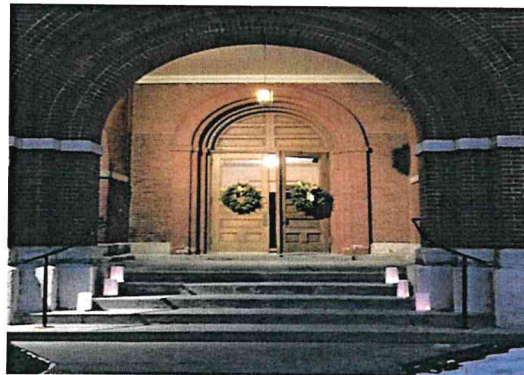
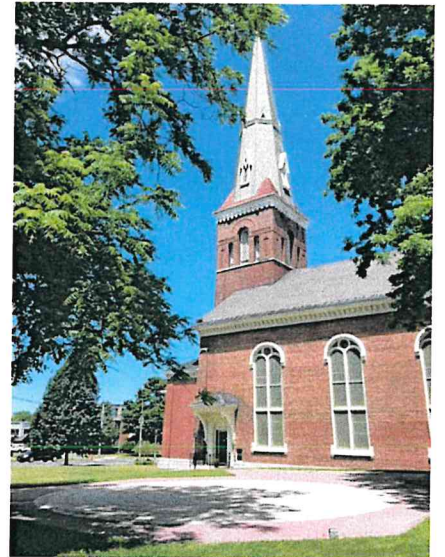
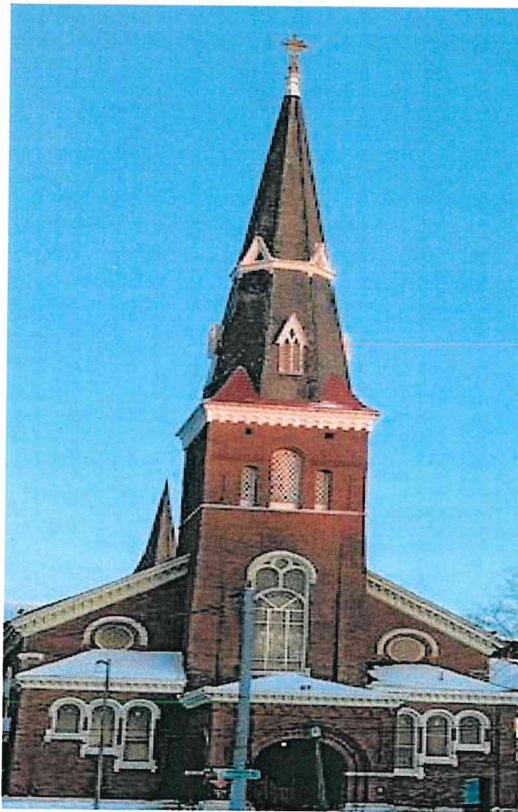


THE ANNUAL MEETINGS AND REPORTS of The First Presbyterian Church

2020



**THE 218th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CONGREGATION OF**

The First Presbyterian Church
Watertown, New York

February 7, 2021

AGENDA

Call to Order with Prayer

Reading of the Minutes

New Beginnings Report

Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Pastor's Report

Written Reports

Corporate Meeting

Financial Reports

Presentation of the 2020 Budget

Presentation of the Slate (Deacons, Elders, Nominating Committee)

Adjournment with Prayer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I	
From the Pastor	Page 1
New Beginnings Steering Committee	Page 2
Pastor Nominating Committee	Page 3
Part II	
Statistics	
Attendance	Page 4
Membership	Page 4
Necrology	Page 5
New Members, Baptisms, Weddings	Page 5
Financial	
Financial Summary	Page 6
Year End 2020 and Budget 2021	Page 7, 8, 9
Endowment	Page 10, 11, 12
Part III	
Boards	
Session Committees	
Stewardship	Page 13
Membership & Discipleship	Page 14
Evangelism & Community Presence	Page 15
Facilities	Page 16
Worship & Music	Page 17
Christian Education	Page 18
Outreach & Mission	Page 19, 20
Women of Grace Widows' Fund	Page 21
MELT - Malawi Early Literacy Team	Page 22
Malawi Shallow Well Report	Page 23
Personnel	Page 24
Board of Deacons	Page 25
Presbyterian Women	
Board Report	Page 26
Financial Report	Page 27
Part IV	
Ministries	
Radio	Page 28
Parish Outreach Coordinator	Page 29
Part V	
Minutes	Page 30, 31
Nominating Report	Page 32
A Colorful View of First Pres. in 2020	Page 33

FROM THE PASTOR

Recently I was teasing a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee, aka the Leonard replacement committee, as to what my legacy would be. (I hasten to add I am supposed to be replaced - my role is to get you ready for your next pastor!) Much to my disappointment, it was not, he shepherded a successful New Beginnings Process, or he showed us another way of being a pastor. Instead, she said I would be forever known as the "covid pastor". Sadly Liz Bonisteel was right. Coping with this global pandemic has put an indelible mark on my time here and especially so this last year.

I am pleased with how well we have muddled through. I remember taking a pencil and a blank piece of paper and drafting the questions we would ask on our entrance sign-in sheets. None of us had any preparation for this! Nevertheless, worship continued, missions such as our Prayer Wall and funding for the Urban Mission, among other things, remained consistent. We also managed to offer some programming and remained focused on our New Beginnings process, and even started a Pastor Nominating Committee.

2020 was covid, covid, covid, yet we remained an outpost of God's grace!

All that would not have happened were it not for members of the congregation stepping up and doing more than they had in the past. In particular, I want to name Dave Elmer because describing some of what he did and how he and I worked together will help me make a point. Dave worked hard figuring out how to do some new things, but mostly how to do the same old things in a different way. This may surprise you, but there was more than one occasion when Dave and I had to apologize to each other and ask for forgiveness. What made that possible besides simple regard for each other was the constant awareness that what we were doing (worship and Zoom technology) really mattered. There were many others in this congregation that knew that maintaining the ministry here mattered. You know who you are. Thank you!

Finally, I want to tell you what the best and most hopeful thing that happened at the church in 2020. Recently, we have begun distributing hats, scarves, and mittens from the front steps of the church. Of course, it is a necessary and wonderful thing to do. Here is how it came about: Towards the end of a regular Deacon's meeting, someone wondered aloud about if we were still doing a mitten tree this year. Because foot traffic in the Fellowship Hall has been reduced by, say, 95%, our regular way of gathering hats, scarves, and mittens for distribution was unavailable to us. What happened next was in less than (15) minutes, the plan to put them outside for the taking was created. A dozen or so detailed decisions were made in seconds. It was the best (15) minutes of 2020. In my (21) months here I have participated in meeting after meeting where we worried something to death. That Deacon's meeting, I witnessed a new form of ministry being created in minutes, without a vote or even the approval of the Session.

It is clear to me that in 2020 you became more capable of doing ministry. I am grateful to be sharing part of your journey.

Faithfully,
Pastor Leonard

NEW BEGINNINGS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Session approved the formation of the New Beginnings Steering Committee in November 2019 as a continuation of the process of self-assessment that began with cottage meetings held that summer and fall. Over one hundred members and friends of the congregation participated in those discussions, and the consensus was a desire to move toward becoming a discipleship-focused church. The committee was tasked with carrying out the logistics of that process. Meetings were held throughout 2020 to research and understand our church and community, and to discern the necessary steps to take to become a more vibrant congregation. Three themes emerged quite clearly: the need for discipleship with faith, a desire for worship with participation, and a goal of mission with relationship.

In October the steering committee presented initiatives to the Session regarding all three themes:

- 1) To develop a new series of cottage meetings designed to nurture our faith and support a foundation for living as disciples.
- 2) To broaden participation in worship, and specifically to create a pilot for an additional, alternative, version of our traditional worship service.
- 3) To create a short-term opportunity to welcome the community through an activity or event in the church building or on the grounds, and to begin planning for a connection with the community through an on-going activity based at the church when access is appropriate.

The Session continues to guide implementation of the initiatives using the resources of existing committees and boards, while the Steering Committee will meet at least quarterly and will provide support and share additional recommendations to those committees and boards as they put these ideas into action.

