

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BEND **2019 Annual Report**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------|
| A Note from the Pastor | 1 |
| 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes | 2-4 |
| Special Congregation Meetings | 5-6 |
| Clerk of Session Report | 7 |
| 2018 Baptisms, Deaths, & New Members ... | 8 |
| Sunday Worship | 9-10 |
| Teen & 20-Something Ministries | 11-12 |
| Child & Family Ministry | 13-14 |
| Mission & Justice Ministry | 15-19 |
| The Center for Wellbeing & Wisdom | 20-21 |
| @ Your Church Library | 22-24 |
| Deacons | 25-26 |
| Quilters | 27 |
| Marketing & Communications | 28 |

A Note from the Pastor

Wow! What a challenging year it has been! As I reflect on 2019, I begin with deep and heartfelt gratitude. You loved me and my family fiercely and tenderly at a time when it was needed throughout Laurie's health crisis. Our mission statement is: Creating Spaces of Grace to Cultivate Hope, Healing and Purpose. You generously created a space of grace giving me permission to be present to my family throughout our ordeal this past year. Words can't possibly begin to express my gratitude for such a gift. I experienced the steadfast presence of God's love and mercy through your steadfast care and the way you wrapped my entire family in love and support. As Laurie's health miraculously improved, you recognized my own need for a space of grace to heal, recover and restore. You showed me this past year in so many ways church at its best. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

You showed up as the presence of Christ for me and my family. That's the calling of the church: to show up as the love of Jesus. I am convinced now more than ever of the importance of the church showing up. I am convinced now more than ever that the most important thing is for us to show up with love for one another and to show up with love for the least, lost and forgotten. We don't do the many things we do caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the refugee, comforting the grieved, building houses for the homeless, working for justice, sponsoring, tutoring and loving children, offering spaces for healing and recovery, creating spaces for community and reminding people of their beloved-ness to earn our way into heaven. We do all of the things that are mentioned in the pages of this report so that heaven might find a way into us living into the prayer of Jesus, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH as in heaven."

There are many these days who suggest the church is irrelevant. I was reminded by you in the midst of my own crisis this past year how relevant, important and beautiful the church of Jesus Christ is and can be. I am convinced now more than ever of the urgency of the church to show up. The pages of this report highlight the many ways First Presbyterian shows up as the love of Jesus here in Bend and throughout the world. Our calling is not to be more loving but to become the very presence of love itself. I thank this community for being the very presence of love for my family and for the way you continue to be the presence of love to so many in this world.

I want to thank the incredible staff of First Presbyterian. The staff served the church during my absence with grace, selflessness, generosity, creativity, boldness, humor and, above all, love. I am blessed beyond words to serve with these incredible human beings. There are challenging days ahead. I am reminded of the words of Leonard Bernstein after John F. Kennedy's assassination when despair and hate seemed to have the upper hand, Bernstein said, "This will be our reply: To make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." May it be said of us in 2020 that this will be our reply to the challenges of our time: To show up and love more intensely, more beautifully and more devotedly than ever before.

As always, grateful to serve you and serve with you,

Steven
Lead Pastor and Head of Staff

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon

March 5, 2019

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend, Oregon, was held in the sanctuary on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 6:20 p.m.

OPENING

The meeting was opened with prayer at 6:20 p.m. by Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, lead pastor and moderator. **MSC** to declare that a quorum was present due to inclement weather. The meeting began with the singing of Amazing Grace lead by Julie Cash. Dr. Koski asked the members of Session to stand and introduce themselves. Those present were Ruling Elders Lloyd Brogan, Christina Davenport, James Jaggard, Mike Maidl, Kat Mastrangelo, Don Mercer, Samantha Nelson, Joan Roane, Cynthia Serra, Gretchen Williver, and Clerk Sharon Lichti. Dr. Koski thanked Don and Darla Mercer and Nairi and Mike Maidl for cooking the pancakes and sausages that were served to those attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2018 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Dr. Koski reported that the minutes of the February 11, 2018, Annual Congregational Meeting and the June 6, 2018, Special Congregational Meeting were published in the Annual Report that was distributed by email. **MSC** to approve the minutes as published.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 BUDGET

Elders James Jaggard and Kat Mastrangelo introduced the 2019 budget. James talked about the history of the faith factor. He said that since 2006 the church has had a total of \$532,036 in faith factors and that we have surpassed that amount by \$86,596. In 2018 there was a \$66,124 faith factor, and the year ended within \$3,000 of balancing the budget. Pledges for 2018 came in at over 100 percent.

The 2019 Operating Budget projections are as follows:

Total income \$976,023

Total expense \$1,014,122

Faith factor \$-38,099

ELECTION OF 2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Gretchen Williver, chair of the Nominating Committee, explained the purpose of the committee. Gretchen and Christina Davenport will be the members of Session on the Nominating Committee. The representative from the Deacons is still to be determined. The following members of the congregation at large were nominated to be members of the committee:

•Hilary Rothert

•Brian Cash

•Kurt Weaver

Dr. Koski asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to elect the proposed members of the congregation to the 2019 Nominating Committee.

PASTORAL TERMS OF CALL

MSC for Boyd Levet to become the moderator for the discussion of the terms of call for Dr. Koski. Dr. Koski then left the room for the duration of the discussion. Gwen Jones, Personnel Chair, presented the terms of call for 2019 for Dr. Koski. She explained that Dr. Koski's salary (salary plus housing) had been raised by 5 percent. The terms of call for Dr. Koski are as follows:

Continuing Education \$ 2,000

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Dental | \$1,632 |
| SECA | \$8,154 |
| Housing | \$53,297 |
| Mileage | \$2,500 |
| Professional/Miscellaneous Expenses | \$3,000 |
| Pension/Medical | \$41,671 |
| Salary | \$53,297 |
| 4 weeks of vacation | |
| 2 weeks of study leave | |

BECAUSE LOVE

Dr. Koski referred to the chart that had been distributed that showed the many ministry and out-reach activities the church is involved in. He asked those present to gather in small groups and respond to the following questions:

What surprises you?

What are three things to celebrate?

Where do you connect or would like to connect?

MINISTRY LEADER REPORTS

Rev. Shimiko Montgomery, Pastor for Justice and Mission. Rev. Montgomery said that she is excited about “just living.” In April her ministry area will be reflecting on our faith commitment to be good stewards of the earth and emphasizing sustainable living practices.

Becca Ellis, Director of Family and Children. Becca said that she is excited about continuing the connection with families. She is also excited about the two Momma Connect groups which are made up of seven to ten moms mostly from outside the church. Becca was the staff member who planned The Wonder Room.

Morgan Schmidt, Director of Teens and 20-Somethings. Morgan reported that her first day at FPC Bend was exactly four years ago today. Those present responded with what they like most about Morgan. Morgan said that she thinks she has the best job. She is most excited about her connections with the youth. She said that a lot of her time goes to BYC. She is excited about reaching out to students who do not attend BYC. She is now meeting with FPC students on Sunday mornings. She said that there are 50 to 60 high school students and 30-40 middle school students connected to FPC.

