

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn



**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
and Annual Report for 2023
February 11, 2024**



Our Mission Statement

We glorify Christ by being and making disciples who share God's love,
seek His truth, and serve His world.

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First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

February 11, 2024

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Establish Quorum and appoint Secretary

Report of the Clerk of Session

Roll of the Church Triumphant

Action Items

Approval of By-laws

Election of Nominating Committee 'at large' members

Report of Session Committees

Report of Board of Deacons

Meeting of the Corporation

Report of the Treasurer

Other Business

PNC Report

Adjourn with Prayer

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
Called Annual Congregational Meeting – Minutes
Sunday, February 12, 2023

The called annual meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn convened on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 11:18am in the sanctuary immediately following morning worship. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Jim Faile. Pastor Jim attested to a quorum.

Clerk of Session Reports

Minutes submitted

Jim Barber noted three (3) sets of minutes included in the Annual Report package.

ACTION: Call for a MOTION to approve 2-13-2022 Called Annual Congregational Meeting minutes, 7-10-2022 Special Congregational Meeting minutes (Bob Missler elected to Session), and 11-13-2022 Called Congregational Meeting minutes (PNC elected) as submitted.

MOVED by Sue Smith, seconded by Dave Young.

APPROVED

Necrology Report

Our active membership as of *January 1, 2022* was **338**.

Following are those who had passed to the Roll of the Church Triumphant during 2022:

Shirley Painter, Margaret Japel, Audrey Schmatz, Richard Fisher, Patricia Doyle, Vic Todor

Our active membership as of *December 31, 2022* was **332**.

ACTION ITEM

Election of Nominating Committee “at large” members

Pastor Jim accepted the following nominations for “AT LARGE” members for the Nominating Committee:
Bunny Barr, Laurie Gentinne, Rebecca Scott, Doug Stormzand

ACTION: Pastor Jim called for a motion to close nominations.

APPROVED

ACTION: MOTION to approve the nominees as presented.

APPROVED

Interim Pastor’s Report

Pastor Jim gave an overview of his report as submitted.

Session Committees Reports

Pastor Jim offered the opportunity for discussion of written reports of committees, groups, and staff as submitted.

There were no comments from the congregation.

Recess for Corporation Meeting

ACTION: MOTION to recess the Congregational Meeting for the purpose of holding the Corporation Meeting.

APPROVED

Joel DeHamer called the meeting to order, then stated that the sole item of business for the annual meeting of the corporation is to report that on January 17, 2023, the Session elected the following officers for the coming year:

Janet Witkowski, President

Joel DeHamer, Vice-President

Cathy Stormzand, Treasurer

Jim Barber, Secretary and Registered Agent

Joel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the corporation.

ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

APPROVED

Resumption of Congregational Meeting

Treasurer's Report- Cathy Stormzand

Cathy gave an overview of our financial and investment reports as submitted.

Pastor Jim called for any unfinished or new business.

Having heard none, he called for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

APPROVED

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Jim Faile.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32am

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Barber

First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
Called Congregational Meeting – Minutes
Election of Officers
Sunday, June 25, 2023

The called congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn convened at 11:00am on Sunday, June 25, 2023 after morning worship in the sanctuary. The meeting was called to elect officers of the church.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Jim Faile. A **quorum** was confirmed.

Pastor Jim called on Karen Fink, chair of the Nominating Committee, who read the following list of nominees which were approved by Session on 6-20-23:

Elders, class of 2026

Jeremy Hughes (2nd term)
Jane Mykytenko (2nd term)
Laura Thormann (2nd term)
Nancy Slanec (1st term)

Pastor Jim asked for nominations for elder from the floor; none were forthcoming.

Deacons, class of 2026

Fran Buckley (1st term)
Dorinda Hughes (2nd term)
Rebecca Scott (1st term)
Olimpia Todor (1st term)

Deacons, class of 2025

Dave Smith (1st term)... 2 years.

Pastor Jim asked for nominations for deacon from the floor; none were forthcoming.

Pastor Jim called for a vote to approve the slate of officers as presented.

ACTION: MOTION to approve. Moved by Sue Smith; 2nd by Carole Higgins.

APPROVED

Pastor Jim called for a motion to adjourn.

ACTION: MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Andrew Mayer; 2nd by Matt Higgins.

APPROVED

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jim at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Barber

Roll of the Church Triumphant – 2023

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

We celebrate the life and ministry of those who passed on to the Church Triumphant:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Marshall Dicks	January 26, 2023
James Shearer	January 28, 2023
Bill Kennedy	February 3, 2023
Mary Ellen Mitchell	February 9, 2023
Robert Dare	April 3, 2023
Richard Armstrong	April 20, 2023
John Matthews	May 26, 2023
Louis Orcutt	June 2, 2023
Sue Bosze	June 3, 2023
Margaret Aiello	June 21, 2023
Mary Ann Bassett	July 28, 2023
Jim Doyle	August 3, 2023
Mike Hoffman	August 23, 2023
Doris Matthews	October 31, 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn Membership Report as Of December 31, 2023

The following information indicates the condition of membership in our church as of December 31, 2023:

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023:	332
GAINS:	
By Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration	
A. 17 and under	0
B. 18 and over.....	0
Certificate (transferred in)	0
Restored to Active.....	0
TOTAL GAINS	0
LOSSES:	
Certificate (transferred out)	4
Death	14
Made Inactive.....	0
All Other Losses (removed from the rolls)	0
TOTAL LOSSES	18
Correction for non-member deaths incorrectly subtracted from membership count.....	+3
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023:.....	317

Baptisms: Adults – 0 Children – 2

Session Committees Reports

Christian Education Annual Report – 2023

Despite Covid19 being mostly a bad dream, we continue to see its effects on the church and its committees. There are individuals that still desire to stay out of large group situations or have chosen to make use of online viewing of worship. In doing so, they miss Adult Sunday School programs and may miss the many other committee opportunities discussed in worship or written in a bulletin. The committee has recognized communication to be a key and has done much in the past year to make certain all church members receive information on key events.

Fortunately, we have a very social and God focused membership, and the importance of church activities on spiritual growth, health, happiness, and welfare of the congregation continues to be impacting. To that end, the committee has strived to maintain and introduce exciting and meaningful events to help the church members and friends grow in their faith.

Our Nursery volunteers continue to host weekly newborns and toddlers. This allows parents of children to be a part of the sanctuary service and fellowship with attendees.

We continued the Summer Program “Holy COW“ (Carry-Out-Wednesday) that was begun in 2022. This was an event where families bring their own Carry Out dinners to the church, dine with others, enjoy dessert prepared by the CE Committee and interact in a Bible activity. Because it was well received and well attended, we are working on a program for the summer of 2024.

Of note:

- Sue Young stepped down as CE Chairperson and Laura Thormann has picked up that responsibility.
- In 2022 we paused Sunday School education for high school aged students. At that time, this was due to several high school students being enrolled in parochial high schools and receiving their Christian education on a daily basis. We have continued this pause due to a minimal number of high school aged children at the church. We continue to operate Youth Group activities for that age group and have included Middle Schoolers.

I now present to you the following actions of the 2023 Christian Education Committee.

Sunday morning classes were taught by:

Adults: Shereen Lind and Pastor Jim Faile

Children’s Church: Members of the CE Committee

Nursery: Pam Dickieson, Rachel Nikolajevs, Kim and Ivan Doverspike, Shereen Lind, Laura Thormann, Emily & Barrett Kaltz, Lynette & Bob Carlson

Confirmation Class (2023 sabbatical) : Jim Dickieson and Sue Young

Youth Group (Sunday afternoons): A joint effort by all members of the Education Committee

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study/Education Classes – Shereen Lind facilitated a second and third season of the contemporary book and video series from the popular television show titled The Chosen. Currently, the group is studying the third season of the Chosen where Jesus and the apostles feel the stress of their growing ministry, face greater resistance from Jewish and Roman authorities and deal with greater conflict between themselves, all threatening to undermine Jesus' ministry. The group continues to enjoy the topics and discussion opportunities which this class offers.

Coming in late February will be a class focused on the Book, “No Greater Love”. This will take the class on a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us.

Come be a part of the series each Sunday at 9 AM for a transformational experience in which you can grow, whether you are 18 or 80! As Christians, we are always growing. Please join us!

Additionally, Pastor Jim re-ran a 6-week class, “What it means to be Presbyterian”. This class met immediately following church. Chris Mayer offered a Wednesday Evening Bible Study. It was called Defiant Joy, by Stasi Eldredge. The purpose of the class was to teach us how to maintain a posture of "holy defiance" that neither denies nor diminishes our pain in life, but dares us to live with expectant, unwavering hope. This event included dinner, and a lively discussion with 10 women participating.

Finally, a Sub-Committee, related to Outreach and Mission, has been formed to consider how we as a church want to embrace The Matthew 25 Initiative. Each committee will be asked how they can support the three pillars of the initiative (*Building Congregational Vitality, *Dismantling Structural Racism, *Eradicating Systemic Poverty).

Confirmation Class – Several years ago, we began administering Confirmation Class every other year. Hence, 2023 was an off year. Past classes included students in the 7th and 8th grade. However, based upon feedback we have received from adult congregation members, we are considering opening up Confirmation Class to all congregants when classes resume in the fall of 2024.

Children's Church - For Children's Church, we are continuing the *ShareFaith* curriculum. This curriculum takes the children through the Bible stories in chronological order. The sessions are full of fun games, Bible stories come to life in videos and comic books, and question and answer sessions that really encourage our children to deeply understand these stories. The parents are given packets of activities that can be done at home with a QR code that leads them to a family devotional that connects to the curriculum. Different committee members teach each week.

Youth Group – With the annual change in youth comes change in youth desires. The past several years saw an active youth group with a good-sized core group. The 2022/2023 group chose a format that would meet twice a month. The first week of the month would include a chat on topics of interest. The third week of the month would be an activity. This group consisted of all high school seniors that have moved on to college or careers. In order to adjust to meet the needs of the current youth, we have included the new High Schoolers and opened up the group to Middle Schoolers. All members of the CE Committee have been matched in pairs and rotate on a monthly basis to facilitate activities.

