

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

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

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



Above graphic from A Sanctified Art
LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**

For

**10:00 a.m. Worship
&**

**Lessons and Carols at
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary and
Streamed Online**

**(FPC FaceBook page, fpcvalpo.org,
FPC YouTube Channel)**

Communion will be served at 4 & 7 pm Worship.

All Are Welcome!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VALPARAISO
IS HOSTING A
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Thursday, December 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

This service is for people who may be experiencing a hard time during the holidays, and/or want to remember loved ones.

All are welcome!

GRATITUDE

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous monetary donation of \$677 to The Caring Place on 10/23/23. The Danen Kane concert was a special way for you to think of us! We truly appreciate your support of our mission; we simply would not exist without the amazing support of our community members provide day in and day out.

We work hard to be good stewards of your donations! Over the last year, we have built many new partnerships with agencies in NWI, most notably, with NWI Ivy Tech Campuses to expand our prevention and awareness programming and advocacy throughout both Lake and Porter Counties, and with Family Focus to provide free access to licensed clinical therapists for our shelter residents and their children in their new temporary home with us 5 days a week! We also formed the first Porter Co. Response Team in partnership with local law enforcement, health care, and the prosecutor's office. Forming powerful partnerships helps make our funding go further as we stretch to meet our community's needs.

We know you have so many great choices of nonprofits to support in this community; and we are humbled that you chose us. As a small, grassroots nonprofit, we couldn't do this vital work without our donors' ongoing dedication and commitment to our mission to provide safety and support to families in crisis. We are forever grateful for YOU!

Warm regards,

Denise

SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Bonnie Lang family upon the death of her husband, Doug Lang.

You make a difference.

**Thank you
for your continued
support.**



American Red Cross



BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
November 19, 2023**

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| Goal | = | 41 pints |
| Donors Registered | = | 46 |
| First-time Donors | = | 3 |
| Pints Collected | = | 46 |

Your support will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives!

One single blood donation can help save more than one life.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. Theme078_Sas005 | 2012/07 © 2012 The American National Red Cross | 07112AF295

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Certificate of Recognition

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In recognition of your commitment and dedication to the American Red Cross Premier Blood Partner Program. Your support is critical to our lifesaving mission. Each year we deliver nearly 6.4 million blood products to hospital patients—and we could not do it without you.

113 UNITS COLLECTED IN 2022

J. Chris Hrouda, President
Biomedical Services



American Red Cross
Premier Blood Partners Program



First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso has been named a Premier donor site for 2022 with a total of 113 units collected! That number is huge and the Red Cross is extremely grateful.

I would personally like to thank all of the volunteers from FPCV that donate their time during the Blood Drives!

In Christ's love,

Rose Ross, RN

We had a successful Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. The kids should be super proud of themselves for collecting so many non-perishables.

Our book fair was a big success. We earned back \$415 in free books and resources! Thank you to everyone who purchased.

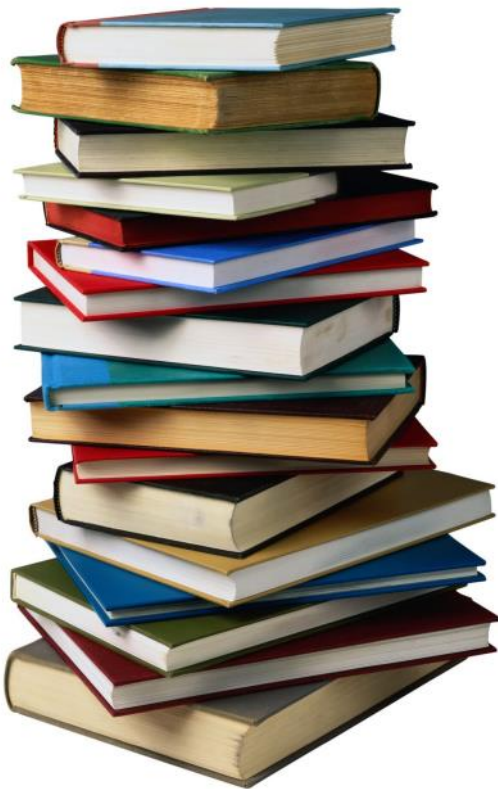
Looking forward to December we have our annual Cookie Walk and Christmas programs on Tuesday, Dec. 19 and Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. We enjoy teaching the students the story of the Nativity and the reason we celebrate Christmas.