Megan Cotton, Marketing and Communications. Megan said she is excited to take photos a videos of church events and put them on social media.

Rev. Kally Elliott, Pastor for Spirituality, Community, and Care. Rev. Elliott said she is excited to build relationships within the congregation and the greater Bend community. She is also excited about the Lenten spiritual groups and getting to know people on a deeper level.

Nathan Gosselin-Sebens, Chancel Choir Director. Nathan said that he is excited about how we engage with other members of the community.

Julie Cash, Director of Worship and Contemporary Music. Julie said that she is excited that music groups become family. She is grateful for Nathan and Becca.

Boyd Levet, Finance Director. Boyd said that he performs any of the tasks related to money. He es-

pecially likes to answer questions and is proud that everything regarding the finances of the church is transparent. He is excited by the sense of vibrancy in the church.

Other Leaders Who Were Recognized:

Ian Cash – Worship Service Video

Chris Ossig – Media Technician

Sherry Smith – Office Coordinator – Dr. Koski thanked Sherry for being a steady, faithful, kind, generous individual.

Doug Gillespie – Building Maintenance Engineer

Eileen Heaton – Music Director for 8:30 Service

Patrice Pease – Treasurer

Dr. Koski reported that Morgan Schmidt is on a path to be ordained in June. According to Presbyterian polity, a person in a position who becomes ordained must resign from that position and be out of the position for six weeks in order to be called into that position. At the June Presbytery meeting, FPC Bend will advocate for an exception to rule so that Morgan can be ordained in the current role she holds. This is what happened when Greg Bolt was ordained and continued in his position.

CLOSING

The meeting was closed at 7:30 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Elliott and the singing of How Great Thou Art.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Lichti, Clerk Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Moderator

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon

Sunday, May 12, 2019

A special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 12, 2019, for the purpose of electing members of the congregation to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to call Morgan Schmidt to the newly approved position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Kally Elliott, moderator, at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Rev. Elliott explained the purpose of the meeting to those present. She then introduced Ruling Elder Cynthia Serra, who read a message from Rev. Dr. Steven Koski that appeared in the May 3 edition of Faith Notes. In his message Dr. Koski shared his excitement about the ordination of Morgan Schmidt and calling her into the position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults.

Ruling Elder Christina Davenport, a member of the church Nominating Committee, introduced the following members of the congregation who had accepted the nomination to be members of the PNC:

Bob Brydges
Ron Carver
Ann Marie Daggett
Morgan Hoisington
James Jaggard
Seth Mickelson
Joan Roane

Rev Elliott asked for additional nominations. There being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to elect the slate of nominees to the PNC.

Rev. Elliott explained that the next step will be for the PNC to meet with the chair of the Committee on Ministry (COM-Central). They will then nominate Morgan to the position of Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. Morgan will go before the June 28-29 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades in Ashland to read her statement of faith and be examined. Once approved by Presbytery, Morgan will be ordained and installed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the congregation, the meeting was closed with prayer at 10:40 a.m..

Respectively submitted

Sharon Lichti, Clerk
Rev. Kally Elliott, Moderator

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon

Sunday, June 9, 2019

A special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 9, 2019, for the purpose of electing members of the congregation as elders and deacons to the Class of 2022 and to vote on the candidate brought to us by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Kally Elliott, moderator, at 10:35 a.m. A quorum was present. Rev. Elliott explained the purpose of the meeting to those present.

ELECTION OF DEACONS

Rev. Elliott introduced the nominees for the office of Deacon for the Class of 2022, asking them to stand as their names were read. The nominees were: Don Buhmann, Hilary Rotherth

In addition to the two new deacons being nominated, current Deacons Meredy Skillern and Phyllis Neumann were presented as Deacons who were renewing their terms. Rev. Elliott asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to elect the slate of nominees presented.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

Rev. Elliott introduced the nominees for the office of Elder for the Class of 2022, asking them to stand as their names were read. The nominees were: Brian Cash, Joel Clements, Connie Heath, Treva Weaver

Rev. Elliott asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to elect the slate of nominees presented.

REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Elliott introduced Joan Roane, who spoke on behalf of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Joan introduced the other members of the APNC: Chair James Jaggard, Bob Brydges, Ron Carver, Ann Marie Daggett, Morgan Hoisington, and Seth Mickelson. In addition, she introduced Anne Bowersox, FPC's Committee on Ministry liaison. Joan reported that the APNC interviewed Morgan Schmidt on May 28 for the position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults and that they recommend her for that position. It was moved and seconded that Morgan Schmidt be elected to the position of Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, pending successful completion of her Ordination examination on the floor of Presbytery at the June 28-29 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades in Ashland. After a show of hands by those present, Morgan was declared to be duly elected to the position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults, pending the aforementioned requirements. Morgan was escorted back into the sanctuary and greeted with a round of applause. MSC to elect a member of the PNC to sign the call papers.

APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF CALL FOR MORGAN SCHMIDT

MSC to approve the following terms of call for Morgan Schmidt:

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Salary and Housing | \$51,066 |
| Continuing Education | \$1,500 |
| Professional Expense | \$1,500 |
| Mileage | \$1,000 |
| Dental | \$442 |

Pension, Health, Disability and Death Coverage under the Board of Pensions plan

Two weeks' Study Leave & Four weeks' vacation, Eligible for a 3-month Sabbatical at full pay after 6 years of service.

It was explained that these amounts were already in the 2019 budget and have been approved, so this vote was just a formality

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the congregation, the meeting was closed with prayer at 10:45 a.m.

Respectively submitted, Sharon Lichti, Clerk

Rev. Kally Elliott, Moderator

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

The Session of First Presbyterian Church Bend held ten regular meetings and three special meetings. Session also held a retreat in August for the purpose of visioning, prioritizing, and planning. Minutes of Session meetings and monthly financial statements are on file in the Session notebook in the Church Office. Session normally meets in the Adult Center on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. except during the months when a retreat is held.

