

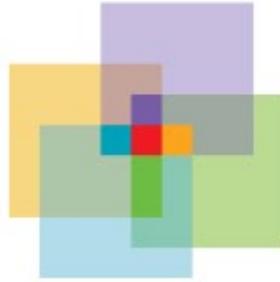
## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL



### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

At the heart of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and inclusive community growing together in faith, hope and love. We humbly seek to understand and respond creatively to the needs of our brothers and sisters here in our city, in Marin County and throughout the world.

1510 Fifth Ave. San Rafael, CA 94901 | 415-456-6760 | [www.fpcsr.org](http://www.fpcsr.org)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL

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*Many thanks to Stephen Sarhad and Sandra Fisk for photographs*

# CHURCH OFFICERS – JUNE 2021 - MAY 2022

## SESSION

### ***Class of 2022***

Susan Isler — Membership  
John Hinman—Outreach  
Lynn MacDermott—Finance  
Mary Pritchard — Worship  
Michael Stone — Clerk

### ***Class of 2023***

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

### ***Class of 2024***

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



## DEACONS

### ***Class of 2022***

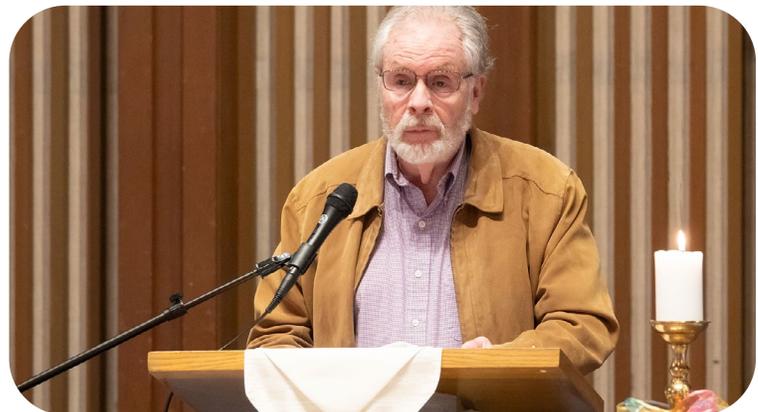
Penn Mullin  
Elaine Reichert  
Laurel Stevenson  
Dori Crawford

### ***Class of 2023***

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

### ***Class of 2024***

Kris Castle  
Barbara Haim  
Paloma Kauil  
Sande Muirhead



# CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney** • Pastor

**Rev. Kay Collette** • Parish Associate

**Rev. Bob Hirni** • Parish Associate

**Rev. Nancy Wiens** • Parish Associate

**Lorna Wuertz** • Pastoral Care Associate

**Ann Pope** • Operations Manager

**Nicole Cuzzi** • Senior Communications Designer

**Angela Parker** • Office Assistant

**Alan K. Choy** • Senior Musician

**John Steiner** • Senior Musician and Composer

**Martha Wall** • Chancel Choir Director

**Marquise Usher** • Sounds A'pealing Handbell Choir Director

**Hector DeLeon** • Senior Facilities Technician

**Chitoka Webb** • Seminary Intern



# PASTOR'S REPORT 2021



Dear Friends,

As I look back at 2021, it is with a mixture of hope, worry, joy, grief, constant pivoting, and gratitude. The Holy One was and is with us as we navigate the ever-changing challenges of the COVID pandemic. One truth I know for sure — we are not alone. We are woven together as a community of faith. We are connected to God, each other, the human family, and all creation. Serving as your pastor continues to be a profound journey of living into and deepening those connections. There have been times in the last year when I felt exhausted by all the complexities, but you as a congregation have offered me prayerful support, encouragement, and grace. Thank you.

As the year began, planning worship services in the midst of an ongoing pandemic presented new challenges and opportunities. Our online community continues to grow. We shifted from a paid professional videographer to a wonderful group of church members who became the tech team and worked with me to record the services in the sanctuary. Divine Love inspired us, allowing creativity, beautiful music, and spiritual sustenance to flow. In Lent, I preached a series of sermons: “A Journey of Stones.” Each week our congregation received the link to the worship video and text of the sermon. Then we gathered on Zoom on Sunday mornings to share personal reflections on the service and sermon. These were rich and meaningful conversations. Easter was indeed a time of new life and new beginnings. On a chilly Easter Sunday, we gathered for the first time in 2021 in person on the patio for two services, complete with trumpets and Easter flowers. I also created a special Easter video filmed outside in parks in Novato. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In May, we cautiously starting worshipping in the sanctuary for the first time since March 2020. “A Season of Experimentation” began with advanced reservations, masks, social distance, folding chairs, and a shorter service. We took the leap into livestreaming on YouTube. This required a new soundboard and other AV equipment upgrades. A special thanks to our tech team for both video recording and livestreaming: Ralph Purdy, Susan Bryant, and Jennifer Miller. It was a special joy to install elders and deacons in person as we worshipped in the sanctuary. Celebrating Kay Collette’s amazing 27-year ministry with a service of words of appreciation, beautiful music, and a circle dance on the patio was a highlight. By the fall, it was time to resume two services indoors. I preached a sermon series on Faith and Science, which was exciting and challenging for me. This combination of a sermon series and adult education classes on the same theme is an excellent model for our church. The Chancel Choir resumed singing anthems in worship, this time with singers’ masks. Our Sounds A’Pealing Handbell Choir rang again. The end of the year culminated in a beautiful Christmas Eve service that was both in person and a recorded video with a truly amazing array of musicians and singers. We had watched for signs of light in the midst of darkness and found moments of Divine Light shining.

