

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 MARCH 16, 2022

The March Session Meeting was a very busy meeting with lots of discussion and decisions that are moving this congregation forward. Twelve elders were in attendance with three by videoconference.

Elder Training: This month the article *A Seat at the Table* by Julie Hester was read and discussed. Each elder shared their personal story about who helped them have ‘a seat at the table’ during their faith journeys.

Team of the Month: Congregational Life (Trish Lawson, Session Lead) *{Each month one of the Ministry Teams takes responsibility for describing their work and responsibilities, are prayed for by the other teams and report how that felt, what they learned being in prayer for the wider community + give reflections on worship}.*

Congregational Life is charged with strengthening the faith and life of the congregation through fellowship activities while promoting the general involvement of all members and friends of FPC Valpo.

The many church-wide events that are a vital part of our non-worship time together are planned, organized and carried out by this team.

Holy Living: Trish expressed how meaningful it was to attend Ash Wednesday worship in-person and be reminded of our human frailty after a few years of health issues and one-year of pandemic.

Pastor Kim and Session not only prayed for the Congregational Life team but expressed openly their importance and how much their work and activities mean to our church family.

Regular Business:

- Accepted were the reports submitted by Ministry Teams, from Staff, approved Minutes of past meetings.
- Continued working on the process for scheduling Communion Servers for the rest of 2022, so that each Communion has its servers pre-established. Reminder: Any ordained Elder or Deacon is eligible to serve communion so anyone who is eligible to serve may participate in communion as a server.
- Elders were invited to each write a letter to our Confirmands as part of the church’s commitment to support them in their faith journey.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Cathy Greenawald & Jim Hubbard, APNC Co-chairs, provided an overview of the work of the APNC since its inception in February 2021, and discussed the APNC’s deliberations and discernment processes including how they used the fact we have always had an Associate Pastor at FPCV, the input from the Congregational Survey and discussions they have had with Pastor Kim to arrive at the APNC’s recommendation.

They then presented their recommendation to Session: **to proceed with the process of seeking and engaging an Associate Pastor at FPCV who will provide needed support to the congregation, the teams & groups active within this church and support for our Pastor/Head of Staff and that will allow our congregation to continue to thrive and carry out God’s work in this community and beyond...and to accept the offer from an unidentified donor(s) to put funds in a designated account to pay for two years of compensation for an Associate Pastor, estimated to be ~\$75,000/year, this offer being made through a spirit of generosity and faith that FPCV needs this staff role to fulfill its role in the community. Session APPROVED this recommendation to proceed accepting the gift of the two years’ of compensation for an Associate Pastor.**

continued on next page

The APNC also presented a ‘possible’ allocation of the duties of leadership & support among a three-person staff, something that Session will need to review and approve in the future before finalizing the church’s Mission Information Form and Job Description for an Associate Pastor,

The APNC will reconvene and begin the work of finalizing a Job Description, finalizing the Mission Information Form (MIF) to be used when the position is formally posted within the PCUSA pastor search system, the same one used for finding and calling Pastor Kim.

In addition, the following business was conducted:

MOTIONS:

Congregational Life Moved:

To reinstate Coffee Hour beginning Sunday March 27, 2022. APPROVED

- **FPCV to move to a “Masks welcome, but optional” status with appropriate signage at all entrances. APPROVED**
- **Motion to approve an Earth Day re-usable water bottle fundraiser for the month of April on behalf of The Mustard Seed Approach. APPROVED**

Finance & Stewardship Team Moved:

- **To approve actions recommended by Finance Team concerning Treasurer tasks, the Chart of Accounts, and operating bank account as recorded in Minutes of March 9, 2022. APPROVED**
- **To empower the Finance/Stewardship Team to recruit and organize a Taskforce that reports to Session to initiate the process of planning a Capital Campaign, including conversations with PILP (Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program) and possible conversations with capital fundraising consultants for churches. APPROVED**

Motions to Session from the Endowment Committee which is a part of Finance & Stewardship Team

- **To approve receiving in 2022 the full distribution of \$11,929.00 available from the Endowment funds invested with the Porter County Community Foundation (PCCF). APPROVED**
- **To approve receiving in 2022 the full distribution of \$5,388.00 from the Breyding Fund held at the PCCF. APPROVED**
- **To approve receiving in 2022 \$1,000.00 of the \$1,444.00 available from the Graeber Memorial Scholarship Fund held at the PCCF. APPROVED**

Buildings & Grounds Moved:

To approve the Building and Grounds policy BG2, BG3 & BG5 changes. APPROVED:

- **Policy #BG2 provides that Custodial services are included at the conclusion of events held on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays in order to assure the building is prepared for Sunday worship and/or other activities.**
- **Policy #BG3 provides that the church’s tables and chairs can be authorized for use off-site only for church-sponsored events. No tables or chairs can be loaned to Church members for personal use at a site other than the church.**
- **Policy #BG5 provides that any building user fees waived to outside organizations must be approved by Session. Groups to be monitored by Building & Grounds**

Mission Team Moved:

Motion to participate in the Gary Beveridge Elementary School bicycle fundraiser. APPROVED (This motion and vote was done using the established email voting process.)

