

**“I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?”**

Isaiah 43:19



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
Ann Arbor | Michigan

2018 Annual Report



Confirmation 2018



God Is Doing a New Thing
Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up;
don't you recognize it?
Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)

Annual Meeting of the Congregation – January 27, 2019

Call To Order

Opening Prayer

Recognition of Clerk, Linda Rex

Declaration of Quorum

Stories of Faith in Action

- Bridge Interim Report
- Local & Global Mission
- Campus Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Families@First
- Congregational Life

Mission & Vision / Strategic Planning Team Report

Bill McPherson

Congregational Nominating Committee Recommendations

Prue Heikkinen

Elect Elders and Deacons to fill unexpired terms

Carter Hodgson, Session, Class of 2019

John LeDuc, Deacons, Class of 2021

Introduction of First Pres Staff Members

Finance Committee Report

Pat Tamblyn

Report on 2018 Finances

Presentation of 2019 First Pres Budget as Information

Personnel Committee Report

Dick Carlisle

Motion, Changes to Pastors' Terms of Call

2018 Personnel Committee Report

Interim Pastor Search Committee Update

Helena Prince

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers & Rev. Jay Sanderford – Co-Moderators of Session & Associate Pastors

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Bridge Interim Report

The Reverends Melissa Anne Rogers & Jay Sanderford

Since October 14, our transitional period, we have been preparing for First Pres to hire a skilled interim pastor.

While the Interim Pastor Search Committee works prayerfully and diligently to find the perfect person to lead First Pres through this period, we two provide a “bridge” of leadership. As requested by the Personnel Committee and endorsed by our Session, we humbly and prayerfully serve as Session co-Moderators and co-Heads of Staff until those duties can be assumed by an Interim Pastor, which we hope might occur around Easter. As “career associates”, Jay and Mel understand the needs of the congregation at this time, and are also devoted to the particular ministries to which they have been called and gifted for at this time. Know that we are honored and willing to serve at this time, but we also look forward to returning to our appropriate positions when the time comes!

Our focus is on all of you, and especially on our leaders and staff, to support our congregation’s emotional, spiritual, and pastoral needs. We have spent the last weeks being personally available to you. Thank you for the many meaningful conversations and the tough questions. Our conversations with you will continue. Please seek us out! With elders and deacons, we are encouraging vision and leadership, guiding planning, and modeling healthy communication. Drawing on the resources of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Detroit, we are assisting the Session in the search process for an Interim Pastor and then a new Pastor and Head of Staff. Our conversations also continue with the Administrative Commission, led by Rev. Clint Cozier, with our gratitude for their support and guidance.

Some roles and committee leadership we share jointly. We work together, in consultation with the Worship and Personnel Committees, to plan the preaching and worship schedule. Along with our own gifted preachers on staff, we invite outside speakers to ensure that our worship is dynamic, inspiring, and challenging. Together we support the work of the Mission and Vision Strategic Planning Team, Presbyterian Women and the Personnel Committee. How blessed we are to have enjoyed the strong gifts of previous Clerk of Session Diana Gardner, who has resigned. The blessings continue as we have welcomed the competence, eagerness, enthusiasm, and commitment of new clerk Linda Rex. We are especially grateful that the Personnel Committee has transitioned so easily and fully to new leadership, led by Elder Dick Carlisle, but supported by members who continue on — Tim Dickinson,

Prue Heikkinen, Kay Fuller, and Chris Dahl, as well as new elders Carter Hodgson and Sue Cares who join them.

Rev. Sanderford continues as coordinator of the Resident Ministry program and guides the Christian Education Committee with its faith formation programs for members of all ages, and the Mission Committee in international, local and campus outreach ministries. He, along with Finance Manager Anna Miller, oversees day-to-day financial management and budgeting. With Facilities Manager Adrian Prundeanu, Rev. Sanderford supports the work of the Property Committee. The recruitment of the best and brightest Resident Ministers is at the top of his agenda just now.

Rev. Rogers continues in her primary role to provide leadership to our Pastoral Care program and all areas of Congregational Life, including welcoming new members and building small groups. Her additional responsibilities include providing for our important Worship and Music Ministries, and, alongside Anna Miller, supporting our efforts in Annual Giving, Endowments and Special Gifts. We are so pleased that Annual Giving is nearing completion of this year’s campaign, led by Pat and Diane Tamblin. As well, the Minister of Music Search Committee is in the final stages of work to select the best candidate called by God to serve First Pres, and with enthusiasm, hope, and openness, we will embrace that person into our staff fully and faithfully in the spring, if all goes as hoped.

In a healthy interim period, the process of self-study, search, and calling a new pastor occurs in a culture of honesty, healing, dreaming, building, and celebrating as Christ’s body here in Ann Arbor. It is not a fallow time, rather it is a time when every member lends energy and support to rebuilding in service to discover-

“... a time when every member lends energy and support to rebuilding in service to discovering Gods future for us ...”

ing God’s future for us in all of our ministries and missions. We cannot do this alone. Our staff needs you — members and friends — to do all that you can to move us forward. Help us cre-

actively engage the key issues of our community in this interim period. In an interim, we do important work. We look to rediscover our vision and renew our goals and values. We draw from existing resources, and locate new ones. We look at ourselves honestly so that we can be confident in who we are who and who God is preparing us to be.

We can be confident as we look for a new pastor. God is good. You are God’s hands and feet and heart for this world. We are privileged and honored to be here, in leadership, with you.



Report from The Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Congregational Life

Meister Eckart, a 13th century German theologian, wrote, “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is ‘Thank you,’ that will be enough.” Along with my daily prayers to God for

our staff, our Session, and our members, this annual report is another way I can pray with gratitude for all of you who ensure that pastoral care at First Pres is vital, healthy, and faithfully and gracefully expressed. Parish Nurse/Wellness Coordinator Sandy Talbott assesses the tangible needs of our members, as well as the spiritual and emotional needs. Together, we collaborate and offer available resources, including those our own church family bring to help those in need. Sandy’s vast knowledge, ever-willing attitude, precious sense of humor, and depth of faith are invaluable. Our resident ministers and a few retired pastors

— Rev. Bill Findlay, Rev. Kent Palmquist, Rev. Gary Oliver, Rev. David Downton, and Rev. Eldon Beery — make hospital and in-patient rehabilitation facility visits during the week. Stephen Minister Jeanette Kibler visits, as well, often bringing her black labrador therapy dog, “Stout.” Member Cyndy Colton and her therapy dog, “Gracie,” often come with comfort to our members who are suffering or grieving. Into places of brokenness and hurt, these volunteers bring Christ’s love. Our 54 Deacons consistently go the extra mile to make sure our members are connected and loved, acting as the “glue” that holds First Pres together. There are not enough words available to describe the countless ways each member of that board spreads the love and grace of our Lord to this congregation. Gratitude abounds for all of them.

Other care-givers model faithful ministry and embrace the wounded in love. Stephen Ministers spend hours with their care-receivers, but also, in supervision and continuing education, keeping their skills sharp. We have 26 Stephen Ministers currently serving, and all are assigned, some to more than one care-recipient. The Stephen Ministry leader team welcomed two new members who underwent intensive training – Charlie Koopmann and Karen Al-Saadi. Our “Restore Hope” provided safe community where family members with mentally ill family members can talk together and gain mutual support. I am grateful

to Linda Koopmann and Nicole Joliet for their generous time and energy to lead this group since 2014, even as they take a hiatus in 2019. Pastoral ministry grows out of genuine hospitality, and First Pres is indebted to those who share your gifts as greeters, lay readers, ushers, Greeters-in-the-Pew, Prayer team members, Communion servers, Prayer chain members, and Helping Hands. Each person contributes a thread to a gorgeous tapestry of Christian warmth, welcome, love, and healing. Each role demands some of our time and energy, but returns to us grace upon grace as we offer ourselves to this Body of Christ. All these volunteers in pastoral care are equipped, empowered, and available to keep First Pres transforming into an ever more loving community of inclusion and faithfulness.

“You, however, make this church a caring congregation.”

You, however, make this church a caring congregation. Talking with someone who is alone at Coffee Hour, making a meal for someone recovering,

delivering milk to someone without a car, listening to a homeless man seeking shelter in our church, taking a shift in the welcome center to welcome warmly people who come to the church during the week, sitting in a waiting room to provide support for a family — these things are tangible expressions of care. Small and large gestures, especially to members we don’t know well or even at all, shape us and the faith of others in our congregation. In particular, this year, your tender kindness and unexpected gifts of care shown to our staff members has been a healing balm in a time of tough transition. It is grace in human form — each of you ministering to the ministry staff who work the hardest to keep First Pres moving faithfully forward.

Spiritual pilgrimage is a spiritual practice I love, and leading these opportunities for you is a meaningful part of my ministry here. In May, 17 women from First Pres walked the Via Francigena, in Tuscany, and in October, 20 men and women from First Pres walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. The themes for





these trips was “Wandering in the Love of God.” Both trips were deeply meaningful, challenging in multiple ways, and spiritually transformative. Resident Ministers joined in and caught the “pilgrimage bug,” honing a skill and practice they can take into their next calls. Stronger bonds

come to these members and to a faith more deeply connected within our community. Our church is strengthened when these groups return and share their experiences. Our Mature Ministries group traveled to Midland, Detroit, and Belle Isle, lovingly guided by First Pres member and Director of the UM Museum Studies Program, Brad Taylor. A large group of members traveled to Stratford, Ontario, for an overnight trip, something that has become an annual experience of theater, food, friendship, and fun.

My focus is squarely on First Pres and our members, trying to provide the best pastoral care and support possible while trying to meet the increased demands of our current preaching schedule. I particularly cherish weddings, baptisms, and memorial services — those times where I am called, blessed, and privileged to draw near to a family and reflect

Christ’s healing light and love as I am called and able. In April, I officiated the memorial service for my mother, Carolyn Bowman, in Gainesville, Florida. Mom loved First Pres, Ann Arbor, and cherished knowing that God has called me to such a faithful and loving congregation. I smile remembering her sitting in our pew, especially in the year 2001, when my son Charlie was baptized. As Charlie graduates from Saline High School in June, it’s obvious to me how First Pres has ministered to my family and to me through these years. I count it as gift and blessing to humbly and devotedly return that care and love. As a pastor, I learn from you how to better serve as Christ’s disciple in this world, and in our church. For that, I am truly thankful.

