

## First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



### SESSION SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021

The November Session meeting is always bittersweet as this was the last regular gathering with the Elder Class of 2021: Rick Exley, Ken McAloon, Lisa Pavlopoulos, and Jacki Phillips. These officers have spent three years dedicating themselves as leaders of FPC Valpo and have excelled in that capacity! We will miss their guidance in the new year, but we likewise look forward to our new elders, Linda Long, Karen Mitseff, Elizabeth Monroe, and Ron Phillips, as they help lead the Session into 2022.

The topic of this month's elder training was very appropriate: HOPE. As we prepare to enter the Advent season of hope in the birth of our Savior, we see many examples of hope within our church:

- Session was blessed to interview two young women, Allison and Amy, who will be received as new members on November 28.
- Elders Trish Lawson and Jacki Phillips are celebrating physical recovery and healing.
- The youth in our church are intelligent, welcoming, and *always* doing for others.
- The response to Congregational Life's Christmas Craft Fair/Deacon Bake Sale has been overwhelmingly positive (which also provides outreach into our community).
- The recent Matthew 25 book discussion was so positive that attendees chose to schedule another such discussion in February to give even more individuals an opportunity to share and discuss the important ideas it contains.
- The All Saints Sunday worship was powerful and moving, and recent worship music has brought many much closer to God.
- Correspondence has been received praising our Session for their leadership, our "great pastors" (Pastor Kim, Ken Crews, Pastor Nancy, Lou Ann Karabel, Linda Long, and others) as well as long-time treasurer Ruth Dickey.

Yes, sometimes it is easy to accept the status quo or even fall into despair because of some of the things that are happening in our church, our community, and our world, but we don't have to be and are *not* a dying church but rather we can be and *are* a beacon of hope to many!

In addition, the following business was conducted:

#### MOTIONS:

- Building & Grounds has amended a motion from last month regarding a full building assessment to be provided by Elevate Studio. The original motion did not allow for cost estimating which B & G needs; the total amount (which was unanimously approved) is still less than an estimate provided by a local firm two years ago.
- Session has unanimously approved the election of Jim Hubbard to serve as Clerk *pro tem* in the upcoming absence of current Clerk Judy Hollar.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- There will probably be an upcoming Called meeting of the Session to address several issues, including staff evaluations, Pastor Kim's Terms of Call, and the 2022 Annual Budget. You will hear more once this takes place.
- As COVID numbers have unfortunately been going up in recent weeks, the Mask Policy which requires masks to be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status, will be continued as long as the CDC guidelines are recommending it.

continued on next page

## SESSION SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021, CONTINUED

### PRAISES/JOYS/PRAYERS/CONCERNS:

- Congratulations to Jim and Sharon Hubbard on their recent 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and to Chip and Gail Wilkes on their recent 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary!
- Elder Pavlopoulos's daughter-in-law will be having her new baby soon (baby Noelle)
- Gratitude, praise, and continued prayers are offered for health care workers who are *still* doing their jobs despite being overworked, short-staffed, and in some cases even criticized.
- Prayers are requested for those who are still feeling the effects of past hurts.
- Praises for those who are finally finding answers to issues of concern.

If you would like more information, please read the detailed minutes which will be *posted in the glass-enclosed announcement board* in the Hospitality Center once they are approved. **In the meantime**, please contact any of the Elders and/or the Clerk if you have questions or are interested in further details.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hollar, Clerk

## OPPORTUNITY

### PART-TIME CUSTODIAL PERSON SOUGHT

The church is seeking to add a third person to share custodial duties with our custodial team of Dan Higgins and Valarie Smart Higgins.

This part-time role (10-12 hours per week) requires the ability to do normal custodial work of cleaning offices, meeting rooms, bathrooms and PWNS areas plus be able to move tables and chairs as set-up in support of our various church groups.

To further explore this opportunity, please contact Personnel Team via email at: [personnel@fpcvalpo.org](mailto:personnel@fpcvalpo.org) to set up an In-person meeting.