Church Library – Rebecca and Jim Scott has taken on this role of Church Librarians. They have been diligent in logging all the library inventory. We have a website where church members can see what we have in the collection. It can be found at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FirstPresDearborn>. All books show that they are available as we do not yet have an online circulation system functioning; resource check-out is still a manual process. We have not yet completed the cataloging process for all library resources and hope to complete that process in the coming year. Finally, digital copies of the Self-Study document have been sent to all members who have requested it.

Book of the Every Other Month Club has been meeting without interruption for 34 years to discuss a variety of books, proposed by participants, from a Christian perspective. The 2022- 2023 program year concluded with discussions of *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson (a special recommendation from Pastor Jim) in March and *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks in May.

For the 2023-2024 program year, we chose our books with the Matthew 25 initiatives in mind, starting with *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle. Our January discussion of *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan (also a recommendation by Pastor Jim) was postponed due to weather. We will talk about it at our March 9 meeting along with *When Church Stops Working* by Andrew Root. We will finish the year at our May 11 meeting with *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. We will be selecting next year's books at our May 11 meeting, so if you have a book you would like to read and talk about with friends, please let us know. Suggestions are welcome, and so are additional readers!

Meetings take place the second Saturday of every other month from September through May. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be, please e-mail Janet Witkowski at janwit1978@gmail.com . All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted by James Dickieson, Christian Education Committee

Our 2023 committee members: James Dickieson, Barret Kaltz, Shereen Lind, Elissa Osborne, Laura Thormann, Emily Kaltz, Jim Scott, and Rebecca Scott.

Finance Committee Annual Report—2023

The Finance Committee meets monthly. It receives reports from the Endowment/Investment subcommittee. In addition, the Finance Committee receives a monthly Treasurer's report in which it reviews and analyzes the monthly financial statements of the church. The Committee's major purpose is to ensure the financial soundness of the church and to assure that adequate funds are available to support the Session's planned programs.

2023 Activity

Treasurer reported financial results to Session at least quarterly and upon request of the committee.

- During the year the committee sent financial updates to the congregation.
- The Endowment/Investment subcommittee is continuing to support our financial needs with over \$120,000 provided to the operating fund in 2023.
- Though pledges and offerings remained below pre-COVID levels, FPCD was able to realize a net surplus for 2023 of \$922 due to a one-time bequest of \$50,000 and use of some restricted gifts to cover certain qualified costs.
- The Committee has had a broader initiative to better align the financial reporting to industry practice, which should be realized in January 2024 with the conversion of the current ACS accounting system to the ACS Realm system. This upgrade will result in ongoing monthly savings of approximately \$400.
- The Committee recommended to Session that FPCD pay 2023 Per Capita of \$11,915. The Finance Committee thanks those congregants that provided Per Capita gifts of approximately \$2,500 to cover a portion of this cost. The Per Capita for 2024 is \$35.90 per member.

- Our congregation remains faithful in its giving. In addition to pledged giving, the congregation gave more than \$16,000 to other programs and missions in 2023. The most significant of those were: Worship and Arts Memorial \$6,230, Diaper Ministry \$1,875, Member Mission Fund (currently supports Greenman's ministry) \$1,600, Christmas Joy \$800, Touch of Hope \$1,975, and One Great Hour of Sharing \$1,955.
- The Committee also worked with the other committees to ensure fulfillment and usage of donor restricted gifts including approximately \$30,000 provided to various outreach and mission and ministry support.
- Karen Fuller, Business Administrator retired after four years of faithful service to FPCD. The Committee thanks Karen Fuller for her service and welcomes Amanda Rains as the new Business Administrator.

2024 Goals/Activities

We ask that the congregation offer their prayers to support our achievement of the following goals:

- Partner with Session and other committees to identify funding for future ministries (e.g. Matthew 25, Ministry to the unaffiliated, etc.)
- Monitor on-going costs and revenues. We welcome cost containment and cost reduction ideas from the congregation as well as potential revenue generation and will refer them to the appropriate committee and/or staff for follow-up
- Convert current accounting system to Realm resulting in monthly savings and refinement of the financial statement format to better align financial reporting to industry practice and improve usability
- Work with Session and committees to improve the budget process

The Finance Committee consists of the following members:

- Cathy Stormzand, Chair and Treasurer; Joel DeHamer; Jim Faile, Pastor; Jim Barber; Dan Kutt; Bob Putnam; Nancy Setterlun; Gene Smith; Karen Fuller; Amanda Rains; Charlie Aronson

The Endowment/Investment sub-committees consist of the following members:

- Gene Smith, Chair; Joel DeHamer; Dan Kutt; Bob Putnam

2023 Annual Report to Finance-Business Administration

It has been a pleasure to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn as the new Business Administrator, after Karen Fuller's retirement. My work has been heavily focused on making sure the church's financial operations and day to day business operations are carried out with care and with the best interest of the church in mind.

