



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ADDRESS

3501 Hill Avenue
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

EMAIL

office@fpcspiritlake.org

WEBSITE

www.fpcspiritlake.org

ANNUAL CONGREGATION/CORPORATION MEETING

Sunday, January 21, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Meeting of the Congregation

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

REVIEW/ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (S)

REVIEW BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024

REVIEW/ADOPT THE 2024 TERMS OF CALL FOR THE PASTORS

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

Meeting of the Corporation

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF FINANCIAL REVIEW TEAM

Meeting of the Congregation

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

OFFICERS AND STAFF

THE STAFF

Pastor	Clint Loveall
Pastor	Michael Gewecke
Office Manager	Megan Donnenwerth
Finance Manager	Amy Sill
Director of Choral Music	Carol Ayres Stueven
Director of Contemporary Worship	Lisa Frangenberg
Building Manager	Tom Ditsworth
Custodian	Scott Egertson

THE SESSION

Class of 2024

Cindy Knabe
Tony Jennings
John Peterson
Amy Profit

Class of 2025

Terry Bruinsma
David DeWild
Amy Kueper
Stephen Richards

Class of 2026

Sharma Brockmeyer
Jerry Erickson
Nate Gruys
Cindy Voss

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

Deb Ditsworth
Mike Frangenberg
Mona Scaletta
Jennifer Watts

Class of 2025

JoAnn Asa
Marcia Eckerman
Kathleen Johnson
Rhonda Reekers

Class of 2026

Pat Heiser
Kirk Jensen
Beryl Marra
Christy Thompson

Annual Congregational Meeting

First Presbyterian Church

Spirit Lake, IA

January 8, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

The annual meeting was called to order at 10:12 am by Moderator Rev. Clint Loveall after a quorum was declared. The meeting began with prayer by Pastor Loveall.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting as printed in the report of 2022. Motion was approved.

Nominating Committee

A report from the nominating committee was presented nominating the following members to serve as officers of the class of 2023-2025:

Deacons: JoAnn Asa, Marcia Eckerman, Kathleen Johnson, Rhonda Reekers

Elders: Terry Bruinsma, Dave DeWild, Amy Kueper, Steve Richards

A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations and elect these individuals to serve. Vote was called and passed unanimously.

The nominating committee was thanked for their work and a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Review of Budget for 2023

Pastor Loveall presented the 2023 budget as approved by the session with input from elder Tony Jennings. Total budget for 2023 is \$680,760 which represents an increase of \$32,996 over the 2022 budget of \$647,764.

2023 Terms of Call for Pastors

Tony Jennings, with input from Bernie Van Roekel, presented the terms of call for 2023 as recommended by the stewardship committee. It was moved and seconded to accept the proposed 8.0% increase for Pastor Loveall and 10% increase for Pastor Gewecke. Motion approved.

Nomination and Election of Congregational Nominating Committee

Five members at large are needed for the nominating committee. The following were nominated: Jen Watts, Jackie Jenkins, Sherryl Jones, Keith Brockmeyer and Norm Meinking. It was moved and seconded to elect the nominees for 2023. Motion approved.

Meeting of the Corporation

The Congregational Meeting was suspended at 10:25 am and the Meeting of the Corporation began at 10:25 am.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the Corporation

Ron Williams, President; Amy Sill, Treasurer; Milt Nolting, Secretary. Each consented to be nominated. A motion was made and seconded to elect the officers. Motion approved. A financial review team is needed this year; Darin Anderson, Ryan Davelaar and Bob Peterson agreed to be part of this team. The meeting of the corporation adjourned at 10:27 am.

Meeting of the Congregation

The congregational meeting adjourned at 10:28 am. Pastor Loveall closed with prayer.

PASTOR LOVEALL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Friends it's been quite a year. As I sit to write this report I find it very difficult to separate the personal from the professional, and if I am honest much of it is a blur. There has been a lot of good and bad mixed together and a lot to reflect on, learn from, give thanks for, and pray over. Here's some of what I remember and some of what I think it means.

