

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALINE
2021 Annual Report



Making God's Story Our Story

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Message From the Moderator of Session

Reverend Dr. Brewster Gere

I write this report from two perspectives. One is as a member of the three-person Interim Pastor Team (IPT) that served First Presbyterian from March 2020 through this past June. The other, and the role continues, is as that of Moderator of the Session since just before the formation of the IPT in March 2020.

The Interim Pastor Team was created to use the combined gifts of three experienced pastors, Rev. Judy Shipman, Rev. Bill Zambon and myself, during the church's present interim. All three of us, in addition to having served as installed pastors, had also previously served as interims. The IPT's formation was prompted by each of us being available for part-time but not full-time ministry, complementarity of styles and skills, and prior relationship with the church.

While the focus of this report is on the calendar year 2021, the groundwork for much of what is reflected in the following pages was laid during the previous year. As such, the early work of the IPT was spent working with the church's leadership, the Session, identifying the problematic areas in the church's life.

If 2020 was the year of *Planning the Work* that lay before the church in addressing specific issues, then 2021 was the year that the Session and the congregation began *Working the Plan*. Notable efforts toward this goal began early in the year with two well-attended virtual seminars conducted by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, one focused on Healthy Congregations and the other on Conflict Management. In the spring the Session appointed a Vision and Mission Team. Working diligently for several months, the team developed a Vision and Mission Statement that was approved by Session in August. During that same time frame, Presbytery approved the election of a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee. Crucial continuing tasks before you as a congregation as you seek God's will for First Presbyterian include remembering and implementing the lessons learned from Lombard, all the while embracing, refining and living out the Vision and Mission Statement through specific acts of ministry.

Message from the Moderator, Continued

No report of any efforts over the past two years, either inside or outside the walls of the church, is complete without reference to how COVID-19 has influenced every area of our lives, individually and collectively. Despite the hardships the pandemic has brought, the worship, the work and the witness of the church have continued in various ways, aided greatly by technology and masterminded at First Presbyterian by Keith Brown. A heart-felt thank you is only the beginning of what the life of the church owes to Keith. At the same time, many others have found ways to continue effective ministry in their roles despite the limitations and the hardships the pandemic has brought. In that realm, the church staff, Office Administrator Christen Mitchell and Director of Youth Ministry Linda Brown, have both been resourceful and positive in their respective roles despite the work-arounds demanded of them both throughout the long months of absence from their work-spaces.

Since the work of the Interim Pastor Team ended mid-year, it continues to be my privilege to remain in a relationship with you as Moderator of Session. I am gratified that the emphasis the IPT placed on leader development of the Session and lay leadership in the life of the congregation is bearing fruit in many ways. It is exciting to see. At the same time, while I continue to enjoy my time working with you, I-and I know you too- eagerly await full-time pastoral leadership to be in partnership with you, as together you lead the church into a new era.

Blessings,

Budge Gere

Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting

First Presbyterian Church

Saline, Michigan

March 6, 2022

1. **Opening Prayer** Rev. Dr. Brewster Gere, Moderator
2. **Call to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation** Elder Janyce Durnell, Clerk
3. **Confirmation of a Quorum**
4. **Reception of the Annual Report**
5. **Report of the Church-Wide Nominating Committee** Elder John Coffey
6. **Report of the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee** Elder Laurie Champion
7. **Report of the Facilities Task Force** Elder John Coffey
8. **Report of the Finance Committee including the 2022 Budget** Elder Kurt Leutheuser
9. **Other Business**
10. **Motion to Adjourn**
11. **Closing Prayer**

Clerk of Session's 2021 Statistical Report

Janyce Durnell, Clerk of Session

The Clerk of Session makes an annual report to the congregation. This summary provides a basis for a report to the General Assembly and Presbytery of Detroit.

Active Members December 31, 2020

Additions:

166	By Profession of Faith (adult baptism* or confirmation)
0	By Reaffirmation of Faith
	By Transfer (from another congregation)
	Other Additions

Subtractions:

-6	<i>By Death:</i>
	Sue Janeczek #915 09.20.2021
	Taylor Jacobsen #175 09.28.2021
	Ruby Dicks #173 12.04.2021
	<i>By Transfer</i>
	Todd Pickett #1223 04.19.2021
	Trisha Pickett #1222 04.19.2021
	Maged Radamus #1177 10.27.2021

160 Active Members as of December 31, 2021

Attendance

From June 27 through December 26, 2021, First Presbyterian Church had in-person attendance averaging 41 per week. Online unique viewers was an average of 38 and online overview views an average of 59. (Unique viewers would be a single device watching online and overview viewers would represent a device that has watched more than one time or multiple views.)