Faith Formation Moved:

FPCV to host a ‘pinwheel garden’ fundraiser to support Dunebrook, Inc. and raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). A pinwheel will be added to the ‘garden’ on the FPCV front lawn for every donation (of any amount) received. FPCV Youth and/or Faith Formation reps would be available Sunday mornings in the Narthex during the month of April to promote and receive donations. APPROVED

continued on next page

SESSION SYNOPSIS OF MARCH 16, 2022, CONTINUED

Discussion was had about how our congregation is open to these “pop-up” mission opportunities which are separate and apart from our Second Mile Offerings and we have been having about one per month including: December – Mayfield supplies; January – Dunes clean-up; February – Ukraine Vigil; March – Gary school Bikes; and now April – Dunebrook, Inc. for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Praises/Joys/Prayers/Concerns:

Prayers for Joy on her recovery from hip surgery, for Linda Marrs on the loss of her mother, Dan Higgins on the loss of his brother Lenny, and for a former student of Sharon Kinsey who had a heart transplant and is doing well... along with prayers for all those affected by the war in Ukraine.

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 Pro Tem if you have questions or are interested in further details.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hubbard, Clerk Pro Tem

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for two scholarships and one service award to be given by First Presbyterian Church are available online at <https://www.fpcvalpo.org/scholarships>. Please submit completed forms to the following address by June 11, 2022:

First Presbyterian Church
3401 N. Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Attn: Scholarship Committee

The annual Anne Lauterbach Scholarships are available to high school graduates of any age who are pursuing education toward a post-high school degree.

The annual Lillian Wilson Graeber Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is active in First Presbyterian Church and in the community and who has been accepted by a two or four-year institution of higher learning.

The First Presbyterian Church Service Award will go to a graduating high school senior who is implementing post-secondary education plans.

Anyone with questions may contact Margaret Alexander, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at 462-8723.

THANK YOU

Thanks to our church family for surrounding us with prayers, cards, emails, and phone calls. The outpourings of Christian love is amazing!

Keep the prayers coming. They help so much.

Brad & Joy Dirks

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

So you want to talk about race

"Fascinating, real,
and necessary."
—THE ROOT

Ijeoma Oluo

MATTHEW 25 BOOK CLUB
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022
6:30 PM
FPCV CHAPEL

The FPCV Matthew 25 Team invites interested persons to a one-night Book Club gathering to discuss Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*.

Oluo is an exceptional writer with a rare ability to be straightforward, funny, and effective in her coverage of sensitive, hyper-charged issues in America. She explores the complex reality of today's racial landscape. *So You Want to Talk About Race* explores cultural appreciation, the school-to-prison pipeline, micro-aggressions, the minority myth and much more.

The book can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or Bookshop.org (supporting independent bookstores).

Questions???

Email Kim at kmcroarkin@aol.com or Beth at bcgermann@gmail.com

***denotes if you would like the Zoom link to the study, please contact the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org.**

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/

MATTHEW 25 REFLECTION



“**MATTHEW 25 REFLECTION**” presents information chosen by our Matthew 25 Team to inform and inspire our church family to actively engage in activities and with initiatives that reduce poverty and racism in our local communities and beyond.

Most of us believe we are not racist. We feel that we treat people of color with kindness and respect. We **easily recognize** and speak out against **racist individuals** who act out through cross burning, hate crimes, or racist rhetoric.

However, we **do not easily recognize** the **structural racism** that is woven into every aspect of society. Structural Racism is the many racial inequalities that result from American systems and policies that we have always accepted without question.

The best way to gain an understanding of Structural Racism is by looking at the inequalities it produces. Having previously examined inequalities of **wealth** and **education**, this month we continue by looking at the vast inequalities in **Housing**.

1. When the government sought to make mortgages more affordable back in the 1930s, thereby jumpstarting suburban living, the Homeowners Loan Corporation ranked neighborhoods giving high marks to all-white neighborhoods and marking those with minorities in red as risky investments. **Redlining**, which essentially barred black people and other minorities from owning homes and building wealth. Officially outlawed in the '60s, the practice really has never gone away.
2. Private policies of discriminatory zoning, mortgage discrimination, and restrictive covenants still exist.
3. Home equity makes up two-thirds of the average family's wealth. Black people have always been disadvantaged in their efforts to own a home due to low-income jobs (with no benefits) and federal, state, and local laws and practices of realtors and lenders. In 2008, they were targeted for refinancing with sub-prime loans even when many qualified for conventional loans. As a result, more than 240,000 African Americans who had built some equity in a home lost those homes to foreclosure.
4. The rising costs of rent weigh heaviest on African Americans, who suffer from lower wages. As the cost of rent climbs above income, ordinary people face eviction, displacement, and homelessness.
5. Over the last two decades, tens of thousands of units of public housing have been destroyed, often with promises they would be replaced. But rather than replacing desperately needed public housing municipalities allow dangerous “last resort” housing to exist for its poorest, and most often, black residents.
6. Although segregation has been illegal since the Fair Housing Act of 1968, its basic structures established in the 1940s remain largely intact and large areas of our cities remain segregated.