While the building was dormant and empty, a task force was formed — Refreshing the Building. The task force changed some of the layout and furniture in the narthex/entryway. The main project was to change the displays in the hallway to reflect the life and vitality of the current congregation. After sharing ideas, the task force created a gallery of FPCSR life together. A series of large mounted photographs has been hung in the hallway with images of worship services, mission projects, all-church dinners, and more. The photos were taken by Sandra Fisk and Steven Sarhad. Special thanks to the task force members who worked with me: Kay Collette, Sandra Fisk, and Jennifer Miller. Another part of the Refreshing the Building project was the donation of the chimes stand from the old stone church building to the MarinCounty Historical Society. The task force will continue their work to improve the lighting in the hallway and display information about upcoming events.

Although the building stood empty for much of the year, I saw how our community partners were engaged in work of building the Beloved Community. I supported the work of Nick Morris and The Street Chaplaincy as they navigated supporting and feeding our unhoused neighbors. I participated in Marin Interfaith Council online events and hope that they will return in person soon. I was part of the task force to find a new community preschool after the HeadStart program left in August. I am grateful for the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and so enjoyed being part of the mission trip to rebuild homes in Paradise, CA.

The session has done an outstanding job of leading our church this year. I continue to notice the high level of trust leaders have in each other. Our session meetings include discussions of complicated issues, honest questions, spiritual discernment, and good humor. These are signs of healthy leaders and a healthy church. In May, we had our annual Officer Retreat with all current and incoming elders and deacons. This year we invited a guest speaker, Rev. Deborah Wright, from PneuMatrix, to lead us in some reflections about our church and dreams for the future. We are still using insights from that day to help shape our priorities.

When Kay Collette retired, we affirmed that our contemplative spirituality program is an integral part of our church; it would not end or slow down with Kay's retirement. The Spirituality Commission was formed to begin to dream and plan a way forward. Thank you to those who have contributed to the fund for this ministry. The first major event under the new One World One Spirit program is a morning event with Celtic author and teacher John Philip Newell on February 19, 2022.

We are called to be people of transformation and hope even in the midst of grief and loss. We grieve the loss of beloved church members Albert Sarhad, Roy Enos, Barbara Marino, Alan Pabst, William Scully, Gary Truex, and Diane Current. It was heartbreaking to grieve the loss of a young man who grew up in our church, Sean Castle, and others dear to members of our community. I feel the weight of grief for the all those suffering because of the pandemic. I grieve over the deep divisions in our country, a willingness to accept lies as truth, ongoing racial inequities, and a lack of commitment to the common good.

I appreciate our staff — Ann Pope, new staff member Angela Parker, Nicole Cuzzi, and Hector DeLeon — who have shown tremendous dedication. I am grateful for the deacons and the ways they help people in our congregation feel connected to the Holy One and one another. I am thankful for our parish associates and pastoral care associate — Rev. Bob Hirni, Rev. Kay Collette, Rev. Nancy Wiens, and Lorna Wuertz — for their leadership and friendship. It has been a joy to welcome Chitoka Webb as our seminary intern.

May you know you are beloved and an instrument of God's light.

Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Pastor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia".

# CLERK OF SESSION'S REPORT

2021 offered new challenges and opportunities for FPCSR. We grieved the loss of dear friends. We welcomed new members and friends. As public health guidelines shifted, we began, cautiously, to experiment with ways of meeting in person while remaining connected to everyone unable to meet or uncomfortable with face-to-face gathering. More people shared our worship services than in 2020, including people who found us online. Our talented and dedicated staff, deacons, session, committees, choirs, congregation, and friends served imaginatively, diligently, and faithfully, to support each other and to minister to our wider community and world.

