

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



CELEBRATION

You are invited to a 100th birthday party for Marcelle Johnson on Sunday, December 11, 2022, in the Friendship Room from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. If you know of someone that knows Marcelle and does not receive communications, please extend the invitation to them.

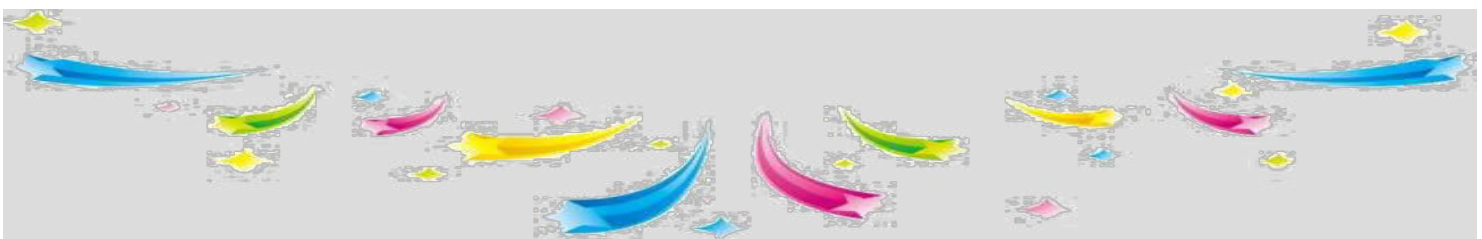
Come and enjoy the fellowship and dessert and greet Marcelle on her special day!

No gifts, please. Cards are welcome.

Given by:

Beverlee Frazee
LaDonna Trapp
Tammie Trapp Johnson

Jessa Trap Tilford
Dolly Trapp



REMINDER:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE WHO CAN CHECK ALL THE BOXES

_____ **I am 72 or older.**

_____ **I have an IRA.**

_____ **I donate money to the church.**

Rather than itemizing deductions on our tax return, most of us now take the standard deduction: for 2022 it is \$14,700 (single and over 65) or \$28,700 (married and over 65). Thus we no longer get a tax deduction for money we give to qualified charities. However, if you checked the three boxes above, **you still can donate money and lower your taxes.** Here is why and how:

Beginning at age 72, you must take a specified amount, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), out of your IRA each year. You must now start paying the taxes you avoided when you put the money in the IRA.

Assume Mary is required to take \$3000 out of her IRA this year. She also wants to give \$3000 to the church.

1. She can have this money sent to herself. It is considered income, and she would pay \$720 more in taxes (if she is in the 24% tax bracket). $\$3000 - \720 (to taxes) = **\$2280 left for charities**
2. She can request this money be sent **directly** to First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso and she would pay no taxes on this money. $\$3000 - \$0 =$ **the full \$3000 goes to the church.**
3. Yes, if she wanted to donate only \$2000, she could have the remaining \$1000 (\$720 after taxes) sent to her.
4. Also, she can request the money be distributed among two or more charities.

These donations are called **Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCD's).**

All it takes is a phone call to the custodian of your IRA (or your accountant/financial advisor). They can help you set up the process and timing for sending out your QCD checks this year. **This needs to be done now to ensure it is completed by December 31.**

Blessings,
Your Endowment Committee



American
Red Cross

Thank you!



Blood Drive

Sponsor Group

November 20

Date of Drive

38

Total Number of Donors

0

First Time Donors

40

Units Collected

120

Potential Number of Lives Saved

When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.

“TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!”

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PRESENTS:



FPCV Monthly Meal Out (“MMO”)

All Are Welcome!

Wednesday, December 21, 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 above fundraiser to officially happen,
we need a minimum of 20 RSVPs. The link to RSVP will be available soon.****



+ + +

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>

WORSHIP NEWS

OPPORTUNITY – LITURGIST MINISTRY

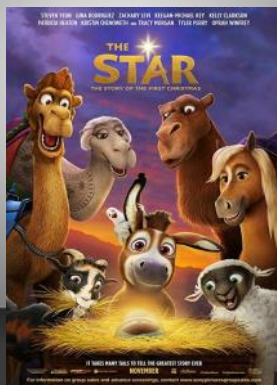
Serving as the liturgist during worship is a ministry. We invite you to approach it prayerfully. This ministry is open to as many people as possible giving the opportunity to support our liturgists in this “work of the people” (the root of liturgy from Greek). Liturgists may read the Call to Confession 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 visit:

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

FPCV presents:
PJ'S & POPCORN MOVIE NIGHT!!
Fri., Dec. 16, 2022 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

Popcorn, sweets
& drinks
provided!