## MATTHEW 25 REFLECTION



“MATTHEW 25 REFLECTION” presents information chosen by our Matthew 25 Team to inform and inspire our church family to actively engage in activities and with initiatives that reduce poverty and racism in our local communities and beyond.

(The following article is a summary of an article written by Presbyterian minister, Glenn McDonald. For a picture of Lauren and Maurice and the complete article, see <https://mailchi.mp/c7f13e46eb39/morning-reflection-5673916?e=c79bbea556>

As Lauren Schroff, a single, 35-year-old marketing exec was walking in midtown Manhattan, an 11-year-old black youth, a panhandler, asked, “Miss, do you have any loose change?” “No,” she answered, walking on. But halfway across the street – for reasons she still cannot explain – Schroff stopped. She turned back. “Are you hungry?” she asked the boy. “Yes,” said Maurice Mazyck. That cheeseburger lunch at McDonalds was the beginning of an unusual friendship that has endured for more than three decades.

In her book *An Invisible Thread*, Schroff describes how she and Maurice agreed to meet again the following Monday... and the Monday after that. After 150 consecutive Mondays and numerous meetings in other settings over the years, they learned a great deal about each other and about themselves.

It took Laura a while to grasp the reality of Maurice’s abject poverty. His mother was a drug dealer and crack addict. His father, who ultimately died of AIDS, was widely regarded as the toughest guy on the street. Until he met Schroff, Maurice had never received a Christmas gift. The only two presents he had ever known were a toy truck when he was four, and a rolled joint from his grandmother when he was six.

Laura asked Maurice what he wanted to be when he grew up. He had never considered that question before, for the simple reason that he had never assumed he would actually grow up.

As she spent more Mondays with Maurice, Schroff gradually began to come to terms with the harshness of her own upbringing, including an alcoholic father who raged at his children and terrorized Laura’s mom.

Over time she offered Maurice the gift of stability: someone who promised to be a predictable presence in his life, who would not walk away when things got hard.

Today Maurice is a husband and a father. He lives in New York City, near where he grew up, and is working to break the cycles of poverty and hopelessness that afflict the lives of so many others.

Looking back, he is most grateful that Schroff began to make lunches for him on school days. She would put them in a brown paper bag and give them to the doorman at her Manhattan apartment, from whom Maurice would retrieve them. He recalls “the real meaning of lunch in a brown paper bag.” It was love – visible proof to the others at school that someone actually cared about him.

Schroff, who also still lives in the city, reflects that her relationship with Maurice is “the story of how two people who needed each other somehow became unlikely friends, against all odds. It is the story of the mysterious, unseen connections that exist between people who are destined to meet and how, **if only we open our eyes and our hearts to them, these connections can be the great blessings of our lives.**”

Concerning the day they first met at 56<sup>th</sup> and Broadway when he was 11 years old, Maurice says: “You know, at that moment she saved my life. Cause I was going down the wrong road, the wrong hill...The Lord sent me an angel. My angel was Laurie.”

And Schroff’s response? “He taught me how to live. He taught me about resilience, courage, friendship...”

Our love for the Least, the Last, and the Lost is dear to the heart of God. And sometimes the most profound way to express love is a PBJ in a brown paper bag.

*continued on the next page*

As we read, study, and discuss Matthew 25 issues, we need God’s help in fully recognizing the injustice and inequality that continues to exist because of systemic poverty and structural racism. We also need His help in finding meaningful ways for us to act in response to our love and concern. Please add your voice daily in asking that God guide us and empower us, individually and as a church family, in our Matthew 25 efforts.

Prayer in response to today’s article:

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord,” so that I might clearly see and respond to the opportunities you place before me to connect with and to help others. Amen.