Michael K. Stone

## Annual Statistical Report

### Membership:

Membership December 31, 2020.....	146
New/reinstated members 2021 .....	2
Deaths/transfers out 2021.....	7
Moved to inactive status 2021 .....	0
Membership December 31, 2021.....	141

### Attendance 2020:

8:30 worship service average attendance per Sunday .....	16	
Total 8:30 attendance (10 services) .....		155*
10:00 worship service average attendance per Sunday.....	105	
Total 10:00 attendance (51 services) .....		5,373
SoulSong average attendance .....	18	
Total SoulSong attendance (3 services) .....		54
Christmas Eve service attendance.....		<u>171</u>
<b>Grand Total.....</b>		<b>5,753</b>

### 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.....		<u>218</u>
<b>Grand Total.....</b>		<b>5909</b>

\* The 8:30 service was discontinued after March 8, 2020 and resumed September 12, 2021. 10:00 service figures include various combinations of in-person worship and views on Vimeo and YouTube. Christmas Eve includes online and recorded service in 2020 and in-person and recorded service in 2021.

**In Memoriam:** Diane Current, Roy Enos, Barbara Marino, Alan Pabst, Albert Sarhad, William Scully, Gary Truex

# 2021 BALANCE SHEET

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
**Balance Sheet (Preliminary)**  
 December 2021

<b>ASSETS</b> <b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b> Bank of Marin Checking                     \$     70,130 Savings Accounts <u>          305</u> Subtotal Bank Accounts                         70,435  <b>INVESTMENTS</b> Vanguard - Krahl                                 486,424 Vanguard - Endowment                         180,228 Vanguard - 1987 Fund                         151,646 Vanguard - Boyce Mission                     79,322 Pastor Housing                                     261,694 Funds Invested by Others <u>          47,911</u> Subtotal Investments                             1,207,225  <b>FIXED ASSETS</b> Land   329,100 Buildings   1,050,400 Furniture   115,900 Windows/Organ/Carillon <u>          363,000</u> Subtotal Fixed Assets                           1,858,400  <b>OTHER ASSETS</b> Investment Inc Receivable                     488 Prepaid Expenses <u>          4,439</u> Subtotal Other Assets                           4,927   <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> <u>          \$ 3,140,987</u>	<b>LIABILITIES</b> Accrued Study-Pastor                         \$           6,932 Accrued Expenses                                 4,120 Prepaid Pledge Income                         41,450 Security Deposit <u>          3,150</u> <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> 55,652  <b>NET ASSETS</b> <b>UNRESTRICTED</b> Unrestricted Net Assets                         (115,081)  <b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</b> Krahl Endowment                                 478,088 The 1987 Fund                                     148,690 Jan Reynolds Appreciation                   41,189 YOTM / YST   31,599 Spirituality Ministry                             28,433 Undesignated Memorials                     12,705 Hispanic Worship                                 10,455 Deacons' Offering                                 7,137 Other Temporarily Restricted Funds <u>          18,105</u> Subtotal Temporarily Restricted             776,401  <b>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</b> Property Fund                                     1,858,400 FPCSR Endowment                                 176,688 Pastor Housing Endowment                   173,765 Parsonage Endowment                         87,929 Boyce Mission Endowment                     79,322 Archibald and Holden Funds <u>          47,911</u> Subtotal Permanently Restricted           2,424,015  <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b> 3,085,335  <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> <u>          \$ 3,140,987</u>
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# 2021 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT, 2022 BUDGET

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
**Income and Expense Statement (Preliminary)**  
 January - December 2021

	2021 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contribution Income	\$ 301,598	\$ 289,000	\$ 317,430
Rental Income	85,258	100,000	125,000
Investment and Miscellaneous Income	1,979	1,954	1,973
5% Quasi-Endowment Transfers	28,260	28,260	37,560
	<u>417,095</u>	<u>419,214</u>	<u>481,963</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>			
Pastoral Expenses	154,898	147,727	156,462
Other Staff Expenses	155,627	168,700	176,900
Employer Expenses	10,077	10,400	14,000
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	<u>320,602</u>	<u>326,827</u>	<u>347,362</u>
Administrative	30,160	30,435	30,593
Facilities	71,526	71,089	84,989
Mission	17,244	16,800	17,500
Christian Education	1,133	2,900	2,500
Worship	4,065	5,000	5,000
Outreach	1,504	4,000	3,000
Church Life	431	400	600
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES - BUDGETED OPERATIONS</b>	<u>446,665</u>	<u>457,451</u>	<u>491,544</u>
<b>NET INCOME / (LOSS) - BUDGETED OPERATIONS</b>	<u>\$ (29,570)</u>	<u>\$ (38,237)</u>	<u>\$ (9,581)</u>
<b>NON-BUDGETED OPERATIONS</b>			
Endowment and Quasi-Endowment Income Reinvested	114,398		
Contributions to Programs, Net of Expenses	1,904		
<b>NET INCOME / (LOSS) - TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 86,732</u>	<u>\$ (38,237)</u>	<u>\$ (9,581)</u>

# WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael is blessed to have the gifts and talents of many people who have helped us continue to worship together throughout 2021. While challenges of navigating our world with the rise and fall and rise again of COVID-19 and the Delta and Omicron variants continue, we have been able to provide deep, meaningful worship.

