

2020 Report to the Congregation



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

FPC Says Farwell to Andy Kort and Family

The FPC community had the opportunity to say farewell in person to Andy Kort and his family on Sunday, July 5 with a drive-through event in the church parking lot. A banner, bubbles (overseen by the Kort children) and signs on numerous cars helped FPC wish Andy and his family well. A steady stream of cars paused at the back of the church long enough for FPC friends and members to offer personal words of appreciation and best wishes. Many brought notes or cards for a basket given to Andy after the event.



In addition to the drive-through, Bread for the Journey was presented to Andy during the July 12 worship service. A framed picture of First Presbyterian Church and a "love gift" were also given on behalf of the congregation. Andy's last Sunday at FPC was July 12 after more than nine years as pastor. He and his family are moving to Annapolis, Maryland where he and Mihee will begin a new call as co-pastors later this summer.



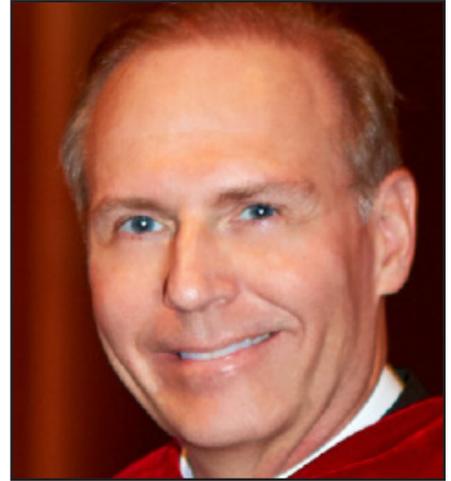
Transitional Pastor's Report

Reviewing the Past ... Anticipating the Future

I have only been at FPC Bloomington since early in November 2020, so my list of accomplishments is brief:

- Assimilating into the life of the congregation; getting to know the leadership of the church and church members as well as church staff and the larger Bloomington community.
- Leading the church through the Advent and Christmas seasons and planning for Epiphany and Lent.
- Assessing the needs of the congregation during the transitional/interim time.

I frequently get asked: *Why do churches need to have Interim Pastors?*



My response is always the same: *Because it increases the likelihood that the next installed Pastor will have a successful ministry.*

There are a variety of reasons for this: after a lengthy pastorate (seven or more years) congregations need an opportunity to assess their current ministry (strengths, weaknesses, challenges, opportunities); these discoveries in turn help congregations to identify the specific skills and talents a new minister will need to lead the congregation into the future; and it offers a time to discover how the community around the church has changed and to strategize about how it can better connect with people and address community challenges.

To help with this, the Session of the congregation is currently working on a "Mission Study." For example, they will be doing a comprehensive demographic study of the community to see how the community has changed over the past ten years and project current trends into the near future; they will assess current church programs (worship, education, mission, property, finances/stewardship, etc.) as to their health and effectiveness; they will survey the congregation using tools designed from a program called "Appreciative Inquiry"; and they will review the current staffing model of the church to see what makes the most sense for the church going forward.

But most importantly the Mission Study will explore and identify possible new avenues of ministry that will strengthen the church's witness well into the future.

At the completion of the Mission Study (likely around Easter) the congregation will then be ready to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and begin the search for a new Senior Minister in earnest.

And so, even during this pandemic which continues to rage, the work of the church goes on. We will do everything we can to continue to "stay connected" until it is safe for us to begin meeting in person again. And we will also do everything possible to facilitate a successful pastoral search as expeditiously as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake

Transitional/Interim Senior Pastor

Transitional Associate Pastor's Report

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

It is hard to believe we have been doing ministry together for six months now. And what a time of transition and change it has been for all of us! I'm reminded of the old saying: "without change, there would be no butterflies." Well friends, I believe we are surrounded by butterflies this year.

The pandemic has fundamentally shifted the way we worship. Since March, we have leaned heavily on God's ability to connect us as the body of Christ when we cannot be physically together. Since my arrival in July, we have moved to pre-recording full services which include all aspects of Reformed worship. We are able to safely bring in new liturgists each week and welcomed nine guest preachers as we awaited the new Transitional Senior Pastor.



I was grateful for the opportunity to preach twice per month during that time, as we worked to get to know one another. In October we moved to two new platforms for worship: Vimeo, which allows us to host our own content, and the Church Online Platform, which allows us to view worship together and chat on Sunday mornings. A huge thank you belongs to the AV Task Force for their work in getting these services up and running.

Since my arrival, we have created three new task forces here at FPC, and I am grateful to serve as a staff lead on each of them. The AV Task Force continues to enhance worship weekly and is prepared for live-streaming worship when it is safe to do so. The Reopening Task Force created community parameters to help us determine when we can consider returning to in-person worship. We meet twice per month to discuss the status of the pandemic and its effects on the community. Finally, the Racial Justice Task Force began meeting towards the end of year. I am excited about the difficult and necessary work ahead of us as we learn how to serve, love, and seek justice for our siblings in Christ.

Beyond my work with the various task forces, I am blessed to be assigned to the Deacons, Christian Education, Outreach and Small Groups committees. A few highlights from this time include delivering care packages to all the families (twice!), teaching a faith forum on dying, starting an online prayer group, a successful online Heifer Market, and gathering with the youth group on the church lawn.

Until our Transitional Senior Pastor arrived, I also staffed the Property, Membership, Worship and Stewardship committees. It was a great way to get to know more of our church members and learn about the many, many things still happening at FPC! It has been fun to see the unique ways the church has adapted to ministry online in all areas. A great example was our Stewardship drive-thru where we celebrated pledge cards and shared coffee and donuts on a chilly November Saturday. The continued financial support of this congregation is commendable and so very appreciated.

It has been an odd time to start a new venture with a congregation, and I could not feel more supported and welcomed. I've enjoyed countless zoom meetings, gatherings in the church lawn and parking lot, and the beautiful cards and notes you have sent. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for your flexibility. And most of all, thank you for your grace as we weather this unique time of transition and change together.

In Christ,

Rev. Kelley Jepsen

Christian Education Committee

Members: Kathy Hollinger, chair, Kelley Jepsen, Transitional Associate Pastor

Adult Ed (ACE): Gary Crow, chair, Jim Ernest, Allan Edmonds, Cathy Hahn, Lou Moir, and Karen Bush Watts.

Youth Ed: Nancy Goss, chair, Mary Beth Novy, Mary Burch Ratliff, Nathan Ernest, Megan Becker and Meagan Williams.

Children's Ed: Kathy Hollinger, chair, Carol McGregor, Karen Hahn, Sarah McKenney, Joanie Blackwell and Sarah Harriss.

Below you will find a summary of what each subcommittee accomplished this year.

2020 started out as a very normal year. However, on March 12th the World Health Organization announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a worldwide pandemic. FPC suspended all in person activities shortly thereafter. Christian Ed, along with other committees, found new ways to provide Christian Education opportunities virtually.

Children's Ed Subcommittee Accomplishments:

FPC along with Trinity Episcopal, First Christian Church, Beth Shalom, and the Unitarian Universalist Church planned and sponsored an Intergenerational Interfaith event on Martin Luther King Day of Service. FPC hosted this event. Donations received included sweatpants, underwear, socks, bars of soap, washcloths, feminine hygiene products and snacks for MCCSC students. These donations were distributed by the school social workers. There were over 90 people who participated in this event. FPC had 3 children and 8 adults in attendance.

Our nursery staff provided childcare every Sunday for children ages 0- Kindergarten until the middle of March. They also continued to host the Kid's Night In" events one Saturday evening each month during the months of January, February and March.

In March Karen Hahn began recording Godly Play stories for FPC's families. Each week she posted a story on FPC's Facebook Page. In September other Godly Play teachers joined Karen in volunteering to record GP stories that were posted each week. Parent pages, the children's Sunday bulletin and other activities for children to do were sent out each week to families beginning in March.

A virtual VBS program called "Compassion Camp: BE LOVED. BE KIND. BE YOU." was offered to families in July. We had 14 children who participated, and church schoolteachers recorded the opening, Bible Story, prayer, and closing for each of the 5 sessions.

In October, Kelley delivered care packages to FPC's children and youth.

