



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A caring and progressive community of learners

A gathering place — in person and online

All are welcome

Contemplative practices and meditation

A center for the arts and a place for young musicians

A faith community grounded in Celtic Christian Spirituality

Committed to social justice and caring for the Earth

1510 Fifth Ave. San Rafael, CA 94901 | 415-456-6760 | www.fpcsr.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Church Officers	3
Church Staff	4
Pastor's Report	5-6
Clerk of Session's Report/Annual Statistical Report	7
2022 Balance Sheet	8
2022 Income and Expense Statement & 2023 Budget	9
 <i>Programs and Session Committees</i>	
Worship	10-11
Church Life and Outreach	12
Board of Deacons	13
Contemplative Spirituality	14
Adult Education	15
Children's Worship	16
Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana	17
Mission and Social Justice	18-20
Membership	21
Personnel	22
Stewardship and Planned Giving	22
Facilities and Rentals	23
Photo Collage	24

CHURCH OFFICERS – JUNE 2022 - MAY 2023

SESSION

Class of 2023

Erin Berta — Worship
David Morales — Hispanic Liaison
Ginny Schultz — Church Life and Outreach

Class of 2024

Susan Bryant—Finance
Dan Crawford—Personnel
Lisa Olson—Adult Education
Leslie Purdy—Mission and Social Justice
Bill Schultz—Facilities and Rentals

Class of 2025

Susan Isler—Membership
Ralph Purdy—Stewardship & Planned Giving
Barbara Royall—Church Life and Outreach
Lorna Wuertz—Contemplative Spirituality

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Shari Byrnes
Marcia DeZwarte
Carolyn Eitel (Co-Moderator)
Dinah McClure (Co-Moderator)
Laurel Stevenson

Class of 2024

Dori Crawford
Barbara Haim
Paloma Kauil
Sandee Muirhead
Ginny Pabst
Sue Rostoni

Class of 2025

Mary Breeze
Elaine Reichert



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney • Pastor

Rev. Bob Hirni, Rev. Nancy Wiens • Parish Associates

Lorna Wuertz • Pastoral Care Associate

Ann Pope • Operations Manager

Nicole Cuzzi • Senior Communications Designer

Angela Parker • Office Assistant

John Steiner • Senior Musician and Composer

Martha Wall • Chancel Choir Director

Marquise Usher • Sounds A'pealing Handbell Choir Director

Thayer Jacobs • 10 am Service Pianist and Choir Accompanist

Hector DeLeon • Senior Facilities Technician

Aaron McKee • Seminary Intern

Dylan Moayedí • Audio and Livestreaming Tech



PASTOR'S REPORT 2022



Dear Friends,

2022 was a year of re-orienting in light of the COVID pandemic. Each month was an invitation to discern what was needed, what was possible, what we needed to reclaim from the past, and what was a new opportunity for our church. I am grateful that we continue to seek to be an *authentic church*, one where the church's deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet (paraphrase of Frederick Buechner). By trusting the Spirit and one another, we have been finding our way. Serving as your pastor continues to be a profound journey of living into and deepening connections with the Holy One, each other, the world, and creation.

Celtic Adventures

The year started with a deep dive into Celtic Christian spirituality. The whole church was invited to read John Philip Newell's new book *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World*. In my sermons, I expanded on topics in each chapter. The Adult Education Committee led engaging sessions after worship that helped deepen our understanding of Celtic spirituality and theology. Many people said to me that they finally had words for what they believe and experience about Divine Presence. This series culminated in the Saturday morning at the church with JP Newell himself. What a thrill it was for me to see him again and have a conversation with him in front of a huge crowd in the sanctuary. The video of his talk on our YouTube channel has had over 1,500 views.

My interest in Celtic spirituality led to two opportunities in the community. In March, the Women Connecting group from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon asked me to do a presentation. The topic was "Celtic Christianity: The Gift of Soul Friends." In July, I led an online meditation for Marin Interfaith Council entitled "Celtic Christianity and the Gift of Thresholds."

As you probably know, my Celtic Adventures came to life when Jeffrey and I traveled in Ireland and Scotland for three weeks in the fall as part of my continuing education. Visiting the sites where Celtic Christian communities thrived for hundreds of years and learning more about how they integrated their spirituality and communal life filled me up. I am so grateful to the congregation for the time and funding. During the final week of the trip, we stayed on the Isle of Iona and worshiped morning and evening in the abbey with people from the Iona Community who had come from all over Europe to this tiny island. I was invited to be the celebrant at the Sunday communion service. The memory still makes me weep with joy. Jeffrey and I had a great time sharing some of our trip photos and stories at the Adult Education class on November 20.

Gathering

Being together is such a central part of being a church, but it took a while to discern when people felt comfortable being together. One of the first shared meals was our Palm Sunday brunch in Canoles Hall. It was a joy to gather outside on the patio again for Roofless Church in July. Not only did we gather, but we shared symbols of our life and faith in the series "Stop. Look. Savor: Lessons from Creation." We gathered again when we rented a bus, and a group went to see "Come from Away" at the San Jose Performing Arts Center. What fun to experience live theater together again! In the fall, we gathered for a joyful Homecoming worship service complete with a jazz band followed by a wonderful lunch on the patio hosted by the Church Life and Outreach Committee. And I gathered with a new group of people from our church who are learning to play pickle ball!