Carefully following the COVID protocols provided by the Marin County Public Health Department, we returned to in-person worship on the patio, as well as in the sanctuary. Throughout the summer months we offered one worship service in the larger setting of the sanctuary, with appropriate distancing and doors open for optimal ventilation. Masks were mandatory except for a short time when Marin experienced high vaccine rates and lower numbers. As the year ended, we returned to mandatory mask-wearing. In September, we returned to providing two weekly services — the 8:30 contemplative service that takes place in the chapel returned, along with our 10:00 worship celebration. Communion is offered each Sunday at the 8:30 service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:00 service. The fall also saw the return of our SoulSong service at 5:30 on the first Wednesday of the month.

Beginning in March of 2020, our services were recorded and offered online. We have continued our online presence through the live streaming of our 10:00 worship celebration. These services can be found on YouTube. This has provided opportunities for those unable to attend our in-person services to participate in worship. We are grateful to have a wonderful team of faithful volunteers who are behind the camera or at the controls: Ralph and Leslie Purdy, Jennifer Miller, and Susan Bryant.

Music remains at the heart of worship at FPCSR, and we continue to be blessed with brilliant musicians: John Steiner, pianist and composer for the 8:30 contemplative service; Martha Wall, Chancel Choir director; Marquise Usher, Bell Choir director. Our beloved Alan Choy provided his gifts at the piano for most of the year but near the end, began to experience vision troubles that have prohibited him from being a part of worship. We continue to hold him in our prayers. Enriching our worship have been numerous amazing guest musicians performing at both services.

In addition to our volunteers, worship relies on our great office staff — Nicole Cuzzi, who prepare all the slides for our Sunday worship services as well as our weekly eNews; Ann Pope, our operations manager, who keeps the office running smoothly; and Angela Parker, who joined our office staff in July, and who is right there doing whatever needs to be done and ensuring that our technology is working on Sunday mornings. We share our deep gratitude for all that they do for us.

In May, we celebrated the retirement of Kay Collette, long-time parish associate. Fortunately, Kay remains an active member of the church and our Commission on Spirituality. Bob Hirni and Nancy Wiens continue as parish associates, providing invaluable help whenever needed. Chitoka Webb started as our seminary intern in October and has become an integral part of our support staff as well.

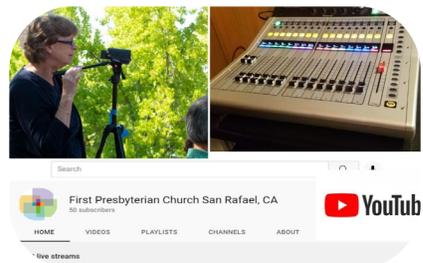
Celebrations of the liturgical seasons of the church were able to take place in person again. We offered special services through Lent and Easter. Advent was beautifully celebrated as we watched for the light. John Steiner offered a special Christmas concert and we were able to return to our traditional, joyful Christmas Eve service.

It is with gratitude and deep prayers for health and healing throughout our world, that we move forward into 2022, knowing God is present within and among us always.

Sincerely,

Worship Committee Members:

Erin Berta (Co-chair), Alan Choy, Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Carolyn Eitel, Mary Pritchard (Co-chair), John Steiner, Marquise Usher, Martha Wall



# CHURCH LIFE



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



The uncertainty and changing nature of the pandemic put a damper on many of our activities, but in 2021, we nevertheless put on our masks, maintained social distance, and cautiously enjoyed each other. In September, we celebrated Homecoming and the return to two services with lunch on the patio. We reinstated the coffee hour after worship.



In December, we enjoyed the Alternative Gift Fair, organized by the Mission Committee. We snacked while shopping for gifts. There were no children to make gingerbread houses, but several adults stepped up to the challenge.



Also in December, Amy and Dave Benjamin orchestrated intergenerational Christmas cookie baking and decorating. Children and grandparents alike got their hands into sugar, flour, frosting, and sprinkles. The entire congregation enjoyed the cookies at an extended coffee hour after Sunday worship.

Everyone loves Christmas music and singing carols. Members of the choir and deacons went caroling at the homes of members who couldn't get to church.

We start 2022 with the return of the walking/hiking group on the second Sunday afternoons. And we're eagerly awaiting the start of Supper Club groups.

Ginny Schultz, Chair

# BOARD OF DEACONS

The FPCSR Board of Deacons began 2021 with Barbara Tjernell and Dinah McClure as co-moderators. The rest of the board consisted of Shari Byrnes, Kris Castle, Rosa Chuc, Marcia DeZwarte, Lee Eckles, Carolyn Eitel, Penn Mullin, Elaine Reichert, Marj Robinson, and Laurel Stevenson.