Sacrament of Baptism:

Calvin Scott Herrygers 11.21.2021 DOB 01.15.2018
John Kenneth Herrygers 11.21.2021 DOB 03.05.2020

Deaths-- Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Saline

Peter Boeve 01.20.2021

Clerk of Session's Report, Continued

Ruling Elders

Class of 2022 John Coffey, Arleta Greer, Kurt Leutheuser, Bill Woehrle

Class of 2023 Bill Armstrong, Keith Brown, Lisa Clark, Bari Livsey

Class of 2024 Barbara Balog, Laurie Champion, Dianne Newberry, Nancy Ryan

Deacons

Class of 2022 Mary Lou Feight, Sheila Little,

Class of 2023 Terrie Eroh, Joyce Leslie, Dianne Young

Class of 2024 Susan Brown, Nick Clark, Doh-Yeel Lee

2021 Calendar Year (CY) Balance Sheet

2021 CY BALANCE SHEET

	Beginning Balance (12/31/2020)	Ending Balance (12/31/2021)	Ending Balance Increase/ (Decrease)
<u>Assets</u>			
<u>Cash</u>			
• Checking (Old National)	\$ 54,387	\$ 67,661	\$ 13,274
• Charles Schwab Money Market	57,088	65,791	8,703
• Charles Schwab Managed Portfolio	290,551	325,098	34,548
Total Cash	\$ 402,026	\$ 458,551	\$ 56,525
<u>Property</u>			
• Property 100 Hall Street	\$ 155,309	\$ 155,309	\$ -
• Property 155 E. Michigan	237,257	237,257	-
• Property 102 McKay	229,317	229,317	-
Total Property	\$ 621,883	\$ 621,883	\$ -
Total Assets	\$ 1,023,909	\$ 1,080,434	\$ 56,525
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>			
<u>Liabilities</u>			
• Prepayments for Following Year Pledge	\$ 17,500	\$ 29,800	\$ 12,300
• Income Tax Withheld	3,393	1,397	(1,996)
• Services Provided Payable	-	5,813	5,813
Total Liabilities	\$ 20,893	\$ 37,010	\$ 16,117
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
• General Fund	\$ 295,906	\$ 340,039	\$ 44,133 ✓
• Property Equity	621,883	621,883	-
• Memorial Fund	28,714	30,089	1,375
• Cook Youth Mission Music Fund	42,994	42,994	-
• Cass Community Ampitheater Fund	1,075	1,275	200
• ROW (Restore Our Windows) Fund	4,408	4,408	-
• Lombard Workshop/Interim Expense Fund	6,526	1,226	(5,300)
• Solar Panel Fund	1,510	1,510	-
Total Fund Balances	\$ 1,003,017	\$ 1,043,424	\$ 40,408
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 1,023,909	\$ 1,080,434	\$ 56,525

2021 CY General Fund

2021 CY GENERAL FUND

	2021 CY Actuals	2021 CY Budget	Actuals Over/(Under) Budget	Memo: 2020 CY Actuals
<u>Operating Revenue</u>				
<u>Non-Designated</u>				
• Pledges	\$ 179,881	\$ 210,000	\$ (30,119)	\$ 214,673
• Non-Pledge	19,114	25,000	(5,886)	24,926
• Loose Plate	6,803	3,000	3,803	1,169
• Building Use	404	500	(96)	500
• Interest & Dividends	8,205	6,500	1,705	6,681
• Draw from Cook Fund for Mission	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
<i>Subtotal Non-Designated</i>	<u>\$ 214,407</u>	<u>\$ 247,000</u>	<u>\$ (32,593)</u>	<u>\$ 247,950</u>
<u>Activity Support</u>				
• Christian Education Receipts	\$ 180	\$ 600	\$ (420)	\$ 117
• Adult Bible Study Receipts	-	300	(300)	148
• Women's Retreat Receipts	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
• Other Gifts	200	-	200	1,650
<i>Subtotal Activity Support</i>	<u>\$ 380</u>	<u>\$ 2,900</u>	<u>\$ (2,520)</u>	<u>\$ 1,915</u>
<u>Mission Support</u>				
• Mission Fundraisers and Participant Fees	<u>\$ 275</u>	<u>\$ 1,250</u>	<u>\$ (975)</u>	<u>\$ 409</u>
Total Operating Budget Revenue	<u>\$ 215,062</u>	<u>\$ 251,150</u>	<u>\$ (36,088)</u>	<u>\$ 250,274</u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>				
• Christian Education	\$ 21,882	\$ 25,413	\$ (3,531)	\$ 24,518
• Community Connections	890	1,900	(1,010)	1,797
• Stewardship	203	1,025	(822)	650
• Ministry	39,705	81,665	(41,960)	58,506
• Facilities	34,592	38,020	(3,428)	35,815
• Worship	17,326	20,005	(2,679)	21,968
• Administration	62,235	59,150	3,085	57,640
• Mission	21,970	26,050	(4,080)	33,427
Total Operating Budget Expenses	<u>\$ 198,803</u>	<u>\$ 253,228</u>	<u>\$ (54,424)</u>	<u>\$ 234,322</u>
Operating Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 16,259</u>	<u>\$ (2,078)</u>	<u>\$ 18,337</u>	<u>\$ 15,951</u>
• Pass-Through Offerings -- Income	\$ 1,114	\$ -	\$ 1,114	\$ 6,254
• Pass-Through Gifts & Donations -- Expenses	(950)	-	(950)	(9,214)
• HVAC System Upgrade Gift	27,350	-	27,350	-
• HVAC System Upgrade Expense	(27,251)	-	(27,251)	-
• Other Income -- Primarily Gain/(Loss) on Investments	27,611	-	27,611	23,636
General Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 44,133</u> ✓	<u>\$ (2,078)</u>	<u>\$ 46,112</u>	<u>\$ 36,627</u>