Two more joyful gatherings for me this year included our new Blessing of the Pets in October and officiating at a wedding in our sanctuary in November.

New Songs

Music is central to the life of our church. People often tell me that one of the reasons they love our church and worship services is that the music is a source of inspiration and joy. The Spirit moves us through a variety of music. We revived an FPCSR tradition — Mardi Gras Jazz Service with an amazing band on the Sunday before Lent. One of the challenges this year was hiring a new pianist for the 10:00 service and choir accompanist. We had two long-term subs — Kenji Higashihama and Patricia Diaz — but neither were available to stay. Then the Spirit moved, and Martha helped us find a talented high school senior, Thayer Jacobs, who started in September. A new song from a young pianist! What a joy it has been to get to know him and hear him play as he grows in his worship music skills. I am also grateful that another young person, Dylan Moayed, joined our Sunday tech team to make all our music and words sound good both in the sanctuary and livestreaming on YouTube. And Jeffrey Cochran-Carney, my beloved husband and recently retired Presbyterian pastor, has been sharing his guitar playing and singing skills in worship recently. Jeffrey and I have enjoyed singing together for over 30 years and we look forward to sharing some new songs with the congregation. A special thanks to Martha Wall, John Steiner, and Marquise Usher and to the Chancel Choir, Sounds A'pealing Handbell Choir, and our guest musicians for the wonderful music throughout the year.

PCUSA — A Connectional Church

This past year I was part of a pastoral cohort, a small group of pastors in Redwoods Presbytery who meet monthly in person or on Zoom to share joys and challenges of life, do biblical reflection using the practice of *lectio divina*, read a book together, and support each other. I am also part of a women's clergy collective who meet to encourage each other in our ministries and leadership. I currently serve on the presbytery's Committee for Preparation of Ministry. Our church was blessed with two seminary interns from SFTS in 2022 — Chitoka Webb, who finished her internship in May, and Aaron McKee, who started in September. Chitoka and Aaron have learned so much from our congregation and I have been privileged to guide them as they discern how God is calling them.

Joys and Sorrows

As a pastor, I am privileged to share in some of people's greatest joys and deepest sorrows. This year there were many times that the deacons and I provided care for people in our congregation. There have been difficult health diagnoses, car accidents, dementia, deaths of loved ones, and other challenges. I am grateful for the ways we have offered support in terms of meals, home care suggestions, and other concrete help. I pray for God's comfort and peace for each of you.

I am grateful for the session and the ways these elders work together to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I appreciate our staff and all the ways they support the congregation in our ministries and mission. Our parish associates are a great blessing to me and our church.

May you always know you are beloved.



Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Pastor

CLERK OF SESSION'S REPORT

As health guidelines shifted during 2022, we experimented with ways to meet in person while remaining connected to those unable to meet or uncomfortable with face-to-face gathering. Average attendance remained consistent, while total attendance increased with more 8:30 services and SoulSong.

Our online presence remained strong. Our talented and dedicated staff, deacons, session, committees, choirs, congregation, and friends served imaginatively, diligently, and faithfully, supporting each other and ministering to our wider community and world.

Michael K. Stone

Annual Statistical Report

Membership:

Membership December 31, 2021.....	141
New/reinstated members 2022.....	2
Deaths/transfers out 2022.....	3
Moved to inactive status 2022	0
Membership December 31, 2022.....	140

Attendance 2021:

8:30 worship service average attendance per Sunday	14
Total 8:30 attendance (15 services)	213
10:00 worship service average attendance per Sunday.....	104
Total 10:00 attendance (52 services)	5,416
SoulSong average attendance	14
Total SoulSong attendance (3 services)	43
Ash Wednesday attendance	19
Christmas Eve service attendance.....	218
Grand Total.....	5909

Attendance 2022:

8:30 worship service average attendance per Sunday	13
Total 8:30 attendance (37 services)	477
10:00 worship service average attendance per Sunday.....	104
Total 10:00 attendance (52 services)	5395
SoulSong average attendance	15
Total SoulSong attendance (11 services)	160
Ash Wednesday attendance	31
Christmas Eve service attendance.....	353
Grand Total.....	6416

The 8:30 service was discontinued after March 8, 2020, and resumed September 12, 2021.

There was no 8:30 service July 3–September 18, 2022. “10:00 worship service” and Christmas Eve include various combinations of in-person worship and recorded services.