We hope everyone has a fantastic holiday season.

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

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.

Dec. 10 Dec. 31

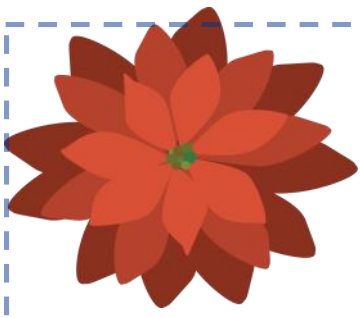
Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



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 \$16 per plant. Red and white options are available.

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

of Red Plants: _____

of White Plants: _____

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteers needed for PADS ministry. Please find the December and first week in January opportunities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| December 6 6-10 PM Shift 2-6 AM Dec. 7 | December 27 6:30 - 7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2-6 AM Dec. 28 Laundry - pick up and bring back to church by 1/4/24 |
| December 13 6:30-7:30 Intake 6 - 10 PM Shift 2-6 AM - Dec. 14 | January 3 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM January 4 |
| December 20 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 6-7 AM Thurs. Breakfast | |

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

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DECEMBER’S SECOND MILE OFFERING...

is being received for the Joy Offering Ministry.

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CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY

In October, two hundred fifteen (215) families were served providing food for five hundred eighty-seven (587) people. Macaroni salad kits were assembled and given out. Several turkeys were received from the St. Paul congregation. With the help of the Meijer *Simply Give* program, it was anticipated that turkeys would be available for the Thanksgiving dinner menu items. (Thank you, Mickey, for the deliveries!) As preparations for the holiday dinner items were made, the need for the everyday food items continues. Donations of the basics: cereal, tuna, spaghetti sauce (canned), soups (canned), fruits (canned), rice, pork 'n beans, mac 'n cheese, veggies (canned) are always welcomed and appreciated. Thankfully – with the help of our seven (7) sponsoring church congregations plus many individuals and businesses in our community, the pantry is able to continue assisting families in our community in need.

Thank you to all who help in an enormous number of ways.

Nan and Sharon

**COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED DURING
WORSHIP
on
Sunday, December 3, 2023
at 10:00 a.m. Worship**

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/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/)



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESALE SHOP

Two months after our grand re-opening, the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop is running smoothly...most of the time! We are working out the kinks that we expected and are coping with the ones we didn't expect. The good news is customers are enjoying our new look and are shopping with us and the community is supporting us with an abundance of donations. In other words, we are swamped and would love to welcome new volunteers from our congregation!

As we prepare for Christmas, we are honored to partner with and support Toys for Tots. Our window display shares our commitment to this cause; and we have a donation box in the shop. Please help us fill it.



Thanks to our Church family for your support. Please contact me for more information on how you can get involved with our mission. Together we can make a difference!

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

DEACONS DOINGS

As we ponder over the many wonders of the month of December, one question always pops up in my head...Why don't we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas? So, I went to one source, Google of course, and it said, "No one forces 'Happy Birthday' at Christmas when you have 'Joy to the World' or 'Silent Night' to sing instead. Plus, 'Happy Birthday' is so repetitive..." OK, I get that, I just did not want Jesus to feel left out on his birthday.

With that question being answered, I regress to realize that God is ageless, he was made before the world was, and we need to thank him for it---Now, and always. Through the hustle and bustle of December, please remember to embrace the awe of him, the love of him, and the importance of him throughout our personal and professional lives to ensure our gratefulness stays steadfast in our souls.

As this year comes to an end, a simple thank you to all of us seems appropriate because, well, what a year!!! We made it, simply because we chose to keep Jesus as our focus. So as we sing all of the beautiful Christmas songs together this holiday season, remember the meaning of his birthday, and the realization of unconditional and forgiving love given to all of us. What a gift.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Much love and many prayers,