To start with, I have gained a new and even deeper appreciation for this congregation in a season of personal challenge. It is a very different thing to live on the side of the line receiving support and care rather than giving it. We have felt carried and strengthened by FPC at each stage of dealing with our situation and we are so grateful for the hundreds of ways that love and compassion have been extended to us. I truly don't have enough words to express what it has meant and what I think we have learned, and are learning, about putting love in action from what we have seen through you all. Thank you.

As for the rest... Last year marked my 20th anniversary in Spirit Lake, and Michael's 10th. It is a privilege to stay in a congregation that long and to share half of that time with another pastor, especially one as gifted and capable as Michael. Due to many blessings and lots of work by lots of people, FPC continues to swim upstream against the general decline of the Presbyterian church and I am so proud of what happens here. We definitely don't have it all figured out, but by God's grace we continue to be a place where people feel welcomed, included, engaged, and nourished.

Regarding "church stuff", there has been a lot of that also. Vonda retiring and a change of our daily team is a big adjustment but we are grateful for our new custodian, Scott. We look back with gratitude for all Vonda has done for FPC and we look forward to Scott becoming a part of the church family. After 20-plus years of fighting leaks in the steeple, we are moving forward with repairs that will hopefully make water worries a thing of the past, which will be great. Finally, coming out of Covid revealed some new staffing realities and possibilities, and moving forward as co-pastors with Michael should be a great step forward for the congregation. I look forward to seeing the benefits of this new arrangement, and I do not think many churches would have thought or been willing to make this change. I am proud of FPC for constantly being willing to explore new possibilities and take chances when necessary.

I am admittedly biased, but I think FPC continues to do most of what we do pretty well. We have an incredible team of volunteers, an amazing and dedicated team of people on staff, a generous and giving spirit, and a willingness to do much more than simply "belong to the church." We have some momentum and a good foundation on which to continue to build and I am hopeful the coming future will be bright. There are some major transitions and big challenges ahead, but I remain confident in this congregation's ability to navigate faithfully and not get overly distracted by the noise around us. It sounds overly simple, but I am convinced as long as our focus remains on Jesus and his Kingdom, we will figure out the rest.

Thank you for being a part of it and for being a blessing. As a pastor, and a person, I cannot express how grateful I (and my family) am for your support, encouragement, and love.

Blessings,
Clint

PASTOR GEWECKE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

If you were to go into any church and ask its members to assess the life of that particular church family, you would get a variety of opinions. Some would laud the choir, others the sanctuary, others the preaching, and still others the fellowship and outreach. While we may all have different opinions about the many aspects of church life, it is important to remember the one true center of any healthy congregation.

Of course, the Sunday School answer is simple: Jesus Christ is the center of any healthy congregation. But that truth can be elusive to hold onto. When we gather for worship, we are reminded that Jesus is Lord, that he has been faithful to the end, and that he can be trusted to carry us through this life and into the next. But when we leave our sanctuary and return to the world, we quickly wrestle with the very same doubts, fears, and divisions of the world around us.

Unfortunately, not every congregation can say the same about their sanctuaries. In fact, many of the problems for our contemporary Christian churches reflect the same fault lines as the culture that surrounds them. But I give thanks that Jesus Christ remains the center of First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. This is not something that we have accomplished through our cunning and devotion, though our prayers and petitions have mattered. Nor is it something that our hard-working teams devoted to worship and Christian education can take credit for, though their important contributions have been many and varied.

No, the best that we can say is that Christ has given himself for us. God gave himself, and we have had the privilege of receiving him. 2023 was a blessed year for FPC. We welcomed many new families into our fellowship, our shared work and ministry has been strengthened by consistent and generous financial support, and the Word of God continues to be studied, preached, and lived in this place. And yet, for all of these blessings, the greatest and most important blessing of all is that Jesus Christ remains at the center of it all.

As we begin ministry in a new year together, I would like to invite us all to do our part to lay hold of that gift and keep Jesus Christ in the very center of our church. Let us pray for one another, study and serve with one another, and grow in the nature and character of Christ together. Let us resolutely commit to never taking the gift of Jesus Christ for granted and to constantly remind each other of its truth. If we take a long and hard look at the best gifts at FPC, it is clearly the life and grace of Jesus Christ. Let us remember that gift, receive him in our hearts again, and always be transformed by his power at work in our midst.