It has been a blessing working with the Finance Committee and my team members, and we are on our way to more effective day to day operations with our ACS software getting a new upgrade this year, creating fresh and new ideas for the future and getting acclimated with the church community.

I meet new members every day and if you stop by the church, please stop by my office to say hello!

-Amanda Rains
Business Administrator

Endowment Fund Report for Twelve Months Ending September 30, 2023

Purpose of the Fund

To serve as a depository for gifts and bequests to be invested from which the income and a portion of the appreciation will be used to continue, strengthen, expand, and enrich the mission, ministry, and work of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn, Michigan in particular and also its related presbytery, synod, boards, agencies, or other programs of the Church.

Financial Summary

As of September 30, 2023, the Church's Endowment Fund totaled \$3,204,603.00. This amount represents the market value of locally-controlled funds, \$2,793,599.00, with an original contribution of \$2,063,428.00. Included in the total Endowment Fund value, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation holds an investment account identified as the Murray D. Wilson Memorial Fund carried at the original investment of \$411,004. The Wilson Fund's income is provided to our Church; the principal is not under local control.

Financial Details

The information below represents significant portfolio transactions and data for 12 months ending September 30, 2023.

Endowment Funds transferred to church operating funds	\$142,824.00.
Gifts to Endowment Fund received (10/1/22 through 9/30/23)	\$154,700.00.
Locally controlled Funds value above the donors' original contributions	\$730,173.00

Asset Allocation of Portfolio:

Equity funds	61%
Bonds, bond funds, and notes	38%
Cash and money market accounts	1%

The Endowment Fund promises donors that the dollar value of their bequest/gift will be preserved for investment purposes so as to increase the Funds value and to allow the annual transfer of a portion of the Funds appreciation to the church's operating funds. The initial value of their bequest/gift will not be invaded. Locally-controlled funds are invested through Schwab and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundations New Covenant Funds. The Investment Sub-Committee reviews their performance quarterly and authorizes changes when and if advisable. For locally-controlled funds, the annual contribution to church operations equals 5-1/2% of average market value at the end of the three prior years, unless such payments would cause the Funds market value to fall below original cost resulting in the Sub-Committee authorizing a lower contribution. The Murray D. Wilson Memorial Fund contribution to operations is equal to income received. The Investment Sub-Committee thanks all those who have contributed to the Fund since its inception. Contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made in any amount by outright gift, memorial gift, bequest, charitable lead or remainder trust, appreciated securities, or the purchase of insurance naming the Endowment Fund of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn as beneficiary. The continued support of the membership is appreciated, as revenues from the Fund are clearly essential to the maintenance of the church's programs.

Respectfully submitted, Gene Smith, Chairperson

Sub-Committee Members: Joel DeHamer, Dan Kutt, and Bob Putnam

2023 Financial Summary and 2024 Approved Budget

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEARBORN 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENSE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2024 APPROVED BUDGET					
	Y/E	Annual			2024
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Variance	%	Budget
Offerings & Pledges	\$335,475.00	\$366,134.00	(\$30,659.00)	(8.4)	\$335,436.00
From Endowment	\$126,540.00	\$126,540.00	\$0.00	0.0	\$132,757.00
Undesignated Bequests	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00		
All Other	\$99,019.00	\$40,000.00	\$59,019.00	147.5	\$60,000.00
Total Income:	\$611,034.00	\$532,674.00	\$78,360.00	14.7	\$528,193.00
EXPENSE/DISBURSEMENTS:					
Finance Committee	\$94,780.00	\$79,829.00	(\$14,951.00) *	(18.7)	\$79,493.00
Property Committee	\$87,697.00	\$108,225.00	\$20,528.00	19.0	\$92,000.00
Christian Education	\$1,772.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,228.00	70.5	\$5,100.00
Outreach Committee	\$37,385.00	\$30,450.00	(\$6,935.00) *	(22.8)	\$27,450.00
Worship & Arts Committee	\$7,428.00	\$8,100.00	\$672.00	8.3	\$6,600.00
Deacon Committee	\$3,115.00	\$3,020.00	(\$95.00)	(3.1)	\$6,900.00
Personnel Committee	\$377,935.00	\$395,260.00	\$17,325.00	4.4	\$409,321.00
Total Expense/Disbursements:	\$610,112.00	\$630,884.00	\$20,772.00	3.3	\$626,864.00
\$ Surplus/(Deficit):	\$922.00	(\$98,210.00)			(\$98,671.00)
% Surplus/(Deficit):	0.2%	-18.4%			-18.7%

Note: Both Finance and Outreach Committee are shown with a "**". The amounts that exceeded budget were items that were approved by Session and covered by Restricted/Designated funds such as the purchase of the new printer/copier and blankets for those in need in Lebanon impacted by the Israel/Hamas war. In 2023 Offerings and Pledges remained below Pre-Covid giving, however, there was a \$50,000 one-time undesignated bequest and use of some restricted gifts to cover certain qualified costs resulting in a \$922 surplus. Like prior years, the Finance Committee and Session will monitor income and expenses on a monthly basis and will adjust as necessary to ensure that any net deficit for the year is nominal.