Cindy Robinson

CALENDAR

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Friday, December 1, 2023 | | |
| Saturday, December 2, 2023 | | |
| Sunday, December 3, 2023 | | |
| 9:00 AM | Faith Formation Classes | CE Rooms |
| 10:00 AM | Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* | FPC, Online |
| 11:00 AM | Congregational Life Team | FPC, Online |
| 5:00 PM | Presbys | Offsite |
| Monday, December 4, 2023 | | |
| 6:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | | |
| 12:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| 12:00 PM | PWNS Board Meeting | 154, 155 |
| 1:30 PM | Bulletin Notes Meeting | Hospitality Center |
| 4:30 PM | Cub Scouts | FPC |
| 6:00 PM | Sweet Adelines | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | | |
| 10:00 AM | Wed. Morning Bible Study | 101 |
| 11:00 AM | Building and Grounds | 154, 155 |
| 5:00 PM | PCRS Celebration | Friendship Room |
| 7:00 PM | PADS | FPC |
| Thursday, December 7, 2023 | | |
| 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, December 8, 2023 | | |
| Saturday, December 9, 2023 | | |
| Sunday, December 10, 2023 | | |
| 9:00 AM | Faith Formation Classes | CE Rooms |
| 10:00 AM | Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* | FPC, Online |
| 6:00 PM | Presbys | Fellowship Hall |
| Monday, December 11, 2023 | | |
| 6:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | | |
| 12:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| 1:30 PM | Bulletin Notes Meeting | Hospitality Center |
| 4:30 PM | Cub Scouts | FPC |
| 6:00 PM | Sweet Adelines | Fellowship Hall |
| 6:30 PM | Planned Giving | 101 |
| Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | | |
| 10:00 AM | Wed. Morning Bible Study | 101 |
| 6:30 PM | Finance Team | 154, 155 |
| 7:00 PM | PADS | FPC |
| Thursday, December 14, 2023 | | |
| 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, December 15, 2023 | | |
| Saturday, December 16, 2023 | | |

continued on next page

CALENDAR

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday, December 17, 2023 | | |
| 9:00 AM | Faith Formation Classes | CE Rooms |
| 10:00 AM | Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* | FPC, Online |
| 6:00 PM | Presbys | Fellowship Hall |
| Monday, December 18, 2023 | | |
| 6:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| Tuesday, December 19, 2023 | | |
| 12:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| 1:30 PM | Bulletin Notes Meeting | Hospitality Center |
| 4:00 PM | PWNS Christmas Program | Sanctuary |
| 4:30 PM | Cub Scouts | FPC |
| 6:00 PM | Sweet Adelines | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, December 20, 2023 | | |
| 10:00 AM | Wed. Morning Bible Study | 101 |
| 4:00 PM | PWNS Christmas Program | Sanctuary |
| 7:00 PM | PADS | FPC |
| Thursday, December 21, 2023 | | |
| 10:00 AM | The Comfort Stitchers | 154, 155 |
| 5:00 PM | Handbell Choir | Chapel |
| 7:00 PM | Blue Christmas Worship | Sanctuary |
| Friday, December 22, 2023 | | |
| Saturday, December 23, 2023 | | |
| Sunday, December 24, 2023 | | |
| 9:00 AM | Faith Formation Classes | CE Rooms |
| 10:00 AM | Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* | FPC, Online |
| 4:00 PM | Christmas Eve Worship | Sanctuary |
| 7:00 PM | Christmas Eve Worship | |
| Monday, December 25, 2023 - Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed | | |
| Tuesday, December 26, 2023 - Church Office Closed | | |
| 12:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | 101 |
| 1:30 PM | Bulletin Notes Meeting | Hospitality Center |
| 4:30 PM | Cub Scouts | FPC |
| 6:00 PM | Sweet Adelines | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, December 27, 2023 - Church Office Closed | | |
| 10:00 AM | Wed. Morning Bible Study | 101 |
| 7:00 PM | PADS | FPC |
| Thursday, December 28, 2023 - Church Office Closed | | |
| 10:00 AM | The Comfort Stitchers | 154, 155 |
| Friday, December 29, 2023 - Church Office Closed | | |
| Saturday, December 30, 2023 | | |
| Sunday, December 31, 2023 | | |
| 9:00 AM | Faith Formation Classes | CE Rooms |
| 10:00 AM | Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* | FPC, Online |

*** on calendar denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, 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 from Monday, December 25, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024, for the Christmas and New Year's holiday as a way for the staff to enjoy their families. We will be available for any emergencies that arise during this time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1
Kathy Spitler

December 2
Andrew Adams
Susan Swarner

December 4
Paige Hughes

December 5
Audrey Rudzinski

December 6
Leanne Grant

December 8
Michael Byerly
Joan Johnston

December 10
Diana Richardson

December 12
Tim Reyna

December 13
Lindsay Giles

December 19
John Lawson

December 21
Pastor Nancy Becker

December 23
Ken Kukler

December 25
Lillian Bianco
Marc Buehler
Gavin Kukler
Jean Patton

December 30
Elizabeth Monroe

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

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 jwhitnev@fpcvalpo.org.