First Pres, you are an extraordinary congregation. As we have learned lessons together this year, we have celebrated and grieved together. Losses and gains are inevitable. Some of those have created tension within our community that we have been challenged to resolve. We have, and must continue to, extend a listening, loving presence to one another here. Disagreements are inevitable, but they do not define us. Working through them, and getting beyond them with mutual love and respect, we are strengthened to reflect Christ’s love to a complex world.

Report from The Reverend Jay Sanderford

Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Mission
Coordinator of the Resident Minister Program



When a group of curious pilgrims from First Pres traveled to the Iona Community in Scotland in 2014, we lived in simple quarters in the Abbey, immersed ourselves in Celtic spiritual practices and worshipped twice daily in the ancient stone cathedral. One of the affirmations of faith we read several times spoke directly to me then and still does today. It described well the challenge of living faithfully in a fractured world full of contradictions, polarities and opposites. I was particularly drawn to the picture of “a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.” At Iona we affirmed that:

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

Throughout this past year, I have kept this picture of “a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity” close to heart in the midst of the challenging and sometimes distressing circumstances of an unexpected pastoral transition involving our head of staff. Our “with-us God” has been conspicuously present and active in the transition; leading us forward, teaching us to deal with our imperfections and hard realities, but also providing

a listening presence and space for redeeming and healing the life of our community and all the people in it. In sharing our humanity, “God with us” has joined together the resources of First Pres, our Presbyterian Church (USA) as both “fear and courage” have joined hands to point us all to a new future.

Our Resident Ministry program is one of the most unique features of First Pres, distinguishing us in remarkable ways. It belies a strong devotion to the learning process and to our identity as a teaching and learning community, ever willing and able to reflect collectively on the Christian life of faith and witness. Members, students and friends share wisdom and insights with our Residents and they in turn offer gifts in pastoral care, worship and preaching, teaching and leadership in community ministry. It is a joy and great pleasure to serve as Coordinator of the Resident Ministry program and to direct the many aspects of this magnificent ministry. Our three Resident Ministers, Revs. Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Dorothy Piatt continue to excel in their ministries at First Pres and show growth, depth and character as pastors and leaders in our Presbyterian Church. It is such a joy to mentor and shape these gifted young church leaders!



Since arriving in August 2017, Blair, Eric and Dorothy have been immersed in real, purposeful ministry and have been shaped by intentional learning units on preaching and worship,

pastoral care and visitation, leadership and organizational development and methods for effective teaching and learning. In a largely successful experiment, our Residents have extended our Campus Ministry program enormously, devoting hours of time each week to connect face-to-face with UM students, gathering with students for coffee and conversation, delving into important questions in small campus study groups and gathering weekly for lunch and building relationships. Our Residents have provided our UKirk @UMich Campus Ministry with fresh energy, resources for forming healthy relationships with students and a source of inspiration for this vital ministry.

The large, challenging and often difficult process of pastoral transition that our congregation has moved through in the past year has been an unintentional source of learning, congregational analysis and organizational management. They have largely understood this transition point as an intense “case study” and drawn many ministry lessons from the process. As the year 2018 concludes, Blair, Eric and Dorothy are beginning to look toward their next calls in ministry while I begin to recruit yet another cohort of Resident Ministers to Ann Arbor.

Beyond the Resident Ministry program, I work to shape the Christian formation ministries of First Pres, guiding the work of Children and Family Ministries and Youth Ministries toward a more holistic approach to faith formation. In this facet, I am fortunate to work with our new Coordinator for Children and Family Ministries, Beca Torres-Davenport and a newly resurgent Children’s Ministry Group. This group is building on the solid foundations of Debbie MacVey’s ministry and connecting with more and more families with children. Likewise, Essie Koenig-Reinke directs our Youth Ministries program and my work supports this crucial ministry across Middle School, Confirmation—with Rev. Evans McGowan and High School ministries. So many great and positive relationships have formed under Essie’s leadership; we will see the fruits of her ministry for years to come. I continue to work with our Adult Education Group as well.

Administratively, I coordinate the work of three key church managers, Anna Miller, Finance Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager and Linda Robinson, Office Manager. It’s a challenging position, and I love what I do to create and maintain a strong, elastic team of devoted and skilled professionals to support the backbone ministries of First Pres. By extension, my work

involves creating and maintaining a culture of teamwork, respect, collaboration and planning across our entire First Pres staff team.

Our Local Mission interests are varied, and during the first five months of 2018, the Local Mission team leaders again focused on meeting the tender human needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Local Mission team pointed our volunteer effort and financial resources toward places, programs and ministries that had programs capable of transforming lives, relieving suffering and following Jesus into the shadowy places in our Ann Arbor and Ypsi neighborhoods. An analysis of our community needs indicated that housing/shelter, good, healthy and plentiful food and community mental health were the three most pressing needs and so we sought to make the greatest impact in those areas. In addition, First Pres rescued thousands of pounds of food from UM’s Big House and Crisler Arena, rehabbed a house with Habitat in Ypsilanti, supported families in crises via our extensive work with Alpha House and Family-to-Family ministries, connected people in Ann Arbor to people in Detroit in our joint work with Cass, fed thousands at the Delonis Center and worked with partners at Peace Neighborhood Center.

First Pres covers the world with God’s grace through our global mission outreach—Israel/Palestine, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines and Russia, 2018 saw a Mission Team travel to Nicaragua in spring. Our Nicaragua team connected with our mission partners--CEPAD, renewed friendships and did important work across cultures to share the Good News of God. With mission

interests spanning our globe and touching many locations in Ann Arbor, our gratitude and compassion inspire us to be God’s agents of hope and Christian transformation. Our Israel/Palestine, Philippines and Russia teams

all maintained an active stance, engaged with their in-country mission partners and continued to keep healthy relationships.

Having completed five years of ministry here in Ann Arbor in December, I remain convinced that First Pres is an exceptional community of faith with a bright and immediate future. We are blessed with many gifts of people and leaders, a solid facility in a magnificent location, a history of excellence in worship and music, strong commitments to mission and outreach, thoughtful engagement in Christian formation for children, young people, adults and families and compassionate pastoral care for the whole church. Many challenges remain, but our “with-us God” is moving us forward with grace and purpose.

“I remain convinced that First Pres is an exceptional community of faith with a bright and immediate future.”





Christian Education

Kate Silbert

During the Officers' Retreat and Christian Life Academy this November, our guest Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka remarked several times that as Presbyterians, we should not speak of our good luck or misfortunes in recounting our ups and downs, but instead of the providence of God at work in our lives. Across a year of goodbyes and welcomes, discernment and experimentation, ongoing traditions and new directions, those of us working on the Christian Education Committee and its work groups are grateful for that providence.

In June, we celebrated the 26-year ministry of our Christian Educator, Debbie MacVey, and wished her well in her retirement. Over the summer, a team of volunteers powered by staff member Cindy King stepped in to recruit Sunday School teachers, clean and organize classrooms, and set the calendar for the start of the church school year. As fall arrived, we welcomed Rebeca Torres-Davenport as our Transitional Coordinator of Children and Family Ministry, as well as Peer Minister GJ Frye, who is working with our high school students.

Some additional milestones for the year:

- Among other offerings, Adult Education presented a series on Environmental Stewardship- Climate Change and "Let's Talk: My Faith in a Divided World", based on the Sarasota Statement Reclaiming Jesus movement.
- The Families@ First group had about 13 gatherings during the course of the year, with an average of 5 families at each event.
- The Mom's Bible Study (now Journeys) met about 20 times for the year, with an average attendance of about eight participants.
- In May, the congregation celebrated the confirmation of sixteen 8th graders.
- The church hosted Vacation Bible School "Marketplace 27-28 AD" with three partner congregations in June
- In the wake of the Parkland School shooting, the Adult Education work group, with support from Session, launched a "Gun Violence, Gospel Values" series of educational opportunities to consider how faith informs this issue and what we can do about it
- Volunteers of all ages have made Christian Education possible throughout the year, and especially as we launched Sunday School this fall in the absence of a full-time staff member. Thank you to all who have given their time and talents!



- Our youth began a monthly mission project, where they and their families serve locally one Sunday each month. Projects so far have included a visit to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, preparing care bags, serving a meal at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Breakfast Program, and caroling at Glacier Hills.
- In November, thirteen third graders received a Bible to continue studying the Scriptures and growing in their faith
 - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka prompted thought-provoking conversations around faith formation, the 21st-century church, and intergenerational connection during the Christian Life Academy in November. Hooked on the ideas Rodger shared? Join us in discerning how we might implement them here at First Pres!
 - Our parents' group, Families@First, continues to meet monthly for fellowship, conversation, and support
 - A group of high school students and adults traveled to Montgomery, Alabama in early January for a trip focused on the intersection of faith & racial justice
- Ongoing work to envision and implement possibilities for youth ministry and intergenerational faith formation across the congregation continues!

We are immensely grateful for the gifted lay people and staff who support this ministry as we head into 2019.



Focus in 2019

- Partner with Youth Search Committee (in process of being formed) to find a permanent Coordinator of Youth Ministry ready to start as Essie Koenig-Reinke's term concludes
- Lead the way in defining what faith formation looks like for First Presbyterian Church, building from what Rodger Nishioka shared during Christian Life Academy
- Draw additional members from the congregation into engagement with children's, family, and youth ministry.

2018 Adult Education offerings crossed into multiple groups and topics that provided educational and fellowship opportunities for adults and families as we discerned how to help people in First Pres live a thriving and meaningful life as individual Christians and a community.

Sunday class offerings:

- **The Bible @ 9:30** - an in-depth exploration of the Bible
- **First Friends** - a self-directed adult group providing a safe place for people to share concerns, explore all facets of faith and receive Christian support
- **Exploring Faith**- Educational presentations from a Christian perspective related to current issues facing society today.
- **First Forums**- an opportunity to pursue current issues with experts in the field over lunch on Sunday after worship



A special word of thanks goes to the many leaders and facilitators who shared their knowledge, skills, expertise and faith in leading and facilitating the many sessions this year. Leadership was a shared among church and community leaders, church members and pastors. Thanks for your guidance to us as we explore living our faith in a divided world.