Outreach and Mission Annual Report – 2023

2023 Members: Jeremy Hughes (Chairperson), Joel DeHamer, Bob Missler, Doug Stormzand, Don Mys, Nancy Barber, Bill Leslie

The Outreach and Mission Committee (OMC) is pleased to report that the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn (FPCD) supported the following ministries through the Session-approved budget for a combined total of \$30,450: Alternatives for Girls (\$1,500), Dearborn Pastoral Counseling Center (\$2,000), Presbyterian Village (\$1,000), Ministry of Hope Malawi orphans in the Khawamba Feeding Center (\$2,550), Thailand Mission (\$1,000), World Mission Initiative (\$2,000), Medical Benevolence Foundation (\$2,500), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) (\$3,000), Outreach Foundation (\$1,000), Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (\$500), First Step (\$1,300), Cherry Hill Presbytery Church Food Bank \$2,250, Turk Mission – Madagascar (\$2,000), Second Mile (\$1,800), Starfish (\$1,300), Marion Medical Mission (\$1,500), Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (\$2,000), and local economic need (\$1,250).

Apart from the Outreach and Mission budget items listed above, the Committee used funds bequeathed to the church to make the following special donations: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (\$25,000), Cherry Hill Presbyterian Food Bank (\$1,000), Lebanese Pastor Fouad Antoun (\$3,400), Dearborn Goodfellows (\$500) and.....?

The congregation also gave generously to ministries not included in the Outreach and Mission budget which, nonetheless, constitute a mission outreach of the church itself. Among them were: Christmas Joy Offering (\$780), the One Great Hour of Sharing (\$1,955), and Touch of Hope (\$1,975). Finally, in addition to providing diapers and baby wipes (see the committee report below) the congregation donated (\$1,875) for the Diaper Ministry.

In addition, thank-you to the congregation for the many donations of time, talent, and treasure that are not quantified above but are well known to our Lord.

The following are the subcommittees of the OMC and their liaisons: Sue Ingram: Presbyterian Women; Lynn Campbell: Singles Outreach and Renewal (SOAR); Kevin Watts/Anne Witkowski: ChristNet; Charlene Reid/Tracie Szczechura: Diaper Ministry.

For 2024, the OMC has submitted a budget to support the same ministries as in 2023, for an overall budget total of \$27,450.

The OMC again plans on providing opportunities for members of FPCD to directly participate in outreach and mission activities. Please look for these activities in the church bulletin in 2023. Please prayerfully consider enhancing your support of our on-going ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. If you would like to learn more about the OMC, or if you are interested in joining this committee, please contact a committee member listed above.

Following are reports from subcommittees that report to the Outreach and Mission Committee.

SOAR (Singles Outreach and Renewal) 2023

SOAR provides fellowship and connections for spiritual growth and general fun for single adults from a variety of churches and people who are still seeking.

About 6-10 people attend Brunch on the first Sunday of each month. We also host a few other events such as Ice Sculptures in Plymouth, a 4th of July Fireworks party, summer concerts in the park, and a trip to the Apple orchard with hayride.

Our major outreach was assisting in the preparation and distribution of dinners to about 300 people on Thanksgiving Day. **SOAR** provided the turkeys, and we used the FPCD ovens to cook them. Volunteers from SOAR served on Thanksgiving Day.

The *Monthly Message*—my weekly blog—reaches about 155 people through email and about a dozen more via personal sharing. Together with 197 followers on Facebook and 1783 people in the *Meetup* online community, that's a lot of people who are reached by our Christian messages. Thank you for your support.

Lynn Campbell, Chair

ChristNet

The ChristNet ministry at FPCD in 2023 continued in a similar vein to the past few years in the COVID era. Although ChristNet Services has begun to bring some metro-area churches into the fold to resume hosting the overnight rotating shelter program, FPCD has not yet taken that step.

Given the substantial turnover in our congregation since we last hosted the overnight program in 2019, in fall 2023 we solicited input from the congregation to gauge interest and ability to resume hosting the overnight program. Although we received some positive feedback from several of our members, we could not confirm that we had the number of volunteers necessary to take on such a commitment at this time. To host a week-long overnight program requires at least 10-12 volunteers each night (including the six overnight shifts)—in addition to obtaining assistance with meal cooking, supply purchase/donations, etc. That appears to be a bridge too far at the moment.

However, as in 2021 and 2022, we were able to contribute to this important ministry—this time providing lunches for 45 guests at the ChristNet daytime facility on two occasions during the year. And we hope to explore new ways to contribute in 2024—possibly by teaming up with other churches for an overnight program, or by expanding the lunch preparation portion of the ministry.

The need for this ministry continues, as does the appetite and passion of a significant segment of the FPCD congregation for it. We remain eager to bring the ChristNet ministry forward in 2024 and beyond.

Kevin Watts and Anne Witkowski,
FPCD ChristNet Program Co-Coordinator

Diaper Ministry

The Diaper Ministry delivered 12,668 diapers and 10,800 baby wipes to Starfish and First Step in 2023. We held two dedicated drives, one in February and one in October. Our next boxed lunch diaper drive will be Sunday, March 17, 2024. However, we encourage you to bring diapers anytime to the Brides' Room at church. The need is ongoing and we deliver diapers whenever we have them or the funds to purchase them. We thank you for your continued support!