PRESBYTERIAN WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL (“PWNS”) NEWS

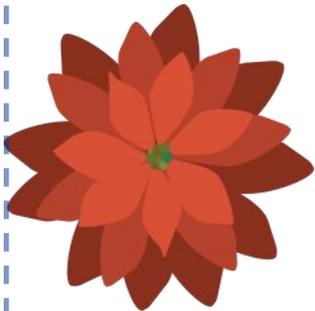
The children have had a fun November. They made turkeys, talked about what they are thankful for, and are now learning songs for their Christmas performance. The children and their families have filled the empty cupboard with food-so much that they had to make extra space. We will be delivering this to the Christian Food Pantry before the Holidays. The children had so much fun bringing in their food. PWNS also had a fantastic Book Fair and will be getting a lot of books for the school!!!!!! Thank you to all who ordered!

We are excited about the Advent season!! It will be a quick few weeks as our last day is December 16th! It will be busy also. We want to invite everyone to our First Christmas Performances on Monday night December 13th and Tuesday night December 14th at 6:00. They will be singing a few songs and then have their annual Cookie Walk with their families. These should be some fun nights.

We want to wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season. We could not have our/your school without your support!!! We have a few openings in our Early Learner (3-4 year olds) class. Contact us if interested (219-241-0556).

Dana Hansen  
Samantha Lutin  
Hannah Scheller

POINSETTIAS



It’s that time of year again! If you would like to order poinsettias for this Christmas Season, please forward the following information and a check to the church office by December 10. The price is \$12.00 per plant. Red and white options are available.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Red Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

# of White Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Information for Anyone Who Can Check All the Boxes**

- I am 70 or older.**
- I have an IRA.**
- I donate money to the church (and/or charities).**

On our Federal Taxes, most of us now take the standard deduction of \$12,000 (single) or \$24,000 (married) rather than itemizing, and thus we no longer get a tax deduction for money we give to qualified charities such as the church. However, if you checked the three boxes above, **you still can donate money and lower your taxes.** Here is why and how:

Beginning at age 70½ (72\*), you must take a specified amount, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), out of your IRA each year. You must now start paying the taxes you avoided when you put the money in the IRA. (\*Anyone who did not turn 70½ by January 1, 2020 is not required to start taking RMD's until age 72).

Assume Mary is required to take \$3,000 out of her IRA this year. She also wants to give \$3,000 to the church and/or other charitable organizations.

1. She can have this money sent to herself. It is considered income, and she would pay \$1,025 more in taxes (if she is in the 32% tax bracket).  $\$3,000 - \$1,025 \text{ (to taxes)} = \mathbf{\$1,975 \text{ left for charities}}$
2. She can request this money be sent **directly** to an IRS approved charity, such as the church, and she would pay no taxes on this money.  $\$3,000 - \$0 = \mathbf{\text{the full } \$3,000 \text{ goes to the church!}}$
3. Yes, if she wanted to donate only \$2,000, she could have \$1,000 (\$680 after taxes) sent to her.
4. Also, she can request the money be distributed among several charities.

These donations are called **Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCD's)**.

All it takes is a phone call to the custodian of your IRA (or your accountant/financial advisor). He/she can help you set up the process and timing for sending out your QCD checks this year.

Blessings,

Your Endowment Committee:

- Ruth Dickey
- Cathy Greenawald
- Doug Hollar
- Jim Hubbard
- Katherine Joseph
- Paul Knauff
- Karen Vogelsang



American Red Cross

Thank you!



Blood Drive

Sponsor Group

November 21

Date of Drive

32

Total Number of Donors

3

First Time Donors

31

Units Collected

93

Potential Number of Lives Saved

When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.

© 2018 The American Red Cross | 181501

+++

The Flu Shot clinic will not be held at FPC this year due to the increase in COVID cases. The congregation should contact their Doctor or local Pharmacy for their Flu vaccine.

Thank you,  
Rose Ross, RN  
Congregational Health

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:8-14

Following Christ’s example, our Deacons are serving the church and community in a variety of ways. Some of the responsibilities our Deacons share consist of communion (set up, presentation and cleanup), caring card set up and delivery, advent bags, visiting our Deacon friends and many other activities throughout the year. For example, the Deacons recently delivered Advent bags to their Deacon friends who will enjoy them this Advent season.