Additional opportunities:

- **Families @ First** - an opportunity for families with school-age children to gather for learning and recreational activities.
- **Journeys (Mom' Study Group)** meets twice monthly for Bible Study and welcomes new members.
- **Women's Morning Bible Study** - a women's Bible study group that meets monthly on Tuesdays
- **Advent and Lenten special study opportunities** - small group discussion at various times and locations.
- **Men's Breakfast Group** - Men meet monthly for study and conversation over coffee

2018 Highlights

Exploring the Faith series presented in 2018:

- **Creation Groans: A Series on Environmental Justice**
The course explored why Christians should view climate and environmental issues as a matter of justice, as well as diving into specific aspects including water and transportation.
- **Let's Talk: Confessing Our Faith In A Divided World**
The series applied the tenets of the Christian faith to the current political and cultural environment, to develop meaningful responses, personally, collectively and institutionally.
- **Gun Violence – Gospel Values**
At the direction of the Session, a series focused on the issue of gun violence was offered. PCUSA's materials, "Gun Violence-Gospel Values," provided the core for the content including Biblical and theological authority, facts related to gun violence and how to discern how God calls us to act.

Focus in 2019

As members of the larger Christian Education Committee we anticipate involvement in the broader discussion on defining what faith formation will look like at First Presbyterian. During this past year, our discussion focused on ways to enhance and expand education opportunities to our membership.

In today's world of technology and social media we recognize the opportunities before us to share learning opportunities with adults and families in new ways. We began exploring what these might look like and welcome involvement of others in this discussion to make it happen.

Following the educational opportunities related to the gun violence issue, a committee of church members representing a variety of areas of church work and perspective will meet to consider God's call to future actions members and/or the congregation might take to reduce gun violence.



Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12) Sharon Watling

Under the super leadership of Essie Koenig-Reinke, during multiple difficult transitions, the following are some highlights of Youth Ministry from 2018:

- 40 students led us in worship on Youth Sunday a year ago with their talents and gifts.
- A summer Mission Trip to Baltimore, Maryland occurred where we partnered with The Center and Gallery Church of Patterson Park to lead a Vacation Bible School in a local park.
- We hosted our very first "MIDS in Mission," where we sang and danced to the *Mamma Mia* soundtrack as we learned and served the greater Detroit Area, including, The Second Mile Center, The Heidelberg Project and Howell Nature Center.
- We hired three High School students, David Endicott, Aedan Mulcrone and William Lewis to be Youth Ministry Interns over the Summer.
- Our middle school students attended the BELIEVE Conference at Hope College in April 2018
- We welcomed twelve new members through the 2017-2018 confirmation class
- In the fall of 2018, we began our Monthly Mission, where youth learn and serve together once a month. So far we have volunteered at Glacier Hills, The Humane Society of Huron Valley and St. Andrew's Breakfast Program.
- We continue to build community through Sunday Night Dinners, Youth Group, and Lock-ins
- We hired a new Peer Minister, GJ Frye
- We Hired a new Youth Choir Director: Simon Subowski

Essie is also providing leadership to the process of updating the Youth Coordinator job description for 2019. Our hope is to hire Essie's replacement quickly to provide some overlap of the two coordinators and allow transition time for our youth.

We rejoice with Essie as she moves on to the next stage of her ministerial career mid-2019. We know she has a bright future ahead. As she transitions to her next role, she leaves behind the foundations of a strong program. Her talents will be sorely missed at First Presbyterian Ann Arbor. We wish her well.



Focus in 2019

Connection

- Engage congregation members in FriYAY (student meet-ups at Bear Claw Coffee on Fridays after school).
- Support Families@ First Adopt-A-Grandparent.
- Invest in two new Confirmation Mentors.
- Create a member catalog to enable Youth Ministry.
- Send youth & adults (e.g. worship committee) to Triennium.

Uplifting The Youth Voice

- Youth involved in planning all church events (Story Slam).
- Survey youth & families about meaningful worship practices
- Tour Ann Arbor's Neutral Zone with Session members and the Youth Ministry Work Group to learn about youth-owned programming.
- Caring for the Whole Family
- Monthly Mission Family Events
- Implement a Youth Ministry Work Group hosted Parent Space during youth group one night a month.
- Host a progressive dinner for youth families.
- Collaborate with Families@First on a camping trip.
- Develop an evening program during Lent.



This year, First Pres said good bye to Debbie MacVey in June, who retired after serving 27 years as the Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries. In November we welcomed Beca Torres-Davenport as the Transitional Coordinator of Children's Education and Family Ministry.

Program highlights include:

- A family-friendly Ash Wednesday worship service began the observance of Lent
- The intergenerational Peeps & Pizza event was well attended.
- Families@First continued to meet monthly for fellowship, conversation and support.
- Fourth and fifth Graders worked together to implement a warm clothing & coat drive.
- Fifth graders partnered with Food Gatherers as part of their Reaching Out Together In Mission milestone. They received donations of food and money from the congregation and

assembled "Lunches with Love," ready-to-grab lunch bags for those in need. At the end of May, the fifth graders packed and delivered over 600 lunches to Food Gatherers.



- More than 180 volunteers and children participated in First Pres' Vacation Bible School, Markeplace 27-28 A.D. - Called to Be Disciples.
- A "Blessing of the Back Packs" was held during worship for the children before school started in September.
- Thirteen third graders received their Common English Bibles in November.
- The Christmas season kicked off with the annual Advent Happening attended by many First Pres families and friends.
- At the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Worship Service on Christmas Eve, socks and underwear were collected for donation to House by the Side of the Road.



Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, our hard working Sunday school teachers, childcare workers, Children's Choir Interim Director Kellie McInchak, and Children's Education Assistant Cindy King who kept the Children's Education and Family Ministries programs running during the time following Debbie's departure and Beca's arrival.

Congregational Life
Marita Servais

The Congregational Life Committee seeks to support a community of God's people that nurtures and sustains members of the congregation and provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all. We welcome visitors, seek new members, and host all-church events. Each Sunday morning a host of volunteers seek to create a welcoming church.

- Greeters welcome people to the church at our building entrances.
- Volunteers answer questions and provide directions at the Welcome Center.
- Greeters-in-the-Pew greet and welcome visitors and guests.
- At coffee hour, cookie bakers provide home-baked treats.
- Fair Trade Coffee is sold at coffee hour and in the church office to support serving Fair Trade coffee at all church events.

The committee extends an invitation to membership to guests and those who express an interest in uniting with the church.



- Names and contact information of first-time guests are collected from the pew pads each week. Some receive welcome letters, some phone calls, and some weekly emails about church activities.
- New Member classes occur four times per year. After an early morning breakfast and special Session meeting, new members were welcomed and recognized at the morning worship service. Twenty-two people, excluding confirmands, joined the church in 2018; see the section "New Members" later in this report for a list of their names.

The committee, to foster cross-generational community, sponsored a number of all-church events and as well as smaller events.



• At Saturday Suppers held in the spring and the fall at members' homes a meal and lively conversations were shared.

- Several series of Small Groups, meeting in members' homes, at church and at Glacier Hills were held which focused on a selected book or Bible study.
- A Women's Retreat in March at Maumee Bay provided opportunity for fellowship and reflection.
- Intergenerational all-church outings to athletic events included a trip to a UM Men's Gymnastics meet.
- An Ice Cream Social held in early September was enjoyed by people of all ages.



- The All Church Picnic in June included the appearance of the Paul Keller Quintet, barbecue catered by Slow's, and inflatables for children.
- A new event this year, a Story Slam in the sanctuary followed by a Strolling Soiree with food and music provided the opportunity to share the joy of Advent with friends, old and new.
- Congregational Life supports other aspects of our life together including Stephen Ministry, the Parish Nurse ministry, age-based fellowship groups such as Mature Ministries (60 and up), T2A2 (20s and 30s) - ushers and the Board of Deacons.



A special shout-out to Marti Wendler and the other volunteers who staff the welcome desk during the week when, for safety, doors of the church are locked.

The work of the 2018 Congregational Life Committee was made possible by elders Lynne Lande and Linda Koopman, co-opted members Barb Mueller, Cassee Stem, Catherine Kendall, Gail Grady, Kay Erdman, Marcey Terrien, Marti Wendler, Peggy Jensen, and Sara VanderVoort, our resident ministers, Blair Buckley, Dorothy Piatt and staff liaison Melissa Anne Rogers.

Mark Your Calendars! A gathering of Ann Arbor First Presbyterians returns to Mackinac Island May 3 - 5, 2019.

Wellness Coordinator / Parish Nurse *Sandy Talbott*

As I begin my seventh year as your Parish Nurse / Wellness Coordinator I need to acknowledge those who help make this church one of CARE.

- Helping Hands - Thank you to those who delivered hundreds of meals for those needing some extra help, provided many rides to and from doctor appointments when needed, helped install grab bars and banisters, raked leaves and much more.
- Safety Group - our Safety Group has been meeting for four years now, with many big and small accomplishments. This year, I want to also thank those who served on the Security Implementation Group and our Welcome Center Volunteers. We are now both locked AND welcoming. No small feat.

- Over 200 fobs have been distributed, and our new Welcome Center is just that: WELCOMING.
- Usher and officer training, along with our first Shelter-in-Place Drill, and our annual Fire Drill.



- Card Ministry - a BIG thank you to Jenny Stahl and crew for making the beautiful care cards we sign each Sunday for those who are helped, knowing 'we care'.

Focus in 2019

Wellness

- Wellbeing Series (Adult Ed) in January / February.

Safety

- Continued evaluation of how to keep our members safe throughout our building and grounds.
- De-escalation training scheduled for January for staff and ushers.

Parish Nurse

- Be available to those who need me, including staff and pastors.

Financial Stewardship

Bill Wood

- As of the end of November, total income was approx \$42,300 ahead of budget, due mainly to receipts against prior year pledges. We expect to end the year at or near budgeted income.
- As of the end of October, total expenses were about \$109,700 below budget. \$50,000 of this was the result of lower personnel expenditures. We expect to end the year with expenses continuing below budget.
- As of the end of November, the **Endowment & Special Gifts** fund balance was \$6,900,434. This is approximately \$56,200 below the balance at the beginning of the year. Market value gains early in the year have been more than offset by market losses in the last few months. We continue to monitor these funds closely, in concert with our fund manager, while adhering to our approved investment policies.
- **PLEASE NOTE: We urge everyone to consider becoming a Legacy Partner by leaving a gift to the church in your will or estate plan.**
- The current market volatility means more uncertainty for 2019. Our financial projections assume a 5% withdrawal rate (estimated return on E&SG funds), which may not be possible without drawing down on capital. Careful and continuous review of our investments during 2019 will be required.
- Our **Lilly Endowment** grant ran out in October of this year. Because of good investment decisions Lilly funds lasted 10 months longer than initially anticipated. From November on we will be funding the Resident Program fully through the Resident Minister Endowment Fund.
- As of end of November, the **Resident Minister Endowment fund** was \$4,545,000. Assuming an optimistic withdrawal rate of 5%, we are about \$1,000,000 short of what's required to fully fund 3 Resident Ministers going forward. This matter will require review and action by Session before the next cohort is brought on board in September 2019.
- There were no special fund raising requirements during the year.
- The Finance Manual has been reviewed and updated, with Session approval expected in January 2019.
- A special thanks to Finance Committee members Bill Austin, Blair Buckley, Spaulding Clark, Anna Miller, Zach Monsma, Pat Tamblyn, Bruce Thomson, Len Rezmierski, Bill Upton, Susan Washabaugh, and Ken Westfall.