Current Year Operating Budget

First Presbyterian Church of Saline 2022 CY Operating Budget

	2022 CY Budget	2021 CY Budget	2022 CY Over/(Under) 2021 CY
<u>Operating Revenue</u>			
<u>Non-Designated</u>			
• Pledges	\$ 194,000	\$ 210,000	\$ (16,000)
• Non-Pledge	20,000	25,000	(5,000)
• Loose Plate	7,000	3,000	4,000
• Building Use	500	500	-
• Interest & Dividends	8,200	6,500	1,700
• Draw from Cook Fund/Mission Fund	2,000	2,000	-
<i>Subtotal Non-Designated</i>	<u>\$ 231,700</u>	<u>\$ 247,000</u>	<u>\$ (15,300)</u>
<u>Activity Support</u>			
• Christian Ed Income	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -
• Adult Bible Study Receipts	300	300	-
• Women's Retreat Receipts	-	2,000	(2,000)
• Community Connection Receipts	700	-	700
<i>Subtotal Activity Support</i>	<u>\$ 1,600</u>	<u>\$ 2,900</u>	<u>\$ (1,300)</u>
<u>Mission Support</u>			
• Mission Fundraisers and Participant Fees	<u>\$ 1,250</u>	<u>\$ 1,250</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
 Total Revenue	 <u><u>234,550</u></u>	 <u><u>251,150</u></u>	 <u><u>(16,600)</u></u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
• Christian Education	\$ 24,231	\$ 25,413	\$ (1,182)
• Community Connections	5,000	1,900	3,100
• Stewardship	1,025	1,025	-
• Ministry	47,267	81,665	(34,398)
• Facilities	41,485	38,020	3,465
• Worship	26,598	20,005	6,593
• Administration	73,923	59,150	14,773
• Mission	23,870	26,050	(2,180)
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 243,399</u>	<u>\$ 253,228</u>	<u>\$ (9,829)</u>
Operating Budget Surplus/(Deficit)			
	<u><u>\$ (8,849)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (2,078)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (6,771)</u></u>

Vision and Mission Team

Erica Brown, Laurie Champion, Jim Dell'Orco, Taylor Jacobsen, Shannon Janeczek (Co-chair), Mark Pellerin, Nancy Ryan (Co-chair)

The Vision and Mission Team was formed by Session in March 2021. The team's charge was to develop a vision and mission statement to address the church's near-term goals and aspirations.

In August, upon recommendation of the Vision and Mission Team, Session adopted the following as the church's Vision and Mission Statement:

VISION

First Presbyterian Church of Saline will be a Church that seeks to make God's story our story by joyfully growing in faith and serving in love.

MISSION

As we grow in faith and live in hope, First Presbyterian Church of Saline will seek to make God's story our story by:

- *Living and deepening our faith through worship, prayer, study, fellowship, and serving*
- *Inviting people to discern their spiritual gifts for ministry and acts of service*
- *Sharing Christ's good news of joy, hope, and healing*
- *Sharing stories of God's presence in our lives*
- *Being a physical and spiritual presence in the community and the world through acts of justice and compassion*
- *Honoring our Presbyterian heritage while integrating new traditions*
- *Nurturing a healthy, supportive church culture*
- *Welcoming, accepting, and affirming all to be part of the story!*

The Team continues to work with Session and committees of the church to align our ministries with this vision and to identify opportunities to grow and deepen in faith and service.

Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

Erica Brown, Laurie Champion, Jim Dell'Orco, Shannon Janeczek, Mark Pellerin, and Nancy Ryan (Chair)

Based on the recommendation of the Interim Pastor Team and the concurrence of Session and the Presbytery of Detroit Committee on Ministry, our church has begun a search for a Designated Pastor. A Designated Pastor is a minister vetted by the presbytery for suitability to serve a congregation with specific needs given its history and situation. We are seeking a Designated Pastor for a term of 5 years with the option after a set period of time and agreement of the designated pastor, the presbytery, and the congregation, to install that individual as our permanent called pastor.

Session, recognizing that the Mission and Vision Team had been engaged in the process of assessing the present realities of the church in relationship to the congregation's needs, (including that of pastoral leadership), asked the members of the Team to stand for election to become the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee. All agreed, and they were elected at a congregational meeting held on August 29th.

With the guidance of the Reverend Neeta Nichols representing the Presbytery of Detroit, the committee began meeting regularly in September. The committee prepared a Ministry Information Form (MIF) that was approved by Session in October, and the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Detroit in November. The MIF is now listed on the Church Leadership Connection, a national database of prospective candidates. The Narrative portion of the MIF can be found on pages 11 and 12 of this report.

An algorithm is used to select and match candidates that fit most closely with the position description, years of experience, salary and leadership competencies that we are seeking. Those matches are currently being vetted by a Review Committee of the Presbytery that will screen candidates using input from the Interim Pastor Team, Session and the Nominating Committee. We anticipate that the DPNC will begin reviewing and interviewing candidates in early February. This process may take some time and the DPNC is committed to keeping the church apprised of its progress in monthly updates in The Messenger.

When the search committee believes that a good match has been found, a congregational meeting will be called. The congregation makes the final decision on whether the candidate should be called to serve as our Designated Pastor. We ask that the congregation continue to pray for discerning hearts and minds of the candidates and the search committee.

Mission Information Form Narrative

Church Leadership Connection The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

As we grow in faith and live in hope, First Presbyterian Church of Saline will seek to make God's story our story by:

- Living and deepening our faith through worship, prayer, study, fellowship, and serving
- Inviting people to discern their spiritual gifts for ministry and acts of service
- Sharing Christ's good news of joy, hope, and healing
- Sharing stories of God's presence in our lives
- Being a physical and spiritual presence in the community and the world through acts of justice and compassion
- Honoring our Presbyterian heritage while integrating new traditions
- Nurturing a healthy, supportive church culture
- Welcoming all to be a part of the story!

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

FPCS seeks to make God's story our story by joyfully growing in faith and serving in love. Our 190-year-old missional church is located in the heart of Saline, 10 miles from Ann Arbor and 45 miles from Detroit. We have a rich history of mission including being a stop on the Underground Railroad. We welcome the transformational power of the Spirit as it guides our vision and ministries. We seek to be relevant, relatable, and inclusive so everyone can experience God's love and know they belong.

We live out our vision through mission relationships with a school in Haiti, an orphanage in South Africa, the Cass Community of Detroit, and our neighboring communities. Additionally, we live out our vision through worship and study that challenges us to deepen our faith, discern God's call in our lives, and share Christ's good news of joy, hope and healing. We value lifelong learning and Christian Education opportunities are offered for children, youth, and adults. We care for one another through prayer ministries, Stephen Ministry, and deacon-led Care Groups. Through every season of our faith journey, we share the stories of God at work in our lives. We engage and serve our community by hosting a youth choir, scouting groups, AA, the overflow homeless shelter, Theology on Tap, and grief workshops. We love to spend time together in fellowship and we love to eat!

Our vision is grounded in our sure faith that God is at work in this congregation and in this world

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

We are in a time of transition. As our doors reopen following COVID-19 restrictions, and as it seeks future pastoral leadership, the church is seeking to live the Vision and Mission Statements that have been developed over the past year.

The discernment of these statements has included the Holy Cow congregational survey and listening circles. With the assistance of an Interim Pastor Team and the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, we have worked to resolve and reconcile conflicts within the congregation, and to see past conflicts as an opportunity to become more faithful disciples.

Session, in collaboration with the Mission and Vision Task Force, has begun to explore the marks of Congregational Vitality articulated in the PCUSA's Matthew 25 Initiative. We are hopeful that the Matthew 25 rubric will provide a structure for renewed vitality and growth. We seek to build on our strengths of mission outreach at the local, regional, national and international levels; creation care through our solar panels and community gardens; and care for one another. As in every community in the U.S., there are opportunities for reconciliation and engagement in Saline, and we seek to play a future role in that.