As we read, study, and discuss Matthew 25 issues, we need God's help in fully recognizing the injustice and inequality that continue to exist because of systemic poverty and structural racism. Please add your voice daily in asking that God guide us and empower us, individually and as a church family, in our Matthew 25 efforts. We also need His help in finding meaningful ways for us to act in response to our love and concern.

Prayer in response to today's article:

Lord, lead and direct my thoughts as I reflect upon the inequalities in housing within our nation. Amen

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

2022 LENTEN WORSHIP @ FPCV

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening @ 6:05 p.m.

3/30

Wednesday Evening @ 6:00 p.m.

(Time Revised)

Service of Healing and Wholeness

4/6

THE WORSHIP ARTS WORKSHOP - OPEN STUDIO

Thursday Evenings, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

3/31, 4/7

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 a.m.

(Adult Class in Friendship Room and Zoom* through Lent)

* denotes if you would like the Zoom link/information, please contact the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org.

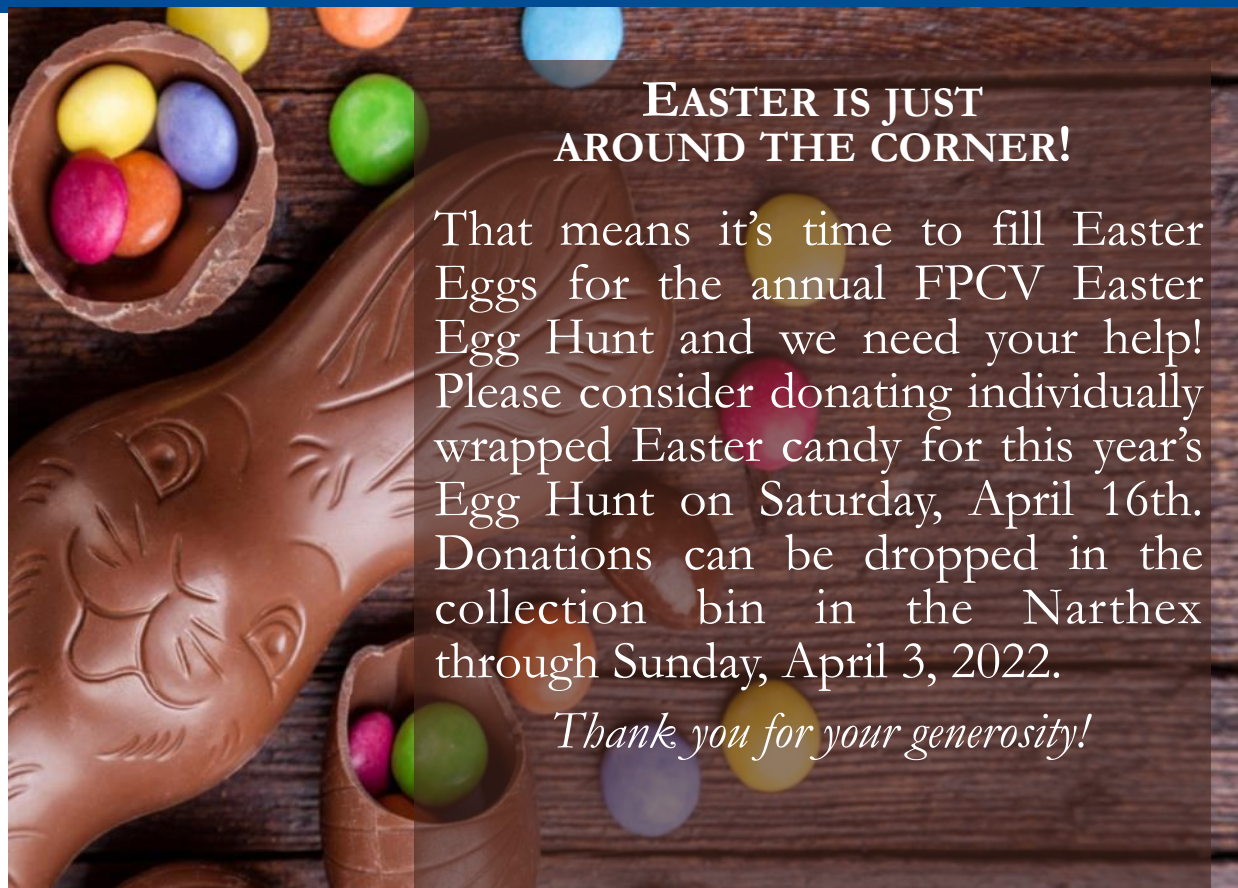
DEACONS DOINGS

(Submitted by Cindy Robinson)

When writing the Deacons Doings for April this year, it's a no-brainer, I write about Easter! and how the Deacon's will be busy delivering Easter flowers to our Deacon Friends-which we will do and have fun doing it the week of Easter, I promise you!