Focus in 2019

- Because pledges are currently running behind prior year numbers, the final 2019 budget won't be determined until the January 2019 Session meeting. By then we should have more clarity regarding expected income for 2019.
- We will start to fund a replacement reserve for Property in the 2019 budget, recognizing significant deferred maintenance that needs to be addressed in coming years.
- The severance package for Dr. Fair will be paid from undesignated bequests in E&SG funds, and will not impact the 2019 operating budget

2019 Stewardship Summary *Pat & Diane Tamblyn*

- The 2019 stewardship work group was made up of Pat and Diane Tamblyn, Bill and Dusty Upton, John LeDuc, Fairfax Fair, Eric Koenig-Reinke, Anna Miller, and Maeve Hammond.
- We were supported by members of the congregation who gave Faith in Action comments and assisted with follow-up phone calls.
- Church staff provided invaluable assistance, including production of the stewardship materials and ongoing communications.
- We are thankful to have such talented people involved in this important effort to raise operating funds for the 2019 church budget.
- "Living God's Love" was the invitation and guiding message for 2019 annual giving, as well as a call to action in all aspects of our lives.
- The formal appeal ran from kickoff Sunday on September 23, 2018 to commitment Sunday on October 21, 2018.
- Stewardship packets were mailed in September, and remain available online at www.firstpresbyterian.org/contribute.

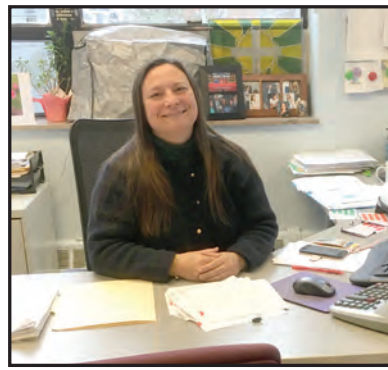
LIVING
GOD'S
LOVE

LOVE GROW SHARE



STEWARDSHIP
2019

- The financial goal for 2019 was \$1,700,000 in pledges. We also sought to increase member commitment of time and talent to First Pres ministries, which was a recurring plea from our Faith in Action speakers.
- The dissolution of Fairfax's call on October 14, 2018, just prior to commitment Sunday, added a challenge to the stewardship effort this year.
- Our pastoral staff and visiting ministers, including former FPC resident ministers, kept the stewardship message alive from the chancel. They are also providing needed stability as we move toward an interim pastor and eventually to a new head of staff.
- As of December 31, 2018, 469 pledges totaling \$1,427,928 have been received. This represents 84% of our goal, and the average pledge amount is \$3,045. Compared to a year ago, we have 29 fewer pledges, \$176,983 less in committed funds, and the average pledge is down \$178.
- If 2019 pledges don't support budgeted revenue, Session will have to decide whether to cut back on programs or to dip in to undesignated bequests to match expenses to revenue.
- Pledges of all sizes support ministries at First Pres, and your individual gift is strictly confidential. Only Finance Office staff has access to pledge amounts so they can report total pledges and provide you with a quarterly update on your giving.



- 2019 pledges continue to arrive in the Finance Office on a daily basis, and it's not too late to add yours.
- Thank you to all who have responded generously to God's invitation to Live His Love, and to support His church in Ann Arbor!

Focus in 2019

- Elder Bill Upton and Dusty Upton will co-chair the 2020 stewardship work group.
- The goal, as usual, will be to increase the number of pledges and amount of funds committed to First Pres to support ongoing ministries and programs.
- Equally important is growing the commitment of time and talent by First Pres members and friends, so that we continue to Live God's Love and expand our impact as a community of Christ.
- Fundraising challenges will continue through our transition period, but if we come together as a congregation and follow God's lead, everything is possible.

Technology Work Group *Kerry Colligan*

Members of the Technology Work Group include Lisa Haddrill, Rol Kibler, Drew Burton, Eric Koenig-Reinke, and Kerry Colligan. The group spends most of its time and energy ensuring ongoing technical operation including audio concerns for services (mics, speakers, sound board, podcasts), website maintenance, telephones and internet access, and computer equipment, operation, and supplies.



2018 Review of Prioritized Projects

Video for the Sanctuary

- The goals remain in flux.
- The concern is available personnel expertise for video production, not equipment per se.
- We had several conversations with other committees and with staff. No action was taken in 2018.

Permanent audio/visual capability in meeting rooms

- The goals are to enhance presentations with improved visibility of speaker slides, and to enable recording for web distribution. This project replaced the Video in Montith Hall project.
- Members of the Technology work group met with Adult Ed in the fall to discuss possible solutions. Cost was estimated for two viable options. We continue to discuss these options and expect a decision in early 2019.

A hearing loop for the Sanctuary

- The goal is to provide a loop for use during services.
- A proper loop requires removal of the Sanctuary floor.
- This project was tabled. When major renovations to the Sanctuary are discussed, this project should be re-evaluated.

Refreshing the firstpresbyterian.org website

- The goals are to update the software that runs the website, to add new functionality, and to refresh the look and feel of the site.
- At issue is available budget. The Technology work group requested funds to begin this project in 2019.
- The full scope of the project has not yet been assessed. That work will begin in 2019.

Soloist microphones

- The goal is to improve sound for the WAAM recordings. These mics would be used only occasionally to boost the sound of soloists in the Sanctuary.
- This was a low priority in 2018.

Video in Montieth Hall

- The goals are to enhance presentations with improved visibility of speaker slides, and to enable recording of resident minister sermons.
- The primary concern is finding a balance between the quality of the final video and the expertise needed to produce it.
- The Technology work group estimated 20-30 hours for each high-quality video produced. We are working with other committees to identify people with the proper skillset.

Focus in 2019

The group will meet in January to re-prioritize the following:

- Website refresh
- Permanent A/V in meeting room
- IT/audio support for Sunday morning services
- We began discussions in 2018 on the merits of a paid position responsible for running the sound board during services, executing the podcast/WAAM content, and supporting Sunday AM A/V needs throughout the church.
- We have requested funds and are scoping the role.
- Photo archive software solution
- Video in Montieth Hall

Mission

Carol Smith

The primary work of the Mission Committee is to identify and strive to meet the crucial needs of people, communities of the world and our neighbors. In 2018, as in every year before, the needs were great. Here are a few of the ways we support these needs.

- Promotion and discernment of the use of four PC(USA) special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost (40% shared locally with Ozone House outreach programs), Peace and Global Witness (25% shared with the local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense) and the Christmas Joy Offering. Additionally, this year's Christmas Eve offering was designated for two educational programs in Israel/Palestine: The Mar Elias School and the Hand in Hand Schools.
- The world and the US faced many challenges and disasters, natural and man-made. First Pres and the Mission Committee responded generously to the needs created by hurricanes, flooding and wild fires in the US and political unrest and violence in Nicaragua.
- Our fourth and fifth grade Sunday School classes received guidance and support from the Mission Committee as they planned and implemented two separate mission projects. In the spring, the fifth graders planned and implemented a food drive for Lunches with Love, collecting and assembling dozens of grab and go meals for food insecure kids in our community. In the fall, the 4th and 5th graders collected gently used warm winter coats and clothing which were donated to Mt. Carmel Church in Detroit.



- Our many mission teams continue to support partners locally and around the globe including PC(USA) mission co-workers in Niger, Russia, Israel/Palestine, the Philippines and Nicaragua. The Local Mission Team continues to distribute grants prioritizing programs addressing homelessness, hunger and mental health.

- In December nineteen groups participated in the third annual Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar. Again, we were able to raise funds by selling wares and shares of our mission projects. More importantly, we raised awareness of our work and those we serve. The Sunday School students eagerly participated in a scavenger hunt, going from table to table to have their passports stamped while learning more about the mission projects at FPC.



- A small group reviewed and revised the Mission ReImagined document. The revised version will be completed in January 2019.

- Campus Ministry continues to grow in its new identity and relational model.

- The Mission Committee supported two scholarships to the Haiti Nursing School (FSIL) and funding for PAZAPA anti-seizure program in Jacmel, Haiti.



We are grateful for the guidance, wisdom and leadership of our staff liaison, Rev. Jay Sanderford. We ask for your continued support as we bear witness to Jesus Christ in love, justice and reconciliation.

Niger Mission Co-Workers *Virginia Bell*

Since 2014 the Mission Committee at First Pres has been sending a yearly financial gift to PC(USA) for Michael and Rachel Ludwig to support their work in Niger, Africa. Niger is among the world's poorest countries, has a literacy rate of 29% and experiences frequent famines. Over 90% of the population's life depends on crops and the weather is unreliable. Every year famine hits part of the country.

Michael works alongside the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN). One major focus is the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) program that is instrumental in training village evangelists, developing literacy programs, improving health and employment issues.

- In 2018, CHE trainings were conducted almost monthly.
- In the Maradi region 30 pastors or lay-pastors attended. Several of the more educated city pastors who were there gave good examples of things that supported the CHE ideas and helped the others buy into the training.
- There were two CHE trainings with the evangelists that Pastor Issa and Michael are mentoring. In Maradi we explored the key elements of nutrition for a family and some practical ways to provide better nutrition, including garden bags and growing moringa trees. In Dogondoutchi, there was training on micro-business.



Focus in 2019

1. Work with children and youth education directors to incorporate mission activities into curriculum.
2. Work with existing teams and partners to promote youth and family involvement.
3. Schedule monthly presentations to introduce members to our current work and volunteer opportunities.
4. Coordinate with youth and campus ministries at other AA places of worship for joint activities.
5. Identify funding sources and programming needs to support installation of 2 TV monitors in the social hall to stream information and volunteer opportunities.
6. Increase social media presence to promote mission activities as news, using skills of a young member.