The annual congregational meeting was held on March 5, 2019, at the church. Two additional congregational meetings were held: One on May 12, 2019, for the purpose of approving the job description for the Associate Pastor for Teens and 20-Somethings and for discussing plans for covering responsibilities during Dr. Koski's family leave. The second on June 6, 2019, for the purpose of electing members of the congregation as elders and deacons to the Class of 2022 and to vote on the candidate brought to us by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the position of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. Copies of the minutes of those three meetings are included in this annual report and are also on file in the Session notebook in the Library.

| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Membership January 1 | 745 | 746 | 741 | 733 | 731 | 722 | 721 | 693 | 649 | 608 | 596 | 563 | 567 |
| + Confession of Faith | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 19 |
| + Certificate of Transfer | 16 | 10 | 2 | 17 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 20 | 20 | 12 | 33 | 26 |
| + Reaffirmation of Faith | 11 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 16 | 10 | 7 | 23 | 27 | 26 | 7 | 10 | 11 |
| + From inactive list | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| - Transfer | 4 | 8 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| - Death | 9 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| - All other losses | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 52 |
| Membership December 31 | 762 | 745 | 746 | 741 | 733 | 731 | 722 | 721 | 693 | 649 | 608 | 596 | 563 |

Session Members: January 1 to August 31, 2019

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Debbie Barnes | Jane Kirkpatrick | Joan Roane |
| Lloyd Brogan | Mike Maidl | Cynthia Serra |
| Christina Davenport | Kat Mastrangelo | Gretchen Williver |
| Steve Hummel | Don Mercer | |
| James Jaggard | Samantha Nelson | |

Session Members: September 1 to December 31, 2019

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Brian Cash | Steve Hummel | Don Mercer |
| Joel Clements | James Jaggard | Cynthia Serra |
| Christina Davenport | Mike Maidl | Gretchen Williver |
| Connie Heath | Kat Mastrangelo | |

2019 Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths, and New Members

Baptisms

Oren Wallace Ward – 11-10-2019

Curtis Michael Baney – 11-10-19

Madison (Maddie) June Abramson – 12-29-19

Weddings - none

New Members

Gary and Cheryl Olson – 2-19-2019

Roger Fearn – 5-21-2019

Martha Teich – 5-21-2019

Tiny Collins – 6-18-2019

Frederick (Fred) and Judy Arthurs – 11-19-2019

John and Karen Brower – 11-19-2019

David (Dave) and Michele (Shelley) Butler – 11-19-2019

Michael (Mike) and Linda Cantrill – 11-19-2019

John Douglas – 11-19-2019

Donald and Susan Elsom – 11-19-2019

Molly LaCroix – 11-19-2019

Gwen Lyons – 11-19-2019

Jeremy and Erin Magee – 11-19-2019

Audry Nash – 11-19-2019

Laurel Reid – 11-19-2019

Debbie (Deb) Schlueter – 11-19-2019

Ellen Shaver – 11-19-2019

Barbara Sheeley – 11-19-2019

Patricia Sullivan – 11-19-2019

Carol Troyer – 11-19-2019

Craig Withee – 11-19-2019

Laurie Craghead – 11-19-2019

Deaths

Laura Jo Gildersleeve – 2-21-2019

Ruby Sharmon – 3-5-2019

John Roger (Jack) Flatt – 4-15-219

John Richard (Dick) Swinnerton – 7-26-2019

Barbara B. Rogen – 8-13-219

Irene Jackson – 8-29-2019

Carole Nuckton – 10-17-2019

Fran Rosga – 10-30-2019

Dr. Fred M. Buchanan – 12-18-2019

Leone J Kruse - 12-14-2019

Sunday Worship

Worship is central to the life of First Presbyterian.

Worship is the engine that makes our ministries and mission run. We gather in the generous presence of the God who welcomes all whoever and wherever they happen to be on their spiritual journeys. We seek to do the best we can to create spaces of grace in worship that reflect God's welcome of all. It is our hope that through the worship experience those who gather encounter God in ways that are life giving and life changing. We gather to hear and be shaped by God's story of a love revealed in Jesus Christ from which we can never be separated. We gather to ground ourselves in the presence of God's love that we might become the presence of God's love in the world following the peacemaking way of Jesus. We gather as a community that prays for and with one another. There are tissues scattered throughout the sanctuary as we recognize it is our vulnerability and our tears that unite us and not our strengths. We gather praising God and lifting our spirits with song and listening for that still, small voice in the silence. The word worship literally means worth-ship. We live in a world of many distractions where the things that are most important are always at the mercy of what is least important. We gather in worship where God is central to be reminded and to align our lives with what is most important.

Sundays:

•8:30-9am – Contemplative Worship in Heritage Hall

•9:30 – 10:30am – Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary

•11-11:45am – Classic Worship in the Sanctuary

•6-7pm – TAP. Casual, Conversational, Community-oriented Worship in Heritage Hall

Wednesday:

•12–12:30pm – Contemplative Worship with Communion followed by Centering Prayer for those who wish.

Here are statements from Julie Cash, Director of Music for the 9:30am worship service and worship coordinator, Susan Evans, Director of Music for the 11am worship service and Morgan Schmidt, who is the pastoral leader for TAP.

A note of thanks to the Choir

As the new director of the Chancel Choir this Fall, it has been a joy to be welcomed by such a warm and loving team of singers and instrumentalists. I appreciate the patience they have shown me as I learn about worship at First Pres, and their hard work and commitment to our ministry. Julie Gevenhausen has been of great help in all areas, and she continues to create beautiful music with the choir as well as presenting thoughtful and inspiring prelude and postlude pieces for worship. Jo Boozer brings both her joyful and loving spirit as well as her skill on the flute and violin to our choral selections. I am deeply grateful to our pastoral team who include us in prayer before worship every Sunday. This is such an important element in creating community! Thank you for an opportunity to show my appreciation for members of the Chancel Choir team. ~**Susan Evans**

A note of thanks to the Praise Team

What a gift to work every week with such a wonderful group of dedicated musicians. Your willingness to share your talents and spend time in rehearsal speaks volumes to the dedication you show to each other and our church community. Music is a shared experience. What we lift up together takes us deeper into worship with our Creator. I am grateful to the music team for continuing to grow with me as a group and serve our congregation. ~**Julie Cash**

A note from Tap

The Tap community entered its 5th year in the fall of 2019! I'm so grateful to this community for supporting a radical experiment in re-imagining what church can look like! I'm deeply honored and thrilled that First Pres-

byterian is willing to take risks and explore new ways of being church with those "Nones" and "Dones" who otherwise might not feel at home on Sunday morning. Our intergenerational Sunday night community is a family that welcomes anyone and everyone into the adventure of following in the way of Jesus together. We hear from amazing speakers, have small group discussions, pray, create, sing together, and share in communion each week, and are trying to be intentional about being good news in one another's lives. We have an amazing team of leaders (special thanks to Joella Long, Michael Long, Becca Ellis, and Jer Ellis) who thoughtfully plan each Sunday and help transform Heritage Hall into a welcoming, cozy space where all are welcome and celebrated for who they are. As always, the Tap community's heartfelt thanks go out to our First Presbyterian family for the courage to walk with us in this adventure, for the curiosity and kindness of those of you who have come to check it out, and for the generosity of spirit that has gone into this service.

I want to thank Cullie Treichler who has led the music for the 8:30am service on Sundays this last year. **Julie Gevenhausen is a gift** who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty as our accompanist. **Ian Cash is a slide-operator extraordinaire.**

I want to extend a special thank you to Tom White with the help of Brian Cash who put in many, many hours improving our sound system to enhance the worship experience. **I also want to thank Ted Virt, Lorraine Stuart and Brad Kent** who have provided valuable leadership for the noon service on Wednesdays.

It is such a great privilege to collaborate and work with such an extraordinary staff team in creating meaningful worship experiences. I am grateful for and appreciate each one of them and the unique gifts they bring and contribute to worship.