Melissa Elmer and Beth Linderman, Co-chairs

Malachi Adkins

Bob Gorman

Heather White

Liz Bonisteel

Matt Gorman

Mitch Farney

Christina MacDonald

Thanks also to Bob and Polly Blank, Donna Dayger and Peter Schmitt for their involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Linderman, Co-chair

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) tasked with identifying our new pastor for First Presbyterian was formed in mid October of 2020. The following individuals comprise the committee:

Liz Bonisteel
David Elmer
Michele Bariteau
Matt Gorman
Kevin Kieff
Bob Kimball
Kathryn Ann Kolton
Ann Van Slyke

David Elmer and Liz Bonisteel volunteered to co-chair the committee and Michele Bariteau volunteered to be our recording secretary. Our first meeting took place on October 15 and involved a preview of the process with our Resource Presbyter, Rev David Bennett.

The initial task of the committee was to complete a Ministry Information Form (MIF), which is a standard form that is used to provide a description of the characteristics that we are seeking in our next pastor. In effect, this is our job description. We were required to select ten desired characteristics from a list of 33 options. We then answered 5 narrative questions which allowed us to both describe our congregation and further clarify what we are looking for in our pastor. We have been meeting approximately weekly for the past two months with a mix of in-person and on-line attendance. We have relied heavily on the insights gained from our New Beginnings experience to guide us in this process. As a group we also have well over 100 years of personal experience in this church. At the time of this writing (1/24/21) we are finalizing the MIF. It now must be reviewed by our Resource Presbyter and our Session, and then approved by the Committee on Ministry of the presbytery.

The next step is to submit our completed MIF to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) which is an electronic database which will identify pastor candidates who seem to match the desired characteristics for our position. We will then start the process of reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIFs) of these candidates to narrow our search. Your PNC hopes to have a reasonable number of candidates to review and discuss within the next two to three months. I anticipate some lively discussions as we try to select the most appropriate individuals for interviews.

This process is open ended, and none of us know how long it will take to identify the individual that we will call as our next pastor. If we are truly blessed, we may be able to report a successful search and the dissolution of the PNC for next year's annual report. But we know that there are many possible reasons for delay. We will continue to open each meeting with prayers seeking guidance, and close each meeting with prayers of thanksgiving and hope. We rely on the congregation for their prayerful support.

Submitted on behalf of your PNC,

Bob Kimball

ATTENDANCE

	Total Attendance	# of Services	Weekly Average	Sundays with more than 200	Sundays with less than 150
2020	1225	18	68	0	18*
2019	5594	51	110	1	49
2018	5944	52	114	1	49
2017	6413	54	119	1	51
2016	6957	53	131	1	47
2015	6939	53	131	1	46
2014	6838	53	129	1	38
2013	7159	52	138	1	41
2012	7441	53	140	1	36
2011	7898	52	152	5	25
2010	8645	53	163	4	22
2009	8312	52	160	5	23
2008	8507	51	167	7	16
2007	9730	54	180	19	15
2006	9155	54	170	13	18
2005	8807	54	163	6	20
2004	7841	52	150	4	23
2003	8380	50	167	8	18
2002	6349	45	141	2	29

* No in person worship from March 15 to July 26 and no in person Christmas Eve Service.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 1, 2020	289
Members Received:	
Profession of Faith or Reaffirmation	<u>2</u>
Total members received	2
Members Removed from the Rolls:	
Deceased	10
Transferred to another church	1
Removed to Inactive	<u>5</u>
Total members removed:	<u>16</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2020	275

NECROLOGY

Your prayers are asked for the families of members and friends of the church who departed in 2020:

*JoAnn Wright
Loron Silliman
Carol Cooper
Susan Peters
Bonnie Patrick*

*Roger W. White, Sr.
John Sudduth
Mabel Walker
Sally Hirschey
Marsha Deming*

Welcome (NEW MEMBERS)

*Junior Kossi Semeke
Ama Atawa Kuma Samtu*

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM

*Alan Victor Collins, son of Aaron and Olga Collins
Macaulay Jaden Marfo, son of Kavasi Marfo and Rhoda Nai
Sunshine Abena Kwayisi, daughter of Franklin Kwayisi and Emelia Larthey*

WEDDINGS

*Josiah Ramsanai and Oluwaseyi Bukunmi Adepoju on November 13, 2020
Rev. Leonard Sponaugle officiated*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

First Presbyterian Church Financial Summary

Committees	2019 Actual		2020 Actual		2020 Budget		2021 Budget	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Pledge/Plate	\$ 286,316.08		\$ 285,506.08		\$ 300,000.00		\$ 272,000.00	
Christian Education	\$ 1,924.00	\$ 3,967.37	\$ 83.00	\$ 2,029.05	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,700.00
Deacons	\$ 5,121.08	\$ 8,859.67	\$ 9,791.00	\$ 4,877.79	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,375.29	\$ 5,950.00
Facilities	\$ 86,158.43	\$ 117,290.19	\$ 119,289.00	\$ 152,740.32	\$ 102,500.00	\$ 131,431.30	\$ 413,382.74	\$ 430,631.00
Outreach	\$ 81,814.00	\$ 109,429.00	\$ 86,388.00	\$ 57,268.00	\$ 84,300.00	\$ 84,300.00	\$ 88,937.73	\$ 86,400.00
Mission Church Collections:	\$ 4,510.50	\$ 18,217.52	\$ 3,895.00	\$ 15,311.43	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 25,300.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 29,059.00
Mission Committee	\$ 82,456.88	\$ 68,562.89	\$ 51,502.15	\$ 53,373.86	-	-	-	-
Worship & Music	\$ 9,757.00	\$ 14,770.35	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 8,028.40	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 12,495.00	\$ 4,000.22	\$ 12,600.00
Treasurer	\$ 162,462.34	\$ 885.30	\$ 134,348.02	\$ 1,084.75	\$ 129,455.00	\$ 8,075.00	\$ 128,766.48	\$ 8,650.00
Administration	-	\$ 14,203.40	-	\$ 14,220.77	-	\$ 16,600.00	-	\$ 12,005.00
Payroll	-	\$ 276,174.00	-	\$ 294,044.65	-	\$ 313,652.21	-	\$ 294,244.05
Personnel	-	\$ 900.12	-	\$ 934.74	-	\$ 900.12	-	\$ 935.00
Stewardship	-	\$ 472.39	-	\$ 215.13	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	-	\$ 500.00
Membership & Evangelism	\$ 1,165.00	\$ 8,433.19	\$ 815.00	\$ 10,867.75	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 11,500.00
Totals	\$ 721,685.31	\$ 642,165.39	\$ 695,742.25	\$ 614,996.64	\$ 642,155.00	\$ 614,253.63	\$ 921,462.46	\$ 895,174.05
Net	\$ 79,519.92		\$ 80,745.61		\$ 27,901.37		\$ 26,288.41	
			Roof Insurance	\$ 88,734.96				

YEAR END 2020 & BUDGET 2021

Year End Report 2020	2019 Actual Operational Inc.	2020 Actual Operational Inc.	Budget 2020 Operational Inc.	Budget 2021 Operational Inc.
Pledge	\$ 286,316.08	\$ 285,506.08	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 272,000.00
CE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00
Deacons	\$ 1,326.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,474.39
Apportionment	\$ 2,094.25	\$ 2,516.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Use of Church	\$ 2,365.00	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,800.00
Unrestrict Endow / LOC Bank				\$ 345,000.00
Graves Bldg.	\$ 7,001.43	\$ 90,644.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 41,724.09
Carolyn Whitney	\$ 24,612.00	\$ 25,990.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,858.65
Sound System	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -		
Missions	\$ 913.25	\$ 459.00		
Radio	\$ 1,165.00	\$ 815.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Treasurer	\$ 162,462.34	\$ 134,348.02	\$ 129,455.00	\$ 128,766.48
Worship	\$ 10,037.00	\$ 3,365.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,200.00
Total	\$ 523,292.35	\$ 546,863.10	\$ 517,055.00	\$ 822,023.61
	Operational Exp.	Operational Exp.	Operational Exp.	Operational Exp.
CE	\$ 2,307.94	\$ 1,529.05	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,700.00
Deacons	\$ 2,675.14	\$ 1,379.97	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Facility	\$ 118,860.19	\$ 54,207.39	\$ 56,431.30	\$ 55,631.00
Boilers				\$ 265,000.00
Steeple				\$ 80,000.00
Roof		\$ 187,267.93	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Insurance received roof		\$ (88,735.00)		
Apportionment	\$ 9,825.00	\$ 12,772.50	\$ 11,800.00	\$ 8,959.00
New Beginnings	\$ -	\$ 967.54	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Presbytery Support				\$ 10,000.00
Pastor Nom Committee				\$ 5,000.00
Administration	\$ 14,203.40	\$ 14,220.77	\$ 16,600.00	\$ 12,600.00
Personnel	\$ 277,074.12	\$ 294,044.65	\$ 314,552.33	\$ 294,644.17
Stewardship	\$ 472.39	\$ 215.13	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Membership	\$ 8,433.19	\$ 10,867.75	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 11,500.00
Treasurer	\$ 885.30	\$ 1,084.75	\$ 8,075.00	\$ 8,650.00
Worship	\$ 13,200.35	\$ 8,028.40	\$ 11,775.00	\$ 11,285.00
Total	\$ 447,937.02	\$ 497,850.83	\$ 514,233.63	\$ 800,969.17
	Benevolent Inc.	Benevolent Inc.	Benevolent Inc.	Benevolent Inc.
Youth	\$ 1,924.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Deacons	\$ 3,795.08	\$ 8,391.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,900.90
Mission	\$ 1,503.00	\$ 920.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00
Outreach	\$ 81,814.00	\$ 86,388.00	\$ 84,300.00	\$ 88,937.73
Memorial Fund	\$ 26,180.00	\$ 835.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Worship	\$ 720.00	\$ 760.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.22
MELT	\$ 82,456.88	\$ 51,502.15	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 198,392.96	\$ 148,879.15	\$ 125,100.00	\$ 99,438.85
	Benevolent Exp.	Benevolent Exp.	Benevolent Exp.	Benevolent Exp.
Youth	\$ 1,659.43	\$ 500.00		
Deacons	\$ 6,184.53	\$ 3,497.82	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,450.00
Mission	\$ 8,392.52	\$ 1,571.39	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 2,100.00
Outreach	\$ 109,429.00	\$ 57,268.00	\$ 84,300.00	\$ 86,400.00
Worship	\$ -		\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00