On Saturday, November 7 three FPC families met on the front lawn of our church for a picnic lunch and a time to visit with one another. Everyone wore masks, practiced physical distancing by sitting on separate blankets and bringing their own food.

On Sunday, November 30, Kelley and several Children's Ed committee members put together and delivered Advent Care Packages to FPC families of children and youth.

Many of our children and youth participated in the virtual Godly Play Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20.

Youth Ed Subcommittee Accomplishments:

A new Confirmation class began in January. There are 7 youth participating in the confirmation class. The class ran through Sunday, March 8. It will resume in January 2021.

On the MLK Day of Service FPC 4 youth and 7 adults volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club.

The donations received from FPC folks provided 6 fleece blankets for the Shalom Center and toys for the cats and treats for the dogs at the animal shelter.

The Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 2 was very successful this year. \$1100.00 was raised for the Shalom Center and the hot lunch program in Posoltega. Over \$600.00 was raised for Youth Mission trips.

The Youth Group started out the year meeting twice a month on Sunday evenings. After the church was closed the youth leaders: Megan Becker, Meagan Williams and Nathan Ernest began meeting virtually with the youth group.

Youth Sunday was postponed until Sunday, June 28th. The graduating seniors each recorded a segment for the online church service that day. They each gave inspiring and thoughtful reflections of their favorite memories and what our church has meant to them. The seniors honored this year were Evan Darling, Nicholas Swank, Clara Voskuil, and Logan Wilson.

Both of the mission trips scheduled for West Virginia and Posoltega had to be canceled due to COVID 19.

In July the youth started meeting outdoors on the front lawn of the church. Everyone brought their own chairs and wore masks. Several youth participated in the drive through event at church on Sunday, September 20. New directories along with a cookie as a treat were given to church members who came.

In November the Heifer Market was a virtual event put together by Addie Schmucker along with her mother, Mary Beth Novy. Over \$10,000 was raised for Heifer International.

We are very blessed to have Megan Becker, Nathan Ernest, and Meagan Williams serving as the youth leaders. They have continued to communicate with the youth and have planned and led events for the youth during this challenging year.

Adult Education

The adult education subcommittee includes Karen Bush, Allan Edmonds, Jim Ernest, Cathy Hahn, Lou Moir, Kelley Jepsen (Associate Pastor) and Gary Crow (chair). The subcommittee is charged to assess, plan and implement adult education opportunities under the larger Christian education mission of FPC. Not surprising to anyone reading this report, the year was unusual and challenging. The most significant issue related to how to provide adult education in a COVID-safe environment.

The adult education opportunities were provided in two delivery formats including on-site (January-March) and virtual using zoom. We were able to maintain the two primary adult education topical formats including Lectionary Bible Study and Faith Forum.

The Lectionary class, based on the Revised Common Lectionary, used the PC (USA) Thoughtful Christian curriculum, Feasting on the Word. During the first quarter of the year when we were able to meet on-site at the church, the class was led by Jim Ernest, Cathy Hahn, Derek Voskuil, Bill Barrett and Gary Crow. During the virtual class, volunteers including Cathy Hahn, Jo Ann Main, Saundra Tracy, Bill Barrett and Gary Crow led the class. Attendance tended to range from 5-10 people. In 2021 we hope to encourage other FPC members to attend this class.

Faith Forums included presentations and discussion by both church members and community experts on congregational issues (e.g. membership and outreach initiatives), denominational issues (General Assembly report), Biblical and theological topics (e.g., use and abuse of archeology), and societal concerns (e.g., antisemitism, genetics and technology, aging issues, death, the election). We also offered a book study (co-hosted with the Small Groups committee) on anti-racism. The book study led to recommendation to Session to create a racial justice taskforce, which is being implemented.

Gary Crow

Goals for the Christian Education Committee:

In 2021 we need to continue to meet the challenges of providing Christian Education opportunities in a virtual way that will allow everyone at FPC to participate.

We need to continue to find ways to engage children, youth, and adults as they begin and continue on their faith journeys.

We need to continue to recruit more members for the CE subcommittees.

The Christian Education committee would like to thank the following individuals who served as teachers in our church school program:

Preschool- Elementary- Karen Hahn, Tressa Rauh, Sarah Harriss, Cyndi Johnson, Julie Strycker, Wendy Vanderzee, Sarah McKenney, Connie Cleary, Heidi Darling, Kathy Hollinger, Jo Ann Main, Carol McGregor, Ann Schechter, Doug Tracy, Dea Schneider, Cathy McFarland, and Mary Burch Ratliff.

The Common Place (High School) Class- Nathan Ernest, Meagan Williams, and Megan Becker.

Lectionary Bible Study- Gary Crow, Cathy Hahn, Bill Barrett, Derek Voskuil, and Jim Ernest.

We also want to thank all of the Faith Forum program presenters.

A special thank you goes to Eileen Jennings, our Children's Choir Director, who was the director for the Children's Christmas Pageant.

We appreciate all of the support and help from our committee members this year.

We also want to express our appreciation, thanks and gratitude to Rev. Kelley Jepsen for her guidance and leadership in Christian Education

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hollinger, Chair

Membership Committee

Members: Carol Avenson (chair), Tim Baldwin, Elena Bya, Sue Connell, Gail Dunning, Julie Stryker, Visitor Communications: Ann Schecter

Summary:

In January and February, the committee worked closely with Pastor Andy to identify and recruit potential new members. Committee members also attended the Inquirers classes. To welcome the new members, each one received a boutonniere and we hosted a coffee hour reception for them after the service. The committee completed their name badge project in late February. Each FPC member and frequent guest now has a permanent name badge. Lanyards are also available for those who prefer. The badges are located in the Lyman Hall and 6th Street narthexes. A special thank you to Don Hollinger for installing the metal strips which hold the badges. The committee will keep the badges alphabetized as much as possible. Your badge is located in the narthex closest to the door you usually use to enter and exit the building.

Also in January, the committee was asked to host a Faith Forum. We used the forum to educate members on what our committee is tasked with, how we plan to use the new Welcome Center and how the Welcome Ministry works. Much time was spent in an exchange of ideas between the attendees and the committee on how to attract and retain new members. Discussion was lively and informative for everyone. The committee appreciated the ideas and opinions of our members.

In February, the committee gave a Minute for Mission to introduce the Welcome Center, the name badges and to recruit volunteers for the Welcome Ministry.

And then there was COVID!! Since so much of Membership Committees work is done in the building and before, during and after Sunday services, we had to turn our focus to reaching members and guests in alternate ways. Signs were designed, printed and positioned on the property to more accurately reflect our social media presence and to inform everyone on how to join with FPC in virtual services. Our announcements in the Herald Times were updated as the church perfected ways to stream services. We worked with Sandra on updating the on-line calendar.

Chairs from Property, Worship and Membership were asked to work together to develop a plan for our safe return to in-person services. These committees continue to perfect the plan. This committee is dedicated to act as leaders in implementing this plan when the building is reopened. The committee's biggest task will be providing enough volunteers to ensure people will be guided safely throughout the building. We are working to recruit members of the Welcome Ministry and the usher teams to assist.

In September, a drive through was held in the church parking lot. Church members were given the opportunity to meet our new Transitional associate pastor, Kelley and our new music director, Alex. Membership was there to help and to hand out updated church directories and cookbooks. The youth were there to hand out cookies!!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Avenson Chair

Nominating Committee

NOMINATING Committee members: Elder Sarah Harriss (chair), Elder Carol Avenson, Tim Baldwin, Derek Voskuil, Mary Burch Ratcliff, and Ruth Holman.

The committee was charged with choosing new members for the Deacon and Elder classes of 2023. The following tasks were undertaken and completed:

- The Committee discussed which roles and committee chairs were being held (and therefore vacated) by members of the class of 2020. This began the task of identifying individuals with strengths in a particular area of church life and governance.
- The committee emailed and met via Zoom on a number of occasions to review the names of FPC members to serve in each of these roles.
- Each committee member participated fully in contacting prospective officers and in explaining the duties and responsibilities of the position they were being called to assume. This information was continuously communicated to other members of the committee via email.
- Elders and Deacons for the class of 2023, as well as youth officers who serve a one year term, were nominated, and were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2020.

