

ABOVE ALL,

LOVE

1 Peter 4:8-11



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST CHESTER, PA**

ABOVE ALL, LOVE

2020 was quite a year. Few can remember a time when life and ministry were so challenging. Yet here we are—still together and able to review the year and envision the future.

2020 was a year of uncertainty. This was a year of a “perfect storm” of calamities: The deadliest pandemic in over a century; demonstrations in every major city demanding justice and fair treatment for all people; and the most divisive election in memorable history. Any of these three alone would be enough to knock us off-balance and off-track—and we had all three. Many of us spent the year huddled in our homes, afraid to go out or get close to our loved ones. Others used the “quarantine time” to plan for our future.

2020 was a year of transition. In the midst of this turmoil, you said goodbye to the Reverend Dr. Greg Stovell, your pastor for over nine years, ending his ministry through windshields and face masks. On October 1, the Session covenanted with me to become your Interim Pastor/Head of Staff. This covenant was predicated on the belief that during the interim period between installed pastors, there is a need for leadership, for maintenance of a healthy congregational life and for the development of short-range goals. It is also a prime time for renewal and for re-energizing the spiritual life of our congregation for its ministry and mission.

2020 was a year of accomplishment and growth. The good news is that, despite the countless challenges, things are going well, even beyond our expectations. We discovered new ways to worship, educate, and serve. Your Session rose to the challenge. Your deacons and other leaders stepped up to assist in caring for our church family. People have continued to come—although online—and continued to serve in innovative ways. I want to brag on our officers for a moment: they are a remarkable collection of highly-motivated and multi-talented leaders who have given selflessly and often sacrificially of their time and energies to serve this congregation and the God who calls us all. Thanks to their hard work, we are on track and on schedule for all the ministries and projects that, God-willing, 2021 has in store for us.

2021 is a year of hope. Medical advances promise cure and relief. There is hope that 2021 will allow us to take a breath, take our bearings, and put into practice some of what we’ve learned during the past 12 months. As God works in our midst while we prepare for your next “real” pastor, we can enjoy our time together. There is still far to go and much to do in order to prepare for what God is planning for this congregation. The year 2021 holds many challenges and opportunities for each of us as we continue to learn and grow. I thank each member of this congregation: thank you for this extraordinary opportunity to share in this portion of your adventure, thank you for entrusting the leadership of your church to an interim strategy that is no doubt different from what you have experienced in the past. You are a genuine people of faith, filled with Christian love, embodying to me and to each other the good news of Jesus Christ. Together for only these few months, we have made tremendous progress in the interim process and continue to grow into the “new creation” promised for those in Christ. My friends, the best is yet to come.

We’re All in this Together,
Bob Sheldon
Interim Pastor, Head of Staff



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PASSIONATE WORSHIP

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hosted a successful Arts Weekend in March which turned out to be the only art exhibition in the greater West Chester area in 2020

Organized 40 Tuesday Mini Concerts which provided performance opportunities to local musicians, WCU students and musically talented members and spiritual encouragement to the congregation

Presented a virtual Candlelight Christmas Concert which was viewed by an estimated 1,600 people from 24 states and four countries, featuring the Miner Street Brass, The Chancel and JuBellation Ringers, and vocal/instrumental soloists

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Developed a modified in-person worship pilot to allow a small group of people to attend services in the Sanctuary

Provided virtual worship for 9:00am and 10:42 services weekly

Upgraded the tech equipment to enhance the quality of the online worship services

Worked with staff to include important but irregular worship experiences online throughout the year, including a baptism, confirmation and Youth Sunday, Christmas concert, and Advent and Christmas Eve services

Purchased silk flower arrangements for the Sanctuary



RISK TAKING SERVICE



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Developed and implemented the Matthew 25 Lent Campaign to support people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity

Led the implementation and distribution of a COVID Matching Funds program to support people disproportionately affected by the economic toll of the pandemic

Created the Mission Endowment Fund for long-term support of non-recurring mission projects in partnership with the Finance Committee

Partnered with Friends Association and El Buen Samaritano to provide support to new immigrants and with the West Chester University Promise Program to assist individuals who have aged out of foster care with graduation grants.