In all things, we seek to be more intentional, more focused on spiritual formation and practice, and as we grow deeper in faith, to grow wider in discipleship and service. Strengthened by faith, we seek to be the hands, face, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ.

Mission Information Form Narrative, Continued

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

We seek a shepherd to guide us as we live into God's vision for this congregation by enthusiastically empowering our discipleship through prayer, teaching and leadership. We want to understand and experience the story of God's love for us so fully that we embody that love to one another and the world.

Our pastor will be a partner in our ministry of discovery. In helping us to design and develop ministry opportunities that meet people where they are, they will keep an inviting and open door to all questions, and offer an inclusive feeling to people regardless of their understanding of Presbyterian and Christian traditions. Our pastor will assist the congregation and community to discern our strengths and encourage us to share those gifts in service to the Lord. They will challenge us to continue looking beyond self to the needs of the world. This person will deepen our understanding and practice of faith through preaching and teaching that is dynamic, bold, challenging and relevant.

Our pastor will help us reach our mission and vision by growing with us and helping us to grow.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

We seek a pastor who will guide the congregation toward a deeper understanding and practice of faith. Preaching and teaching with imagination, conviction, humor, social relevance and inspiration, they will encourage us to creatively share the Good News of God at work in our lives. Guiding the church with humility, flexibility and a gentle spirit, they will help to shepherd and grow ministry consistent with our vision and mission. Demonstrating compassion, patience and perseverance, they will be an affirming and welcoming presence to people of all ages and backgrounds. They will recognize the uniqueness of every person and help us to identify and use the spiritual gifts we have been given. While valuing our history and traditions, our pastor will help us integrate new practices and contemporary trends.

We seek a pastor with a leadership style that is collaborative and consensus building, and models healthy conflict resolution skills. They should be open to understanding various perspectives and priorities and show a willingness to meet people where they are in their spiritual journey. In this time of transition, our pastor should demonstrate the ability to adapt an approach in the face of change as new information is presented and be comfortable with using technology to further our communication and outreach. In seeking to be a reconciling ministry, our pastor will cultivate meaningful and substantive relationships with members of our congregation and the community.

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

We are seeking a Designated Pastor for a 5 year term.

As a solo pastor, this person will have primary responsibility to provide direction and encouragement to the congregation to deepen our awareness of God at work in our lives, community, and the world. They will spiritually strengthen us to align our ministries and outreach with the vision and mission of the church.

Our pastor will lead weekly and special worship services that challenge the congregation to grow in faith, love and service. They will coordinate with music staff to ensure alignment of music and message, and preside over weddings, baptisms and funerals. Communion is administered monthly. Our pastor will provide a theological context for the evaluation and development of Christian Education ministry that reflects a commitment to spiritual formation for all ages.

Pastoral care includes hospital and home visits, counseling for those with personal concerns, and ministering to the sick, shut-ins and bereaved. They will serve as a referral source to the Stephen Ministry program and offer support to our Deacon Board to meet the needs of our congregation.

Our pastor will serve as shepherd to our staff, moderate Session and seek to nurture and strengthen church leadership and committees in their roles and responsibilities. They will work with community and faith leaders to develop sustainable outreach programs and be an active member of the Presbytery of Detroit.

Session Reports

Christian Education

Mickey Armstrong, Susan Brown, Karen Collins, Marcia Frye, Carrie Pellerin, and Bill Woehrle (Chair); Linda Brown, Director of Youth Ministry; Laurie Champion and Nancy Ryan, Session Elder Representatives

Responsibilities

- Nursery
- Sunday School
- Youth Activities
- Adult Bible Study
- Book Study
- Library
- Adult Forum
- Women's Retreat

The Year 2021 in Summary

As with the entire church, 2021 was a difficult and challenging year for CE. The Nursery, Sunday School Classrooms, and – for the most part – all other CE rooms have been vacant.

Sunday School material has been routinely sent home to toddler–grade 5 parents, in hopes of continuing that important educational process.

Many of the Youth Activities were held outside the church buildings, especially when the weather was favorable. Certainly, highlights of the youth activities have been youth-led the worship. Such events represented thoughtful preparation, enthusiastic participation, and joyful reception from the congregation.