They are:

Elders: Debra Prenckert, Sarah Nickel, Linda Geidro, Karen Hahn, Joel Schneider, JoAnn Main (Elder replacement for class of 2022), Andrew Swank (youth elder)

Deacons: Kim Gray, Sylvia Garrison, Dave Grossman, Chris Goss

Nominating Committee: the current committee for CY 2021 includes: Elder Sarah Harriss (2021), Elder Sandra Tracey (2022), Mary Burch Ratliff (2021), Derek Voskuil (2021), Carol Avenson (2021), and the immediate past chair of the Board of Deacons (in 2020).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Harriss, Chair

Outreach

Committee members: Elder Debbi Conkle (chair), Dan Conkle, David Giedroc, Ann Gilbert, Andy Kort (ex-officio), Ann Schechter, Youth Elder Addie Schmucker, and Elder Dan Watts

The year 2020 brought many challenges to the church, including to the Outreach Committee. Even so, the committee continued to provide opportunities for service, encouraging participation in programs that reach out to the community locally, nationally, and internationally, sharing God's love and compassion. With the help of God and the help of many willing hands, we accomplished much despite the pandemic.

Selected highlights of 2020:

The committee worked hard to keep the congregation informed of our activities. We publicized events and volunteer opportunities through the monthly First Press Newsletter and the Friday email messages. Minutes for Mission were given during worship services. Three Faith Forum classes were led by our committee. Through our church secretary, we kept the Outreach portion of the website updated with opportunities to volunteer, with each category listing an FPC member to contact for further information.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) – The committee organized a Faith Forum class in February in which Mary Jean Holwager and Katie Broadfoot of MCUM presented information and answered questions. Ann Schechter successfully conducted 3 food drives in the church parking lot and in the driveways of the Schechters, VanderZees, and Schneiders. Overall, food donations from FPC members totaled 1,273 pounds, and individual cash donations through the church totaled \$2,724. We were kept abreast of all that MCUM was doing during the pandemic to protect the children in their preschool program and to provide guidance and food for the needy families they serve.

Area 10 Agency on Aging – Our 15-year connection with Area 10 was highlighted in an October First Press article by Jim Rusie. We successfully continued monthly grocery deliveries to elderly clients, with over 27 FPC members safely taking part, under the direction of Allan Edmonds and Gail Dunning. Although actual food collections were suspended, in October, FPC members gave donations totaling \$1,105 to replenish food supplies. Using a new online program with the help of Kelley Jepsen, Ginny Coppedge led the Angel Tree project and FPC members provided Christmas gifts for 40 Area 10 clients.



Wheeler Mission – Dan Watts kept FPC members informed about the struggles of those experiencing homelessness in Bloomington. When COVID-19 first hit, FPC members helped by donating \$450 for sanitizing supplies. In May, a new hands-on project was initiated providing 120 sack lunches to Wheeler one day each month. Twelve FPC members participate, each preparing 10 lunches for delivery to the church parking lot and then on to Wheeler.

Shalom/Beacon Inc. – Volunteers from FPC wore masks and took precautions but continued serving breakfast every Saturday morning throughout 2020. COVID-19 caused the breakfasts to be moved from inside to outside, and back again, and when the meals were carry-out-only, our members donated cheese sticks to supply extra protein. The scheduling of volunteers was ably led by Julie Farris and later by new committee member, Ann Gilbert.

Posoltega, Nicaragua – A full roster of 20 eager people of various ages was signed up and ready to go on a June 4-15 Mission Trip, to be led by Dan and Debbi Conkle and with Shirin Ansari serving as interpreter. Unfortunately, the trip had to be cancelled, but our mission continued via support of the Posoltega parish and the children’s music program through our budget. Later, off-budget contributions were sent to provide for mask-making and sanitizer once COVID-19 hit the village. In August, we sent \$2,100 from our mission budget to pay for new window coverings for the Posoltega church to provide much-needed security and also to protect their pews from pigeons, dust, and rain. In December, Koinonia conducted its Christmas Store virtually – a monumental feat – raising \$1,000 to help provide a joyful Christmas for children in the Posoltega church.



Bloomington Refugee Support Network/Exodus/Immigration Justice Task Force

A successful collection of cleaning supplies for asylum seekers took place in March. Other supplies were donated and delivered to Exodus of Indianapolis by Ann and Steve Schechter. In August, Velma Davis replaced Sandra Tracy as our church’s representative on the Immigration Justice Task Force.



Heifer Market – An amazing \$11,353 was raised by a market conducted online via Zoom. Long-time coordinator, Mary Beth Novy, and daughters Addie and Hallie, provided helpful information for donors to understand how their gifts would combat hunger and poverty in the U.S. and beyond, and they shared FPC Heifer Market stories and photos going back to 1983. Kelley Jepsen stated that her involvement with Heifer International as a youth helped her decide to go into ministry.

PCUSA Special Offerings - Outreach provided newsletter announcements, a children’s sermon, and Minutes for Mission for three special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing – \$2,280; Peace & Global Witness - \$1,779 (with \$445 staying local and being given to Wheeler); and Christmas Joy - \$1,541 (with \$385 going to the pastor’s discretionary fund).

Activities that were greatly limited due to the pandemic - We hosted only one of our three Red Cross Blood drives, FPC volunteers at Boys & Girls Clubs who help as Reading Buddies were put on hold, and the West Virginia youth mission trip was cancelled. In addition, outside groups that usually meet in our church building weekly or monthly were unable to continue meeting here.

Budget

Outreach has a budget that represents 10% of the overall church budget. Although our committee would love to support the groups serving those in need monthly, church finances no longer make that feasible. Therefore, other than two line items for Posoltega and one for Shalom, Outreach waits until the end of each year to disburse the funds for the other line items in our budget. In February 2020, we received funds to disburse from the 2019 budget. We were able to fulfill 63% of our 2019 budget. Past years' percentages of budgeted amounts disbursed were:

2014 – 91% 2015 – 95%, 2016 – 79%, 2017 – 51%, 2018 – 45%, 2019 – 63%

From an October 2019 survey and follow-up meetings, we learned that very few people in the congregation were aware that FPC was not fulfilling the Outreach budget. The Outreach Committee began 2020 trying to find a way to address these persistent budgetary shortfalls. The chairs of the Stewardship and Outreach Committee met with Pastor Andy Kort in January and February, and both committees met jointly in February. We all agreed that it was important to keep the congregation informed about the goals of Outreach and about the importance of giving to the church through pledges, in addition to special off-budget giving. Andy Kort had planned to use the pulpit to highlight these points, but then the pandemic hit and Andy departed, so our goal of keeping the congregation informed of our budget situation from the pulpit was not accomplished.

Nevertheless, the Outreach Committee continued to work on the goal of informing the congregation by developing a budget that was transparent - an Outreach budget for 2021 that provides the congregation with a picture of what our church has actually been giving to our most important Outreach partners. In the summer and fall, we developed a firm budget that was pared down to only 45% of what we hoped to provide, the same percentage that was available and disbursed in 2018. We added text that explained this, with the hope that pledges and contributions in 2021 would increase and would permit us to fund our entire aspirational Outreach budget – 10% of the overall church budget. We have great hope!

Plans for the future – The committee is thankful to past committee chair David Giedroc and committee members for the detailed work of conducting a survey in late 2019 gathering input from the congregation about the work of Outreach. We followed it up with two Faith Forum in-person meetings in November 2019 and early March 2020. The survey, discussions, and things we have learned in 2020 will continue to guide us as we go forward into 2021.