- 150 pastors gathered for the first ever Leadership Summit for the partner church, EERN. It was a time of connecting for far-flung pastors and had some really good teaching and strategizing.
- General Assembly of the church was also a success, with encouraging business taken care of, including the women's fellowship bringing their well-organized bylaws for approval and example for other church groups.

Our congregation gave over \$400 at the December Forward In Mission Christmas Bazaar in response to the request to raise funds for building menstrual hygiene latrines for middle school age girls. Awesome! Thank you.

The Ludwigs visited First Pres twice. In 2015 and this past summer. The presentations are informative and enjoyable. The family continues to thrive with homeschooling and family additions. Hassan Mati, 23, joined the family to learn to study to be able to complete high school and adopted baby Isaac is growing fast.

Focus in 2019

First Pres member Cheong-Hee Chang will be traveling to Niger December 23 – January 9 to visit with Michael and Rachel. With a team from Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, she will see first-hand the present ministries in education and community development, and imagine new ministries in nursing.



Campus Ministry continued to take shape over the course of 2018 as we welcomed new faces, re-engaged with committed students and said goodbye to some beloved seniors. We continue to live into our new name for undergraduate ministry, UKirk@UMich: rooted in the Presbyterian

Reformed tradition as we reach out to the campus community.

Rev. Evans McGowan attended two conferences and a mission trip this year, networking with fellow UKirk campus ministers and learning more about effective methods and practices for campus ministry. He has implemented changes in the coordination of Campus Ministry, including strategically placing the Resident Ministers in roles where they can be effective and thrive.

Rev. Dorothy Piatt continues to work closely with our T2A2 group and the graduate students who attend the Sunday study group, Wednesday social gathering, and various service and social events. Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke has more closely assisted her while also running point on several key volunteer initiatives, including our first University Sunday Luncheon in September and 15th annual Pancake Supper in December. Rev. Blair Buckley has led new initiatives, including teaching student yoga classes and coordinating ecumenical events with other reformed campus ministries.

Campus Ministry continues to offer weekly points of connection for undergraduates:

- Sunday College Lunches after Worship
- Monday Coffee Breaks on Campus
- Wednesday Small Group Discussion
- One-on-One Coffee and Lunch Meetups



Our students have engaged with the congregation this year by:

- Working in the nursery and leading Sunday School
- Helping out with the sound during Sunday Worship
- Volunteering at times with our Youth Program
- Serving on desk duty during the transition to our new Security System

In 2018, we implemented several events that will return in 2019:

- Michigan Meltdown: Serving Ice Cream Sundaes on the last day of class in April (this event complements the Pancake Supper on the last day of classes in December)
- Fall Kick-off Event: Tubing on the Huron River at Argo Park (and introducing the pizza floats!)



- Winter Kick-off Event: Bowling at Bel-Mark Lanes the first day of classes
- Student Yoga on Campus with Rev. Blair Buckley
- Monthly events, including a Progressive Dinner, World Communion Sunday, and Student Interfaith Summit, with other reformed college ministries
- University Sunday Luncheon connecting students with faculty and staff
- Fall Retreat to a Lake House of one of our Congregation Members

Many thanks to our Student Leadership Team (outgoing president Josh King, incoming president Maddie Mervis, Christina Fosheim-Hoag, Emma Cozier, Katherine Hoekstra, Sheridan Cole and Sarah Fuhrman) and Campus Ministry Work Group (Cheong-Hee Chang, Meg Brown, Margie Perrett, Olivier Jolliet, Jean Song and Charlie Koopmann. We look forward to adding to our team and working effectively together to reach more students and deepen our relationships with those we meet.



Focus in 2019

Campus Ministry looks forward to a spring break mission trip in 2019 to Puerto Rico to aid in hurricane relief efforts being coordinated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will continue to welcome all who are interested in exploring what it means to be a follower of Christ within the reformed tradition. Goals for 2019 include clearer and more consistent communication with students and the congregation of what we do and offer.

2018 @ First Pres



119 bags of Fair Trade Coffee were sold in 2018. This includes 48 bags of our best selling coffee, Love Buzz.

6 babies were born to members of our congregation



213 people received Easter Lilies delivered by Deacons following Easter Sunday worship.



Coffee Hour Cookie Mathematics:

3 cookie bakers each week

52 weeks, minus a few holidays = 49 weeks

$3 \text{ people} \times 48 \text{ cookies} = 144 \text{ cookies per Sunday}$

$144 \times 49 \text{ weeks} = 7,056 \text{ Cookies Per Year}$



115 hats and pairs of gloves were distributed to guests at the Delonis Center in December.

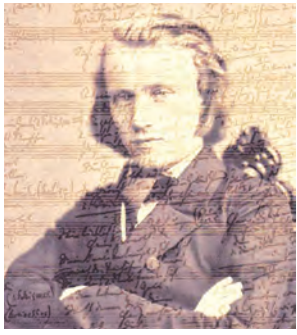


6 weddings were celebrated at First Pres in 2018.



Thirteen Third Graders received their own Common English Bible in November.

There were 2,846 quarterly statements in 2018.



75 choral singers, 34 orchestra members, two soloists, supported by 232 donors presented Requiem by Johannes Brahms to a congregation of over 400 people on All Saints Sunday, November 4.

Over 100 children and adults and 1 reindeer (Clarice) participated in Advent Happening.



144,000 — the number of elders in the book of Revelation, which T2A2 was brave enough to study together. (First Pres has 24 elders and many deacons!)



17 red rosebuds and 13 pink rosebuds graced the Chancel on Sunday mornings as we celebrated the births of 30 little ones into our extended church family.

Knit Night group made 28 shawls in 2018 and 20 baby blankets.



Feeding Our Neighbors collected over 20,000 lbs of food worth \$40,000 from UM football & basketball games & the athletes' kitchen & redistributed it to hungry people in Detroit & Ypsilanti.

The Chancel Choir sang 19 anthems within three Christmas Eve Services. No wonder they were tired by midnight!



207 – the estimated number of hours T2A2 spent laughing, talking, and praying together at Wednesday Hangouts and Small Group in 2018



Local Mission *Martha Kershaw*

In 2018, First Pres. continued to serve our neighbors in Washtenaw County and Detroit. We partnered with community businesses and agencies, providing volunteers, financial support, or both.



Our volunteers GO OUT and meet vulnerable people where they are by:

- Partnering with low-income families to build the skills and resources needed to rise out of poverty through the Circles program/ Friends in Deed.
- Cooking and serving dinner and providing greeting cards at the Delonis Center through Food Gatherer's Community Kitchen program.
- Providing supplies, meals and childcare at IHN at Alpha House Family Shelter.
- Assisting shoppers at the Hope Clinic Food Pantry
- Providing transportation, job training and other support to refugees through Washtenaw Refugee Welcome
- Delivering presents and gift cards through our Family-to-Family Christmas program in partnership with DHS and Ronald McDonald House.
- Planted vegetable gardens and flowers, painted buildings, weeded gardens, planted spring flowers, "rehabilitated" rooms, organized supply rooms, and provided assistance for the Tiny Home project at Cass Community Social Services in Detroit.
- Tutoring high risk children after school at the Family Learning Institute.



- Providing after-school meals and helping with Holiday Food Drive at Peace Neighborhood Center
- Remodeling a house with first time home owners through Habitat for Humanity
- Distributing food from UM athletic department to meal programs in Ypsilanti and Detroit through our own Feeding Our Neighbors Food Rescue program.

Our VOLUNTEERS and STAFF WELCOME INTO our church:

- Rotating Shelter for homeless men with Delonis Center for two weeks in January
- Weekly English as a Second Language classes
- Pancake supper for college students during final exams in December.



Finally, we distributed over \$75,000 to 15 community agencies through our LOCAL MISSION GRANT process. We prioritized programs that address homelessness, hunger and mental health, with additional focuses on emergency assistance, advocacy and social justice, employment and skill building, and at-risk youth.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, expertise and money to support Local Mission at First Pres. We are living God's call to love our neighbors!

Focus in 2019

In 2019 Local Mission needs to increase participation in its leadership and activities by members of all ages within the congregation. We also need to re-evaluate the priority areas for the Grant Program. We will consult the Washtenaw Coordinated Funders findings as well as survey the congregation to determine where areas of highest concern lie.

Israel / Palestine Mission Team *Harris McClamroch*

The Israel Palestine Mission Team has had a productive year in 2018 in supporting educational and advocacy initiatives that seek to achieve peace and justice in Israel and Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza), as described on our web site at <https://first-presbyterian.org/mission/international/israelpalestine-mission>. Regular meetings were held on January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26.





Major activities and programs of the Israel Palestine Mission Team during 2018 included the following:

- Provided financial support for the Mar Elias Educational Institutions and the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel. More than \$15,000 was distributed to these schools and other peace partners.
- Continued leadership roles on the Pilgrims of Ibillin Board of Directors: Jim Thomson as treasurer of the Board and Mary Lynn Thomson as a member of the Board. Their important work has been invaluable in expanding the close relationship between the mission team and the Pilgrims of Ibillin.
- Helped to establish the Michigan Friends of Hand in Hand, consisting of several local Christian and Jewish congregations, led by Don and Gale Redding, which seeks to publicize and to support the multicultural, bilingual educational model of the Hand in Hand Schools.
- Sponsored presentations on April 8 at Temple Beth Emeth by Hand in Hand Director of Communications, Noa Yammer, and two recent high school graduates from the Hand in Hand School in Jerusalem, Alma Saporta and Vicky Makhoul.
- Hosted the Executive Director of the Pilgrims of Ibillin, Laurie Lyter Bright on September 4; she gave a presentation on the changes that are occurring in the Pilgrims of Ibillin and at the Mar Elias Schools.
- Followed the journey of Mary Lynn Thomson, accompanied by her daughter Jean, on the Living Stones tour to Israel and Palestine in October.
- Encouraged Jean White to attend the annual meeting of the Israel Palestine Mission Network in Atlanta on November 1-3; she made important contacts and represented the First Pres mission team.

- Participated in the Forward in Mission Fair on December 2, selling Palestinian olive oil, olive oil soap and Palestinian wood products, as well as certificates of support for the Mar Elias Schools and the Hand in Hand Schools.
- Held a summer social event at the home of Silvia Pedraza and a “Christmas in Bethlehem” potluck at the home of Marcey Terrien.
- Were recipients of the First Pres Christmas Eve offerings, with donations designated for the recently established after-school learning center on the Mar Elias campus and the expansion of the elementary school at the Hand in Hand School located in Haifa.
- Reconfirmed fundamental values and objectives of the Mission Team to support specific educational and advocacy initiatives that were previously established in 2016.

