swank.

The major accomplishment of the year was to review and recommend to the Session that FPC become a Matthew 25 congregation with an emphasis on understanding and acting to prevent structural racism. The Session approved the Matthew 25 designation on April 1, 2021. The inaugural event celebrating this initiative was a worship service on September 26, 2021.



In addition to these major events that celebrate and commit us to the Matthew 25 call, the taskforce focused on strengthening our own understanding of anti-racism, engaging the FPC congregation in anti-racism work, and connecting us in this work to the larger community. First, each taskforce meeting provided opportunities to acknowledge our own understanding or lack of understanding of our own struggles with racism. In addition, we met with Rev. Chris Roseland, Mission Advisor for Matthew 25 initiatives in the PC(USA). A very helpful activity included the use of the tool, Conversation Roadblocks, to facilitate and open conversations about our own experiences, struggles and biases with racism.

Second, we offered numerous opportunities for the congregation to engage in anti-racism work. Co-sponsoring with the adult education and small groups committees, we viewed two films followed by valuable conversations (The Hate you Give and Twelve Years a Slave). An important highlight of our work with the congregation was a Lent of Liberation sermon series by the pastors followed by congregational discussion. In addition, several Faith Forums were offered on racial justice topics, such as the KKK in Indiana, mass incarceration, advocacy, and Afghan refugee initiative. To enlarge the conversation among more congregational members, we held a series of small group discussions focusing on our own experiences with racism and what the church could do to act toward diminishing structural racism.

Third, we provided some early connections with the larger community around understanding and working toward anti-racism. These included a walk through the FPC community to understand the history of race in our own community. Also, in our local community, we have representatives on the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance which is focusing on anti-racism. We anticipate working with other faith communities on diminishing structural racism in Bloomington. Finally, we joined a collaboration with the Columbus, Indiana churches, some of which are also Matthew 25 congregations. Through this collaboration, we wrote and received a \$75K grant to strengthen our Matthew 25 initiatives in our own church and across the Bloomington/Columbus area.

At the end of 2021, the taskforce agreed to focus most of its work on racial justice and its effects on education. The FPC church body includes a strong group of educators who will be called upon to help the taskforce consider priorities for this work.

Beginning in 2022, the taskforce will plan a retreat to be held sometime in April, 2022. We envision having a concentrated time to meet with our church partners from the Columbus area to develop goals for utilizing the grant funding we received. Prior to the retreat, we will gather with Bloomington church community partners and our own congregation to enlist their input on ways we may work together to help advance racial justice as it affects education in our church and local communities as well as in the state.

The taskforce will also offer more opportunities for the congregation to be better informed about racial justice efforts including book and video series.

Finally, the taskforce is vitally interested in ways to bridge the Matthew 25 Congregational Vitality theme with the Racial Justice theme.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Crow
Sherry Knighton-Schwandt

Clerks Report

ELDERS SERVING ON SESSION FOR 2021

Class of 2021

Debbi Conkle
Gary Crow
Sarah Harriss
Saundra Tracy
Dan Watts
Andrew Swank

Class of 2022

Jean Brown
Randall Burcham
Steve Creech
Nathan Ernest
Jo Ann Main

Class of 2023

Linda Giedroc
Karen Hahn
Sarah Nickel
Deb Prekert
Joel Schneider

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2021

Active Members at the beginning of the year: 331

Gains: 9 Losses: 11

Total Active Membership at the end of the year: 329

Age Distribution of Active Members: 25 and under: 29(9%)

26 to 40: 51 (16%)

41 to 55: 61 (18%)

56 to 70: 72 (22%)

71 and Over: 116 (35%)

NEW MEMBERS

David Ciucu*
Holden Eckard*
Tigh Eckard*
Eva Harriss*
Aiden Johnson*
Mason Riggle*
Eva Schneider*
Jane Gallagher
Maggie Knust

IN MEMORIUM

Juanita (Johnnie) Brantley
Malcolm Fleming
Mary Kissel
Mary Ellen Rothrock
Jerry Ruff
Tom Sechrist

*confirmands

Report of the Treasurer

December 31, 2021

General Fund

Balance on Hand January 1, 2021

\$0.00

Income

Prepaid pledges for 2022

Current pledges and contributions of record

471,794.48

Future pledges and contributions of record

42,000.00

Prior pledges

-

Plate Offering

605.00

Building Use Income

7,354.73

Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers

221,545.79

Bank Interest

12.10

Ledger entries

0.51

Total Receipts

743,312.61

Disbursements

Payroll

Non-payroll GF

(387,646.70)

Other GF Checks/Disb (includes fund transfers, non budgeted items)

(173,048.85)

Total Disbursements

(182,617.06)

(743,312.61)

Balance on Hand December 31, 2021

\$0.00

Special Funds, Balance on Hand December 31, 2021

\$97,580.31

Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand December 31, 2021

\$ 96,411.01

Reserve Fund December 31, 2021

\$ 140,356.05

Campaign Fund December 31, 2021

\$ 33,654.79

Campaign Fund Mortgage Balance (monthly payments: 4,934.50,)

\$ (42,914.90)

4.97%

Parking Lot Fund December 31, 2021

\$ 63,616.09

Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,413.99)

\$ (189,929.84)

2.75%

Mary C. McClellan

Treasurer