Confirmed Outreach committee members for 2021 include: Debbi Conkle (chair), Dan Conkle, David Giedroc, Ann Gilbert, Associate Pastor Kelley Jepsen (ex-officio), Elder Sarah Nickel, Ann Schechter, and Elder Dan Watts

Respectfully submitted,
Debbi Conkle, chair

Personnel Committee

Members: Wes Ratliff (Session member and chair), Gary Crow (Session member), Kevin Tevault, Nancy Nelson, Rev. Andrew Kort (Ex-Officio Member thru July 13)

Accomplishments:

- Completed search for new administrative assistant with hiring of Sandra Canizares January 2020
- Chair represented personnel on transitional associate pastor committee leading to hiring of Kelley Jepsen
- Performed and reviewed exit interview with Dr Kort
- Worked with former senior pastor Andy Kort to finalize receipt of money owed from previous home loan. In conjunction with Stewardship and outside consultants clarified tax implications for all parties
- Revised Music Director job description, reviewed resumes and performed interviews leading to hiring of Alex Koppel as Music Director August 2020 (with assistance from organist, transitional associate pastor, and choir members)
- Reviewed current salaries, national benchmarks and economic data, and made recommendation to Stewardship and Session for 2021 compensation adjustments
- Chair represented personnel on COVID Reopening Task Force
- Solicited funds and distributed Christmas gifts to staff, annual staff luncheon was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID
- Reviewed 3 month initial job performance evaluation with transitional associate pastor Kelley Jepsen

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Ratliff, Chair

Property Management Committee

Committee Members: Steve Creech, Chair, Tom Dillon, Past-Chair, Judy Dillon, Recorder, Don Hollinger, Michael Williams, Randall Burcham, Garth Goodlett, Christopher Goss, Richard Darling, Mickey Klein (Deceased), Greg Hepfer, (Deceased) 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 Head of Staff

In Memoriam: FPC and the Property Committee lost two (2) members with the passing of Emerson “Mickey” Klein (05/07/1935 – 01/28/2020) and Gregory John “Greg” Hepfer (02/21/1963 – 08/18/2020). Mickey and his wife Peggy were both “50-Year Members” of FPC. He remained active on the Property Committee even as his health began to fail. Mickey was the official Master-of Ceremony for our Heifer Market and had the ability to help us always reach our financial goal. Greg and the entire Hepfer family have been long-time members of FPC and Greg was a valued part of the Property Committee. Greg was always there when we needed help on the church’s HVAC system; he attended nearly every work day; and, he was always there when you needed a helping hand. The PMC extends their sympathies to the Klein and Hepfer families. Both will be missed!

2020 In Review: I do not need to tell anyone that 2020 was definitely different and challenging. When the pandemic hit it basically altered the way we all do business. Things were no different with the Property Committee. We learned what “Zoom” was and how to utilize it for meetings in place of face-to-face gatherings. While our lives were dramatically altered, FPC still had “Property” issues that required “in person” attention. We had to protect everyone that worked within the church as well as protect those that made deliveries, had necessary projects and those that came to make repairs; we had to heat and cool the church; we had to monitor our various systems and utility usage; we had to cut grass, rake leaves and maintain our outside flower gardens; and we had to deal with any emergency that arose. Basically, we had to find ways to continue to provide preventative, as well as, real-time maintenance. My thanks go out to all the members for their help, their prayers, their assistance and their leadership during these times.

Sanctuary Use Policy: After the building and installation of the new organ at FPC the Property Committee started to receive numerous requests for use of our facilities (mainly the Sanctuary) for recitals. While it is part of our Mission and Outreach to allow for this type of usage, it does come with some issues. Ron Jensen led a group from Property to meet with the “Organ Use Task Force”, Dr. Chris Young and Grant Farmer (Choir Director at the time) to develop a policy for the use of the Sanctuary, the organ, recording equipment and the soundboard. The goal was to develop a use request form, an appropriate fee structure, enlist a cadre of FPC members that could act as a “point-of-contact” to be present during these events and to ensure that FPC was covered from a liability standpoint. Progress was being made on all of these fronts when the pandemic hit. It will remain a priority once we are allowed to return to in-person meetings.

COVID-19: When this first started the general consensus was that restrictions would only be in place for a short time, perhaps a couple of months. New information was being disseminated almost daily. It was obvious that there was going to be a huge learning curve when dealing with this pandemic. From the start both FPC and Presbytery leadership set “safety” as their number one guiding principle. To that end Property started with purchasing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in meeting the daily demands of the church as well as attempting to be prepared for a future time when we would be allowed to return to in-person service. PPE of all kinds was extremely hard to find. We were able to purchase 2X digital thermometers, sanitizing wipes, touchless hand sanitizing stations with foaming sanitizer and a supply of face masks. Both Property and Session appointed COVID task forces to glean as much information as possible and to position ourselves in the best way possible to be prepared for reopening. Randall Burcham served on both groups while Christopher Goss and Sue and John Connell serve on the Property task force. Christopher Goss and Derek Voskuil provided a valuable link to Cook Medical. Cook was very open to sharing their findings on how to safely conduct day-to-day business as well as prepare for reopening. The verdict is still out on how and when reopening will take place, but Property has done their due-diligence in preparing for the safety of our employees and our congregation during these last 9-months and put us in a position to safely reopen when the time comes.

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC): HVAC is probably not at the top of anyone's list of major concerns, but for Property it is huge. It is the single largest expense in terms of budget and when it isn't working properly our committee hears about it. Is it too cold in the classrooms? Too warm in the Sanctuary? Too much humidity for the organ? The list can go on and on. COVID brought its own issues regarding HVAC. When running either heating and/or air conditioning you normally try and limit the amount of air escaping from the building for energy conservation, but with COVID we needed to ensure that we were getting adequate outside air mixed in to minimize the spread and transmission of the virus. Since we were not meeting in person, we were able to dramatically reduce the energy usage compared to the same period in 2019, but that came at the expense of mold. Warm, moist air is a breeding ground for mold. To counter the mold issue, we had to run the HVAC system to limit these conditions. Since COVID protocols have been in place we reduced the settings on all thermostats and set the Sanctuary controls to "unoccupied". Still, when all was said and done, we were able to reduce our energy expenses by 38%. One of the problems with our current HVAC system comes from the fact that it relies on pneumatic thermostats located throughout the church. These are manual thermostats and are very unreliable and expensive to maintain. Late in the year Tom Dillon took the lead to "Zone Control" FPC's HVAC system. This will allow for remote, programmable control of our HVAC system based on predetermined zones (e.g., Sanctuary, Lyman Hall, Walker Hall, Offices and Classrooms). Work has just been initiated on this project, but this should help reduce our carbon footprint and utility bills.

Energy Conservation: Energy efficiency and a 100+ year old building is an oxymoron. High ceilings, single-paned stained glass, large spaces and a hot/chilled water system do not lend themselves well to "energy efficiency". Having said that, Property goes to great lengths to make lemonade out of these lemons. Allan Edmonds monitors our utility usage at least on a monthly basis (sometimes I think on a daily basis). We tried to be proactive when switching from heating to cooling, but attempted to maintain acceptable moisture levels for the organ and to minimize mold issues throughout the building. In addition to the "Zone Control" system for our HVAC system we have been exploring the potential for adding solar panels to help offset some of our electric utility expense. Switching to solar will not reduce our energy demand, but it will help reduce the carbon footprint used to produce that energy. Going partially solar will require a significant expense for FPC. We will continue to explore ways to reduce our carbon footprint, but at the same time not break the bank.

Larry Crowe Property: This property was gifted/purchased in 1966 and has served as a retreat, a place for Sunrise Services, Vacation Bible School and social gatherings. There is quite a history to this property. With changing times came a period of very minimal use. Attempts have been made to resurrect interest in the property, but its location and difficulty of access have made this attempt futile. We still have costs associated with the upkeep and maintenance. After a lengthy discussion Property made a motion to Session to start the process to sell this property. The hope from our committee is to take some of the proceeds from the sale of this property to fund the purchase and installation of solar panels on Lyman Hall's south facing roof. We felt that utilizing the money from the sale of the property could a) reduce our carbon footprint (mentioned above), b) still honor and maintain the legacy of Larry Crowe through some sort of memorial at FPC and c) not require FPC to make the purchase of the solar equipment a Capital Campaign item. Session approved the motion with guidance from the Presbytery. Due to the pandemic no further action has been taken.

High-Speed Internet: When COVID forced FPC to go “virtual” it also presented us with another set of problems. First, our internet provider, AT&T, could not offer sufficient bandwidth to allow for “live-streaming” our services. The immediate need for larger bandwidth forced us to seek another provider. We have now contracted with Comcast and have their service installed and running throughout FPC. Second, our existing soundboard and recording equipment did not lend themselves to “virtual or live-streaming”. FPC was able to secure a \$5,000 grant from the Center for Congregations” to upgrade both the soundboard and the recording equipment. This in turn created a new problem which was the expertise to manage these new technologies. We entered into a contract with Curtis Gymer to serve as our “AV Consultant”. Curtis had the expertise to get FPC up and running with their virtual service and hopefully with our “live streaming” when the time comes. If you were to compare the first recorded service following the shutdown and the most current one, you would find it was like night and day. Adapt and conquer should be our motto!