However, with all the sadness and war in the world right now, Easter seems to take on an even more important role this year. The cute Easter bunnies take the form of yellow and blue lights that can be seen all around the world in support of Ukraine. The unbelievable love and support for people we don't even know, just like what Jesus endured on the cross for us, supporting, loving and lifting, an entire human race so we could have eternal life. Let that sink in for a moment.

Please take time during this Lenten season, to pray that Hope takes a whole new meaning through the domino effect of war, humanitarian crisis, and the COVID aftermath that weighs heavily on everyone's heart. As, 1 Corinthians 15:14 states, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." For through the power of the Resurrection, comes an unbelievable personal peace that is so needed this and every year. Happy Easter and may God bless us all.



EASTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

That means it's time to fill Easter Eggs for the annual FPCV Easter Egg Hunt and we need your help! Please consider donating individually wrapped Easter candy for this year's Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th. Donations can be dropped in the collection bin in the Narthex through Sunday, April 3, 2022.

Thank you for your generosity!

+++

EASTER EGG HUNT & COMMUNITY GIVE BACK SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022 @ 11:00 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VALPARAISO

Bring tradition and mission together! Donate to one or more partner organizations anytime during their regular collection hours on Thursday, April 14th, Friday, April 15th, or Saturday, April 16th (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.) and earn two golden tickets. Bring your tickets to the FPCV Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th at 11:00 a.m. for a chance to win a SPECIAL PRIZE BASKET! Partner organizations include:

- Hilltop Neighborhood House Food Pantry, 606 Union Street (Non perishable food items)
- New Creation Resale Shop, 2102 Calumet Ave (Gently used clothing, furniture, household goods, books, music, etc.)
- Dressed for School, 653 Hayes Leonard Road (New clothing, with tags on, and new shoes for school-age children and youth)

**Donations received at FPCV for the above organizations on the day of the Egg Hunt will receive one golden ticket entry into the prize basket raffle!*

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWS

“TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!”

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PRESENTS:



FPCV Monthly Meal Out (“MMO”)

All Are Welcome!

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

10:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

300 Porters Vale Blvd

Valparaiso, IN

Donating back 20%

20% of the pre-tax total will go back to FPCV when you place your receipt in the clear Plexiglass box at the registers after ordering.

****In order for the fundraiser to officially happen, each month we need a minimum of 20 RSVPs to the link below by April 6!**

<https://www.groupraise.com/events/215023>

EASTER FLOWERS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order flowers for Easter Sunday Worship Services, please forward the following information to the **church office by April 4, 2022**. Flowers to choose from are Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths. The price is \$5.99 per plant. Please include Easter flowers on the check memo line.

Name: _____ Phone No. _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Number of Daffodils: _____ @ \$5.99 per plant

Number of Tulips: _____ @ \$5.99 per plant

Number of Hyacinths: _____ @ \$5.99 per plant



*CONGREGATIONAL LIFE JOYFULLY INVITES YOU TO THE
Palm Sunday Walking Path Processional
&
Brown Bag Lunch*

Date: Sunday, April 10, 2022
Time: Following the 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday service all are welcome to walk the approximately 1.5 mile path across the street and circle back to the pavilion for a brown bag lunch.
RSVP: Sunday April 3, 2022 (for the lunch order) to Trish Lawson at 219-671-1205 or tmlawson77@yahoo.com

JUST A FEW NOTABLES:

- *Wearing comfortable clothing and shoes is recommended for the procession after service*
- *There will be people stationed at different spots on the path if assistance is needed*
- *Weather permitting, lunch will have two options:*
 - 1) *Pick up to go; or*
 - 2) *Lunch in/around the pavilion (please bring your own seating)*
- ** In the event of inclement weather, folks are welcome to pick up lunch to go.*
- *Please be mindful of social distancing and/or other's comfort level when gathering.*

GRATITUDE

*For sixty years I have been forgetful, every minute,
But not for a second has this flowing toward me stopped or slowed.
I deserve nothing. Today I recognize that I am the guest the mystics talk about.
I play this living music for my host. Everything is for the host.*

This quote by Jelaluddin Rumi always blows me away. I feel its truth deeply and I am both humbled and grateful. After all, why in the world should I, of all living things, be the beneficiary of so much?

