

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



SESSION SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Wednesday's combined November/December Session meeting was the longest of the year. Although there were several important items on the agenda, the most time was devoted to the **2023 Budget**.

The past three years have been a challenge, for individuals and for the church as well. With the doors to our building closed for so long, much of the normal activity didn't take place. And likewise, much of the money that normally comes through our offering plates did not arrive. We didn't *need* as much money because some programs were not offered, yet we still paid staff, we still heated the building, we still worshiped and did ministry in new and different ways.

The bottom line is that we carried a small deficit in 2020 (\$3,960), a larger deficit in 2021 (\$51,848.53), but this year, in 2022, our deficit is currently nearly \$77,000. And this is in spite of ministry teams *drastically* cutting their expenses, many members continuing to give *beyond* their 2022 pledge, the *generosity* of new members this year, and noting nearly all who pledged for 2022 are on track to complete that commitment.

Nevertheless, the Finance Team and Session are not comfortable with continuing to carry such a deficit into 2023. There was much difficult conversation at the meeting, much listening, many thoughtful questions, lots of creative ideas. A budget was NOT adopted, but moderators were requested to ask their teams where they could be even more creative with expenditures. It has also been recommended that our Finance and Stewardship Teams provide an update and space for conversation with the congregation, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 11th following worship.

The Church exists to further the ministry of Jesus Christ in this world. The ministry teams cannot do that without funds. We don't wish to sacrifice our ministries, yet at the time of this writing, the pledges FPCV has received will just about cover our costs. We currently don't have enough income pledged for the Ministry Teams to do what they want to do (and *have* been doing). As you will see from the motions below, we *wanted* to give our pastor and staff a 4% salary raise (which still doesn't keep up with current inflation), but we are forced to only give them a 2% raise, hoping that when we do a financial review in 6 months that we will have enough additional income that we can give them more. In addition, we tabled a job description for a Director of Faith Formation (the position which Ken Crews will be vacating when he becomes our Associate Pastor) because as of now we have no funds available to continue that position. Yet we also know that the tremendous strides and growth in our Faith Formation program is essential to maintain for the life and future of our congregation.

So your Elders are struggling with a reality that is hard to reconcile. They are seeking discernment from God. There is *so much* that we want to do, but we also must be responsible stewards of the funds that we do have. Teams are working hard right now to be creative.

Likewise, the Session encourages each of you to personally search within, asking God if there is a part you might be able to play in our reaching a solution to this problem. What role does FPCV play in your life? What ministry is God asking of you?

continued on next page

Five major **MOTIONS** were approved:

1. There will be a Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 7:00pm.
2. Session ratified a Finance/Stewardship email decision on 11/17/22 to invite one-time “Giving Tuesday” gifts to offset the cost of a new HVAC unit installed in November with a single email blast to the Congregation and placement on FPCV FaceBook pages.
3. Jim Hubbard has been elected Clerk *pro tem* during the absence of Clerk Judy Hollar.
4. Although Personnel had recommended a 4% salary increase for all staff, after considerable discussion and due entirely to the financial situation, Session approved a 2% salary increase with a financial review to take place in 6 months; if the June 30, 2023, review shows the deficit to be half of what is predicted in the adopted 2023 budget, bonuses will be reconsidered.
5. Personnel likewise recommended a 4% salary increase for Pastor Kim, but after similar discussion and due entirely to the financial situation, Session approved a 2% salary increase with a financial review to take place in 6 months; if the June 30, 2023, review shows the deficit to be half of what is predicted in the adopted 2023 budget, a bonus (or some other compensation) will be offered.

A few other **highlights** of the meeting included the following:

- Deacon-Elect Sheya Bennett was “examined” by Session prior to being installed on January 8, 2023. Having a long family history with this church, Sheya is excited to see the Deacon ministry moving in a new direction and looking forward to that. Session is excited to have Sheya return to the Deacon ministry.
- Our own Pastor Ken Crews is scheduled to preach and be examined at the Presbytery of Wabash Valley Assembly meeting on Thursday, December 8, prior to Presbytery’s approval of him becoming our Associate Pastor. Many elders will be attending the meeting viz Zoom in support of Pastor Ken.
- The postponed Session Retreat has been rescheduled for February 18-19, 2023.