7-Line Project: As if COVID wasn’t enough, in June the City of Bloomington came to FPC and informed us of plans to add 2-way bike lanes along 7th Street. They also indicated that FPC would lose all but one of their existing entry/exit points. A Property sub-committee was formed with Don Hollinger taking the lead. The goal of this group was to work with the City of Bloomington to find a compromise solution to the planned construction that would meet the City’s and FPC’s needs. Don took this project and ran with it. We met on-site with representatives of the City’s Office of Public Engagement, Planning Services and Engineering to complete an on-the-ground walkthrough of the City’s proposal. Don then developed a compromise proposal that would require several “brick and mortar” changes to both FPC’s auxiliary and main parking lots. Later in the summer the City came back with a new set of drawings that looked very similar to what Don had proposed. Don made a presentation to Session and we are now waiting for what should be the final proposal. We believe that portions of the project will begin in mid-2021.

Small Projects: For lack of a better title these are some of the things that have been going on behind the scenes with COVID protocols in place. Our old Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) became obsolete and had to be replaced. Don Hollinger again took the lead and purchased a new one that resides in the Narthex. Attempts were made to get training sessions arranged, but COVID pretty much stopped that aspect. We plan to continue seeking training opportunities for interested parties and ushers. Christopher and Nancy Goss took it upon themselves to completely sand, stain and apply polyurethane to the memorial bench outside Lyman Hall. The bench had weathered badly, but looks good as new now. Michael Williams and CVS Pharmacies donated a new 12-foot fiberglass step-ladder. This will replace a very rickety, unsafe wooden ladder. Our sincere thanks to Michael and CVS for that donation. When Lyman and Walker Hall were added on to FPC the additions left a hole or void that extends from the flat roof over Walker Hall to the original exterior of FPC on the west side. This void has proven to be both a nuisance and source of water leakage. Birds tend to deposit seeds from weeds, trees and vines into the void. This summer we were able to remove all of the trees and treat the vines with herbicide. Once nice weather returns, we hope to do more work in this void to ensure that excess water is not shunted onto the old foundation of the church. Long-range plans should include eliminating this void altogether. Don Hollinger noticed that the entrance ramp off the main parking lot had settled about 2-inches along the Lyman Hall side and along the entry door. The latter made for a potential “trip hazard” at our only handicap accessible entrance. Don contacted Pro Concrete Leveling to get their opinion and a quote. Don and I met the representative at FPC, negotiated a price and had the work completed in the same day. In addition to eliminating the trip hazard the repair will also force water off the ramp and away from the building. Minor leaks within our building will probably always be a way of life. Ceiling tile in the Senior Pastor’s Office and in the storage room off the Sanctuary stage remain problematic. Attempts were made to find and seal the leak in Scott’s office, but during heavy rain events the leak returns. We are planning on having Steve’s Roofing take a look at the issue along the 6th Street side and we will have to seek a contractor to take a look at the leak in Scott’s office.

We theorize that leak is coming through the limestone walls at some point. During the summer months strong winds blew one of the decorative finials off the roof of the Sanctuary. Fortunately, this was decorative only and does not pose an immediate threat to the integrity of the Sanctuary. We will address this issue in 2021. The Baptismal Font had water damage on the surfaces. Don Hollinger was able to replace all the damaged wood and has the Font looking good as new. Bill Jones used Old English on the lectern, pulpit and communion table to help cover scratches and to preserve the finish. Bill also sanded and treated the wooden doors on the Lincoln Street side of the building. We also refinished desks in both the Transitional Associate Pastor's and Transitional Head of Staff's offices. Work also started on repainting all the classrooms on the second floor of Walker Hall (rooms W208 & W209 are complete).

Annual Inspection: Tom Dillon created an "Annual Inspection Report" a couple of years ago. The list is quite lengthy, but is a reminder of potential issues within and around FPC that need to be checked each year. The list includes checking painting and drywall issues, lighting, ceiling tile, faucets and drains, flooring tile, carpet and laminate, outside gardens and mulch, etc. I would like to thank Tom Dillon for not only completing this inspection, but either doing the repairs himself and/or making sure that a committee member volunteers to complete the task.

Honorable Mention: I would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work that comes from a couple of our committee members. Ron Jensen has been the official "Fire Extinguisher Inspector" for I would guess decades. Like clockwork Ron completes the monthly inspection and fills out the necessary forms. Ron has asked to be relieved of this duty starting in 2021. The other member that deserves special recognition is Judy Dillon. Judy has been our faithful "Recording Secretary" for a while now. As chair I can tell you that trying to run a meeting, especially a Zoom meeting, and taking notes doesn't work very well. Judy's notes are accurate and prepared in a timely manner. To Ron, Judy 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 was truncated in 2020 due to COVID19 and closure of the Church building. After a period of shock and adjustment, some SG activities resumed either online or with all necessary safety precautions. Here is summary of 2020:

The previous SGC report set a goal in 2020 to strengthen intergenerational ties and young adult groups. Our first event of the year was a church game night. It was well attended (ca. 40) and brought together young and old.

Also early in the year Presbyterians Outdoors trekked to Goose Pond in Greene County. An amazing time was had by all with awe inspiring views of flocks of snow geese and sand hill cranes, as well as bald eagles. This was followed by the warm hospitality of a local eatery in Linton.

With the onset of COVID19, Presbyterian Outdoors mounted two spring-early summer events following appropriate precautions. The chosen were close enough that each family could drive separately and find adequate parking. Trail protocol required practicing social distancing and masks.

Theology on Tap had a once per month schedule until February. By April the group was reformulated into a weekly Zoom time with ca. 10/week in attendance. The series was characterized by vigorous sharing and discussion of contemporary issues of practical theology based upon either a short reading assignment or online video.



During the summer, SGC co-sponsored a book study with the Adult Education Committee. The book “Good White Racist?” was a needed first step following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and nationwide unrest. As a follow up a special committee has formed to further examine areas of growth for FPC.

In late summer a twice monthly time of prayer for the local church, community, and nation began. This was led by Sherry Schwandt via the Zoom platform.

In the fall Presbyterian Women’s groups such as Mary Circle resumed meeting but via the online format.

Starting in January, the third 6-week study of a book by C.S. Lewis will begin. Laura Gardner, who has been ably led each series, has chosen “Letters to Malcom: Chiefly on Prayer.”

Other small groups were on hiatus after March 2020: these include two Emmaus groups, Faith and Film, Men’s Breakfast, Dinning Out group and Suppers of Eight, and Fiber Arts. As soon as deemed safe for reopening the Church building, we anticipate that Faith and Film can gather safely in Lyman Hall. We pray that by mid-2021 vaccinations will permit other in person fellowship. In the interim, 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. Likewise the Church website, another vital function, was reviewed during the fall. Finally 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.

Respectively submitted,
Paul Rothrock, Chair

Stewardship

This report has to start by recognizing First Presbyterian Church's members' continued financial support of FPC during what has been a difficult year. When we were forced by the pandemic to no longer meet face-to-face for worship, the Stewardship Committee feared that contributions would suffer. But our members' dedication and faithfulness kept our finances healthy throughout the year, and we have ended the year financially sound. The Treasurer's Reports which are attached show this in more detail.

Again because of the pandemic, the committee needed to meet via Zoom after our March meeting, so we only dealt with matters that needed our attention. The first concern of the committee was monitoring contributions. We soon realized that giving was not noticeably affected. In fact, the collection of \$2,280 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in April indicated that FPC members were continuing their giving. The other special offerings also indicated members' continued support. The Peace Offering total was \$1779.50 with the church's one-quarter share of \$445 going to Wheeler Mission. The Christmas Joy Offering brought in \$1,516. As stated above, these special offering totals and general fund offerings indicate the faithfulness of our members for which we are thankful.

Early in the pandemic, the Stewardship Committee learned that the church would qualify for a Payroll Protection Loan (which could become a grant) of \$30,000. We pursued looking into this with the help of bankers from Old National Bank. Although we qualified, we decided that we would be able to keep our employees on the payroll (due to your giving) without the loan/grant. We also felt that other groups may need the help more than FPC. Therefore, we did not apply for the money.