Frederick Brussat, the well-known UCC clergyman and Christian writer, says of this quote, “Rumi is right! We are guests on the great, good Earth, and every breath should be one of gratitude to the Host. For us, as Christians, that Host is our heavenly Father, God the Creator.” Brussat goes on to say, **“Ingratitude is to shut our eyes to the obvious. But to recognize what one has received and whisper....thank you....puts everything in its proper place and perspective. With gratitude we feel joy. We light the candles. We celebrate.”**

Friends, these past two years, now going into our third year, have been profoundly unsettling. The world has endured a pandemic, the likes of which few of us living have ever experienced. Our country’s political climate has become increasingly frayed causing division in communities, families and friends, leaving many of us feeling a sense of loss. Weather disasters are more frequent and severe. And recently, we have been watching in utter disbelief as one of the great nuclear powers invades and reigns terror down on the people of a sovereign nation simply because it can.

The condition of this world with its myriad challenges, is just one reason that the on-going life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Valparaiso is important. To be sure, we are a humble part of Valparaiso, which, as the world map goes, is a dot. But can you think of any recent time when community was more important or when the Christian values of loving, including, and affirming others was more needed? Can you think of a time when caring for each other or giving to those devastated by the various existential threats listed above seemed more urgent. Honestly, I cannot.

And, in the midst of this troubled world.....**not for a second has this flowing toward First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso stopped or slowed.** Indeed, just a few months before our country went into lock down, First Presbyterian welcomed a new, creative Pastor-Head of Staff, along with her entire family, who in accepting our call, **changed their lives** to be in ministry with us.

We remain blessed by our Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministries who serves our young people and so many other aspects of worship and church work with an enthusiasm and joy that is infectious.

Our musicians, technical volunteers and our gifted Music and Digital Ministry Director have been a key part of our regular and new online ministry, a complicated effort that required additional resources allowing us to remain safely connected to our spiritual family.

The list goes on.

- The PADS ministry and other mission outreach continued because there were congregants who, despite all the inconveniences of the last few years, said “what could be more important?”
- Sunday morning Faith Formation, Wednesday evening Lenten Services and Christian art projects during Advent created new spaces to explore our Christian journey.
- Our Buildings and Grounds team moved forward with much needed maintenance repairs and upgrades to care for our building, this **sacred** place where we worship together and welcome the stranger.
- Deacons, Stephen Ministers and the Prayer Shawl Ministry continued their call to care for those in our congregation.
- The Presbyterian Resale Shop and Presbyterian Preschool continued to be vital community organizations and services supported in various ways by our church.

continued on next page

We have been blessed by these and additional ministries and we are grateful! Nevertheless, like other congregations during this pandemic, our financial circumstances have deteriorated and this has implications for those ministries. So, I ask the following questions as a way to encourage all of us to *reflect upon* and realize what is here and to not, as Brussat says “**through ingratitude, shut our eyes to the obvious**”:

- Are open, accepting Christian communities like First Presbyterian, dedicated to practicing the love of Christ, especially needed in today’s increasingly complicated, intolerant world?
- Given that living in Christian community, like any family, has its joys and struggles, do we fully grasp the essential truth that continually learning how to be in loving community with one another is at the core of what the gospels are all about?
- Is there joy in being part of a congregation *where one is known* and where one’s gifts *make a difference*?
- In what way would you be affected if participating in the fellowship and ministries of First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso were no longer possible? Have you considered how your brothers and sisters in Christ would be affected by such circumstances?
- Within your own life, have you noticed that what receives your committed, nurturing attention thrives and what does not withers?

As we go through this reflective time of Lent, please prayerfully consider the value of First Presbyterian to the world, to Valparaiso, to those who are part of this congregation and to your own life. Think about what makes you grateful for this faith community and how your Stewardship Pledge now and into the future might more earnestly reflect that gratitude.

*For sixty years I have been forgetful, every minute,
But not for a second has this flowing toward me stopped or slowed.*

In Christian love,

Kathy Joseph

+ + +

YOU DON’T EVEN HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT. . .

A lot of things dropped into that category when the **COVID** pandemic began and it wasn’t safe to gather on Sunday mornings in-person for worship: what to wear, which car to take, whether to go early for Sunday school or stay for coffee. Did it matter?

There used to be a little ritual at our house on Sunday morning. I sat down at my desk and wrote a check to the church. Then I said a prayer of thanksgiving and put the money in its little envelope to carry to church. And there on the first day of the week our offering was entrusted to God in another ritual, the Presentation of Tithes and Offerings.

I learned to think intentionally about those details to keep myself aware of the connectedness of the many parts of our lives.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ —Mark 12:30

When the church was closed down, Nancy and I went to live-streaming, as did most members. We started writing a check just once a month (or when I happened to remember) and mailing it in. I didn’t have to think about the offering except when the usher came by. Then I did my best imitation of a person who’d made their offering already.