Midyear, Rosa, Lee, Marj, and Barbara completed their terms. Kris extended for a year and Dori Crawford, Barbara Haim, Paloma Kauil, and Sandee Muirhead joined us. Dinah and Carolyn agreed to be co-moderators as it had worked well the year before to have co-moderators.

As deacons, we minister to those in the congregation who are in need, to the sick, to those needing friends, and to those in distress. Due to the pandemic, our meetings continued via Zoom until September, when we returned to in-person meetings at church. We did our best to be involved in the following activities:

- Serving communion at the 10 am service
- Hosting or helping at memorial services
- Sending cards and notes to the grieving
- Delivering holiday flowers
- Making pastoral care visits
- Providing rides to church
- Seeing that materials from Pastor Cynthia are mailed weekly to those requesting them. We would like to thank Sue Rostoni who continues to do this for us.

In February, we sent Valentine's Day greetings to those in our Care Groups. Pastor Cynthia brought to our attention that her sermons could be made available by phone for a nominal amount per month. The deacons are now paying that fee. Throughout the year, we have provided and facilitated the delivery of meals to families after deaths or to members after accidents. The response of the congregation to requests for help has been greatly appreciated. We also give the grieving survivors a series of four little booklets called "Journeying Through Grief."

This summer we hosted memorial services for Sean Castle and Alan Pabst. The one for Sean Castle was attended by approximately 400 people! It was the largest one in anyone's memory. Gathering and packaging cookies for 400 was accomplished again by congregational support and the help of Sandee Muirhead's daughter and sister. Alan's memorial was more relaxed and we were rehearsed! A special thanks to Jim Redpath who immediately responded to our request to help with anything and everything. He quietly sees what others miss and takes care of things.

Laurel has spent an inordinate amount of time being sure that we had monthly communion at 10 am once we were back worshipping indoors. The style and supplies used have changed frequently! Thanks to those deacons who have helped her with this process.

The deacons delivered waxed amaryllis bulbs as the Christmas flowers this year. Caroling was able to be done in-person. Sandee Muirhead facilitated who was going where. Our wonderful rain changed the game plan somewhat and smaller groups went to people's homes and to Marin Post Acute on different days.

It has been a full year. We continue to be very grateful for Pastor Cynthia's leadership, support, and care.

Dinah McClure, Co-Moderator  
Carolyn Eitel, Co-Moderator



**Advent 2021  
Watching For  
The Light**

And so in this season of Advent  
may we turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.  
— Jan Richardson

# ADULT EDUCATION

The year began with a renewed desire for staying connected and keeping conversations open and relevant. We had several speakers address racial and social justice issues. In January, Rev. Joan Smith addressed “Showing up for Racial Justice.” In March, Juliet Schiller from Marin Promise Partnership talked to us about inequality in education, the digital divide, and what various agencies in Marin are doing to help close the gap and have “techquity” for students all over Marin County. Additional speakers helped us learn about how our sister Presbyterian churches were coping during the pandemic.

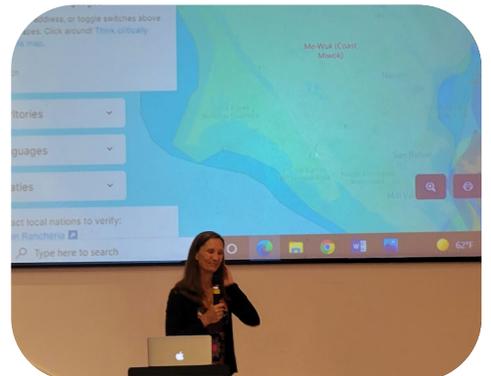
In March, our Wednesday Community Conversations evolved into a moving study of “Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent.” Rev. Ullis Redic, the lead director of the nationally acclaimed Lighthouse Singers Gospel Choir of Marin, which rehearses at FPCSR, spoke about the history of gospel music. Springtime also brought Dr. John Berquist providing a lesson on the guidance the Bible offers us on the issues surrounding immigration. We also had conversations about the stewardship of our planet facilitated by the Green Team, who presented the film “Kiss the Ground.”

Summertime brought our usual break from Sunday after-worship educational gatherings and an end to the Wednesday morning Community Conversations. But the committee was busy behind the scenes! Since outdoor worship had become an option and the possibility of indoor worship was on the horizon, we began to focus on in-person opportunities and we made some decisions about re-formatting Adult Ed. Hungry for science-based learning and in an effort to position ourselves as a hub of love and learning in downtown San Rafael, Pastor Cynthia Cochran Carney helped us lean into the idea of the Adult Ed series: four Sundays in a row rather than the traditional two times per month format.