In Memoriam: Wayne White, Dick Kattman, Faye Blatt

2022 BALANCE SHEET

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael
Balance Sheet (Preliminary)
 December 2022

ASSETS

BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank of Marin Checking	\$ 48,227
Savings Accounts	305
Subtotal Bank Accounts	<u>48,532</u>

INVESTMENTS

Vanguard - Krah	373,511
Vanguard - Endowment	145,253
Vanguard - 1987 Fund	120,964
Vanguard - Boyce Mission	62,466
Pastor Housing	261,389
Funds Invested by Others	47,911
Subtotal Investments	<u>1,011,494</u>

FIXED ASSETS

Land	329,100
Buildings	1,050,400
Furniture	115,900
Windows/Organ/Carillon	363,000
Subtotal Fixed Assets	<u>1,858,400</u>

OTHER ASSETS

Accounts Receivable	167
Prepaid Expenses	4,712
Subtotal Other Assets	<u>4,879</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 2,923,305</u></u>
--------------	----------------------------

LIABILITIES

Accrued Study-Pastor	\$ 2,525
Prepaid Pledge Income	23,128
Security Deposit	3,250
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>28,903</u>

NET ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED	
Unrestricted Net Assets	(102,846)

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

Krah Endowment	365,235
The 1987 Fund	116,048
Jan Reynolds Appreciation	36,204
Spirituality Ministry	25,850
YOTM / YST	21,928
Church Building Fund	20,000
Hispanic Worship	10,999
Undesignated Memorials	8,720
Deacons' Offering	3,439
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	15,106
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	<u>623,529</u>

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

Property Fund	1,858,400
FPCSR Endowment	138,553
Pastor Housing Endowment	173,460
Parsonage Endowment	87,929
Boyce Mission Endowment	67,466
Archibald and Holden Funds	47,911
Subtotal Permanently Restricted	<u>2,373,719</u>

TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,894,402
------------------	-----------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 2,923,305</u></u>
----------------------------------	----------------------------

2022 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT, 2023 BUDGET

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael
Income and Expense Statement (Preliminary)
 January - December 2022

	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
INCOME			
Contribution Income	\$ 318,575	\$ 317,430	\$ 323,750
Rental Income	140,665	125,000	145,000
Investment and Miscellaneous Income	1,487	1,973	2,049
5% Quasi-Endowment Transfers	37,560	37,560	34,969
Transfer from Reserves	10,000	-	-
	<u>508,287</u>	<u>481,963</u>	<u>505,768</u>
EXPENSES			
Personnel Expenses			
Pastoral Expenses	154,267	156,462	166,052
Other Staff Expenses	179,655	176,900	187,930
Employer Expenses	13,678	14,000	15,000
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	<u>347,600</u>	<u>347,362</u>	<u>368,982</u>
Administrative	31,246	30,593	32,375
Facilities	87,644	84,989	77,779
Building Fund Accrual	-	-	10,000
Mission	17,655	17,500	17,500
Christian Education	1,141	2,500	2,400
Worship	5,167	5,000	5,000
Outreach	3,323	3,000	3,000
Church Life	585	600	600
TOTAL EXPENSES - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	<u>494,361</u>	<u>491,544</u>	<u>517,636</u>
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 13,926</u>	<u>\$ (9,581)</u>	<u>\$ (11,868)</u>
NON-BUDGETED OPERATIONS			
Endowment and Quasi-Endowment (Loss) Unrealized	(197,255)		
(Expenses) for Programs, Net of Contributions	(6,553)		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - TOTAL	<u><u>\$ (189,882)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (9,581)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (11,868)</u></u>

WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael continued to explore and embrace the many talents and gifts of our congregation and community that have added to the numerous blessings and experiences during our worship services in 2022. With the availability of new vaccinations, congregational worship was able to return mostly to its pre-COVID schedule with two services being offered on Sunday mornings, one contemplative service in the chapel at 8:30 am and one more conventional service in the sanctuary at 10 am. In addition, we have continued to reach out to our friends, members, and extended community through the livestreaming of our 10 am service. The videos are available for viewing on YouTube. Also, our SoulSong service at 5:30 on the first Wednesday of the month returned in 2022

We started the year in January with a series of sermons on “Celtic Wisdom,” and brought back the celebration of a Mardi Gras service, complete with jazz band, which led us into the season of Lent and a series of inspired sermons by our pastor Cynthia Cochran-Carney on “The Cup of Life.” Throughout July we returned to offering one worship service at 9:30 am on the patio, which we titled our “Roofless Church,” allowing for some combination of practices from both the 8:30 and 10 am services. Themes for the summer included “Stop. Look. Savor” highlighting nature. In August we returned to the sanctuary as we studied the story of Ruth and Naomi. The theme of “Wellness” started us off in September, and in October we had a “Blessing of the Pets” where we shared some of our furry, feathered (or otherwise) family members who each received their own blessing! The theme of “Stewardship and Being Thankful” in many ways and varied forms in November brought us to the Advent and Christmas Season where the theme of “Reflecting the Sacred” was celebrated with new liturgical art in both the sanctuary and chapel and the return of organ music. On Christmas Eve we had one service at 5:00 pm. Both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fell on Sundays. We held one service at 11 am on Christmas Day, and a communion service on New Year’s Day at 10 am.

Communion was offered each Sunday at the 8:30 service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:00 service. Communion was also offered during the July services on the patio, and August services in the sanctuary...returning to the standard schedule again in September.

We have been so very fortunate and blessed to have the continued and inspirational leadership of our pastor, Cynthia Cochran-Carney. Her energy and enthusiasm have sustained us through the last few years, and she continues to challenge and encourage us into the future and invite us into the conversation. In addition, our parish associates, Rev. Bob Hirni and Rev. Nancy Wiens, assist with the 8:30 service and as needed and strengthen our ministry. Our seminary intern Chitoka Webb completed her internship and continues to inspire us and contributes as a liturgist. We welcomed Aaron McKee as our new seminary intern this fall and have already experienced his preaching talents.