Joys & Concerns

- Sadly, this was the last regular meeting for two outgoing Elders, Vic Klancer and Kim Croarkin. Notes of affirmation were written to them, but they will be presented at a later date. Please offer them your gratitude for their ministry over the past three years!
- Pastor Kim asked for prayers for over 400 employees and their families who have recently lost their jobs, as well as all others who are unemployed or underemployed this holiday season.
- Prayers were also asked for an Elder who has been having health and back issues.

If you would like more information, please read the detailed minutes which will be *posted in the glass-enclosed announcement board* in the Hospitality Center once they are approved. **In the meantime**, please contact any of the Elders and/or the Clerk if you have questions or are interested in further details.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to:

the Ginger and Jim Boys family on the death of Ginger’s brother, Mark;

the Gary and Beth Germann family on the death of Gary’s sister, Karen; and

Lorraine Meyer on the death of her husband, Robert.

OPPORTUNITY

EXPLORING NEW MEMBERSHIP AT FPC VALPARAISO JANUARY 22, JANUARY 29, FEBRUARY 5 AND FEBRUARY 12, 2023 9:00 A.M. - 9:50 A.M. IN ROOM 101

While the faith journey is indeed a personal one, it is not meant to be traveled alone!

Whether you are a first time/frequent visitor and friend of First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso (FPCV) or just need a refresher, all are welcome to join us for “Exploring at First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso.” We will take a look at what it means to be Presbyterian (what we believe), how the Presbyterian Church (USA) is structured, and the various ministries of FPCV. Each session will be held on Sunday mornings (1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12 in room 101) from 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Nursery care and additional Sunday morning faith formation classes are available for children and youth. If you plan on attending and would like to know more about additional opportunities for children and youth, please contact our Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry, Ken Crews at kencrews@fpcvalpo.org.

As a member of First Presbyterian Church, you will be encouraged to grow in your relationship with the Triune God through worship, faith formation, fellowship, mission, and outreach. , by attending this class you are not required to become a member, in fact, you are welcome to simply come and learn more about us (you can still receive our monthly newsletter, participate in a Bible study, join the choir, or enjoy any of our fellowship events).

Please let us know if you are interested in attending, by contacting the church office churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org.

MISSION NEWS

JANUARY 2023 SECOND MILE OFFERING



continued on next page

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

PADS, the men's homeless shelter FPC hosts every Wednesday, has several volunteer opportunities that need to be filled:

January 4, 2023

Intake 6:30-7:30

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.

Help Dan Higgins

2 people, one needs to be a man

2 people, one needs to be a man.

January 11, 2023

Intake 6:30-7:30

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.

Help Dan Higgins

2 people, one needs to be a man

2 people, one needs to be a man

Grateful for all!

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

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE

**COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED DURING WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023 (RESCHEDULED DATE)
AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

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

All are invited to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/wine or whatever common elements you have to celebrate communion. This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.

ONLINE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

FPC VALPARAISO ONLINE GIVING AND PLEDGE OPPORTUNITIES

Visit <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri76732/-/form/pledge/pledgeincome>
to make a 2023 pledge to FPC

or

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



SACRED GROUND is a dialogue series around race designed for these times. It is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It is focused on the conflicts and questions that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought

us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.

- It is built around **powerful documentary films and readings**, which we are pleased to bring you and which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- **Participants commit** to assigned films and readings, which will seem manageable to some and perhaps a lot to others. There is a maximum of 90 minutes of film/video to watch per session, and an average of 35 pages to read.
- The series brings participants' attention to various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well as some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes **personal story-sharing and deepening relationships**.
- It invites exploration of how people of color have been harmed by racism, and how white people have been hurt in other ways, creating a shared – if deeply unequal – brokenness that **compels us to overcome these legacies in deliberate partnership**. This work can take various shapes.
- It strongly encourages people to constitute dialogue groups with socioeconomic and political diversity, which may involve partnering with another congregation (Episcopal or other).
- It puts attention on issues related to race, while also examining how those issues intersect with family history, class status, regional identity (regional cultures, urban/rural divides, coasts versus heartland), and political identity (red states/blue states, Trump-related divides).
- This series, framed as a spiritual journey, is grounded in the Christian faith – in **the example of Jesus Christ** and the power of scripture, prayer, God's grace, and the Holy Spirit—to help us step closer to **the dream of beloved community**.