Fun fact: “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return. ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))

The Deacons continue to visit the homebound and hospitalized members of our congregation, as allowed. If you know of a church member who has needs the Deacons provide, please let us know.

If you have prayer concerns, please reach out to Beth Germann (219.477.9964), [bcgermann@gmail.com](mailto:bcgermann@gmail.com)). If you are not on the prayer chain and would like to be added, please let Beth know.

As the year is coming to a close, it’s time to thank our Deacon class of 2021 for their service and welcome the class of 2024.

#### **Until next time I leave you with this blessing:**

“May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,  
May the Christ Child light your way,  
May God’s holy angels guide you,  
And keep you safe each day.”



### OUR CHURCH PUPPETS...A LOOK BACK

Sterling and Barbara Miller related that daughter Amy, a former church puppeteer in the 1980's, re-discovered her puppet during a move, and wondered if Candy (see photo) could be returned to the church and her fellow puppets. This created a search into the stories of our puppet history.



Of those who shared recollections from the past forty years of Puppet Ministry at our church, many names were recalled...of over sixty middle and high school youths... and ten or fifteen adult helpers who were costume makers, set builders, drivers, and even a hand-tossed pizza maker to feed the puppeteers.

Sandi Roth remembered that in 1979 when Assistant Pastor Mike Kuhner asked them as new members what they might be interested in being involved in with their church, it led to their establishment of a newly-formed youth Puppet Ministry that she and Bruce led for the fledgling first two years.

Betty Richardson then related that in eighteen years of providing leadership, she remembers teen groups meshing to team together for several years each, in order to present Christian messages through puppets. Over the years, a great many presentations were made at our church during special holidays, Vacation Bible School and Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School ("PWNS") but also in churches around the city, the county, as far as Geneva Center and a Presbyterian church in the near-westside of Chicago.

Sharon Harris responded to recall that daughter Heidi formed friendships through church puppets that have continued cross-country over the years, way past graduation.

Former puppeteer Erin Caldwell Leto, with husband Jason and co-leader Bonnie Swarner, led and helped to recently bring the Puppet Ministry back for a few years.

Many groups of our middle and high school kids came together over the years to practice, create, and give a gift of their time, their talent, their "hands" to send a Christian message through the puppets. Parents felt grateful that their kids were with a good group of youth, having fun in a safe surrounding to outreach their faith. God is Good!

#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

- ◆ Holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually family times. Sometimes memories of seasons past percolate up that renew grief or loneliness or struggles with hard times.
- ◆ Stephen Ministers are trained to supplement pastoral care and prayerfully walk with individuals experiencing challenges of faith or pain or loss. They build trust through confidentiality concerning Stephen Ministry relationships.
- ◆ Co-Leaders Elizabeth Monroe and Linda Long will be sharing stories during the next couple of months as they tell more about Stephen Ministry for our congregation. Perhaps you might welcome a Stephen Minister to accompany on your life journey right now, or you want to know more about training and exploring your gifts for Stephen Ministry.
- ◆ Interested? Talk confidentially with Pastor Kim, Elizabeth or Linda.

## COMFORT STITCHERS



Are you interested in making Prayer Shawls but can't attend our normal Thursday meetings? The Comfort Stitchers will be happy to provide the yarn, needles, and patterns needed. We have a great deal of donated yarn or we can purchase yarn.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Sandy H. Sopata at (219) 921-4376.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWS

**“TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!”**

### OPPORTUNITY: HOSTING FPC COFFEE HOUR

Love to gather with our congregational family and catch up on all the highs and lows of the previous week? Let's do it over coffee! Below is a Sign-up Genius link to pick a day to provide coffee, lemonade and a treat or two!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084DA8A92DA2FC1-fpcv>



## MISSION NEWS: PADS MINISTRY

### PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Would you be willing to make dinner, breakfast, or help in other areas needed for PADS this year?