Music continues to be a vital part of our weekly worship experience. We are blessed with John Steiner, pianist and composer for the 8:30 contemplative service. Our member and talented 10 am worship service pianist Alan Choy unfortunately had to retire in March, but we thank him for his amazing and relevant piano medleys and his contributions to our worship services. We are grateful to our long-term substitute pianists Kenji Higashihama and Patricia Diaz, and welcomed Thayer Jacobs in the fall as our new 10 am pianist. Our Chancel Choir and its director Martha Wall and our Sounds A’pealing Handbell Choir directed by Marquise Usher continue to wow us with their talent and musicianship. Also enriching our worship experience have been numerous amazing guest musicians.

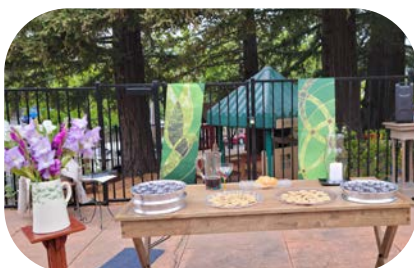
We want to thank Sandra Fisk, our resident liturgical artist and photographer for the many years of work, imagination, and beauty that she created for our worship experience. With Sandra now retiring from this position, we have formed a Liturgical Arts team that will try to continue Sandra’s work. The group consists of Erin Berta, Dori Crawford, Kris Castle, and Kay Collette, and we thank them and all of those who volunteered to help in these efforts.

We have a wonderful team of dedicated and faithful volunteers who make the livestreaming of our 10 am worship service possible. Many thanks to Susan Bryant, Ralph and Leslie Purdy, Jennifer Miller, Aaron McKee, and our sound technician Dylan Moayed.

The Worship Committee relies very much on our office staff. Many thanks for all of the work and effort that our staff puts in each week to help make our worship services run smoothly: Ann Pope, our operations manager; Nicole Cuzzi, who prepares all the slides for our Sunday worship services as well as our weekly eNews; Angela Parker, who fills many jobs and also helps with the liturgical arts; and Hector DeLeon, our senior facilities technician, who keeps the rooms clean and looking nice, sets up chairs and tables, and provides a variety of other jobs.

We are so grateful for all our members, friends, and community who support us and share our worship and journey together. We continue to pray for healing throughout our world, as we move forward into 2023, knowing God is present within and among us always.

Worship Committee: Erin Berta (Chair), Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Carolyn Eitel, Janet Pollack, Mary Pritchard, John Steiner, Marquise Usher, Martha Wall



CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH



The FPCSR Church Life Committee was founded to foster fellowship through social activities. Events provide a variety of fun opportunities enabling our members to know each other.

The pandemic put a damper on many of our activities in 2020 and 2021. We cautiously resumed many activities in 2022.

We had an extended Mardi Gras coffee hour in March and celebrated Palm Sunday in April with a brunch in Canoles Hall.



We welcomed the return of the Second Sunday Strollers, led by Barbara Tjernell. Participants enjoyed exercise and camaraderie while exploring the natural beauty of Marin's shorelines, hills, and wildlife.

In September we celebrated Homecoming with lunch on the patio. We enjoyed the return of Supper Clubs, groups of eight to ten people who meet for a meal, organized by Marcia DeZwarte.



In December we enjoyed the Alternative Gift Market organized by the Mission and Social Justice Committee. Adults snacked while shopping for gifts from local and international organizations, including Opening the World, Youth on the Move, Heifer Project, Homeward Bound, Seeds of Learning, Boy Scouts, and Friends of the Marin County Library. Children enjoyed constructing gingerbread houses with graham crackers, candies, and gobs of frosting, led by Diana Cauch.



During the Advent season, we celebrated the return of the all-church Christmas party. We all love Christmas music and singing carols. Members of the choir, deacons, and others shared the joy by caroling at the homes of members who are unable to attend worship services in church.

Barbara Royall and Ginny Schultz, Co-chairs

BOARD OF DEACONS

At the end of 2022, the Board of Deacons consisted of Mary Breeze, Shari Byrnes, Dori Crawford, Marcia DeZwarte, Barbara Haim, Sandee Muirhead, Ginny Pabst, Elaine Reichert, Sue Rostoni, Laurel Stevenson, Dinah McClure, and Carolyn Eitel, with Dinah and Carolyn as co-moderators.

We met in January of 2022 via Zoom. After that we met eight times in person in the chapel. Our May meeting was a delightful potluck dinner at Dori's house.

We continued our ministry to those in the congregation who are in need, are sick, or are in any kind of distress. Everyone in the congregation is on the care list of a deacon and we deacons each attempt to keep in touch with those on our care list. In addition to keeping in touch with their care groups, deacons also serve communion at the 10 am service, help host memorial services, send cards and notes to the grieving, provide survivors with four "Journeying through Grief" booklets at three-, six-, nine-, and twelve-month intervals after their loss, provide rides to church and appointments, purchase gas and Safeway gift cards for the needy in our community.....and so on. Basically, we want to do whatever we can to help others.