Focus in 2019

- Maintain strong partnership with the Pilgrims of Ibillin and the Mar Elias schools; organize another visit and presentation by the Executive Director, Laurie Lyter Bright.
- Expand existing partnership to support the Hand in Hand School for Jewish and Arab Education, located in Haifa; we are planning a public event to publicize their efforts to expand their elementary school.
- Continue educational and advocacy programs, working through the PCUSA: (1) participation in the Israel Palestine Mission Network, as they prepare for the 2020 PCUSA General Assembly, and (2) support for the PCUSA mission co-worker, Doug Dicks.

Nicaragua Mission Team *Carol Smith*

2018 began with preparing for our annual trip (February 24-March 4) to Nicaragua to work with our partners and friends in Quebrada Honda. Our project was ambitious: wiring the three classrooms for electricity that was not yet available in the community! 5 returning team members and five first timers (graduate students and a resident minister) made up the team. Electrical wiring 101 was a prerequisite for everyone! At the end of the week, the wiring was tested, and everything worked as planned! We are grateful for our long-standing relationship with CEPAD who guides us every step of the way.

Not long after returning from our trip, civil unrest and violence erupted in Nicaragua as people protested increases in social



security taxes. Virtually all commerce, tourism and daily activities ceased. Hundreds of people lost their lives or were imprisoned.

Our mission partner, CEPAD was compelled to halt hosting delegations which is a large revenue source for them. Despite the situation, CEPAD was determined to continue paying their employees as well as continuing their work in the rural communities. First Pres responded to the critical situation by raising more than \$8000 for CEPAD so that it could continue its important mission serving the poor and marginalized in Nicaragua. As the summer progressed, the violence and unrest slowly died down. Normal daily activities, commerce and tourism slowly resumed.

The Nicaragua mission team is discerning whether a trip in 2019 is advisable and if so, who should go? In December we were delighted to host Emily Hewes, the US representative for CEPAD for an evening of discussion about the current situation in Nicaragua and the feasibility of a trip in 2019. She assured us that our friends in Quebrada Honda are doing well and CEPAD is eager to host delegations again. Our tentative plan is to take a small group of adults to check in with our friends and partners and to plan future trips.



The Nicaragua Mission Team again participated in the Forward in Mission Fair where we sold Nicaraguan jewelry and crafts. We were delighted to have Sunday School students come to our table to find out just what we do in Nicaragua where they learned that we share God's love by building schools!

Focus in 2019

- Continue promotion of multi-generational trips.
- Continue support of CEPAD.
- Support new PCUSA mission co-workers assigned to CEPAD.
- Recruit new team members.
- Assess our partnership with Quebrada Honda.

Philippines Mission Team *Hank McQueen*

A Year of Praise and Support...

Throughout the past year the PMT focused on sustaining its on-going project; preparing for the Annual Pig Roast Dinner, and planning for the January 2019 mission trip to Dumaguette, Philippines. Projects that were given special attention over the year include:

- **Scholarships** - Scholarships were awarded to 75 students. Qualifying students reside in homes and in the community built by PMT in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and IHOMES. While education is free in Philippines schools, all students must wear uniforms which many families cannot afford. Scholarships were given to purchase uniforms for these students.



- **Books and School Supplies** - Volunteers packed approximately 20,000 books and school supplies in two days. They were shipped to Dumaguette and distributed to schools, the city jail, and the community center. A special thank you to our volunteers and to the schools and agencies that donated the many books and supplies.
- **Pig Roast Dinner Celebration** - The PMT continued its tradition of hosting the Pig Roast Dinner Celebration under the able leadership of Harriett Brouwer. Members of the Philippine Arts and Cultural Ensemble (PACE) provided authenticity to the meal by preparing several traditional Philippines dishes including Pork Adobo and Eggplant Casserole. Traditional roast pigs were prepared and served by Filipino cooks. Each year PACE works side by side with mission team members to successfully host this event - the single largest fundraiser sponsored by PMT.



- **Health and Dental Clinics** - The dental clinic received a new upgraded dental chair and continues to serve the community. Our Silliman University partners located in Dumaguette provide the dental and health care staff.
- **Provincial Jail Projects** - Our Philippine partners informed us that it was necessary to relocate the Prison Bakery Project from the prison to the Provincial Jail due to inmate problems. The start up was delayed due to jail remodeling. Eyeglasses and dental health supplies were also redirected to the jail.



- **Mission Trip Cancellation** - the team was approved to travel to Dumaguette in January of 2019 however due to civil unrest, the team postponed travel plans. It is anticipated that the trip will take place in early June, 2019.

- **Recognition** - PMT recognizes Ward Bouwsma, one of the founding members of the mission team. He served as treasurer for several years and made a major financial donation to ensure the continuation of the scholarship project for many years. Ward passed away in 2018. Virginia Rezmierski, also a founding member, is now an alumni team member. The team recognizes her for her many years of service and dedication. Ginny is responsible for establishing and growing the Book and School Supply Project. Although she is no longer active, she has left the project in great shape and in the hands of partners who will continue to collect and distribute 20,000 plus books and school supplies annually.

Focus in 2019

- Increase collaboration and partnership with PACE and members of the Philippine community
- Make a mission trip to the Philippines to evaluate current projects, determine the need for additional services, and strengthen our partnerships
- Grow PMT membership
- Increase student and young adult involvement in PMT
- Conduct meetings with local universities to discuss the PMT Scholarship Project in Dumaguette and Philippine student enrollment in local universities.

Russia Mission Team *Linda Speck*

The Russia Mission Team

- Continues its friendship with St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church in Dexter, and the two churches' connection with the Orthodox Church in the tiny village of Davydovo, a three-hour train ride northeast of Moscow.
- Our particular interest is in the Russian church's summer camp for children with disabilities and the camp's ministry with the children's caregivers.
- We raised money for the camp through a bake sale in March and the Bazaar in December.



Focus in 2019

We will continue to raise money for the camp, and we hope to send an intergenerational team in July to serve there.

Personnel Chris Dahl

The past year has seen major changes in the senior leadership of our church: departures and retirements in music ministries and Christian education and, most significantly, the departure of our Pastor. With and on behalf of Session, the Personnel Committee has sought, however imperfectly, to manage and facilitate the various changes in staff and at the same time support our church staff in a period of rapid transition and flux.

During the first part of the year under the leadership of Linda Dabrowski, the committee attended to several important housekeeping matters: adopting a sexual harassment and dis-

crimination policy for employees, standardizing record-keeping and tracking for performance evaluations of staff, and establishing procedures for preparation of job offers.

During the latter part of the year and continuing into 2019, the following searches and hires were completed or are nearing completion:

- Dr. Richard Ingram, recently retired choir director at Huron High School, was brought on board to become interim Director of Music Ministries. He was able to begin in July before

Tom Granum's departure, providing welcome continuity in music ministries, and Dr. Paul Haebig was hired as interim organist in September.

- A national search for a permanent Director, chaired by Anne Gere and Julia Pakela, is now nearing completion. Four finalists are scheduled to visit First Pres in January, and we hope to fill this vital position in the first portion of 2019.
- In early November, Rebeca Torres-Davenport was hired as Transitional Coordinator of Children's Education and Family Ministries, based on a careful search conducted by members of the Christian Education Committee.

On the recommendation of the Congregational Nominating Committee, an Interim Pastor Search Committee has been appointed. In the period before the arrival of the interim minister, our two associate ministers are providing pastoral and administrative leadership for the church under a transition plan approved by Session. We are grateful for their tireless and dedicated efforts in advancing the mission of our church during the "bridge interim."

The majority of the committee's time, however, was devoted to working with the entire Session to achieve an amicable dissolution agreement that would recognize Dr. Fair's contributions to our church and provide a basis for her and our congregation to move forward that would serve the needs of both pastor and congregation. Though based on prayer and extended consideration and dialogue, the process of parting was inevitably difficult, and our committee recognizes the need for healing and reconciliation as we enter the next phase of our church life. The committee and Session as a whole have learned from the experiences in the past year, and we are determined to make use of what we have learned in the coming year, not only in the healing process but also in

changes in personnel policies, greater transparency, and better communication. While we understand the imperfections we all share, we look to the New Year with hope and faith. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, together we can ensure a strong and vibrant ministry in 2019.



Focus in 2019

- Complete the hiring of a new Director of Music Ministries
- Support the Interim Pastor Search Committee to ensure a successful call in 2019.
- Review the Personnel Manual with special attention to grievance and appeal procedures and the role of the Personnel Committee.
- Conduct a thorough review of what we have learned from the departures of key staff in 2018 and share those findings with Session and the Congregation.
- Plan for staffing needs and searches for 2019-20.

Resident Ministry *Chris Dahl*



In August 2019 our church will welcome its tenth class of resident ministers. At the end of October 2018 we expended the last of the funds from our final Lilly Endowment grant. Both of these facts point to the maturity and success of our program. As we bring in the new

class, First Pres can take pride in accomplishing the ultimate goal of the Lilly Endowment grants: to raise up talented leaders in parish ministry. The results are compelling: 25 of the 27 current and former residents are actively engaged in ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In the past year, several have been called to major churches in our denomination—Jenny McDevitt (2009) at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, for example, or Mark Brainerd (2003) at Preston Hollow in Dallas. These two beloved former residents returned to preach in October and to support and inspire our congregation in the early days of our transition to interim ministry. Their presence among us is another benefit of a mature program, and the Residency Work Group

plans a resident ministry weekend in Spring 2019, which will take advantage of the talents of two other residents, who will return to preach and lead lay education sessions.

As First Pres assumes full responsibility for the Residency Program, it should be noted that the sheer longevity of the Lilly funding is a tribute to the careful management of our treasurer, Bill Austin. And we can now look forward to continuing a thriving program, thanks to the Resident Ministry Endowment and the generosity of so many members and friends who helped to fund it. Although the Residency is a vital part of our church's teaching and learning mission, we should not lose sight of the many direct benefits to First Pres. Resident ministers preach and lead worship every Sunday, teach constantly, add to our strength in adult education, provide leadership for college ministries, and provide pastoral care to literally hundreds of our members. Simply put, First Pres could not carry out its current mission without our residents. As we enter a transitional period in the



life of our church, we have been fortunate indeed to call upon these ministers to take up further responsibilities of ministry in virtually every area of First Pres's ministry.