The Adult Bible Study and Good Morning Study Group have flourished in a manner about as well as before the pandemic – via Zoom. Lately, those two groups have held hybrid meetings, with a combination of in-person and Zoom. That seems to be working well under the circumstances. Bible Study occurs Sunday morning at 9am; Good Morning Study Study group is Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

The Finance Committee

Scott Carter, Laurie Champion, Sue Conley, Bari Livsey, Kurt Leutheuser (Chair), and Troy Newberry (Treasurer)

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that 2021 was a stable year for our church financially -- our balance sheet ended in the positive for the sixth straight year. The 2021 Operating Budget was originally set with the understanding that we would have hired a Designated Pastor by June 30th and we'd be \$2,078 in deficit by year's end. However we haven't yet called a Designated Pastor, and we ended up having a \$16,259 operating surplus. Our spending was \$54,424 under the original forecast primarily due to being \$41,960 under budget for Ministry. Our Non-Designated Giving income (pledge, non-pledge and loose plate, etc.) came in \$32,202 under the original forecast.

The total General Fund balance increased by \$44,133. In addition to achieving savings in our operating budget, our investments held in the Schwab managed portfolio fund had a very good year consistent with the overall stock market and contributed \$27,611 to this increase. We also received a generous gift which paid for replacing and upgrading our HVAC system outside of the operating budget.

As a result of the items discussed above, the balance sheet is very healthy. To provide a bit of perspective, the \$340,039 General Fund balance is the highest it has been since at least 2008 (the balance was down to \$91,000 at that time) and it has increased every year since 2015.

While the Finance Committee recommends the Session work toward the goal of having balanced budgets as a management practice, Session is comfortable adopting budget of \$234,550 for 2022 CY which includes a \$8,849 (3.8%) deficit based upon our overall financial health. Please see the 2021 Balance Sheet, 2021 General Fund Report, and the 2022 Operating Budget (pp 6-8) for more detail.

Finally, the congregation should be thanked for your continued faithful financial stewardship this year. As our church moves through a time of change, we have been able to keep strong finances and look forward to finding key people called to lead our church.

Session Reports

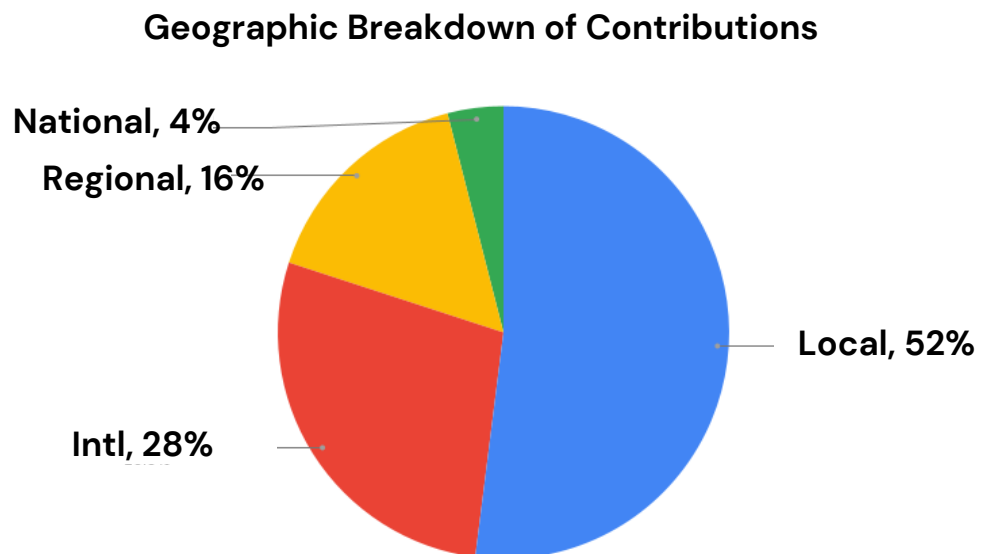
Mission Committee

Bill Armstrong, Lisa Clark (Chair), Linda Kiser, Kurt Leutheuser, Nancy Ryan and Lee Willwerth. In addition, thank you to Bob Cindric and Dana Burkley for their service on this committee.

Mission activity in 2021 spanned International, National, Regional and Local efforts, with a mix of financial and volunteer participation. Because of various restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, efforts were more of a financial nature rather than in-person volunteering. However, when possible, volunteering did occur. Throughout, this committee remained active and dedicated.

Donations were sent to these local organizations: Saline Area Social Services (Easter Dinner Busch's gift cards, Mitten Tree donations) Mill Pond Manor (Christmas Busch's gift cards, general fund contributions), Hope Clinic, Mobility Worldwide (transportation carts), Alpha House, Viva Voce Youth Choir scholarship fund, Jewish Family Services of Ann Arbor (Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement) and the Delonis Rotating Shelter. Volunteers from our congregation and the community/other congregations offered their time in helping during our assigned week for the rotating shelter in February 2021, which offers a meal and overnight accommodations for homeless men in Washtenaw County.