In Christ,
Michael

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership – January 1, 2023.....526

Additions:

Letter of transfer.....	19
Ben & Amy Brant	Rory & Joyce Martinson
Curt & Diane Busch	John & Linda Racine
Chase & Heather Hurtig	Colin & Alice Jensen
Rob & Rebecca Steiner	Donald Norris
David & Melissa Mensing	Randy & Brenda VanKley
Reaffirmation of faith.....	6
Tom & Linda Coyle	Steve & Tracy Schnell
Rachel VandeBrake	Courtney Watkins
Profession of faith.....	0
Reactivation of Membership.....	0
Confirmands.....	7
Ella Beck	Leah Bolluyt
Cael Cornell	Evan Fisher
Brock Nissen	Hayden Webber
Asher Wipperfurth	
TOTAL INCREASE.....	32

Deletions:

Letter of transfer.....	0
Deaths.....	6
Russell Thomson	Beverly Cother
Paul Fibelstad	Phil DenHerder
John Rohlk	Ron Jenkins
Placed on inactive roll.....	0
Request for removal from rolls.....	2
Rob & Pam Kroese	
TOTAL DECREASE.....	8
Membership – December 31, 2023.....	550

SESSION REPORT

The Session met in 8 regular meetings in 2023. The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 8, 2023.

Four received the sacrament of baptism during the year:

Ryder Reck
Avery Haiar
Eloise Steiner
Kenzie Wonnenberg

Four weddings were officiated in 2023:

Julia Flowers and Levi Wittrock May 6
Brianna Pratt and Daniel Hoerichs August 12
Serena Lynch and Ryan Hein August 19
Jessica Jimenez and Logan Backhaus September 24

Pastor Clint and Michael officiated 8 memorial and/or graveside services in 2023:

Paul Fibelstad May 1
Russell Thomson May 5
John Rohlk August 5
Beverly Cother September 16
Ron Jenkins October 5
Phil DenHerder October 14
Jerry Turner December 21
Ed Purdy December 29

Stephen Richards, Clerk of Session

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DEACONS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

First Presbyterian Church is blessed in so many ways, and the 12 Deacon's that served greatly benefit from these blessings. We provide sympathy, witness, and serve after the example of Jesus Christ. It is our duty to minister to those who are in need, the sick and friendless and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.

We have served our members in 2023 by recognizing those that have reached the age of 80 with birthday cards on their special days. Each Deacon volunteers to be the contact person for a member on the "Shepherd" list by offering assistance and communication. These people are members who have short-term and/or long-term needs, and they received visits and special gifts from the assigned Deacon on Easter, Christmas, and other times as needed during the year. The Deacon's also provided a ride to church for a gentleman living at Keelson Harbour. The Deacon's served communion to members, and any person wanting to partake, who resided at Wel-Life, Keelson Harbour, and Accura monthly in 2023.

Other Deacon activities we provided in 2023 are as follows:

- Sent cards to those with joys, concerns. Memorial gifts were sent to families of passing members.
- Provided gas cards to those traveling for medical treatments.
- Provided money, grocery, and/or meal gift cards to those in need.
- Sent Valentine gift cards to 17 college student members and 4 members serving in the military.
- Gave gift cards to 21 graduating seniors.
- Delivered poinsettias at Christmas to 30 individuals/couples on our Shepherd list, as well as those who had lost a loved one in the past year.
- Assembled and distributed 75 goodie bags to the children involved in the youth Christmas program.
- Provided gift cards to 25 families within the SL schools in need at Christmas.
- Provided a donation to SL Elementary & Middle School towards unpaid lunch balances.

Our church receives requests for support throughout the year, and Deacon's provided donations to those organizations as listed:

- YMCA Strong Kids Campaign
- Spirit Lake Schools Backpack Program
- Cherish Center - their annual Father-Daughter Dance
- Upper Des Moines Back to School Shopping Program
- Upper Des Moines Food Pantry
- Atlas of the Lakes – various needs provided for as requests were made
- Okoboji Bible Conference to support the Steven Curtis Chapman concert
- FPC youth mission trip - supplies for projects
- Upper Des Moines-winter clothing donation of boots, coats, & gloves for children in need

We are grateful for the support of the congregation that makes all of this possible. Thank you for your generosity!