“Faith and Science” launched in September with Cynthia’s sermon on God and the Cosmos followed by Adult Ed at 11:15 on the same topic. Materials from the Episcopal Church’s “Faith and Science in the 21st Century,” edited by Peter M. Wallace and staff from the Day 1 podcast website ministry, and other sources were used to shuttle us through the series. The other topics that followed were Quantum Physics and Eternity; Imago Dei and Science (The Image of God in All People); and Science and Mortality. The sermons and discussions proved to be engaging, informative, mind-stretching sessions that helped us feel Spirit in new ways. We are grateful to all who participated.

Tremendous gratitude to Nancy Wiens as well for sharing with us her fascinating and thought-provoking work on Indigenous Revitalization. Her November presentation included a short statement that “...confesses the way our ancestors participated in the harm done, as a way to consider how to move forward with love and integrity.”

Kay Collette, Susan Isler, Jan Millsapps, Michael Stone, Lorna Wuertz, and Lisa Olson (Chair)



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Godly Play curriculum dramatizes familiar stories from Christian and Hebrew scriptures for our group of younger children, ages 3 to 10. When older children join us, the lessons are expanded and they all help tell the stories. We are delighted that this small group is energetic and enthusiastic.

As the pandemic continued we offered a few Godly Play lessons online. Once we could gather again we resumed our in-person lessons with the children, first with Diana Cauch Yam reading/telling stories from the Children's Bible, and then formally using our Godly Play lessons in the fall.

We are grateful to the teachers who spent time with our children in 2021: Barbara Tjernell, Carol Farrer, Lisa Olson, Mariel Kauil, Diana Cauch Yam, Dinah McClure, and Lorna Wuertz. We are also grateful that Barbara Tjernell has agreed to lead our Children's program in 2022.

Sincerely,

Lorna Wuertz, Chair  
Barbara Tjernell



# 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. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spanish-speaking community of FPCSR held Sunday worship services in Spanish in the chapel at 10:00 am.

In the first part of 2021, Marin County was still under sheltering-in-place. Our community members stayed in touch through phone calls, outdoor visits, and emails. We were not meeting in person. Then in the spring when it was possible to meet together following COVID protocols, we started meeting in Canoles Hall and then the Geneva Room for worship, Bible study, and prayer. Virginia Perez and I lead the service together. We worship with the English-speaking congregation on the first Sunday of the month for communion.

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 Sunday school in English while the adults worship in Spanish.

One of our members, Paloma Kaul, was ordained as a deacon and is currently serving on the Board of Deacons of FPCSR. She provides care and support to our Hispanic congregation members. Diana Cauch, one of our high school students, is part of the children's ministry 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. The pandemic greatly affected our community in terms of employment. We are grateful for the support we received through FPCSR, particularly rental funds, so people would not lose their housing.

In Christ,

David Morales, Hispanic Liaison

*Secretario, Caucus de Hombres Presbiterianos Hispanos-Latinos Sínodo del Pacífico Norte*

# 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. Although the pandemic required adjustments in offering activities in 2021 toward meeting these goals, the committee and the church continued their strong support for mission. The support, financial 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.

We were excited to be able to resume the annual Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mission trip and, for the first time, we were able to work at a site in California. The work focused on helping rebuild homes in the community of Paradise, which was 95-percent destroyed by the Camp Fire of 2018. The team of 12 people was hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville, and we worked for three days on two houses in Paradise until bad weather forced work to stop. The group plans to go back to this site in May, 2022. 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 Street Chaplaincy has continued. Following the guidelines from the 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 and funds for food. This will continue until state and county guidelines permit resumption of preparation and indoor serving of meals by volunteers.

The Youth on the Move (YOTM) program based in the San Rafael public schools could not function in the winter or spring. However, when schools resumed in fall, we were able to begin 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. The second YOTM program, the Youth Service Team, also resumed its services, which help youth fulfill court-ordered service assignments. The third YOTM

program, Youth Moms Marin, didn't meet in person for many months; however, we continued to provide a meal plus extra groceries to several moms and their kids once a week. In-person meetings have begun again, and in addition to providing suppers for the group, the church gave each family \$100 worth of gift cards for Christmas.

The Mission Committee supports the church's Green Team, which applied for and received an Earth Care Certification from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2020. 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. Fletcher Harper, executive director of Green Faith. In fall, the Green Team offered an Adult Education program on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report in advance of the world climate summit. The church continues to help lead Marin Interfaith Climate Action and is a member of Interfaith Power and Light.

Marin Organizing Committee now conducts its meetings on Zoom. Bob Hirni and Ralph Purdy continued to represent 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; Ecumenical Association for Housing Marin, \$200; 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; Spahr Center, including Trans HeartLine, \$200; Project Avery, \$300; Youth on the Move, \$750; and San Francisco Theological Seminary, \$500.

# MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Presbytery's Pedal for Protein ride was held in September this year, and six church members joined the last day's ride. Over \$53,219 was raised, with FPCSR contributing \$9,139. The P4P funds are donated to Northern California food banks.