A geographic breakdown of financial contributions for the year is shown in the chart, which is in line with the last congregational survey response, which noted the desire to contribute more to local needs. Local is defined as Saline, Ann Arbor, Milan and Ypsilanti. Regional is Southeastern Michigan, which in 2021 was in Detroit. Combined, these two categories represent just over 67%.



Session Reports

Mission Committee, Continued

Regional efforts supported Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) in Detroit, both financially and through several volunteer opportunities. Last winter included clothing donations, and small teams regularly maintained Taylor Park and various other projects throughout the year. In October, a mission trip team helped with the conversion of a former convent into family housing. This “Mission Week” kicked off with Rev. Faith Fowler (Executive Director, CCSS) as our guest Minister. There were some overnight attendees and many day volunteers. In all, over 22 people participated, as workers and prayer partners, and even more donated household items.

Nationally, funds were sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid in efforts following flooding in Tennessee and those in need after Hurricane Ida. Internationally, we contributed to the good works of Haiti Outreach Ministries and Care Village Outreach in South Africa.

The generosity of this congregation’s tithing allowed many to be helped in a wide variety of ways. If any in our congregation would like more information about the organizations to which we contribute, have other opportunities for consideration in 2022 (both financial and volunteer ideas) and/or would like to become involved on the Mission Committee, please contact any of the members listed.

We would like to acknowledge the inspirational presence and energy of Taylor Jacobsen, who served on this Committee for many years and participated in many mission trips. His faithful presence, boundless energy, humility and joyful dedication to meet those in need was – and continues to be – an inspiration and lasting legacy. It was a true honor to serve with him. While he is greatly missed, we know his spirit is still with all of us, as we strive to continue the strong commitment to the mission efforts of First Presbyterian Church of Saline.

Session Reports

Administration and Personnel Committee

Keith Brown (Chair), John Coffey, and Lindsay Ryan

- June: The Interim Pastor Team (IPT) comprised of the Reverend Dr. Brewster (Budge) Gere, the Reverend William (Bill) Zambon and the Reverend Dr. Judy Shipman ended its time with the church, believing its task had been accomplished.
- We continue to give gratitude and thanks for their many spiritual gifts, particularly guiding us through these uncertain and difficult times. Their efforts have helped prepare us to move into the future.
- Budge Gere continues to provide advisory leadership as moderator to Session, attends bi-weekly staff and monthly A&P meetings, and provides assistance as needed with pastoral care.
- April: Upon her family's decision to leave the church, Trisha Pickett resigned from the committee. We are thankful for the time and talents that Trisha provided both as a member and a previous chair of the committee.
- August: Hired Tyler Driskill as accompanist for worship services.
- October: Hired Emily Snook as a nursery care giver.
- Dianne Newberry coordinated music in the beginning of the Pandemic. That position now has become a contracted paid position of the church. We have been blessed with the talent and variety of music she has provided to this church in this position.
- Office Administrator Christen Mitchell and Youth Director Linda Brown have done a phenomenal job finding new and creative ways to address the needs of the church.
- Would like to thank all the dedicated staff and many volunteers for their numerous talents to further the ministry of our church.



Session Reports

Community Connection Committee(C3)

Barbara Balog, Laurie Champion, Nick Clark, Arleta Greer (Chair),
Debra Manchester, Annette Miller, Julie Neuhauser

The mission of the C3 is to reach out with compassion to those seeking a loving place to be in relationship with God. The committee strives to inspire a sense of community within this congregation, to invite the surrounding community to fellowship with us, and to go out and be a presence in the community by serving as a conduit of God's love through activities and support, as called by the Holy Spirit.

2021 was still a pandemic year with most in-person activities shut down. However, the committee started meeting in person again in August.

2021 community connection events included:

- IPT Sendoff Reception
- Congregational Picnic
- Saline Main Street's Oktoberfest Kinderplatz
- Saline Main Street's Trunk-or-treat
- Coffee and Conversation zoom for first 2/3s of the year
- In person Coffee and Conversation for last quarter of year
- Snacks at the Blue Christmas Service

Session Reports

Property Committee

Bill Armstrong, Keith Brown (Chair), Bob Bailey, Tom Brown, Scott Carter, Nick Clark, John Coffey, Bill Feight, Jan Haupt, Barry Jacobsen, Fred Lupton, Mark Valentine, and John Young



Work continued to maintain the church properties. We are most thankful for the anonymous donation that paid for the new sanctuary furnace/AC and air duct purification system.

See photos for maintenance and repair highlights.