The Indiana Kentucky Synod of the ELCA, in partnership with Christ Lutheran Church, invites you to join in this discussion circle beginning January 18, 2023 and meeting every other Wednesday for 11 sessions, each 90 minutes, from 6:00-7:30 pm CST/7:00-8:30 pm EST. During Lent, a session for clergy and church staff committed to worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent will be offered on the following Thursday at 11:00 am CST/ noon. We will meet via Zoom. Registration will open November 1, 2022 and close December 19, 2022, or when 80 participants have registered.

For registration, go to: <https://clcvalpo.org/sacred-ground>

If you have any questions, please contact: Lisa Owen at jlo46383@msn.com or Kathy Sutherland at ksutherland54@yahoo.com.

For more information about Sacred Ground, please see this link: <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about>

PRESBYTERIAN RESALE SHOP MINISTRY NEWS

OUR MISSION:

The Presbyterian Resale Shop sells high quality, gently used items at a fair price to customers in northwest Indiana. We strive to help those in need, to create a welcoming environment for our customers and to promote teamwork among our volunteers. Our goal is to provide funding to worthy service agencies and charities, locally and globally.

The Presbyterian Resale Shop just keeps getting better! In addition to celebrating 80 years as a mission of FPCV, we achieved over \$100,000 in sales and we donated \$50,000 in cash to over fifty charities and organizations. 2022 was our biggest year ever and we can't wait to see what 2023 will bring.

We celebrate and thank all our volunteers, all who donate to us, all who shop with us and our FPCV family who supports our mission.

We would love to welcome new volunteers. Please prayerfully consider joining us in our joyful work. We have a spot for everyone! Please contact me if you would like more information about our mission.

Happy New Year to all from the Presbyterian Resale Shop Volunteers.

Mary Linda Scott
nana6987@hotmail.com
231-590-5799



DEACONS DOINGS

(submitted by Joy Dirks)

The year is quickly coming to a close and the Deacons have once again been very busy all year. The Deacon friends have enjoyed receiving their Advent bags which start off the holiday season for them. For many, it's a highlight of the year as the Deacons have been collecting Advent items for their bags since late fall.

During this Holiday time, we continue to stay in contact either by phone, in person or by sending cards to let our friends know they are always in our thoughts and prayers. We continue with our monthly schedule for setting and cleaning up for each Communion Sunday, and special times such as Christmas Eve services.

We look forward to the new Deacon-elect members who will start in 2023. They are Sheya Bennett, Gina and Jim Peyton and Bonnie Warner. Emily Golding was elected as a youth deacon to the class of 2023. We thank those deacons going off for their time and service.

We as deacons are looking forward to a productive 2023 and for our time together with our deacon friends to make their days a little brighter.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Happy New Year!

10:00 AM Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* FPC, Online

Monday, January 2, 2023

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 101

1:30 PM Bulletin Notes Meeting Hospitality Center

5:30 PM Congregational Life Team Hospitality Center, Online

6:00 PM Building and Grounds Friendship Room

6:00 PM Sweet Adelines FPC

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

10:00 AM Wed. Morning Bible Study Friendship Room

5:30 PM Faith Formation Team 144, 145

6:30 PM Worship Team Online

7:00 PM PADS Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 5, 2023

10:00 AM The Comfort Stitchers 154, 155

5:00 PM Bell Choir Sanctuary, Chapel

6:30 PM Choir Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, January 6, 2023

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Sunday, January 8, 2023 - Officer Ordination and Installation at 10:00 a.m. Worship

9:00 AM Faith Formation Classes FPC

10:00 AM Worship Svc. Live & Streamed* FPC, Online

11:00 AM Taking Down Greens Sanctuary

2:00 PM Cub Scouts FPC

6:00 PM Presbys FPC

Monday, January 9, 2023

11:00 AM Resale Shop Ministry Off-site

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

9:00 AM Membership Team 154, 155

12:00 PM Men's Bible Study 101

1:30 PM Bulletin Notes Meeting Hospitality Center

6:00 PM Sweet Adelines FPC

6:30 PM Mission Team Online

7:15 PM Matthew 25 Team Online

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

10:00 AM Wed. Morning Bible Study Friendship Room

6:00 PM iEngage Online

7:00 PM Finance Team 154, 155

7:00 PM PADS Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 12, 2023

10:00 AM The Comfort Stitchers 154, 155

10:30 AM Stephen Ministry Team 101

11:00 AM Agenda Meeting Office, Online

5:00 PM Bell Choir Sanctuary, Chapel

6:30 PM Choir Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, January 13, 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 15, 2023