New Creation is checking in the men each week. They must be vaccinated and tested weekly to be part of the program and wear masks except when eating and sleeping.

The meal volunteer sheets are in the Hospitality Center at church for you to sign up.

In addition, if you can help with the PADS Ministry, please visit the link below to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48afaa23a0fbc52-pads>

Thank you for all you have done and are doing for our homeless men!

## OPPORTUNITY – LITURGIST MINISTRY

Serving as the liturgist during worship is a ministry. We invite you to approach it prayerfully. This ministry is open to as many people as possible giving the opportunity to support our liturgists in this “work of the people” (the root of liturgy from Greek). Liturgists may read the Call to Confession and Confession of Sin, while the minister preaches the sermon, offers prayers, and blesses sacraments. Our liturgists are an important part of our worship, and demonstrate how we all minister to the community.

To sign up to serve as liturgist, please click on the link below:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/994107930073/false#/invitation>

**CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY**

In October, one hundred thirty-eight families were served which provided food for three hundred twenty-four people in October. The pantry provided Thanksgiving dinner supplies on November 17 and 22, 2021. The turkeys were donated to distribute anonymously. The pies and cakes were provided by Strack’s on Calumet. In addition, pie kits were offered as well to top off the meal. There was \$9,263.00 available for pantry purchases at Meijer’s. These monies gave the pantry directors a great deal to be thankful for when planning, ordering for and serving families in our neighborhood needing food assistance all year long. As the pantry checking account is also in good shape as plans are started for the Christmas distribution, hams will be purchased for that meal and scalloped, julienne or au gratin potatoes will be offered along with the usual dinner menu items. This great money news was sent knowing it will assist with special pantry activities and basic needs for the New Year.

Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and thank you to congregational contacts and members, organizations and other donors.

An extra thank you goes out for all the dependable pantry volunteers.

Nan (219) 462-6169  
Sharon (219) 464-1764

+++

**OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE ITEMS TO HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD PANTRY  
NEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Deodorant
- Diapers Size 5 & 6
- Dish Soap Laundry Detergent Pods
- Fresh Fruit
- Hand Soap
- Paper Towels
- Ravioli or Spaghettios® in Cans
- Tissues