MELT	\$	68,562.89	\$	53,373.86	\$	-
Total	\$	194,228.37	\$	116,211.07	\$	93,670.00
Total Income						
Operational Income	\$	523,292.35	\$	546,863.10	\$	822,023.61
Benevolent Income	\$	198,392.96	\$	148,879.15	\$	99,438.85
Total	\$	721,685.31	\$	695,742.25	\$	921,462.46
Total Expenses						
Operational Expense	\$	447,937.02	\$	497,850.83	\$	800,969.17
Benevolent Expense	\$	194,228.37	\$	116,211.07	\$	93,670.00
Total	\$	642,165.39	\$	614,061.90	\$	894,639.17
Difference	\$	79,519.92	\$	81,680.35	\$	26,823.29

Personnel Expenditures 2021

Payroll	2019 YTD	2020 YTD	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Ministers Social Sect	\$ 4,722.40	\$ 7,091.41	\$ 7,092.00	\$ 7,417.05
Ministers Salary	\$ 48,461.69	\$ 74,160.06	\$ 74,160.00	\$ 96,955.00
Ministers Housing	\$ 12,115.44	\$ 18,540.08	\$ 18,540.00	\$ -
Minister Dental	\$ 306.69	\$ 443.40	\$ 443.00	\$ -
Ministers Medical	\$ 15,562.50	\$ 23,175.00	\$ 23,175.00	\$ 10,011.00
Ministers Pension	\$ 7,470.00	\$ 11,124.01	\$ 11,124.00	\$ 9,695.00
Ministers Mileage & Travel	\$ 771.66	\$ 324.09	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 500.00
Ministers Prof Fees	\$ 756.47	\$ 835.50	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 900.00
Ministers Cont Ed	\$ 836.55	\$ 198.25	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,300.00
Assoc. Pastor's Salary	\$ 9,568.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's S/S	\$ 1,217.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's Housing	\$ 5,384.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's Med/Dis.	\$ 3,702.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pension	\$ 1,674.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's Cont. Ed.	\$ 777.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's Prof. Fee	\$ 422.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assoc. Pastor's Mileage	\$ 318.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sexton	\$ 32,962.40	\$ 24,674.00	\$ 35,152.00	\$ 28,200.00
Sexton II	\$ 819.00	\$ 4,229.37	\$ 6,760.00	\$ 3,500.00
Admin Assistant	\$ 38,367.68	\$ 39,518.70	\$ 39,518.47	\$ 39,952.00
Nursery	\$ (49.72)	\$ -	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 775.00
Director of Music	\$ 13,884.00	\$ 14,300.52	\$ 14,300.43	\$ 14,458.00
Organist	\$ 15,884.96	\$ 16,361.54	\$ 16,361.41	\$ 16,540.00
Handbell Director	\$ 7,355.57	\$ 7,541.04	\$ 7,540.91	\$ 7,624.00
Organist Mileage	\$ 3,489.17	\$ 900.12	\$ 900.12	\$ 910.00
Outreach Coordinator	\$ 11,033.36	\$ 11,364.60	\$ 11,364.36	\$ 11,490.00
Payroll Taxes State UNI	\$ 588.82	\$ 761.16	\$ 776.31	\$ 800.00
P/R tax SS Emp.	\$ 8,776.44	\$ 8,884.60	\$ 9,260.75	\$ 9,000.00
P/R Tax Medicare	\$ 2,052.64	\$ 2,077.89	\$ 2,165.82	\$ 2,200.00
Full Time Benefit Package	\$ 8,604.92	\$ 9,122.35	\$ 9,791.39	\$ 10,000.00
Accounting P/R services	\$ 14,608.67	\$ 15,740.07	\$ 14,970.36	\$ 17,000.00
Payroll Services	\$ 2,084.20	\$ 2,232.09	\$ 1,957.00	\$ 2,500.00
Nursery Coordinator	\$ 1,641.53	\$ 444.80	\$ 1,854.00	\$ 927.00
Payroll Totals	\$ 276,174.00	\$ 294,044.65	\$ 314,552.33	\$ 294,654.05

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

January 21, 2021

The Endowment Fund

The endowment of the First Presbyterian Church is \$6,527,810. The fund's value gained \$370,021 or 6% in 2020. At the same time the endowment provided the church an income of \$290,268.

The church's endowment weathered the storms in the capital markets during 2020. The equity return (net of all fees) exceeded our benchmarks. Our bond account returns lagged the overall market results.

During the second and third quarter of the year the committee developed a new investment policy to reflect changes in the financial markets and provide a clear direction forward for management of the church's financial assets. The session has adopted the guidelines.

In October the endowment committee reduced the endowment's exposure to equities by taking \$200,000 equities to be used to fund the capital projects that the church has completed or has underway. The committee reviews the allocation of assets between bonds and equities periodically to reduce the impact of sharp market declines. Such transfers however may restrain growth during period of sharp increases in equity values.

At year end the endowment consisted of 68% equities and 32% bonds. The investment policy of the church calls for an investment range of 55% to 65% equities and the balance in bonds.

The endowment committee will monitor the investment allocation as the year develops.

The positive 2.47% performance of the bond account was below its benchmark -- the Barclays Capital Index which grew 4.71%. The return on the equity account at Morgan Stanley was 25.27% exceeding the S & P Total Return Index of 18.4%. Anchor Capital's return of .54% was well below its benchmark of The Russell Mid 4.96%, Estabrook's return of 8.01% lagged the Dow Jones and S & P 500 returns of 9.72 and 18.4% respectively. However these two benchmarks were restructured in 2020 and the comparison to the Estabrook account may no longer be relevant.

The income paid to the church represented 5.0% of the average value of the endowment for the previous three years. The Session has reduced the dependence of the church on the endowment over the several years by setting a goal for the spending rate at 5%

Here is a statistical recap of the endowment for 2020.

Additions to the Endowment in 2020:

None

Endowment Value:

Manager Name	12/31/20 Value	Total Net Return
RBC Wealth Management:		
Bonds	\$1,979,582	2.47%
Estabrook	\$1,729,595	8.01%
Anchor	\$401,325	0.54%
Morgan Stanley:		
Equities	\$2,417,309	25.27%

(Net return is after all management fees and commissions. The account managers have adjusted beginning and ending values to recognize the infusion and withdrawal of capital during the year and to make comparisons possible.)

Other Trusts and Funds:

2020 Income

Wendy Walker Memorial \$404

Annual Values of Endowment Managed on behalf of the Church:

1988	784,084
1989	842,935
1990	828,684
1991	922,887
1992	1,707,814
1993	2,481,966
1994	2,474,405
1995	3,044,284
1996	3,363,756
1997	3,739,066
1998	4,146,791
1999	4,563,128
2000	4,697,893
2001	4,522,722
2002	4,344,783
2003	4,655,440
2004	4,317,606
2005	4,340,861
2006	4,321,863
2007	4,677,421
2008	3,494,918
2009	4,422,092
2010	4,523,656
2011	4,250,279
2012	4,391,620
2013	5,098,482
2014	5,383,932
2015	5,189,350
2016	5,252,838
2017	5,634,090

2018	5,298,660
2019	6,157,789
2020	6,527,810

Application of Income:

By action of the Session the church allocated 5.0% of the average value of the endowment over the prior three years as 2020 income.