Please note: the PJ's and Popcorn Movie Night
was revised as presented above.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Kid-friendly dinner, games,
stories, and more!
All children
grades 1st-5th
are welcome!

First Friday Friends

Friday, December 2nd

6:00pm-8:00pm

First Presbyterian Church
Free & Open to the public!

RSVP to
kencrews@fpcvalpo.org

3401 N. Valparaiso St. • 219-464-4985 • www.fpcvalpo.org • @1stPresChurchValpo

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH A FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS DINNER

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49afa82ba5fbc34-first> to sign up to help with a First Friday Friends dinner.

PRESBYTERIAN WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL (“PWNS”)

As I write this, it is snowing!! It is the first of the year and I think it was 70 degrees last week!! The children enjoyed their extra days outside this fall. November was a month of being thankful and giving!! Check out our Thankful Turkey in the hallway outside our rooms!! The children wrote what and who they are thankful for, brought food in for the Hilltop Food Drive and got to help put the food in their van, changed turkeys into other things so they wouldn't be eaten, made pumpkin bread for their families, made bookmarks and ornaments for the Deacon Advent bags, and there was a very successful book fair. Wow! Were they busy!!!

If you walk down the hall, you may hear beautiful children's voices practicing their songs for their Christmas Programs. You are all invited for the Pre K Class's on Monday December 12th at 6:00 in the sanctuary and the Early Learners' on Tuesday the 13th at 6:00. They will also be having their Cookie Walk on those nights. Plans for a Gingerbread day are being made for the Early Learners and the Pre K will be having some Swedish Christmas activities during December!! We will say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and have our last day of school on the 13th and 14th with parties.

Registration for next year will begin in January. Information will be available from the teachers or Connie Knauff. Please let your friends and families know!!!

DEACONS DOINGS

(submitted by Joy Dirks)

Yesterday was the start of the Holiday Season with the Annual Craft Fair and Deacons Cookie Walk fundraiser. I have not seen the results of the event yet, but looking at the parking lot, double the vendors from last year, and lots of families and friends from both our church family as well as community, it had to be a success. It was wonderful to see every available space in the church used for vendors and tables of cookies for sale by the Deacons. I couldn't pass up a holiday scarf for Gershwin to wear during the Holidays. (I just know he will love it, Ha!)

With the Cookie walk behind us, the Deacons are concentrating on the Advent gift bags and World Communion Sunday, November 20.

Thanks to Linda Marrs and Betty Richardson, the bags for our Deacon Friends were filled and ready to go. They are currently in the choir room, but will be in the workroom for pickup by the Deacons starting Sunday November 13, through the 27th of November.

With World Communion Sunday next Sunday, November 20, the Deacons will be able to visit their friends, deliver the Advent bags and serve Communion all at the same time.

Pastor Kim held a Communion procedure meeting after the service on November 6, to go over the Order of Worship when serving Communion.

If you know of a family member in need of a Deacon friend, please contact any deacon.

We continue to hold in our prayers our Deacon friends and their families as we look forward to the Advent Season and the coming of Christ at Christmas.

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

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

December 7, 2022		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
December 14, 2022		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Help Dan Higgins	
2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
December 21, 2022		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Help Dan Higgins	
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
December 28, 2022		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Help Dan Higgins	
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
January 4, 2023		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Help Dan Higgins	
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man.
January 11, 2023		
Intake 6:30-7:30		
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Help Dan Higgins	
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	2 people,	one needs to be a man
2:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	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, DECEMBER 11, 2022 (RESCHEDULED DATE)
AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP,**

**CHRISTMAS EVE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022
AT 4:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. WORSHIP**

**AND
CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022
AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

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.



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>



“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.

WE MUST TALK ABOUT RACE TO FIX ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

(Abridged comments from video produced by Demos.org)

The disparity between the rich and the poor in our nation is greater than it has ever been. In 2021, 10% of the people in the U.S. owned 70% of the wealth; the bottom 50% owned 2%.

Some people say talking about race will divide us, but we are already divided.

We are divided because there is constant, intentional “race talk” in our political society. Politicians have learned they can use race to win votes. They don’t talk about race expressly, but they use “dog whistles.” The definition of Dog Whistle Politics: When politicians use coded language they defend as benign but is intended to provoke strong emotional responses in their target audiences. Think about terms like “illegal aliens,” “entitlements,” “freeloaders,” “inner city crime,” “drug testing for welfare recipients.” What color faces do you associate with those terms?

Think about terms like “the Silent Majority,” “the Heartland,” “Real Americans,” “hard working taxpayers,” “law and order,” What color faces do you associate with those terms?

Racism has had and continues to have a substantial influence on election results.