LOCATION:  
606 Union Street  
Valparaiso, IN  
Phone: 219-477-4222, ext. 251

HOURS OF OPERATION:  
Thursdays from 9 AM – 11:30 AM

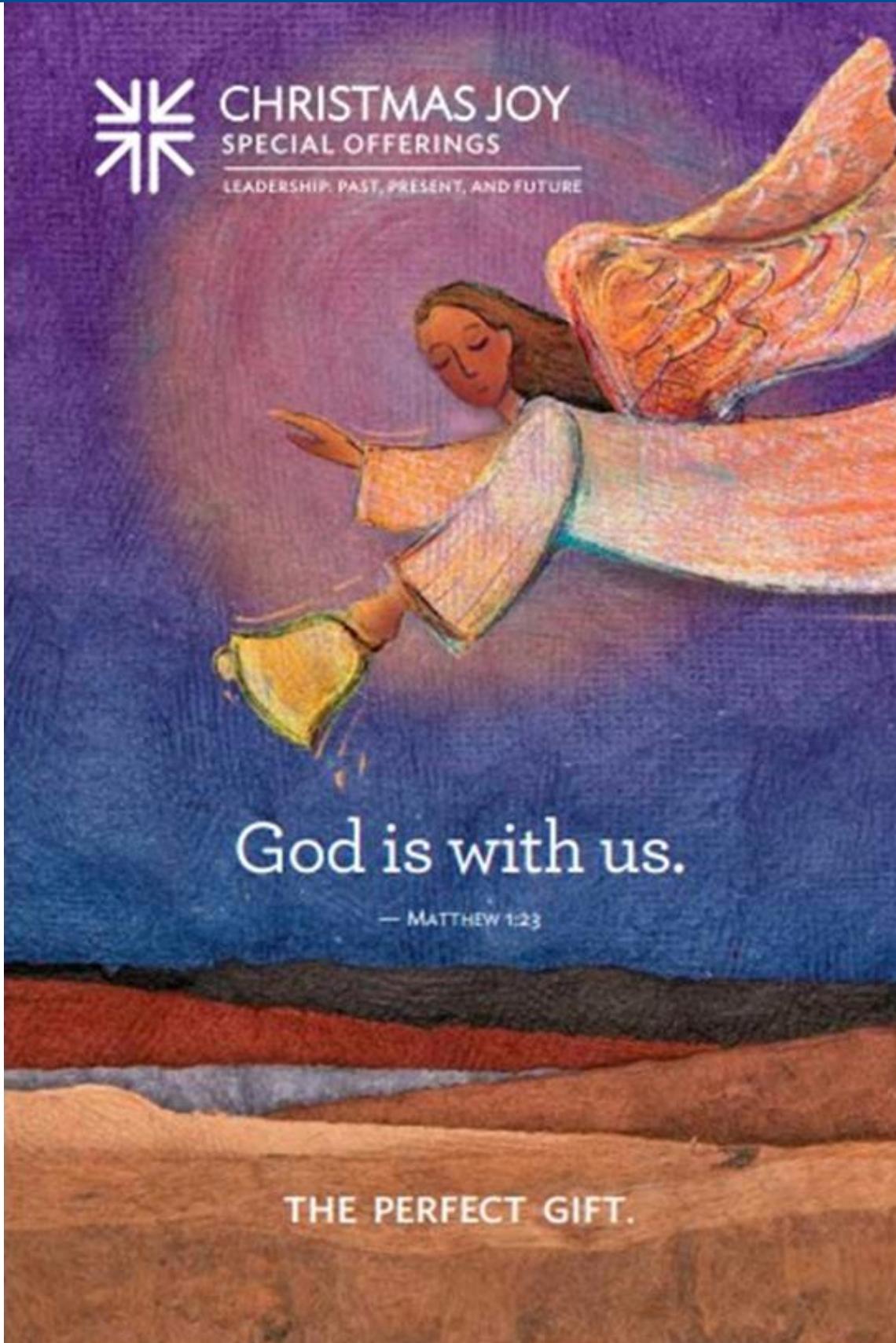
**DONATIONS:**  
*Donations are accepted at the pantry on Thursdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., or for an appointment, please call (219) 477-4222.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE**

**SUNDAY COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED ON  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, December 5, 2021 during the online worship service (via Facebook Live/FPC website/FPC YouTube channel) at 10:00 a.m.

All are invited to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/wine or whatever common elements you have to celebrate communion. This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.



DECEMBER SECOND MILE OFFERING

*Gifts for the Christmas Joy Offering will be received for the Second Mile Offering for December. Folks are welcome to send checks to First Presbyterian Church, 3401 N. Valparaiso Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Please include Christmas Joy Offering on the memo line.*

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God’s perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew’s Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.”

During these past months, many of us weren’t able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

*[50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.]*

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them—we are with them.

*[50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.]*

  
In 2015, Rose Bryant was at a crossroads in her life – a job she needed to support her and her son fell through due to her lack of a college degree. Discovering she could go back to college, and qualify for scholarships supported by the Christmas Joy Offering, changed everything. She found special joy as a member of Stillman’s renowned choir. She graduated in 2019 and is now an English and Language Arts teacher in Texas.

“I don’t think I would be here without the support of Stillman,” she said. “The amazing thing is that all of this has had a ripple effect. I was able to finish my goal because of the support I received, and I know of at least six people who came directly to me to find out how they could do the same, including my younger sister.”