Income distributed from Endowment\$ 290,268

Income Allocation:

Current Spending	\$2,879
Paul F. Brown Fund	31,087
Elizabeth Brown Fund	18,613
Carolyn Whitney Fund.....	25,990
Unrestricted	87,164
Graves Mission Account.....	35,691
Faith Fund	3,374
Deacons Fund	1,400
Hyde Flower Fund	463
Hyde Building Fund	926
Harlow Farmer Fund.....	7,343
Matson Fund	324
Seeber Fund	238
Simpson Fund	760
Walker Fund	1,758
Boudia Fund	28,388
Budgeted Benevolence	4,212
Graves Building fund accrued in 2020	39,658
Income distributed from endowment	290,268
Less Graves Building Fund carried forward	-50,986

Total Income Allocation239,282

Graves Building Fund:

Beginning Balance 12/31/19.....	\$50,986
Additions: 2020 Accrual	\$39,658
Total	\$90,644
Less: Expenditures.....	\$90,644
Ending Balance 12/31/20.....	\$0

Respectfully,
The Endowment Committee
John B. Johnson, Jr. Chair
Phil Sprague
Merle Tousant
Betsy Klug
Peter Schmitt

STEWARDSHIP

Our committee established a goal of obtaining \$235,000 in pledges for 2021. Our goal reflects the reality that several of our most generous supporters at First Presbyterian Church are no longer with us. Some have passed away, some have moved away and some have chosen to no longer be part of our church family. Our goal also reflects the reality that many of our families have experienced significant hardships associated with Covid-19.

Having said that, I am pleased to report that our congregation continues to show a very strong and generous commitment to First Presbyterian Church.

As of January 16th, we have received pledge cards totaling \$225,785. We have verbal commitments from congregants for approximately \$10,000 and expect to receive those pledge cards in the near future. This will bring the pledge amount to approximately \$235,000.

There are still nearly 20 members of our congregation who submitted pledge cards last year but have not yet provided their 2021 pledges. We continue to reach out to these individuals and families with phone calls and letters, and we hope that their personal circumstances allow for the continued support of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Sprague, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

The Discipleship/Membership Committee did not officially meet during 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although increasing membership, maintaining accurate membership rolls and organizing a church directory remain important duties of the committee, the committee's primary focus has shifted to nurturing discipleship as individuals and as a congregation. The committee is dedicated to spearheading activities that are driven by one of the three initiatives from the New Beginnings steering committee: ***DISCIPLESHIP with FAITH***. In collaboration with the Christian Education committee, we offered multiple book study Zoom groups during the summer and fall and an Advent series called "It's a Wonderful 'Virtual' Life" in December. Plans are being made for the restart of Cottage Meetings with an emphasis on discipleship with faith. These Cottage Meetings will provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ in small, intimate groups and to deepen our relationship with God, both individually and as a congregation. Possible topics within the ***DISCIPLESHIP with FAITH*** theme could include: worship that stretches, spiritual growth (prayer/Bible study), stewardship, community service, responsible living, etc. Please watch for upcoming information about Cottage Meetings!

Committee Members:

Bunny Gorman & Carolyn Osborne (Co-chairs),
Liz Bonisteel, Bob Gorman, Peter Schmitt, Becky Brown, Gil Hayes,
Ann VanSlyke, Deanne Scanlon

Respectfully submitted,

Bunny Gorman

EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Members: Robert Gorman, Ben Azah, Matt Gorman, Deanna Nelson.

This is a new committee for First Presbyterian Church. Our group engaged in stimulating conversation and came up with multiple excellent ideas. Opportunities for the implementation of these ideas should materialize during 2021 as the health concerns and risk of COVID-19 diminish.

The fundamental principle from which we operate is that we must give more people in our community, especially young people and young families, reasons to come to and be part of First Presbyterian Church, specifically reasons that make our Church meaningful in their lives.

Initiatives to be explored in 2021 include re-instituting our vacation Bible school, evaluating the viability of reestablishing a nursery school within our church building, establishing a booth at the weekly farmers market, offering parking passes to young parents during the farmers market and having fellowship hall open for a cool and comfortable place to rest, have lunch, have access to clean restrooms, changing tables and other amenities for young families.

We will also further discuss the possibility of a childcare program within our church.

Our group spent considerable time learning about an organization called the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. This is a multi-denominational Christian organization that leverages our society's profound enthusiasm for sports as an opportunity to promote traditional Christian values. Last November, the Session unanimously voted to facilitate the development of a Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter in the Watertown area.

Finally, during 2021 our group would like to evaluate the average historical expenditure for advertising for First Presbyterian Church. Our goal is to explore various venues of advertising including Christian radio, take advantage of potentially free advertising as public service announcements and to explore the newspaper, Facebook and other types of promotion.

We see all our activities as opportunities to assist and promote the fundamental changes and enhancements to our worship services as outlined through the ***New Beginnings Program***.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Sprague, Chairperson

FACILITIES

The facilities committee is responsible for the general cleanliness, maintenance and project planning of the building and campus.

The year 2020 proved to be much different with building use. Our sexton was able to accomplish extra cleaning, painting, and organizing due to the limited use of outside groups. Automatic towel dispensers have been installed in all bathrooms and a cleaning and disinfecting schedule has been put in place to comply with COVID 19 regulations.

It has been determined that there was need for more security measures for the Christian Education wing and because of this, we have added key entries to certain areas. Room numbers have been reassigned for more current use and identification. MELT was granted its own more spacious room on the second floor.

The handicap ramp and entrance to the CE wing was pressure washed and stained this summer and the garbage corral was rebuilt. The largest project was replacing the entire roof for the whole building. The \$225,000. effort included metal roofs where needed and adding gutters at entry areas. We were able to offset the cost with an insurance claim of \$85,000. due to wind damage.

Three major projects for 2021 are as follows:

- 1) replacing our present 50+ year heating system with a new one that will include asbestos abatement and air quality testing, cost approximately \$300,000.
- 2) repair and paint the steeple and bell tower with bids in for up to \$50,000.
- 3) to finish painting our exterior at the cost of approximately \$40,000.

There also is concern at this time that the cellar windows will need attention. These tasks will round out almost all of our major endeavors.

Two matching benches have been separately donated for placement around the labyrinth. They will need to be secured in place once the weather allows

On a positive note, we were able to get an Energy Savings Plan from National Grid to update lighting throughout the building. The total job cost was \$6,300. of which we were only responsible for ten percent (\$630.00).

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Stratton and Jonathan White, Co-chairs

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship and Music committee is responsible for overseeing the spoken word and music for Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and special services. Special services include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Kirkin' o' the Tartan, The Christmas Pageant, and Christmas Eve.

Along with overseeing worship services, the committee prepares the Communion Elements, provides sanctuary décor, oversees radio ministry and sound enhancement. They provide assignment lists for Ushers, Lay Readers, and Communion servers.

Music events include: Music Sunday where we recognize more than 45 musicians who provide lovely sounds of music throughout the year; a Christmas Cantata offered by our Chancel Choir, Sunday School children, and members of the congregation; a brass quintet for services such as Easter and Christmas Eve services; the bagpipes for Kirkin' O' the Tartan; handbell choirs both adult and youth; and selections played by the Trillium Trio throughout the year. During the summer, music is provided by several talented musicians.

Covid-19 has created some unique opportunities. The music staff and committee have been creative with programming to maintain a full service each week and have provided special services when in-person attendance was not advised. The sound and video systems have been upgraded accommodating a higher quality broadcast and creating a sense of normalcy for those not able to attend services in-person. Thank you to Cassandra and Melissa Elmer for their long hours and dedication to make these changes possible.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that offer their time and talents to provide this congregation with spiritually uplifting services.

The members of the Worship and Music Committee for 2020 were:

Michele Bariteau, Organist Carl Bingle, Nancy Boynton, Katrina Cox, Phyllis Elmer, Matt Willaman, Director of Music Sara Gleason, Cherie Danforth, and David Elmer, chairperson.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Elmer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The year began with the research into and purchase of a new laptop to serve the Christian education programs at First Presbyterian in January. Little did we know how fortunate we were, as this proved to be a valuable tool for many church programs during the pandemic. We also set up an email address for the Christian education program.

During our annual Lenten series, we also experimented with streaming live to our church Facebook page, as people were starting to stay home. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the pandemic resulted in cancellation of the series. We turned to educating our session members, staff and others on how to use Zoom technology to stay in touch for meetings and eventually Bible studies.