Gratefully submitted,
Steven Koski, Lead Pastor

Teen & Twenty- something Ministries

Director of Youth & 20-something Ministry
Morgan Schmidt

It is with much love that I share some of the highlights of the past year in the wholehearted, beautiful chaos that is teen and 20-something ministry:

2019 was a year of A LOT of transition for ministries to middle and high school students as the Bend Youth Collective Steering Committee made the difficult, much-discerned decision to gently close our collaborative, ecumenical ministry together. The reasons for this shift were myriad - I think honestly, sometimes beautiful things are only for a season and then something new can be birthed out of it. It was an honor to serve as the Director of the BYC for the last five years, and I look forward to many more years of faithfully serving our teenagers through different ministry avenues and partners. I'm really excited about the possibilities that are opening up as a result of my expanded capacity, since I get to be fully located in ministry at First Presbyterian.

We continue to offer youth group for middle and high school students, special events for fun and service, fall Sabbath retreats, and summer camps/trips.

My motto for students remains: "We Love You Already!" and that really sums up our ministry with these amazing young people. Our middle and high school gatherings are a safe place for students to become more whole, belong in community, and explore what it means to participate in the peacemaking way of Jesus. We have played, told countless stories, and learned more and more about what it looks like to be people of faith. Our hope is to continue to be a community that offers space to be authentic, ask questions, express doubt, do justice, and connect with others in meaningful ways. To balance these intense conversations, we also just hang out, play games,

and laugh a lot! All of this is made possible by an incredible team of 4 amazing adult volunteers who give their time, energy, and love each week to care for our youth.

The BYC motto is: “We Love You Already!”

Last summer, we took 15 middle school students to camp in the Wallowas for a week of community building and service. Seventeen high schoolers ventured to Oakland, where we learned about being good news in our neighborhoods from local peacemakers, particularly when it comes to racism and gentrification. We look forward to more amazing and life-changing trips this coming summer at camp in Joseph, OR and immersing into the immigrant narrative in Arizona & Mexico.

With the extra time I have from not coordinating youth ministry between five congregations, I have been able to establish more of a presence and begin building more relationships with students and faculty at both COCC

and OSU-Cascades. I get to meet weekly with some amazing college students, and look forward to seeing where those conversations and connections lead us in 2020.

The Tap community entered its 5th year in the fall of 2019! I'm so grateful to this community for supporting a radical experiment in re-imagining what church can look like! I'm deeply honored and thrilled that First Presbyterian is willing to take risks and explore new ways of being church with those “Nones” and “Dones” who otherwise might not feel at home on Sunday morning. Our intergenerational Sunday night community is a family that welcomes anyone and everyone into the adventure of following in the way of Jesus together. We hear from amazing speakers, have small group discussions, pray, create, sing together, and share in communion each week, and are trying to be intentional about being good news in one another's lives. We have an amazing team of leaders (special thanks to Joella Long, Michael Long, Becca Ellis, and Jer Ellis) who thoughtfully plan each Sunday and help transform Heritage Hall into a welcoming, cozy space where all are welcome and celebrated for who they are. As always, the Tap community's heartfelt thanks go out to our First Presbyterian family for the courage to walk with us in this adventure, for the curiosity and kindness of those of you who have come to check it out, and for the generosity of spirit that has gone into this service.

Thank you for being such very good news in the lives of our teenagers, in the life of the Tap community, and in my own life. I love you all dearly.

~ Morgan Schmidt

Children And Family Ministry

Director of Child & Family Ministry
Becca Ellis

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I look back on the past year of partnering in ministry with each of you here at First Presbyterian and what a year it has been! Even in the midst of a season of unknowns and feeling stretched at times, we have seen our children's ministry continue to grow and have so much to look back on with joy from 2019. Here are some highlights and noteworthy happenings from the past year:

Mama Connect

The Mama Connect ministry has continued from its launch in 2018 with both Spring and Fall sessions, reaching over 40 moms during the course of the year. Our motherhood circles provide a safe, non-judgmental space for discussion that goes a little more below the surface than what we often find at playdates. Themes that frequently emerge include living intentionally, nurturing our spirituality, presence, and identity, with an overarching focus of viewing motherhood as a spiritual practice.

Kid's Night Out

This past year, we hosted four Kids' Night Out Events for ages 2-11, each happening once a quarter on a First Friday. These low-cost, drop-off programs were all well attended, with an average of 17 children. Activities include: art projects, games, storytelling and age appropriate mindfulness practices.

Popsicles in the Park

This was our second year bringing Popsicles in the Park to Orchard Park. During this free community event, we hand out Popsicles and set up outdoor activities for kids and their families to participate in. This provided an opportunity to have a positive presence in our city and continue to deepen relationships with some of our neighbors, while meeting new families in our community.

Sunday Summer Picnics

3 times over the Summer following the 10AM service, individuals from our congregation were invited to meet us at Shevlin Park for a picnic. We had a handful of households join us each month - it was a wonderfully simple way to build intergenerational community.

Cultivating Community through Family Hikes, Game Nights, Potlucks and more!

In the Fall, the First Pres Families Facebook Group and quarterly newsletter was utilized to spread the word on outings and get-togethers. Families participated in hikes, game nights, play-dates, potlucks and even gingerbread-making, deepening our relationships with one another outside of Sunday morning, while inviting new faces to join us along the way.

Children's Pageant

Children participated in a simple Christmas Pageant on December 10th. It was a great experience and both children and parents genuinely enjoyed being a part of this simple performance shared with the congregation.

Expanded Sunday Morning Kids' Classes

This past year, our average children's attendance on Sundays has almost doubled and we started a separate 3-5th grade class due to our numbers increasing. This started with a 3-week Bible class (which they begged to have extended!) and then continued in the Fall with regular classes. This class has anywhere between 4 and 12 kids each week and meets in the Adult Center. They currently use the Shine Curriculum, which includes a peacemaking element and invites children to engage in and wonder through Scripture together.

The Wonder Room

The Wonder Room opened in February of this year and has made such an impact in the Children's ministry. There isn't a week that goes by where I don't receive a comment about how life-giving this space is and it has been such a beautiful embodiment of how we value children and their wellbeing and safety. On Sunday mornings, this space is used for Pre-k through 2nd grade children, using the Montessori-based Godly Play Curriculum.

Nursery

Our child care workers support families during worship and other special events. On Sunday mornings, interactive worship through age appropriate music, Bible stories and activities are offered for children ages 4 and under in the nursery.

Children's Ministry Team & Volunteers

The Children's Ministry Team meets monthly to review goals and plans. Members of the team include: Deb Klotz, Janet Pearson & Scott Nelson. Sunday mornings we have a team of 8 committed volunteers who rotate teaching in the classroom.

I am continually grateful for your support and prayers and can hardly explain how excited I am for this coming year of ministry with all of you!