With Warmest Regards, FPC Deacons Class of 2023:

Tracy Anderson, Joan McCulloch, Kelly Swancutt, Dayle Brooks, Deb Ditsworth, Jen Watts, Mona Scaletta Mike Frangenberg, Marcia Eckerman, JoAnn Asa, Rhonda Reekers, and Kathleen Johnson.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

PW Theme

The theme for the year 2023-2024 is **"The Gift of Peace" based on John 14:27.**

Annual PW booklets were mailed to all women in October which lists activities, service groups, local concerns, the budget and other pertinent information of our organization. If you have questions or see an area you would like to be involved with, please contact the church office.

Mission The PW women are an active and vital organization in our congregation. Some of our many ministries include: serve lunch at funerals, knit prayer shawls for members, sewing projects for missions and local concerns, Adopt a Family at Christmas, give gifts to Confirmation students, give monetary support to local and world missions, host a biannual rummage sale, deliver goodie boxes to local concerns at Christmas, provide **Our Daily Bread** devotional books for the congregation and a subscription to the **Horizons** magazine (in our library), donate a book to our library in memory of a female member who has passed.

Meetings and Highlights of 2023

- Coordinating team (PWCT) meets the first Thursday of most months of the year.
- March 9 – **PW Projects Day 9:30 – Noon**. Considerable progress was made regarding the storage of PW items as a part of the broader church wide storage project. Stamp trimming was also worked on.
- April 23 – **Confirmation Sunday**, gifts were presented to seven confirmands.
- April 27 – **Annual Salad Supper 6:00 pm**. Jessica Amendt, Director of Discovery House gave an excellent presentation about all that is currently happening there.
- May – A **new rectangular wooden table and six chairs** were purchased for the library to replace the existing round table and chairs. Jill Jennings did the research, and she and Tony picked up and delivered the items. They are an attractive upgrade.
- June 17th – **Treasure in the Trunk Sale 8:00 – Noon**. The sale went very well and there were minimal items left to dispose. Proceeds from the sale went to Clint's fundraiser (Hope for Justice), the UDMO Back to School Program, and the Backpack Program (FPC).
- October 19th – Seven women gathered in the library from 9-11 am to **assemble the mailing of the annual PW Booklets** in record time. Thank you for your help and to Megan for all the preparation work she does for us.
- December 7 – The **PW Christmas Luncheon** was held at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall with 130+ in attendance. Christy Thompson gave the devotion. Speaker/singer Jill Miller presented the program "Shine." Maxine Butler did a Dedication of the PW Thank Offering. Thank you to the many involved in making this day happen!

- December 20 – **Twelve goodie bags** were delivered to our fourteen **Local Concerns** (two couples) by the PW Coordinating Team.

Thank you to all the women who collectively make so much happen in our church. You are amazing! A special thank you to the men who served the Christmas luncheon and cleaned up afterwards. The kitchen was spotless!

Respectfully,

Sandy Krout, Coordinating Team Member

QUILTER/SEWING ANNUAL REPORT 2023

We found the year 2023 a challenging year trying to meet on a regular basis but through the selfless dedication of Ellen Williams and Rhea Sybesma, we saw the hands and feet of God in action. Both Ellen and Rhea personally took home the assembled quilts to finish hemming and tying. Ellen also personally made 15 quilts that she has donated to the quilting mission at church.

Throughout the year we have seen many beautiful quilts made and were happy to be able to donate 6 quilts to the Milford Care Center, 6 quilts to Upper Des Moines, and we have 6 that are pending to go to Discovery House. The men of the congregation that have experienced health issues this year were also presented with “made with love” quilts. At Christmas, Charlene and Erin Radcliffe gave a quilt to a needy family we sponsor. We donated a large quilt made by Jean Stanley to the PW that was then auctioned at the Youth Pie Auction with proceeds going towards the youth mission.

It is exciting to discover new donations to our quilt room and we thank everyone who has so generously given to the mission. If we cannot use certain items we search for a place that will be equally blessed to receive them.