Charlene Reid and Tracie Szczechura, Co-Chairs

Personnel Committee Annual Report For 2023

This past year we have updated the job descriptions of several of the staff reflecting their actual jobs. This was done primarily by Dave Smith with committee approval.

We reapproved Pastor Jim's contract & it was sent to Session for their approval. Session approved his contract & Sue Smith contacted the Committee on Ministry regarding the contract renewal.

Running our tech booth requires both technical expertise and knowledge of our equipment and systems used to provide audio/visual support within the sanctuary and the YouTube livestream for our shut-ins and remote worshipers. Peter Adzema has left our employment to further his career. We thank Peter for his service to us. We will be hiring a new tech with the assistance of Brian Mayer to replace Peter.

Karen Fuller retired at the end of September. We hired Amanda Rains as the new Business Administrator & she started in October. Karen Fuller was gracious enough to stay & help train Amanda.

Staff evaluations were done by Pastor Jim. The evaluation of Pastor Jim was done by the Personnel Committee. Pastor Jim's evaluation was forwarded to Session who approved his evaluation.

Christmas bonuses were paid to all staff members. A salary increase was approved for all staff except Amanda Rains who had just been hired.

The church is fortunate to have such a competent and dedicated staff. We are grateful to each member of our team for all they do.

With the retirement of Pastor Jim Faile at the end of the year the committee has been busy working with the Committee on Ministry (COM) finding a Stated Supply pastor who will act as Head of Staff until a new pastor is hired. Until we find a Stated Supply pastor, we will fill the pulpit with supply pastors.

This committee has worked hard this past year. I thank them all for their hard work & dedication to the committee.

Members of the committee are Karen Fink, Matt Higgins, Dave Smith, and Janet Witkowski. Pastor Jim Faile also attends the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith
Chair, Personnel Committee

Property Committee Annual Report – 2023

The Property Committee is comprised of two members, Bob Missler (Chairman) and Bob Carlson. Below is a summary of some of the larger projects completed in 2023.

1. Dismantled 2022 Christmas tree.
2. Dismantled 2022 Nativity Scene.
3. Removed damaged fence between garage and church.
4. Removed orange fencing at the end of the south parking lot and added posts with reflectors between existing posts to prevent cars from driving on the field.
5. Cleaned Narthex windows and doors.
6. Installed light timers for Mitchell Hall and Narthex entrances.
7. Installed LED bulbs in all the EXIT signs and installed adaptors so all the EXIT signs use the same type of bulbs.
8. Installed 100 watt LED bulbs in the parking lot lights.
9. Trimmed many trees around the property.
10. Straightened garage and discarded junk.
11. Erected 2023 Christmas tree.
12. Erected 2023 Nativity Scene.

Music Ministry and Worship & Arts – 2023

Our Music Ministry is strong, dedicated to God, and delighted to have completed our second year post-COVID.

Christmas 2023 saw six major musical gifts offered to our church and community under the leadership of Jane Mykytenko, Chairman of Worship and Arts, and Brenda Ferguson, Director of Music.

1. NOEL NIGHT, December 3, was a spectacular success in Mitchell Hall with 96 people for sit-down dinner enjoying great food and Christmas entertainment. Our Bells of Heaven played to welcome all our guests, followed by Marie Shearer as “Belle” singing and speaking in authentic costume. Our Sanctuary Choir led in Christmas carols, with an outstanding cabaret show of “Christmas Hats”. This was our first Noel Night since 2019, when 50 members of our church family presented SCROOGE for two evenings, pre-COVID. Thank you to all who volunteered with clean up afterwards!
2. Sunday, December 10, “the Mystery and the Majesty”, a Christmas Cantata by Joseph Martin, was presented for 10:00 am worship by Sanctuary Choir and Youth Music. In full costume with solos and choir, we filled the sanctuary with our music, retelling the story of Christ’s birth. Thanks to Beckie Dicks for adding her lovely flute musicianship, and youth Lorelei Bryson (Mother Mary) and Isabel Thormann (Child) for singing solos, assisted by actors Lydia and Luke Thormann, and Marie Shearer as Angel Gabriel. Our congregation added Christmas carols and lots of appreciation!
3. Wednesday, December 13 @ Noon, “Angels Organ Meditation” was given by Brenda, featuring our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ in concert. Thirty-six people gathered in our sanctuary to hear Vierne “Carillon d’Westminster”, “Six Sparkling Christmas Carols” arranged by Diane Bish, and a scriptural discussion of the attributes of angels. Homemade angel cookies were given to anonymous angels present that day.

4. Sunday, December 17 @ 3:00 pm in our sanctuary, MELODIA gave the most professional Christmas Concert to raise funds for our Dearborn Symphony. Catherine Dicks, Elizabeth Dicks, Geoffrey Dicks, Alexandra Slanec, and Heather Slanec performed for one and a half hours to a most appreciative audience, giving them a standing ovation. In glorious red and white gowns, and one really nattily dressed guy, these sensitive and exciting vocalists gave the most memorable gift of music. Assisting were Beckie Dicks on flute and Brenda Ferguson with piano accompaniment. Thank you, MELODIA!