Following are a few highlights of the past year:

- Beginning in summer 2018, the residents took up expanded preaching responsibilities including on occasion preaching at all three services. Since the beginning of the bridge interim, their roles in worship have further expanded..
- The residents planned the 2018 Church Officers' Retreat.



- Under the direction of former resident minister Evans McGowan, the roles of the residents in campus ministry were reviewed and revamped, leading to more effective and balanced support for the program.

Focus in 2019

Leadership of the Resident Ministry Work Group will transition from outgoing elder Chris Dahl to incoming elder Sue Cares. Applications for the 2019-21 class of residents are being received; finalists will be interviewed in early March and the new class welcomed in August. Planning is under way for a Resident Weekend, celebrating the contributions of the program, to be held at the end of April or early May.

Property Rick Platte, Jr.



Several important needs were addressed by the Property Committee and Facilities Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, during 2018:

- Repaired a portion of our deteriorating heating system, reducing the daily water loss from 50 gallons to 4 gallons.
- Replaced the refrigerator in the main kitchen.
- Reconfigured the drain line to the catch basin in the parking lot on the south side of the church.
- Landscaped the reconfigured catch basins on the north side of the sanctuary.
- Straightened a lamp post in the parking lot that was leaning toward high voltage electric lines.
- Significant tree trimming around the Hill Street playground.
- The Property Committee also began a process of planning for the long-term capital replacement needs of the church:
- Given our tottering heating system, a sub-committee of the Property Committee has begun to research various alternative HVAC systems. Field trips have been taken and reports prepared. More to follow.

Beyond the imminent need to replace our heating system, the church is also facing other capital replacement needs that an 80-year-old building imposes. The Property Committee, during

2018, compiled a spread sheet detailing major systems of our physical plant, their condition and estimated cost to repair or replace. In the coming year, representatives from Property will begin working with representatives from the Finance Committee to develop plans to fund the short-term needs of our physical plant. They will also work to develop a more comprehensive fiscal plan to meet the intermediate and longer-term needs of our church building and grounds.

The Safety and Security Committee, which reports to Session through the Property Committee was also very active during the year, most notably installing a new secured entry system. For more on that see Sandy Talbott's report under Congregational Life.

It takes a team of dedicated individuals to run and maintain a building the size and age of ours. Special thanks go to our Facilities Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, and Maintenance Specialist, Almer Harris, as well as the many volunteers who help with our special needs.



Worship

Tom Brandt



2018 was an exceptionally busy year for the Worship Committee, which oversees the Music Ministries, due to the resignations of Tom and Doris Granum in June. We are most grateful to Jeannette Faber, Josh Marzan, Carol Muehlig, and Simon Suboski, who filled in as temporary organists, pianists, and singing leader in August until we were able to get an interim music staff in place.

Our interim music staff of Rick Ingram, director of music ministries; Paul Haebig, organist and handbell director; Kellie McInchak, children's choir director; and Simon Suboski, youth choir director; have done a superb job under difficult conditions during this time of transition. Their talents and dedication to their

Music Ministry *Rick Ingram*

2018 was an eventful year for the First Presbyterian Music Ministry. Participation remains at a high level in all of the choirs, Sanctus Ringers, Orchestra and other instrumentalists. In July, Tom Granum accepted a job in Georgia. We wish to thank Tom for his excellent leadership of the First Presbyterian Music Ministry. His welcoming personality provided a church home for people of all ages and musical experience. Tom and Doris quickly assimilated themselves into the life of First Presbyterian Church and we will all miss them and wish God's blessing on their next life journey.

The Interim Music Ministry position began on July 23, 2018. In these past 5 ½ months, the choirs, instrumentalists, organist, directors and clergy have been busy leading our congregation in worship. We have spent hours with the staff, Mel and Jay and our strong clergy team to plan and coordinate our worship services. It has been a true partnership. I would especially like to thank the members of our Interim Music team for their hard work and energy. They include Paul Haebig, Interim Organist, Kellie McInchak, Interim Childrens' Choir Director and Simon Suboski, Interim Director of the Youth Choir. These colleagues have stepped into their positions and immediately helped to continue the strong tradition of our storied music ministry.

Musical highlights included a September Hymn Festival sponsored by the University of Michigan Organ Department featuring music and text written by women. On All Saints Day, November 4th, the Chancel Choir and full orchestra presented Brahms' *Requiem*. On the second Sunday of Advent, the Chancel Choir and Sanctus Ringers participated in the inaugural Advent Story Slam Family Event. December also brought a performance of the Sanctus Ringers at Crossroads Village. On the fourth

art and our congregation have enriched our worship in so many ways.

The Music Ministries Selection Committee began its work in September to find and recruit candidates as the permanent Director of Music Ministries. The Committee advertised this position on the church's website and Facebook page and the websites of the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The committee also reached out directors of music at various large churches in our denomination, and the School of Music, Theater, and Dance at the University, to ask for referrals. Over 50 people applied for the position. Of these, four applicants have been invited to come to the church in January to interview in person. A new permanent director will be named in late January or early February.

The Music Ministries Selection Committee is co-chaired by Anne Gere and Julia Pakela. Tom Brandt, Sean Hoskins, Henry Johnson, Eric Kaldjian, Marilyn Meeker, and Luke Panning also serve on this committee.



Sunday of Advent, the Chancel Choir sang a musical setting of *Magnificat* by Johann Pachelbel which featured two solo trumpets. Christmas Eve worship encompassed four services including participation by children, youth, Chancel Choir, brass, organ and clergy. Attendance at these four services was a robust 1862.

In January, the Music Director Search Committee will bring the four finalist candidates to First Presbyterian for discussion with the staff and rehearsal time with Chancel Choir. My time here at First Presbyterian Church has been blessed by being able to interact with such a wide array of people in this congregation. First Presbyterian is impressive in the breadth of its offerings and the welcoming spirit of the staff and congregation. The mission of the Music Ministry is to provide leadership of our congregation in worship. It has been my humble honor to be part of this effort at First Presbyterian. May God bless us all. The future will be bright!

Peace, Rick Ingram
Interim Director of Music Ministries

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons

Ellen Johnson



At First Pres, 54 members serve as deacons, who support our church family with compassion and care. Three Co-moderators—Doug Gottliebsen, Ellen Johnson, and Jane Myers—handled organizational tasks. Rev. Melissa Anne

Rogers and Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse, provided unwavering guidance and leadership.

Deacons reach out to chapel members: elderly members infirm or unable to leave home, church members recovering from illness or surgery, and those grieving the loss of a loved one. Deacons connect by phone and email, visit, and share the spiritual life of our church through pastoral care and prayerful presence.

Each Sunday, deacons deliver sanctuary flowers to members in need of a visit, reminding them that we are thinking of them and praying for their well-being. These deliveries reach nearly 200 church members; lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas touch well over 300. Deacons ensure that care cards are signed each Sunday, serve on the Prayer Team, staff the Welcome Center, and serve communion.

The Deacons' ministry at Glacier Hills Senior Living Community is especially important. About 10% of the residents are Presbyterian; many are church members. Four deacons maintain close contact with the Presbyterians there. Lenten and Advent services, open to all residents, are organized by deacons and are much appreciated; so appreciated that in April, our Deacons were given the Glacier Hills Spiritual Service Award at a special dinner.

In 2018, Deacons:

- Bid farewell to the deacon class of 2018 and welcomed 18 new deacons of the class of 2021;

- Met at Peggy and Carter Hodgson's home at the annual deacon picnic in August. What a generous gift--offering deacons and their families a chance to relax and enjoy each other's' company;



- Held three blood drives--March, July, and October--ably organized by Paula Doering and Lisa Schultz and ably supported by staff and church member volunteers;
- Welcomed new members at three Sunday breakfasts;



- Came together at breakfasts in February for outgoing and incoming deacons, organized by Jennifer Hoy--a wonderful way to give thanks for three years of pastoral ministry. Thank you, Jennifer, for your dedication to our deacons!
- Lent a hand for the annual officer retreat in November at Maumee Bay Lodge. Blair Buckley, one of our three resident ministers,

spearheaded planning. Deacons assembled retreat packets, staffed the registration table, and served communion;

- Hosted delightful appetizers in Monteith Chapel as part of First Pres' Advent Story Slam and Strolling Reception in December. After stories and singing in the sanctuary, participants strolled through the church to partake of appetizers, soups, hot dishes, and desserts;
- At year's end, celebrated and voted for their favorite Christmas outfit. Lisa Danielson was out to get first prize. She did!

It's impossible to thank enough the administrative staff for their tireless help throughout the year. Robin, Lisa, Cindy, Mary, Linda and Adrian – you played an essential and cherished role in supporting us. The Rigterinks continue to document the service of each new deacon with a photographic portrait in the Welcome Center.



Focus in 2019

*'So now faith, love,
and hope abide,
these three; but the
greatest of these is love.'*

There are no greater words than these for deacons. They will carry us forward in our ministry for the coming year.

Congregational Nominating

Prue Heikkinen

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) worked with dedication, commitment and prayerful discernment to identify a slate of officers that reflects the diversity of the congregation with the skills and experience to lead the congregation. Members of the 2018 CNC for 2018 were Meg Brown, Barb DeLancey, Doug Gottlieb, Lynne Lande, Jim Schaafsma, Sue Sweet Scott, Bill Upton & Chris Wahl. Chair was Prue Heikkinen. Many thanks to this cohesive team for all their work.

Accomplishments:

- Nominated and installed eight Elders for the Class of 2021 including Susan Cares, Bruce Clyde, Jeanette Kibler, Jim Peggs, Helena Prince, Mary Lynn Thomson, Bob Wallin, and Ken Westfall.
- Nominated and installed 17 Deacons for the Class of 2021 including Charlotte Anderson, Jim Campbell, Jesse Feyen, Jim Hall, Kyle Hall, Peggy Hodgson, Diane Knibbs, Judy Landau, John LeDuc, Aidan Majorprice, Jim Mulcrone, Lori Pickard, Mary Polkowski, Gary Stahl, Elsa Stuber, Julie Wheaton, and John Yodhes.



- Assembled a Search Committee for the Director of Music Ministries position.
- Assembled a Search Committee for the Interim Pastor position.

Members of the 2019 Congregational Nominating Committee are Meg Brown, Barb Delancey, Callie Feyen, Robin Fosheim, Dan Francis, Lynne Lande (chair), and Jim Schaafsma.