*The Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color like Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.*



The ripple effect that Rose speaks of starts when each of us does some small thing, such as giving a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering, the power of which grows stronger and stronger as it is passed along.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color – offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

*Bulletin Insert Source: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/cj20-god-us/>*



**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 01, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
5:00 PM	Advent Self-Guided Wednesdays	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Thursday, December 02, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
2:00 PM (CST)	Presbytery Assembly	Online
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, December 03, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
---------	------	-----------------

Saturday, December 04, 2021

Sunday, December 05, 2021

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Presbys	100, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 06, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 07, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:30 PM	DAR Group	Friendship Room
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
6:00 PM	Building and Grounds	Friendship Room
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Sanctuary, Chapel, FH

Wednesday, December 08, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
5:00 PM	Advent Self-Guided Wednesdays	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Finance Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Thursday, December 09, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
3:00 PM	Endowment Team Meeting (TBC)	Friendship Room
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, December 10, 2021

9:00 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
---------	------	-----------------

Saturday, December 11, 2021

## CALENDAR

Sunday, December 12, 2021	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Presbys	100, Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM		
Monday, December 13, 2021	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
9:00 AM	Presbyterian Resale Shop Ministry	Off-site
11:00 AM	PWNS Cookie Walk and Program	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM		
Tuesday, December 14, 2021	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
1:30 PM	PWNS Cookie Walk and Program	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Sanctuary, Chapel, FH
6:00 PM		
Wednesday, December 15, 2021	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
9:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:00 AM	Advent Self-Guided Wednesdays	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM		
Thursday, December 16, 2021	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
9:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:00 AM	Disciples Bible Study	101
3:30 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
5:00 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM		
Friday, December 17, 2021		
Saturday, December 18, 2021		
Sunday, December 19, 2021	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Presbys	100, Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM		
Monday, December 20, 2021	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM		
Tuesday, December 21, 2021	Men's Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
1:30 PM	Sweet Adelines	Sanctuary, Chapel, FH
6:00 PM		
Wednesday, December 22, 2021	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:00 AM	Advent Self-Guided Wednesdays	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM		
Thursday, December 23, 2021	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:00 AM	Disciples Bible Study	101
3:30 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
5:00 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM		
Friday, December 24, 2021 - Church Office Closed		
4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 25, 2021 - Merry Christmas!		

## CALENDAR

Sunday, December 26, 2021

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Presbys	100, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 27, 2021 - Church Office Closed

7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
---------	------------------	---------------------------

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Sanctuary, Chapel, FH

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Thursday, December 30, 2021

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Choir
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, December 31, 2021 - Church Office Closed

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS

### BUILDING & GROUNDS NEWS 2021 FALL CLEANUP



It was a cool, partly sunny and dry day for the 20 volunteers that showed up to help get the church ready for winter. Most of the projects were completed because of the wonderful joint efforts of those who participated.

Thanks to all of you who donated your time and energy with the various projects. It was great to see such a wonderful turnout and team effort! The teamwork couldn't have been any better. A special "thank you" to the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution ("DAR") for their help in achieving our cleanup goals. Special "thanks" to all who generously used their trucks, trailers and equipment to haul debris.

Rick Exley and Vic Klancer  
B & G Co-moderators

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2021**

Month Income	\$31,602	YTD Income	\$323,164
Month Expenses	<u>(40,960)</u>	YTD Expenses	<u>(370,607)</u>
Over/Short	<u>(\$9,358)</u>		<u>(\$47,443)</u>

**GIFTS TO THE CHURCH**

**GIFTS TO THE CHURCH OPTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**MAIL OPTION:**

Folks are welcome to mail pledges and gifts to the church at the following address:

First Presbyterian Church  
3401 N. Valparaiso Street  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

**ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OPTION:**

If you would like to have pledges and gifts transferred to the church via electronic transfer, please contact the church office via email at: [churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org](mailto:churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org)

**ONLINE GIVING OPTION:**

If you would like to give pledges and gifts to the church online, please visit the church's website at [www.fpcvalpo.org](http://www.fpcvalpo.org) and click on "To Make a Gift" tab located on the right; or click on the following link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri76732/-/give/KLYBGIVCVH>

Grateful for all!