We hosted over 100 people on April 23 for the Gary Truex memorial service. On June 18 we hosted the Dick Kattman memorial service.

We spent some time over a few meetings developing guidelines for the use of our Deacons' Fund and decided as follows:

The Deacons' Fund is used to cover expenses for church members and active friends who are experiencing a crisis or difficulty related to health, moving, job loss, death in the family, or changing family relationships. The pastor works with the moderators of the Board of Deacons to evaluate uses and requests. Church members and active friends may make a request to help someone they know in the community.

We also expressed our concern throughout the year about the inaccessibility of the front of our church to anyone with mobility issues. Elaine wrote a letter which we sent to Facilities about this. Our suggestion is being considered along with other suggestions that have been submitted.

We offered Easter flowers to some in our care groups and in December, as usual, we honored some with Christmas waxed amaryllis plants. We finished the year with a series of Christmas caroling events organized by Cynthia.

Carolyn Eitel, Co-Moderator





CONTEMPLATIVE SPIRITUALITY

One World One Spirit

First Presbyterian Church has, for many years, provided a contemplative worship ministry. These programs provide opportunities for individuals to grow and nurture their spiritual life. Here are the current ongoing offerings that are open for all to join. They include:

Centering Prayer
 Contemplative Worship on Sundays at 8:30 am
 SoulSong
 Classes and Seasonal Retreats
 Spiritual Direction with Trained Spiritual Directors

In 2022, we offered classes and occasional retreats in which the congregation and community could explore spiritual practices of Christianity and other traditions. These practices invite us to expand and deepen our experience of the Holy Mystery in new ways.



In January, we designed and supported a congregational read of John Philip Newell's book, *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* in preparation for his personal visit on January 19 in which he shared some of the highlights and background of this book.

On May 21, we hosted Fr. Vincent Pizzuto, Ph.D., vicar of St. Columba's Episcopal Church (Inverness) and professor of New Testament and Christian Mysticism at the Jesuit University of San Francisco, who invited us to explore the deep spiritual intimacy that emerges through a contemplative reading of the gospels.

October 15, John Prendergast, Ph.D., spiritual teacher and psychotherapist, author of *In Touch* and *The Deep Heart*, invited us to tune into our deepest nature, to notice how our body relaxes, lines up, opens, and lights up, so that the world becomes an increasingly transparent expression of Presence.

Contemplative Spirituality Committee: Lorna Wuertz (Chair), Kay Collette, Sandra Fisk, Susan Isler, Mike Nickel, Mary Pritchard, Michael Stone

ADULT EDUCATION

We were pleased to begin 2022 by sinking into a book study of *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell. Cynthia presented enriching sermons related to chapters of study each week and we enjoyed fabulous images of the Celtic world and all its beauty. Our study took us on a journey of ancient Celtic wisdom and brought us home to our own sacredness and the sacredness of everything around us. Learning about prophetic figures such as St. Brigid of Kildare, Pelagius, John Muir, and Teilhard de Chardin helped us continue to see Spirit everywhere. On February 19, we were delighted to have John Philip Newell come to FPCSR for a presentation! It was well-attended and enjoyed by a variety of folks in the congregation and from the community. Many thanks to the One Spirit, One World committee for bringing this wonderful speaker to our church!

In March, we watched parts of the film “Mission: Joy – Finding Happiness in Troubled Times,” a look at the friendship between Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. A very moving film, it highlighted the contrast between our experiences and those of others in faraway places. And in a heartwarming way, it reminded us of fundamental spiritual practices and beliefs that we share with many others of different faiths.

Our springtime Wellness Series started with a presentation by Lisa Olson entitled “Enhancing Emotional Wellness: Helpful Hints for Difficult Times.” The exploration of cognitive behavioral interventions to address anxiety and depression generated some great discussions. Our Wellness Series was cut short due to logistics, but was resumed in the fall.

In March, we had an excellent class on “Approaches for Having Difficult Conversations with Adult Children & Others about End of Life Desires” with guest speaker Laurie McKay, RN, chief nursing educator for Continuum Care. She offered guidance about having these conversations and provided printed resources to use as a starting place, including advanced directives and POLSTs.

In June, we had a terrific guest speaker in the pulpit, Suzanne Ford, who told her story of becoming a trans woman and how it changed her relationship with God. The service was followed by a panel of speakers from Trans HeartLine talking about the challenges of trans people at various stages of transition. It was an educational way to start Pride Month. and we are so grateful for those people sharing their personal stories.

In September, we were able to continue our Wellness Series with three dynamic speakers. Reverend Teoma Leob used her experience as a physical therapist to boost our energy and get us moving, reminding us that physical fitness is part of our spiritual fitness as well. There was a lot of laughter enjoyed by all, and we all felt inspired. Diane Suffridge, Ph.D., brought her knowledge as a psychologist and her experiences as a woman of faith to share ideas about coping with the psychological heaviness of the world in which we live. She provided a guided meditation which brought a sense of serenity in uncertain times. We finished the series with a presentation by Pat Lindstadt on “Aging Gracefully.” Pat is an elder care case manager and care consultant who offered local resources and invited the class to be open to different ways of aging well.