Becca Ellis,
Director of Children & Family Ministries



Mission And Justice Ministry

Pastor of Justice & Mission
Rev. Shimiko Montgomery

I am immensely grateful to this church and the ceaseless effort to be a beacon of light in this community. We are fortunate to have teams of volunteers that lead us in our work around peace and justice, hunger and homelessness, outreach to children from economically disadvantaged families, tutoring elementary students, and international partnerships in Burundi and Guatemala. You can read the following full reports from each of those teams. In addition to the incredible amount of work organized by these teams, our congregation supports numerous projects and programs around our community, including Centsability (our once a month offering for hunger prevention that raised around \$5000 in 2019) and the 2019 Faith Community Habitat for Humanity build for a single mother of two.

We also welcome with compassion anyone who comes to the church seeking help. Through those interactions, we have helped dozens of community members with requests as small as \$25 for gas to \$100 to utility assistance to paying their rent so they can avoid eviction.

Thank you for the immeasurable ways you are living God's love.

With gratitude,
Rev. Shimiko Montgomery

Hunger & Homeless Task Force

Team Leader: Karen Bates

Team Members: Sandra Croney, Rhonda Chesney, Mimi Graves, Nancy Mullins, Jan Tetzlaff, Gretchen Williver, Tom Hall, Randall Wood, Valerie Dal Soglio, Ann Kelly

Highlights and Accomplishments:

1. The Christmas Baskets became the Food Fund which has been generously supported. This year, 190 cards were mailed out - each containing a \$25 food coupon totaling \$4750. The mailings are sent out three times/year. The list is prepared by Friends of Jesus volunteers and the FAN representative - this year from High Desert Middle School.
2. The warm clothing and supplies collection provides essentials to non

profits serving the homeless throughout the year. Outerwear, blankets and sleeping bags are distributed to Bethlehem Inn, Shepherds House, Back Door Cafe, Family Kitchen and, sometimes, directly to the camps. This year, 18 sleeping bags were purchased and distributed because the need was so great.

3. An Assistance Log was set up for the office to help track the type of requests that were coming into church during the week. Gas vouchers and utility assistance were most prominent. The log helps Task Force allocate funds.

Areas of Greatest Energy and Engagement:

1. Family Kitchen volunteers prepared and served roughly 1900 meals in 2019 for the 4th Thursday dinner - average cost per meal was \$1.50. Unlike most of the churches serving, First Presbyterian purchases all the food required for the evening meals. When you add the volunteer time (usually 14 -16 people), this equals a significant donation!

2. First Presbyterian volunteers provide and prepare dinner for the residents at Bethlehem Inn on the first Friday of each month. With the renovation of the Inn, the number of guests served has increased from approximately 120 to 180 at each meal. Seldom is the slot on the sign up calendar not filled - thank you FP volunteers!

3. Kits for Kids filled approximately 900 bags this year - a little less than anticipated but the pick-up date was moved up. The collection will begin earlier next year due to the change - Sandra Croney has turned this project over to Ann Kelly - much gratitude to both of these volunteers!

Friends of Jesus First Presbyterian

Team Leader(s) Thiel Larson, Valerie Dal Soglio

Team Members Ali Kent, Kathy Crackel, Tommy Brown Meg Brookover

Highlights and Accomplishments:

We sent 22 children grades 3-through high school to Methodist Summer Camp at Suttle Lake. They came back spirit filled and close to the leaders and all kids who attended. We sent 42 kids and teens to V.B.S. Again, the teens

were the majority of helpers. V.B.S. means everything to both the teens and the smaller children! When I see children from V.B.S. in classrooms as I substitute throughout the district, they always say, "You're from Church!" Even if the students and their parents do not become church members, VBS makes a difference in their lives, we make a difference in our community. We involve other church members in this ministry by securing rides for the children with volunteer drivers. We secured 12 drivers this year, some of them mothers or fathers of the children.

We run a very successful Saturday program from Sept to May. We pick the children up, at 12:00 P.M., and drive them to First Pres.. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. The older students gather any tables we need while all the other students set up chairs. We begin with a circle prayer of grace which is sung. Then we serve and eat sandwiches and fruit. Then we jump rope (a wonderful active strength building exercise for the children) and play other games. Crafts comes next or some other main activity. We gather again at the rug and do a small ceremony where we pass the talking stick and ask the students to comment on a subject so we hear from everyone. We pray together after that, and ask the students for the prayers they may have on their hearts. We conclude with "treasure box" each child can pick one item from our treasure trove!

The children sing and give homemade gifts to the residents of Bend Transitional Care in October. We dress in costume for this event.

We took the children to the Christmas Parade. A great tradition. We bring sandwiches and hot chocolate and have a great time! We took the kids ice-skating at the new pavilion. A thrill! We took the kids swimming twice this year at Juniper Pool.

We took the students and took them to Ponderosa park this year for our end of the year Birthday Bash. We celebrate all their birthdays and play, skateboard, etc.

We had our annual Christmas Party with the children where they are able to pick from donated items to provide presents for their family. This is definitely a highlight. Volunteers help set out items, donate items, and wrap and label

Areas of Greatest Energy and Engagement:

Being there for the children whether it is a family problem they want to discuss with us, or tutoring help or help getting into college.

Signing up the children for Summer Camp and sending all materials off in time.

Shopping for and purchasing school supplies for 45 low income children.

Peace and Justice

Team Leaders: Amy Spernak/Janet Whitney

Team Members: Janet Whitney, Jack Rinn, Brad Kent, Maggie Hanson, Beth Hoover, Meg Brookover, Laurel Sorlie, Thiel Larson, Karin Tadjiki, Avalon Parsons and Amy Spernak

Highlights and Accomplishments:

Team members focused on the following Peace and Justice issues this year:

Human Trafficking – Team members volunteered to assemble information packets for In Our Backyard, a non-profit founded by Nita Belles. This year the packets were distributed by Nita Belles and her team to volunteers and police in Atlanta prior to the Super Bowl, resulting in 13 of 34 missing and at-risk youth from the Missing Children Booklet to be recovered.

In addition, team members noted seeing the "Are You Safe" stickers in highway public rest stops. These stickers provide information and help to trafficking victims throughout Oregon thanks to SB 786.

Housing/Tenant Education- A report on renting in Bend was presented. The implications of SB 608, putting a ceiling on calendar rent increases, was discussed.

Action on Immigration- A team member accompanied a non-English speaking Honduran family member seeking asylum to the monthly ICE "check-in" in Medford, OR. There is also a monthly "check-in" in Portland. The family must depend on others for transportation since they are unable to get a driver's license as they seek asylum. A table providing information on HB 2015 (Driver's Licenses for All) was set up for the congregation after services. Signatures were gathered and 55 postcards signed to go to respective legislators. A letter to the editor was prepared for the Bulletin.

The team assisted with the housewarming for the Honduran family held in Heritage Hall so that the congregation could meet them and hear their story. Funds were raised to pay the legal costs that are incurred as they seek asylum. The team recognized Sue Nell's hard work and endless efforts to gather the necessary documents and letters for the court.

A team member attended the orientation meeting at the court house to provide accompaniment to Latinx persons needing support. In addition, a letter was written to the Bend Bulletin on migrant justice.