They foster deep-seated fears and biases that lead us to fight against each other, distrust each other, and to resent and distrust ineffective government. As the government is frozen in a stalemate, we turn control over to the very rich who thrive in the status quo and do not want change. As a result, they maintain policies that have created them massive wealth inequality...all sold to the American public through a narrative of racial resentment.

The changes we need for the good of all: improving the environment, assuring the future of Social Security, reigning in Wall Street, reducing the wealth gap, stand at a political stalemate as corporations and the wealthy thrive and the wealth gap widens.

Racism is a belief in a hierarchy of human value that some people are just worth more than others. That doesn’t just affect the people who are seen as worthless because **all our fates are linked together**. Only as the power of racism is acknowledged and redirected can “change for the good of the vast majority be accomplished and economic inequality be reduced.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help us to realize that the fates of all fellow Americans are linked together. Help us to realize that Systemic Racism and Economic Inequality are corrosive and destructive problems that must be addressed and corrected. Direct us in our efforts to do a better job of confronting these issues in our nation, our community, and ourselves. Amen.

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 is ready for the Christmas Season. We have decked the halls with lots of holiday décor. In addition, we have great prices on top quality gently used clothing, toys, housewares and so much more. We are looking forward to serving our community of faithful shoppers and giving back to our community by supporting a wide variety of local agencies.

We would love to welcome new volunteers to join us as we end 2022 and move forward in 2023. Please contact me if you would like more information about our mission.

Merry Christmas to all from the Presbyterian Resale Shop Volunteers.

YOUR HELP HELPS US HELP OTHERS!

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



CALENDAR

Thursday, December 1, 2022		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary, Chapel
5:30 PM	Worship Arts Workshop	148, 149
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 2, 2022		
6:00 PM	First Friday Friends	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 3, 2022		
8:00 PM	Practice (BR)	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 4, 2022		
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, December 5, 2022		
Tuesday, December 6, 2022		
10:00 AM	Membership Team	154, 155
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	DAR Rescheduled	Friendship Room
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
Wednesday, December 7, 2022		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, December 8, 2022		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
10:30 AM	Stephen Ministry Team	101
3:00 PM	Endowment Committee Meeting	154, 155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary, Chapel
5:30 PM	Worship Arts Workshop	148, 149
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 9, 2022		
Saturday, December 10, 2022		

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CALENDAR

Sunday, December 11, 2022 - Communion Sunday (Rescheduled Date)

9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
1:30 PM	Birthday Celebration - Marcelle	Friendship Room
2:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Presbys	FPC

Monday, December 12, 2022

11:00 AM	Resale Shop Ministry	Off-site
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Tuesday, December 13, 2022

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

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	Finance Team (TBC)	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 15, 2022

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, December 16, 2022

2:00 PM	PJ's & Popcorn Movie Night	Fellowship Hal
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Saturday, December 17, 2022

Sunday, December 18, 2022

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, December 19, 2022

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

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

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall,
7:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 22, 2022

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, December 23, 2022

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary

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CALENDAR

Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Merry Christmas!

10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
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Monday, December 26, 2022 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 - Church Office Closed

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
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6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	FPC
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Wednesday, December 28, 2022 - Church Office Closed

12:30 PM	Parkinson's Support Group	Friendship Room
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7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
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Thursday, December 29, 2022 - Church Office Closed

10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
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5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary, Chapel
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6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
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7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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Friday, December 30, 2022 - Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 31, 2022

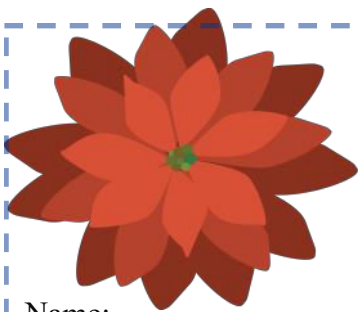
**denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, fpcvalpo.org, FPC YouTube Channel:*

www.fpcvalpo.org/worship-livestream,

www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Za9RpS1LFHAmVd6XW_pTQ, or

www.facebook.com/1stPresChurchValpo.

To give the staff a break during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season, the church office will be closed from Monday, December 26, 2022, through Friday, December 30, 2022. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call 219-464-4985.



POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order poinsettias for this Christmas Season, please forward the following information and a check to the church office by December 7. The price is \$12.74 per plant. Red and white options are available.

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

of Red Plants: _____

of White Plants: _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1
Kathy Spitler

December 2
Andrew Adams
Robert Meyer
Susan Swarner

December 4
Paige Hughes

December 5
Audrey Rudzinski

December 6
Leanne Grant

December 8
Michael Byerly
Joan Johnston

December 10
Diana Richardson

December 12
Tim Reyna

December 13
Lindsay Giles

December 19
John Lawson

December 21
Pastor Nancy Becker

December 23
Ken Kukler

December 25
Lillian Bianco
Marc Buehler
Gavin Kukler
Jean Patton

December 30
Elizabeth Monroe

*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.