When pastor Kort left in July, the committee had to look into a \$40,000 home loan FPC issued to the Korts on April 25, 2015. The terms of the loan were that it was to be interest free and forgivable after seven years if Andy were still FPC's pastor at that time. Andy left after 63 months of the 84 were past; this was after 75% of the time had elapsed. With Session's approval, Andy was asked to repay one-quarter of the original amount. The \$10,000 has been repaid and placed in the church's reserve funds. The committee also made sure that all paperwork required by the IRS for this loan was completed.

Of course, the committee had to oversee the writing of the 2021 budget. The working budget figure for next year is slightly over \$602,000 with anticipated income of \$598,000. This reflects a shortfall of \$4,000. If you have not made an estimate of giving for 2021, doing so will help the church in planning for its financial needs. Also, paying \$44 per member to meet our per capita assessment will help.

I will conclude this report with a heartfelt thanks to the members of this committee: Dan Watts, Mary McClellan, Bill McGregor, Tom Schwandt, Cathy Walker, Jean Brown and Tim Baldwin. Kelley Jepsen and Scott Kenefake met with us as their transitional pastorships started. These members made my work as chair easy. Because of them, it has been a joy to chair this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Boyd Hahn, Chair

Worship Committee

Members: Lisa Hardwick (Chair, January – July), Karen Watts (interim chair, August – December) Karen Hahn, Mary Jensen, Kathy Norris, Becky Rusie, Nancy Swank, and Cathy Walker.

Music Director Grant Farmer regularly participated through June; Alex Koppel participated beginning in September. The ministerial staff participated when they were available.

The committee is responsible for: worship for all services, music, communion, worship activity bags for children, ushers, acolytes, liturgists, flowers, sanctuary prep and decoration, vestments and policies for weddings and funerals. No funerals or weddings were held at FPC this year.

After virtual worship services began in late March due to COVID-19 restrictions, Grant Farmer worked with Andy Kort and Chris Young to provide YouTube videos that could be downloaded by FPC members. A “Connect Through Tech” grant from the Center for Congregations was received to upgrade the recording equipment in the sanctuary. An AV Task Force was established to facilitate this process. The goal was to provide a continuous virtual worship service filmed in the sanctuary during our time of online worship, followed by live-streaming of services once in-person worship resumes. Karen Hahn and Becky Rusie served on the AV Task Force as liaisons with the CE and Worship committees. After the Rev. Kelley Jepsen joined us at FPC, virtual services were recorded through the assistance of Curtis Gahimer, an AV consultant hired by FPC to oversee technical aspects of the recording upgrades.

Total attendance in January and February, including both the 9:00 and 11:00 services, averaged 173 people worshipping in our sanctuary on a given Sunday.

Major personnel changes at FPC impacted the Worship Committee. With the departure of Andy Kort in mid-July and the arrival of Kelley Jepsen in late July, the committee was tasked with providing a longer list of guest preachers than usually necessary during the summer. After Grant Farmer resigned in June, a Search Committee was formed to hire a new Music Director. Karen Watts and Becky Rusie represented Worship on that committee that recommended the hiring of Alex Koppel, who began his duties the first week of September.

Nancy and Christopher Goss volunteered to decorate (and undecorate) the front of the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season.

They were assisted by the Rabun family and Kathy Norris who was responsible for ordering and maintaining the poinsettias around the pulpit. The congregation appreciated the added lights of the Christmas tree during the recorded services.



The Recital Task Force, a group that was in the process of establishing policies for the use of FPC for recitals and practice space, was placed on hold during the church lockdown.

The Worship committee is working with the Property and Membership Committees to establish a set of guidelines for safe worship practices once FPC decides to return to in-person worship. They closely monitor the status of COVID incidence in Monroe County through the liaison of Karen Watts who also serves on the Reopening Task Force established by Session. A checklist of safe practices has been drawn up for those participating in worship-related activities during this time of online worship. We look forward to the time when we can all gather again for worship in-person.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Watts, Interim Chair

Board of Deacons

Class of 2020

Sergio Fernandez
Judy Fulford
Lou Moir
Julie Strycker
Isabelle Rauh

Class of 2021

Glen Darling
Barbara Hanna
Nate Nickel
Becky Rusie

Class of 2022

David Burkhart
Karin Coopersmith
Jim Ernest
Ruth Holman

Deacons meet in-person January through March (since our meetings are early in the month, church was still in session when we met). We did not start Zoom meetings until July and have had Zoom meeting monthly since. Many of our ministries are geared to in-person participation so those have been on-hold since mid-March.

Deacon Ministries

Ministry
50-year Member Recognition

coordinated by
Nate Nickel & Jim Ernest

Gail Dunning and Mary Ellen & Michael Donovan qualify for recognition this year. The Deacons have approved moving forward with a plaque project that will permanently recognize each individual 50 year member at the church. This recognition will not be limited to recent 50 year members, but will include the names of all those that have achieved this status since the very founding of the First Presbyterian Church. Deacon Jim Ernest has especially been doing absolutely yeoman's work in researching both church and community historical records to ensure that all eligible members are included in the project. His time and efforts have been greatly appreciated. This research will continue through the end of the year, with plans to finalize plaque design options and eligible member listing in 2021. The Deacons are also actively working with the Property Committee to find an appropriate interior location to place the 50 year membership plaque. This is an exciting project and we are looking forward to leaving empty space on the plaque to add more future 50 year members!

Bread for the Journey**Ruth Holman**

This was added to Deacon Ministries late in the year. Two families left the congregation but declined Bread for the Journey.

Bulletin Board**Julie Strycker**

While we were in-person, the bulletin board was posted with monthly calendar of activities plus articles of interest about members of the congregation or written by a member.

Cards/Care Notes/Birthday Cards (Virginia Baude)

Total cards sent on behalf of Deacons was 175. No cards were sent from March 15 to mid-June per direction of COVID guidelines. Permission was given to resume mailing card in mid-June. Cards were sent to members for encouragement, congratulations, 85th or greater birthday, or a thank you. Virginia wished to retain this ministry even though she was off Deacons.

Coffee Hour**Lou Moir & Glen Darling**

From January to mid-March, volunteers signed up via on-line sign-up for both coffee hour hosts and food providers for after both services.

Coffee Hour Purchases**Judy Fulford**

Coffee, tea, cream, sugar, apple juices and orange juice were purchased for coffee hour, while we met.

College Care Packages**Nate Nickel**

This ministry was placed on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communion Preparation**Ruth Holman**

Communion supplies were purchased and prep was prepared for both services at three first Sunday in-person communions.

Flower Delivery**Barbara Hanna**

If the flower donor was not taking the sanctuary flowers with them, they were delivered to the designated person or if no one was designated, one was selected. Several members volunteered to deliver flowers.

Funeral Receptions**Lou Moir & Barbara Hanna**

Prior to no in-person meetings, one funeral reception was held for the family of Mickey Klein.

Lending Closet**Karin Coopersmith**

Multiple mobility and rehabilitation aids are available to borrow from the church Lending Closet. There are also infant items for short term need. Some items are at the church and others with the individual providing the item.

Meals

Sergio Fernandez & Julie Strycker

A total of 35 meals have been provided to members / friends of FPC. We have the best volunteers ever. They always rise to the occasion to help their fellow congregant.

June – 5 meals were provided to Gail Dunning after the death of Jim August – 14 meals were delivered to Nasrin Hepfer and family after Greg's death November – twice a week through mid-January are being provided to Nasrin Hepfer as she progresses through health issues.

December – weekly Thursday meals are being provided to Kiah Burkhead through mid-January as she deals with health issues.

Rosebuds

Isabelle Rauh

A rose bud was on the pulpit in January in honor of the birth of Jackson Drummy, son of Leandra and Sam Drummy. No other births while we were in-person.

Sr Exercise proposal

Jim Ernest

The ministry was placed on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic even before it could get off the ground as a new ministry of the Deacons. The purpose of the ministry was to create a fun environment for seniors to get a little exercise that may help them avoid the potential of becoming a shut-in. Even though the first fellowship time has not even happened, the Property Committee has approved the use of Lyman Hall and the ministry has the support of the Session. Two ping pong tables have been identified for use as part of the program. I have also secured several other game type activities that require people to get up and move around. I have also explored bringing in outside help, such as personal trainers who are certified for senior level training classes as well as nutritionist again with emphasis on senior type needs. I have even contacted some dance instructors that showed interest in teaching a senior level class.