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
2:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Presbys	FPC

Monday, January 16, 2022 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting	154, 155, Online

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	Session Meeting	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 19, 2023

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

Friday, January 20, 2023

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	FPC
9:00 AM	Exploring New Membership	101
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
2:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
4:00 PM	Ordination and Installation of Ken Crews	FPC
6:00 PM	Presbys	FPC

Monday, January 23, 2023

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

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

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
12:30 PM	Parkinson's Support Group	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 26, 2023

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:30 AM	Stephen Ministry Team	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary, Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, January 27, 2023

Saturday, January 28, 2023

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	FPC
9:00 AM	Exploring New Membership	101
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
2:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Presbys	FPC

Monday, January 30, 2023

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

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

**denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, fpcvalpo.org, FPC YouTube Channel:*

www.fpcvalpo.org/worship-livestream,

www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Za9RpS1LFHAmVd6XW_pTQ, or

www.facebook.com/1stPresChurchValpo

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP

Consider hosting a Sunday by signing up in the Hospitality Center or at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084DA8A92DA2FC1-fpcv>

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

FPC VALPARAISO IS A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION:



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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 1
Rose Ross

January 3
Beverly Dudek

January 5
Mary Brown

January 6
Matthew Byerly
Judy Hollar
Connor Walls

January 7
Sharon Harris

January 9
Ruth Dickey

January 10
Todd Coffin

January 11
Owen Crews
Ginger Hedrick

January 12
Pat Lowe

January 15
Kennedy Thomas

January 16
Jason Adams
Judy Schumacher

January 18
Brad Dirks

January 19
Jim Knopf

January 20
Stacey Buehler
Ethan Luick

January 22
Olga Koch

January 25
Lynsey Buehler

January 29
Bill Baltas
Aubree Hughes
Marcelle Johnson
Amy Press

January 31
Don Mohr
Bob Sopata

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

DUE DATES – TIDINGS ARTICLES, BULLETIN ARTICLES AND SCREENS

Due Date for Tidings Articles:

The due date for Tidings articles is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. (i.e. June articles are due by May 15.) Please email articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org

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

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

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

ROSTER

SEXTON

Open: Mike Becker
Close: Jim Hubbard

COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan. 8 Phebe Klapp
David Goodwin
Ryne Press

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 Matthew Byerly
Jan. 15 Elizabeth Monroe
Jan. 29 Marc Buehler

DEACON(S) ON CALL SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 TBD
Jan. 15 TBD

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 Matthew Byerly
Jan. 8 Jim Hubbard
Jan. 15 TBD
Jan. 22 TBD
Jan. 29 TBD

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

Sunday, January 8, 2023 TBD



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director	rclark3110@gmail.com
Ken Crews, Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry	kencrews@fpcvalpo.org
Sue Davis, Business Manager.....	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist	bdirks@comcast.net
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator.	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
John Stocks, Custodian	
Jeff Whitney, Director of Worship Music & Digital Technology	jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org

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

<u>Elders of Session</u>	<u>Ministry Team</u>
Marc Buehler	Building and Grounds*
Matthew Byerly.....	Worship Team iEngage**
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Adult Faith Formation**
Harry Karabel.....	iEngage Worship Team**
Linda Long	Finance/Stewardship Team
Elizabeth Monroe.....	Membership Team
Ron Phillips.....	Adult Spiritual Formation Team Faith Formation Team**
Ryne Press.....	Mission Team Matthew 25 Team**
Trish Lawson	Congregational Life Team Nominating Team
Ron Scott.....	Personnel Team Nominating Team**

* denotes Co-moderator

** denotes Elder Rep.

Building and Grounds Team

Vic Klancer

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Cindy Robinson, Moderator

Clerk of Session Pro Tem

Jim Hubbard

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Endowment Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

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



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