+++

**PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY**

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don't hesitate to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain at [bcgermann@gmail.com](mailto:bcgermann@gmail.com) or (219) 477-9964.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1 Kathy Spitler	December 12 Tim Reyna
December 2 Andrew Adams Robert Meyer Susan Swarner	December 13 Lindsay Giles
December 3 Gerrit Carlson	December 19 John Lawson
December 4 Paige Hughes	December 21 Pastor Nancy Becker
December 5 Audrey Rudzinski	December 23 Ken Kukler
December 6 Leanne Grant	December 25 Lillian Bianco Marc Buehler Gavin Kukler Natalie Miller Jean Patton
December 8 Michael Byerly Joan Johnston	December 30 Elizabeth Monroe
December 10 Diana Richardson	
December 11 Nicole Arney	

## ROSTER

### SEXTON

Open:	Jim Hubbard
Close:	Jerry Kahrs

### COMMUNION SERVERS

December 5	Jim Hubbard Sharon Kinsey Ryne Press
------------	--------------------------------------------

### ELDER ON SCHEDULE

December 5	Rick Exley
December 19	Harry Karabel

### DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

December 12	Lisa Vukin
December 26	Emma Adams

### LITURGIST SCHEDULE

December 5	Matthew Byerly
December 12	Ron Scott
December 19	Jason Adams
December 26	Presbys

## DUE DATES – TIDINGS ARTICLES, BULLETIN ARTICLES AND SCREENS

### Due Date for Tidings Articles:

The due date for Tidings articles is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. (i.e. June articles are due by May 15.) Please email articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at [dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org](mailto:dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org)

### Due Date for Bulletin Articles, First Notes and/or Advertisements:

The due date for bulletin articles, First Notes, and announcements is noon the Monday prior to the publication.

### PER CAPITA

Please prayerfully consider paying your per capita. *The cost is \$42.00 per member.* Per capita helps support the decisions of the commissioners to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly as they discern the will of Jesus Christ together. It also supports the work of the Presbytery Commission of Ministry and the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Please email bulletin announcements and First Notes articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at: [dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org](mailto:dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org).

**THANK YOU!**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHURCH STAFF

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams .....	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Janice Axmann, Organist .....	axmann122@comcast.net
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate.....	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Ann Carlson, pianist.....	ann_kieth@yahoo.com
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director .....	rclark3110@gmail.com
Ken Crews, Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry.....	kencrews@fpcvalpo.org
Susan Davis, Business Manager .....	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist .....	bdirks@comcast.net
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator.....	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
Jeff Whitney, Director of Worship Music & Digital Technology .....	jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org

*In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985.*

<u>Elders of Session</u>	<u>Ministry Team</u>
Marc Buehler.....	Finance/Stewardship Team*
Matthew Byerly.....	Worship Team
Kim Croarkin.....	Matthew 25 Team   Congregational Life Team**
Rick Exley.....	Building and Grounds Team*
Sharon Kinsey .....	Faith Formation Team   Nominating Team
Harry Karabel.....	iEngage   Worship Team**
Vic Klancer .....	Building and Grounds Team*
Ken McAloon.....	Mission Team*
Lisa Pavlopoulos .....	Finance/Stewardship Team*
Jacki Phillips .....	Adult Spiritual Formation Team
Ryne Press.....	Mission Team*
Trish Lawson.....	Congregational Life Team   Membership Team**   Nominating Team**
Ron Scott.....	Personnel Team

\* denotes Co-moderator

\*\* denotes Elder Rep.

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Nancy Porter, Moderator

Endowment Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

**MISSION STATEMENT: BUILDING DISCIPLES; GROWING IN FAITH; SERVING IN CHRIST'S**



First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (public) and  
FPCVALPO (closed)