Session Reports

Worship Committee

Keith Brown, Claire Groshans, Dianne Newberry (Co-chair), Nancy Ryan (Co-chair), Joan Starkey, and Ann Valentine

Lamentations 3: 22-24

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

In worship, we come together as a community of faith to offer praise and thanks to God who creates, redeems and sustains us. During this time of pandemic and pastoral transition, worship has been a constant, even as it has taken on new ways of doing things.

The early part of 2021 looked a lot like 2020. We continued to worship virtually, led by the strong preaching of our Interim Pastor Team, who strengthened us with encouragement and challenge to remember God's presence in our lives and the life of this world. The virtual Lenten series of contemplative worship on Wednesday evenings was well attended, as we sought ways to renew faith in the midst of struggle. Dianne Newberry and Pat Willwerth offered music throughout our quarantine that lifted spirits and evoked feelings of all kinds as we heard familiar hymns in new ways, and learned new hymns that offered a wider perspective of God at work. All of this was made possible by Keith Brown's knowledge of technology, creative problem solving and steadfast patience.

With celebration, we reopened the sanctuary in June with precautions in place – mandated masks and social distancing, and reservations required for those attending in person. The option to livestream the service and worship as one community from the safety and comfort of home continues, as does the ability to view the service "on demand" from the church's website and Facebook pages. The multiple access points to worship allow opportunity for those who are traveling, have conflicting schedules, are living elsewhere, are ill and recovering and for visitors who want to check out FPCS. It has challenged us to think of community beyond those gathered in person, while being mindful of those who are unable to easily access technology.

At the end of June, we bid farewell to our Interim Pastor Team who served us since March 2020. We are grateful to all they offered this church during a difficult time. Their servant leadership, ministry of healing and reconciliation, encouragement and vision for the future have positioned us to look forward with hope.

Session Reports

Worship Committee, Continued

As we proceed with the search for a Designated Pastor, worship is led by pulpit supply, drawing on a depth of pastors that have shared unique voices, theological perspectives and diverse experiences. When we allow ourselves to be open to the experience of multiples voices and styles of preaching, the Spirit speaks in surprising ways!

Music remains an integral and beloved part of worship. As we returned to in person worship, we welcomed Tyler Driskill as Church Accompanist and Dianne Newberry as Music Coordinator. As a team, they have lifted up music that is diverse and creative in instrumentation and styling – soloists and ensembles: vocal, brass and string and woodwind–all lifting up a joyful noise in praise and celebration. In August we celebrated the return of our Bell Choir under the leadership of Claire Barnich. We are grateful to the hours of rehearsal by members of the Bell Choir who then share their musical witness monthly with the congregation.

Monthly communion was restored to worship in August using pre-packaged elements. Youth led worship in September and December helped us understand scripture in new and innovative ways. We are grateful to Linda Brown and the youth for their leadership. A "Seasons of Hope: Reflections on Loss and Healing" service was offered in December in recognition that there is comfort to be found in the underside of the Christmas story for all who struggle in the darkness.

Session Reports

Congregational Communications Committee

Keith Brown and Lisa Clark, Co-chairs, Bari Livsey, Christen Mitchell,
Bill Woehrle

The Congregational Communications Committee (CC) began this past year as a Task Force and was made a full committee. The Committee is charged with creating a more direct pipeline of information between Session and Members. Here is a list of current information sources in the church:

- Weekly Connect
- Worship Announcements
- Worship Slides
- Bulletin Boards
- Newsletter
- Special Emails
- Facebook
- Church Website Salinepres.org
- Church YouTube Channel for Worship Livestream
- Instant Church Directory

This year we purchased new publishing software, created a rolling calendar for Session Meetings, published monthly newsletters, established an “Ask Session” button on the website, refreshed bulletin boards throughout the building, and are planning a communications survey for members this spring.

Board of Deacons Report

Susan Brown, Nick Clark, Terrie Eroh (Secretary), Mary Lou Feight, Nancy Heywood, Joyce Leslie, Sheila Little (Moderator), Doh-Yeel Lee, and Dianne Young (Vice-moderator)

The Deacons cared for our church families through prayer, phone calls, and cards. Due to the Covid crisis, home and hospital visits were limited to a few members. Meetings were held virtually January–July and at church September–December.

Specifically, the Deacons:

- Facilitated 2 memorial services by coordinating with the families to set up for the services, organizing and purchasing supplies.
- Cared for several members by organizing approximately 24 meals delivered to their homes during the last quarter of the year.
- Sent College and Active Military care packages in February and 30 Love Poinsettias during Advent to let people know we are thinking about them.
- Organized the purchase of the Christmas poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service.