Elsewhere in this Tidings you will find a list of methods of giving, including electronic transfers. You could go that way. Then you wouldn’t even have to think about it.

Myself, I’m thinking of going back to weekly offerings with all the steps: checks and envelopes, offering plates and standing up to sing the Doxology; and dedicating our gifts to God in prayer.

—Mike Becker

You make a difference.

**Thank you
for your continued
support.**



American Red Cross



BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS
First Presbyterian Church
March 7

Registered Donors = 42

Total Pints Collected = 39

Potential Lives Saved = 117

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

Each donation can save up to 3 lives!

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | facebook.com/redcrossblood | [@redcrossbloodXX](https://twitter.com/redcrossbloodXX)



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMP 2022
Save the dates on your calendar and make plans to attend!
Register Online at: www.genevacenter.org

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

This year's theme allows us to explore who God made us to be. Through time and in sacred moments, names take on meaning beyond their spoken sound. Discussions during camp examine how you were named and who God intended you to be.

Geneva Center has been hosting its summer camps for over 50 years and we are excited to welcome this year's campers!! This is the time of year to reunite with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy time in the beautiful outdoor setting that Geneva Center provides. Summer camp 2022 is the place where lifelong memories are created!

We want to reassure all campers and their families that all CDC and State Health Department recommendations will be in effect to ensure that summer camp is safe. We have not had a single case of COVID on site in the past two years. Safety for all is our first priority.

Register for "What's In A Name" Summer Camp now at www.genevacenter.org
REGISTER AND PAY IN FULL BEFORE MAY 15, 2022, TO AVOID \$25 LATE FEE
Call Cathy with questions at 574-223-6915

June 13-18	Explorers (completed grades 4-5)	\$ 415.00
June 13-15	You and Me 1 (age 5+ and an adult)	\$ 235.00 / person
June 13-15	New Beginnings (completed grades 1-3)	\$ 235.00
June 20-25	MAD (Music, Art, Drama) (completed grades 6-12)	\$ 415.00
June 20-22	You and Me 2 (age 5+ and an adult)	\$ 235.00 / person
June 27-July 2	Traditional Camp (completed grades 6-12)	\$ 415.00
June 27-July 2	CROSS (Recreation/Sports) (completed grades 6-12)	\$ 415.00

Geneva Center is a year-round facility that can accommodate your group any time of year. We are an interdenominational retreat, camp and conference center located on 235 wooded acres. We have a main Conference Center equipped with A/V resources and WiFi, bedrooms to accommodate 63 guests in 31 hotel-like rooms, an outside Olympic-size swimming pool with shaded pavilion, 6 cabins with showers that sleep up to 16 each, A lakeside pavilion with bench seating or picnic tables, wonderful indoor and outdoor meeting & worship spaces, miles of wooded trails, a great dining hall with excellent food, a huge labyrinth...and more. It is a first-class site nestled between new Hwy 31 And Old Hwy 31 just 5 miles north of Rochester, Indiana. Contact Cathy to make reservations for your group activity. 574-223-6915

BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS

We need your help opening and closing the church before and after our Worship services for the following months in 2022.

“O” indicates an “open” date and we need your help “O”

“👤” simply means we have a volunteer;

and we thank you for your help “👤”

<u>Month</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
June	👤	O
July	👤	👤
August	👤	O
September	👤	O
October	👤	O
November	👤	👤
December	👤	O

Please consider helping out your
Faith Community in this very simple service.

If you are available to sign up or would like additional information
regarding this ministry, please contact Vic Klancer at:

219-216-4555

~ or ~

vic-klancer@comcast.net



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The Presbyterian Resale Shop had a successful changeover. We sold what we could, and we donated everything else to other missions. An enthusiastic group of about ten volunteers spent a full week spring cleaning and restocking the shop. Our grand reopening was March 15th which was a huge success with \$1,758 in sales! We were so excited for the success and to offer new items to our loyal customers.

Please stop in and see our selection of clothing, housewares, home décor, toys, books and so much more.

One of our volunteers would love to give you a tour so you can see our mission at work. You might find the perfect spot for your gifts to be used to help us help others. Please contact me for more information.

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

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to:

Dan Higgins and Valarie Smart Higgins family on the death of Dan's brother, Lenny.

Bob and Linda Marrs family upon the death of Linda's mother.