With the suspension of in person worship and the closing of our building, we also discontinued Sunday school classes. We provided online access to the Dig In curriculum for our parents instead. We rejoiced when we were able to resume Sunday school in the fall. Thank you to our sexton Mitch Farney for getting old desks out of the attic and cleaning them. This allowed us to implement social distancing in our classroom space.

We presented an online Bible study through our webpage in case Zoom technology was not available to some church members. This was a study of the apostle Paul by Dr. Ralph Wilson. It offered both text and audio for people to listen, as well as a series of questions.

We were able to utilize Zoom for adult education for the books Half Truths, What Christianity is Not, The Shelter of God's Promises. We thank Rev. Sponaugle for leading our discussion. For our Advent series Its a Wonderful (Virtual) Life in December, we organized two groups to watch the classic film via Zoom and discuss how it illustrated Biblical truths on the value of people, and how we are to treat others. Many thanks to our leaders Michele Elmer and Bunny Gorman.

Our annual Christmas pageant was unable to include live actors, so Michele Elmer wrote a beautiful narrative and created props for our nativity scene. The story still touches our hearts no matter how we adapt in the way we present it.

As part of a churchwide cleaning and sorting process, we installed additional shelving in our Christian education storage room. Michele Elmer and Donna Dunkle did a great job of organizing this space.

We are grateful for our Sunday school teachers Lucy Hiotis, Kelly Thomas, Nancy Kall, Matt Gorman, Donna Dunkle, Pete Thomas. Thank you to our Christian education committee members for their faithful service in a difficult year: Michele Elmer, Nancy Kall, Kelly Thomas, Lucy Hiotis, Kim Collins.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Collins, Chair

OUTREACH & MISSION

The Outreach and Mission Committee is responsible for recommending to the Session how endowment income funds should be allocated for the support of various mission projects covering local, national and global concerns. The committee strives to direct funds to projects and programs that align with the wishes of the donors and meet the mission goals of our congregation which includes providing Christian leadership and care throughout our community.

Unfortunately due to meeting restrictions created by Covid-19 a different approach was needed to continue to share our resources with the community in areas of high need. Much thought and prayer resulted in the decision to prioritize an increase in our support for the activities of Urban Mission to ensure that the immediate needs of those in poverty were met during this period of community crisis. Members of the Outreach Committee for 2020 were Bill Barden, Janet Blakeman, David Kandler, Margot McGorman, Carolyn Osborne, Kathy Rucki, Peter Salmon, Josh Garry, Matt Gorman, Heather White, Peter Schmitt (Chair)

Graves Mission Fund (Amount available for 2020: \$36,727.20)

This fund was established by a bequest from Mrs. Doris T. Graves who had been a deacon in the church. Her will requested that “the Session give preference to mission causes within the County of Jefferson and the State of New York...” Accordingly, the following grants were made from the Graves Mission in 2020:

Jefferson Rehabilitation Center Capital Campaign	\$ 5,000
Watertown Urban Mission	\$10,000
Getting Ahead Workshop – Watertown Urban Mission	\$14,000
Bridges – Community Education – Urban Mission	\$ 1,000
Hospice Capital Campaign	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
	\$35,000

Faith Fund (Amount available for 2020: \$7,812.21)

This fund was established in 1968 following the closing and sale of the Faith Chapel, which had been established years earlier as an outreach of First Presbyterian Church. The following grants were made from the Faith Fund:

Urban Mission Operating Support	\$ 6,000
Watertown Catechetical, Special Religious Education	<u>\$ 1,200</u>
	\$ 7,200

Boudia Fund (Amount available for 2020: 32,243.51)

The Martha N. Boudia Memorial Fund was established by Najali Boudia in memory of her mother. On September 19, 1982 a congregational meeting directed that “the income of such fund be used for benevolent purposes outside the budget.” Most of our church’s international mission support is financed by this fund. However, it is available, when needed, for local support. The following grants were made from the Boudia Fund:

Malawi, Women of Grace Christmas Donation Matching	\$ 2,168
Witnessing Ministries of Christ - India	\$ 1,500
Tyler Holmes Ministry - Malawi	\$ 5,000
MELT Literacy Team - Malawi	\$12,000
Boys Champion Program - Malawi	\$ 1,620
Preschool Feeding Program - Manila, Philippines	<u>\$ 3,600</u>
	\$25,888

Elizabeth Brown Mission Fund (Amount available for 2020: \$17,601)

This fund was established in 2007 by a bequest from Elizabeth Brown, long-time church member and officer. Her will requested that the funds provided be added to the endowment and used for mission purposes with an emphasis on youth programs. The following grants were made from the Elizabeth Brown Mission Fund.

Girls Education Collaborative – Tanzania \$ 500

Elizabeth Brown – Unified Mission (Amount available for 2020: \$25,899.75)

The Session annually designates one-half of the endowment proceeds from the Elizabeth Brown Bequest to the Unified Mission of the Presbytery. As the Presbytery has not recently needed funds, money has accumulated in this account and Session decided that the Outreach Committee could have access to these funds for purposes that can be related to the Presbytery.

Watertown Urban Mission Operations \$ 6,000
Samaritan House – Saranac Lake \$ 1,000
\$ 7,000

Matson Awards – (Amount available for 2018: \$1,592.63)

Funds are offered to “young people (ages 10-25) of First Presbyterian Church to participate in broader opportunities relating to their spiritual growth.” **No award was made in 2018.**

Financial Summary

Grants totaling \$75,588 were awarded in 2020 from 6 funds entrusted to the Committee.

Funds available for distribution in 2020	\$121,876	
Grants paid out in 2020	<u>\$ 60,588</u>	
Year End Fund Balance	\$ 61,288	
Grants pending	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Getting Ahead – Urban Mission	\$ 14,000	
Bridges – Urban Mission	\$ 1,000	
JRC	\$ 5,000	
Witnessing Ministries of Christ	\$ 1,500	
Tondo Preschool Feeding Program	\$ 3,600	
Watertown Multi-Ethnic Community	\$ 10,000	\$10,000
Hospice	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Pending	\$ 40,100	\$20,000

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Schmitt, Chairperson

WOMEN OF GRACE WIDOWS' FUND

An Ecumenical Mission Project in Northern New York

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

- James 1:27

Board Members:

Renee Waterbury, Kathy Curtis, Heather White, AnnMarie Bajjaly,
Margot McGorman

The Women of Grace Widows Fund has been working with 45 widows in 3 villages in northern Malawi since 2008. The fund has helped the widows establish some small businesses (selling charcoal, raising chickens and pigs) and has provided training in sewing, allowing the widows to earn money making PantiPlus menstrual hygiene kits, which are donated to local, needy teen girls. A win-win for the community!

The Watertown Board works closely with Grace Chiumia and Sam Chirwa in Malawi. Although Grace has had significant health challenges, Sam continues to provide "boots on the ground" recommendations about short and long-term needs. He ensures that donations are used most effectively for housing improvements and critical needs.

The Women of Grace newsletter is printed annually and contains many photos and articles which show the joys and challenges faced by the widows and the Women of Grace Widows Fund. It is available at the church.

Travel to Malawi has not been possible this year due to Covid, but the board plans to send a missionary team once travel advisories are lifted.

We sincerely appreciate the strong, prayerful support that the Women of Grace Fund continues to receive from individuals and congregations across the presbytery. We are truly grateful for the consistent support of the Session at First Presbyterian Church, particularly the allocation of the Christmas Eve Offering, which helps us meet the needs of the widows under our care.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,

Margot McGorman

Malawi Early Literacy Team – M.E.L.T.

An Ecumenical Mission of Watertown First Presbyterian Church
2021 Annual Budget \$28,635.00

This mission supports the work of MELT, CBO in Mzuzu

First Presbyterian Committee members:

Andy Burns, Patricia Constable, Barb Eldridge, Peyton Hynla, Joanne Lavarney, Margot McGorman, Carolyn Osborne, Carol Stevens, Heather White

Exciting news- – the M.E.L.T. Central Library in Mzuzu, Malawi is open and serving 20 schools in the Northern Region. We broke ground in December 2019 in this three-phase project. The \$49,400.00 building was complete in August 2021. This is nothing short of a miracle during this time of a world pandemic. We thank First Presbyterian Outreach Council for their generous support as well as many members of this congregation. Our donors come from all comers of the country each showing their support in this important mission. We are proud to represent First Presbyterian in this discipleship work.

Simple Words Kits - This early literacy kit was designed with our teachers at our last meeting in Malawi at their request. All kits have been sponsored by individuals and groups. Ten were sponsored by DKG. These have been printed and will be the focus on our next trip.