In November, Cynthia and Jeffrey Cochran-Carney shared pictures, highlights, and discoveries from their journey to sites of Celtic Christian communities in Ireland and Scotland.

In December, our own Martha Wall presented a class on the history of some of our favorite Christmas carols. We learned the history of the tunes and lyrics of many carols, including the fact that there are more than 40 tunes for “Away in a Manger.” It was a wonderful interactive class for the season.

Adult Education Committee: Lisa Olson (Chair), Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Jan Millsapps, Michael Stone, Lorna Wuertz

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

FPCSR children begin Sunday worship at 10:00 in the sanctuary, where they have front row seats for Pastor Cynthia's welcome, the opening song, the liturgy, and special music. Then they move downstairs to continue worship in their own special room. Since 2010, when Jan Reynolds introduced the Godly Play philosophy and materials to FPCSR, the environment we provide children on Sunday mornings has become an opportunity for them to *worship* God rather than to merely *learn about* God. That's why we no longer call the experience *Sunday School*.

Each Sunday the leader, either Barbara Tjernell or Diana Cauich, tells the children a story from either the Hebrew or the Christian scriptures, using multisensory materials of wood and felt. Then, much as adults experience following a sermon, our children are invited to respond to the story beginning with phrases such as "I wonder what...." and "I wonder why...." These are wonderings, not questions that demand a particular answer, so that children learn early on that God is mystery and that wondering about God is a lifelong quest. If time allows, children can use a variety of art materials to express their personal responses to the story in ways that words may not convey.

Each Sunday, when we light the Christ candle, the children know that Jesus is "in [their] very room," as the choir reminded us in January. And they know that when we blow out the candle and prepare to rejoin their parents, the Holy One goes with them and stays with them, always.

Barbara Tjernell, Children's Worship Coordinator



PRIMERA IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA



Our Spanish-speaking community provides mutual support on our spiritual journeys and shares in the development and care of the Latino immigrant population of Marin County.

As COVID protocols evolved, we resumed meeting in person for worship, Bible study, and prayer. Virginia Perez and I lead the service together in the Geneva Room. We worship with the English-speaking congregation on the first Sunday of the month for communion. We are hoping to find a musician who can lead worship music.

Most persons who attend the Spanish-speaking service are Spanish-speaking immigrants and their children. While the Sunday morning gathering is entirely in Spanish, everyone is welcome. Many of our children attend children's worship in English while the adults worship in Spanish.

Paloma Kauil was ordained as a deacon and served for part of the year, caring for our congregation. Diana Cauich, one of our high school students, is part of the children's worship team. She leads the Godly Play lessons and offers childcare for younger children.

We have also been involved in social justice issues affecting the Hispanic immigrant population in Marin, partnering with Marin Organizing Committee.

David Morales, Hispanic Liaison



MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Bible calls us to healing, reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, sick, lonely, and powerless; and engaging in the struggle to free people from oppression, hunger, and injustice. This has been a year full of mission activities with strong church support. The financial support, as well as the time and talents of church members, is often done in cooperation with other organizations and individuals, which further extends our efforts.

A team of 12 people undertook the annual Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mission trip and was able to continue work at homes in Paradise, California where we have worked before. The May trip was hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville, and we worked on three houses. FPCSR covered the cost of food and a van for transportation through congregational donations, while participants covered the room and board costs.

Our collaboration with the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy continues. Following the guidelines from the Marin County Health Department, a weekly to-go burrito dinner is prepared in our church kitchen by a few people specifically trained to meet those guidelines. Our church provides the kitchen, funds for food, and occasional cookies.

The Youth on the Move (YOTM) program offers after-school enrichment classes one day a week at San Pedro Elementary School, which serves mostly low-income students from the Canal Area of San Rafael. A second YOTM program, the Youth Service Team, continues to work with youth who are fulfilling court-ordered service assignments. Funds for YOTM come from gifts, grants, endowment funds, and a contract with the county.

The Mission Committee supports the church's Green Team, which received a renewed Earth Care Certificate from the Presbyterian Church (USA). This year's activities included frequent informative announcements in the eNews concerning environmental actions and local programs and assistance in planning the Sunday service for Earth Day. The guest preacher was the Rev. Eric Beene, executive presbyter for the Presbytery of the Redwoods, followed by an Earth Day Fair

with several information tables and presentations. The church continues to help lead Marin Interfaith Climate Action and is an active member of California Interfaith Power and Light, and the committee is considering more ways to reduce the church's carbon footprint.

The Marin Organizing Committee now conducts its meetings on Zoom. Bob Hirni represents our church in this organization. Other members attend whenever possible and keep our committee advised on activities. MOC has been active in housing issues in Marin County, along with mental health, tenant rights, and support for the aging.

In 2021, the church budget was able to support several local and national organizations involved in social justice issues. We donated \$8500 for programs of the regional and national Presbyterian Church and we budgeted \$8300 for support of the following: Marin Interfaith Council, \$1,000; Karla Koll, who is a mission co-worker in Costa Rica, \$1,000; Street Chaplaincy, \$1,000; Westminster Woods, \$400; Marin Organizing Committee, \$2,000; Bread for the World, \$300; Homeward Bound, \$500; Interfaith Power and Light, \$150; Trans HeartLine, \$200; Project Avarry, \$300; Gilead House, \$350; Youth Transforming Justice, \$300; and San Francisco Theological Seminary, \$500.