CALENDAR

Friday, April 01, 2022

Saturday, April 02, 2022

Sunday, April 03, 2022

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Adult Faith Formation Class*	Friendship Room/Online
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed**	Sanctuary/Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	100

Monday, April 04, 2022

7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
---------	------------------	---------------------------

Tuesday, April 05, 2022

9:30 AM	PWNS	PWNS Classrooms
10:30 AM	Membership Team (Revised Time)	154, 155
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	Off-site
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Online
5:00 PM	Congregational Life Team	Online
6:00 PM	Building and Grounds	Friendship Room
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
6:00 PM	iEngage Team Meeting	Online
6:30 PM	Matthew 25 Book Discussion*	Friendship Room/Online

Wednesday, April 06, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
5:30 PM	Faith Formation Team	144/145, Online
6:00 PM	Cultivating and Letting Go - Service of Healing and Wholeness (Revised Time)	Sanctuary/Online
7:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
7:30 PM	Worship Team (Revised Time)	Online

Thursday, April 07, 2022

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
5:30 PM	Worship Arts Workshop	Hospitality Center
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, April 08, 2022

Saturday, April 09, 2022

*denotes in-person and online. If you would like the Zoom link/information, please contact the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org

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

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 10, 2022

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Adult Faith Formation Class*	Friendship Room/Online
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed**	Sanctuary/Online
11:00 AM	Walking Path Procession & Lunch	Pavilion / Outdoors
6:00 PM	Presbys	100

Monday, April 11, 2022

11:00 AM	Presbyterian Resale Shop Ministry	Off-site
7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	Off-site
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Online
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
6:30 PM	Mission Team	Online
7:15 PM	Matthew 25 Team (Revised Time)	Online

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:30 AM	Monthly Meal Out - McAlister's Deli	Off-site
7:00 PM	Finance Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS Ministry	Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Thursday, April 14, 2022 - Maundy Thursday

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:30 AM	Stephen Ministry Team	101
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship	Sanctuary/Online

Friday, April 15, 2022 - Good Friday

7:00 PM	St. John's, Chesterton - Good Friday Service	St. John's United Church, 225 W Lincoln Ave, Chesterton, IN
---------	--	---

Saturday, April 16, 2022

11:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt	FPC
----------	-----------------	-----

*denotes in-person and online. If you would like the Zoom link/information, please contact the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org

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

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 17, 2022 - Easter Sunday

7:00 AM	Sunrise Service	Pavilion
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Adult Faith Formation Class*	Friendship Room/Online
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed**	Sanctuary/Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	100

Monday, April 18, 2022 - Church Office Closed

7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
---------	------------------	---------------------------

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	Off-site
12:00 PM	DAR Group	Friendship Room
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Online
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
10:30 AM	Monthly Meal Out - McAlister's Deli (until 8:00 p.m.)	Valparaiso Restaurant

Thursday, April 21, 2022

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, April 22, 2022

Saturday, April 23, 2022

*denotes in-person and online. If you would like the Zoom link/information, please contact the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org

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

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 24, 2022

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed**	Sanctuary/Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	100

Monday, April 25, 2022

7:00 PM	Scouts Troop 920	Pavilion, Fellowship Hall
---------	------------------	---------------------------

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	Off-site
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Online
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	Session (Fourth Wed. of the Month)	154, 155

Thursday, April 28, 2022

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:30 AM	Stephen Ministry Team	101
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, April 29, 2022

Saturday, April 30, 2022

8:00 AM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
---------	----------------	-----

WORSHIP NEWS

OPPORTUNITY – LITURGIST MINISTRY

Serving as the liturgist during worship is a ministry. We invite you to approach it prayerfully. This ministry is open to as many people as possible giving the opportunity to support our liturgists in this “work of the people” (the root of liturgy from Greek). Liturgists may read the Call to Confession and Confession of Sin, while the minister preaches the sermon, offers prayers, and blesses sacraments. Our liturgists are an important part of our worship, and demonstrate how we all minister to the community.

To sign up to serve as liturgist, please click on the link below:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/994107930073/false#/invitation>

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022

Thank you to those who give from generous hearts to sustain our work as a thriving congregation!

THROUGH JANUARY AND FEBRUARY:

Contributions from Members & Friends:	\$ 97,859
Expenditures for Mission & Ministry:	\$ 79,651
Relief for Our Budget Shortfall:	\$ 18,208
Additional Mission Gifts:	\$ 8,000

+ + +

2022 PER CAPITA:

“Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love...”

Once again our per capita is \$42 per member. In giving to support *per capita*, we are saying, “Thank you for the gift of the Church.” We are working together, seeking the mind of Christ, working for justice and mercy in the world, and participating in God's continual reformation of the Church.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER.

pcusa.org/percapita

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022, AT 10:00 A.M.
MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022, AT 7:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the above-captioned dates 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.