Raised funds and established partnerships with local government agencies to fund a porch renovation project for Church Street Towers, which included the acquisition and assembly of furniture with assistance from FPC Youth

First Crew collected and distributed furniture for people experiencing homelessness in partnership with KACS (Kennett Area Community Services) and HACC (Housing Authority of Chester County)

Created an alternative approach to the annual Giving Tree program

THE AGAPE TEAM

Extended friendly calls, cards and notes to members experiencing grief, loneliness, and other needs, as part of our church's outreach

GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

Sent two church members to Villa Nueva to participate in the ordination and installation of Iglesia Getsemani's first woman pastor

Met with members of our sister church over Zoom to talk about the ways that the pandemic has affected our countries

Grieved the death of Dan Kohler, a beloved supporter of the partnership, and dedicated gifts in his honor to the medical mission work of our sister church

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Ministers companioned several church and community members who were facing difficult situations in their lives, with complete confidentiality being upheld in every aspect of this one-to-one listening ministry.

Engaged in continuing education using the "Journeying through Grief" book series and the Matthew 25 "Just Listening" podcast

Offered listening outreach to residents of the Denney Reyburn apartments



INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

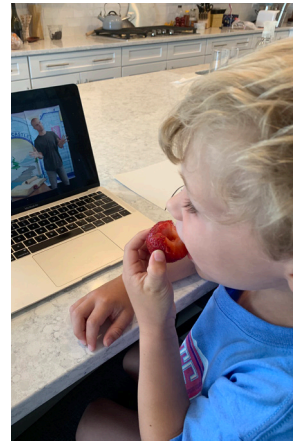
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Created the Matthew 25 podcast and led the church-wide book study of *Welcome Homeless*

Launched the Young Justice Builder's Club for elementary-aged kids to learn about the causes of and our faithful responses to injustice

Connected with over 50 families, within and outside First Pres, through the Digital Vacation Bible School program

Organized three anti-racism book studies and continue the learning through monthly anti-racism conversations



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Celebrated the life and service of one of our founders, Margaret Barnard Chalfant, with the planting and dedication of a flowering Hibiscus located in the front church garden

Honored women of the church who passed away in 2019 with the presentation of *The Rock*, *The Road*, and *The Rabbi* to our adult library and *The Most Magnificent Thing* to our preschool library

Continued supporting the organizations that Circles are committed to by providing monetary donations, meals, gift cards and other requested items

Led a music activity for residents at the Pocopson Home, and provided "friendship bag" for all residents

YOUTH MINISTRY

Served over 215 guests at our Annual Spaghetti Supper

Hosted our largest-ever Winter Refresh retreat at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center

Planned socially distant drop offs for yard signs and cupcake kits to students in our ministry

Coordinated a Drive-by Graduation celebration for seniors in our youth group

Hosted an outdoor fall retreat for students and two summer service weeks at the Melton Center

Built flower boxes and painted an exterior wall at the Melton Center in a new outdoor seating area



THE BUCKET SCHOOL

Conducted three-year-old and pre-k classes virtually from March-May

Offered weekly story times at the park, biweekly lessons, and material packets before reopening

Reopened with four classes on a modified schedule in November and December

Made it through thanks to the resilience and creativity of our wonderful staff



RADICAL HOSPITALITY

DEACONS

The Deacons maintained and adjusted their ministries of flower delivery for homebound members, marking graduations, and reaching out to those in our congregation who are in particular need

Reached out regularly to all of our elderly members who were particularly affected by the pandemic

Worked with others in the congregation to contact every church household for support and prayer

TRUSTEES

Refurbished the office entrance way and Herron Lounge with fresh paint to coordinate with Fellowship Hall, as well as installing LED lighting and having the carpet cleaned

Replaced the basement windows on the west and south side of the church building

A number of appliances were replaced in the basement and apartments at 122 West Miner Street

Vinyl fencing installed, pipes painted, and plants planted in and around the front of the church building

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP

Created a Helping Hands volunteer ministry to pair up volunteers and tasks (pen pals, gardening, grocery shopping, etc.)

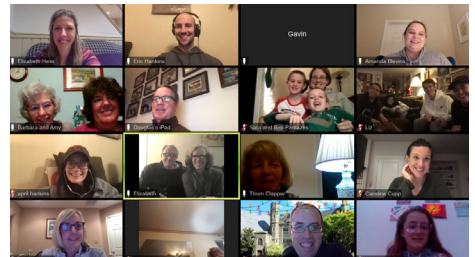
Staff put out a “Ministry in a Time of Covid” survey to all members to see how connected they were feeling and to help tailor upcoming ministry offerings

Church officers and Agape members made phone calls to all 611 FPC households to check in and say hello

First Porch initiative gathered small groups of FPC members to meet together for fellowship on porches and patios

Facilitated Thanksgiving Day fellowship Zoom meeting

Hosted Bingo Night with 25 players...played 15 games in 1 hour!



EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reported a modest surplus of income over expenses for 2019 and returned \$21,712 to Investments in January 2020

Studied the book *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri Nouwen to help guide our Stewardship program

Applied for and received PPP loan for \$130,500 (forgiven January 2021)

Secured property appraisals for the church's two rental properties. Session will begin exploring the future of these properties in 2021

INVESTMENTS

Mission Endowment Fund was created and ended the year with \$64,382

Total Investments on 12/31/2020 = \$1,652,293 with PPP proceeds bringing the total to about \$1,722,793 on 1/31/2021

PERSONNEL

Organized a celebration of Caroline's 5th anniversary at First Pres with a church-wide card shower and presented her with a gift basket filled with goodies for the entire Cupp family

Provided individual and collective support and guidance to our extraordinary church staff throughout the pandemic and Greg's departure

Worked with staff to adjust schedules and responsibilities allowing them to maintain a healthy work/life balance while the staff pivoted to a virtual experience away from the church office

Worked with the Finance Committee to secure a portion of the PPP loan to provide our staff members an end-of-year bonus



MEMBERSHIP

Membership as of Dec. 31, 2020

1065

New Members in 2020

Meg Bauer, Susan DeGeorge, Thomas DeGeorge, Carol Jerrehian, Diane Miles, Edward Miles, Trisha Minicozzi, Sissy Kinghorn, Brenda Smith

Reactivated Members in 2020

Bob Frame

New Confirmands in 2020

Audrey Beckman, Ella Bice, Pablo Ortiz, Mason Scheibe, Alison Westbrook.

Members who came off the membership roll due to transfer or were removed at their request

20

We lost 27 members due to death in 2020

Doris Cavin, Douglas L. Bracher, Vernon S. Brewer, Barbara B. Dickens, Kathy Flamm, William F. Foxx, William F. Gilchrist, Charles Gitzendanner, Mary Ann Gitzendanner, John R. Herman, Elizabeth Kalmbach, P. Richard Klein, Daniel T. Kohler, Russell LaVigne, Wanda LaVigne, Betty Limberger, Julie B. Mars, Rose N. Middleton, Mary Ann Morgan-Porter, Isaleen M. Montgomery, Daniel T. Ollice, John T. Ottinger, Winifred Powell, Gladys Singer, Bunni Stanley, Judy Wellons, Robert Wooldridge

Baptisms in 2020

Joseph H. Calderaro
Aleksander J. Wszalek

Marriage Ceremonies

Jeffrey Dale Andrew and Ashley Marie Cantasano
James Eldridge Stratton and Alexandra Rae Swank

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ONE-HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
**THE CONGREGATION AND
CORPORATION OF
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
WEST CHESTER, PA

JAN. 31, 2021
11:30 A.M.
WEST CHESTER, PA

**2020
FINANCIAL REPORT**

DOCKET

THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION 11:30 AM JANUARY 31, 2021

Call to Order of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Rev. Bob Sheldon, Moderator
Call to Order of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation	Cory Scheibe, President of Trustees
Opening Prayer	Rev. Caroline Cupp
Ministry Reports	
Financial Report 2020	
Presentation of the 2021 Budget	Elder Bob Smith
Approval of Terms of Call for Pastor	Elder Kathy Bird
Recognition of Retiring Officers	Elder Pete Galloway, Clerk of Session
Elders: Kathy Bird*, Amanda Blevins*, Nicki Bruton, Tracy Burke*, Beth Farcht*, Jim Serum, Kathleen Skomorucha	
Deacons: Denise Black, Nancy Ferdik*, Jean Frick*, Tracy Gruin, Peter Guman, Sandi Hambleton, Carolyn Hitchcock*, Connie Kohler*, Barbara Lade*, Gordon Leidy*, Judy Mackleer, Jacquie Rode*, Barbara Thompson	
Trustees: Glenn Burkland*, Diane Damadio, Greg Duke, Chris Menan, Steve Soulas, Jack Thompson	
Pastoral Transition Team Presentation	
Motion to Adjourn	
Closing Prayer	Rev. Bob Sheldon