Support was provided at the attendance of the (IMirJ) Emerge, and Immigration Solidarity Network with a follow-up photo in front of the courthouse "ICE out of Courthouses."

The schedule for Welcoming Week event was distributed and included in the church e-notes. In addition refreshment were provided for the film and panel discussion of Combating Hate in Bend, held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Gun Safety - With Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America, we supported HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. We support the concerns of students being heard while living in a culture of bullying, guns, and violence.

Green Team - "Green Projects" were introduced each month. The congregation is invited to live out their faith with intentional thought of how they select, use and dispose of items that impact our planet and the lives of others.

Restorative Justice & Equity – A Town Hall Forum was held April 19th at COCC. In attendance were 85 Bend high school and 25 COCC students. The Forum provided a safe place, primarily for students of color to share their experiences and needs. This Forum was supported by the 2018 local portion of the Global Peace donation.

The Peace and Justice Team was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Presbytery of the Cascades to continue working with Restorative Justice/Equity to continue the forums. Peace & Justice acknowledged the leadership of Marilyn Burwell, who initiated the interest and action in restorative Justice...

Rural Organizing Project - Emma Ronai-Durning was a guest speaker at the April Peace and Justice Meeting. The team updated her on the current projects and issues. Several team members attended the ROP Caucus in Cottage Grove in May. The Peace and Justice team supports ROP with an annual membership.

Global Peace Donation - Interfaith Outreach for Homeless, a collective of churches to help people in need will receive 25% of the Global Peace donation.

Bear Creek Tutoring

Team Leader: Maggie Hanson

For over 10 years First Presbyterian and Bear Creek Elementary have partnered to provide a tutoring program for Latino students at the school from 3:00 to 4:00 each Tuesday during the school year. Around 25 students, first through fifth grades, are served in the program where they receive help with reading, math, homework and more. The relationships that develop between tutors and students are priceless. Most of the tutors are from the church, but friends and neighbors have also participated and are welcome to do so.

Guatemala Steering Committee

Team Leader: Sue Nell Phillips

Members: Meredy Skillern, Ralph Delemarter, Gretchen Williver, Mimi Graves, Susie Brewer, Deb Klotz, Mary Wonser, Steve Rothert, Terry Re

Highlights and Accomplishments:

1. June 15-25 Habitat Build trip with a team of 17 volunteers led by Bill Burwell and Susie Brewer. This is a multi-generational experience. Many participants come from outside the FPC population. The emphasis of the trip is to partner with Habitat Guatemala and local families to build homes and provide and help constructing Healthy Home Kits (latrines, clean water filters and smokeless stoves) in San Lucas Toliman and surrounding areas

2. March/April Cultural Trip to San Lucas Toliman where participants met with their sponsored students and families, visit some students' homes and schools and learn about the economy and culture of the area by visiting

co-ops, weavers, basket makers and potters. This trip had 12 participants led by Mary Wonser, Deb Klotz and Nari Maidl. This trip is also multi-generational.

3. We continue to seek new sponsors for students in San Lucas Toliman. Currently there are over 130 friends and members of FPC sponsoring over 225 students. Dennis Evans, the program's founder, calls us the Bend phenomenon. Some of our sponsors live as far away as British Columbia. There are currently about 150 new students needing sponsors.

4. Continue our relationship with the Greater Rotary of Bend sponsoring Healthy Home Kits. July saw the completion of the first year of the project to supply 140 Mayan families in and around San Lucas with Healthy Home Kits. This \$650,350 project (FPC donated \$2000 which generated \$10,000 in matching Rotary fund is currently on budget and time. Steve Rothert is the liaison between FPC and local Rotary. He has also traveled to Guatemala to report on the project.

5. Two successful product sale in December 2018 and July 2019 the proceeds divided between Healthy Home Kits, Travel Grants, and SLT Scholars and Leader funds. Another sale is scheduled for December 2019.

Areas of greatest energy and engagement:

The enthusiasm of participants in our trips to San Lucas Toliman and the stories they share generate increased interest in our relationship with that community. Our partnership with Greater Bend Rotary extends our reach providing Healthy Home Kits to a greater number of families. The Rotary members have also become sponsors for SLT Scholars. We continue to attract new sponsors to the SLT Scholars program as well as current members sponsoring more than one student. The product sales remain popular.

Burundi Team

Burundi Team - Maggie Hanson & Jacquie Coe

Team Members - Karen Bates, Jane Kirkpatrick, Evelyn Donaldson, Hilary Rothert, Kecia Weaver, Linda Sorum, Judy Beam, Susan Hood, Martha Henderson, Nari Maidl, Christina Davenport, Rod Schilz, Georgia Schilz

Celebrating Our Friendship with Batwa in Burundi

It has been an amazing four years of partnership between First Presbyterian and our Batwa friends in Burundi. In the words of Evariste Ndikumana, "It is a joy to bring you stories of your growing impact through friendship and your steadfast determination to walk alongside the people of Gahombo, Mwendo and Ndava." As we enter the fifth year of partnership with our Batwa friends, it is with gratitude that we share good news.

The importance of all adults having ID cards and children having birth certificates continues to play a huge part of being accepted and having rights. In addition, villagers now own their own land, are becoming strategic farmers and are able to feed their families for longer periods of time. Children are eager to attend school. Fees, uniforms and supplies make this possible. Medical insurance cards provide access to health clinics and lives are being saved.

AGRICULTURE:

"I am thankful because we have enough food to eat and to feed our children. Before the time of farming many died of hunger and others were suffering from malnutrition but now we are cultivating our own land to have food." Assumani, 28 year old father of two, Gahombo Village

- 70,000 pounds of crops (corn, potatoes, beans, cassava, rice) harvested in 2018, up from 44,000 pounds the year before.

- All three villages now own their land and are able to make wise choices about best crops to plant for more sustainable agriculture.

- Currently there are two planting/harvesting seasons. Adding a third season in the spring would provide more food for a longer period of time resulting in less hunger and the possibility of selling some of the crops.

- Challenge: The villagers are currently not able to plant a third season due to lack of funds for seeds and supplies.

EDUCATION:

"Since Evariste and ASSEJEBA gave me school supplies and a uniform everyone respects me

and none humiliate me as they did for the simple fact I am Batwa." Audrey, age 16, Mwendo Village

- 280 students are currently enrolled in school; 250 primary and 30 secondary.

- All students have uniforms, school supplies and fees paid.

- Students are feeling included with discrimination from other ethnic groups greatly reduced.

- Educated Batwa brings personal dignity, future jobs and leadership development.

- Challenge: With higher birthrates in the villages, more children wanting to go to school and current enrollments, the education budget has reached its limits.

Energy, Engagement and Accompaniment

In February of 2015, Jane Kirkpatrick and Maggie Hanson along with Pastor Jenny Warner and Kelly Bean of African Road visited Burundi for the first time. We met Evariste Ndikumana and his team and traveled out to three villages that soon would become our partners and friends. In July of 2018 Maggie and Jacquie Coe traveled to Burundi and visited the three villages with Evariste. It was in between farming seasons, but we were able to see the land in each village where crops are grown, experience everyday life in the villages and dance with our friends! Follow up with Evariste and his team provided valuable insights and encouragement.