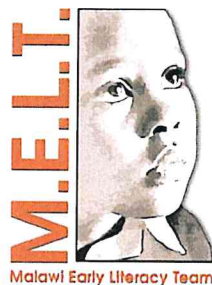
Rotary – M.E.L.T. received a grant in December for 2021. This funds building shelves, big book racks, tables, chairs, administrative desk, floor and window coverings as well as publishing two new books (1,000 books). We thank the Watertown: Sunrise, Noon, Evening; and Clayton Rotary who partnered with Mzuzu Rotary!

Relationships - We have been able to remain in touch with our teachers even though we were not able to make a trip to Malawi in 2020. I have even been able to speak with a few teachers during Sam's visit via the international phone app - Whats App. A meeting was held recently that included many of our teachers - a meeting they wanted to hold - following protocol to come together to share ideas, hear concerns, and support one another. This made all of us feel very comforted that they took this upon themselves in our absence.

Prayers - We appreciate your prayers for our continued work with the teachers and students of Malawi. We have worked hard to build strong relationships in this mission. All schools we serve are in the Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather White



SHALLOW WELLS REPORT

FPC raises \$7,970 that supports 18 protected shallow wells in Malawi!

Each year, since 2007, you have responded with benevolence in supporting our partnership with Presbyterian USA Marian Medical Mission's Shallow (MMM) Protected Shallow Well Program in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. THANKYOU!

100% of all of your donations go towards covering the installation of a protected shallow well that provides clean water for the first time to a village of around 150 people. MMM provides us a photograph of each village and well with each donation of \$450. MMM is a Presbyterian, ecumenical, Christian, front-line, hands on, American volunteer, non-profit driven organization. MMM's purpose is to share the love of Jesus Christ with the extreme poor in Africa thru protected shallow wells. It is a wonderful message to also share in 2020 that our FPC donations since 2007 now total over \$100,000 and represent 300 protected wells. What a wonderful legacy.

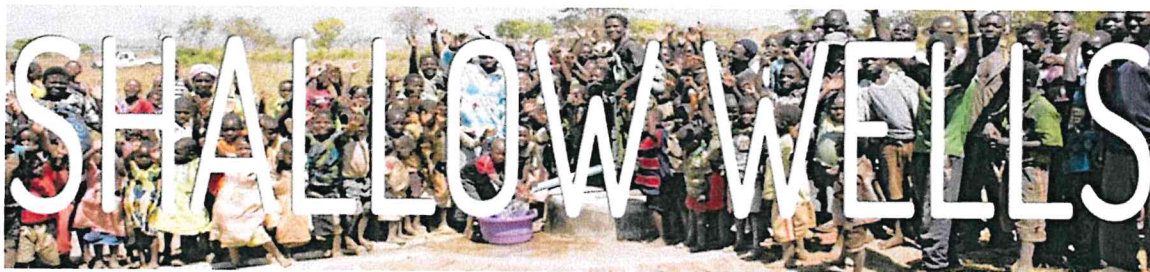
Over its 35-year history, Marion Medical Mission has created a unique infrastructure in Africa that is now 40,000 protected and maintained water wells in remote villages. The key component of this system is the 20 field officers serving the MMM network. Normally, about 40 US Volunteers work with these field officers to install the protected shallow wells each year that replace open contaminated water sources in Malawi. This year, our American volunteers were unable to travel to Africa due to the pandemic. However, Malawian counterparts installed 3,155 wells, benefiting nearly 400,000 people, covering roughly 60,000 square miles of terrain. Each well also represents self-help. Each village makes the bricks, digs the well, gathers the sand and stone and provides the unskilled labor. A Marion Medical Mission well is one that utilizes the talents of the Malawians. Other Malawians, properly trained, make the steel pumps, the PVC foot valves and plungers.

We at FPC are part of this team. The story includes us. All of us together make a difference to our unknown brothers and sisters. Your gifts matter! Share in the joy that you have aided your fellow men, women and children well beyond your imagination.

Thank you from: Don Klug, Ken Reed and Waring Blackburn (FPC members Shallow Well Volunteers)

Respectfully submitted,

Don Klug



PERSONNEL

This was an unusual year for the church and our staff. Covid-19 forced a shutdown of regular operations for a part of the year and a significant adjustment for the balance of the year. During the shut down period staff worked as much from home as possible and Session agreed to continue to offer full compensation to all staff, acknowledging their commitment. As we moved to a different style of operation, staff adjusted their hours and job descriptions, where necessary, to ensure our facilities were safe and our programs were both safe and spiritual.

Reverend Leonard Sponaugle as Head of Staff worked with the staff team to ensure we continued to be sensitive to the needs of the members of our congregation.

This year Penny Levos our bookkeeper for many years moved on to spend more time with family. Leonard, with the support of Finance and Personnel Committee Chairs, hired our own David Kandler to fill the position. We also received notice that another valuable member of our staff, Regina Banks would not be coming back to work with our little ones in the Sunday nursery. We will miss both staff members, who did a great job and were valuable parts of our staff team. The balance of the staff team includes: Sue Beaman, leading the efforts in the area of administration; Carl Bingle, Sara Gleason and Jennifer Whitenack, providing leadership for our music program; Mitch Farney ensuring we had a clean and safe place to worship; and Donna Dunkle and Linya Bell showing a great deal of flexibility in their job functions to ensure the needs of our members are the priority.

The Personnel Committee worked with Pastor Leonard in a consulting role when necessary and supported the development and implementation of appropriate policies. The Personnel Committee included Russ McCullough, Donna Dayger, Bob Gorman and Peter Schmitt (Chair).

For 2021, staff are being encouraged to relook at their job descriptions to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the congregation, are supportive of the initiatives of New Beginnings and will put us in the position to support the efforts of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Thanks to all our staff for their continued commitment to their positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Schmitt, Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

*“A ministry of caring,
A ministry of love,
A ministry of compassion, and
A ministry of prayer and community service”*

No pesky pandemic can keep us down! The Deacons continue to work faithfully to serve our church and community, seeking to assist those in need, whether they be the sick, the lonely, the hungry, the homeless, or the elderly. We are “the caring arm of the church”, and minister with sympathy, compassion, prayer and love.

2020 Highlights

We...

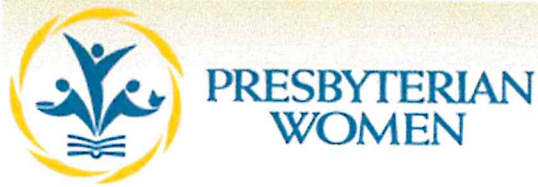
- began collecting food for the Watertown City School District's (WCSD) weekend backpack program.
- supplied the Watertown Urban Mission with 2 new delegates.
- Filled and delivered 25 Easter baskets to the Victims Assistance Center (VAC) for their Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
- collected loaves of bread on Communion Sundays and delivered them to the Watertown Urban Mission (WUM).
- were part of a team of volunteers who phoned members of the congregation to check on their well being, during the early days of the Covid-19 crisis.
- resumed our usual collections for WUM, WCSD, and VAC, in October
- resumed our in person meetings in November.
- began the *Sharing Warmth, Sharing Love* campaign, to provide hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to those in need in our neighborhood.
- arranged for Ricardo's Market to prepare a sumptuous holiday lasagna dinner, with all the trimmings, for our CREDO neighbors, and delivered it.
- prepared and delivered a bit of Christmas joy to 35 home bound individuals.
- obtained permission for the CREDO house to take our unused foose ball tables, and pool/ping pong table, when their new rec room is ready.
- provided financial assistance to the VAC, in Sept, and to the CAC, in December for Christmas presents.

It has truly been an unprecedented year of significant change, some planned and some certainly not! Deacons are resilient and we will continue to serve First Presbyterian Church as we are able. May the new year bring us together once more, in a congregation of faith and love.

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:7*

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Gorman, Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



2020 began, as it usually does, with hopes and plans for an interesting year, full of friendly gatherings, programs, picnics, and parties. We started the year following our new schedule of meeting on the first Thursday of the month, at 12:30, in Fellowship Hall, and the third Thursday, for our breakfast meeting, at the Ramada Inn, and later, Denny's. We enjoyed informative speakers: Kathie Compeau, our PW Presbytery treasurer, and Jane Schmitt, Director of Volunteer Services, SMC.

March, of course, changed all our plans. We stopped having our meetings after the first one of the month and we have not been able to gather since. That does not mean that we have not been in touch through email, snail mail, and the occasional one-on-one 'safe' visit.

