

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 29, 2023

Many thanks are extended to Pastor Nancy Becker who served as Moderator of this late November Session meeting. There was a lot to discuss, but she kept discussions moving and called for votes in a timely manner. We are grateful for her leadership.

We are also grateful for the leadership of many in our congregation who have taken on positions at the Presbytery level. At the November 27 Assembly meeting, several of our own were selected:

- *Matthew Byerly* elected as Moderator of Mission and Outreach of Presbytery
- *Matthew Byerly* also elected as a Commissioner to the 226th General Assembly
- *Linda Long* elected Reader for Ordination Exams in 2024
- *Pastor Kim* elected as co-Moderator of the Administrative Commission for the Kouts Presbyterian Church
- Elder *Ryne Press* and former member *Pastor Bill Rogers* elected as members of that same Administrative Commission
- *Jeff Whitney* introduced as the new part-time Director for Tech Ministry
- And our Pastor in Residence ***Julia Zhao*** presented an articulate, personal, and moving sermon about baptism, experienced a successful Q & A style examination by Presbytery, and received a unanimous vote of approval for her ordination

Elders were also pleased and impressed with their examination of Deacons-Elect *Beth Germann* and *Jean Patton*. Official officer training took place earlier in November, but as the Book of Order requires, elders posed several questions as part of their examination. Both gave impressive responses to questions such as how their faith has evolved; what are the big issues facing the global church today; and how have significant events in their lives changed their journeys with God. Elders unanimously approved Beth and Jean to their ministry as Deacons, and they will be ordained/installed January 7, 2024, along with Elders-Elect who were examined last month.

Another highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Elder-Elect Jerry Kahrs concerning a major Building & Grounds issue. He gave an update on the **HVAC situation**, especially the problem of no heat in either the offices or the Chapel. After discussing long-term needs, cost increases, and feedback from the Trane Corporation, Elders approved a **motion** to allocate not more than \$4,000.00 to proceed with plans to provide heat for the offices. The decision was made to defer Chapel expenditures for the time being as other options are being pursued. One of those options is the exploration of a **Solar/Renewable Energy** plan. Statistics, graphs, and a video of how this can work led Elders to approve another **motion**, if the way be clear, to continue to pursue a solar/ renewable energy proposal. This could also dovetail with working toward an advantageous “Earth Care Congregation” designation that is available from the PC(USA). Elders agreed that both of these proposals sounded positive and exciting.

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Several other important **motions** were considered:

- **Motion** to call for the *Annual Meeting of the Congregation* for January 28, 2024 (**approved**)
- **Personnel**
 - ◇ Recommends a 3% pay raise for all non-clergy staff in 2024 (staff evaluations were compiled and reviewed and were very positive) (**approved**)
 - ◇ Compensation package for Associate Pastor in Residence Julia Zhao was presented and **approved** and will be included in the Annual Report
 - ◇ Recommends a 3% pay raise for Pastor Kim in 2024 based on her outstanding reviews (exceeds expectations in all areas!) (**approved**)
- **iEngage** presented a church-wide Social Media Policy (**approved**)
- **Faith Formation**
 - ◇ To change the official name of Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School (PWNS) to *First Presbyterian Preschool*, for clarity and better understanding in the community (**approved**)
 - ◇ To allow Presbys to collect pet-related items this Christmas for a service project at Lakeshore PAWS Dog Shelter. While some concerns were expressed that the recipient might not fit within FPC's mission guidelines, as it was a service project suggested by the teens and not a monetary fundraiser, it was **approved**.
 - ◇ To allow the Read Across America Spring Read-a-thon (**approved**)
 - ◇ To allow a small increase in monthly tuition for the preschool classes beginning in the 2024-2025 year (**approved**)
- **Session's Bylaws and Operating Policies & Procedures Task Force**
 - ◇ To create a *Planning Team* of Session to envision and propose a plan for a Matthew 25-oriented project to be funded by seed money from the Sharing Table Project that would explore options as to how our church could serve children and their families in the community possibly reaching beyond the scope of our current preschool. (**approved**) (Once this Planning Team is formed, you will be hearing much more about its vision.)

Reports were received from the following Teams without discussion:

- Building & Grounds Team
- Congregational Life Team
- Deacons
- Finance
- Membership Team
- Presbyterian Church Resale Shop
- Presbyterian Church Preschool
- Stewardship Team
- Other reports were received from Pastor Kim, the Treasurer, the Director of Faith Formation, and the Clerk of Session.