Each year we have been able to provide the monetary resources to support the projects. However, none of the implementation would be possible without the leadership of Evariste and his ASSEJEBA team who are our "hands and feet on the ground". We keep in touch with Evariste primarily through African Road which is our conduit for reports and updates from the villages. We are very thankful for our partnership with Kelly Bean and African Road who guide and facilitate our work with the Batwa in Burundi.

The Center for Wellbeing & Wisdom

The Center for Wellbeing Director
Ruth Ann Clarke

GENTLE YOGA

Gentle stretching to improve flexibility and help to develop a more quiet, peaceful, and focused mind. Gentle Yoga is especially great for older adults, and all equipment is provided.

MONDAYS: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Laura Donahue

CHAIR YOGA

Specifically designed for individuals with mobility constraints, chair yoga helps improve flexibility and to develop a more quiet, peaceful, and focused mind. All equipment is provided.

WEDNESDAYS: 11 a.m. – noon

Instructor: Laura Donahue

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE

Build stamina through repetition, reduce falls, and improve your brain functionality. Begin with the 8 movement class and continue to advance your skills to the 24 movement class.

TUESDAYS: 1 – 2 p.m. (8 movements)

THURSDAYS: 1 – 2 p.m. (24 movements)

Instructor: Kimberly Walter, Ashley Trottier

AWARENESS

THROUGH MOVEMENT

The Feldenkrais Method is a gentle, very deliberate, and focused series of movements to improve the day-to-day functioning of your body. Mats are provided.

THURSDAYS: 9 – 10 a.m.

Instructor: Teresa Sabo

REIKI

Reiki is hands on prayer focusing on the life force energy present in all creation. This energy flows through our bodies allowing us to release tension. Reiki therapy helps us be more receptive to the benefits of medicine, rest and other therapies. Two practitioners, using hand positions to focus the healing energy can be done by touching the body or placed above the body at the patient's request and can be offered while you rest in a chair or on a massage table. You will receive God's love expressed through the hands of the trained practitioners.

MONDAYS 1-2pm

WEDNESDAYS: 1-2 p.m.

TAI CHI FOR PARKINSON'S

Build stamina through repetition, reduce falls, and improve your brain functionality. All abilities are welcome; moves are modified to accommodate all levels. Classes are for 12-week sessions, but you may begin at any time.

TUESDAYS: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

COST: \$48 for one class per week; \$96 for two classes per week

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S

Improve balance, brain fitness, and have fun moving to live music provided by pianist Jonathan Shepherd! Classes are for 12-week sessions, and you may begin at any time. We start with dancing by trained dance instructors Julie Carda and Ashley Trottier, followed by social time and refreshments.

FRIDAYS: 10:30-11:45 a.m. plus social hour

COST: \$8 per class; \$96 for 12 weeks

CENTER DIRECTOR

Ruth Ann Clarke was hired the fall of 2018 to help coordinate and oversee the center. Ruth Ann Clarke has over 15 years of experience in the field of fitness and wellness in Central Oregon and is an excellent addition to the team.



Instructor Laura Donahue leads the chair yoga class on Wednesdays.

2019 @ your Church Library

Brigitte Dysart, Librarian

**“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”
-Henry Ward Beecher**

The Library continued to take shape during the early months, as we strive to make it a welcoming space. A new round table with four matching chairs, barrel armchairs and end table arrived in January. A cozy teal area shag rug was put in place for the children's picture book area. Three gently used oak bookcases were also purchased, after it was determined we could use more shelving.

We welcomed Pastor Kally Elliott who gave her support and guidance. Several meetings, communication through emails, and work parties took place with participation by the relocation committee with Elders on Session: Jane Kirkpatrick, Joan Roane, Gretchen Williver, James Jaggard -- and a group of volunteers: Kay Bancroft, Ralph Delamarter, Virginia Graham, Bill and Sara Hoffman, Terry Re, Treva Weaver. Elder Steve Hummel gave a finishing touch of crown moldings on the bookshelves he had previously rebuilt and securely installed using his expert skills. Custodian Doug Gillespie lent his capable hands in placing the additional oak bookcases, attaching bulletin boards, and to other tasks that needed attention. Much gratitude goes out to ALL who worked on the relocation and assisted in making it an inviting place.

Books for the Children's Library in the Wonder Room were selected and given to Becca Ellis, Director of Family & Children as the grand opening of the Wonder Room was celebrated on Sunday morning, February 3rd. Displays on the two book racks were rotated during the seasons of the year. Sections of “Easy” books, Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction were

also shelved in the lower level. All available for check-out. There were many discussions on having a Library Re-opening event at the Center, but the timing was not right, and was postponed.

The Library was visited by many people that gathered at church for meetings, retreats, exercise groups, overnights, as well as patrons on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Approximately 250 recorded items were checked-out, using a manual self-help honor system. The computer catalog was maintained, and license for the software Concourse by Book Systems, Inc. was renewed. The system is used for look-up and preparing pockets, check-out card and spine labels. Extensive updates to the catalog were performed to bring it up to date. "Removals" of items were noted, which occurred because of weeding out some of the items due to damage, no or poor circulation, and lost or overdue. Many of the older items were re-cataloged to conform with the new system and several volumes obtained prior to 2003, that were never entered, are now included. They were also given a fresh appearance with new labels and book covers where needed. There are currently 3620 items in the catalog. 82 New Items were entered, acquired through purchase or donations: 49 – Non-fiction, 31 in the 200 Religion – Dewey Classification; 5 – Biographies; 9 – Fiction; 2 – Juvenile Non-fiction; 4 – Juvenile Fiction; 9 – Easy Books; 3 – DVDs; 1 – CD.

Weekly submissions to E-News were posted, featuring some of our new additions, seasonal interests, or to coincide with events and message for the week. For example:

NEW @your Church Library - "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others" by Barba-

ra Brown Taylor, author of our current Lenten study, "An Altar in the World". Taylor recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. This new selection is currently on display at the library table in the Commons. Hold requests available. Please email inquiries and comments to library@bendfp.org Organization of the Library Annex, previously The Studio classroom, took place, but is still a work in progress. It was a staging area during the relocation and now used as the library office housing the computer, circulation records and supplies, storage, and archives, including the Sermon CDs and albums of church history. It also holds many of the Reference books, such as commentary series of the Bible; study guides from The Thoughtful Christian; Kits for Caregivers, 4 activity bags provided by the Deacons' Care Ministry. A cabinet was donated to be used for the scrapbooks, etc.

During the stewardship campaign, "God's Partners", the library poster showed a collage of the current transformation, with the caption, "The library has been a prominent fixture at our church for over 40 years! Our current location, lower level at the Center for Wellbeing and Wisdom, is a welcoming haven and patrons have commented, "love the new library space". Resources of books and more grace the shelves with a wide selection of genres supporting our "Spacious Christianity", encouraging study, spiritual development, and taking a journey with the stories that have been shared. Check-Us-Out!! All Are Welcome!!