We are asking for prayers that in this new year that God will stir the hearts of a few who would like to be a part of our little group. We strive to make lives a bit happier when they wrap up in a blanket of love made by this quilting/sewing group of First Presbyterian Church. God’s blessing to all in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernice Wahl

Presbyterian Women

1-1-23 to 12-31-23

Categories	Income	Expense
Adopt-A-Family		\$ 200.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$ 2,971.00	\$ 1,026.14
Daily Bread & Horizons		\$ 300.00
Funeral	\$ 1,898.51	\$ 897.67
Garage Sale	\$ 862.00	\$ 450.00
Gifts & Donations		\$ 2,190.37
Interest Income	\$ 40.05	
Membership letter	\$ 2,305.00	
Misc - Operating	\$ 26.40	\$ 242.71
Missions:		
Least Coin		
Misc - World Day of Prayer		
PH PW Meetings		
PW Pledge		\$ 1,000.00
Pollard-Moser	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
CAASA, Cherish Center, Discovery House, Echo Plus, Lakeshore, Oaxaca \$250 ea		
Thank Offering	\$ 195.00	\$ 580.00
Quilts		\$ -
Sewing		\$ 304.95
Spring Salad Buffet	\$ 370.00	\$ 135.91
Staff Christmas Gifts		\$ 1,000.00
Stamp Ministry		\$ -
	\$ 10,167.96	\$ 9,827.75
	Balance in account 12-31-21	\$ 7,019.20

Dorothy Smith Memorial

	Income	Expense
Dorothy Smith Deposit & interest	\$ 5,000.00	
Kitchen supplies		\$ 453.91
Event Speaker		\$ 750.00
FPC-craft room shelving or chair rack		\$ 3,500.00
website development, in-ear monitors		
interactive display, banquet tables		
	balance in account 12-31-21	\$ 2,361.41

NW Bank Savings Account

	Income	Expense
	\$ 966.04	\$ 3,000.00
	balance in account	\$ 353.97

Vanguard Account (Pollard Moser)

	Share Price	Balance
Balance 12-31-22	\$ 8.11	\$ 27,112.84
Balance 9-30-23	\$ 8.11	\$ 26,428.50

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Sanctuary: New LED bulbs were installed in April with the use of equipment borrowed from Vugteveen Landscape.

Insurance audit was done in November. Report to arrive after first of the year.

Fire extinguishers were inspected and found to be safe.

Two of the kitchen sinks were replaced with stainless steel sinks.

A pickle ball court was added to the gymnasium.

Old church equipment, books, and other miscellaneous items were removed from the church following a cleanup of rooms and cupboards throughout the church.

Craft and Backpack Program rooms were moved to new locations in the education wing. The old Backpack Program room is now storage for flowers & decorations.

The elevator was condemned by the state inspector in 2023. Schumacher Elevator Company placed a bid for removal of \$12,780.00. To avoid this cost, Tom was able to remove the elevator and the system was taken to a recycler in Milford. The area that the elevator was in is now 3 new closet spaces for church storage.

A new mission bulletin board was added to hallway by the kitchen.

Drywall repairs needed in the fellowship hall will be done in the spring of 2024. The bid was \$14,680.00 for this repair.

Bob Cornell Construction started the rebuilding of the church steeple in November. Completion date is unknown due to a delay in receiving necessary materials.

Snow removal: Carney Construction removed snow from parking lot and was hired for 2024 as well. Vugteveen Landscape removed snow from sidewalks and will also be doing this in 2024.

Scott Egertson was hired in December to replace Vonda Buchman, who retired from the church in September.

Thank you to the Radcliffe family for mowing of the church grounds!

A special thank you to Roger Rieck for assisting with various projects in the church!

Submitted by:

Tom Ditsworth, Building & Grounds Manager

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Christian Education committee oversees the education and youth ministries of the church. This year our committee of individuals have delegated tasks leading as Nursery Coordinator, Bible Distribution & Memory Verse Prize Coordinator, VBS & Christmas Program Planners, Special Event Coordinator, and Sunday School Superintendent.