The presbytery's Pedal for Protein (P4P) ride was held in September this year, and three church members joined the last day's ride. The ride raised \$50,012, with FPCSR contributing \$8,393, the second highest in the presbytery. The P4P funds are donated to Northern California food banks. Once a month, the congregation also contributes to the Cents-ability pot which helps support hunger-related projects in the presbytery.

Our church supports the special offerings of our denomination — One Great Hour of Sharing; Christmas Joy; Peace and Global Witness; and Pentecost. We have sent significant donations to all four, thanks to the congregation's generosity. At Thanksgiving, the church collected food and money to fill 55 bags of groceries for a family Thanksgiving meal for the Ritter Center to distribute to their clients.

MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Mission Committee offered the Alternative Gift Market in December. Shoppers contributed to or bought items from several service organizations including Heifer International, Homeward Bound, Opening the World, Presbyterian Hunger Agency, Boy Scout Troop 2000, Seeds of Learning, Youth on the Move, and Friends of the Marin Free Library. \$3803 was raised at this fun event.

A project that we started in 2020 provides meals to Trans HeartLine, which offers food and housing to people who are healing after gender confirmation surgery. Barbara Royall has been the lead for this program.

Your Mission Committee is dedicated and actively seeking ways to serve the wider community and those in need. We welcome ideas for new ways we can demonstrate God's love.

Mission Committee: Leslie Purdy (Chair), Linda Adams, Nancy Boyce, Bob Hirni, Judy Lundquist, Ralph Purdy, Sue Rostoni, Barbara Royall



MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



MEMBERSHIP

As our face masks came off and we started to move with less hesitation about pandemic fears, more of us returned to church attendance in person. The safety and convenience of watching Sunday services via video recording on YouTube will stay with us. However, in-person worship is back, along with many of our church family gatherings and activities.

The statistical number of church members does not reflect the vitality and strength of our church family, but our connectedness does. These last two years of dealing with COVID and its isolating aspects has been challenging. We offered a variety of worship opportunities including services on our patio, Zoom services, video services, and livestreaming that have kept us

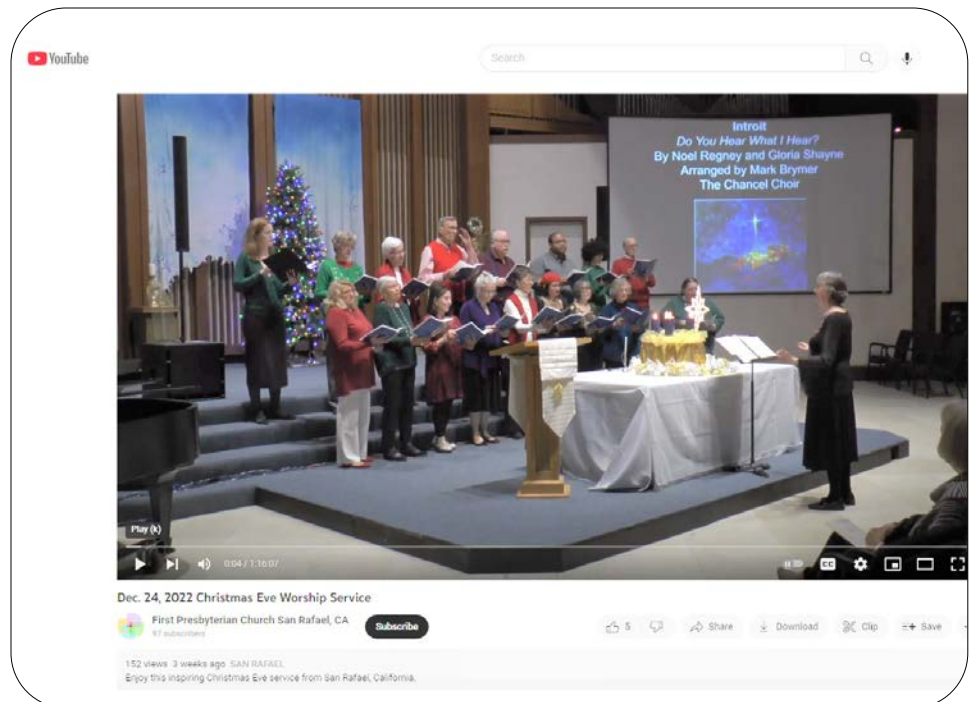
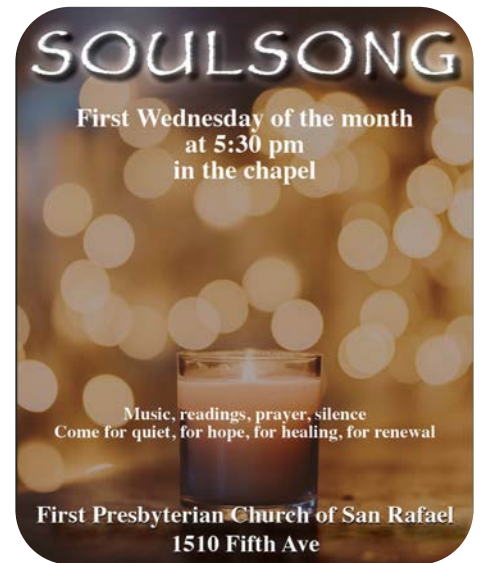
connected with our congregation. Also, our deacons have kept in contact with members and faithful friends on an individual basis. We are a communal community and continue to support our church and its missions.