5. Thursday, December 21, @ 5:00 pm, “Angels Aware!” delighted our audience with a Youth Music musical - all angels! This very dedicated group of musicians had a 100% attendance throughout September-December. Lorelei Bryson, Isabel Thormann, Lydia Thormann, Izzy Watts, and our little angels, Xavier Benson, Joey Campbell, and Aaliyah Mooney, told the story of Jesus’ birth from the perspective of angels in heaven. Special thanks to our parents and Mary Currie, Marie Shearer, Alexandra Slanec, Carole and Matt Higgins for super leadership!

6. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 9:00 pm was a double gift of our Music Ministry. The evening music was beautifully given by MELODIA and our Sanctuary Choir, with organ. The morning service was a musical gift of Marie Shearer, soprano Cantor. We are blessed with our Music Ministry, all volunteers. Thank you!

Earlier in 2023, Andrew Mayer offered a stunning tenor solo on Maundy Thursday. His gift was Jesus pleading with His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, from Beethoven’s “Mount of Olives”. Our Sanctuary Choir added glorious music on Easter Sunday from the same Beethoven work, “Hallelujah!”

Volunteer Cantors led worship throughout the summer months with their individual talents, rehearsing separately during the week. These are gifted musicians, giving from their love for God and this church. We are blessed!

Sanctuary Choir
Bells of Heaven
Youth Music
Cantors
Organ Meditations

Soli Deo Gloria!
Brenda Ferguson, Organist/ Director of Music

Deacon Annual Report 2023

The Deacon Board is comprised of thirteen dedicated Christians who serve our congregation in the name of Jesus Christ by providing services, support, and loving care for those in need on an ongoing basis.

The Deacons meet monthly to review the progress of the designated Ministries and Support Services for the previous month and pray for the guidance in sharing God’s love and serving His world.

The following Ministries and Support Services describe the responsibilities undertaken by the Deacon Board of First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn.

Ministries

Card Making	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Cards Sent to Homebound	Coordinator, Nancy Barber
Cards Sent for Special Occasions	Coordinator, Nancy Barber
Grief Support	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Mat Making for the Homeless	Coordinator, Charlie Aronson
Parish Nurse Health Concerns	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Phone Calls	Coordinator, Carol McFadden
Touch of Hope	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Visitation	Coordinator, Dave Smith
White Rose	Coordinator, Dorinda Hughes

Support Services

Communion Prep for Church	Coordinator, Jan Smith
Communion Service for Homebound	Coordinator, Olimpia Todor
Funeral and Memorial Meal Service	Coordinator, Nancy Barber
Getting to Know You Luncheon	Coordinator, Chris Mayer
Meals Requested and Delivered	Coordinator, Bud Cashwell
Meal Train Delivery	Coordinator, Lynn Campbell
Special Needs	Coordinator, Dorinda Hughes
Transportation	Coordinator, Bud Cashwell

In addition to the Ministries and Support Services provided, designated Deacons also attend Committee Meetings as representatives of the Deacon Board. Below are the various committees attended and their representatives.

Christian Education	<u>Committee Representatives</u> Representative, Rebecca Scott
Finance	Representative, Nancy Barber
Nominating	Representative, Carol McFadden
Outreach and Mission	Representative, Nancy Barber
Personnel	Representative, Dorinda Hughes
Property	Representative, Matt Higgins
Session	Representative, Charlie Aronson
Worship and Arts	Representative, Fran Buckley

Deacon Services by the Numbers for 2022-2023

Card Making	(220) cards were handmade
Cards Sent to the Homebound	(281) were sent
Cards Sent for Special Occasions	(227) were sent
Mat Making for the Homeless	(15) mats made by the community
Phone Calls	(659) calls were made
Touch of Hope	(8) families were provided support
Visitation	(121) visits were made
White Rose	(1) rose was provided
Communion Prep for Church	(10) church communions prepared
Communion Prep for Homebound	(2) communions served to HB
Funeral and Memorial Meals	(4) meals were provided

Meal Train for Special Needs	(0)
Meals Requested and Delivered	(11) meals were provided
Special Needs	(6) special needs were provided
Transportation	(20) rides were provided

Parish Nurse Health Ministry

The Health Ministry continues to be a vital part of our church’s ministry to our members, as well as others in the community. As the Parish Nurse, most of my work is done through advocacy and supporting via phone calls or texts, cards, and in-person visits. With each person and/or family I minister to, there is a focus on the individual needs of the person and /or family.

2023 was a particularly difficult year for our church family, as we had 10+ deaths. Loss through death is a normal part of life, but when it occurs that frequently, there is a compounded effect and it was palpable, as we are a close congregation. Assisting people through grief and beyond is a specific focus at our church. I held 2, 13-week GriefShare courses, one at the beginning of last year and one at the end. In addition, the church sponsors, with the help of New Hope Center for Grief Support, “Starting Again”, an ongoing peer to peer program that meets 2 times per month, to provide for people who have lost spouses. This group works to support people through the first year to year and a help after their loss, and is divided into 3 groups, one for “Early Grief”, “Transitions” and “Moving Forward”. Our attendance is consistently between 7-10 people. They are looking for others to help with providing ongoing support. If interested, you can let me know and I’ll connect you with New Hope.