VBS kicked off the summer in June and had another successful year with youth attendees from the community. FPC adult volunteers paired with Lakeshore Center camp to provide our programming this year. Our high school youth and adult chaperones braved the Florida heat at the end of July as they went on a mission trip to an immigration resource center restoring buildings, serving in their onsite food pantry and learning about the various challenges immigrants encounter.

Our Sunday School enrollment continues to climb each year with 77 kids registered PK-8th grade. Our Preschool through 5th grade classrooms continue to utilize the Whirl Classroom curriculum by Spark House. The curriculum has a two year rotation which complements our classroom set up at FPC as well as our FPC Scope and Sequence. Our 6-7 grade attend our Pre-Confirmation class while Confirmation for the 8th grade is led by Pastor Loveall. The Sunday School students also continue to participate in the bible memorization program and it's always an enjoyment for our congregation to see our PK-3rd grade provide music during the church service.

Wednesday nights continue to hold a strong attendance in participants. Starting afterschool with 7-8th grade for Faith Finders, next the family style Recharge programming and ending the evening with the High School Youth Group. Both the Faith Finders and High School Programming have grown in numbers with congregation and community attendance over the past 2 years.

Youth Sunday in November was again a success. We continue to encourage youth participation in the service by leading prayers and reading scriptures as well as special music provided by our younger disciples. This is also a time we have our annual Bible Distribution to our Sunday School students. The Pie Auction again had astonishing support to raise money for the high school missions and trips. We continue to be humbled by the outpouring of support and love our congregation shows to our youth.

We closed out 2023 with our Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 17th. The congregation along with visiting family and friends came together as our youth shared the story of Jesus' birth.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FPC remains very blessed with the caliber of staff we have. We have great people involved throughout our staff and the church benefits constantly from the caliber and character of those who serve in the various positions at FPC.

This year, in addition to reviewing and supporting our staff, the Personnel committee addressed two major issues. The first involved finding a replacement for Vonda Buchman, who retired after 13 years of service, and left big shoes to fill. After a search and interview process, the committee welcomed Scott Egertson to FPC, and he began his work as a custodian late in 2023. Scott is a great addition to the team and brings a great attitude and work ethic to the job. We are grateful to have him on board and encourage FPC members to get to know him as soon as you can.

Secondly, the Personnel committee continued to evaluate our staffing pattern and after a long series of discussions, which began over a year ago, we recommended an administrative change to the Session and the congregation. The suggestion was that we move to a co-leadership model with our pastors and away from the Head of Staff / Associate model that we have used since Michael's arrival. There are various reasons for which have been explained in multiple communications, but in short we feel that it gives us several advantages for the church and the pastors moving forward. We are excited that this change has been met with positive reactions, and we look forward to growing into this new leadership model in the coming years.

All in all, FPC has had another good year largely thanks to the work of many great people. We are grateful for those who serve the church on staff and we look forward with excitement about the place our church is in.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Peterson, Personnel Committee Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Elders: Terry Bruinsma, David DeWild

Committee Members: Carolyn Butterworth, Joyce Colton, Sherryl Jones, Karen Lahm, Beryl Marra

First of all, let us just take a moment up front to thank Carolyn, Sheryl, Joyce, Karen and Beryl for steering Terry and I in the right direction as the newcomers to the committee. To say that we wouldn't have been able to do it without their experience and expertise would be an understatement. Also thank you to the church secretary Megan for all of her help answering questions as they came up. Here are the things that our Membership Committee accomplished during the 2023 year:

- **New Membership Classes with Pastor Michael**
 - Terry and I attended some of the new member classes. It was our opportunity to get to know our newest members, to help welcome them to the church, to answer any questions that they had for us about getting involved in our church and it also gave us an opportunity to get their picture so that we could get our newest members added to the church directory.
- **Fellowship Coffee to Welcome New Members**
 - We started by planning this Fellowship Coffee for our new members. We used the last of the First Presbyterian Coffee Mugs and filled them with candy to give as a gift to the new members of our church. We bought cupcakes to bring to the

new member fellowship coffee and the fellowship hosts for the week (also a member of the membership committee) took care of providing the drinks and coffee.

- **Updating the New Member Bulletin Board**

- Several membership committee members helped to write the new member bios from the information sheets provided to us. These bios were then used to create a New Member Bulletin Board so that our current members could get to know our newest members better.