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 of Session



The Presbytery of Wabash Valley
and
First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso
cordially invite you to attend the
ordination service
of

Julia Qiuye Zhao

as Associate Pastor in Residence
at
First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso
on Sunday, January 7, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m. (CST) / 4:00 p.m. (EST)

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

Pastors are invited to robe and wear stoles of their choosing.

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP by January 3, 2024 to churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF SESSION'S "POLITY TASKFORCE"

In September 2023, Session formed a "Polity Taskforce" to review, and where appropriate, to make recommendations to Session for updates to the Bylaws and to other policies and procedures of our church that belong in our Manual of Operations – a document of guidance that sets forth in detail "how things operate" in our day-to-day ministry here at First Presbyterian - Valparaiso. The Manual is available to new elders, deacons and others who join our church leadership such as session and ministry teams. The daily work of our ministries and mission changes over time, and last summer our resale shop experience, alerted Session to the need for some reviews and updates and thus Polity Taskforce was formed.

A regular periodic review of our foundational documents provides an opportunity to spot gaps in policies and procedures and to delete what is no longer needed. The Task Force is looking for what might be missing that would strengthen our ministries.

The taskforce includes Mary Linda Scott (primarily working with the resale shop), Judy Hollar (Clerk of Session), Pastor Kim Adams (ex-officio with a futuristic balcony view), Matt Byerly (Worship & music), Sharon Kinsey (Faith Formation), Linda Long (Treasurer & Resale Shop Administrative Commission) and Jim Hubbard (Personnel, the Resale AC and the Sharing Table).

- 1) Our current bylaws only mention our resale shop and our preschool ministries in general terms, so the taskforce is recommending adding language to our bylaws that these are integrated auxiliary ministries of our congregation and, as the local court declared as to the Resale Shop, are not, and never have been independent organizations.
- 2) Revised policies and procedures for the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop were approved by Session in June and updated again late this fall to reflect accepting credit cards, better retailing practices, and volunteer training.
- 3) Specific policies and procedures for the preschool are being written along with the formation of a long-range planning team envisioning expansion of the preschool ministry to meet community needs for families with young children.
- 4) Our Facilities Use & Fees policy has been updated to guide decisions about priorities and use of our church building, pavilion and grounds.
- 5) A new Social Media Policy has been approved by Session.
- 6) Personnel policies are reviewed annually and were updated to include requirements for background checks for volunteers working with children in FPCV ministries.
- 7) Review of each of our ministry teams is underway, including their scope of work, matters of rotating leadership, conflicts of interest, mission-distribution guidelines, place for leadership for Matthew 25 initiatives, and other policies & procedures to be clear about their relationship to the community and to the ministry of FPCV and its members.

As our elected, called and installed leadership, it is Session's responsibility to approve policies and procedures on behalf of the congregation. Session will review any proposed changes to the bylaws in detail and hope to make its recommendations at the Annual Congregational Meeting for approval of any proposed updated bylaws. Information regarding any proposed bylaws changes will be communicated in January, prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

—Linda Long, Convener of the Polity Taskforce

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

We are so happy to be back in the classroom with the students. In this new year we look forward to hosting Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss all the students' successes and growth.

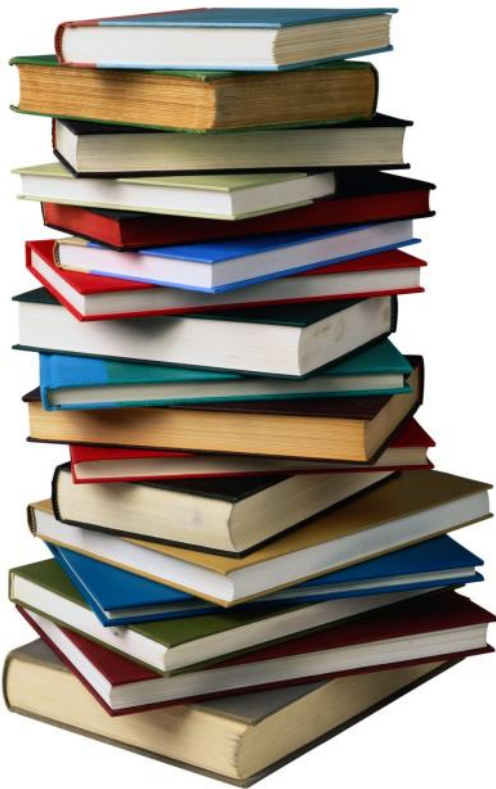
The children did a fantastic job on their Christmas Programs. They worked so hard for a few months, practicing and doing their best. We celebrated each other with our annual Cookie Walk.

We hope this year is full of growth and expansion for the preschool. Happy New Year!

PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, you are welcome to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain: bcgermann@gmail.com or (219) 477-9964.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



BOOK DONATIONS

We appreciate all the book donations; however, we are not in a position to receive donated books at this time.

This being said, please forward any book donations you may have to any of our local libraries (*if accepting books at this time*) and/or the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop.

Thank you,

Trish Lawson
Director of Faith Formation

MISSION NEWS

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteers needed for PADS ministry. Please find the following opportunities:

January 3 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM January 4	January 24 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM Shift January 25 7:00 PM Dinner 6-7 AM Thursday Breakfast
January 10 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM Shift January 11 6 - 7AM Thursday Breakfast	January 31 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM Shift February 1 7:00 PM Dinner 6-7 AM Thursday Breakfast
January 17 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM Shift January 18 6 - 7 AM Thursday Breakfast	

If you have any questions, please call or email Beth Germann at: 219-477-9964 or bcgermann@gmail.com

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CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY

During November, pantry hour volunteers were busy serving two hundred twenty-one families which provided food for six hundred twelve people. Also sixty-eight bags containing Thanksgiving dinner menu items and turkeys were given out. A surprise call from Northwest Health – Porter offered more turkeys. Luckily freezer space was found (thank you FUMC and Mickey for the help) for thirty-six more birds. At this writing more than one hundred holiday bags have been given to the pantry by Strack's on Calumet; and that program continued through Christmas. The fundraiser program through the Meijer store continued through December with a doubling day on the 16th. The pantry is very fortunate to be well supported by our seven congregations along with individuals, organizations and businesses in our community as we continue to assist neighbors in our community in need of pantry help. This support comes in many forms such as monetary donations, food, health, cleaning and paper supplies as well as time, energy, muscle and prayer. All of this support is greatly appreciated.

Happy holidays!

Nan and Sharon

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED DURING WORSHIP

on

**Sunday, January 7, 2024
at 10:00 a.m. Worship**

&

3:00 p.m. Ordination

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the above-captioned date/time during the in-person at FPC Valpo and online worship services (via Facebook Live/FPC website/FPC YouTube channel).

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.



MISSION STATEMENT:

Building Disciples; Growing in Faith;
Serving in Christ's Name

FPC VALPARAISO IS A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION:



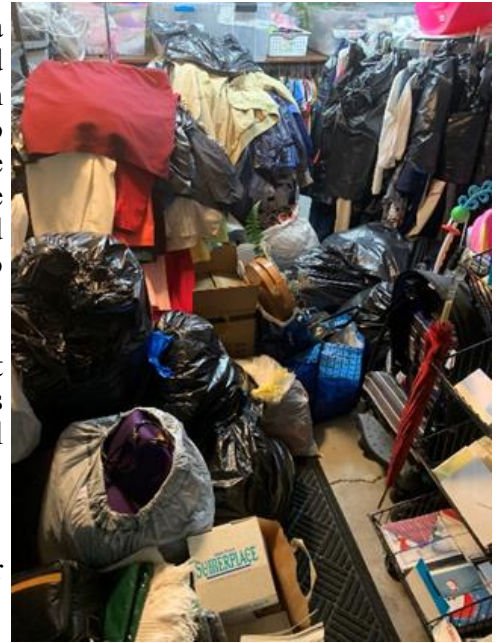
MATTHEW 25

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/



The Presbyterian Church Resale Shop has concluded a very good Christmas season, and we are looking forward to a new year with new opportunities to serve our Church and our community. While we have not been able to make monetary donations since our reorganization, we are pleased to share that \$77,000 was donated by the Presbyterian Resale Shop in 2023. With continued hard work and dedication from our volunteers we anticipate being able to resume donations soon.



In the meantime, we are continuously looking for causes that can benefit from items we receive but are unable to sell. If you are aware of groups that will accept strollers, play pens, electronics, garden implements, small furniture etc. please let us know.

We currently have about thirty-five active volunteers, but we need more! We are receiving large amounts of donations. On any given day our storage area is overflowing!

Please prayerfully consider donating some time each month to help us move our mission forward.

Mary Linda Scott
 Co-Moderator
 Presbyterian Church Resale Shop Management Team
nana6987@hotmail.com
 231-590-5799

WORSHIP FLOWER OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to donate worship flowers in honor/memory of a loved one or celebration, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office. **If you would like to have the flowers delivered to the church, please do so by noon the Friday prior to the Sunday service.** If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985. Thank you.

Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Feb. 4	Feb. 11
Feb. 18	Feb. 25	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

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

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

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

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

Please email screen announcements to Jeff Whitney at: jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org.

Thank you!