Our purpose did not falter. We continued to support the mission of the church, at home and abroad. We were able to give generously to MELT, MINC, Mzuzu Crisis Nursery, Watertown Urban Mission, and WOGWF. We also gave to the PW Birthday and Thank offerings. All that was possible through the generosity of this congregation, men and women alike, and for that we are immeasurably grateful!

December brought great sadness with the loss of our beloved moderator, Marsha Deming. Marsha loved this church and PW held a special place in her heart. She will be greatly missed. We hope to honor her by continuing "to nurture our faith through prayer and bible study, to support the mission of the church world wide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom".



With hope for the future, And with gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Gorman, treasurer

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 1-1-2020

Watertown Savings Bank - Checking \$ 623.82

Receipts:

Annual pledges/gifts	\$2,960.00	
Early 2021 pledge	\$ 750.00	
Birthday Offering	\$ 625.00	
Least Coin Offering	\$ 4.00	
Memorial donation	\$ 100.00	
Misc. donations	\$ 71.00	
Thank Offering	\$ 456.00	
Watertown Urban Mission Donation For Critical Needs	\$ 200.00	
Total Receipts		\$5,166.00

Total Available \$5,789.82

Disbursements:

PW Presbytery of NNY:

Birthday Offering	\$ 625.00	
Least coin offering	\$ 4.00	
Mission Pledge	\$1,600.00	
Support	\$ 200.00	
Thank Offering	\$ 456.00	

PW of Watertown First Pres.

Christmas gratuities	\$ 300.00	
Flower Fund	\$ 80.00	
Horizons	\$ 24.95	
MELT	\$ 300.00	
MINC	\$ 150.00	
Mzuzu Crisis Nursery	\$ 150.00	
Misc. operational expenses	\$ 128.00	
Radio Ministry	\$ 100.00	
Valentine Project	\$ 27.50	
Watertown Urban Mission (critical needs)	\$ 300.00	
WOGWF handwashing station	\$ 160.00	

Total Disbursements \$4,605.45

Watertown Savings Bank - Checking

Ending Balance 12-31-2020 \$1,184.37

Watertown Saving Bank - Savings

Beginning Balance (1/1/2020) \$1,304.09

Accrued interest \$ 13.62

Ending Balance (1/31/2020) \$1,317.71

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Gorman, Treasurer

RADIO MINISTRY

Radio Ministry observed its 79th year of radio broadcasting in November 2020.

The radio mission continues to provide a connection between the First Presbyterian Church congregation and the local community, through our broadcast on radio station WATN 1240 AM. Our Sunday services are sent worldwide, streaming “live” over the internet. This enables shut-ins, vacationers and travelers to watch the worship service in real time. The Radio Ministry also provides sound for weddings, funerals and special community concerts and programs.

Past video streams of our worship services, up to one year, are available on our church website: www.watertownfirstpres.org

This has been a very trying year. The church was closed to live worship services for a time, but we continued to live-stream, until it was considered safe to reopen with safeguards in place. We greatly appreciate the committee members who have continued to run the soundboard during this uneasy time. Special thanks to Dave, Cassandra, and Melissa Elmer, who have put in an inordinate amount of time improving the broadcast and live-stream, and running the soundboard.

This year would have been even more difficult without their help and expertise.

Committee Members:

Malachi Adkins
Paul Adkins
Melissa Elmer
John Gleason
David Kandler
Marcia Kettrick
Ken Reed
Emily Sprague
Mike Stratton
Peter Van Eenenaam
Matt Willaman

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Reed

REPORT OF PARISH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

God has sent us all to our rooms through this pandemic! We need to slow down and think, to assess what is important, and how to adapt, to find new ways to meet, and to struggle to keep in touch. The losses this year have taken their toll, both in the loss of life, but also the loss of things we loved. We are still in a mourning period. Annual reports provide an opportunity to remark on changes, successes, and things learned. This past year 2020 has been an opportunity to reset, as COVID 19 came to change the ways we think about how we 'do church'. And despite our forced quarantine, my focus has been on maintaining the beauty in our building and campus, connection with our FPC family plus representation to Presbytery of NNY, the Synod of NE, and PCUSA, and deepening our connection with God through prayer.

The Flower & Garden Committee

Even as our congregation's physical presence has been limited, we continue the commitment to keep live things in our sanctuary, and have continued to provide flower arrangements and plants that aid with air quality in our sanctuary. Delivery of flower bouquets to our homebound continued, as we had fresh flowers, and plants from Easter and Christmas were also shared. Looking ahead, we need people to contact us to sponsor Sunday Flowers – the 2021 list is empty! Instead of a choir filling our chancel this Christmas, we were pleased to be able to highlight the lovely Poinsettia tree under the mosaic cross to be seen by our Live-stream congregation during Advent!

FPC Gardens: With the dedicated help of committee members and partners, the gardens have provided a 'safe space' to work outdoors, breathe fresh air and keep the gardens in order. Fist-bumps and raised trowels to: Liz Bonisteel and Mike Stratton, Becky and Bill Brown, Dacia VanEenanaam and staff member Mitch Farney for their work both outside and with the Easter and Christmas decorations! They are an invisible but energetic crew, and greatly appreciated!

Memorial Garden Benches: This year's dream of benches around our Labyrinth became reality! Next project is to create a memorial plaque to honor the many who have contributed to making this space a place of meditation and beauty. Benches were provided by gifts from Cindy Ahlheim, Sherri Bergman and Marsha Deming.

Church Connections

The e-mail blast 'Gleanings' was cut to mainly once weekly, due to the slowdown of church functions this year. We have been able to include the worship materials for our FPC Live Stream services, so folks can safely sing and worship together distantly!

It has been my honor and duty to represent our church at the presbytery level, and this year also as a commissioner 'virtually' to the 2020 PCUSA General Assembly and also the Synod of the Northeast Assembly – via massive ZOOM meetings with 530 and 320 participants!

Connections with God

This year we have needed prayer! The prayer chain group has been dwindling, and although we are small in number, we have been faithfully at work lifting prayers called in and posted on the new 'prayer wall'. I am pleased to have Gini McCreary, Gail Parsons, Lynn Pyke and Bernie Taylor as my dedicated partners.

We had interest in a communal prayer gathering, and attempted to set 2 sessions, but sadly had no participation, so this will be re-envisioned.

As we are still sitting in our rooms, I ask that you consider, and reach out with ideas for how we are to become children of God in this new time and place. I look forward to hearing and working with you as we build our connection with God.

Peace and Grace,
Linya

A RECORD of the 217TH ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WATERTOWN, NY
on JANUARY 26, 2020 in FELLOWSHIP HALL

The meeting, which followed lunch, was opened at 11:30 a.m. with prayer by the Reverend Leonard Sponaugle.

The clerk determined that a quorum was present; approximately 70 members were in attendance, which exceeded the number needed for a quorum (approx. 30).

The minutes of the January 27, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting were unanimously approved as written (Motion by Bob Gorman/Seconded by Jim Ketruck).

WRITTEN REPORTS:

Rev. Sponaugle presented the written reports (published in the Annual Meeting booklet) from Stewardship, Membership, Facilities, Worship & Music, Christian Education, Outreach, Missions, Personnel (presented by Donna Dayger), Deacons, Presbyterian Women, Radio Ministry, Prayer Chain, Flower Committee, and Parish Outreach Coordinator Linya Bell. There was time allowed for comments and questions; all reports were well-received and accepted as information.

Treasurer Merle Tousant gave a brief presentation of the financial summary, year-end 2019 budget (including personnel expenditures), and the 2020 Budget which was approved by the Session at its December meeting. Actual expenses for 2019 came in at almost \$80K *under* budget, mostly because of decreased payroll expenses. The 2020 Budget is anticipating an income of approximately \$642K and expenses of approximately \$614K, a difference of approximately \$28K *surplus*. There was time allowed for comments and questions; the financial report was received and accepted as information.

Rev. Sponaugle presented his pastor's report. Highlights included how he views his role of Transitional Pastor, the various "seasons" the church has gone through, including our present season of preparing to call our next pastor, excitement about the New Beginnings process, and advice regarding timing, managing energy levels, and coping with some major building repairs. He assured the congregation that he will "keep the lights on," shepherd the New Beginnings process, and help manage the large projects; at the same time, he will see to it that we are able to do all of the necessary tasks to get ready to call our next pastor.