Our church participates in all four special offerings by 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 also collects food and money to be able to provide 50 bags of groceries for a family Thanksgiving meal for the Ritter Center to distribute to their clients.

The Mission Committee was able to offer the Advent/Alternative Gift Market in December after a one-year hiatus. 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, and Youth on the Move. \$3863 was raised at this fun event.

A project that we started in 2020 and continued this year 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. We also heard a speaker from St. Luke Presbyterian Church about their support for a regional organization, Welcoming Home, which provides furniture and other supplies to help a family moving from homelessness into housing.

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

Bob Hirni, Lorna Wuertz, Linda Adams, Barbara Royall, Nancy Boyce, Sue Rostoni, Ralph Purdy, and Leslie Purdy (Chair)



# MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



**The Burrito Ministry**

**The Street Chaplaincy**



**First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael**  
**Earth Day Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
**SACRED EARTH**

Online worship service video & 11 am PST Zoom conversation  
 See website for links and log in [www.fpcsr.org](http://www.fpcsr.org)

**Guest Preacher**  
**Rev. Fletcher Harper**  
 Founder & Director  
 of GreenFaith

**Special Music**  
**Daniel Berkman**  
 African Kora

# MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

Being a member of First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael does not mean that you are a club member, but a valued part of an inclusive community that is cared for by all. We are like the root system of the redwood trees on our property: connected, intertwined, and structurally standing tall.

The past two years have tested our sturdiness. We grieve the deaths of seven of our members as well as dear friends of our community during this past year. COVID-19 has disrupted many lives and our ability to gather together. However, our church family has continued to worship and pray together every Sunday. Recording the service and posting on YouTube spreads the Good News to the wider community and to those

in our church family who want to eliminate exposure risks. We have continued to use Zoom as a choice for many meetings.

We held a new members' class in February 2021 and were delighted to welcome two new members into our congregation. We continue to make available ways for people to get glimpses into the many church activities we support, and we welcome all participation. If you are a singer or bell ringer, a hiker, an advocate for the unsheltered, an avid book reader, a bike rider, a meditator, or a student of the Bible and its teachings, our church family supports your passion.

This coming year will provide many opportunities to connect with one another in person, virtually, and spiritually. The

Supper Club hopes to resume this spring, thanks to Marcia DeZwarte; the Hiking Group is active and exploring the trails in our community; the Men's and Women's Book Groups will provide forums to connect with authors exploring contemporary themes; Bob Hirni continues to explore the Bible; and Lorna Wuertz facilitates meditation practices and centering prayer. As the year goes on and the community slowly and steadily reopens, there will be many opportunities for connection, service, and mission.

Our walk of faith offers respite in a chaotic world, and every positive action done by one when done in a group makes a difference. The building on the corner of 5th and E houses a responsible, gathered community making a difference and believing in the Good News.

Susan Isler, Chair Membership  
John Hinman, Chair Outreach



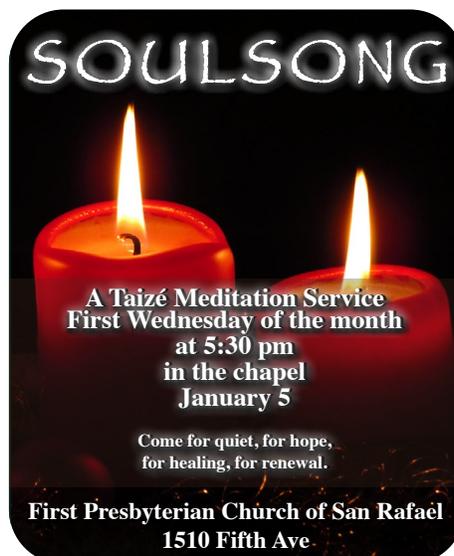
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
 Masks must be worn regardless  
 vaccination status

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**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE**  
**5 PM**  
 Christmas carols, voice & handbell choirs,  
 Celtic harp, & virtuoso piano

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First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
 1510 Fifth Ave, San Rafael  
 fpcsr.org | 415 456 6760



**SOULSONG**

A Taizé Meditation Service  
 First Wednesday of the month  
 at 5:30 pm  
 in the chapel  
 January 5

Come for quiet, for hope,  
 for healing, for renewal.

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
 1510 Fifth Ave



First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
 December 25, 2021 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Christmas Eve Service video is ready!  
 Merry Christmas! Joy to the World!  
 Enjoy a wonderful service of music, readings and candlelight.  
<https://youtu.be/CHK3aiXNXHE>

YOUTUBE.COM  
**Christmas Eve Service 2021**  
 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm Dec. 24, 2021 Click here for pdf of

# PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee worked on a number of matters during 2021, 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;

Met (in person and then Zoom) with chief of staff Cynthia Cochran Carney;

Worked with staff re response to multiple issues that arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Worked with staff re office assistant job description, solicitation of interviewees, and hiring of Angela Parker;

Participated in developing and executing staff annual reviews;

Reviewed salary information, including review of legal requirements of employment, for recommendation to session on all staff compensation for 2021;

Hosted on-site annual 2020 staff luncheon in May 2021 and annual 2021 staff Christmas luncheon;

Worked with Budget Committee on 2021 budget proposal to session.