* - Denotes reelection for officer terms of various lengths

FINANCIALS

INCOME	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUALS	2021 BUDGET
Pledge Income	\$910,537	\$887,820	\$917,655
Non-Pledge Income	\$155,122	\$147,768	\$145,510
Other Income	\$23,440	\$7,123	\$23,440
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$0	\$0	\$130,500
Preschool	\$7,000	\$7,006	\$7,000
Transfers from Investments	\$60,000	\$14,969	\$0
Des. Funds and Property Rentals	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Total	\$1,192,099	\$1,100,685	\$1,260,105
EXPENSES	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUALS	2021 BUDGET
Personnel	\$858,686	\$802,496	\$848,854
Programs	\$57,270	\$39,695	\$68,145
Administration	\$45,675	\$41,912	\$40,978
Comsys	\$19,960	\$21,574	\$20,880
Building and Grounds	\$86,091	\$75,720	\$86,331
Missions	\$124,418	\$119,289	\$124,418
Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$70,500
Total	\$1,192,099	\$1,100,685	1,260,105
INCOME VS EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0

2020 MISSIONS GIVING

Local Service & Outreach

Total Giving **\$44,000**

ACT in Faith	\$5,000
The Barn at Spring Brook Farm	\$1,000
Charles A. Melton Center	\$2,000
Church Street Towers	\$2,000
Domestic Violence Center	\$2,000
Friends Association	\$2,000
Good Works	\$2,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$2,000
Legal Aid of Southeastern PA	\$1,000
Meals on Wheels	\$2,000
Migrant Ministries	\$5,000
North Star	\$2,000
Opportunities Industrialization Ctr.	\$1,000
Safe Harbor	\$5,000
West Chester Food Cupboard	\$5,000
West Chester Sr. Center	\$5,000

National Service & Outreach

Total Giving **\$2,750**

Presbytery of Donegal	\$1,750
Naphtali	\$1,000

Global Service & Outreach/ PCUSA Missionaries

Total Giving **\$22,072**

Boyd (Congo)	\$2,000
Collins (East Central Africa)	\$2,000
Fujii (Thailand)	\$2,000
GA Unified	\$750
Getsemani Church	\$2,322
Hare (Haiti)	\$2,000
Harrar Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$3,000
Koball (Peru)	\$2,000
Lim (East Asia)	\$2,000
Smith (Argentina)	\$2,000
Sommers (Malawi)	\$2,000

PC(USA) Commitment

Total Giving **\$39,626**

Per Capita Apportionment	\$39,626
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Other Distributions

Total Giving **\$95,061**

Coronavirus Matching Gifts	\$60,158
Matthew 25 Gifts	\$34,903

Total Missions Support

\$203,509.00

INVESTMENTS

CASH

2019

2020

Vanguard MM

\$ 103,708

\$ 262,126

Treasury MM

\$ 290,288

\$ 292,652

Cash Subtotal

\$ 393,996

\$ 554,778

STOCKS

Vanguard Total Stock

\$ 810,728

\$ 1,033,133

Stocks Subtotal

\$ 810,728

\$ 1,033,133

BONDS

N/A

CD's

Janney Montgomery

\$ 180,000

\$ 0

CD Subtotal

\$ 180,000

\$ 0

MISC.

Matthew 25 Endowment

\$ 64,382

MISC. Subtotal

\$ 64,382

Total Assets

\$ 1,384,724

\$ 1,652,293

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Total Income

\$110,776

Balance Sheet / December / Rental Properties

Assets

Total Cash	\$98,903
Total Investments	\$1,659,937
Total Assets	\$1,758,840

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	N/A
Line of Credit	N/A
Permanent Fund	N/A
Total Memorial Gifts	N/A
Total Security Deposits	\$8,865
Total Liabilities	\$8,865

Fund Balance

Unrestricted	\$1,725,379
Current Yr. UFB	\$21,597
Total Fund Balance	\$1,746,976
Permanently Restricted Fund Bal.	---
Total Liabilities and Fund Bal.	\$1,755,851

PROPOSED TERMS OF CALL

Salary and Benefits	Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor
Salary	\$17,359
Housing	\$50,141
Total Effective salary	\$67,500
Soc. Sec. Replacement (7.65%)	\$5,164
Board of Pensions	\$5,737
Pension (11%)	\$1,012
Death and Disability (1%)	\$18,225
Hospitalization (25%)	\$532
Workers Comp	
Reimbursable expenses*	\$6,333
Totals	\$104,504

Additional Notes

*Reimbursable expenses total includes continuing education, travel, mileage and prof. expenses.

Interim Rev. Bob Sheldon is not an installed pastor at First Presbyterian Church. Therefore, his salary and benefits package are not voted on at the Congregational Meeting.

Our Biblical Story

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever.

Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11

Our Mission Statement

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God's grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Our Values

Radical Hospitality
Passionate Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Risk Taking Service
Extravagant Generosity



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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