- Here is the link to the New Member Bulletin Board Information:

- [Meet the Newest Members](#)

- **Updating the Confirmation Bulletin Board**

- Several members of the Membership Committee once again worked together to create the bios so that our congregation could get to know the confirmands a little better and be able to recognize them when they see them in church.

- Here is a link to the Confirmation Bulletin Board Information:

- [Meet the 2023 Confirmands](#)

- **Updating the Church Directory**

- Towards the end of the year, we realized that there were several new members from previous years that did not have information in the church directory. Our committee has reached out to these people to ask if they: 1) wish to be included in the church directory and 2) if they wish to be included they were asked what information that they would like to share in the church directory. This process will be ongoing as some have responded and some have not.

- **Ordered engraved 20 oz stainless steel tumblers**

- Since we have run out of First Presbyterian coffee mugs to give out to new members, we have decided to transition to giving out 20 oz. stainless steel tumblers engraved with the First Presbyterian logo instead. We have ordered 72 of these tumblers so we should be good for several years to come in terms of having a tumbler to give to our newest members. Below you will find a picture of the tumblers:



That sums up the activities of the Membership Committee for the 2023 year. We have another New Member class being taught by Pastor Michael beginning right after the New Year and look forward to doing our best to welcome another batch of new members to our congregation. Thank you again to all of our wonderful committee members, Megan and the pastors for making this a successful year and for guiding Terry and I through the process. You all are much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
David DeWild and Terry Bruinsma
Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE 2023

Our purpose is to bring the congregation together for fun and fellowship, thus helping us deepen our faith with our fellow Christians.

Our committee members are Sharma Brockmeyer, Megan Donnenwerth, Tony Jennings, Sherryl Jones, Wayne Johnson, and Amy Kueper.

Our offerings for fellowship this past year were: Board Game Night, Painting Pots with Amy, Family Time at The Venue, Mission Blessing Bags, Pastor Anniversary Celebrations, Pastor Appreciation Fellowship, P.O.E.T. Events, outdoor service potluck, and implemented almost monthly card game gathering, etc.

In Fellowship
Judy Jensen

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

One of the ongoing tasks in the library is cleaning and reorganizing materials. I hope to complete this in 2024. My responsibilities in running the craft program, which included relocating the craft room, took my attention away from the library during the late summer and fall of the year. One big improvement in the library, however, was the replacement of the round table & four chairs, with a rectangular table & six chairs. It is more suitable for the space and will allow for more comfortable meetings in the library.

Memorial gifts to the church library provide funds for the purchase of new books and DVDs. Donations of library materials that have been published within the last five years are accepted. There were several donations dropped off in the library that are being incorporated into the collection. The check-out procedure has been changed for most materials to one that is an on-your-honor system. There will be no more check-out cards to sign and leave in the library. All materials will be marked with a "First Presbyterian Church" sticker. Feel free to take the materials that you would like to read/use/watch. Please return them in the book drop as before. There will be a handful of items that WILL need to be checked out. Those would be a couple of Bible studies and other box-set programs that I would like to keep track of where they are. I will let the congregation know when I have that system in place.

The Presbyterian Women honor the memory of women members of our church family who have passed away during the year. They do this by purchasing a book in memory of each woman. This book is recorded in the notebook of memorial gifts, which is located in the library for review. A personalized book plate is placed inside each book, designating the memorial. We remember Beverly Cother this year.

I recorded circulation numbers for 2023, and there were 171 items utilized. I have some ideas of ways to encourage reading and to draw more readers into the church library in 2024. A couple of possibilities are a reading challenge and a book club. A fellow bibliophile has volunteered to help me with library programming, so stay tuned to see what happens in the library next year!

Sincerely,
Jill Jennings, Librarian

MISSION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Mission Committee has had a highly active 2023 starting with our first meeting in January. We added four new members to the committee to replace those who retired in 2022. We welcomed Art Attema, Deb Ditsworth, Gloria Ditsworth, and Tony Jennings in January. Other members are Jan Bowles, Dave Butterworth, Tyler Jenness, Sandy Krout, Milly Tillotson, and Ron Williams.