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/

ROSTER

SEXTON

Open:	Vic Klancer
Close:	
Dec. 4	Zane Cole
Dec. 11	Zane Cole
Dec. 18	Jim Hubbard
Dec. 21	Jim Hubbard (TBC)
Dec. 24	Jim Hubbard
Dec. 25	Jim Hubbard

COMMUNION SERVERS

Dec. 11*	David Goodwin (TBC) Sharon Kinsey Phebe Klapp (TBC)
Dec. 24 4:00 p.m.	Cathy Cole Julie Golding Chip Wilkes
7:00 p.m.	Andrea Phillips Lauren Phillips Ron Scott
Dec. 25	Isabel Gordon Jason Gordon Elizabeth Monroe

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	Sharon Kinsey
Dec. 18	Trish Lawson

DEACON(S) ON CALL SCHEDULE

Dec. 11	David Goodwin Phebe Klapp
Dec. 25	TBD

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	Ron Phillips
Dec. 11	Paul Knauff
Dec. 18	N/A
Dec. 25	N/A

USHERS SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	Jim Hubbard Sharon Hubbard
Dec. 11	Mary Brown Julie Golding
Dec. 18	Connie Knauff Paul Knauff
Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	
Dec. 25	

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP **Revised: November 22, 2022**

DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022*	June Olling
Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m.) Sat., Dec. 24, 2022	Nancy Porter Cindy Robinson
Christmas Eve (7:00 p.m.) Sat., Dec. 24, 2022	Nancy Porter Cindy Robinson
Christmas Day Sun., Dec. 25, 2022	Lisa Vukin

**denotes rescheduled date*



‘TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING, AND FOR THANKSGIVING!

Conversations about First Presbyterian Church – Valpo being a “vibrant congregation” began in March 2020 when we all thought that COVID would be a short blip in the life of our congregation. We were chosen and funded as one of three churches from our Presbytery along with others from our Synod to engage in congregational coaching toward living with a theology of abundance and envisioning opportunities for new ministry. Instead of in-person conversations and retreats as expected, we met for 18 months via Zoom. For our congregation, that worked!

Have we envisioned and enriched opportunities for ministry, new and old? Yes!

- Each week we catch glimpses of our vitality, in our worship with music, arts, the Word Proclaimed, and our sending out live our mission of serving Christ by serving others through ministry teams and personal efforts.
- We have a lively PrayGround where children gather with us during worship with things to keep their hands busy while we know they are immersed in listening and get coached during the Children’s Moment about the key message of the day.
- We reinvigorated our Presbys group of young people, we welcomed multiple new members introduced through our “Presbyterian 101” classes, our preschool is back up and running with energetic new teachers, and our 80-year-old resale shop continues to serve our community in greater numbers than ever.
- We thrive with the creative preaching, teaching and visioning of our dynamic pastor and have just initiated a call for an associate pastor, another dynamic preacher and teacher we know and love!
- And this is not by any means a complete list of ministries either initiated or enriched by new visions. So much for which to be thankful!

As for living with a theology of abundance? Yes!

- As of November 22nd, we are on-track to exceed our estimated giving that supports our 2022 Budget. With five weeks to go in 2022, we have received \$448,920 in total income. 25 pledges are paid in full and some continue above and beyond with their giving; 52 more are mostly or partially fulfilled and we anticipate regular trends of giving continuing through December.
- Our people provided special gifts through offerings for 2nd Mile ministries, Faith Formation programs, worship and music needs, Bikes for Kids, supplies for Indiana Burn Camp for children, Presbyterian Worship & Music Conference, chancel furnishings, Angel Tree and Hilltop Pantry Christmas gifts, and so many other giving opportunities. That total includes \$70,346 given for capital investments and the chancel furnishings.
- Our pledged giving for 2023 is ahead of where we were at this time for 2022. It remains to be seen whether we will have a balanced budget, but to date we have 82 responses pledging or continuing giving totaling \$420,032 for the operating fund. Stewardship responses continue to trickle in and pledges or assurances are welcome and never too late.

We already held our Celebration Sunday in October to recognize and say thank you for the generosity expressed by so many of you to fund our mission and ministries in 2023. Thank you for the giving that sustains us week by week in amounts large and small, as each of us is able, but together for our shared work of Christ the King and his Kin-dom!

-Linda Long, Treasurer

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**
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
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

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Nancy Porter, Moderator

Endowment Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

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



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