WAYS TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH

Mail pledges and gifts to the church at the following address:

First Presbyterian Church
3401 N. Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383

- **Electronic Transfer Option:** If you would like to have pledges and gifts transferred to the church via electronic transfer, please contact the church office via email at: churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
- **Online Giving Option:** If you would like to give pledges and gifts to the church online, please visit the church's website at www.fpcvalpo.org and click on "To Make a Gift" tab located on the right; or click <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri76732/-/give/KLYBGIVCVH>:
- **Direct payment by QCD withdrawal (tax free) from your IRA savings.** To give a QCD or "Qualified Charitable Donation" if you are 70 1/2 or older, you may consult with your tax advisor and arrange through your investment provider who will advise on its procedure.
- **Naming First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso** to receive a gift from your will or estate plan.

+ + +

What are some of the ways your church pledge or donations support the operations of First Presbyterian Church?

- Our Pastor Kim, Ken our director of Faith Formation and youth, Jeffrey our director of music and digital ministries, Dawn our church administrator, Sue our business manager, and other part-time musicians and staff.
- Support our ministry teams that include mission giving and our Buildings & Grounds team that cares for our property, our session, presbytery, synod and general assembly who lead our PC(USA) through governance by ruling elders and ministers with per capita funding.
- **Giving Beyond Your Annual Commitment supports missions and special needs like:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Christmas Joy and other denominational missions - see presbyterianmission.org; 2nd Mile gifts for Church World Services and its blanket ministry and care for refugees; Hilltop Neighborhood House and the Christian Food Pantry in Valparaiso; New Creation and the PADS program for men experiencing homelessness; the Caring Place for women, and so many other local, state and national organizations engaged in caring for those needing our love and extra help

GIFTS TO OUR CAPITAL ACCOUNT PROVIDE FOR:

- Improvements or replacement of land, buildings, furniture, fixtures, equipment, software beyond the typical \$2,000 threshold.
- Major repairs or replacement that improve efficiency, extend an item's useful life, or increase capacity like replacing the water pipes last year.

Examples are improved lighting, sound, heating and cooling, accessibility, chancel furnishings, and the like.

continued on next page

FINANCE NEWS, CONTINUED

Living as faith-filled disciples of Jesus during an ongoing pandemic makes planning so difficult. Holding one another in prayer and noticing God's generosity around us - big and small - reminds us that each is loved and we support one another. Not everyone is able to make his/her pledge commitment. Others know that times of crisis will evoke increased giving. Those who are able have an opportunity to step up their financial commitment and experience the joy of making a difference. If those who are able increase their giving by 10% to 25%, we will meet our operating budget, celebrate our mission giving to others, and build some capital reserve to protect and enhance our church building dating from 1973 and its addition in 1998. Could your generous heart give more in 2022, compared to previous years?

...Be assured that... we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works...As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us. Colossians 1: 9-12 from The Message

– The Finance Team welcomes your questions.

MISSION NEWS: PADS MINISTRY

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

PADS meals help is needed for dinners on the dates below. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. for about 8-10 guests.

March 30

PADS meals help is needed for breakfast on the dates below. Breakfast is served at 6:00 a.m. for eight (8) guests.

March 31

April 7

April 14

To sign up to help with the PADS ministry online,
please visit www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48afaa23a0fbc52-pads.

Grateful for all!

PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don't hesitate to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain at bcgermann@gmail.com or (219) 477-9964.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 3
Victoria Olling

April 6
Kim Klancer

April 11
Allison Schmitt

April 12
Connie Knauff

April 14
Ginger Boys
Pat Buckwell
Rhonda Coffin
Janice Loudermilk
Stephen Williams

April 15
April Fifield

April 16
Julie Fletcher-
Golding
Hayden Hughes

April 18
Jeanne Turner

April 19
Mike Croarkin
April 20
Mary Henrichs

April 21
Mark Ribordy

April 22
Kathy Evans
Pete Goodpaster
Ken Koch
Tom Swihart

April 23
Cameron Hebert

April 30
Terry Diedrich
Mike Nupnau
Denise Stanko

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

ROSTER

SEXTON

Open: Paul Knauff

Close: Ron Phillips

COMMUNION SERVERS

Palm Sunday, April 10

Marc Buehler
Jim Hubbard
Nancy Porter

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Harry Karabel
Sharon Kinsey
Karen Mitseff

Easter Sunday, April 17

7:00 a.m. Jim Hubbard
Ryne Press

10:00 a.m. Vic Klancer
Linda Long
Ron Scott

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

April 3 Marc Buehler

April 17 Ron Scott

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

April 10 Nancy Porter

April 24 Lisa Vukin

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.

THANK YOU!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Ann Carlson, pianist	ann_kieth@yahoo.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**
Kim Croarkin	Matthew 25 Team Mission Team**
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Adult Faith Formation**
Harry Karabel.....	iEngage Worship Team**
Vic Klancer	Building and Grounds Team*
Linda Long.....	Finance/Stewardship Team*
Elizabeth Monroe.....	Membership Team
Karen Mitseff.....	Finance/Stewardship 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.

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Nancy Porter, Moderator

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Clerk of Session Pro Tem

Jim Hubbard

Endowment Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

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



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