Thank you!



FINANCE TEAM NEWS

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023

Our collective generosity with gifts to the church continues to serve God and our neighbors:

- Our budgeted giving is on track with \$437,657 received to date. Budgeted expenses paid total \$419,082.
- We have received \$147,164 in designated giving for capital projects, 2nd Mile and other mission giving, tuition and gifts to our preschool, scholarships and other specific gifts. We have distributed \$188,047 plus \$60,201 in capital projects this year.
- So far, we have received \$227,602 in gifts to The Sharing Table Project which are invested as we prepare to name our priorities and begin special projects to implement our Sharing Table visions for the future.
- We can celebrate our rejuvenated Presbyterian Church Resale Shop and its volunteers for deposits of \$18,958 since it reopened September 11th!

– Linda Long, Treasurer

ONLINE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

FPC VALPARAISO ONLINE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Visit: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri76732/-/form/give/KLYBGIVCVH>
for FPC online giving.

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2023 PER CAPITA

This year, our per capita is \$43 per member. When we give to support *per capita*, we are saying, “Thank you for the gift of the Church.” We are working together, seeking the mind of Christ, working for justice and mercy in the world, and participating in God's continual reformation of the Church.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER

MINISTRY ROSTER

SEXTON

Open:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| December 3 | Rick Exley |
| December 10 | Rick Exley |
| December 17 | Rick Exley |
| December 24 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Rick Exley |
| 4:00 p.m. | TBD |
| 7:00 p.m. | Mike Becker |
| December 31 | Jim Hubbard |

Close:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| December 3 | Jim Hubbard |
| December 10 | Jim Hubbard |
| December 17 | Jim Hubbard |
| December 24 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Jim Hubbard |
| 4:00 p.m. | TBD |
| 7:00 p.m. | Mike Becker |
| December 31 | Jim Hubbard |

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| December 3 | Ron Phillips |
| December 17 | Ron Scott |
| December 31 | TBD |

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 10 | Cindy Robinson |
| December 24 | Cindy Robinson |

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|--|
| December 3 | Lawson Family |
| December 10 | Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Sharon Kinsey |
| December 17 | Comfort Stitchers: Pastor Nancy Becker |
| December 24 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Tues. Men's Bible Study: Mike Becker |
| 4:00 p.m. | Amy & Ryne Press Family |
| 7:00 p.m. | Andrea Phillips Family |

MINISTRY ROSTER, CONTINUED

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| December 3 | Ron Phillips |
| December 10 | Ron Scott |
| December 17 | Jeanne Turner |
| December 24 | Sharon Kinsey |
| December 31 | Presbys |

USHERS SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|--|
| December 3 | David Goodwin Rose Ross |
| December 10 | Jim Hubbard Sharon Hubbard Michael McKee |
| December 17 | Mary Brown Julie Fletcher Golding |
| December 24 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Connie Knauff Paul Knauff |
| December 31 | Amy Press Ryne Press |

COMMUNION SERVERS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| December 3 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Doug Hollar Judy Hollar Trish Lawson Ron Phillips |
| December 24 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Jim Gray Michael McKee Cindy Robinson Steve Scarborough |
| 7:00 p.m. | Isabel Gordon Jason Gordon Trish Lawson Ron Scott |

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 3 | Jim Peyton |
| December 24 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Cindy Robinson |
| 7:00 p.m. | Cindy Robinson |

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** |
| Harry Karabel..... | iEngage Team Worship Team** |
| Linda Long | Finance Team |
| Elizabeth Monroe | Membership Team Nominating Team** |
| Ron Phillips..... | Adult Spiritual Formation Team Faith Formation Team** |
| Ryne Press..... | Mission Team Matthew 25 Team** |
| Ron Scott..... | Personnel Team Nominating Team |
| Jeanne Turner | Stewardship Team |

* denotes Co-moderator

** denotes Elder Rep.

Building and Grounds Team

Vic Klancer

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Cindy Robinson, Moderator

Congregational Life Team

Debra Daugherty

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Planned Giving Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

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



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