We grieved the loss of three long-time members of our congregation in 2022 and welcomed two friends of our church into membership. There are regular visitors coming to our Sunday worship services and to several of our gathered groups such as Centering Prayer, book groups, SoulSong, One World One Spirit presentations, and many mission activities.

Our church maintains a presence on the corner of 5th & E and is a busy center of activities throughout the week. We have several nonprofit renters using

our facility as well as a preschool which maintains our vitality while serving as a source of income.

Susan Isler, Membership Chair



PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee worked on a number of matters during 2022, including but not limited to the following:

- Reviewed and resolved confidential personnel issues as required;
 - Worked with staff on workers' compensation and property/casualty insurance issues;
 - Meetings with Head of Staff Cynthia Cochran-Carney;
 - Provided annual evaluations of employees, including in-person evaluation meetings;
 - Participated in developing and executing staff annual reviews;
 - Worked with Board of Pensions re treatment of bonus payment;
 - Reviewed comparable pastor salary information for recommendation to session on pastor and staff compensation for 2023;
 - Hosted onsite annual 2022 staff Christmas luncheon;
 - Developed 2023 personnel budget proposal and submitted to session.
 - Personnel Committee: Dan Crawford (Chair), Jennifer Miller, Leslie Purdy, Bill Schultz
-

STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNED GIVING

The Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee began planning the campaign for 2023 pledging with the recognition that many institutions and people are experiencing financial uncertainty as we emerge from the challenges of the COVID pandemic. However, we could see new energy in our church community. We have not only survived but we have thrived. And we are seeking every day to live out the Celtic idea that sacredness lies at the core of each one of us, all creatures, and the Earth itself.

The first task of the Stewardship Committee was to prepare the stewardship letter that you all received. Steve Astle wrote the first draft and the rest of us jumped in to create a letter expressing the hope that we all feel, and listing the many things we do as a church in response to our faith and in service to the community. These are the reasons we pledge our financial support to the church.

We also produced the Narrative Budget. This document uses helpful stories and explanations showing how our operating budget is used to serve our church, the surrounding community and the wider world. We then sent the stewardship letter, Narrative Budget and pledge card to all congregation members.

We were also blessed to hear Mike Nickel, Sandee Muirhead, and Lisa Olson give "Minutes for Stewardship" talks during worship services. They gave us heartwarming stories about what FPCSR means to them and why they pledge. We on the Stewardship Committee express our deep appreciation to all three. Pastor Cynthia also gave a wonderful stewardship sermon. Many thanks for that.

And then the pledges from you all started coming in. We are happy to report that we have received 76 pledges totaling \$316,508 as of January 17. Last year, we received 79 pledges totaling \$305,591. We have also received Planned Giving financial contributions supporting our One World One Spirit program and repair of the front doors of the church. We thank the members of the FPCSR family for their extraordinary generosity.

Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee: Ralph Purdy (Chair), Steve Astle, Susan Bryant, Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Leslie Purdy

FACILITIES AND RENTALS



The Facilities budget captures several expenditure categories related to keeping our building in good condition and running smoothly. These include utilities, building maintenance, property taxes, landscaping, security, and property insurance. In the past year we have seen significant increases in utilities and building maintenance, but fortunately property taxes and insurance have moderated. Also, rental income is back to pre-pandemic levels.

While we have been working to keep expenses under control, we are now experiencing several large projects that require attention. Some examples include sidewalk replacements, front door replacement, and Canoles roof replacement. Also, we are looking at options to improve accessibility to the building and improve lighting in the main hallway.

In the past we have funded such projects by using our reserves. However, we are now faced with replenishing these reserves and adding to them to cover future large project costs.

Session has now agreed to activate an account in the 2023 operating budget called “Future Building Projects Fund.” While this will not be a total solution, it will be a good start and a reminder of the larger need.

Significant projects that were funded in 2022 include sidewalk replacements, upstairs carpet stretching and cleaning, patching the foam roof on Canoles, a down payment on the front door replacement, several exterior electrical upgrades, upgrades to the WIFI, and a water heater replacement.

We are of course very grateful for our committee members, project leaders, and other contributors. In 2022, these included Ralph Lunan, John Robinson, Martin Stevenson, Jim Redpath, and Ann Pope as our main staff supporter.

Facilities and Rentals Committee: Bill Schultz, (Chair), Ralph Lunan, John Robinson, Martin Stevenson



Adult Education Classes - Celtic Christian Spirituality, Wellness, and More



Advent Decorating Volunteers and Liturgical Arts Team



Sunday Worship Tech Team with New Desks



Earth Day Worship Service



Presbyterian Picklers at McInnis Park