CALENDAR

Monday, January 1, 2024 - Happy New Year! - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
11:00 AM	Building and Grounds	154, 155
1:30 PM	Stewardship Team Meeting	154, 155
5:30 PM	Faith Formation Team	144, 145
6:30 PM	Worship Team	Online
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC

Thursday, January 4, 2024

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, January 5, 2024

Saturday, January 6, 2024

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CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
11:00 AM	Congregational Life Team	FPC, Online
3:00 PM	Ordination as Minister of Word	Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Celebration Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 8, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, January 9, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	PC Preschool Board Meeting (TBC)	154, 155
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	iEngage Team Meeting	Online
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Mission Team	Online
Wednesday, January 10, 2024		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
11:00 AM	Agenda Meeting (TBC)	FPC
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	Finance Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, January 11, 2024		
9:00 AM	MT Meeting	Friendship Room
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, January 12, 2024		
Saturday, January 13, 2024		
Sunday, January 14, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 15, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, January 16, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting	154, 155
Wednesday, January 17, 2024		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, January 18, 2024		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, January 19, 2024		
Saturday, January 20, 2024		

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CALENDAR

Sunday, January 21, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 22, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, January 23, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 24, 2024		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
12:30 PM	Parkinson's Support Group	Friendship Room
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	Session Meeting	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, January 25, 2024		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, January 26, 2024		
Saturday, January 27, 2024		
Sunday, January 28, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 29, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, January 30, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 31, 2024		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC

** on calendar denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, [fpcvalpo.org](https://www.fpcvalpo.org), FPC YouTube Channel:*

www.fpcvalpo.org/worship-livestream,

www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Za9RpS1LFHAmVd6XW_pTQ, or

www.facebook.com/1stPresChurchValpo

The church office will be closed through Monday, January 1, 2024, for the holidays as a way for the staff to enjoy their families. We will be available for any emergencies that arise during this time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 1 Rose Ross	January 15 Kennedy Thomas
January 3 Beverly Dudek	January 16 Jason Adams Judy Schumacher
January 5 Mary Brown	January 18 Brad Dirks
January 6 Matthew Byerly Judy Hollar	January 20 Stacey Buehler Ethan Luick
January 7 Sharon Harris	January 22 Olga Koch
January 9 Ruth Dickey	January 25 Lynsey Buehler
January 10 Todd Coffin	January 29 Bill Baltas Aubree Hughes Amy Press
January 11 Owen Crews Ginger Hedrick	January 31 Bob Sopata
January 12 Pat Lowe	

If we inadvertently missed your birthday, please contact the church office.



MINISTRY ROSTER

SEXTON

Open:	Mike Becker
Close:	Jim Hubbard

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

January 7	Matthew Byerly
January 21	Ron Phillips

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

January 14	Gina Peyton
January 28	Emily

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

January 7	Matthew Byerly
January 14	Michael McKee
January 21	Ron Phillips
January 28	Emily

USHERS SCHEDULE

January 7	Jason Adams David Goodwin Rose Ross
January 14	Kathy Joseph Jerry Kahrs Molly
January 21	Jim Gray Denise Walker Mike Walker
January 28	Jason Adams Ben Keller Madison Keller

COMMUNION SERVERS

January 7 10:00 a.m.	Matthew Byerly Jim Hubbard Kathy Joseph
Ordination 3:00 p.m.	TBD

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

January 7 10:00 a.m.	TBD
Ordination 3:00 p.m.	TBD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Sue Davis, Business Manager	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Trish Lawson, Director of Faith Formation	tlawson@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator.	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
John Stocks, Custodian	
Jeff Whitney, Director of Worship Music & Digital Technology	jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org
Julia Zhao, Associate Pastor in Residence	jzhao@fpcvalpo.org

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

Elders of Session

Ministry Team

Matthew Byerly.....	Worship Team iEngage**
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Adult Faith Formation**
Jerry Kahrs	Finance Building and Grounds**
Harry Karabel.....	iEngage Team Worship Team**
Linda Long.....	Mission
Elizabeth Monroe.....	Membership Team Nominating Team Stewardship Team**
Kathryne Penninga.....	Congregational Life** Mission ** Worship**
Ron Phillips.....	Adult Faith Formation Team Faith Formation Team**
Rose Ross.....	Congregational Life
Jeanne Turner.....	Stewardship Team Membership**
Chip Wilkes	Personnel Team** Finance Team**

* denotes Co-moderator

** denotes Elder Rep.

Building and Grounds Team

Vic Klancer, Moderator

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Beth Germann, Moderator

Personnel Team

Jim Hubbard, Moderator

Clerk of Session Pro Tem

Jim Hubbard

Planned Giving Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

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



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