Transportation

Becky Rusie

There were three members who were regularly offer transportation as needed to attend church services.

Visitation

Becky Rusie & David Burkhart

No in-person visitation has been done since no in-person meetings.

Call Team – Six Deacons are part of the team calling members and friends of FPC during this time of no in-person services. The Call Team has both Elders and Deacons. This team is currently coordinated by Ruth Holman.

As Deacon Moderator, Ruth Holman represented Deacon's by serving on the Nominating Committee and as one of the Smock Grant administrators. Other Smock Grant administrators were Mary McClellan and Kelley Jepsen. Several disbursements were made from the Smock Grant funds.

2020 officers: Ruth Holman, moderator; Becky Rusie, vice moderator; Jim Ernst, secretary with Nate Nickel back up. Kelley Jepsen joined our group as our staff liaison.

Respectably submitted,
Ruth Holman, Moderator

Music Program

The First Presbyterian Church Music Program has continued to be a vibrant and guiding part of worship services, despite all the hardships this year. While metrics of membership are ambiguous while we are in a virtual setting, there has been a consistent effort among all participating members to uphold true musical integrity.

Notably the two largest changes this year were changing music directors from Grant Farmer to myself, Alex Koppel, as well as our switch to virtual services. There have 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, Eileen Jennings, and many members of the choir).

The choir continues to meet weekly, over Zoom, tackling a number of virtual projects for the congregation. These projects include rehearsal time, and a significant amount of technical knowledge to record both audio and video, while 'singing' with the virtual choir. Not only have they been able to tackle simple projects, but impressively the choir has been able to tackle four-part music with the same level of accuracy and musicianship we would normally see when we were all in the same room singing together. We have also tackled two collaborations with First United Church, and had a virtual choir featured at the 2020 Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration.



The choral scholars (Andy Hendricks, Hayley Abramowitz, Greg McClelland, Eileen Jennings, and short-term holiday sub Amane Micheda) have taken on the large task of continuing to provide each service with uniquely recorded music, both in hymns, as well as special music offerings. Meeting once a week, masked, and socially distant, we record the hymns live with Chris Young. The choral scholars have been rotating each week to provide special music and anthems, along with Dave Schwandt, and Yvonne Reinier.

The Children's Choir, under the direction of Eileen Jennings, has been continuing to meet both virtually and in person. They led a beautiful Christmas Pageant, and have been working on more virtual ensemble projects. The bell choir, under the direction of Brian McNulty, has not been meeting due to COVID restrictions, but has been active in communication and small offerings for our Advent services.



Overall, despite a very difficult year, 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 2021, with the hope of rejoining in-person soon.

Alex Koppel, Music Director

Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Ruth Holman

Vice Moderator: Karen Watts

Past Moderator: Cathy McFarland

Recording / Corresponding Secretary: Judy Dillion

Treasurer: Gail Dunning

Circle leaders:

Circle Mary: Kathy Hollinger

Luncheon / Fellowship Circle: Carole Allen

Koinonia Circle: Gail Dunning

Church Women United representative: Carol Peterman

PW started the year discussing ideas to increase participation and how we could draw young women. A new communication board was placed on bulletin board in narthex. PW decided they wanted more coordinator meetings in 2020. With the church needing to shut down due to the pandemic, all PW activities halted.

PW is self-funded. 2020 fund pledge was sent to women of the church. In 2019 a youth scholarship fund was established (from fundraiser of selling dry mixes). There have been minimal expenses for PW in general and no activity with the scholarship fund (no dry mix fundraiser in 2020 and no mission trips occurred).

PW Coordinating team resumed meeting with the use of Zoom in May. Circle Mary resumed the Horizon Bible study program via Zoom in May. Koinonia Circle also started 2020 meetings via zoom. Koinonia successfully revised the annual Christmas Store and Silent Auction to offer it to the children and adults via a link through our FPC website. \$1000.00 was sent to Posoltega for children's Christmas gifts. The luncheon/fellowship circle has not been able to meet but Carole has been called the usual attendees to= make sure they are ok.

PW was only able to host one all church women breakfast prior to the shutdown.

All church Christmas Carol sing was then hosted by zoom Dec 21. At the annual Christmas carol sing, 2021 officers were installed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Holman, Moderator

FPC-PW - BLOOMINGTON INDIANA						
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - Affected by COVID 19 Pandemic						
December 22, 2020						
						Youth Fund
			PW Funds on Hand	Dec. 31, 2019	\$ 787.74	675.32
<u>YTD Receipts</u>						
Contributions:		5	\$ 450.00			
Birthday Offering		1	\$ 75.00			
Least Coin			\$ -			
Thanksgiving Offering			\$ -			
Soup Fundraiser for Youth			\$ -			
2019 Late Deposits			\$ 200.00			
Cash to help cover Horizons			\$ 20.00			
			Total YTD Receipts	\$ 745.00		
<u>YTD Disbursements</u>						
PW in the POV		Mission	\$ (300.00)			
PW in the POV		Oper.	\$ (50.00)			
PW in the POV		Life Membership	\$ (95.00)			
PW in the POV -Church World Services			\$ (50.00)			
Mon. Cty. Church Women			\$ (50.00)			
MCUM			\$ (250.00)			
PW in the POV	Least Coin		\$ -			
PW in the POV	Birthday		\$ (75.00)			
PW in the POV	Thanksgiving		\$ -			
Pyoca via POV			\$ (100.00)			
Horizons Magazine	1		\$ (24.95)			
The Awards Center			\$ (9.00)			
Soup Fundraiser Supplies			\$ -			
			Total YTD Disbursements	\$ (1,003.95)		
			PW Balance	Dec. 22, 2020	\$ 528.79	
			Youth Scholarship Fund Balance:			675.32
			PW Treasurer: Gail Dunning			

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.

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 messages 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

Respectfully submitted

Allan Edmonds

Task Forces

Reopening Taskforce

Members: Randall Burcham, Kelley Jepsen, Wes Ratliff and Karen Watts, with Susan McGhee (through October) and Scott Kenefake (from November)