Pastor Michael created a new annual online form for our missionaries to give us their updates. Our 2023 budget for \$150,000 was approved at the annual meeting, and the proposed allocations were discussed and approved by the committee. Thank you to the congregation for your faithfulness in giving to make this happen.

A main goal for our committee this year was to bring our many supported missions and missionaries to the congregation. Amy Kueper joined our meetings in May as we formed a subcommittee titled MOM (Missions/Missionaries of the Month). From this committee came the idea to dedicate a wall to a board display. Amy and Deb produced the design and created the beautiful display you now see in the hallway by Fellowship Hall. The first display was up for the month of September, featuring Aaron and Deb Groff and the CRU organization. It is in its infancy but rapidly changing to bring as much information to the congregation as possible. Thank you to Connor Kueper for volunteering his time to work on this project during his Christmas break. We will keep you updated as we move forward.

In person missionary visits this year: Jim and Amy Trewin, June 25th, Mandi Rodger, August 16th, Seher and Dogukan Doganay, and Aslan, October 24 – 25 (joined us at Recharge).
Zoom meeting on a large screen: Azat Kooman, June 21st. These are all special times, and we plan to do more.

Our annual trip to prepare and serve a meal at The Banquet (Sioux Falls) with the United Methodist Church for April 1st was postponed due to weather until Saturday, October 21st. We had a group of thirteen from our congregation attend and enjoy serving the meal to 253 guests, fourteen of them children. We also have a chance to sit and visit with the guests and eat with them. Please volunteer to join us on **Saturday, March 16th, 2024**.

We receive correspondence continually from our supported missions and missionaries. The largest request they have is for prayer, so thank you for your faithfulness in this area, too. Please follow the new display board each month and check the church website's Mission area for more information about our missions and missionaries.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Krout

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Worship Committee Objectives:

1. Plan with the pastors for worship services, including sacraments, special services, and other events.
2. Plan for elements of the service to enhance the worship of our Lord.
3. Incorporate music and other activities to enrich the spiritual experiences of worshipers.
4. Provide an environment that will encourage the congregation to grow in their knowledge of God and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The fall season was kicked off with an outdoor worship experience that was well attended. A potluck fellowship time followed the service.

Online streaming of worship service continues, and is watched by many near and far away. We appreciate comments on how to continue to improve this experience for those watching.

We now offer a live stream of our worship service at Keelson Harbor. Communion will be served to attendees during the live stream service once a month. An elder or deacon will be present to serve the elements.

Music leaders in both services continue to do a great job of enhancing the worship experience with their music selections.

Thank you to our Pastors and music leaders for enriching our spiritual experience in worship.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Because we believe all things belong to God,

The Stewardship committee will:

**Challenge the congregation to respond to God in gratitude
with their gifts of time, talents and treasures.**

Educate the congregation of the financial needs of the church

And be accountable for the prudent use of resources.

Our Church budget is based in funding the mission of "REACHING OUT TO SERVE". The source of these funds is faith giving from you, the members and friends of the Church.

Your 2023 faith giving increased nearly \$2,000 above 2022, an increase of 0.3%. General fund expenses increased just over \$30,000 compared to 2022 and were \$22,000 under budget.

The General Fund Account will carry forward to 2024 \$57,915 (one month 2024 budgeted expenses). Excess amounts will be transferred to the Capital Contingency Account for budget and capital reserves and unplanned expenses.

The budget for 2024 has been set at \$694,976, a 1.5% increase over 2023. The 2024 budget was established using requests from all of the committees and has been approved by the Session. In order to meet this budget, the congregation's continued faithful support will be needed.

In addition to your gifts of money, you have also given your time and talents and for that we also thank you. There are many opportunities at First Presbyterian for you to be involved in God's work – Recharge, PW, nursery, fifteen different committees, Sunday worship services, music programs, and many more.

We give thanks to God and for each of you and for your faithful support of God's ministries at First Presbyterian Church.

John Peterson - Chair

Darren Anderson

Ryan Davelaar

Amy Sill - Finance Manager

Tony Jennings

Bob Peterson

Luke Donnenwerth

John Ziegenbusch

Barbara Mendenhall

Brett Johnson

financial

information

budget

information