Our Card Ministry, called “First’s Impressions” continues to support our Homebound/Special Care members with handmade cards. We have a group of 7-10 dedicated people who meet most months, to make cards for the Deacon’s to send out. We send 30 + cards, 6-7 times per year, to remind them that we are thinking of them. It is a delightful opportunity to fellowship with a purpose. We currently meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 1-2:30 pm. If you would like to join us, all are welcome! You can contact Chris Mayer at 313-575-5853 or Jan Cobb at 248-838-8279

Supporting and building each other up is an important part of our church dynamic. To that end, one of the activities we started after we began meeting again in person, after the Pandemic, is “Family Lunch”. With the help of a few of our church members, and the Deacon Board, we provide a complementary lunch after worship on the second Sunday of each month. If there are other groups/people that desire to plan and prepare a meal once month, please let me know (313-575-5853)! We will provide the budgeted amount of money, you shop and prepare the meal, and a few of the Deacon’s will help with cleanup.

I am praying that 2024 will be filled with many new opportunities to interact together and serve the needs of our church members and community. If you have any ideas about ways to enhance the Health Ministry or ideas/topics you would like to have more information about, please let me know.

In Christ’s Service,

Chris Mayer, BSN, Parish Nurse

Treasure Chest Annual Report-2023

The Treasure Chest Resale Shop continued its mission of providing support to those in need, as well as provide fellowship and a common mission to members of the congregation. With the assistance of congregational donations, the Treasure Chest raised close to \$10,000 this past year. \$1,000 was donated to the choir for their Christmas service dinner and to remunerate soloists. Additional donations of goods were given to the Touch of Hope families and Second Mile.

Advertising through pictures of available merchandise on websites such as Next Door and Facebook brought in many new customers and increased revenue. This will continue to be an area of development in 2024 as it has proven effective.

A new need was filled this year. Funeral homes need nicer clothes for burials. The Treasure Chest has a bargain rack of clothes that have not sold for several years but are still of excellent quality. One shopper shared with us that her mother was in a nursing home for a long time and no longer had a good suit or dress. She purchased several outfits for the funeral home to choose. The funeral home asked to keep the remaining outfits as they service a low-income area and this was a frequent challenge.

Many thanks to the volunteers who work week after week to deliver results that allow the Treasure Chest to purchase large items like the electronic marquee in 2022. These 15 volunteers offer their time and care to all our visitors and are truly a blessing to those in need in our community.

Karen Fink

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Annual Report—2023

The PNC was formed and had Orientation with our COM representative, Reverend Jacqueline Spycher, on January 24, 2023. There are seven members on the PNC: Kim Doverspike (Co-Chair), Cathy Stormzand (Co-Chair), Nancy Slanec (Secretary), Anne Witkowski (Internet Communicator), Robert Carlson, Matthew Higgins, and Jeremy Hughes. The PNC meets at least weekly. The PNC provides monthly updates to Session and periodic updates to the congregation. The PNC maintains a PNC Call Process Board that is in the Narthex to provide easy high-level status for church members to view.

2023 Activities/Accomplishments

- PNC promptly reviewed the orientation materials and began work on the first significant task, the Ministry Information Form (MIF). The MIF serves as the job posting in the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), which is the Presbytery's on-line recruiting system. The Committee also established an email for Committee communications pncfirstpresdearborn@gmail.com
- PNC met with the Personnel Committee and solicited input on the Sr. Pastor's compensation and roles/responsibilities. The PNC also heavily leveraged the FPCD Self-Study that Session approved August 2022, in completion of the MIF.
- PNC completed the MIF and obtained Session and Presbytery COM approval to post our MIF to the CLC by the first week in May, however, the PNC was informed at that time that the CLC was going to be upgraded in June. Therefore, the posting would be delayed until the new system was active and a new posting form would be required. PNC team members were required to self-train on the new system once it was available.

- Given the delay in posting our position in the new system, the PNC requested and received approval to post the original MIF in the old system to at least begin reviewing some potential candidates.
- The PNC received the new form, Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), in June and promptly completed it, provided it to Session for review on 6/20/23 and then to the CLC for posting. The CLC completed posting of the MDP in July.
- Since July when our MDP was posted to the CLC, the PNC has been hard at work and has considered more than 100 candidates including review of their profile and on-line sermons, etc.
- Currently the PNC has four candidates in Discernment, which means the candidate either applied for the role or accepted our invitation to apply. All four candidates have had at least one interview with the PNC, including meeting a few of them in person.

The PNC appreciates all the prayers and support from Session and the congregation. Please continue to keep the Call for our next pastor and the PNC in prayer. God is faithful. Even though we don't know who it is yet, we're excited about who God is calling to be our next Sr. Pastor at FPCD.