Sharing this beautiful poem written by Lorraine Stuart, our Spiritual Director.

“Sacred Library Space”

by Lorraine Stuart

In silence, Spirit speaks,
walking the Labyrinth of grace,
carrying beloveds in prayer,
slowly leaving on my pilgrimage,
I wonder where to rest.

In silence, the Library area invites me,
to enter and explore.
Warm light, appealing art, comfortable chairs,
children's carpet, a writing table,
each detail builds sacred space.

In silence I wait, breathe, receive peace.
Thinking to be alone, I slowly notice
companions already there. Written years ago,
costing countless hours, many drafts, these
writers of wisdom mentor me still.
I note them like jewels on my necklace of grace:
Jane Kirkpatrick, Richard Rohr, Eugene Peterson,
Henri Nouwen, Jean Vanier, Sarah Hornsby,
Linda Hunt, Thomas Merton, Anne Lamott,
and more.

In silence, I give thanks for
the limitless dimensions of mind and heart
books open up, invitations always proclaiming
possibilities beyond today.
I give thanks for the loving vision, creativity,
and care revealed in the church Library space.
A sanctuary of growth, prayer, joy, challenge,
the Library is a chapel in the Body of Christ,
sacred space for renewal, remembrance,
discovery, and rest.

Respectfully submitted by Brigitte Dysart, Librarian

Deacons

Rev. Kally Elliott,

Pastor of Spirituality, Community & Care

Hospital Visitation

We have a team of seven people, five of which have assigned days to make hospital visits, and two alternates. The hospital visitation team visits Presbyterians in St. Charles hospital five days a week and makes a report to the team after their visit.

Memorials

The bereavement committee assisted with 8 memorial services during the year. We furnish ushers, Wonder Room for the family meeting before the service, serve the food requested by the families, memorabilia table, guest book table and cleanup. We furnish coffee, tea, punch, ice tea, cookies, usually fruit tray and vege tray, plates, cups, napkins using color choice by family. If food is catered by the family we will assist serving it. Memorials held 2019 were: Barton Clements, Laura Jo Gildersleeve March 30; Ruby Leona Royce Sharman April 6; John R. (Jack) Flatt April 25; Eugene Joseph McNurney May (no food); Michael Van Meter June 8; John Richard "Dick" Swinnerton August 16; and Rosanna Irene Duberow November 9.

Home Visitations

The deacons organize and provide visitation and communion to those who are homebound. They do their visitations on a regular basis.

Senior Concerns

This groups consist of those in their 70's through 90's. The "charm" of the group seems to be the social interaction on Sunday morning after the 11am service in the Commons. This group is very social and enjoys inviting all new comers to join their circle fo coffee after the service. This is the springboard for sincere Christian fellowship. The group grows by the weeks. We can now have as many as 15 enjoy-

ing social time after church. Many from this group will then join other groups in the church that meet during the week. This is a happy, healthy fellowship group. Many concerns of this age group surface in these gatherings. A major ongoing concern is transportation, especially at night, for special events at church. Most of this group drive when it is light but do not drive at night. We handle these requests individually and the deacons are always ready to help. Currently the Senior Concerns committee is working on reviving programs related to end of life decisions.

Online Prayer Ministry

“Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

The Online Prayer Partners received many prayer requests. There were over 130 email contacts, including all the pastors, staff, friends and members, far and near, who prayed ‘without ceasing’ throughout the year. The coordinating team, who initiates the prayers, was led by our Deacon, Meredy Skillern, and Pastor Kally. It included Lorraine Stuart, Ali Kent, Brigitte Dysart, and newly ordained Deacon. Jill Anderson who joined the team in February. The team rotated, usually on a two-month period, in sending out the requests. A weekly notice in E-News was maintained indicating that “Gratitudes & Requests Always Welcome” and may be submitted to Sherry Smith, office coordinator. Prayer requests came from Sunday morning services, and emails from Pastors, individuals, prayer partners, and through the office. Many concerns were shared and prayed for, as well as prayers of thanksgiving. Expressions of gratitude were voiced in how much all the prayers meant to them and their loved ones. God, in your mercy, you heard our prayers. God, in your goodness, we give thanks for this ministry.

Women’s Retreat

This last year the deacons offered a one day women’s retreat with keynote speaker Christine Sine.

Grief Support

A grief support retreat was offered in partnership with the deacons and Diane Louise MA-MFT Marriage and Family Therapist Intern.

Spiritual Formation

Centering Prayer groups at First Presbyterian offer the opportunity to explore contemplative silence in the company of others. Pausing to make space for God helps us in our spiritual journeys to go deeper and welcome God’s transforming presence to bless and change us. Contemplative Outreach of Central Oregon supports the four groups meeting at our church: Sunday mornings between worship services, Tuesday evening, Wednesday noon after worship, and Thursday noon.

Spiritual Direction offers an opportunity to explore your spiritual journey with a trained director (companion). Individuals can make an appointment for a confidential hour of one-on-one sharing, listening, and prayer support. After an initial meeting, one usually commits to meeting several times with a spiritual director to grow in discerning God’s presence and direction.

Lenten Lunches and Study Groups

For the 2019 Lenten season the congregation read Barbara Brown Taylor’s *An Altar in the World* and gathered for lunch one day a week for conversation and community.



Quilters Group

Total quilts given 93

(January-December 2019)

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Red Cross | 63 |
| Habitat Homes | 13 |
| Paradise Fire | 7 |
| Honduras Family | 2 |
| Alzheimers Assoc. (Redmond) | 3 |
| Baptisms | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 |

As a group we have decided to give a quilt to each Habitat home for their dedications. Each child will get their own and one for the adult. Unless the child is an infant each child will get our regular size quilt.

Red Cross is always in need of quilts - they are checking with us at the end of each month. The staff members carry them in their cars so they have them on hand for an emergency. Sometimes that is all the recipients have left.

Jan Rodgers



In May the news stations and Red Cross came to FPC and did a news story on the Quilting group.

Marketing & Communications

Megan Cotton

Marketing and
Communications Coordinator

2019 was a busy year for Marketing & Communications. We launched a new website, redesigned the bulletin, published videos, collected quotes and photos for the Stewardship campaign, designed posters and banners and got to know lots of amazing people at the church. This was my first year at First Presbyterian but my sixth year doing marketing & communications at a Presbyterian Church. What I love most about my job is the people and getting to hear their stories and passions. I love using my design, photo and video talents to help the church share their story.

-Megan Cotton, Marketing & Comm Coordinator

Favorite 2019 Projects



Aerial Image of the church. Check Facebook or the website for the aerial video of the church.



Top: Popsicles in the Park postcard.
Middle: 2020 Stewardship Campaign Branding



New Church Bulletin was launched with the 2019 Lenten Series.



Easter 2019 Postcard & Bulletin