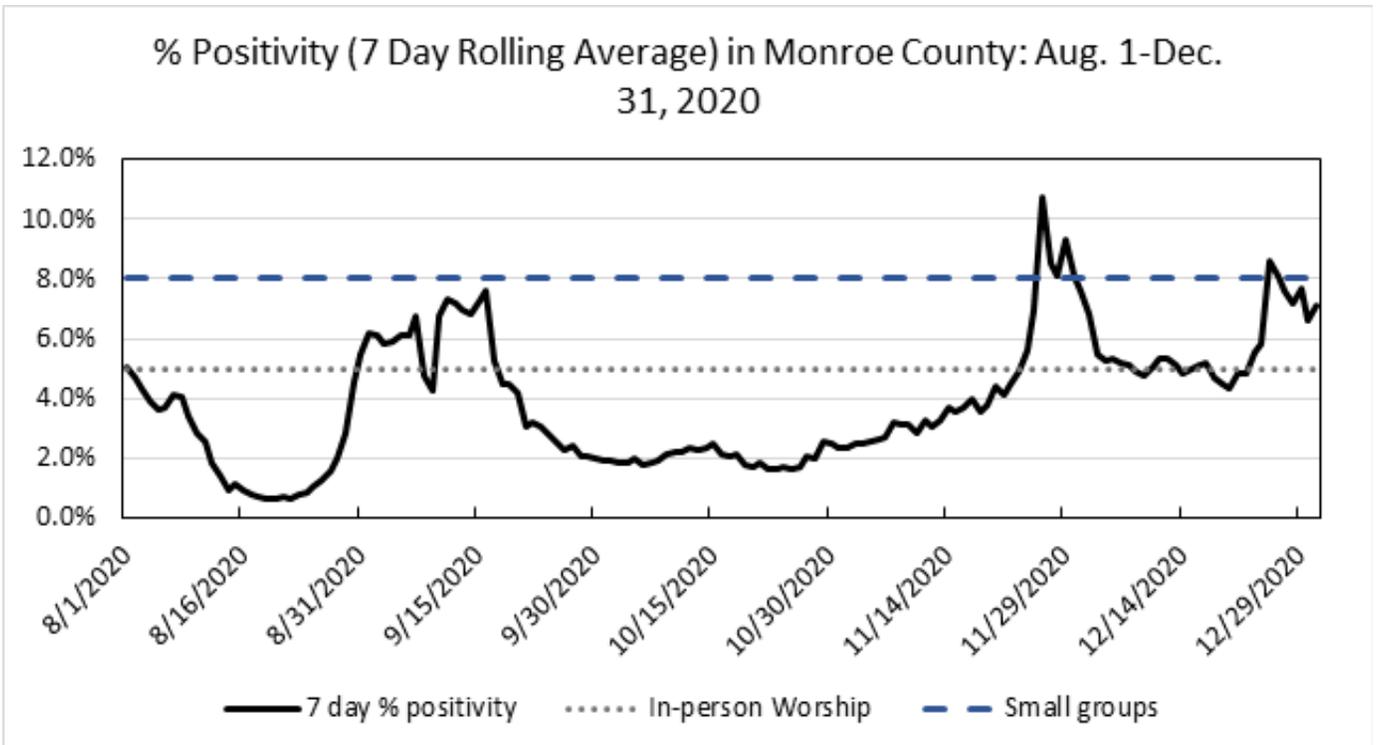
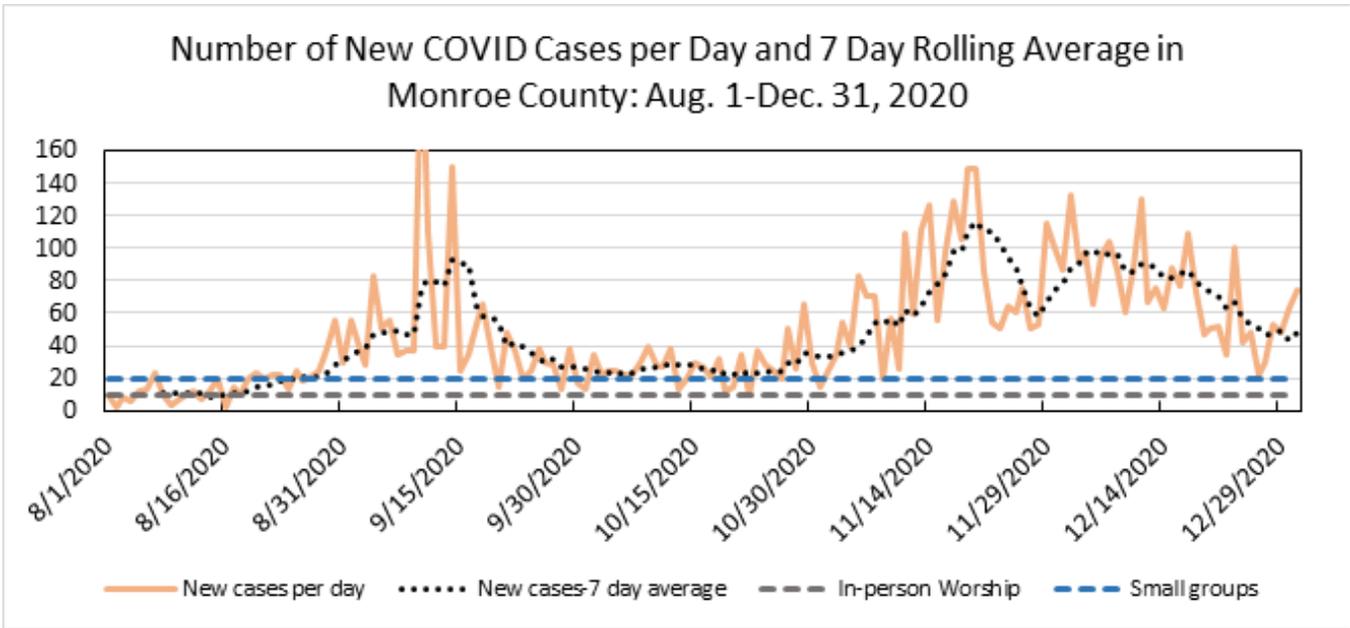
The Reopening Task Force was established by the FPC Session in September with the purpose of establishing COVID infection parameters that would allow FPC to return to in-person worship and to allow for small groups to meet in the church facilities.

The Task Force monitors COVID-19 statistics daily as posted on the Indiana State Department of Health website <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>, and is particularly tracking 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. The “% Positivity” is calculated using the total number of positive COVID tests for the past 7 days in Monroe County divided by the total number of tests administered in that period in the county.

The Task Force has recommended the following guidelines, 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 August 1 through Dec. 31 are shown below.



The Task Force communicates at least weekly to monitor the local situation, with Steve Creech from the Property Committee included. Exceptions to the above policy may be made upon special request to the Property Committee.

Graphs of data from August through December indicate that FPC did not meet the guidelines established for in-person worship at the end of 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Watts

Racial Justice Taskforce

At its meeting on October 13, 2020, the Session approved the establishment of a racial justice taskforce to develop recommendations for how FPC can join the movement that seeks to dismantle the structures of systemic racism in our country. The immediate action for the taskforce is to explore the possibility of our church becoming a Matthew 25 congregation focused on addressing structural racism. The Matthew 25 initiative of the PC (USA) provides resources and network opportunities for congregations to engage in anti-racism actions.

The taskforce members include Sue Connell, Allan Edmonds, David Giedroc, Sarah Harriss, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, Hank Ruff, Paul Rothrock, Kelley Jepsen, and Gary Crow (Chair). These members represent the congregation at large and various appropriate Session committees. The taskforce has met once to organize. Next steps include discovering more information about the Matthew 25 initiative and working with Session committees to develop ways to implement anti-racism initiatives.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Crow, Chair

Clerks Report

ELDERS SERVING ON SESSION FOR 2020

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Carol Avenson	Debbi Conkle	Jean Brown
Boyd Hahn	Gary Crow	Elena Bya
Lisa Hardwick	Sarah Harriss	Randall Burcham
Kathy Hollinger	Saundra Tracy	Steve Creech
Wes Ratliff	Dan Watts	Nathan Ernest

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2020

Active Members at the beginning of the year: 386
Gains: 11 Losses: 9 Inactivated by Session: 57
Total Active Membership at the end of the year: 331

Age Distribution of Active Members: 25 and under: 22(7%)
26 to 40: 51 (15%)
41 to 55: 61 (18%)
56 to 70: 73 (22%)
71 and Over: 124 (38%)

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Barrett
Ann Marie Calin
Mihai Ciucu
Ann Gilbert
Grace Lally
Ryan Lally
Max Riggle
Mike Riggle
Stephanie Riggle
Cathy Walker
Ron Walker

IN MEMORIUM

Bruce Bennett
Shirley Byers
Jim Dunning
Barbara Fischer
Greg Hepfer
Emerson "Mickey" Klein
Palmer Mart
Jim Weikert
William Wiatt

Report of the Treasurer

December 31, 2020

General Fund

Balance on Hand January 1, 2020

\$26,524.25

Income

Prepaid pledges for 2021

Current pledges and contributions of record

440,342.49

Future pledges and contributions of record

27,300.00

Prior pledges

400.00

Plate Offering

1,076.00

Building Use Income

2,890.00

Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers

125,986.28

Bank Interest

8.32

Ledger entries

Total Receipts

598,003.09

Disbursements

Payroll

(298,578.77)

Non-payroll GF

(148,294.90)

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

(177,653.67)

Total Disbursements

(624,527.34)

Balance on Hand December 31, 2020

\$0.00

Special Funds, Balance on Hand December 31, 2020

\$72,778.29

Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand December 31, 2020

\$ 88,507.98

Reserve Fund December 31, 2020

\$ 62,155.50

Campaign Fund December 31, 2020

\$ 64,991.03

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

\$ (222,870.14)

4.97%

Parking Lot Fund December 31, 2020

\$ 68,406.43

Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,413.99)

\$ (213,255.75)

2.75

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)

\$ 10,343.36

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)

\$ 31,030.18

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 1.5%)

\$ 50,618.16

Mary C. McClellan

Treasurer