The members of the 2021 Personnel Committee were Bill Schultz, Leslie Purdy, Jennifer Miller, and Dan Crawford (Chair).

# STEWARDSHIP

THANK YOU! We are so grateful for the congregation's ongoing financial support, for your thoughtful consideration of your pledge commitments for the coming year, and for all that you do to support our community and help our congregation thrive.

For 2021, our stewardship campaign focused on our web of connectedness. We are grateful for the connections we have made and strengthened as a church community and look to deepen our connections with the broader community. We continue as stewards of a heritage of people who have made it through hard times, supporting our community, both fiscally and emotionally, while learning, growing, and rebounding.

We continued to include a narrative budget with our stewardship letter, so that everyone in the congregation could understand our priorities for 2021 and 2022, how pledges fit into the overall financial picture of the church, how funds are used to support our programs, and how the rental program of our facility supports other community and religious organizations and programs. New for this year, we also presented a slide show of activities and worship during the year.

The Stewardship Committee continued to update our online giving website, including transitioning giving options to "tiles" — more colorful and easier to control and personalize with photos and descriptions. We also now publish a QR code for quick access to the online giving website.

For 2022, we are budgeting \$303,730 in pledges, up 9.0 percent from our 2021 budget. Repeat donors increased their pledges by \$20,933, and we received \$10,000 in new pledges. Each pledge is important to us and critical to our future financial health.

For over 150 years, the generosity of our members has enabled First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael to make a profound difference in the lives of those around us. Thank you for your generosity and support of God's work in the world.

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## PLANNED GIVING

Maggie Harmon, our Ministry Relations Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation, visited our congregation during the summer to give a sermon followed by Questions and Answers during Adult Ed. Planned Giving materials are available on the FPCSR.org website and provide resources to educate the congregation about ways to plan your giving to the church.

Planned giving, including legacy gifts (e.g., through wills, trusts, and IRA distributions), can help support the church as well as church programs. Investment income from the FPCSR Endowment helps fund the operating budget. Due to recent generous gifts, our income from (quasi) endowments increased in 2021 by about \$4,000 and is expected to increase in 2022 by about another \$9,000. Other funds help support mission programs such as Youth on the Move or improve the church facility. Since our church building is aging, we have a wealth of opportunities, such as fixing the roof or replacing the front doors, that are one-time costs, but hard to pay for in the operating budget.

Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee:

Steve Astle, Susan Bryant (Chair), Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Leslie Purdy, Ralph Purdy

Planned Giving focused: Bill Schultz, Suzie Pollack

# FACILITIES

By far the biggest project in 2021 was to replace our preschool tenant, Head Start, which had been with us for 20 years. It had been a source of community involvement and a steady income generator. We were saddened to see them move to another venue.

So we set a high priority on finding a suitable replacement. Cynthia appointed a task force led by Ginny Schultz to explore possibilities. Participants included Nancy Boyce, Leslie Purdy, Ann Pope, and Bill Schultz representing the Facilities Committee. Several inquiries were evaluated, and Old Firehouse School seemed to be the best match. Many details had to be worked out to meet the needs of both parties. We then set to work writing a Facilities Use Agreement within the guidelines of Presbytery of the Redwoods. Dan Crawford joined in to advise on the fine points of wording and communicating with Presbytery.

Success! The agreement was signed just before the end of the year, and Old Firehouse plans to begin operations in first Quarter 2022.

In general, ongoing rentals were picking up steam in 2021, but we still must see what effect the Omicron variant will have in 2022.

Building maintenance continued as usual. Ralph Lunan found a new electrical contractor to finish up some lingering lighting projects. The landscaping was of course stressed by water restrictions, but our gardener and the committee found ways to keep most plants alive. Utilities usage rates have been down the last two years but we expect them to pick up again in 2022. John Robinson is monitoring.

There are several large projects on the horizon, all requiring off-budget funding: sidewalk section replacements, Canoles roof recoating, front door replacement, some window replacements, and patio enhancements. More to come as these projects evolve.

## Facilities Committee

Members: John Robinson, Ralph Lunan, Jerry Current, Bill Schultz (chair)

**For Rent**  
*Child Care Facility*  
*Infant and Toddler*  
**Available late summer 2021**

**Location**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
1510 5th Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901  
Please contact the office manager, Ann Pope,  
for more information  
and to schedule a tour of the facility  
415-456-6760 X2 apope@fpcsr.org