Presbyterian Women

Virginia Bell

All women of the church are considered members of Presbyterian Women and are invited to participate in any or all of the women activities. The main focus of PW is to be active in faith growth. This included the following 2018 activities:

- Visited Hope Clinic
- Participated in Bible Study (there were five active studies in 2018)
- Knit for babies and shut-ins
- Collected a total of \$7,495 in cash and in-kind food donations and ingathering gifts from the congregation
- Participated in a field study for the national Horizons 2020 Bible Study
- Provided funds for mission work – 59% of our budget
- Gave 18% of our budget to religious scholarships
- Hosted 18 memorial receptions (with approx. 3750 cookies!), PW of Detroit Presbytery, Story Slam and Strolling Soiree, church Coffee Hour
- Participated in the 2018 international PW Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky



- Learned about local social issues and how we can better our community with programs such as affordable housing, homelessness, handling divisiveness, & food insecurity
- Learned about the PW-PC(USA) Birthday Offering grant process in connection with a local church's application for improvements to an orphanage in Africa
- Participated in the Friends In Deed Circles program
- Celebrated the 30th anniversary of Presbyterian Women - PC(USA)
- Enjoyed an increase of male participation at our monthly programs
- Honored four church members with Honorary Life Membership pin recognizing their faithful service to First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor. PW honored Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair, Barbara DeLancey, Betsy McCallister, and Dr. Leonard Rezmierski.

All this, and more, thanks to the generosity of the women of the church who financially supported Presbyterian Women. PW received no funding from the church but is truly grateful for the numerous in-kind donations the church provided.

Focus in 2019

Presbyterian Women are committed to continual personal growth in faith and action.

New Members

We give thanks to God for those members who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2018.

* Denotes Confirmands

** Denotes Affiliate Member



Karen Al-Saadi
 Anne Andrus
 Schuyler Byrn*
 Leanne Cole
 Mary Corey*
 James Dabrowski*
 Martha Davison
 Jake Day*
 Riley Day*
 Barbara Dobson

Zachary Edwards*
 Cooper Fairman*
 Dorothy Gates
 Harmony Heath
 Ann Hunsberger
 Hana Kaehr*
 Linda Koos
 Laura Lamps
 Sophie Licata*
 Beth Nissen**

Keith Phillips
 Sarah Phillips
 Al Powell
 Sheryl Powell
 Sarah Reinhardt
 Justin Rink*
 Amanda Ross
 Callie Rouse
 Reid Sawtell
 Josiah Schaafsma*

Benjamin Schneider*
 Emmett Shaw*
 Veronica Sorter*
 Julija Stelmokas
 Florian Trouvian
 Tom Venable
 Sabina Wilkanowicz
 Jackson Willmer*

In Memoriam

We grieve the loss of those who died in 2018.



January 1	Elaine Clark	August 2	Ward Bouwsma
January 3	Rudi Ansbacher	August 2	David Clyde
January 5	Betty Damren	August 3	Jean Urquhart
January 12	Collyer Campbell Smith	August 10	Thomas Ford
February 12	Robert Fletcher	August 21	Cruse Moss
March 11	Donald Haller	August 23	Ben Van Tuyl
March 18	Frank Maple	August 26	Dolly Millard
March 20	Bettye Elkins	September 10	Carl Baker
March 21	Gerald Prescott	September 21	Pat Fuerstenau
April 18	Scott Westerman	October 3	Judy Slade
April 30	Jean Dickinson	October 29	Rebecca Donally
June 1	Warren Bovenkerk	November 3	Margaret Edwards
June 15	Jean Dotson	November 16	Dale Heikkinen
July 21	Sally Carpenter	December 16	Virginia Bailey

Officers of the Church



Members of Session

2018 Clerk of Session: Diana Gardner

2019 Clerk of Session: Linda Rex

Class of 2018

Tom Brandt
Chris Dahl
Prue Heikkinen
Olivier Jolliet
Marita Servais
Kate Silbert
Carol Smith
Bill Wood

Class of 2019

Tim Dickinson
Kay Fuller
Carter Hodgson
Henry Johnson
Lynne Lande
Karla Olson-Bellfi
Rick Platte
Pat Tamblyn

Class of 2020

Dick Carlisle
Diane Hockett
Linda Koopmann
Bill McPherson
Karen Mundus
Brian Schneidewind
Bill Upton
Sharon Watling

Class of 2021

Susan Cares
Bruce Clyde
Jeanette Kibler
Jim Peggs
Helena Prince
Mary Lynn Thomson
Bob Wallin
Ken Westfall

Board of Deacons

2018 Co-Moderators: Doug Gottliebsen, Ellen Johnson, Jane Myers

2019 Co-Moderators: Doug Gottliebsen, Ellen Johnson

Class of 2018

Ross Anderson
Al Barber
Marolin Bellefleur
Jill Binkley
Paula Doering
Gail Einhaus
Doris Granum
Ron Gulbranson
George Hendrickson
Nicole Jolliet
Barb Ladewski
Jane Myers
Ann Nicklas
Margie Perrett
Brad Taylor

Class of 2019

Rob Bauman
Lisa Danielson
Jim Dickinson
Carol Downton
Mark Endicott
Lee Evans
Nancy Fox
Becky Gaffney
Gail Grady
Ellen Johnson
Michele Madden
Holly Majorprice
Chris Queen
Sue Rigterink
Nancy Rugani
Norm Samuelson
Judy Slade
Jean Song
Gayle Stevens

Class of 2020

Pam Ehrhart
Mary Engelhardt
Robin Fosheim-Hoag
Nancy Fox
Doug Gottliebsen
Alice Holderby
Duane Locke
Susan Morville
Nancy Oliver
Julie Rupp
Dianne Santinga
Lisa Shultz
Mary Smith
Jeanette Swartz
Sara Vander Voort
Brian Williams
Heidi Williams
Pam Wood

Class of 2021

Charlotte Anderson
Al Barber
Jim Campbell
Paula Doering
Jesse Feyen
Jim Hall
Kyle Hall
Peggy Hodgson
Diane Knibbs
Judy Landau
John LeDuc
Aidan Majorprice
Jim Mulcrone
Lori Pickard
Mary Polkowski
Gary Stahl
Elsa Stuber
Julie Wheaton
John Yodhes



Members of Staff

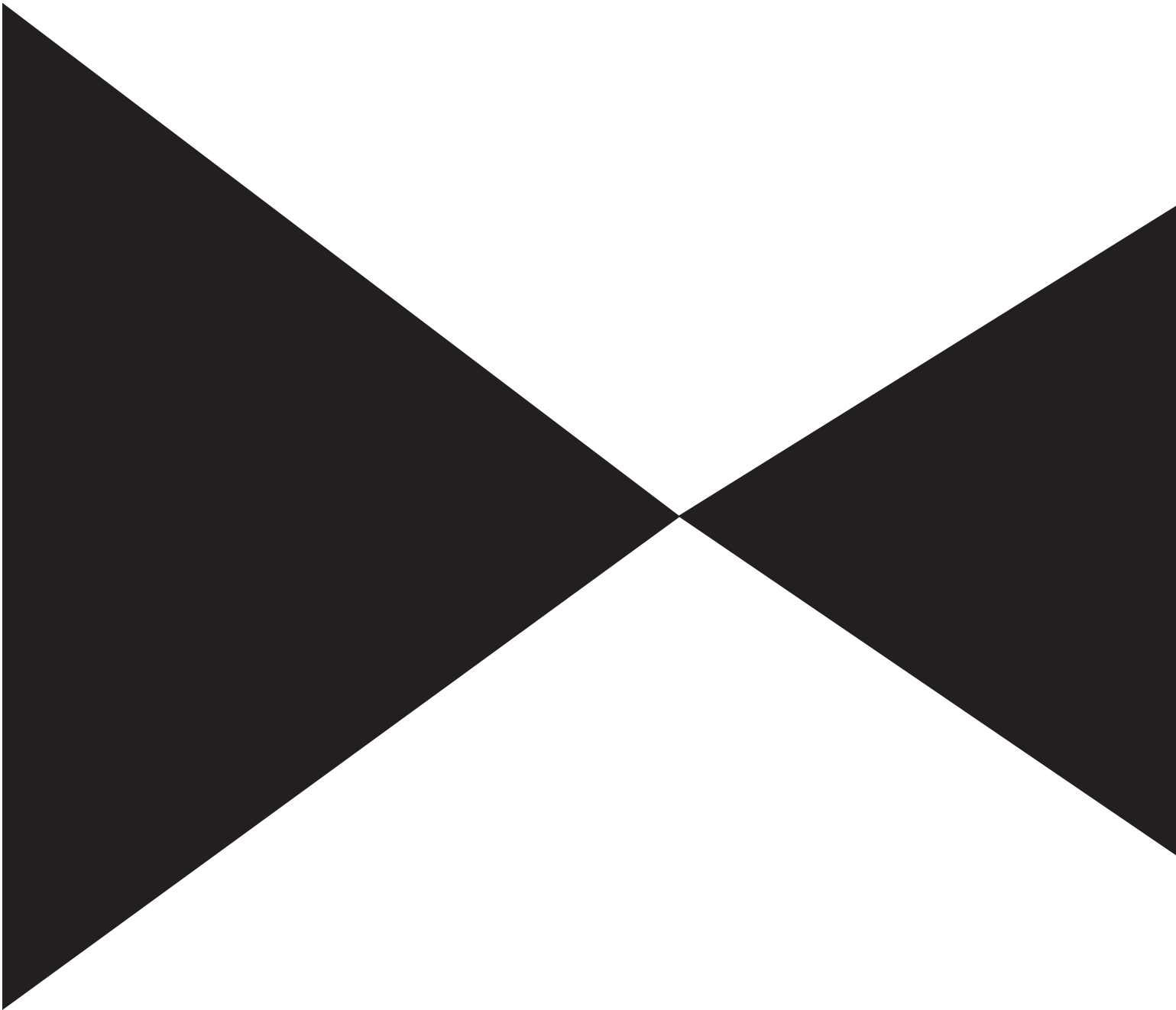
Pastoral and Program Staff:

Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister
GJ Frye, Peer Minister for Youth Ministry
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Dr. Richard Ingram, Interim Director of Music Ministries
Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister
Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Kellie McInchak, Interim Children's Choir Director
Reverend Dorothy Piatt, Resident Minister
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Simon Suboski, Interim Youth Choir Director
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse
Beca Torres-Davenport, Transitional Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry

Administrative Staff:

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant
Dave Lett, Finance Assistant
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager





FIRST
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