At 11:49, the congregational meeting was adjourned and transitioned to the corporate meeting. The corporate meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Sponaugle. John B. Johnson, Jr., Chair of the Endowment Committee, reported that the endowment of the First Presbyterian Church is \$6,157,789. During 2019 the fund's value increased \$859,129 or 16%; in addition, the endowment provided an income of \$244,341 to First Presbyterian Church. The Session continues to work toward reducing the dependence of the church on the endowment; currently it is at 5% of the average value of the endowment; the goal is 4.5%. Until that goal is reached, the increased spending of .5% continues to be a drag on the assets of the endowment.

Rev. Sponaugle, on a voice vote, closed the corporate meeting at 11:51 and reopened the congregational meeting.

Clerk of Session Bunny Gorman, chair of the Nominating Committee, updated the Nominating Committee report in the Annual Meeting booklet and the last page listing officers by their respective classes. She then presented the slate of officers for the **Class of 2023**: For the **Session**: Bunny Gorman (2nd term), Merle Tousant (2nd term), David Elmer, Deanna Nelson and

Matt Willaman; for the **Deacons**: Sherri Bergman (2nd term), Becky Brown, Donna Dunkle, John Gleason, Christina McDonald and Josh Garry. Also presented were: for the **Session**: Jonathan White (**Class of 2022** - two year term); for the **Deacons**—Sue Kitto (**Class of 2021** - one year term). The floor was opened for nominations. The Clerk informed the congregation that there is a one year term to be filled on the **Session (Class of 2021)**, and there was a nomination, Kim Collins, from the floor to fill the one year term; there were no other nominations. There was a motion and a second to close the nominations.

The congregation voted unanimously to accept the slate of nominations.

The congregation then took names to form a Nominating Committee for the upcoming year. Bob Blank, Polly Blank, Jim Kettrick and Richard Lake were nominated from the floor. There were no other volunteers or nominations; a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations; the slate was approved unanimously.

There was a question and some discussion regarding church security. The Facilities Committee is developing and implementing a plan to enhance building security (i.e. locking certain doors; reactivating the intercom system) in order to keep worshippers and staff safe and secure.

There being no further pressing business, there was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting with prayer by Rev. Sponaugle at 12:05 pm.

The Rev. Leonard Sponaugle
Transitional Pastor

Bunny Gorman
Clerk of Session

NOMINATING

The Nominating Committee communicated periodically from September 2020 through January 2021 to create a slate of **Class of 2024** candidates for the Session and Board of Deacons to be voted on during the annual Congregational Meeting in February 2021.

Committee members nominated and elected by the congregation were Bob and Polly Blank, Jim Kettrick and Richard Lake. Representing the Session was Bunny Gorman; representing the Deacons was Josh Garry. During the course of the year, Bob and Polly Blank resigned because they left the church, and Richard Lake resigned due to health issues.

Classes of 2024

Nominated for Session are:

Carolyn Osborne (2nd term)
Peter Schmitt (2nd term)
Kim Collins
Don Klug
Donna Dayger

Nominated for Deacons are:

Chris Kamalsky (2nd term)
Sue Kitto (2nd term)
David Kandler
Pat Guldenpfennig
JoAnn Tousant

Classes of 2022

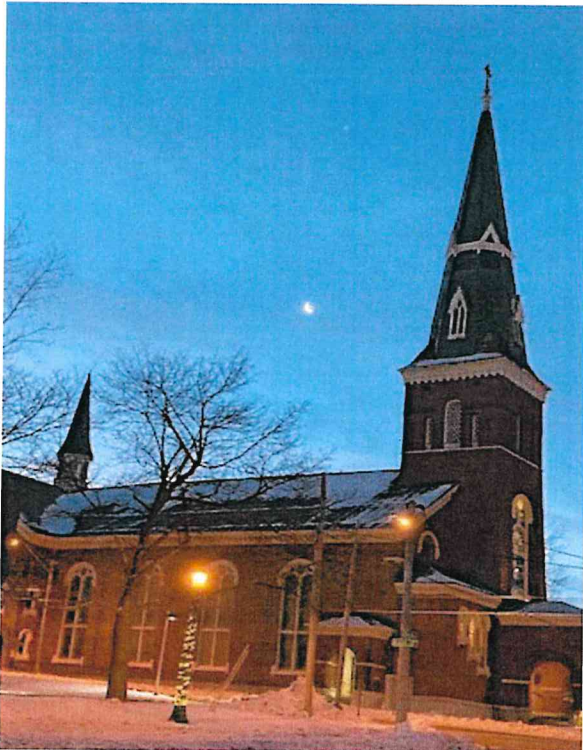
Phil Sprague
(Filling remaining year of Bob Blank's term)

Nancy Kall
(Filling remaining year of Polly Blank's term)

Respectfully submitted,
Bunny Gorman, Chair

MISSION STATEMENT

*Seeking God's help, we will pursue growth and renewal as a united Christian body.
We will nurture people within our church and provide*



OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2021

Ben Azah
Kim Collins
Carolyn Osborne
Peter Schmitt
Phil Sprague

Class of 2022

Doug Danforth
Matt Gorman
Mike Stratton
Jonathan White

Class of 2023

Bunny Gorman
David Elmer
Deanna Nelson
Merle Tousant
Matt Willaman

Bunny Gorman, Clerk of Session
Merle Tousant, Treasurer

DEACONS:

Class of 2021

Judy George
Nancy Kall
Christine Kamalsky
Sue Kitto
Bob Pyke

Class of 2022

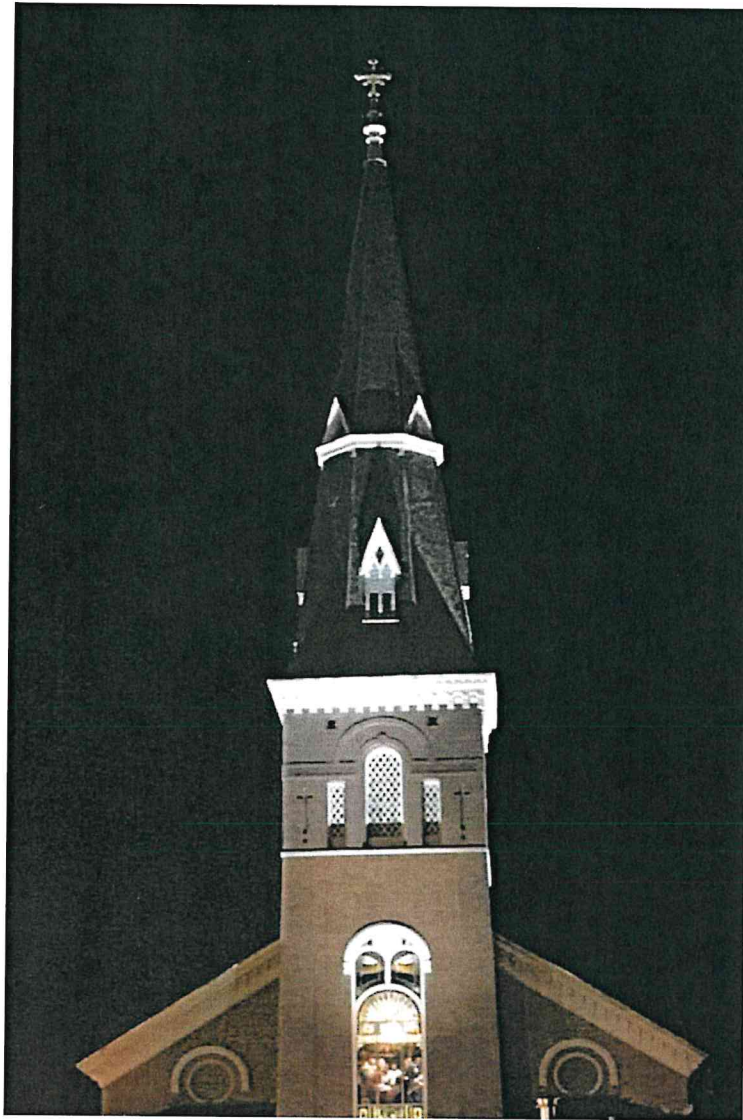
Paul Adkins
Liz Bonisteel
Cherie Danforth
Maureen Gorman

Class of 2023

Sherri Bergman
Becky Brown
Donna Dunkle
Josh Garry
John Gleason
Christina MacDonald

STAFF

Leonard Sponaugle, Pastor
Sue Beaman, Administrative Assistant
David Kandler, Business Manager
Donna Dunkle, Special Program Director
Linya Bell, Parish Outreach Coordinator
Mitch Farney, Sexton
Sara D. Gleason, Director of Music
Carl A. Bingle, Organist
Jennifer M. Whitenack, Bell Choir Director
Jillian Norris, Nursery Staff
Gail Parsons, Parish Associate



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.

~ Ephesians 3:16-21